Monmouth County Park System

Environmental Education Programs for Groups

2016 - 2017

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
John Muir

Who We Are

The Monmouth County Park System was created in 1960 with the establishment of Shark River Park using 24 acres of land left over from construction of the Garden State Parkway. The Park System has been growing ever since, and today manages over 16,500 acres and 43 park areas including forests, wetland/marine habitats, golf courses, historic sites, recreation areas and conservation properties. The long term goal is to preserve at least 19,000 acres or 7% of the county's land. The Park System offers more than 6,000 programs, camps, activities and events at these sites each year.

What We Do

Through our diverse environmental education programming, we strive to create opportunities for participants to develop leadership, team building, and critical thinking skills. Our standards based curriculum takes advantage of the rich natural resources available in Monmouth County, and provides a hands-on focus that promotes awareness, understanding and stewardship of our natural history and environment. We invite you to take advantage of the programs listed here to help achieve our common goal of teaching children the value of our natural resources.

For more information, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com and click on Environmental Education Programs for Groups under Activities.

Our Mission

The Nature Interpretation Division of the Monmouth County Park System is dedicated to providing positive, enriching experiences that educate people about their environment and encourage stewardship of existing open space and park land.

Board of Chosen Freeholders
Board of Recreation Commissioners

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NOTE: It is understood and agreed that park visitors and participants in Monmouth County Park System programs, activities and events may have their names and pictures used, without fee, in broadcast, television and print media accounts for promotional and publicity purposes.

Scheduling a Program

Our environmental education programs provide hands-on experiences that explore exciting natural and historical aspects of Monmouth County. Programs are available throughout the county parks, and some can travel to your site. Many programs are available year round, others only during specific months at certain facilities. Park System Naturalists are also available to attend Career Days, First Days, and other special events for schools, scout groups and other community organizations.

It is advisable to schedule programs 6-8 months in advance. Reservations will be accepted up to one year, but must be arranged at least four weeks, before requested date. Before calling, it is best to have several dates, times and topics in mind.

Although no rain dates may be reserved, every effort will be made to accommodate your group in case of inclement weather. Program fees are listed for groups originating outside of Monmouth County. Groups from Monmouth County receive a discounted rate. Program fees are subject to change.

- To arrange programs please contact our Program Reservation Specialist at the phone number listed with the program. Reservations can be made Monday through Friday.
- Note minimum and maximum numbers of participants where indicated to determine if your group can be accommodated. For programs that have a per participant charge, groups that do not reach the minimum will be billed for the minimum number of participants as noted.
- Your program confirmation will be mailed within two weeks. Please verify date, time, number of students, and location.
- A limited number of supervising adults may attend the program for free; all others will be charged the per person fee. Only registered participants and supervising adults can take part in the activities.
- All groups will be billed after the program is completed. Please do not bring money the day of the program or submit payment before the program has taken place.
- If the program you have selected is three or more hours in length, please bring a non-perishable lunch. Picnic tables are available at most facilities on a first come basis.

Icon Legend

Available to be offered at your facility December-March (within Monmouth County)

Available to be offered at your facility year-round

Program can be adapted to suit the recreational nature of summer groups

Bring a non-perishable lunch

Already registered your group for a program? Check out our FAQs and Tips for Your Field Trip links by visiting www.monmouthcountyparks.com and click on Environmental Education Programs for Groups under Activities.

Group Discovery Programs

There are many opportunities for environmental education programs throughout the Monmouth County Park System. The following pages include group experiences in these categories: Nature Walks, American Indian, Eco-Adventures, Prehistoric Times, Animal Explorations, Kayak Programs, and Marine & Estuarine Ecology.

To arrange a date and time for your group, please call 732-872-7369.

Nature Walks

PreK-Adult
45 min - 1 hr
Maximum of 30 per group

Guided explorations of natural areas are available at many of our County Parks. When requested in advance, topics can be tailored to your group's particular interests.

Available year-round at Bayshore Waterfront Park, Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Holmdel Park, Huber Woods Park, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Shark River Park, and Turkey Swamp Park. Other park locations available upon request.

Program Fee: $50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $40

"The program leader was very knowledgeable and engaged the children in the activity. Excellent program! Thank you!"

American Indian

Indian Coil Pots

Grades 3-6 **1 hr**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods

The Lenape cooked in clay pots and used them to store food and other household items. Students create and take home a small clay vessel using the coil pot method, an ancient technique of pottery building.

Program Fee: $7.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.80 per student

Indian Pottery

Grades 3-6 **3 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel

Every civilization which had access to clay created pots to serve as cooking, eating, or storage vessels. Students replicate the methods used by the Lenape to create and decorate a pot of their own to take home. The program includes a brief lecture on the Lenape and an Indian themed nature walk.

Program Fee: $9.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.35 per student

Indian Weaving

Grades 3-6 **1 hr**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods

Through artifacts and pictures, students explore how the Lenape used weaving to create objects for everyday and decorative uses. Students create and take home a small woven mat.

Program Fee: $5.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $4.20 per student

At your facility in Monmouth County: $6.05 per student

Lenape Day at the Bay

Grades 3-6 **3 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Experience life along Sandy Hook Bay as it was 400 years ago, by spending the day investigating how local Native American people relied upon the bounty of the bay environment for their survival. Students learn the importance of shellfish and the value of trading important economic goods with other Lenape people. Participants also learn ancient techniques, such as tool making, food preservation, and the creation of dye from berries and wood. Participants decorate shells they collect along the beach with homemade dye to take home.

Program Fee: $9.75 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.75 per student

Indian Longhouse

Grades 4-6 **3 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 15; 30 for 2 Longhouses
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods

Students transcend time and become Lenape children for the day. They work cooperatively to build a life sized replica Longhouse using only the tools of the era. Discussion regarding daily life in a Lenape village will be ongoing throughout the program.

Up to 50 students can now be accommodated at both our Huber Woods and Holmdel Park facilities. Indoor alternative program may be available if there is inclement weather the day of your trip. Please inquire when you register.

