



OCEAN TOWNSHIP  
*Ocean county*  
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

In Cooperation with:  
New Jersey Forest Fire Service  
December 2014-2019

# Community Wildfire Protection Plan

## Executive Summary

The intent of this plan is to encourage the municipality and its residents to:

1. Recognize their responsibility to protect themselves and their property from wildfires.
2. Determine and prioritize fire protection options available.
3. Implement the selected methods to reduce their exposure to the threat of wildfire.

The NJ Forest Fire Service and Ocean Township (CWPP team) completed a comprehensive review of the Township's wildfire fighting capabilities, fire risk, fuel hazard classifications and past fire occurrences. Evaluating these factors and others that contribute to wildfire risk in a spatial format allowed the team to develop a cooperative plan targeting specific issues requiring action. The CWPP is designed to be a working document available for modification when warranted and the efforts and priorities that are identified can be changed, rearranged added to or dropped depending on current needs.

The municipality is committed to implementing the listed priority projects within the review period of this plan, and will reassess and renew this process to continue to reduce the severity and threat from wildfires.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan, required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Stafford Act, directs that a CWPP will be developed for all Municipalities within the wildland/urban interface within NJ. The Stafford Act requires states to provide all-hazard mitigation planning, including wildfires, with the State of NJ focusing these all-hazard plans at the county level. From single homeowners or neighborhood support of Firewise concepts, municipal CWPP infrastructure planning, property maintenance codes, and other efforts, to all-risk hazard planning at the county and state levels, a continuum of methods to protect the citizens

of NJ will be developed that can reduce the damage and risk of wildland fires.



This Community Wildfire Protection Plan was adopted by Ocean Township on (Date of adoption), and will be review and updated as needed or every 5 years.

Prescribed burning in Monmouth Battlefield State Park



## Stakeholders

The following plan is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

**Community Representative(s):**     **Name** **Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**  
Police Lt. George Thompson , OEM Coordinator

Address 50 Railroad Avenue  
Waretown, NJ 08758

Phone Number 609.693.4007

Other Contact Information [Gthompson@twpoceannj.gov](mailto:Gthompson@twpoceannj.gov)

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Waretown, NJ 08758

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**Name** **Director of Public Works**  
Matt Ambrosio, CPM

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**Name** **Municipal Clerk**  
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Waretown, NJ 08758

Phone Number 609.693.3302 X 233

Other Contact Information [clerk@twpoceannj.gov](mailto:clerk@twpoceannj.gov)

**Name** **Mayor**  
Tina Wetter

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Waretown, NJ 08758

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## Stakeholders

The following plan is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

**Community Representative(s):**     **Name** **Deputy Mayor**  
Daniel Collamer  
Address 50 Railroad Avenue  
Waretown, NJ 08758  
Phone Number 609.693.3302 X 225

Other Contact Information

**Local Fire Department:**             **Name** **Waretown Volunteer Fire Company #1, Station 36**  
Chief : Brent Cunningham cell: 609-661-5724

Address 50 Railroad Avenue  
Waretown, NJ 08758

Phone Number 609.693.3302 X 233

**NJ Forest Fire Service**             **Name** Donald "Scotty" Knauer, Section Forest Firewarden, B-5,  
Cell: 609.209.2477

Address PO Box 239, New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Phone Number 609.726.9010, Fax: 609.726.1624,

**Name** Greg McLaughlin, Division Forest Firewarden

Address PO Box 404 501 East State Street, Trenton NJ, 08625-0404

Phone Number Phone:732.833.4847, Cell: 609.649.3611



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The following federal, state and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

Name	Organization
Maureen Brooks, Community Fire Planner	USDA-FS,
Peter Winkler, Manager	Greenwood Forest, Sedge Island WMA
Virginia Rettig, Manager	Forsythe Wildlife Preserve-USFWS
Michael Mangum, Director	County of Ocean- Parks and Recreation
Michelle Byers, Executive Director	NJ Conservation Foundation
Wayne Holmes, Council Camping Director	Joseph A. Citta Boy Scout Reservation
Bryan Ehret, Property Director	Amity Acres, Girl Scout Camp

**Background:** Ocean Township is a township in Ocean County, New Jersey, United States. As of the 2010 United States Census, the township's population was 8,332, reflecting an increase of 1,882 (+29.2%) from the 6,450 counted in the 2000 Census. Ocean Township was incorporated as a township by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on April 13, 1876, from portions of both Lacey Township and Barnegat Township. Waretown is a census-designated place and unincorporated community located within Ocean Township. All of Ocean Township is commonly referred to as "Waretown" by local residents.

Ocean Township is governed under the Township form of government with a three-member Township Committee. The Township Committee is elected at-large by the voters in partisan elections to serve three-year terms of office on a staggered basis, with one seat coming up for election each year. At an annual reorganization meeting, the Township Committee selects one of its members to serve as Mayor.

For Kindergarten through sixth grade, public school students attend the Ocean Township School District. Schools in the district are Waretown Elementary School with an enrollment of 331 students in pre-K to 3rd grade and Frederic A. Priff Elementary School with 203 students in grades 4 - 6. For seventh through twelfth grades, public school students attend the schools of the Southern Regional School District, which serves the five municipalities in the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District — Barnegat Light, Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Township, Ship Bottom and Surf City — along with students from Beach Haven and Stafford Township, together with the students from Ocean Township. Both schools are in Manahawkin.

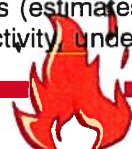
**Fire History: Wildfire History:** Records of wildfire history in Ocean Township date back to 1924 and large fires have occurred throughout the Township since that time. Fire prone areas generally correspond with Fire Risk Areas and occupy the Northeast and Western portions of the Township. Forest fires occur seasonally and primarily tend to occur between the beginning of April and the beginning of June. In Ocean Township a majority of all recorded Forest Fires over 100 acres occurred in April and May. These are the periods when the moisture levels of the forest canopy tend to be lowest, the forest canopy is bare or just beginning to leaf out so the forest floor dries out quickly, ambient temperatures are elevated, humidity levels tend to be low, and winds tend to be gusty with cold front passages - characteristics that would serve to rapidly spread any fires that are ignited. Historic spring winds from the southwest make wildfires originating and spreading within Ocean Township a real possibility.

**Acres Burned:**

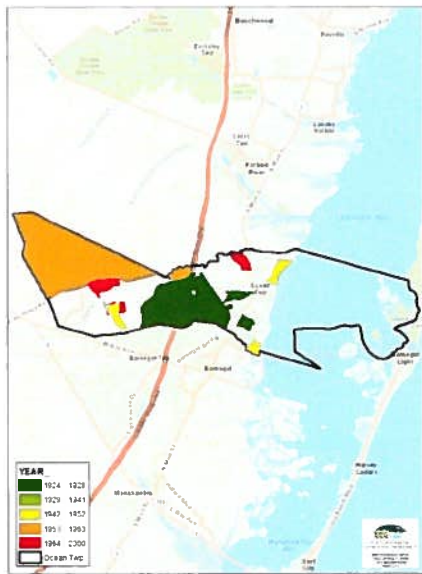
1. The 1950's had 5 wildfires that burned 16,143 acres.
2. The decade of the 1960's had 1 large wildfire that burned more than 69,000 acres.
3. The 1990's, had 3 major wildfires burning a total of 25,881 acres



**Ignition Frequency:** The number of forest fires in Ocean of all sizes over the past 14 years has been steadily declining with only 2 recorded "large fires" since 2000 when 340 acres burned.. This trend can generally be attributed to increased efforts to raise fire safety awareness. However, it should also be pointed out that almost all wildfires (estimates are as high as 99%) that occur within the project area, and elsewhere, are ignited as a result of human activity, underscoring



## WILDFIRE OCCURRENCES



## Wildfire Occurrences in Ocean Township 1924-2000

### YEAR

1924 - 1928

1929 - 1941

1942 - 1952

1953 - 1963

1964 - 2000

Ocean Twp.

The map shows fires greater than 100 acres in Ocean Township by decade from 1924 to 2000. For more information see map on Figure 4.

### Community Base Maps

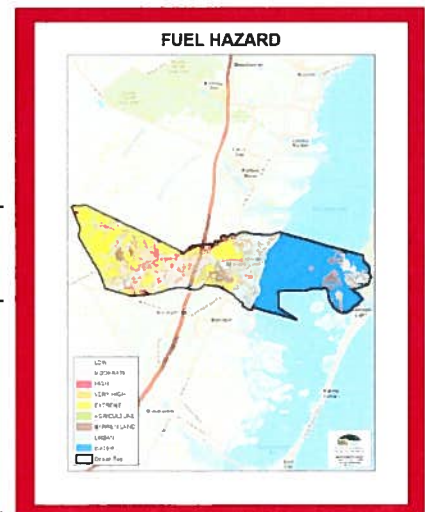
Included in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a series of maps highlighting specific data collected and analyzed by the NJ Forest Fire Service as well as maps depicting infrastructure and ongoing and planned future mitigation efforts.

