

Park Hours

Hartshorne Woods Park is open every day of the year from 7am to dusk, free of charge.

For more Information:

Call (732) 842-4000, ext. 4312 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com



From Garden State Parkway Exit 117
(North or Southbound) Follow Rt. 36 (East) for 12.6 miles. Turn right (before the bridge) onto Portland Rd. Follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

From State Hwy 35
Traveling northbound, turn right; southbound, use jughandle and turn left onto Navesink River Rd. (just north of Cooper Bridge, near Red Bank). Travel east on Navesink River Rd. for 4.7 miles (joins 8A north). Follow around bend and turn right onto Locust Ave., cross bridge. At next intersection (stone church) turn right onto Navesink Ave. (8B-East). Follow for 0.8 miles (past Buttermilk Valley entrance). Turn right onto Rt. 36 and follow for 1.2 miles. Turn right (before the bridge) onto Portland Rd., follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

From Sea Bright/southern shore points:
Follow Route 36/Ocean Ave. north. Cross the Highlands bridge. Make first right and follow U-turn signs (under bridge). Come up the hill turn left onto Portland Rd. Follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

Monmouth County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Board of Recreation Commissioners



Monmouth County Park System

Hartshorne Woods Park

Middletown, NJ



www.monmouthcountyparks.com

Welcome to Hartshorne Woods Park

This hilly, forested 794-acre site overlooks the Navesink River & features prominently in area history as a former coastal defense site. Known for its challenging trail system and scenic views, Hartshorne Woods is a popular park for area hikers, bicyclists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Park History

This park is named after Richard Hartshorne an English Quaker from London who settled here in 1669 and acquired more than 2,300 acres of land. By the early 1800s, some was sold to private individuals and the U.S. government, but large portions remained in his family.

The Park System acquired the first 660 acres of this park in 1974. Additional land was conveyed from the government in 1984, and subsequent purchases—including the 44-acre, Claypit Creek section in 2005—brought the park to its current size.

Military Installations at Rocky Point

This property was a desirable coastal defense site because of its elevation. Through the years, it hosted a number of land and air-based military installations. Interpretive panels about the park's military history are located throughout Rocky Point.

During the WWII era, batteries for heavy artillery were built on this site. These concrete and earth encasements or bunkers – considered “bomb-proof” at the time – protected personnel and equipment. The rise of strategic air power and nuclear weapons ended the reliance on artillery guns for coastal defense.

During the Cold War Era, the site served as a missile defense and command center with radar, computers and electronic plotting devices. These structures have all been removed.



Bunker Loop

Fishing

Anglers can cast for striped bass, fluke and flounder in the Navesink River from the pier at Black Fish Cove (a steep, 0.7 mile walk from the Rocky Point parking lot).

The New Jersey Saltwater Angler Registry now requires all anglers 16 and up to register online (for free) to fish in marine and fresh tidal waters of NJ. Visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov



Blackfish Cove

Protect Your Parks

The Park System preserves and manages natural and cultural resources on more than 15,000 acres of land in Monmouth County. Protecting water quality, eliminating invasive plant species, and promoting healthy wildlife habitats are just a few objectives.

Please help protect the park by leaving flowers, plants, animals, and other features as you found them; adhering to posted park rules; using designated containers for trash, recyclables and pet waste; and keeping your pets leashed. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

An overabundance of white-tailed deer in and around this park is threatening the health of native plant and animal species. Portions of Hartshorne Woods Park maybe open for deer hunting during all or some of the State-regulated hunting season. All hunting areas are clearly posted. Call (732) 842-4000 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com for more information.

Hartshorne Woods Park

(732) 872-0336 or 2670
www.monmouthcountyparks.com



GPS/Maps Use:

Rocky Point 200 Portland Rd. Highlands, NJ 07732

Buttermilk Valley 307 Navesink Ave.
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Claypit Creek 241 Locust Ave. Rumson, NJ 07760

Trail Standards

- **EASY:** short, well-maintained or paved trails intended for casual walking
- **MODERATE:** longer trails with some grades/obstructions; intended for hiking (may be suitable for some walkers and runners)
- ◆ **CHALLENGING:** long, more primitive trails with steep grades, obstructions; intended for hardy, experienced hikers

Information about Lyme Disease

To avoid contact with the deer tick that may carry Lyme Disease, stay away from tall grass and shrubby areas, wear light-colored clothes, tuck long pants into socks, and check yourself for ticks during and after each visit to the park.

LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Building/Office | --- Easy Trail | P Parking |
| ■ Wooded Area | - - - Moderate Trail | ♻ Portable Toilet |
| ■ Battery/Bunker | - - - Challenging Trail | ♣ Foot Traffic Only |
| ■ Field/Clearing | — Paved Trail | 👁 Viewing Area |
| ■ River/Pond | - · - · - Maintenance Road | 🎣 Fishing |
| ■ Wetlands | — Paved Road | ❓ Information |
| — · - · - Property Line | — Bridge | 🍷 Picnic Tables |
| ~ Stream | 🏠 Water Tower | 📍 Trail Head |
| | | ★ Interpretive Panel |



Trail Key

Buttermilk Valley Section

- **King's Hollow:** EASY 0.7 mile (1.1 km) trail through oak trees and wild flowers
Foot Traffic Only
- **Candlestick:** EASY 1.5 mile (2.4 km) loop with abundant mountain laurels and wooded overlook
Foot Traffic Only
- **Laurel Ridge:** MODERATE 2.5 mile (4 km) trail for a longer hike; features a wooded overlook

Monmouth Hills Section

- **Cuesta Ridge:** MODERATE 1.6 mile (2.6 km) trail from Buttermilk Valley to Rocky Point
- ◆ **Grand Tour:** CHALLENGING A primitive 3.1 mile (5 km) trail through the forested heart of the park

Rocky Point Section

- **Battery Lewis:** EASY paved, 0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop around the battery
- **Lewis Overlook:** EASY 0.2 mile (0.3 km) loop with spectacular views
Foot Traffic Only
- **Command Loop:** MODERATE 0.4 mile (0.6 km) paved trail to the former Highlands Army Air Defense Site (HAADS)
- **Bunker Loop:** MODERATE paved 0.3 mile (0.5 km) loop to a wooded bunker site
- **Battery Loop:** MODERATE paved 1.3 mile (2.1 km) loop from Battery Lewis to a smaller bunker, other trails and scenic views of the river
- **Black Fish Cove:** MODERATE paved 0.2 mile (0.5 km) hike to the Navesink River pier. Beware, it's a steep return!
- ◆ **Rocky Point Trail:** CHALLENGING 2.3 mile (3.7 km) natural surface trail following the outer edges of Rocky Point

Trails

Hartshorne Woods Park has the most extensive and challenging series of trails in the Park System: over 14 miles. Please stay on marked trails, plan your route, take a trail map with you, and wear appropriate safety gear.

NOTE:

At a brisk pace, it takes approximately 20 minutes to walk 1 mile (1.6 km).