

# Facts About *Your* Woodstown-Pilesgrove Environment

## *Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission*

The greater Woodstown-Pilesgrove community totals about 37 square miles in size - Woodstown is 1.6 square miles and Pilesgrove is 35 square miles.

**Land Cover** - Combined, the two towns are comprised of approximately:

- 2,400 acres of upland forests;
- 2,500 acres of wetlands and forested wetlands;
- 15,000 acres of agricultural land;
- 200 acres of rivers, lakes and streams; and
- 3,100 acres of residential and commercial developed areas.

**Permanently Protected Open Space** - Woodstown and Pilesgrove have:

- 65-acre Marlton Recreation Park;
- 52-acre Camp Crockett County Park;
- 47 acres of Woodstown Borough Parks (including Memorial Lake);
- 655 acres of State Wildlife Management Area lands; and
- 2,700 acres of preserved farmland.

**Plant and Animal Species** - Woodstown and Pilesgrove are home to about:

- 302 species of birds;
- 29 species of reptiles;
- 23 species of amphibians;
- 44 species of mammals; and
- 64 species of fish.

### **Rare Plants and Animals**

- There are at least 16 species of threatened or endangered plants in Woodstown and Pilesgrove.
- There are at least 5 species of threatened and endangered animals.
- The area is a stronghold of the federally-protected bog turtle.
- Both towns have critical habitat of the federally-protected American bald eagle.
- The area is recognized for its grasslands which provide important habitat for several species of threatened and endangered neo-tropical, grassland-nesting birds.

**Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission** - The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission (WPJEC) was established in 2003 by the governing bodies of both towns to advise the elected officials and planning boards on environmental matters. Out of 375 local environmental commissions throughout New Jersey, The WPJEC is only the second "joint" panel comprised of two municipalities which share many natural, cultural and community resources. The WPJEC is an advocate for sound environmental measures and natural resource protection in the community. It researches issues, reviews and reports on development plans and develops public education programs. In 2005, the WPJEC completed a comprehensive Environmental Resources Inventory. Nearly two years in the making, the document details the natural resources and environmental conditions within Woodstown and Pilesgrove. Members are appointed to three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. (even months in Woodstown; odd months in Pilesgrove).