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Fuel Hazard	This figure depicts forest fuel ratings that determine the ease of ignition and resistance to control efforts.
2	Wildfire Risk	This figure depicts a NJ Forest Fire evaluation of the following criteria: WUI, Fire Origins, and Fuel Hazard. A weighting of these 3 combined factors was used to produce this "Fire Risk" data layer
3	Wildfire Occurrences (> 100acres)	This figure depicts the locations of known fire boundaries >100acs within Ocean Township from 1926-2000.
4	Road Infrastructure 600/500 Series County Roads and Larger	This figure depicts major roadways.
5	Water Infrastructure and Sources	This figure depicts the extent of water purveyors and the location of water sources.
6	Property Ownership	This figure shows the different types and extent of property ownership.
7	Wildfire Origins	This figure depicts the locations of known fire origins.
8	Prescribed Burning History	This figure depicts the extent of prescribed fires, conducted by the NJ FFS to reduce fuel loadings.
9	Emergency Services Locations	This figure depicts the location of Police, Medical Emergency Services and Fire Companies.



## Goals and Objectives of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- I. Collaborate in the development of the plan with applicable local, county and state agencies.
  - Open community debate regarding wildfire threats and mitigation options
  - Integrate wildfire protection into other federal, state, county and local planning initiatives
- II. Assess the Wildfire Hazards and Risks within the forested and wild-land urban interface areas of the community.
  - Estimate the likelihood and severity of a wildfire, and the impact to neighborhoods, structures or areas of concern.
  - Perform a comprehensive assessment of municipal infrastructure to ensure it is geared to support wildfire defense including;
    - ◊ Roadway heights and widths
    - ◊ Bridge weight limits
    - ◊ Street identification signing
    - ◊ Hydrants or other water sources
    - ◊ Interoperable emergency communication networks
    - ◊ Fire-wise parks and open space
- III. Identify areas requiring hazardous fuels reduction and recommend types and methods of treatments that will protect one or more communities at risk and essential infrastructure.
  - Coordinate with fuel reduction initiatives sponsored by State, State Authorities or other local governments
  - Merge the goals and objectives of the landowners (public and private) with the needs and expectations of the community regarding reduction of wildfire hazards and risks
- IV. Identify and recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of homes and structures throughout the community.
  - Coordinate fire protection strategies across property/municipal boundaries and with NJ Forest Service Officials and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.
  - Foster the recognition by homeowners of their responsibility to protect their homes from wildfire
  - Address the issue of builders/developers responsibility regarding fuel-break installation.
    - ◊ Timing for completing work
    - ◊ Attaching fuel-break work to bonding of infrastructure
    - ◊ Determine municipal department/positions responsible for implementing
  - Address the conservation easement/fuel-break conflict. Can a fuel-break be installed within a conservation easement?
- V. Increase individual and community awareness of wildfire hazards, risks and related issues as well as promote wildfire mitigation and community protection initiatives.
  - Provide for an educational component to remind residents of their responsibility to adopt concepts such as defensible space
  - Integrate and support neighborhood Firewise Communities goals
- VI. Prioritize hazardous fuel reduction, structural ignitability reduction, and community awareness projects within the community and assist in their implementation.
  - Coordinate grant funding with local, county and state government program budgets to achieve the most effective results with available funding
  - Use as a mechanism for the municipality to focus land use, development, building codes and property maintenance ordinances to enhance opportunities for existing homes and safer future development.



Ocean Township  
Ocean County



enhance opportunities for existing homes and safer future development.





## Municipal Hazard & Risk Assessment

A thorough assessment of historic wildfire occurrence, fire suppression capabilities and ranking of the survivability of a community, structure or area at risk of a wildfire was undertaken for the municipality. The following summary table identifies the associated wildfire hazards and risk as viewed by this municipality for the communities, structures or areas listed.

**Table 1:**

Community, Fire District Structure or Area at Risk	Fuel Hazard	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Structural Ignitability	Firefighting Limitations	Overall Threat
East of Route 9	3	4	3	2	12
Between Route 9 and Garden State Parkway	4	4	4	3	15
West of Garden State Parkway	5	3	4	5	17

<sup>1</sup> **Fuel Hazard** – The rank of the wild-land fuels that burn in and around the community, structure, or area.

<sup>2</sup> **Risk** – The measure of what causes a wildfire and the impact that it has.

<sup>3</sup> **Structure Ignitability** – The rank of a structure's ability to resist the threat from a wildfire as determined by an assessment that meets or exceeds NFPA .

<sup>4</sup> **Firefighting Limitations** – An assessment of the equipment, organization, training, communication, mutual-aid agreements, and water supply available and in place.

\* Undeveloped property. If/when the property is developed, ratings may change.

**Summary:** Table 1 depicts the areas/communities in Ocean Township that are most at risk for Wildfire pursuant to the factors listed in the table above. Although a wildfire can occur throughout Ocean Township, the communities listed above shared a rating of high when all four criteria were examined and evaluated.

### Community Rating System:

1-Low

2-Moderate

3-High

4-Very High

5-Extreme

### Overall Threat (summary) Rating System

1-4 -Low

5-8 - Moderate

9-12 -High

13-16 -Very High

17-20 -Extreme



NJ Forest Fire Service personnel using prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads in Monmouth Battlefield State Park

*Photo courtesy of NJ Forest Fire Service, Section B-10*



## Fuel Hazard Mitigation Recommendations

Based on the results of the community hazard and risk assessment, priority ratings have been assigned to projects where the reduction of wildland fuel hazards would be effective. Several project activity types and methods of treatment for reducing the surrounding vegetation may be listed for each community, structure or area. These projects and their related priority rankings are listed in the following table.

**Table 2:**

Community, Structure or Area at Risk	Recommended Fuel Reduction Project Activity	Treatment Methodology	Overall Priority
<b>East of Route 9</b>			
Ocean Twp. Residents	Beacon Drive	Mechanical Thinning	1
Ocean Twp. Residents	Camp Lighthouse	Prescribed Burning	2
<b>Between Route 9 and GS Parkway</b>			
<b>Lochiel/Rose Hill</b>	Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning Mechanical Thinning	3
Greenbriar West	Fuel reduction	Mechanical Thinning	2
*Greenbriar South	Fuel reduction	Prescribed Burning/ Mechanical Thinning	1
Dogtowne	Homeowner/ Defensible Space Activity	Mechanical Thinning	4
Memorial Park/ Waretown Lake	Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning	6
Rail Trail to Rt. 9	Fuel Reduction	Mechanical Thinning	5
<b>West of GS Parkway</b>			
Ocean Township Police Shooting Range	Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning	10
Brookville Road Corridor WUI	Defensible Space Education	Mechanical Thinning	3
Ocean Twp. Residents	Jones Road Wui	Mechanical Thinning	2
Ocean Twp. Residents	Jones Road Firebreak	Mechanical Thinning/Road Maintenance	1
Girl and Boy Scout Camps	Perimeter Fuel-breaks Fuel Reduction	Mechanical Thinning Prescribed Burning	4
Ocean County Park Wells Mills	Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning	5
Brookville Campground	Fuel Reduction`	Mechanical Thinning	9
Ocean Twp. Residents	Pancoast Road Fuelbreak	Mechanical Thinning	6
Ocean Twp. Residents	Frazer Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning	7
Ocean Twp. Residents	Greenwood WMA Fuel Reduction	Prescribed Burning	8

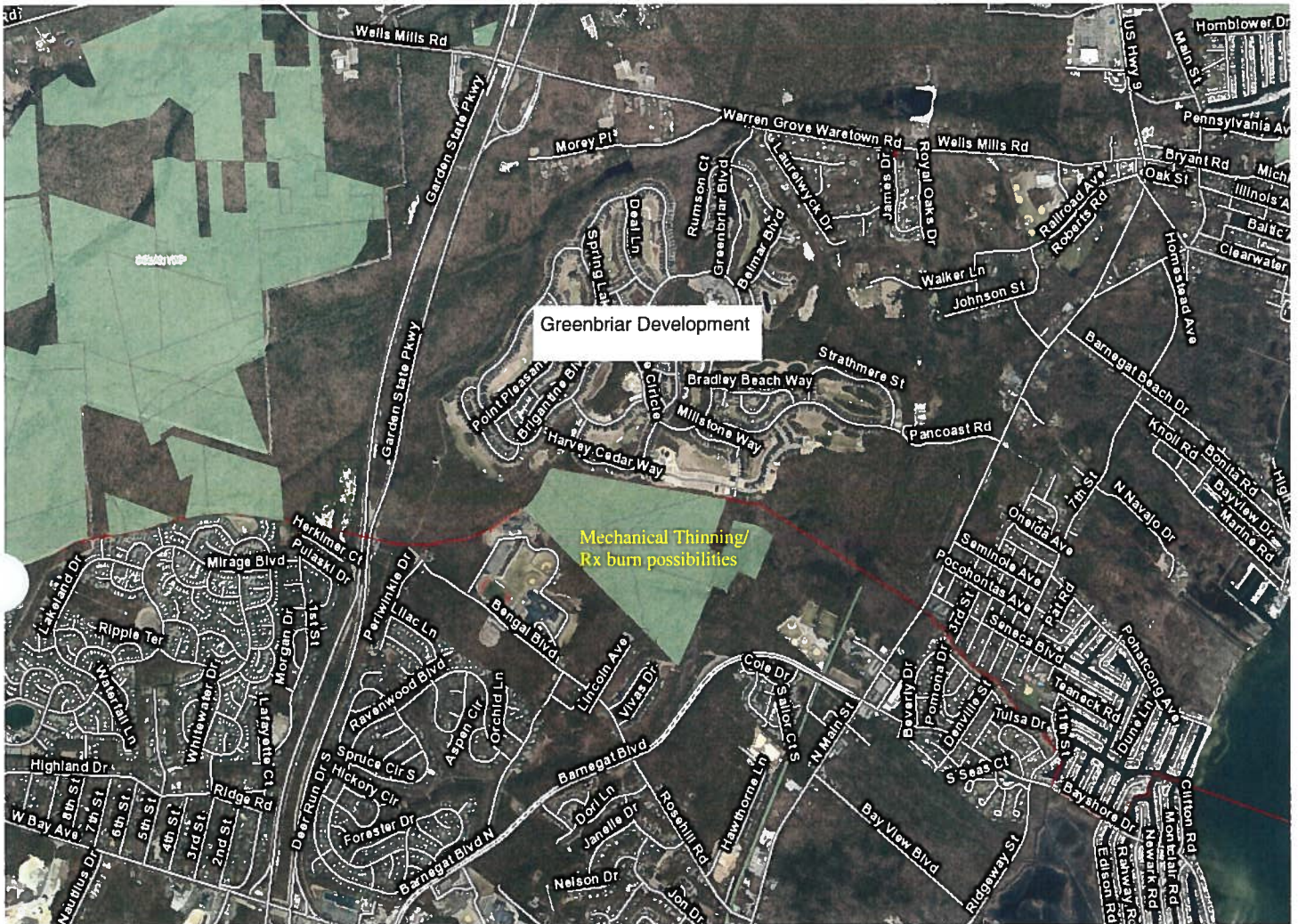
\* Some prescribed burn areas proposed to protect Greenbriar are in Barnegat Township

