

A wide-angle photograph of a calm lake under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the center, a small black and yellow motorboat with two people on board is visible. The water reflects the sky and the boat. In the background, a dense line of tall, thin, dead trees stands in the water, with a green forest behind them.

Part II: Monmouth County Parks

1. Shark River Park | 1960–24 ACRES; 2009–957 ACRES



THIS FIRST Monmouth County park originated when the N.J. Highway Authority completed the Garden State Parkway and declared 24 acres of adjacent land as surplus. The land included part of a former Girl Scout camp, fields, and forested wetlands along the Shark River. With its potential for both recreation and protection of a stream corridor, and its proximity to populated shore towns, County leaders considered it ideal for their first regional park, and they bought it in 1960.

In developing Shark River Park, County leaders established two precedents for their future parks—serving visitors of all age groups year round with multiple recreation opportunities and leveraging the County's investment with other resources. Their plan included trails



along the river, a four-acre pond for fishing and skating, picnic tables and grills, playing fields, a playground, parking, restrooms, and a shelter building, and they enlisted the State's Soil Conservation Service to dig the pond and arranged for prisoners to help with the construction. County leaders opened the park in 1961 and its immediate popularity led Neptune Township officials to donate 40 acres of adjacent wetlands and woods to expand the park.

In the ensuing five decades, the Park System has expanded Shark River Park eastward along both sides of the river, protecting the Shark River watershed with additional woods, fields, and wetlands to encompass 957 acres, nearly 40 times its original size. It is now the County's second largest regional park and has nine miles of multi-use trails for hiking, running, biking, and horseback riding.

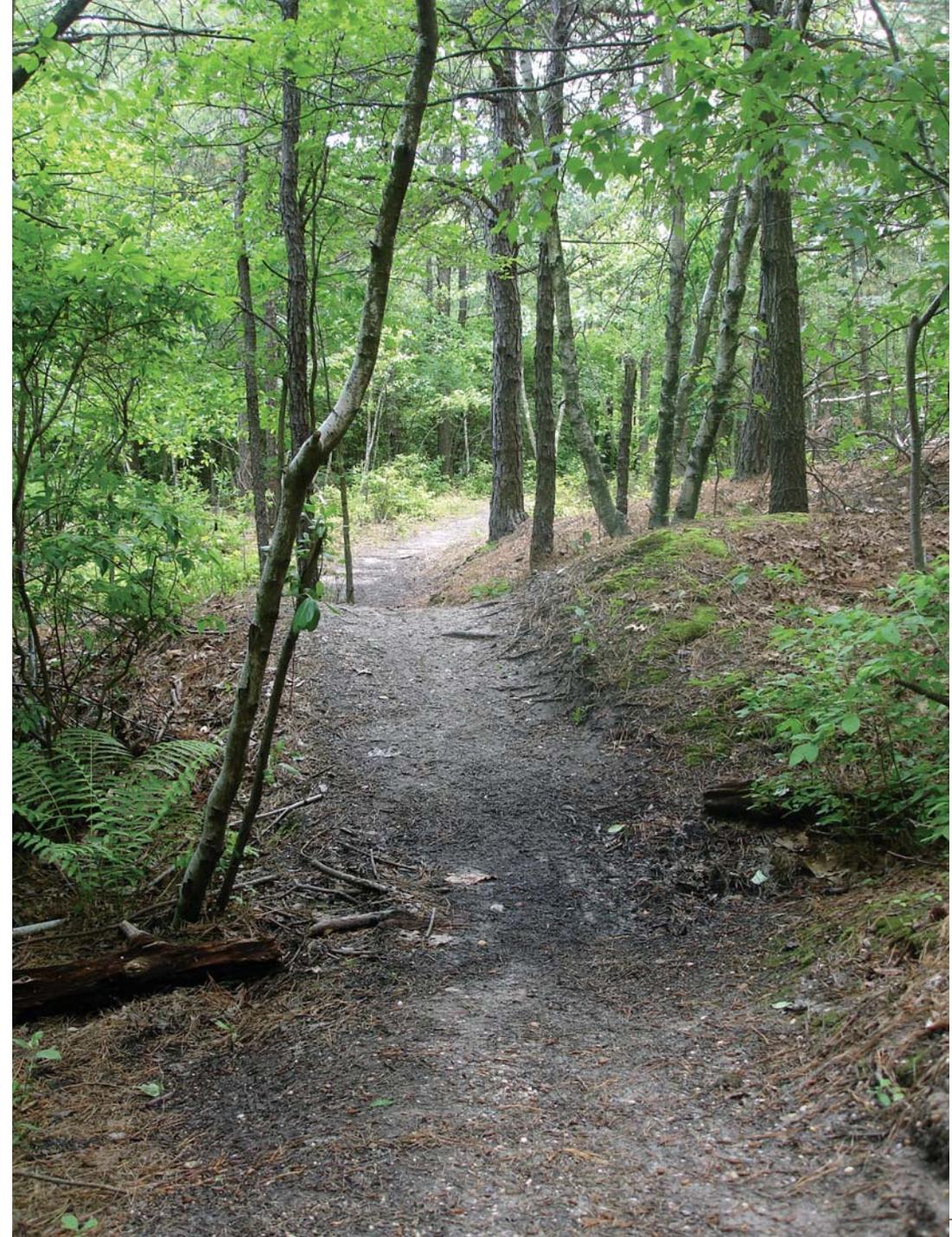
The park is located on New Jersey's outer coastal plain where the terrain is generally flat, the soils are sandy remnants of the ancient seabed, and the vegetation represents the northern edge of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, an internationally recognized landscape. It is a linear park along both sides of the Shark River, with its eastern border near the Shark River Basin. The Park and the County's adjacent Shark River Golf Course protect about 16% of the Shark River watershed.