Program Fee: $11.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.95 per student

Group Discovery Programs

Eco-Adventures

Nature Explorers

Grades PreK-K **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: year-round **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods

You are never too young to discover the wonders of nature. During this program children are introduced to the simple aspects of our natural world through a craft, guided nature walk, and a live animal show.

Program Fee: $7.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.80 per student

Earth Day is Every Day

Grades PreK-4 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: year-round **Min 12**
Park: Huber Woods

Don't "Go Green" just one day a year. In this program, students learn how to incorporate an environmental ethic into their everyday life through hands-on activities, crafts and games, all using only recycled products!

Program Fee: $6.05 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.25 per person

Fun with Nature

Grades 1-2 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: year-round **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods

Discover the wonders of nature during a guided nature walk and live animal show featuring some of the well-known animals of Monmouth County. Children create a craft to remind them of the fun they had with nature that day.

Program Fee: $7.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.80 per student

Critters & Jitters

Grades PreK-2 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: October **Min 15**
Park: Huber Woods

Join us for a fun-filled hayride through Huber Woods and make unforgettable memories this fall. Participants experience nature up close during a live animal presentation and create a craft to remind them of their autumn visit to this beautiful park. Pumpkin picking is optional.

Program Fee (up to 4 adult teacher/ chaperones free): $9.20 per person; $7.85 per person without pumpkin

Groups from Monmouth County: $7.35 per person; $6.00 per person without pumpkin

Prehistoric Times

Dinosaur Tracks

Grades 2-6 **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel

Students learn about fossil formation during an interactive discussion and act as paleontologists by creating their very own casts of a dinosaur footprint. Participants take a guided walk along woodland and wetland trails as they imagine what it was like in prehistoric times.

Program Fee: $9.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.35 per student

Fossil Exploration

Grades 3-Adult **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: May-September **Min 15**
Park: Shark River

Engage your group in hands-on learning and inquiry based activities that explore the rich fossil history of New Jersey. A fossil is ANY remnant of a plant or animal that has been preserved in the Earth's crust from a past geologic or prehistoric time. This evidence of past life is most commonly found as bones or teeth, but can also be imprints such as footprints. Any living thing could potentially one day become a fossil. During this program, a real fossil hunt in one of the many creeks of the Shark River Watershed enhances the learning experience, making this a memorable class trip. All persons attending program must wear closed-toe shoes (old sneakers suggested), clothes that can get wet, and bring a complete change of clothes, including footwear. Participants take home any fossils they find. You can also add on the opportunity for participants to build their own fossil sieve to use and bring home (requires additional 30-45 minutes).

Program Fee: $8.45 per participant; $11.15 per participant with Build Your Own Sieve
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.35 per participant; $9.70 per participant with Build Your Own Sieve

Animal Explorations

Live Animal Presentations

Grades PreK-Adult **45 min - 1 hr**
Offered: year-round
Maximum of 30 per group
Park: Huber Woods

Groups are offered a choice of presentations highlighting live specimens of reptiles, amphibians or insects. Information on the life cycle, habitat and habits of the animals are the focus of these presentations with an emphasis on the role each has in nature.

Program Fee: $66
Groups from Monmouth County: $52.50
At your facility in Monmouth County:
One program: $84
Two programs (consecutive): $115.50
Three programs (consecutive): $147

Animal Tracks

Grades 2-6 **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel

Learn the ancient skill of animal tracking through an interactive presentation and demonstration. Participants learn about wildlife as they create their own casts of animal footprints, and then look for signs of local wildlife during a naturalist-guided walk through the woods.

Program Fee: $9.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.35 per student

Birdhouse Building

Grades 3-6 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Holmdel, Huber Woods, Shark River

Students learn about the various styles of nests birds build, and the function that nests play in a bird's life. Each participant will then build their very own wren house to take home.

Program Fee: $9.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.90 per student

My First Fish

Grades 3-8 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: April-October **Min 15**
Park: Turkey Swamp

Participants learn to fish as they use cane poles to try to catch sunfish, largemouth bass, crappie and catfish. Participants are shown how to properly bait a hook and given instruction on the safe use of all equipment. The program includes a brief discussion on the variety of species of fish found in the lake as well as basic fishing regulations. Fishing equipment and bait are provided.

Program Fee: $8.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.10 per student
Contact: 732-751-9453

Kayak Programs

Eco-Guided Kayak Tour

Ages 12 & up **1 ½-2 hrs**
Offered: Spring-Fall
Min 10; Max 18 (including chaperones)
Park: Hartshorne Woods

Explore the Navesink River's calm tidal waters and dynamic estuarine environment while paddling on sit-on-top kayaks. Along the way participants learn about the ecology and conservation efforts that make this river system unique along the Jersey Shore. This activity is best suited for small groups, such as science clubs, ecology clubs or scout groups. Program is tide and weather dependent. Fee includes basic instructions and all equipment.

Program Fee: $17.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $15 per person

Kayaking & Crabbing in an Estuary

Ages 12 & up **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring-Fall **Min 8; Max 24**
Park: Hartshorne Woods

Enjoy the best that the Navesink River has to offer! During this program, participants paddle on sit-on-top kayaks and learn the basics of blue claw crabbing while focusing on the ecology and conservation of the Navesink River. Program is tide and weather dependent. Fee includes basic instructions and all equipment.

Program Fee: $18.40 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $16.00 per person

NEW Mudflat Mania

Ages 12 & up **3-4 hrs**
Offered: May-October
Min 10/Max 18 (including chaperones)
Park: Hartshorne

Join a Park System Naturalist on this fun and educational kayak tour as we paddle around and explore the many mudflats and tidal islands of the Navesink River. Along the way, participants will use a variety of nets and other tools to investigate life in the shallows. Program is tide and weather dependent. Fee includes all equipment and basic instruction.

Program fee: $26 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $22.50 per person

Marine & Estuarine Ecology

Periwinkles

Grades PreK-K **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Search the beach for shells and explore the water for fish, crabs and other fascinating creatures of Sandy Hook Bay. Activities include a nature walk along a bay beach, shell collecting, a seine net demonstration and a craft project.