**Summary:** Table 2 identifies the specific wildfire mitigation strategies determined to be the highest priority actions that can be undertaken to reduce the risk of wildfire in Ocean Township. These specific mitigation actions were then evaluated against one another and priorities were assigned by the NJ Forest Fire Service.

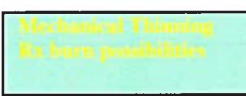


# Possible Prescribed Burning Locations Ocean County Park

(in support of fuel reduction around Greenbriar Development)



 Ocean County Open Space

 Mechanical Thinning  
Rx burn possibilities

County Open Space with possible Rx burning locations in Barnegat Township to protect the Greenbriar development in Ocean Township.



## Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability

Methods to reduce structural ignitability are numerous. The following table provides a number of options available to reduce the risk of a wildfire ignition, its severity, and impact to structures.

**Table 3:**

Community, structure or area at risk	Structure Ignitability Reduction Options	Completed Yes/No
Ocean Township	<p><u>1. Fire Preparedness</u>            a. Dry hydrants/cisterns            b. Label hydrants            c. Wildfire exercises            d. Mutual aid agreements            e. Fire Depts. to support Hazard Mitigation work</p> <p><u>2. Rules &amp; Regulations</u>            a. Enforcement of Pinelands Fire Safety regulations            b. Property maintenance ordinances            c. Enforce local zoning rules            d. Conservation easement/fuelbreak conflict</p> <p><u>3. Community Preparedness</u>            a. CERT teams            b. Reverse 911 notifications            c. Evacuation routes            d. Local government to support hazard mitigation work            e. Home address visibility            f. Fire Company to include Ready, Set, Go outreach</p>	<p>a. No            b. Yes, GIS            c. Yes            d. Yes            e. Yes</p> <p>a. Yes            b. Yes            c. Yes            d. Yes, in Pinelands</p> <p>a. Yes            b. Yes            c. Yes            d. Yes            e. Problem West of GS Parkway            f. Yes</p>
East of Route 9	<p><u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u>            a. Home &amp; structure assessments            b. Community clean-ups            c. Firewise landscaping            d. Firewise Committee established?</p> <p><u>2. Fire Preparedness</u>            a. Fuelbreak maintenance (end of Bacon Drive)            b. Camp Lighthouse Rx Burning</p> <p><u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u>            a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups            b. Firewise landscaping            c. Home escape &amp; evacuation plans</p>	<p>a. No            b. Yes            c. No            d. No</p> <p>a. Phragmites mowing proposed            b. Yes</p> <p>a. No            b. Through website Link            c. Yes, through R-S-G</p>
Between Route 9 and the Garden State Parkway	<p><u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u>            a. Home &amp; structure assessments            b. Community clean-ups            c. Firewise landscaping            d. Firewise Committee established?</p> <p><u>2. Fire Preparedness</u>            a. Fuelbreak maintenance</p> <p><u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u>            a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups            b. Firewise landscaping            c. Home escape &amp; evacuation plans</p>	<p>a. Interested            b. Yes            c. Yes            d. No, interested</p> <p>a. Yes</p> <p>a. Yes            b. Yes            c. Yes</p>



**Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability (cont'd)**

Community, structure or area at risk	Structure Ignitability Reduction Options	Completed Yes/No
West of the Garden State Parkway	<p><u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u>                      a. Home &amp; structure assessments                      b. Community clean-ups                      c. Firewise landscaping                      d. Firewise Committee established?</p> <p><u>2. Fire Preparedness</u>                      a. Fuelbreak maintenance</p> <p><u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u>                      a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups                      b. Firewise landscaping                      c. Home escape &amp; evacuation plans</p>	<p>a. No, proposed                      b. In progress, through website links.                      c. In progress , through website links.                      d. No</p> <p>a. Yes</p> <p>a. Yes                      b. In progress, through website link.                      c. In progress through R-S-G.</p>

Summary: Table 3 is a comprehensive assessment of Ocean Township and wildfire reduction options for specific sections/communities within the Township. Each section was evaluated for each of the options, and the status of each option was identified as yes/no or interested.

The priorities for implementing the wildfire mitigation options were assigned by the NJ Forest Fire Service.



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## Outreach Recommendations

While all activities considered should include some degree of community outreach, such outreach is often an option on its own. The following outreach options were identified for the community, structure or area listed.

1. Ocean Township disseminate Wildfire information:
  2. Community cable channel, channel 22
  3. Lobby display
2. Include Wildfire prevention, Ready, Set, Go and Firewise messages at these events.
3. Install Smokey Bear/Firewise signage at Fire Station.
4. Include preparedness information link on Township and Fire Company Website(s). Post yearly: By January 1st Information about Control Burning and By March 15th post information about the Wildfire season.
5. Link Firewise, Ready, Set, Go and Defensible Space education materials to the Ocean Township and Fire Company Websites.
6. Include wildfire message and information at four events:
  - ◆ Founders Day
  - ◆ National Night Out
  - ◆ Pine Barrens Jamboree
  - ◆ Fire Prevention Week
7. Include Wildfire prevention information in Wells Mills Park (Ocean County Parks)
8. Provide wildfire information at the Ocean County Parks Pinelands tours.
9. Develop a Firewise community
10. Form a Municipal Fire Safety Council to coordinate preparedness effort
11. Incorporate CWPP, Ready, Set, Go, Firewise and a Municipal Fire safety Council to participate in Sustainable Jersey

### Resources Available:

1. From the NJ Forest Fire Service
  - a. Fire Danger and Awareness Signs
  - b. Statewide Fire Restriction Information <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/firedanger-restrictions.html>

*“Municipalities that participate in the CWPP process are eligible for funding from the NJ Forest Fire Service to implement their highest priority action(s),” according to NJ Section Forest Firewarden Scott Knauer*



## Implementation Strategy and Action Plan

The following table displays a list of projects considered from the hazard reduction, structure ignitability and outreach options, ranked by priority. Identifying the responsible agency or landowner, the funding source and the estimated completion timetable will help ensure measurable results for each project.

**Table 4:**

Rank	Project Type	Community, structure or area at risk	Agency/Landowner	Funding Needs	Funding Source	Time Table
1	Jones Road Firebreak	Brookville	Ocean Township	Depending on availability	NJFFS	2015
2	Wildfire Awareness Event (Founders Day)	All Residents	Ocean Township	\$0.00 Manpower	NJFFS	2015
3	Firewise Website Link	Ocean Township Waretown Fire Dept.	Ocean Township	\$0.00 Manpower	NJFFS	2015
4	Firewise Community Certification	Greenbriar	Various	\$5000 From Firewise Funds	NJFFS	2015
5	Upgrade Wildfire Protection Capabilities	Ocean Township Waretown Fire Dept.	Ocean Township	Depending on availability	NJFFS	2014-2017
6	Town wide alert system/ Cert team notification	Ocean Township	Ocean Township	\$5,000	NJFFS	2014-2017
7	Community Clean-up/ Defensible Space Event	All residents	Ocean Township	Depending On availability	NJFFS	2017

### Implementation and Plan Monitoring:

The municipality has agreed by resolution to implement the top five ranked projects within the review period, and is committed to reassessing and implementing additional top ranked projects in the future. These additional projects will be displayed in an updated appendix to this plan.

### Resource Materials:

Available at [www.njwildfire.org](http://www.njwildfire.org)

- Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities, (NACO, NASF, SAF, WGA) March 2004.
- Field Guidance by National Association of State Foresters, June 27, 2003
- Leaders Guide Supplement, International Association of Fire Chiefs



## Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification and Agreement

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed for/by Ocean Township; was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and state land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of Ocean Township have been consulted.

- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous wildland fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Ocean Township.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:



Mayor, Ocean

Township;



Fire Chief, Ocean

Township



NJ State Forest Firewarden  
State Fire Warden, New Jersey Forest Fire Service





**Appendix A  
Updated Project List  
2014**

The following table lists the projects completed within the past review period, the projects yet to be completed, and new projects proposed.

Rank	Project Type	Community, structure or area at risk	Agency/ Landowner	Funding Needs	Funding Source	Time Table	Project Complete
1	Jones Road Fuelbreak	Brookville	Ocean Township	Depending On availability	NJFFS	2015	
2	Wildfire Awareness (Founders Day)	All Residents	Ocean Township	\$0.00 Manpower	NJFFS	2015	
3	Firewise Website Link	Ocean Township Fire Company	Ocean Township	\$0.00 Manpower	NJFFS	2015	
4	Firewise Community Certification	Greenbriar	Various	\$5000 Firewise funding	NJFFS	2016	
5	Upgrade Wildfire Protection Capabilities	Ocean Township Waretown Fire Department	Ocean Township	Depending On availability	NJFFS	2014-2017	
6	Town wide Alert system/ Cert team	Ocean Township	Ocean Township	\$5,000	NJFFS	2014-2017	

The following entities mutually agree with the updated contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan update:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Ocean Township

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ocean Township Fire Chief

\_\_\_\_\_  
NJ State Firewarden  
New Jersey Forest Fire Service





# Standard Definitions of Forest Fire Terms in New Jersey

State of New Jersey | Department of Environmental Protection | Forest Fire Service  
2016

## Defensible Space

A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics that affect fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled or managed.

### Defensible space standards

- 30 feet in moderate fire hazard areas
- 75 feet in high hazard areas
- 100 feet in extreme hazard areas
- 200 feet in extreme hazard protecting a community of 100+ houses

## Fire Corridors

Defined areas and pathways where wildfire has occurred on more than one occasion in the past. These conditions predict that a fire is more likely to occur in these areas again.

## Fire Hazard

A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location that determines the degree of ease of ignition, and of resistance to control.

## Fire Management Area

One or more management blocks that have a common set of fire management objectives. This area is administratively managed primarily for fire protection.

## Fire Risk

The chance of a fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents. In New Jersey, the primary causative agent is humans.

## Firebreak

A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check wildfires, or to provide a control line from which to work. The firebreak is 1.5 times the height of fuels available to burn directly adjacent to the object. When used in conjunction with a fuel break, the size of the firebreak may be reduced.

## Firelane

An existing cleared path, minimum width of 10 feet, which emergency traffic uses to gain access to an area.

## Fireline

The part of a containment or control line that is scraped or dug into mineral soil, usually 8 feet in width or less. This may be used for a wildfire or prescribed burn.

## Firesheds

Defined at the landscape level by natural and manmade geographic features of the environment and include large (thousands of acres) envelopes of land, which are delineated based on the fire regime, fuels, fire history, fire risk, and potential for wildland fire behavior. Firesheds capture social, political, biological and physical elements that relate to wildland fire.

## Fuel break

A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled. Fuel breaks are strategically created within large expanses of high hazard forest to enhance suppression opportunities, provide access, and support the linear firebreaks established along designated roads. Fuel breaks may also be used as points of anchor for indirect attack on wildland fires, as well as for prescribed fires. Fuel breaks afford wildland firefighters a safe area to conduct wildfire suppression operations. Prescribed burning is the preferred method for creating and maintaining fuel breaks.

## Fuel Loading

The amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight per unit area. This may be available fuel (consumable fuel) or total fuel and is usually dry weight.

## Fuel break System

An assortment of modified land units that may or may not be physically connected, but that have been selected and treated based on their functional location to restrict a wildfire. This type of break may include natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed. Generally, these are designed to disrupt historic fire paths and can include: fuel breaks, safety strips, and/or protection buffers.

## Prescribed Burning

The intentional application of fire to a parcel of land with natural vegetation, where the fire is confined to a predetermined area, under specific weather conditions, which helps to prevent and control wildfires.

## Protection Buffer

An area where fuel reduction techniques are applied in proximity to exposed property or values at risk to reduce the danger or damage of a wildfire. These buffers enhance the safety for fire protection operations by providing defensible space and reduce the chance for fire ignition and fire spread.

## Safety Strip

Areas that take advantage of site specific features or terrain to facilitate suppression and prevent ignitions. These can include fields, rights-of-way, and roadsides. Safety strips can also enhance the effectiveness of existing firebreaks.

## Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Describes an area within or adjacent to private and public property where mitigation actions can occur to prevent damage or loss from wildfire





# NJ Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



**What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?** A CWPP is a mechanism for municipalities to address their wildfire risk in a comprehensive manner. Development of the plan and the planning process are designed to promote collaboration between the Forest Fire Service (FFS) and local officials.

A CWPP should address wildfire concerns across a broad area and provide an outline for wildfire mitigation activities including: management of hazardous fuels, outreach and awareness, training and preparedness. A CWPP identifies Ready-Set-Go and Firewise program needs, which helps to strengthen wildfire preparedness among residents, ultimately leading to safer and more effective wildfire response. CWPP's are developed collaboratively with the municipal government and local fire departments, with guidance and technical input from the FFS and other state and federal partners as needed. At its core, the CWPP identifies and defines the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI). Issues related to wildfire protection in the WUI can also be addressed such as: communications, response capability, zoning regulations, building codes, development standards, fuel treatment and restoration, water and road infrastructure and ecological considerations.

## **Why is completing a CWPP important to a Section Forest Firewarden?**

CWPP's are a plan to reduce wildfire fire risk first to the firefighter and then residents. It is designed to identify problem areas, pin-point needs, recommend actions and implement improvement actions. To this end, all completed CWPP's are supported by a grant of up to \$5,000 reimbursable to the municipality for costs associated with implementing the CWPP. As part of the plan a Section Forest Firewarden's priorities can be identified and fixed.

## **What are the advantages of a CWPP to the Section Forest Firewarden?**

The plan is a vehicle that brings the FFS and municipal officials closer, which builds cooperation and directly benefits incident management and response.

The plan will capture the important players that may be involved in managing an incident within the municipality and brings them into the planning process.

Fuel mitigation activities are identified and limitations to Rx burning as a result of: lack of water, access, bridge limits etc.

The plan identifies areas of the municipality where structures may be more susceptible to wildfire as a result of their construction, landscaping, limited access and/or other factors. Having all that information together in a room with the decision-makers makes it much easier to determine the priorities and therefore the action(s) needed to fix that priority need. Available grant funding helps to ensure implementation of identified mitigation projects as well as to foster a good relationship lo-



## What is my responsibility in the CWPP process?

**Identification:** The Section Forest Firewarden is responsible for identifying wildfire risks in municipalities and communities within their respective coverage area. The availability of resources and funding to develop CWPP's is limited, therefore Forest Firewarden should first make a list that prioritizes the areas within their section with the highest risk.

**Prioritization:** Contact should then be made through written and/or verbal communication to all municipalities within the coverage area to determine their interest in participating in development of a CWPP for their municipality. The priority list should be reevaluated with input from CWPP Program Managers and, based on "risk/priority" and local interest, at least one municipality will be identified for development of a CWPP.

**Coordination:** Once it is decided to target a municipality for development of a CWPP, an introductory "briefing" meeting is scheduled, which should include, at minimum:

- a. Mayor and/or Business Administrator
- b. OEM Coordinator
- c. Local Fire Chief(s)
- d. DPW Director
- e. Public landowners: NJF&W, NJ Parks, USFWS, County Parks, etc.
- f. CWPP Program Manager
- g. Division Firewarden

This meeting is designed to introduce the CWPP process and to begin identification of wildfire risks and other related issues. If time allows, this meeting may also be used to conduct a "CWPP Walk-Through."

**Planning:** Continue to facilitate planning meetings to complete the components of the CWPP. During this Step the Section Forest Firewarden contributes to the development of the CWPP by helping to identify needs, limitations, RxB burn areas, and by suggesting means of increasing awareness of wildfire risk to the residents. This Step includes identification of potential Firewise Communities.

**Collaboration:** The CWPP Program Manager, and other Forest Firewardens will help to guide the municipality through the process and be responsible for the development of the plan and capturing the comments made at the meetings.

**Adoption:** Once all parties agree to the plan content, goals and implementation priorities, then it is adopted through Resolution at the township or signed by the Mayor, and State or Division Firewarden and the Local Fire Chief. Each of the respective signers (Municipality, NJFFS and Fire Company get original signed copies of the CWPP.

### **Q 1. How does a CWPP benefit the Section Forest Firewarden?**

**A 1.** Through development of the CWPP partnerships are formed with local emergency service personnel. These relationships have proven useful in response and management of wildfire emergencies.

### **2. What is YOUR biggest fear in fighting wildfires as a Section Firewarden?**

Loss of property, loss of life? Being proactive and utilizing the preparedness tools available like CWPP's allow you to identify these needs and become proactive in fixing them. This protects you as the responsible party and the residents in your "At-Risk Municipality."



# NJ Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Firewise Communities/ USA



This guide is designed to support a Section Forest Firewarden in their delivery of the Firewise Communities/USA program to local communities in their coverage area.