Most of the park is forested and almost half is lowlands. The forest community is typical of the Pine Barrens, with pitch pine dominating, and including red maple and various oak species. Huckleberries and

blueberries provide a low sparse understory in the higher and drier areas, and swamp azalea and southern magnolia grow in lower and wetter areas. Cranberries and sundews thrive in sandy areas with a shallow water table, and Atlantic white cedar woodlands and sphagnum moss hummocks thrive in the saturated lowlands. The core of the forest is relatively undisturbed by invasive species. Three notable plant

species of local abundance are clubmoss, pink lady's slipper, and a rare occurrence of American climbing fern in specific locales.

Wildlife within Shark River Park includes bald eagles, barn and great horned owls, cormorants, great blue and green herons, ospreys, red bats, scarlet tanagers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, coyotes, red foxes, box and snapping turtles, black racer snakes, and largemouth bass.

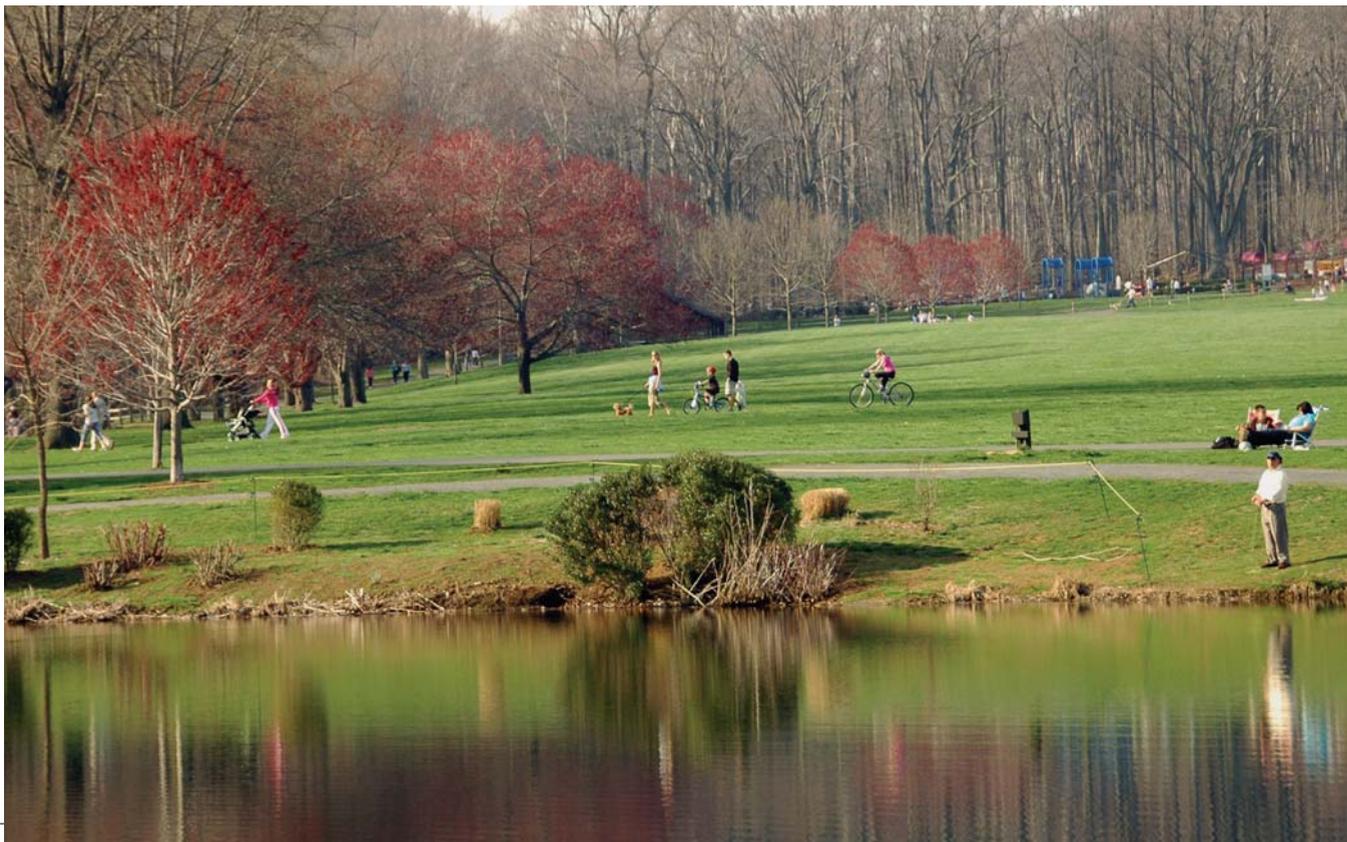


2. Holmdel Park | 1962–41 ACRES; 2009–574 ACRES

WITH its prime location and multiple attractions, Holmdel Park was the County's most visited park for four decades and it now competes with the Manasquan Reservoir for that annual distinction. County officials established Holmdel Park in 1962 by securing the first Green Acres matching grant in the State to purchase 41 acres of prime farmland from William and Mary J. Riker. The County used Green Acres matching grants to purchase 131 acres of the adjacent Longstreet Farm from William and Mary Holmes Duncan in 1963, and six acres with the historic Longstreet farmstead in 1967.