Program Fee: $7.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.80 per student

Sandpipers

Grades PreK-K **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Seven Presidents

Participants are introduced to the ocean and its inhabitants through hands-on activities, crafts and exploration. Then, students go on a beach walk and learn to identify some of the many shells they find at the water's edge.

Program Fee: $7.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.80 per student

Down by the Bay

Grades K-2 **2 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Explore the estuary environment of Sandy Hook Bay and observe the dynamic influences of wind, water, waves, sand and salt. During a seining demonstration, children have the opportunity to study living creatures of the bay collected in our seine net. Children also explore the beach to collect and learn about shells and shellfish, and a craft project helps children better understand the biodiversity of the bay.

Program Fee: $7.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.30 per student

Seashells & Sea Stars

Grades K-2 **2 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Seven Presidents

Students explore the wonders of marine science through an interactive presentation, craft, and nature walk along the shore.

Program Fee: $7.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.30 per student

Seize The Bay

Grades 2-3 **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Students are introduced to the estuary environment of Sandy Hook Bay and the effects human activities can have on these areas. Students examine live saltwater creatures during a seining demonstration and explore the beach to collect and learn about shells. A role-playing activity illustrates how everyday actions affect the food we eat, the water we drink, and the conditions of the area in which we live.

Program Fee: $8.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.75 per student

Sand Dollars

Grades 2-3 **2 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Seven Presidents

Students observe and handle preserved specimens during activities that introduce them to sand dollars and their relatives. The program includes interactive activities that highlight the importance of sand dune habitats to beach ecosystems. On the beach, students discover and collect animal artifacts that wash up on shore while learning to identify the various seashells they encounter.

Program Fee: $7.50 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.50 per person

The World is Blue

Grades 4-12 **4 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 75 Max 120
Park: Bayshore

Designed to accommodate an entire grade level in one day, this coastal program introduces students to the biodiversity, adaptations, food webs, and stewardship of Sandy Hook Bay, a suburban estuary and an arm of the ocean which covers approximately 70 percent of Planet Earth. Students will rotate through five (5) hands-on activities that include 1) seining with a 25-foot long net to examine and release aquatic creatures that live or move through shallow areas of the estuary and to take a look at ways some animals have adapted to an ever-changing environment; 2) plankton collection using microscopes to view minute life and examine primary productivity within an estuary; 3) water quality testing using simple tools such as secchi discs to measure turbidity, thermometers to measure water temperature, and test strips to measure pH and nitrates; 4) shellfish identification to examine the wide diversity of clams, snails, crabs and other invertebrates that call an estuary home and their adaptation to a stressful tidal environment; and 5) stewardship activities that focus on the causes and effects of nonpoint source pollution, marine debris, climate change and sea level rise, and how sustainable coastal communities can be created, in part, through the protection and enhancement of natural resources including wetlands, floodplains, beach dunes and oyster reefs.

Program Fee: $10.95 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.50 per student

Bay Lab

Grades 3-6 **3 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Students discover some of the creatures that call an estuary home as they collect shells along the Bayshore and handle live aquatic animals collected in their seining activity. This program includes an experiment that investigates non-point source pollution and the effect it has on the biodiversity of Sandy Hook Bay.

Program Fee: $10.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.15 per student

Seashore Scientist

Grades 3-6 **3 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Seven Presidents

This program introduces students to beach zonation and the physical properties of the surf, and their combined effects on beach habitats through an interactive demonstration and hands-on beach erosion activity. Students also participate in experiments exploring properties of physical oceanography such as tides, currents and waves, and discuss the effects of pollution on the marine environment before attempting to clean up their own polluted "beaches."

Program Fee: $10.20 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.15 per student

Bayshore Seining

Grades 3 - Adult **1 hr**
Offered: Spring - Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Explore the edge of the Bayshore for fish, crabs, eels and other critters during an hour of seining and discover how these animals have adapted and endured in a world of tides, salt and surf. Participants learn how to haul a 20- to 30-foot seine net through calm shallow waters in order to encounter and study a variety of marine life and then return them safely back into the water.

Program Fee: $6.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.00 per person

Ecology of Sandy Hook Bay

Grades 7-12 **3 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

This field trip provides hands-on experience seining, clamming, collecting plankton and exploring mud flats and micro-organisms. This trip is geared towards discovering habitats found along the edge of an estuary and some of the key players within the shallow parts of the bay, from plankton to clams to crabs to fish. Participants learn how to haul a 20- to 30-foot seine net through the water to conduct a biological survey, how to gather a plankton sample, and how to investigate a mud flat. We also discuss how humans can and have had an impact on local water quality. This field trip can be modified to make the experience as technical and hands-on as desired. The program is tide and weather dependent.

Program Fee: $10.75 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.50 per person

NEW Shark!

Grades 1-3 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**
Park: Seven Presidents

Learn all about these magnificent and misunderstood creatures during this interactive and sensory based program. Find out what makes shark skin so rough while learning how some sharks use their extraordinary sense of smell to locate prey. The program includes a naturalist-guided beach walk where participants will hunt for egg casings from sharks and their close relatives, skates.

Program fee: $6.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.00 per student

NEW Life of a Bayman

Grades 3-6 **2 ½ hours**
Offered: May-October **Min 15**
Park: Bayshore

Explore the world of 18th century Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays: sailors, whaling and clamming. During this unique coastal history program, take a tour of the historic Seabrook-Wilson house, which dates back to the early 1700s, and learn about the day-to-day life of the people who lived or worked on the bay. Students are introduced to the basics of celestial navigation by making a sextant, knot tying using ropes, and the tools used by those who made a living harvesting whales and working on the water. We will also head down to Sandy Hook Bay using simple rakes and baskets to become "clam diggers," a time-honored practice that pulls our coastal heritage from the sand. From these hands-on experiences, students will be able to piece together a picture of what a bayman's life would have been like more than 200 years ago.

Program fee: $8.05 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.00 per student

"Waves of thanks for educating the next generation and inspiring them with marine wonders."

-Clean Ocean Action

Horticultural Programs

The 54 acres of gardens and greenhouses of Deep Cut Gardens are planned as a living catalog of cultivated and native plant materials to be observed through the seasons. We offer many enriching horticultural and garden programs for pre-Kindergarten through adult.