**Firewise Communities/USA:** The USDA Forest Service provides funding to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to administer a national Firewise Communities/USA program. From the national program guidance, the state Forest Fire Service agency is responsible for developing a program tailored to their state. In New Jersey, the Forest Fire Service (FFS) is responsible for delivery of a Firewise Communities Program to interested communities that are at risk of wildfire. This program is considered “grass-roots” in that it is designed to provide residents with the training, tools and funding to become better prepared in the event of a wildfire.

## **The Benefits of Becoming a Firewise Community:**

The Firewise program is a foundational building block for several other wildfire preparedness programs such as Fire Adapted Communities (FAC), Ready, Set, Go, and Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP). Municipalities with designated Firewise Communities are also eligible for Sustainable Jersey points. To save lives and property from wildfire, the program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. This in turn, allows fire-



## **How to assist a community in becoming a recognized Firewise Community/USA:**

The process of becoming a recognized **Firewise Community/USA** is straightforward and simple. First, identify areas that are fire-prone and/or that are at risk of wildfire. Next, contact residents in the community and host an information session about community preparedness, wildfire prevention and Firewise. If the community is interested in getting involved, then ask for volunteers to form a Firewise Committee. Schedule a follow up meeting with the committee to discuss the details of participation.

Using a five-step process, neighborhoods and communities develop an action plan that guides their residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live.

The five steps of Firewise recognition include:

1. Obtain a Wildfire Risk Assessment as a written document from your state forestry agency or fire department.
2. Form a board or committee to represent the community and oversee the program.
3. Create a Firewise Action Plan based on wildfire risk. Plan is valid for five years.
4. Conduct a “Firewise Day” event annually.
5. Annually, invest a minimum of \$2 per capita in local Firewise actions.
6. Submit an application to your NJ Firewise Liaison by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. Renew your application annually online at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

In addition, if funds are available, 50/50 matching sub-grants are available to communities who implement actions toward become a designated Firewise Community/USA.

### **How the Firewise Communities/USA Program Help Me?**

“At-risk” wildfire communities that participate in Firewise understand the importance of creating proper Defensible Space, which will make you safer when responding to a wildfire. Better prepared residents are more knowledgeable about wildfire and know what actions to take in the event of a fire. This helps keep everyone safer. Engaging and teaching residents about wildfire will lead to more support for you in carrying out your day-to-day job responsibilities.

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)





# The Section Firewarden's Guide to Ready-Set-Go



READY, SET, GO! THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

[www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org)

The Ready, Set, Go program, managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. The program helps fire departments teach individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas - and the wildland urban interface (WUI) – how to best prepare themselves, their families, and their properties against fire threats.

**READY:** Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

**SET:** Pack your emergency kit. Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department, and public safety officials.

**GO: ACT EARLY:** Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Program resources are at your fingertips. Upon joining RSG (at no charge), the department will receive a tool kit of resources for outreach and have access to the program's documents from the web site. The resources are customizable and free.

## Why is READY, SET, GO! important to a Section Warden?

RSG increases resident's wildfire awareness by partnering with fire departments (volunteer and career). RSG is a complete outreach resource package, from the RSG action guide to pre-done letters to HOA's and township officials. NJFFS can increase residents wildfire awareness by promoting RSG to fire departments in fire prone areas. Thru RSG the fire departments will reach more people, and give them an understanding of the dangers of wildfire and what they can do to take personal responsibility for their own safety.

RSG increases resident's awareness of what to do and where to go during a wild fire. Thru fire department outreach residents are taught what radio stations to listen to and how to sign up for Nixel and reverse 911 for the latest information. During an evacuation, if residents know what routes to take and where to go, thru emergency messaging, it will make it easier for fire crews to get to the fire.

Residents are taught how to make their homes more resistant to fire with some Simple steps such as keeping gutters clean, keeping fire wood off decks and



## **What are the advantages of READY, SET, GO! to the Section Warden?**

Working with each fire department in a section can grow outreach exponentially. Getting fire departments to buy in to RSG is not hard. There are so many perks from IAFC that it makes it hard for a department to say no, including easy to write grants for outreach. Once a department is signed up they can do as much outreach and type they want. Each fire department becomes an independent voice for RSG.

RSG can help develop a stronger partnership between the section fire warden and the local fire departments.

## **What's my job in the READY, SET, GO! process?**

Discuss the positive aspects of RSG with fire department leaders in your section, let them know the perks associated with RSG.

Give department's pre- packaged information from IAFC. (this will be the same as the package you received).

Follow up with departments to make sure each department has made contact with IAFC to sign up for RSG. Keep in mind the sign up is free and gives them access to all the resources IAFC offers as outlined in your packet.

**Other outreach resources are also available. For more information contact the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), at 703-273-0911 or [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org)**

**NFPA resource: <http://www.nfpa.org/>**

**U.S. Fire Administration resources: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>**

### **Why Get Involved in Ready, Set, Go!?**

Getting "at risk" communities and local fire companies involved with Ready-Set-Go can help make your job easier by allowing others to spread the wildfire preparedness message.....

Local fire departments spread a multi- level message to residents about wildfire safety.

All information and guidance are provided to the local fire departments by the IAFC.

Once a department signs up for RSG they become an independent voice to carry the wildfire safety message.







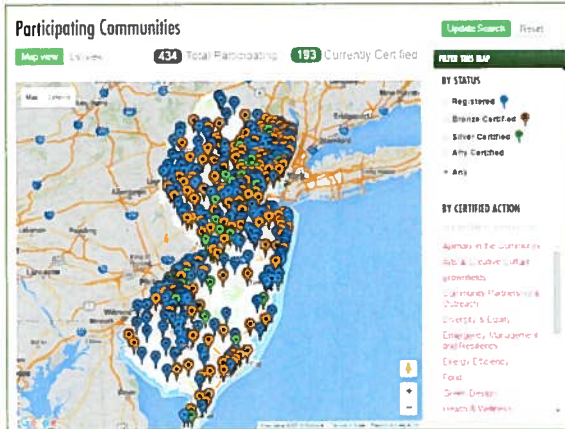
# Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Sustainable Jersey – Wildfire Actions



## What is Sustainable Jersey?

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) is a nonprofit organization operated as part of the Center for Sustainability at The College of NJ. The SJ program has a well-defined and rigorous format for certification of municipalities that participate in SJ. This program provides tools, training and financial incentives to support municipal level sustainability programs. For example, municipalities that take measures to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, plant trees, reduce wildfire risk and improve environmental equity are eligible for Sustainable Jersey certification. SJ's goal is to empower communities to build a better world for future generations. Sustainable Jersey certification is a prestigious designation for municipal governments

in New Jersey. Municipalities that achieve the certification are considered by their peers, by state government and by the experts and civic organizations in New Jersey, to be among the leading municipalities and some of the great places to live. The certification process is meaningful and comprehensive, whereby all actions taken by municipalities to score points toward certification must be accompanied by documentary evidence and is reviewed. The certification is free and completely voluntary.



Of New Jersey's 566 Municipalities 434 of

them are participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program.

The NJFFS along with the NJ Fire Safety Council worked with Sustainable Jersey for more than a year to develop a suite of *Wildfire Preparedness Actions*. These new actions have been approved by the SJ Board and are now available to municipalities.

<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/>

## Why has the NJFFS Partnered with Sustainable Jersey?

The NJFFS has partnered with Sustainable Jersey in order to reach a new audience, in



preparedness messaging that will aid the Division and Section Firewarden in carrying out their responsibilities for the protection of life and property from the threat of wildfire. Given, that a municipality can now receive points toward SJ certification through its participation in one of the FFS's sponsored programs is a boon for the municipality as well as the FFS.

For more than a year, the FFS met with Sustainable Jersey staff to develop several "Certified Actions" that municipalities could take to reduce their wildfire risk AND receive "points" towards their bronze, silver or gold certification. Those wildfire preparedness actions are:

**Firewise Communities** - Communities seeking to take wildfire reduction actions within a Municipality can gain points towards Sustainable Jersey by becoming a Firewise Community. A Community can gain additional points by "mentoring" another community and guiding them through the Firewise Community process. Everything a Community needs to know to enroll in the Firewise Programs is available on the Sustainable Jersey website.

**Ready, Set, Go!** - Fire Companies that stage a RSG awareness event receive points towards Sustainable Jersey Certification. If there are more than one fire company in a Municipality they may receive up to 15 points for multiple fire company participation.

**Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)** – Municipalities seeking a comprehensive review of their wildfire risk through the CWPP planning process receive 10 points under the Sustainable Jersey program. Funding to complete 8 CWPP's that come to the NJFFS through the Sustainable Jersey Program has been ear-marked as an incentive. A \$5,000 grant to implement the highest priority action identified in the CWPP process is also part of that earmark.

**Wildfire Safety Council** – Municipalities seeking to coordinate their wildfire preparedness efforts through a local Wildfire Safety Council will be rewarded with Sustainable Jersey points towards certification. Municipalities that form a local Fire Safety Council will be responsible for keeping the CWPP up to date and will receive a \$1,000 grant towards building capacity of the local council by holding a Wildfire Awareness event.