The Park System created hiking trails through the forested portion of the new park, converted the old apple orchard to a sledding hill, and the old farm fields to playfields, open lawn, and a picnic area. The State's Soil Conservation Service designed a six-acre pond for fishing and skating and County prisoners provided some of the general labor for park improvements.

The Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission started a 22-acre arboretum at the south end of the park in 1963 and arranged for Robert B. Clark, the Senior Curator of the L.H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University, to draw up the plans for it. Commission chairman William Duryea and other members arranged for local nurseries to donate 87 specimen trees, including crabapples, cherries, and hollies. Since then the Commission has expanded the arboretum to more than 3,000 trees and shrubs, and recently named it the David C. Shaw Arboretum in honor of the superintendent who oversaw it from 1963 to 2002.



When County officials learned in 1963 that the U.S. Army was going to phase out its 18-acre Cold War Nike Missile Battery on the hill north of the Park, they immediately requested the land to add it to the Park. The Federal Government transferred the surplus property in 1972, and the Park System installed tennis courts, a picnic area, and a fitness course where the old facilities had been, and created trails in the remaining natural areas.

After a multi-year effort, a coalition involving Monmouth County, Holmdel Township, the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, and the Green Acres program in 2001 preserved the "Chase Tract"—416 acres of prime farmland formerly slated for development southwest of Holmdel Park. The Park System added 227 acres of this land, some of which had once been part of Longstreet Farm, to Holmdel Park as a natural area with fields and trails along the Ramanessin Brook.



Longstreet Farm

THE LONGSTREET FARM homestead is one of the best preserved historic farmsteads in New Jersey and one of the Park System's most popular sites, attracting over 100,000 visitors a year to see how farm families lived in the 1890s. When English and Dutch immigrants established Middletown around 1680, the Longstreet Farm land was part of an 1,800-acre plantation settled by Richard Stout, an Englishman, and Penelope Van Princis Stout, his Dutch wife.

The central portion of the Longstreet House is the oldest existing structure on the farm, and was built as a one-and-one-half story Dutch-American House in the mid to late 18th century, probably by Hendrick and Lydia Hendrickson. Their daughter, Williampe, married Aaron Longstreet in 1778, and they built the two-story section before 1798, when the Federal Direct Tax assessment for Middletown Township recorded its dimensions and number of windows. They also built the massive Dutch Barn, which the Park System dated through dendrochronology to 1792. The farm passed down through five generations to Mary Longstreet Holmes, who was born on the farm in 1901 and lived there her entire life. She and her husband, William Duncan, sold the farm to the County. Mary Holmes Duncan lived there until her death in 1977.

Park System staff decided to interpret Longstreet Farm to the 1890s, which older members of the County's Agricultural Committee remembered as a period of major transition as farmers switched from horses to tractors. Tom Kellers, who was in charge of the interpretation in the 1970s, recently recalled that, "barn doors opened up all over the county" and farmers dropped off tools and equipment they had been saving for decades. The staff opened the Longstreet barn complex in 1971 with farm animals and costumed interpreters, and it quickly became a popular attraction for families and school groups. The Park System subsequently restored the Longstreet House to the 1890s and opened it in 1983. As farming has continued to disappear, Longstreet Farm provides children and adult visitors with an increasingly valuable glimpse into the way people lived off the land in Monmouth County's agricultural past.

Holmdel Park is on the *cuesta* or gently-sloping ridge that runs from Hartshorne Woods Park in the northeast corner of the County to the Clayton Park area in the southwest. It has the largest height variation of all the County Parks—from 300 feet above sea level in the Hilltop area, to 70 feet above sea level at the lowest point on the Ramanessin Brook. The park contains the headwaters of the Ramanessin Brook, which drains to the Swimming River Reservoir.



About two-thirds of the park is forested, with fields and a six-acre pond on the other third. The old growth upland forest is dominated by American beech, northern red oak, and tulip poplar trees, and has a sparse understory of American hornbeam trees, maple-leaf and arrowwood viburnum shrubs, and Canada mayflower perennials. Low-lying forested areas are dominated by red maple and green ash trees, with an understory of spicebush, and skunk-cabbage in the more saturated wetlands. The Ramanessin section contains some rare strawberry bush despite the prevalence of deer. Some notable herbaceous plants include foamflower, a rare New Jersey Species, and notable spring ephemerals along the Marsh

Trail: early meadow rue, round-leaved wintergreen, and round-lobed hepatica.

Most of the 182 acres of fields in the park are meadows with warm-season native grasses and plants like Goldenrod that provide pleasant vistas and habitat for field-nesting birds and insects. Some of the remaining fields with cool-season grasses are maintained as 'hay fields,' with infrequent mowing. The two man-made ponds contain stocked trout, and their shorelines have been planted with native vegetation to provide habitats for butterflies and aquatic insects. Notable wildlife sightings in the park include pileated woodpeckers, great-horned owls, painted turtles, and ring-necked ducks.



