

[Overview](#)

[Goals](#)

[Actions Taken](#)

[Other Enhancements](#)

Overview

The Bayside Tract, which covers approximately 4,384 acres, is located in Greenwich Township, Cumberland County, New Jersey. The Bayside Tract has been placed under a Deed of Conservation Restriction to ensure long-term protection of the area, including the historic resources and agricultural heritage.

Greenwich Township and the Cohansey River area were settled in the 1680s and represent one of the first permanent English-speaking settlements along the Delaware River. The early settlers established an agricultural economy of family farms by clearing woodland areas, diking the salt marshes, and establishing the use of marl as fertilizer. Remnants of dikes are still found on the Bayside Tract.



During the 1800s, the area's economy expanded to include an important commercial fishery based on the Atlantic sturgeon. The New Jersey Southern Railroad, which extended across Cumberland County and ended at the south fork of Bayside Road, stimulated the establishment of a fishing port, known as Caviar, at this location. Roe from the sturgeon was processed and shipped from the area by rail and water until the sturgeon fishery declined in the early 1900s.

Throughout the 20th century, agriculture has remained the predominant land use. In recent years, the primary crops have been grains and vegetables. In addition, commercial and recreational fishing, especially crabbing, are important to the residents and the local economy. Muskrat trapping is a source of income for a few local residents.

Goals

The goal of preservation efforts for the site were to:

- Protect aquatic habitat by preserving adjacent upland areas from development



- Protect the natural and historic communities and cultural resources
- Provide public access

Actions Taken

The EEP is taking the following actions to achieve the preservation goals for the site:

- Agricultural management
- Woodlands management
- Wildlife habitat management

Other Enhancements

The EEP also completed a number of additional enhancements to improve and enhance environmental education, public access and long-term use of the site, including:

- Observation area
- Eight parking areas