For more information about the Sustainable Jersey *Wildfire Preparedness Suite of Actions*, follow the link:

#### **Why Get Involved in Sustainable Jersey?**

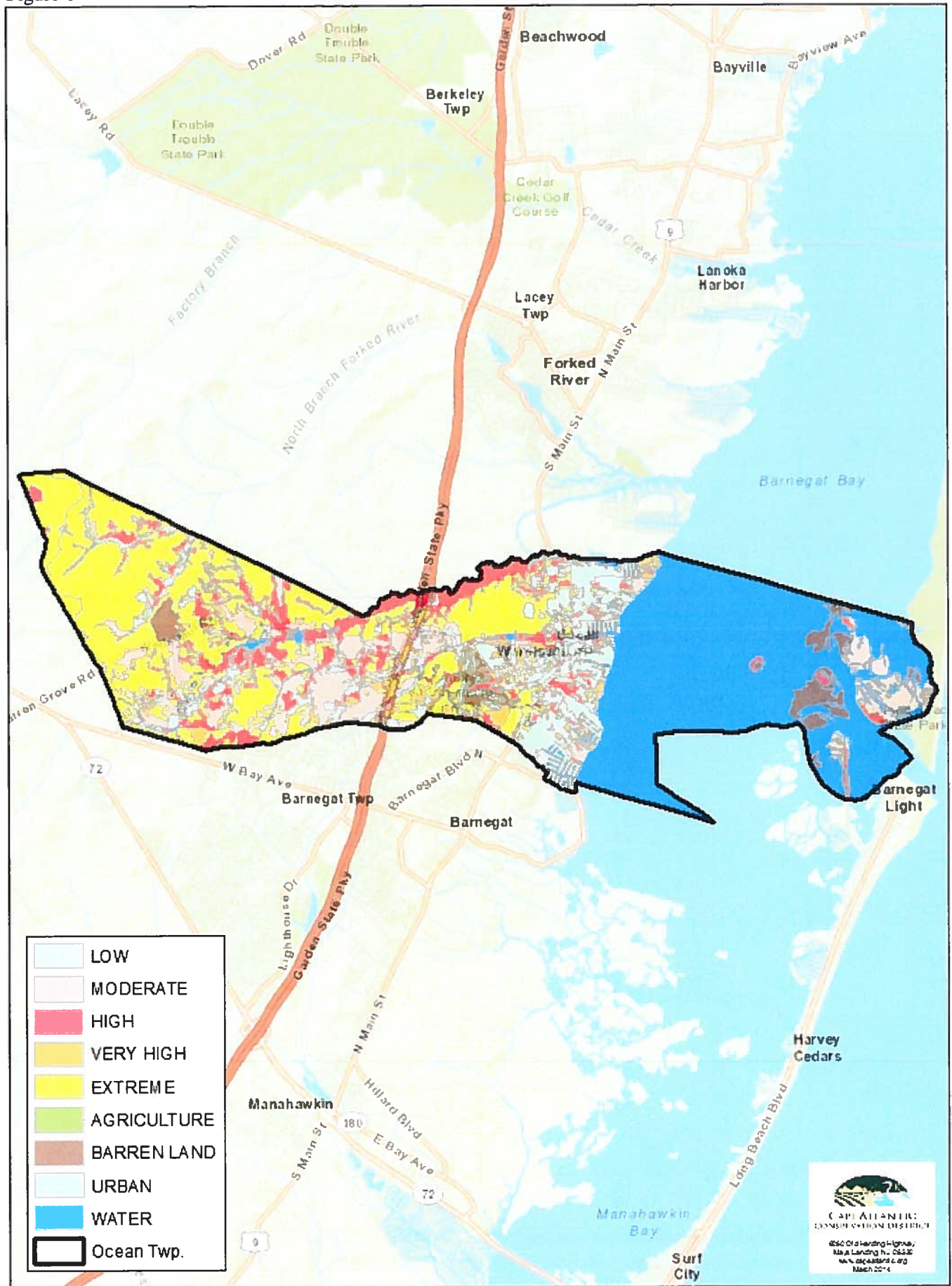
Studies have shown, that municipalities that are better prepared for natural disaster, suffer few losses and recover more quickly. There is less risk to firefighters and other emergency service personnel that work in these areas.

Getting "at-risk" communities involved with Firewise, RSG! and seeking a CWPP on their own and then applying these principles keeps them invested which will make a fire-fighters job safer and easier.