3. Turkey Swamp Park | 1963–272 ACRES; 2009–2,142 ACRES

TURKEY SWAMP PARK is the County's largest park and together with the adjacent State-owned 2,455-acre Turkey Swamp Wildlife Management Area preserves nearly 4,600 acres, the vast majority in their natural condition, on the northern fringe of the Pine Barrens. The relatively flat area got its name from the prevalence of wild turkeys and from the high water table that creates swampy conditions in low areas. Native Americans occupied the area because of its abundant wildlife, and European Americans later farmed some of the higher, tillable areas with moderate results.

County officials used Green Acres matching grants to establish this regional park in 1963 with the purchase of the 189-acre Bohnke Farm and the adjacent 83-acre Schnitzler property on Georgia Tavern Road. The Park System created hiking trails and camping and picnicking areas, and used a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to create a 17-acre lake for boating and fishing. In a 1978 excavation, archaeologists unearthed Native American artifacts in the Park (pictured right).

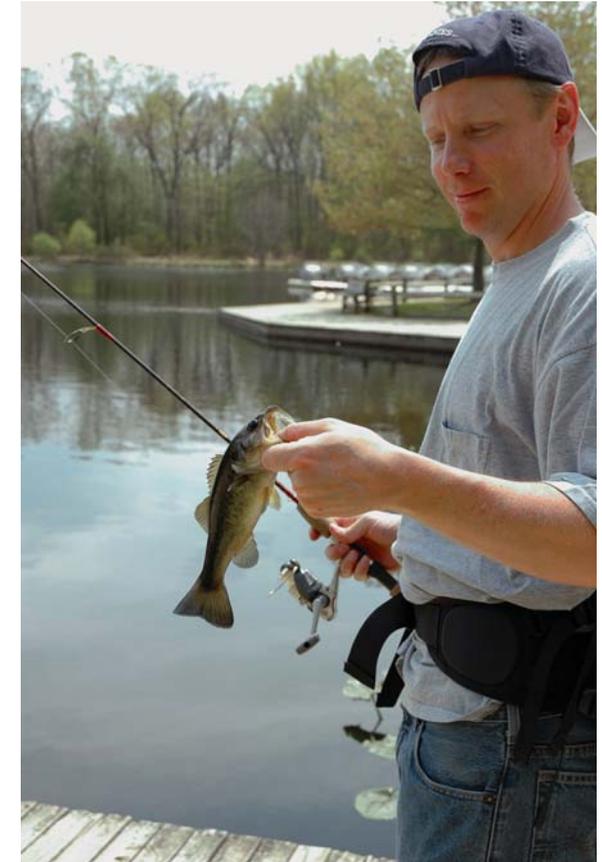
In 1993, the County acquired the adjacent 303-acre Nomoco Camp from the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts to expand the Park with group camping opportunities.

More than 90% of the current acreage in the Park is forested, and a little over half is wetland that includes the headwaters of the Manasquan River, the water source for much of southeastern Monmouth, and the Metedeconk River, which drains to the Barnegat Bay. The dominant trees



in the Park are red maple, sweet and black gum, shortleaf and pitch pines, and nine species of oaks. Shrubs include sweet pepperbush, blue huckleberry, swamp sweetbells, greenbriar, and blueberry. Two notable perennials in the Park are the crane-fly orchid, which has leaves in the winter and flowers in the summer, and foxtail clubmoss. Eastern red cedars have grown up on the former farm fields along with native grasses. The woods turn brilliant red in the fall when blueberries and sweet and black gum change color. Resource management efforts in the Park include treating for the exotic gypsy moth caterpillars that each year emerge and eat the oak trees clean of all leaves.

The Park and the State's adjacent Turkey Swamp Wildlife Management Area, which includes nearly 4,000 acres of public and private land, provide a large contiguous habitat for larger wildlife like coyote and barred, screech and great horned owls, for forest nesting birds like hermit thrush, eastern phoebe, scarlet tanager, and golden-crowned kinglet, and for brown bats and an increasing population of wild turkey. The lake hosts visiting spotted and solitary sandpipers, woodcock, pied-billed grebe, hooded merganser, cormorant, egrets, heron, and belted kingfisher. An unusual species along the Park's Metedeconk Trail is the Allegheny mound ant, which builds 5' wide by 2.5' tall mounds in the driest areas so they won't get flooded in the wet season.