To arrange for a date and time for your group, please call 732-872-7369.

CHILDREN'S GARDENING – GROW WITH US!

NEW Ready, Set, Grow!

Grades PreK-K **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Spring-Fall **Min 12**

Come grow a garden with us! We supply the equipment, supplies, and expert advice and participants supply the enthusiasm and manpower. Register for one or a series of sessions. The learning experience in the garden will vary according to the season.

Program fee: $6.35 per child for initial program; $5.75 per child for subsequent programs within same year
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per child for initial program; $5.00 per child for subsequent programs within same year

NEW Wiggly Worms

Grades PreK-K **1 hr**
Offered: year-round **Min 12**

Students explore the core curriculm concepts of soil habitats, organism lifecycles, and food chains as they make mini worm composting boxes and learn how worms turn decaying matter into soil.

Each participant should bring a large translucent soda bottle to make into a worm composter.
Program fee: $6.90 per child
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.00 per child

NEW Terrific Terrariums

Ages PreK-Adult **1 hr**
Offered: November-March **Min 12**

Participants explore the relationship between the water cycle, plants and soil as they build their own terrarium and tour our beautiful greenhouse. ***Each participant should bring a large, translucent soda bottle to make into a recycled terrarium.***
Program fee: $5.15 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $4.50 per person

Garden Story Hour

Grades PreK-K **45 min-1 hr**
Offered: year-round
Maximum of 30 per group

During this program, children learn basic gardening principles through stories, games, songs and a craft.

Program fee: $66 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $52.50
At your facility in Monmouth County:
One program: $84
Two programs (consecutive): $115.50
Three programs (consecutive): $147

Inch by Inch

Grades PreK-2 **1 hr**
Offered: Spring-Fall **Min 12**

Sing along as we learn about vegetables and herbs and the basics of organic gardening. Children plant seeds, learn what they are and how they grow, and enjoy a brief garden tour (weather permitting).

Program fee: $5.15 per child
Groups from Monmouth County: $4.50 per child

Seasonal Garden Scavenger Hunt

Grades PreK-2 **1 hr**
Offered: year-round **Min 12**

Children explore their senses as the seasons change, while experiencing the varied sounds, scents and colors of the gardens. Receive a discount if you register for more than one season!

Program fee: $4.85 per child for initial program; $4.35 per child for subsequent programs within same year
Groups from Monmouth County: $4.25 per child for initial program; $3.75 per child for subsequent programs within same year

NEW The Dirt on Dirt: Explore the Science of Soil

Grades 2-6 **2 hrs**
Offered: Spring & Fall **Min 12**

Why is it so important for gardeners to have the right mix of nutrients in their soil? How do we enhance garden soil organically? How much water is right for the garden? Students discover the answer to these and other questions during this hands-on program in which they investigate different types of soil, discover how it is formed, and determine which types are best for the garden.

Program fee: $6.30 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per student

Good Bugs

Grades 3-6 **2 hrs**
Offered: Spring-Fall **Min 12**

Explore the symbiotic relationship that our garden plants have with the many wonderful and interesting pollinators, decomposers, insect predators, parasites and worms found in the natural world.

Program fee: $6.30 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per student

Winter Sowing

Grades 2-6 **1 ½ hrs**
Offered: Winter **Min 12/Max 25**

Students learn why and how to start hardy seeds outdoors in the winter by creating mini greenhouses made from recycled materials. No heating devices, light set-ups or expensive materials are involved. ***Each participant should bring a clean translucent or clear one-gallon water or milk jug to make, plant and take their own mini greenhouse.***
Program fee: $5.75 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.00 per student
At your facility in Monmouth County: $6.00 per student

Garden Tours

Group Tour for Children

Grades K-12 **45 min-1 hr**
Offered: April-October
Min 10/Max 45

Children experience the beauty of the gardens and nature while exploring Deep Cut Gardens. Visit includes vegetable garden, lily pond with koi fish, ornamental gardens, and display greenhouse featuring orchids, bonsai, houseplants, cacti and succulents. Tours may be customized to the group's interests.

Program fee: $4.05 per child
Groups from Monmouth County: $3.50 per child

Group Tour for Adults

Adults **1 hr**
Offered: April-October
Min 8/Max 45

Pick up some gardening tips while learning about the history, folklore and plants of Deep Cut. Visit includes the rockery, rose parterre, lily pond, vegetable garden, compost demonstration site and display greenhouse featuring orchids, bonsai, houseplants, cacti and succulents.

Program fee: $5.75 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.00 per person

"The program leader was so patient, kind and super knowledgeable."

Horticultural Programs for Adults

Varied program topics are available for Garden Clubs and other adult groups. Program topics include (but are not limited to): Container Gardening, Gardening for Wildlife, Native Plants for the Home Gardener, Native Pollinators, Planning Your Garden, Plant Propagation, Pruning, Rain Gardens, Shade Gardening, and Winter Sowing. These programs are offered year-round and can be held at one of our parks or at your Monmouth County location.

Please contact Deep Cut Gardens at 732-671-6050 to discuss topics, availability and pricing.

Mobile Programs

Our outreach programs bring the parks to you! These programs are offered primarily to communities, schools and related groups that may not have the opportunity or means to visit your local Monmouth County parks. Some programs are also available at select park locations as noted. Please contact the Program Reservation Specialist for each program by calling the phone number listed under each program to obtain more information and to make a reservation.

NEW NATURE ON THE MOVE!

Length: 40-60 minutes
Min 50/Max 100
Offered: Year-round
Can't make it to the parks or need an affordable way to reach large groups of students over a short period of time? Invite our talented staff to your gym/ all purpose room for this interpretive outreach program. Available throughout the school year, choose from one of our three interactive themes with activities to do and items to touch and feel. Activities may vary for each program dependent upon class interest and time. Parent volunteers are needed to help the students at each station.

Program Fee: $300 per group
Two consecutive programs: $400
Three consecutive programs: $500

Limited availability to travel to select out of county locations, please inquire for pricing.

Bring the Forest Inside!