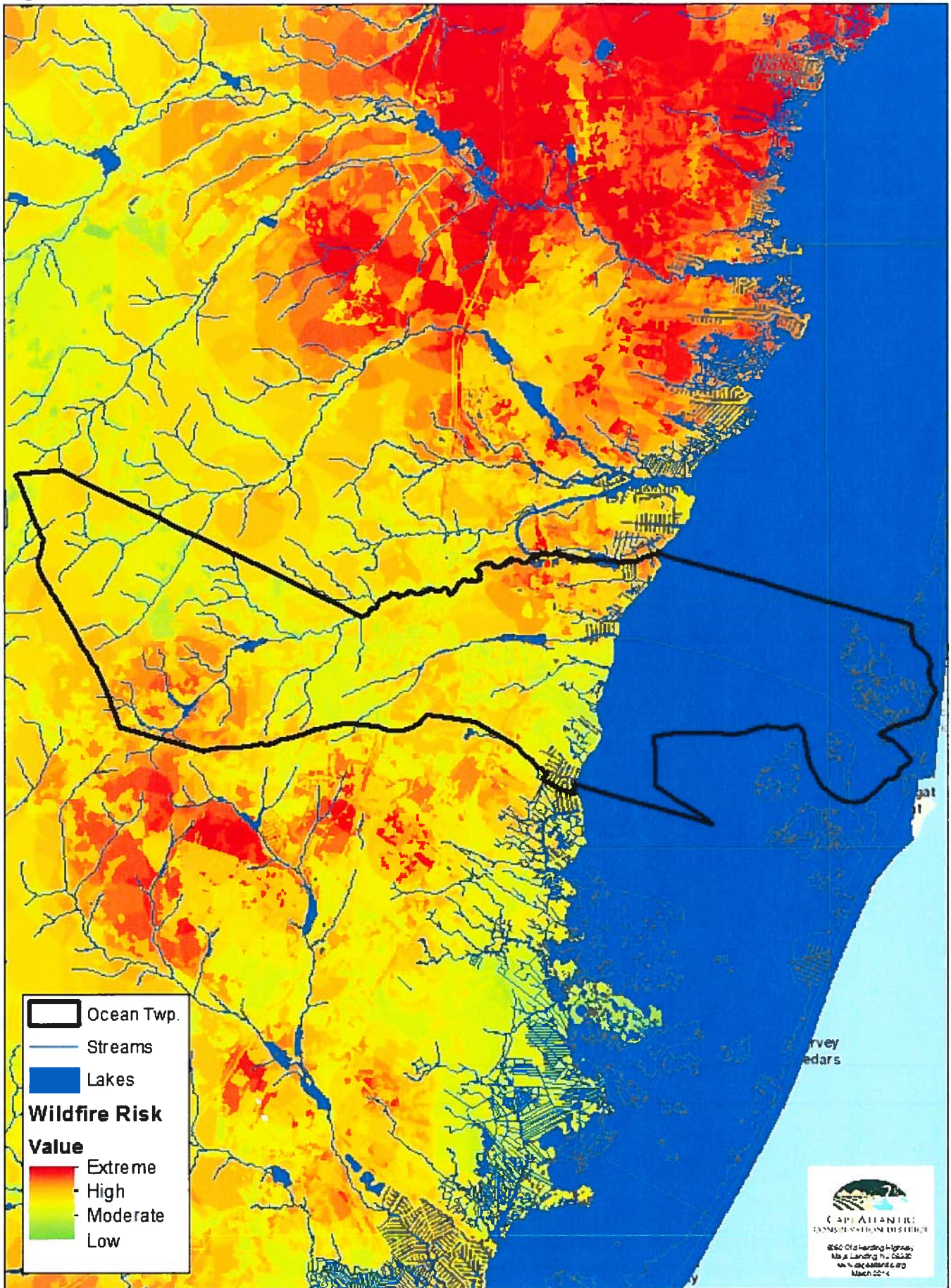
# FUEL HAZARD

Figure 1



# WILDFIRE RISK

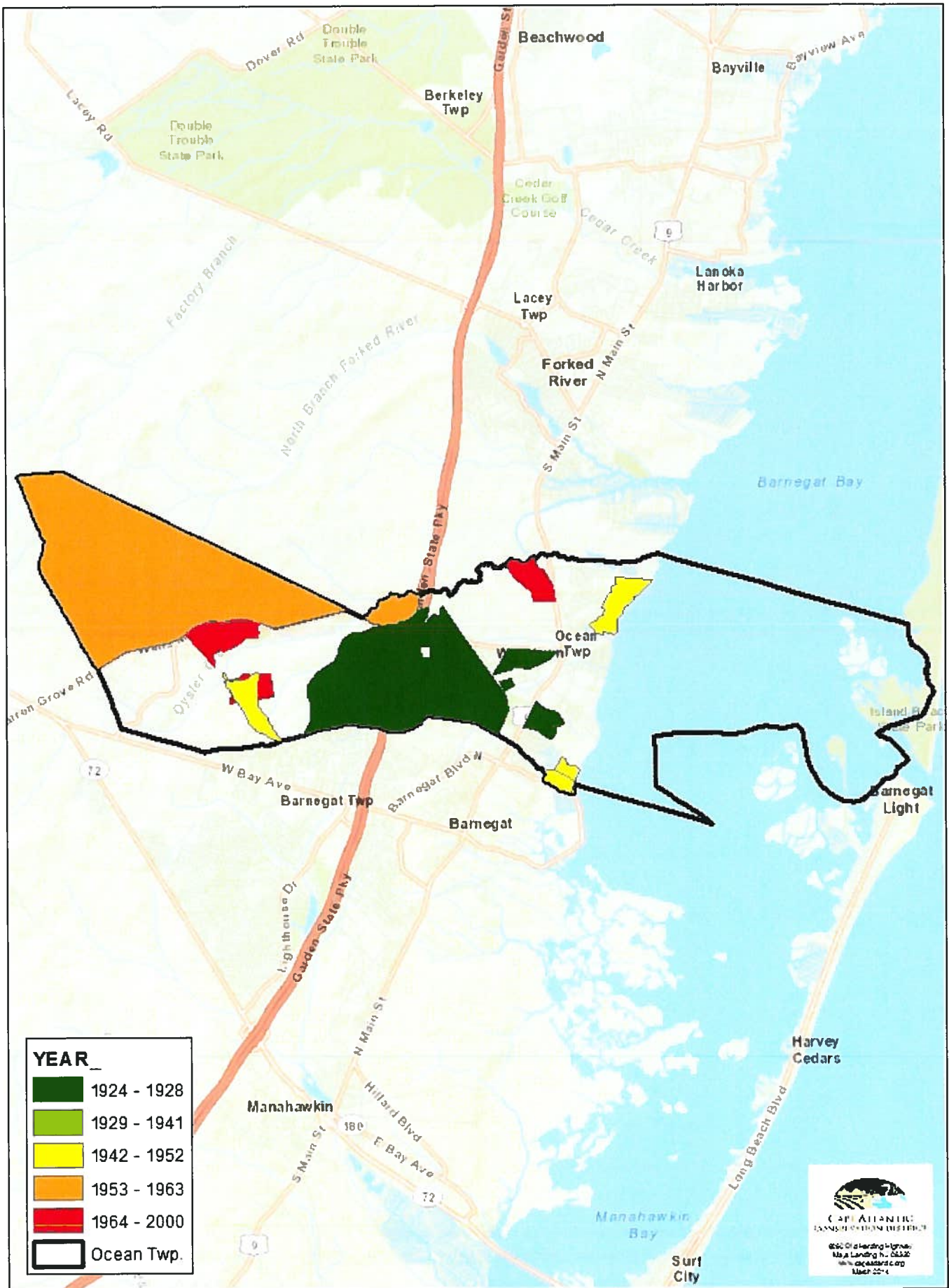
Figure 2



\* This Fire Risk data layer includes a NJ Forest Fire evaluation of the following criteria: WUI, Fire Origins, and Fuel Hazard. A weighting of these 3 combined factors was used to produce this "Fire Risk" data layer.

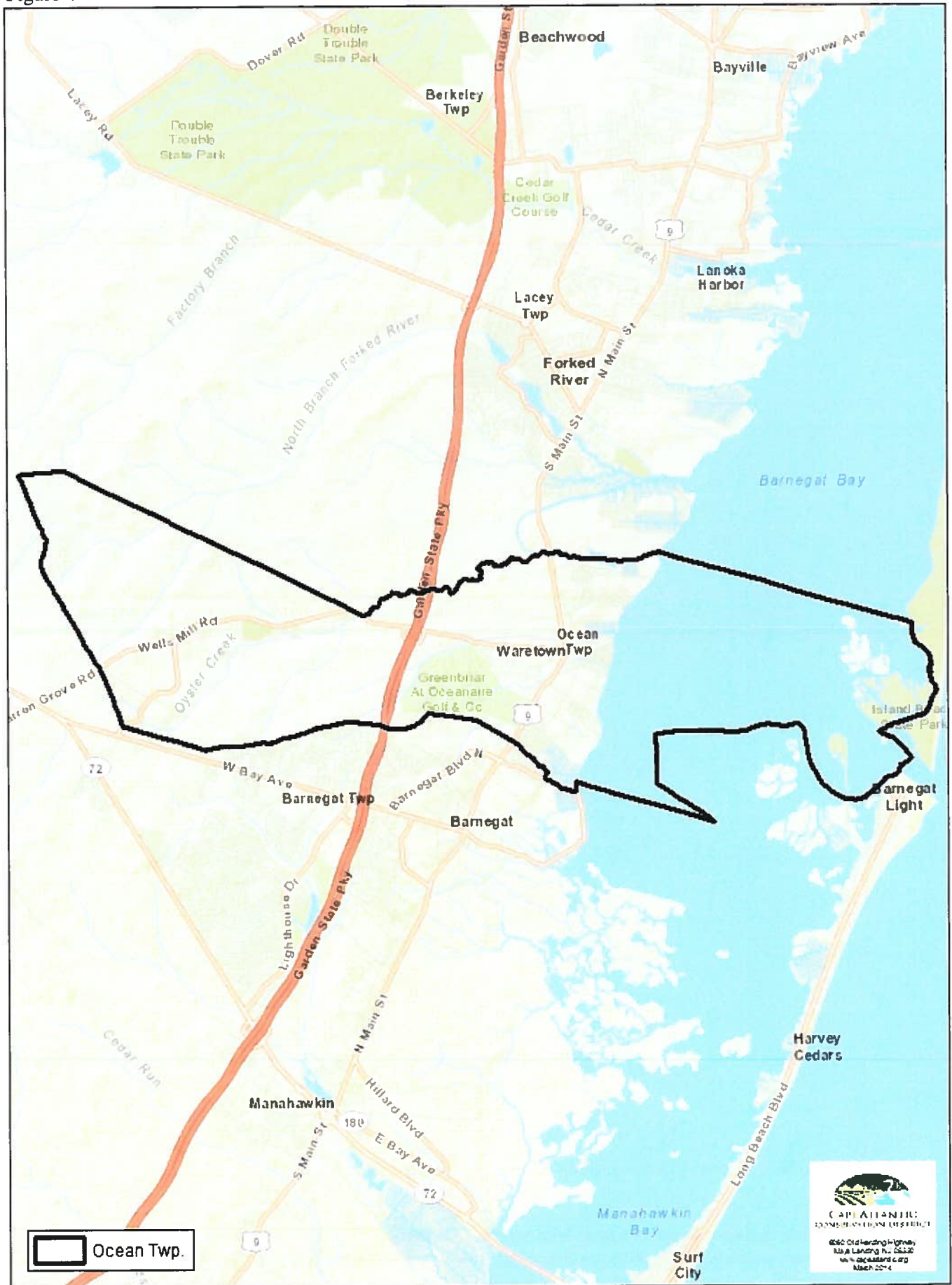
# WILDFIRE OCCURRENCES

Figure 3



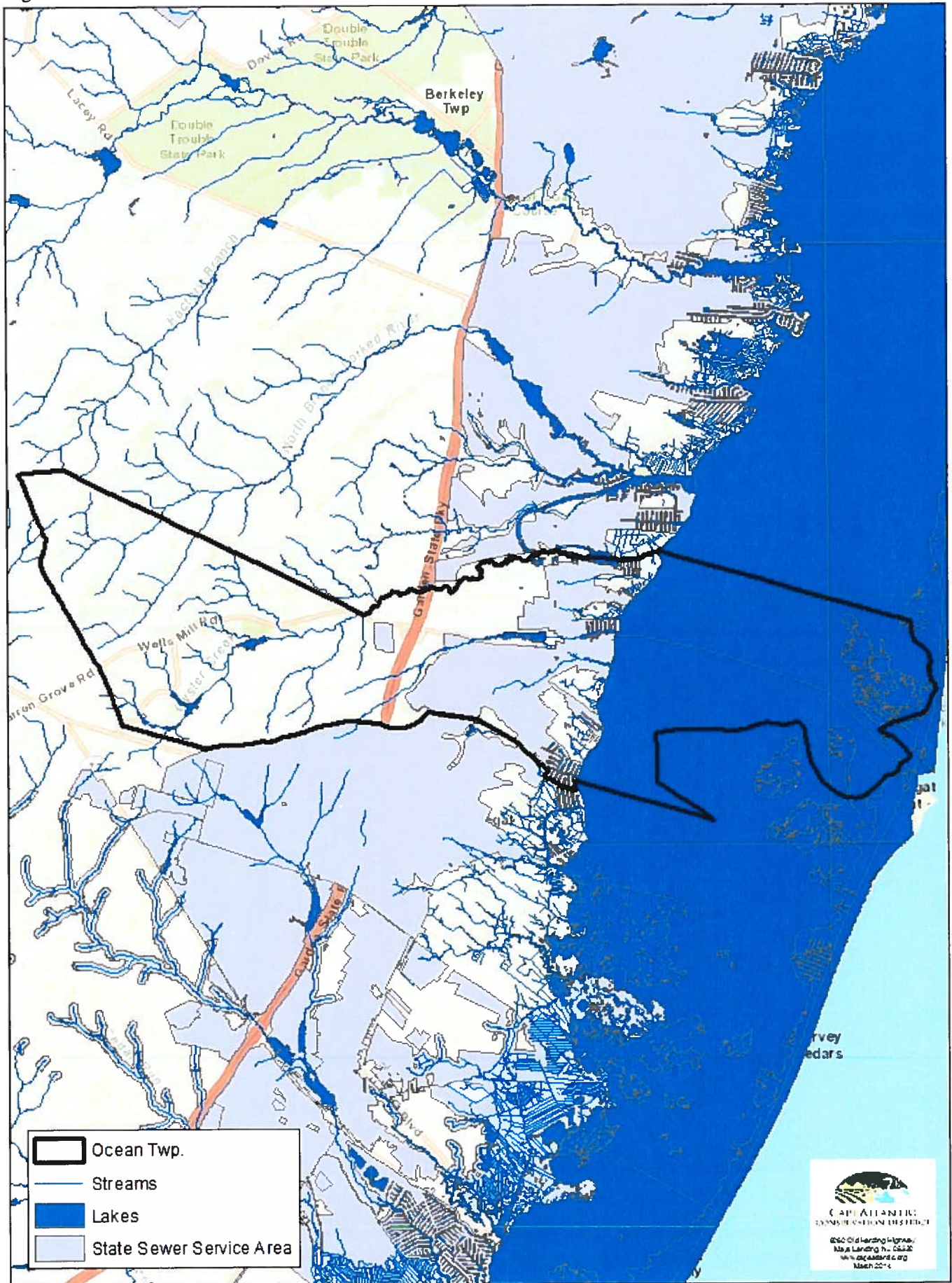
# ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Figure 4



# WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Figure 5



# PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

Figure 6





# WILDFIRE ORIGINS

Figure 7

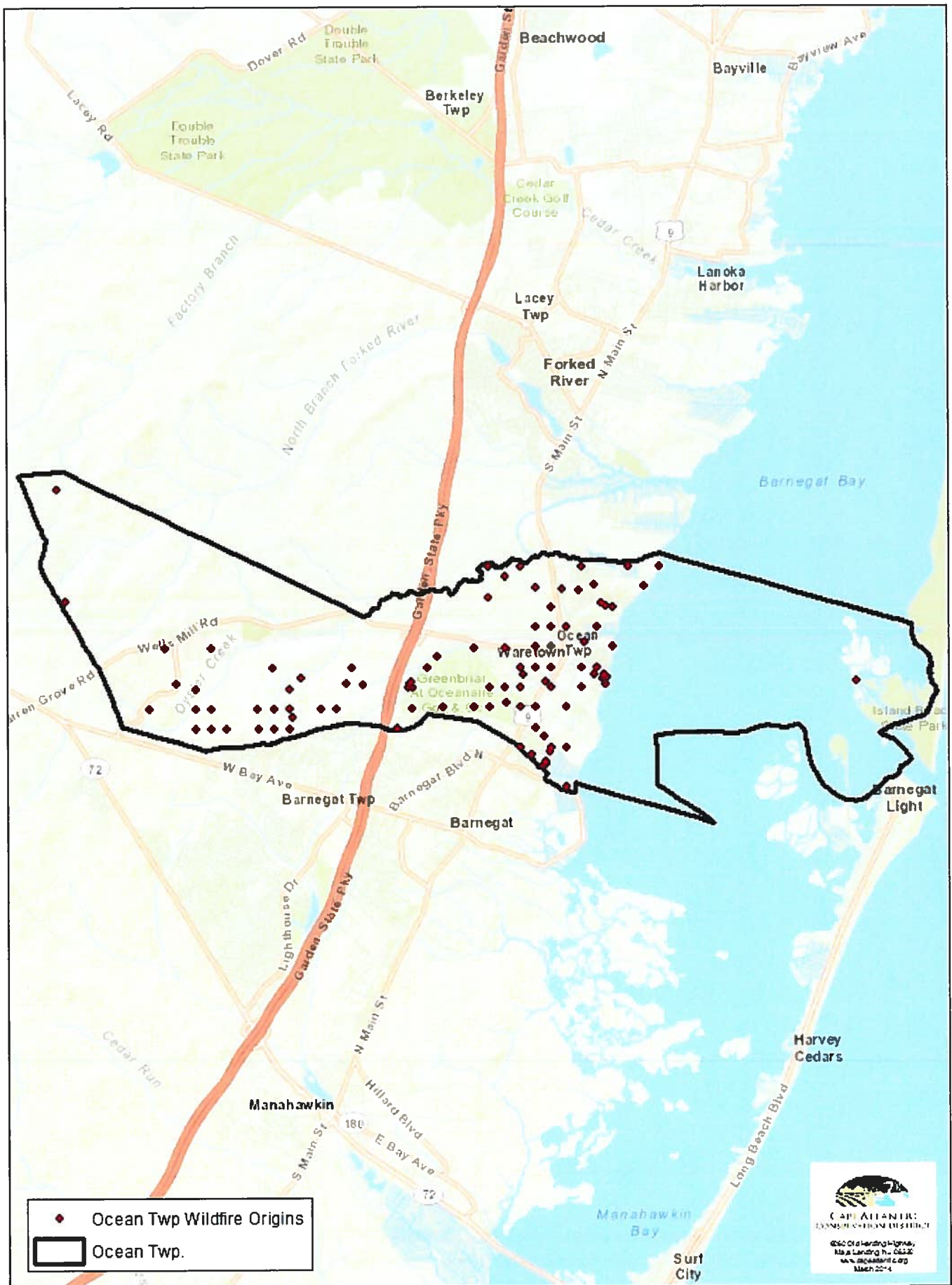
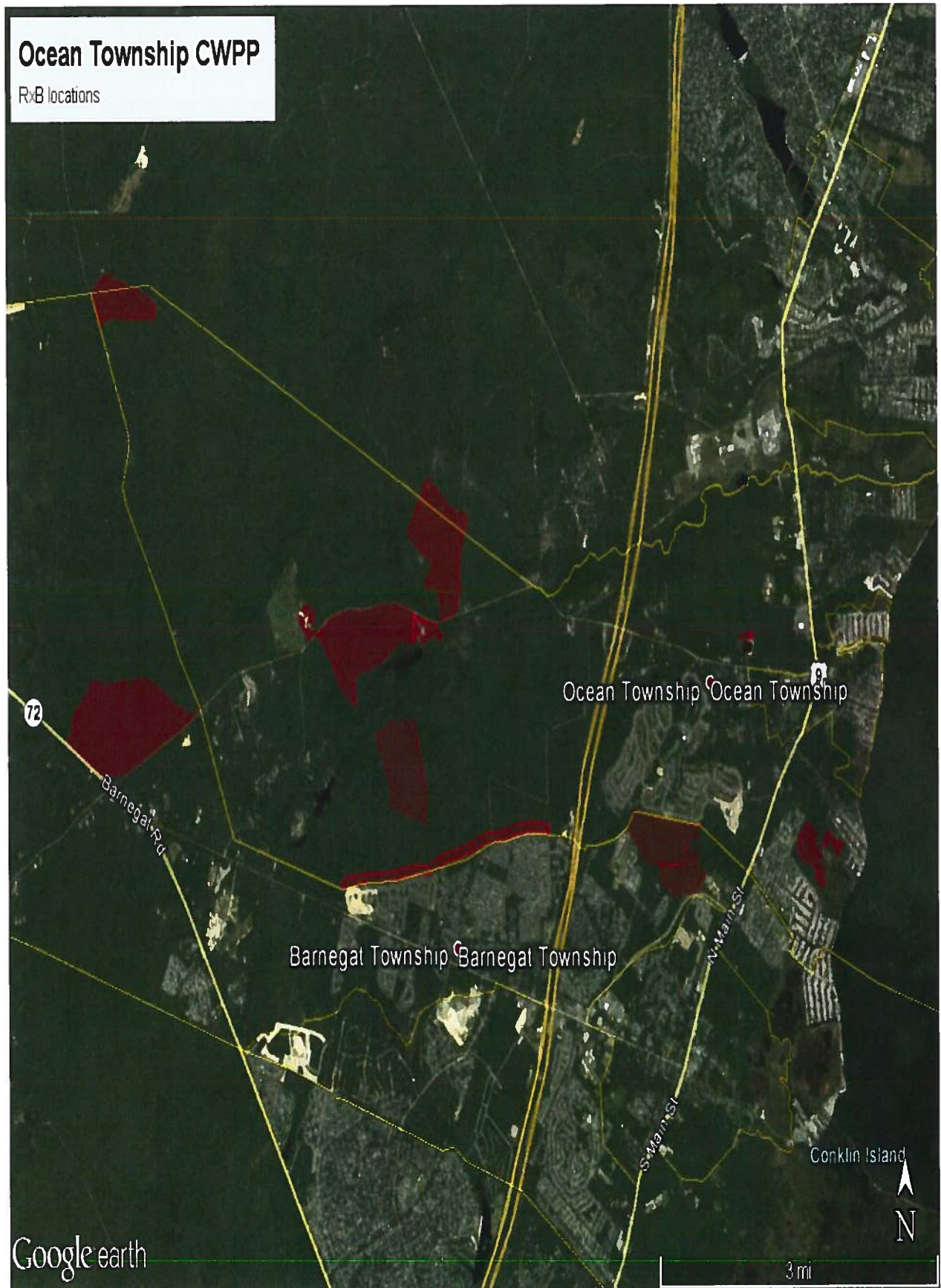


Figure 8



# EMERGENCY SERVICE LOCATIONS

Figure 9