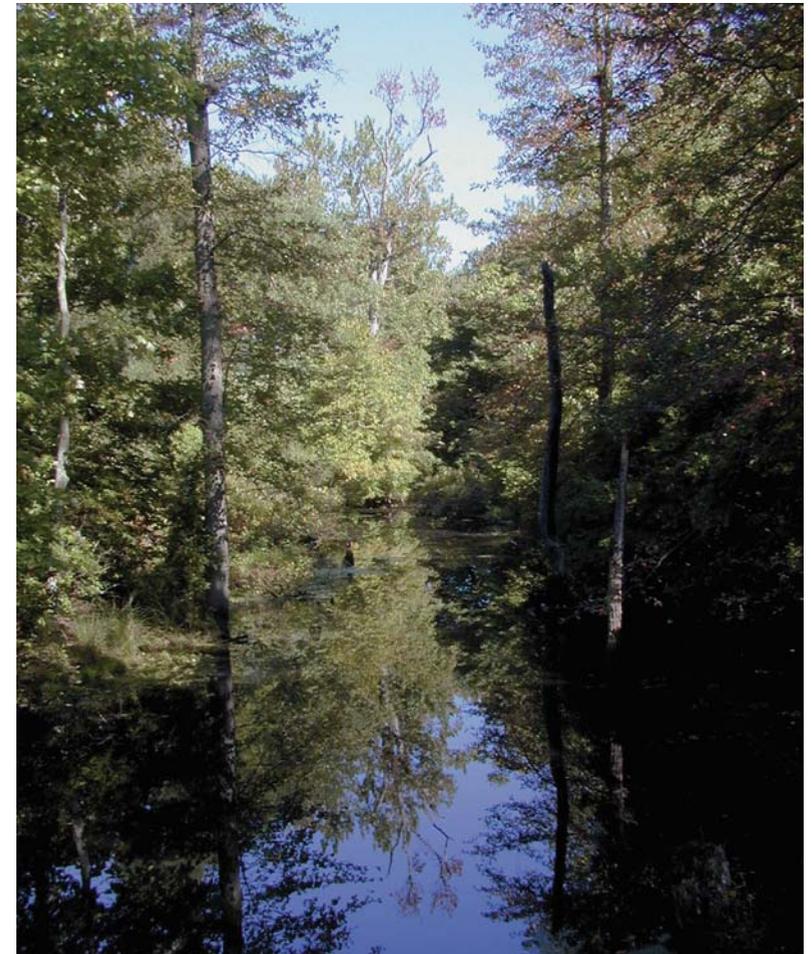
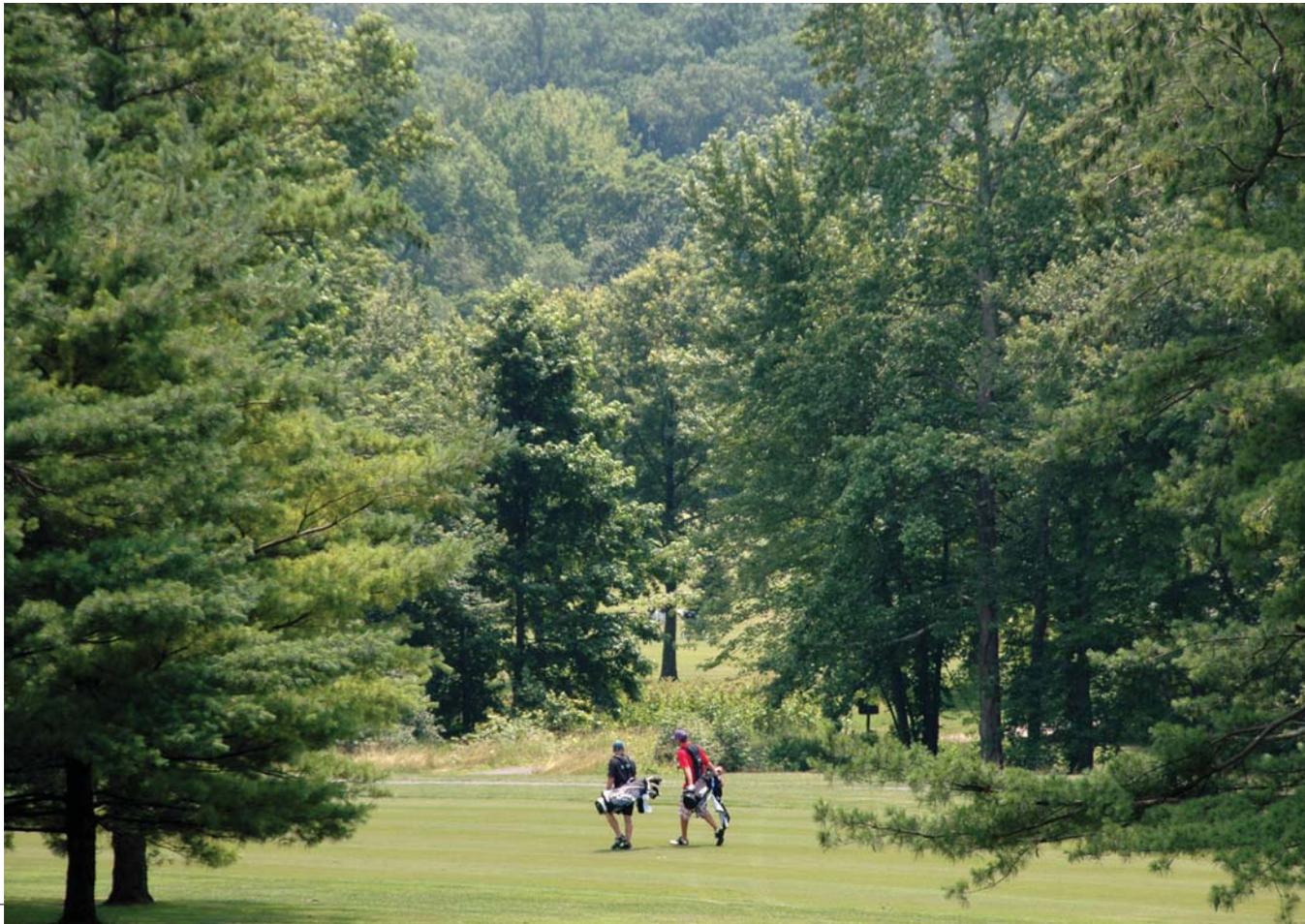
4. Howell Park Golf Course | 1967–302 ACRES; 2009–311 ACRES