Grades 2-3
Travel from station to station as you experience the habitats and wildlife of a New Jersey mixed hardwood forest. Students investigate signs of life in the forest by learning to use binoculars, looking for and identifying birds, deciding which adaptations enable an animal species to thrive, identifying various animal tracks, examining various animal artifacts, and meeting live creatures. It's the next best thing to visiting a forest!

Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369.

Lenape Village for a Day

Grades 3-4
Naturalist staff will bring local history to life as your students travel from station to station learning traditional Lenape methods of preparing food, making pots, hunting and lashing. We supply the materials and artifacts and you supply the "Lenape Children" and the parent volunteers.

Contact: 732-872-7369

Wonderful World of Water

Grades 3-5
Students discover the journey water takes through the natural world as they visit various station activities and become part of the water cycle. By investigating properties of water, hunting for invertebrates that live in freshwater, discovering what makes up a watershed and seeing the importance of wetlands, students enter the Wonderful World of Water!

Contact: 732-751-9453

Naturalist in Your Classroom

Offered: September-June
Can't make it to our parks? We'll bring the parks right into your classroom with our "Naturalist in your Classroom" programs. Talented members of our Naturalist staff will visit your school in Monmouth County to present the program of your choice. Each program is approximately an hour long, but may be adjusted to fit your scheduling needs.

Maximum of 30 per group • Grades 3-5 • Program Fee: $80 per group • Two consecutive programs: $110 • Three consecutive programs: $140
Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369.

Ancient Explorations
Take a step back through time as we explore what roamed our land many years ago.

Avian Adventures
Look to the sky as we adventure into the avian world to figure out what makes birds so unique and what kinds of birds you might find in your school yard or backyard.

Awesome Adaptations
Investigate animal adaptations and learn the importance of biodiversity.

Every Day can be Earth Day
Discover what makes Earth Day so special and what you can do in your classroom and at home to celebrate Earth Day 365 days a year.

Mighty Macros
Inspect a water sample from one of our ponds to discover the critters in our waters and learn why it's a good thing to find bugs in your water.

Water Everywhere!
Follow drops of water through our watersheds and see what might travel with the water on this incredible journey.

NJ "Shore" Is Fun
Experience all the fun and excitement of the beach without even getting sand in your shoes. Discover what you can find in the waters off the Jersey shore and learn about shells you might find on the sand.

Wild Nature
Here's your chance to get up close and personal with some animals who call New Jersey home. We'll bring animals from our live collection for students to see and maybe even touch!

Nature Story Hours

During our Nature Story Hour programs, children learn about the natural world through stories, rhymes, games, songs and crafts.

Available at Huber Woods Park, (year-round), or your facility (December-March and late June to mid-September)

Maximum of 30 per group
Program length: 45 min-1 hr
Program Fee: $66 per group

Groups from Monmouth County: $52.50
At your facility in Monmouth County:

One program: $84
Two programs (consecutive): $115.50
Three programs (consecutive): $147
Contact: 732-872-7369

Dinosaur Bones & Tales

Grades PreK-K

Long, long ago the Earth was very different. Children learn about animals and plants which lived on the Earth millions of years ago by listening to stories and viewing fossils and scale models. *(Also available at Holmdel Park)*

Big Fish, Little Fish

Grades PreK-K

Come hear a lively tale about a school of small fish living among the big fish. Through story, activities and a craft, children experience life in the big ocean. *(Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)*

Owl Hoots

Grades PreK-K

Children learn about the distinctive calls, silent flight, and the amazing eyesight, hearing and hunting abilities of owls through a variety of puppets and mounted specimens. *(Also available at Holmdel Park)*

"Very good job — the kids were engaged and enjoyed the trip."

Funny Freckled Frogs

Grades PreK-K

Meet several live frogs as we learn about their amazing life cycle: how they go through metamorphosis, why they sing, where they go in winter and more. Children share the fun of helping to tell several frog stories and discover why ponds are so important to frogs and to the environment.

Silly Snake Stories

Grades PreK-K

Listen to a story about a teacher who brings a pet snake to school to help students with their lessons. Meeting a live snake enhances the children's understanding of these fascinating creatures.

Baby Raccoon's Big Adventure

Grades PreK-K

Join Little Raccoon as he learns how a simple smile can change a situation for the better. Discover all about raccoons and other forest animals through story, interactive play and crafts.

Turtle Tales

Grades PreK-K

Children are introduced to several different kinds of live turtles as they learn about these intriguing reptiles and participate in turtle stories.

Little Horseshoe Crab Visits the Bay

Grades 1-2

Horseshoe crabs have been in our waters since before dinosaurs walked the Earth. Hear a story about these magnificent creatures that live in New Jersey and learn how they help humans and other animals. *(Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)*

A Seahorse's Tale

Grades 1-2

Seahorses have an unusual equine shape, but that is not the only thing that makes them unique. Students discover interesting facts about these intriguing marine creatures as we read stories and create a craft to take home. *(Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)*

Nature Presentations

PreK-Adult
35 min-1 hr
Offered: year-round
Maximum of 35 per group

These interactive presentations are available in the following themes. *Available at Huber Woods Park (year-round), or your facility (December-March and late June to mid-September)*

Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369.

Program Fee: $62.50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $50
At your facility in Monmouth County:

One program: $75
Two programs (consecutive): $105
Three programs (consecutive): $135

Forest

Our forests are alive with many beautiful and exciting plants and animals. A Park System Naturalist introduces various natural items that can be discovered in our forests. Participants may count tree rings, discover the difference between a bee's nest and a bird's nest, touch a turtle shell and more.

Seashore

A large portion of Monmouth County is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Raritan Bay. Learn what creatures live along our shores and view many of the seashells and other interesting natural items found along our shorelines. *(Also available at Bayshore Waterfront and Seven Presidents Oceanfront Parks)*

Indians of Monmouth County

Enrich your students' knowledge and appreciation of the original inhabitants of their home state in a vibrant and interactive way. Using authentic artifacts and stories, the presenter will weave an engaging tale of the Lenapes' journey to this continent and their development as a unique culture. The latest chapter of the story brings the students up-to-date on the current lives of Lenape and recent new discoveries.
Contact: 732-872-7369

Group Discovery Programs

The Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center is designed to connect visitors with the natural world by providing an understanding of the vital role that water plays in our daily lives. We offer quality experiential learning through group discovery activities related to wetlands ecology, watersheds and wildlife and habitat protection.

