For More Information If you would like additional information about any of the 40 open spaces, parks and recreation areas of the Monmouth County Park System, or for more than 5,000 programs offered each year; please call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312 (TTY-TDD 711) or visit us online.

Welcome to the Manasquan Reservoir

The Manasquan Reservoir is both a water source for towns and utilities and a natural setting for recreation and outdoor pursuits. The 770-acre reservoir is part of a larger 1,200-acre site that includes woods and wetlands, a beautiful 5-mile perimeter trail, areas for fishing and boating, a Visitor Center and an Environmental Center.

About the Reservoir

The reservoir is an important part of the water supply in Monmouth County. Water from the Manasquan River enters and exits the reservoir through the inlet/outlet tower in front of the main dam. With a 4 billion gallon water capacity and maximum 40' depth, the reservoir can supply up to 30 million gallons of water a day.

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 of the objectives. Please protect the park by leaving plants, animals, and other features as you found them; adhering to posted 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 around the Manasquan Reservoir is threatening the health of native plant and animal species. Areas next to this park (Bear Swamp Tract and Howell Park Golf Course) may be open during some or all of the State-regulated hunting season. All hunting areas are clearly posted. For more information, please pick up a copy of the Deer Management Program brochure, call 732-842-4000, ext. 4237 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com.

Boating

Boats with electric motors, sailboats, kayaks, and canoes (at least 8') are permitted on the reservoir year round for fishing and depending on weather conditions. Rowboats (with or without electric motors) and kayaks can be rented from April 1/Memorial Day Weekend through October 31. Canoe, kayak and sailing lessons are available.

Fishing

The reservoir is open year round for fishing and is stocked with large- and small-mouth bass, hybrid striped bass, tiger muskie, bullhead catfish and panfish species. A NJ state fishing license is required for anglers age 16-69. Please consult signs for restrictions/advisories. Shoreline anglers can park inside the Main Entrance or at Chestnut Point. Wading prohibited.

Playground

A wildlife-themed playground, highlighting species found at the reservoir, is located near the Visitor Center.

Winter Activities

The reservoir is open for ice-skating, ice-boating and ice-fishing, depending on weather conditions.
Environmental Center 732-751-9453
Visitors can explore wetland ecology and learn about wildlife protection through interactive exhibits, multi-media presentations, wildlife observation areas, and educational activities. Park Naturalists offer boat tours and a variety of nature programs – from eagle viewing to pond studies – for individuals, schools and community groups. Please call for information.

Nature & Wildlife
Forests at the reservoir are an interesting mix of species. The park has six created wetlands and trailside wildflower meadows. More than 20 varieties of fish, 20 types of mammals, 25 different reptiles and amphibians, and 200 species of birds inhabit the Manasquan Reservoir and its surroundings. Stop by the Environmental Center for news of current wildlife sightings, including seasonal listings of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and "watchable insects," such as butterflies and dragonflies.

Manasquan Reservoir
311 Windeler Road, Howell, NJ 07731 (VC)
331 Georgia Tavern Road, Howell, NJ 07731 (EC)
732-919-0996, 732-751-9453
732-938-6760 (Ranger Station)
www.monmouthcountyparks.com

LEGEND
- Building
- Reservoir
- Wooded/Foods
- Cleared Area
- Wetland Area
- Restricted Area
- Stream
- Milepost
- Easy Trail
- Moderate Trail
- Road
- Property Line
- Boardwalk
- Bridge
- Vending Machines
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Fishing
- Ice Skating
- Boat/Launch
- Playground
- Parking
- Telephone
- Accessible
- Information
- Restrooms
- First Aid
- Portable Toilet
- Nature Trail

NOTES: Each person boating on the reservoir must wear a US Coast guard approved, type I, II, III, or IV hybrid personal flotation device. NJ State Police Boater Safety Certificate required to operate powered vessels. For personal vessels, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. NJ State boating laws and Park System rules and regulations are posted. Swimming is prohibited.

Trails
When using the trails please plan your route, take a trail map with you and wear appropriate safety gear. Stay on marked trails and avoid entering unmarked wetland areas; they are designated wildlife habitats. Most trails in the Monmouth County Park System are open to walkers, runners, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Please obey the rules of protocol for yielding right of way.

NOTE: It takes approximately 20 minutes to walk 1 mile (1.6 km) at a brisk pace.

Trail Key
- Cove Trail: This 1.1 mile (1.8 km) scenic nature trail explores the lakeshore around the Environmental Center. Pedestrians only.
- Bear Swamp Connector: An easy 0.5 mile (0.8 km) connection to Howell Township’s Oak Glen Park.
- Wetland Spur: This 0.2 mile (0.3 km) walk across a dike is a quick, scenic connection from the Visitor Center to Perimeter Trail.
- Perimeter Trail: This scenic, 5.1-mile (8.3 km), multi-use trail loops all the way around the reservoir. It has a fairly even, well-maintained natural surface but has been designated as a MODERATE trail due to its length. Mileposts are marked on the map.

Trail Standards
- EASY: short, well-maintained trails intended for casual walking
- MODERATE: longer trails with some grades/obstructions; intended for hikers, equestrians and all-terrain bicyclists; may also be suitable for some walkers and runners
- CHALLENGING: long, more primitive trails with steep grades/obstructions; intended for highly experienced hikers, equestrians and all-terrain bicyclists (none at this site)