WITH its rustic wooded setting and challenging fairways, Howell Park Golf Course often seems to the golfers who play there that it must have started as a private club, but the Park System built the course on the site of a former farm 40 years ago to meet the growing demand for golf. Eatontown realtor and golf enthusiast Harold Lindemann thought that the gently rolling fields, good soils, and ponds of the 302-acre Windsor Stock Farm, an old dairy farm in Howell Township, would make a fine golf course, and he recommended to the Freeholders that they purchase the property from the Estate of Carl F. Gamer.

The Park System commissioned the noted golf course architect Francis Duane to design the course to be aesthetically pleasing as well as challenging. Duane earned a degree in landscape architecture from Syracuse University and had worked with the famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones for several years before starting his own firm. He designed several public and private courses in Bergen County,

on Long Island and in upstate New York, and he later collaborated with Arnold Palmer on golf courses in South Carolina, California, and Hawaii. For Howell Park, Duane designed an 18-hole, par 72 golf course with 6,964 yards of play.

According to Dave Pease, the Park System's General Manager of Golf Courses who began working at the Park System in 1977, the Francis Duane design at Howell "is second to none with regard to the challenge of the game in a parkland design. The routing of the course, and the shot making battles that were placed in the design, are extremely challenging and right on the top of the game. The strength of the course and the concepts that were put into it are very unique, and that's probably why it has been ranked so high in the public golf courses in the country, because of its playability as well as the strength of its design." Howell Park Golf Course consistently ranks among the top 50 public golf courses in the country.



In developing the golf course, the Park System preserved about 40% of the park land as forest to help protect the Manasquan River watershed. The river runs along the northeast border of the Park, and beautiful wildflowers bloom along its banks in the spring. The Timber Swamp Brook bisects the course with a pond close to the center of the Park and drains to the Manasquan. The forest contains a variety of trees: sweet and black gum, black walnut, red maple, black cherry, tulip poplar, pitch pine, and red and chestnut oaks. Native shrubs in the Park include sweet pepperbush, mapleleaf and arrowwood viburnum, blue huckleberry, and serviceberry. Interesting perennials include smooth Solomon's seal and strawberry bush.

The popular Manasquan River Canoe Race, which the Park System first sponsored in 1970, annually draws many participants to the canoe launching area in the park.

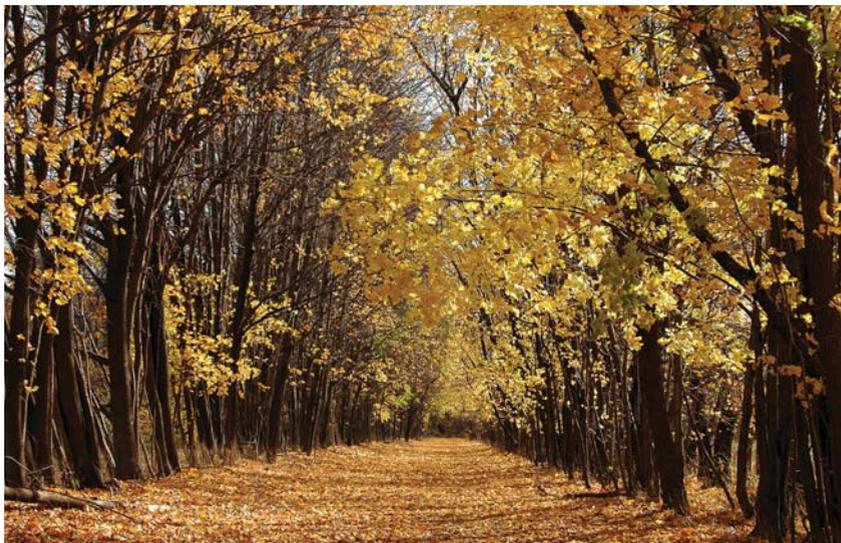


5. Thompson Park | 1968–215 ACRES; 2009–667 ACRES

GERALDINE LIVINGSTON THOMPSON donated 215 acres of Brookdale Farm, one of New Jersey's premier thoroughbred horse estates, to Monmouth County when she died in 1967 at the age of 95. She first mentioned that she might donate her land for a County park and a wildlife sanctuary in 1957, and later told a reporter, "We've got to live with nature. The children have to feel the ground beneath them and go out in the woods and see the trees and birds."

Mrs. Thompson's generous donation included an impressive complex of buildings representing the multiple owners of the land over three centuries. The oldest house on the property, built by Thomas Lloyd in 1786, was the largest house in Middletown Township recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax assessment. David Dunham Withers bought the Lloyd farm in 1872 and established the Brookdale Breeding and Stock Farm there, eventually expanding it to 838 acres that became known as the Brookdale Triangle. Withers had amassed a cotton fortune in New Orleans, and after the Civil War he returned to New York to pursue his interests in shipping and horse racing. Withers became a thoroughbred racing authority, and he bought Monmouth Park with some other breeders in 1878 and made it one of the country's pre-eminent race tracks. He employed over 100 people at Brookdale Farm, where he built a house for himself, a 300-ft. long training barn, and other barns for his 90 horses, and two race tracks.