To arrange a date and time for your group, please call 732-751-9453.

Nature Presentation

PreK-Adult **35 min-1 hr**
Max 30
Offered: year-round

Topics for this show and tell program can include reptiles and amphibians, dinosaurs and other fossils, plant life, insect life, geology and astronomy. We can tailor topics to suit your needs.

Program Fee: $62.50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $50 per group

At your facility:

One program $85;
$75 in Monmouth County

Two consecutive programs $125;
$105 in Monmouth County

Three consecutive programs $165;
$135 in Monmouth County

Multimedia Nature Presentation

All Ages **45 min-1 hr**
Max 30
Offered: year-round

Watch a multimedia presentation highlighting the natural features, ecology and history of the Manasquan Reservoir. Other topics are available. Multiple programs can be scheduled on the same date at the same location for a discounted rate.

Program Fee: $40 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $35 per group

At your facility:

One program $85;
$75 in Monmouth County

Two consecutive programs $125;
$105 in Monmouth County

Three consecutive programs $165;
$135 in Monmouth County

Nature Walks

PreK-Adult **45 min-1 hr**
Max 30
Offered: year-round

Guided by one of our nature interpreters, these walks take place along well maintained trails in our county parks. When requested in advance, the topics of discussion during the walk may be tailored to the group's interests.

Program Fee: $50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $40 per group

Building Tour & Multimedia Presentation

All Ages **1 ½-2 hrs**
Max 50
Offered: year-round

Enjoy both a building tour and multimedia nature presentation with your group for a discounted rate.

Program Fee: $60 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $50 per group

"Our students visit the Center every year and we plan to continue that tradition."

Welcome to the Reservoir

Grades K-2 **1 ½ hrs**
Min 12/Max 75
Offered: year-round

Participants are introduced to some of the wild animals that call the Reservoir home. This program includes a live animal presentation, a short nature walk, and a fun game about wildlife.

Program Fee: $6.00 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.00 per student

Little Critters

Grades K-2 **1 ½ hrs**
Min 12/Max 75
Offered: year-round

Discover some of the little animals that call the park home. Participants create a craft and explore the outside world for animal life. The program also includes a live animal presentation.

Program Fee: $6.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per student

Bugs, Birds & Biodiversity

Grades 3-5 **1 ½ hrs**
Min 12/Max 75
Offered: year-round

Participants investigate insect and bird adaptations and learn about the importance of biodiversity. The program includes a nature walk, live animal presentation and an animal adaptation lab activity.

Program Fee: $6.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.25 per student

Operation Conservation

Grades 3-5 **1 ½ hrs**
Min 12/Max 75
Offered: year-round

This comprehensive program covers topics including pollution, the pros and cons of renewable resources, and the importance of conserving our natural resources. Indoor and outdoor hands-on labs play a major role in the program.

Program Fee: $7.75 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.75 per student

Pond Study

Grades 3-8 **2 ½-3 hrs**
Min 15/Max 50
Offered: May-October

Hands-on collecting of macro-invertebrates gives students a chance to 'immerse' themselves in the wetland ecosystem. A nature walk around the pond explores all angles of the environment. After collecting, students study what they have found in a hands-on lab. Microscopes and hand lenses will be used to get a closer look at tiny critters as we identify them. Students learn the connection between water quality and biodiversity. The concept of 'indicator species' is also discussed. Hip waders are provided, but a change of clothes is recommended.

Program Fee: $8.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.50 per student

NEW Pond Study Short Course

Grades 2-5 **1 hr**
Min 12/Max 30
Offered: May-October

Limited on time? No problem! We'll collect the water samples and you can come investigate the aquatic wildlife found in our wetlands. Learn how these organisms can help us determine the quality of the water they live in.

Program Fee: $6.30 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per student

Freshwater Monitoring & Management

Grades 9-12 **3-4 hrs**
Min 15/Max 50
Offered: year-round

Participants discover what it is like to scientifically monitor a freshwater system through biological, chemical and observational activities. Participants collect and analyze data from a freshwater system and learn some ways to protect and manage this finite resource.

Program Fee: $10.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.50 per student

NEW Eco-Kayak Tour of the Manasquan Reservoir

Ages 12 & up **1 ½-2 hrs**
Min 10/Max 18 (including chaperones)
Offered: May-October

Tour the Manasquan Reservoir with a Park System Naturalist as your guide. We will be on the lookout for great blue herons stalking prey in shallow water and turtles basking in the sun on floating logs. No experience is needed. Basic paddling techniques will be discussed before the trip begins. Each trip's course will vary according to water level, weather and the ability and interests of the group.

Program Fee: $17.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $15.00 per person

Habitat Study

Grades 4-8 **3 hrs**
Min 12/Max 25
Offered: April-October

Students study three different environments found at the Reservoir: a field, a constructed wetland, and a forest. Students make observations and take measurements, collecting data for each of the habitats. Students finish with a discussion of the data and comparison and contrast of the different habitats.

Program Fee: $7.75 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.75 per student

Boat Tour Programs

Manasquan Reservoir
732-751-9453

The Manasquan Reservoir is an important part of the water supply in Monmouth County. Our Boat Tour Programs allow for up-close observation of the abundant wildlife that call the Reservoir home. Participants may observe osprey, great blue herons, bald eagles and more while learning about the history of the Reservoir, its use as a water source, and the wildlife habitat it provides. Tours are conducted on a 36-foot pontoon boat and all passengers are provided with personal flotation devices, which must be worn. Boat tours are also available to the general public. Please refer to our website (www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for current information.

Studying Our Natural Aquatic Resources

Grades 3-12 **3 hrs**
Min 17/Max 75
Offered: May-October

This program includes a nature walk, boat tour of the Reservoir, and an experiment.

Program Fee: $9.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.25 per student

Level I: Grades 3-5
The Level I experiment examines the human effects on a watershed.

