



OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BARNEGAT BRANCH TRAIL

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PARKS & RECREATION

WELCOME TO LOCHIEL CREEK

Lochiel Creek forms the boundary between Ocean Township and Barnegat Township (Union Township 1848-1976). Folk etymology claims the original name was Loch Hill Brook (1770) named for a landowner's estate in Scotland. Lochiel Bridge (1765) is the bridge on Shore Road (US Route 9). The drainage basin is surprisingly small although the NJ Department of Environmental Protection has designated the area as a "C-1 Stream Corridor" the most protected classification of stream habitat. (See USGS map to right) Lochiel Creek County Park and Natural Lands property protects the headwaters of Lochiel Creek.

The Lochiel Creek Crossing is a window into the unique environment of the New Jersey White Cedar Swamp. Depending on the season, water levels, and other factors, you should be able to see many of the species that comprise this endangered habitat.

For more information, please visit: Wells Mills County Park and the Jakes Branch County Park, oceancountyparks.org, or the New Jersey Pinelands Commission at <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/infor/links/>

Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*) [On U.S. list of threatened species since 1988]

Supporting an estimated 70% of the known world populations. Southern Ocean County is the home to the world's largest collection of Swamp Pink. Evidence suggests that John Bartram (1699-1777) of Philadelphia, who was named the King's Botanist for North America in 1765, discovered *Helonias bullata* in southern New Jersey.

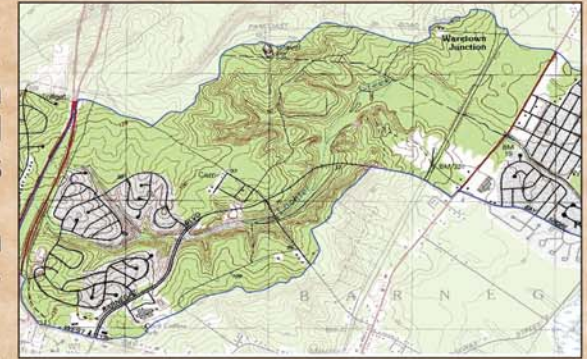
"A perennial member of the lily family, Swamp Pink has smooth, oblong, dark green leaves that form an evergreen rosette. In spring, some rosettes produce a flowering stalk that can grow over 3 feet tall. The stalk is topped by a 1 to 3-inch-long cluster of 30 to 50 small, fragrant, pink flowers dotted with pale blue anthers. The evergreen leaves of Swamp Pink can be seen year round, and flowering occurs between March and May. "

Swamp Pink is a wetland plant and is found in wetlands that are perennially wet, with the water table at or near the surface, and with only slight fluctuations in water levels throughout the year. The survival of Swamp Pink is threatened by illegal filling of wetlands, sedimentation from nearby construction activities, and introduction of excess nutrients or toxic chemicals into the water.

Adapted from the US Fish and Wildlife Website <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/Endangered/swamppink.html>



CNJ Barnegat Passenger Station. Photo: August 8, 1954



The Barnegat Branch Trail logo was explicitly designed with history in mind: Lady Liberty's silhouette is reminiscent of the Central Railroad of NJ (CNJ) logo, adopted by the railroad in 1944 to reflect the close proximity of the CNJ terminal in Jersey City to the Statue of Liberty. The BBT logo also includes a ghost locomotive, as well as Ocean County's most recognizable environmental features.