William P. Thompson, who had served as a colonel in the Confederate Army and was president of the National Lead Company and a former vice-president of the Standard Oil Company, purchased Brookdale Farm in 1893 and commissioned the noted New York architects Carrere and Hastings, designers of the New York Public Library, to expand Withers' house into a Georgian Revival mansion. Thompson was also an authority on horse racing and bred and trained nearly 200 race horses, including many famous ones, at Brookdale Farm. When he died unexpectedly in 1896, his son Lewis Steenrod Thompson completed the house and married Geraldine Livingston Morgan that same year (mansion, stable hands and 40-stall training barn pictured left in 1906).

Geraldine grew up near Hyde Park, New York, where she became friends with Franklin D. Roosevelt and his cousin Eleanor Roosevelt, and Geraldine entertained Mrs. Roosevelt at Brookdale Farm on several occasions. Mrs. Thompson was politically active and in 1923 she became the first female New Jersey delegate to a Republican National Convention. In 1931 she was the first woman to receive an honorary Master of Philosophy degree from Rutgers University. Her support of prison reform, education, public health, and land conservation, including preserving Island Beach as a state park, brought her numerous honors and led many people to call her the "First Lady of Monmouth County" and "New Jersey's First Lady."

In 1985, the County more than tripled the size of Thompson Park with the acquisition of the 334-acre Marlu Farm, which had once been a part of Brookdale Farm, and the adjacent 118-acre Cheeca Farm to preserve the land from being developed and to protect the Swimming River Reservoir. Today, Thompson Park and Holmdel Township's 83-acre Cross Farm Park on the east side of Longbridge Road protect nearly two miles of shoreline on the north side of the Swimming River Reservoir.



Brookdale Farm was for many decades the showplace of Monmouth County's horse farm estates, and today Thompson Park is the Park System's headquarters and crown jewel. With 14 miles of trails, soccer and rugby fields, tennis courts, a playground, a fishing lake, an off-leash dog area, the Creative Arts Center, and its many programs and activities, Thompson Park attracted the fourth highest visitation in the Park System in 2009.

Reflecting the use of the landscape over three centuries, Thompson Park today is a mosaic of lawns, specimen estate trees, playing fields, agricultural fields, hedgerows, shrublands, and woods. Almost 75% of the land is open, with about one-third of it maintained as natural areas, with cool-season grassy fields resembling hayfields and old fields dominated by a variety of warm-season native grasses like broom-sedge and little bluestem and other more colorful native perennials like goldenrod. All these grassy fields provide a pastoral contrast to the formal lawns and grounds of the old estate and the park facilities. About one-quarter of the open areas are agricultural fields leased to farmers, another quarter are open play fields, and about 10% are formal athletic fields. Park ecologists are managing several ongoing restoration projects to remove invasive species, promote reforestation, and nurture old fields and mature woodlands in the Park.



Geraldine Thompson wanted her land to be a sanctuary for birds, and she would be pleased to see the many species of birds in the Park today. The grassy fields provide habitat for flying insect feeders like eastern bluebirds and purple martins and for field-dependent birds like harriers, meadowlarks, and sparrows. Other notable field birds in the Park include cedar waxwing, eastern kingbird, indigo bunting, sand hill crane, sharp-shinned hawk, and Coopers hawk. Hedgerows and estate and farm trees around the Park provide foraging and resting areas for many birds, especially during migration periods, including some occasional or rare species like northern shrike, yellow-billed cuckoo, and blue grosbeak.

The wooded 25% of the Park includes remnants of old growth forest, which has remained forest for at least 150 years, with stands of American beech and red, white and black oak, and an understory of maple-leaf viburnum and in some areas mountain laurel. The 10-acre forest on the Cheeca Farm includes shagbark hickory and American elm, and a great horned owl pair often utilize these woods for breeding. A large area of trout lily wildflowers provides an attractive spring display in the woods along the reservoir. The forested areas and grounds also host screech owl, common redpoll, great horned owl, hooded warbler, orchard oriole, pine warbler, and foraging bald eagle, and wetland areas host clapper rail, glossy ibis, lesser yellowlegs, and greater yellowlegs.

The expansion of the Swimming River Reservoir in the 1960s and the formation of the 22-acre Marlu Lake from the flooding of Borden's Brook have created some significant water habitat for notable species like the American bittern, a bird of the heron family that wades along the forested shorelines, and bald eagles that nest and forage in the vicinity.



6. Baysholm Tract | 1969–35 ACRES; 2009–71 ACRES

GERALDINE THOMPSON'S donation of Brookdale Farm to the Park System in 1967 may have inspired Helen Hermann of West Long Branch to donate Baysholm, her farm in northwest Freehold Township. Miss Hermann was born in 1902 in Manhattan and grew up spending summers with her family in the Elberon section of Long Branch, where she became an avid tennis player. She attended Bryn Mawr College, where she excelled in math, earned a master's degree at Columbia University, and later worked for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She never married but volunteered for many years to help children, and she co-founded the Children's Psychiatric Center, which is now CPC Behavioral Healthcare in Eatontown. She left half of her substantial estate to the organization, which named its Helen Hermann Counseling Center in Red Bank and its annual Helen Hermann Community Service Award in her honor.