Level II: Grades 6-8
The Level II experiment examines how drinking water is purified.

Level III: Grades 9-12
The Level III experiment deals with wetlands and their role in preserving water quality.

Manasquan Reservoir Boat Tour

All Ages **1 hr**
Min 17/Max 25
Offered: May-October

Take a fun tour of the Reservoir to learn about its construction, use, and animal life.

Program Fee: $6.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.25 per person

Exploring the Reservoir

Grades 2-Adult **2 hrs**
Min 17/Max 50
Offered: May-October

This program includes a one-hour nature walk and one-hour boat tour of the Reservoir.

Program Fee: $8.00 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.00 per person

"Everything ran so smoothly. The 3 activities: classroom, hike, pontoon boat, are perfectly timed for second grade level. Content was age appropriate!"

Scout Adventures

Manasquan Reservoir
732-751-9453

The Monmouth County Park System offers programs at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center that assist scout groups in fulfilling badge requirements. The programs listed below include hands-on activities and hikes that meet requirements for some badges. Most programs spend a portion outdoors, so dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. Discussion is tailored to fit a groups needs and age. Programs have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 25 scouts. No badges or pins will be provided by the Park System. **Please call 732-751-9453 for pricing and scheduling.**

Young Scouts: Our Wild World

1 hr

Meet some of the reptiles and amphibians that might be living in your own backyard. We see these animals in a live animal show, followed by a hike around the Environmental Center with a naturalist guide.

Hiker/Paws on the Path

1 ½ hrs

Get the most enjoyment out of your next hike. Review hiking safety with a Park Naturalist. Map reading, clothing, preparedness, and safe hiking habits are discussed. Includes a short hike on the trails near the Environmental Center to practice our skills.

Watershed Exploration

1 hr

What is a watershed? Learn about where your drinking water comes from and how we can protect it from pollution. Watersheds and the water cycle are among the topics discussed during the program.

Wetland Investigation

1 ½ hrs

Clean water is good for us and for the ecosystems it supports. Learn about the critters that live in the wetland and what they tell us about water quality. In this active program, we will enter a wetland and collect macroinvertebrates. Using microscopes and magnifying glasses we will examine these creatures up close!

Energy

1 hr

Energy is all around us, but what does it cost us to collect it? Learn how energy is used and how it can be conserved. We also explore how energy is collected from the sun and the wind.

Fur, Feathers and Ferns

1 ½ hrs

What do animals need to survive? Where do they live? Why do animals become endangered or extinct? We take a one-mile hike and see different habitats along the way. Look for wildlife or signs that they live here. Learn about plants and animals in the forest and how they live together.

Let's Go Fishing!

1 hr

Learn about fish and fishing laws in New Jersey. Make a homemade fishing pole. We'll hike to a nice fishing spot and try our luck along the shores of the Reservoir. ***Each participant should bring an empty clean soda can to make their fishing pole.***

Into the Wild

1 hr

Gain a deeper understanding of the ecosystem that surrounds us. Study animals in their natural habitat and learn about the food chains that connect these living things. Also, learn to identify poisonous plants and venomous animals.

Into the Woods

1 hr

The forest around us has a story to tell. Learn about the trees that grow in our area. Identify common native trees and shrubs. How are they useful to wildlife and how are they useful to us? Examine and compare different samples of wood from around the world and see how their unique properties fit them to their uses.

Geology

1 ½ hrs

Identify rocks with hands-on activities. Discover the common uses of minerals. Study local fossils and learn about the geologic past of Monmouth County.

Boat Tour

1 hr

Min: 17/Max: 25

Tour the Reservoir in search of wildlife. The construction and use of the Reservoir will be discussed. Discussion can be modified to fit relevant badge requirements.

Junior Naturalist Patch

Ages 5-12 • Min 10/Max 25

Transform your group into honorary Naturalists with our new Junior Naturalist Patch Program. Take your pick from eight exciting hour long adventures: Pond Discoveries, Sensational Seining, Fossil Quest, Wildlife Encounters, Fishing Fun, Forestry Explorations, Insect Investigations, or Animal Impressions. Receive the main patch along with your program award patch after completing your first adventure. Come back at a reduced rate to complete additional adventures and collect more award patches to attach to your main patch. Any and all groups looking for an adventure can register for this program. Pond, Seining, Fossil, and Fishing programs are offered May through October; other programs can be scheduled year-round.

First Program in series: $12.00 per child; Groups from Monmouth County: $10.00 per child

Additional programs: $10.00 per child; Groups from Monmouth County: $8.00 per child

Professional Development Workshops

Want to improve your teaching skills and knowledge base and bring exciting new ideas into your classroom? The Monmouth County Park System offers a wide range of workshops to give educators of all grade levels the tools that ensure student achievement in science or social studies. Training from our expert staff will show educators how to transform lessons about the natural world into fun and enlightening experiences. Some of the exciting workshops offered include Project Wild Aquatic, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), and WOW (Wonders of Wetlands). Additional workshop topics are available upon request. Please call 732-872-7369 or 732-751-9453 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a VIP! Volunteers provide a valued service and can be found in many different roles throughout the Park System. Some act as gardeners, historic site interpreters, and program leaders while others contribute to the success of events such as Earth Day, Creatures of the Night, and the E. Murray Todd Half-Marathon. Docent volunteers at our Environmental and Activity Centers greet visitors with a warm welcome and provide information about on-site ecology, exhibits and facilities. Trail volunteers regularly lend a hand to the Park System at trail maintenance activities from March through December. Find out more about our Volunteer In Parks program by contacting the Coordinator of Volunteers at 732-842-4000, ext. 4283, or email volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com.

Additional Group Program Opportunities

Canoeing, farm tours and rock climbing are just a few of the reasonably priced activities available to schools, youth clubs and organizations, and community groups. All programs are led by Park System recreation professionals trained to provide a safe, enjoyable and educational experience for all participants.

All activities require advance registration. For information about additional activities for groups offered by the Monmouth County Park System, please call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312, or send an email to info@monmouthcountyparks.com. TTY/TDD number for people with hearing or speech impairment is 711.

