



Please do not feed the geese!

They are beautiful but overly prolific in this area, to which they are not native, and it's illegal to feed them or any other waterfowl.



Other Wildlife Etiquette

Please remember that your actions may affect others in a negative way. No one should feed deer or turkeys in a neighborhood setting because doing so encourages these wild animals to spend much of their time in the area where they are fed. This leads to property damage caused by grazing deer and defecation by turkeys on various household items and yards. We all like the wildlife but it may be causing damage to your neighbor's property.

www.oakwoodlakesassociation.com

The Pinelands

A Special Kind of Beauty



**Oakwood Lakes
Medford, NJ**

The Pinelands: A Special Kind of Beauty

Welcome to your new home in the beautiful Pinelands!

Introduction

Encompassing over a million acres, the Pinelands of New Jersey are a unique ecosystem blessed by nature with an abundance of native trees and plants. Many are evergreen, providing beauty and color year-round. Many do not grow anywhere else. According to Dr. Michael Gross, of Georgian Court University, "The global significance of the pinelands is shown by its designation as the [Pinelands National Reserve](#) in 1978, and as a United Nations International Biosphere Reserve in 1983."¹

Our neighborhood is characterized by the beauty of its natural environment, individualism in residential styles and enjoyment of outdoor activities. Oliphant's Lake meanders through the community, providing pleasing vistas and opportunities for boating and fishing.

Ground Cover

Please respect this special area and appreciate its unique qualities. One standard of beauty is the uniform suburban development of lovely emerald green carpets of lawn. The Pinelands have another type of beauty natural to the area. It may be different from our traditional mind-picture, but it's just as attractive, if not more so.

Because the soil here is sandy and acidic, it does not hold nutrients or moisture well, and alien species of plants usually require extensive care, chemicals and watering. Lawn grass is not endemic to these parts and the treatments necessary to cultivate it here wreaks havoc on our ecosystem, with fertilizers leaching into the waterways and encouraging overgrowth of lake plants.⁴

Pachysandra is a great alternative, and does well in the shady areas created by our many lovely trees. And don't forget moss. According to Bob Vila, "This very delicate, soft, undulating choice ground cover is the sophisticated gardener's dream."³ The common myth that moss destroys grass is untrue. Its shallow roots grab hold only where grass usually won't grow, such as under a shade tree. And it's a beautiful green carpet all 12 months of the year!

Landscaping

When planning your landscaping, you have many choices of trees and plants to augment the riches nature has already provided.² Local landscapers and nurseries can provide guidance and there are numerous sources of information on the web and through our library system. See a few listed in this pamphlet.

To address the moisture problem caused by the sandy soil, mulch is a key ingredient to successful gardening. A compost pile for leaves and pine needles can be a great source for the needed material. In any case, leaves and debris must not be blown or raked into the lake, as this disturbs the ecology and can lead to expensive clean up. Medford Township provides regular brush and leaf collection; schedules are on the Township calendar or their website.



1. Gross, Dr. Michael F. "Plants of the New Jersey Pinelands (Pine Barrens)." *Georgian Court University*. 5 March 2010. Web. <http://www.georgian.edu/pinebarrens/index.htm>.
 2. Schmidt, R. Marilyn. *Gardening in the Pinelands*. Barnegat Light, NJ: Pine Barrens Press, 1994. Print
 3. Vila, Bob. "Evergreen Groundcovers." *Lawn & Garden*. 2001. Web. 5 March 2010. <http://gardens.bobvila.com/Article/79.html>.
 4. Woodford, Elizabeth M. *A Home in the Pine Barrens*. New Jersey: Medford Township Environmental Commission, 1975. Print
- New Jersey Pinelands Commission: <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/index.shtml>