Environmental Summit

Each spring the Monmouth County Park System hosts an Environmental Summit for students and teachers from environmental and science clubs to come together to share and learn new ideas towards creating a better local environment. The event features hands-on workshops and opportunities for student involvement through non-profit environmental organizations to help create a better, greener and more sustainable environment. The Park System is a registered Professional Development Provider with the NJ Department of Education (#4642). Registered teachers receive professional development hours.

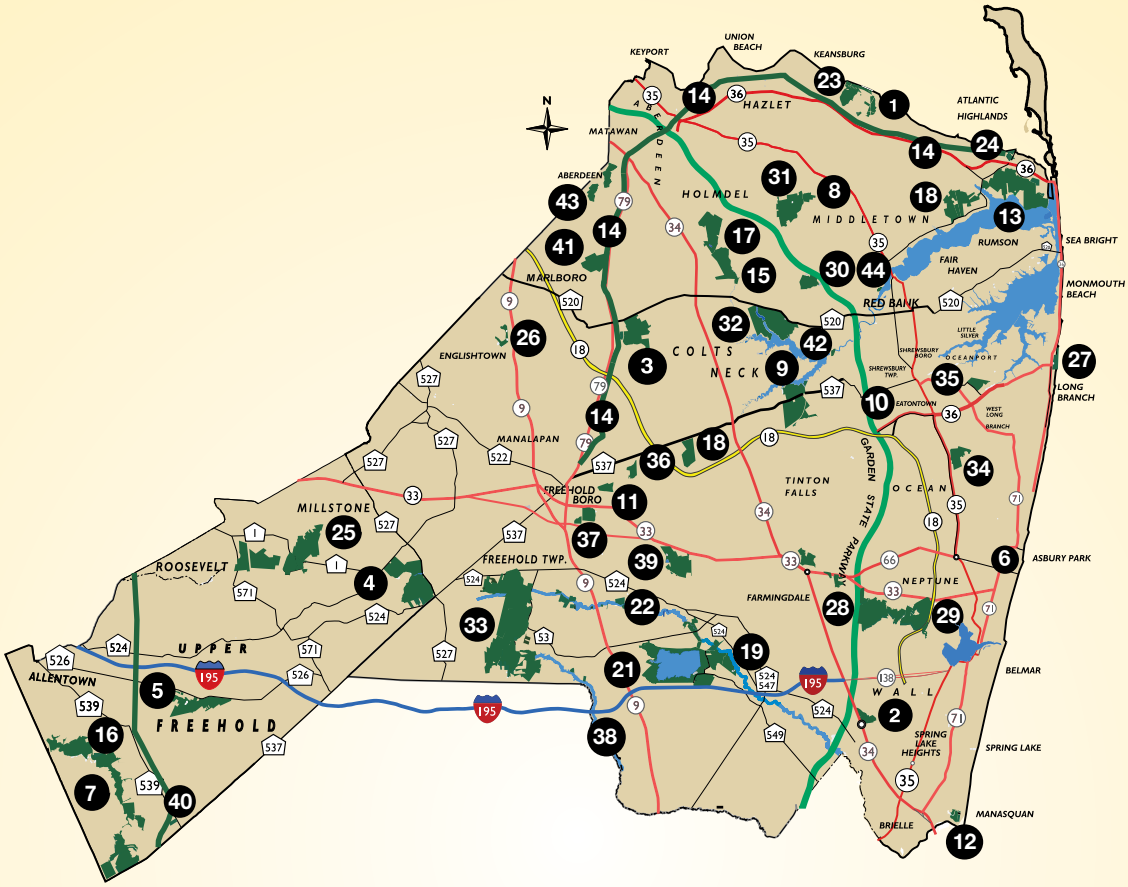
Past summits

2016 "Estuaries – Where Rivers Meet the Sea,"
Bayshore Waterfront Park

2015 "Freshwater: Every Drop Counts,"
Manasquan Reservoir

2014 "Taking Care of Your Shore!,"
Fort Monmouth Recreation Center and Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

Already registered your group for a program? Check out our FAQs and Tips for Your Field Trip links by visiting www.monmouthcountyparks.com and click on Environmental Education Programs for Groups under Activities.



Park Facilities

1. Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth
3. Big Brook Park, Marlboro
5. Clayton Park, Upper Freehold
7. Crosswicks Creek Park, Upper Freehold
9. Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck
10. Fort Monmouth Recreation Area, Tinton Falls
13. Hartshorne Woods Park, Middletown
17. Holmdel Park, Holmdel
18. Huber Woods Park, Middletown
21. Manasquan Reservoir, Howell
25. Perrineville Lake Park, Millstone
27. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch
28. Shark River Park, Wall
31. Tatum Park, Middletown
32. Thompson Park, Lincroft
33. Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold Twp.
34. Weltz Park, Ocean Twp.
35. Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport

Special Use Areas

6. Coastal Activity Center, Asbury Park
8. Deep Cut Cardens, Middletown
11. East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold Twp.
12. Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan
14. Henry Hudson Trail, Freehold Boro to Aberdeen to Atlantic Highlands
22. Manasquan River Greenway, Freehold to Howell
23. Monmouth Cove Marina, Port Monmouth
24. Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands
30. Sunnyside Recreation Area, Middletown
44. Swimming River Park, Middletown
40. Union Transportation Trail, Upper Freehold

Historic Sites

15. Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel
16. Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Golf Courses

2. Bel-Aire Golf Course, Wall
4. Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone
18. Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck
19. Howell Park Golf Course, Howell
26. Pine Brook Golf Course, Manalapan
29. Shark River Golf Course, Wall

Undeveloped Sites

36. Baysholm Tract, Freehold Twp.
37. De Bois Creek Recreation Area, Freehold Twp.
41. Deep Run Recreation Area, Marlboro
43. Freneau Woods Park, Marlboro/Aberdeen
38. Metedeconk River Greenway, Freehold to Howell
42. Swimming River Greenway, Tinton Falls
39. Yellow Brook Tract, Howell

Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738-1695

"Educating children in outdoor settings is a proven technique for improving student test scores and motivation, enhancing understanding of natural processes, and promoting attitudes of respect and responsibility."

US Department of Interior