In 1946, Miss Hermann (pictured right) bought the 71-acre William Wikoff Farm in Freehold Township and named it Baysholm from an Old English word for 'young calves meadow.' Miss Hermann operated the farm until she donated half of it to the Park System in 1969, and she donated the other half in 1973 (farm in 1969, lower right).

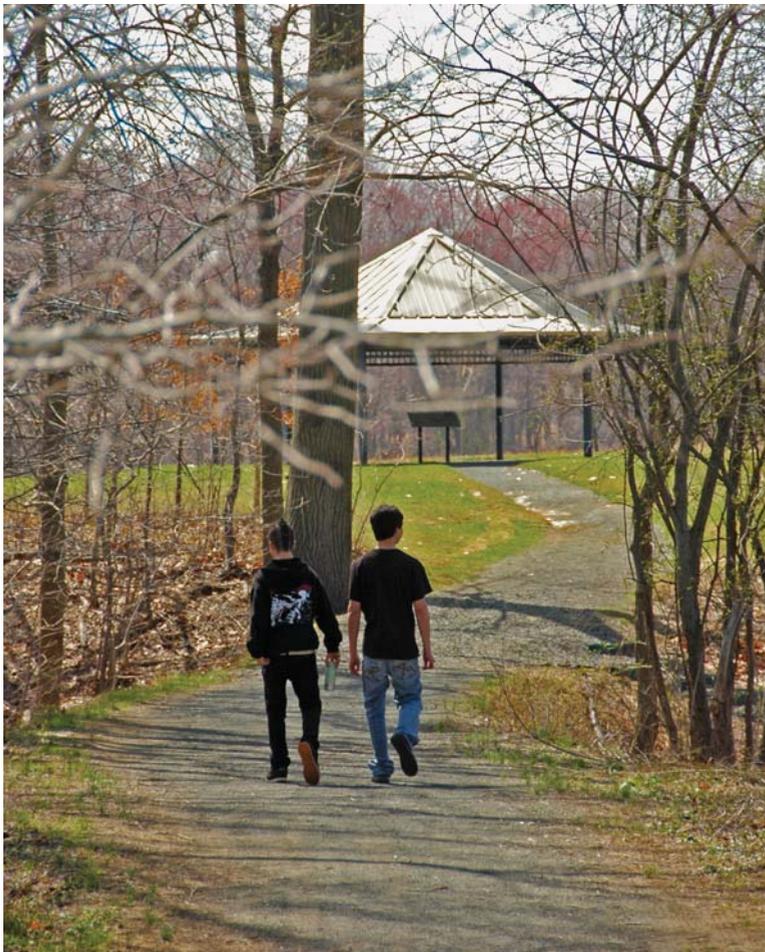
The Baysholm Tract protects the headwaters of a tributary of the Yellow Brook, which drains into the Swimming River Reservoir. The land is relatively flat and contains about 12.5 acres of wooded wetlands along the tributary. The remainder is about equally divided between leased farm fields and young forest that has grown up since farming was discontinued.



7. Durand Tract | 1969–90 ACRES; 2009–94 ACRES

IN THE SAME YEAR that Helen Hermann donated half of Baysholm Farm to the Park System, her Freehold Township neighbor one-half mile to the north, Elizabeth Durand, donated 90 acres of her farm on Randolph Road to the Park System, while retaining her residence on a separate lot. Freehold Township purchased 88 acres of adjacent farmland in 1984 and leased the Durand tract the following year from the Park System so that it could manage the entire 178 acres for conservation and passive recreation. Township officials established the Freehold Township Memorial Arboretum at Durand on 3.5 acres in 1991, and it has now grown to 33 acres. The Township also maintains a 20-acre Butterfly Meadow planted with native grasses and wildflowers to attract butterflies.

About 60% of the Durand Tract consists of old farm fields that are still farmed today. A 3.5-acre pond created around 1960 and the upper reaches of the Yellow Brook that flows through the Park provide some water habitat. The remainder of the land is forest that has grown up where farming was gradually abandoned in the second half of the 20th century.



8. East Freehold Showgrounds

1970-61 ACRES; 2009-81 ACRES

EAST FREEHOLD Showgrounds originated when Monmouth County purchased 160 acres of farmland on Kozloski Road to build administrative offices, and then transferred 61 acres that it didn't need to the Park System. In 1972, the Park System created the East Freehold Showgrounds with horse rings, shelters, and other facilities to accommodate the Monmouth County Horse Show, which had operated for a few years at Thompson Park, and other equestrian groups that needed an event site with easy access and ample parking. The 114th Monmouth County Horse Show in 2009 included some 600 riders and 700 horses and their owners, who arrived in campers, wagons, and trailers. They spent up to a week in the Park preparing and staging events in the three main horse rings, the jumper ring, hunter ring, and Grand Prix ring, where the 1st prize recipient won \$30,000. Thousands of horse-lovers attended the show, which also raised money to benefit several non-profit groups.

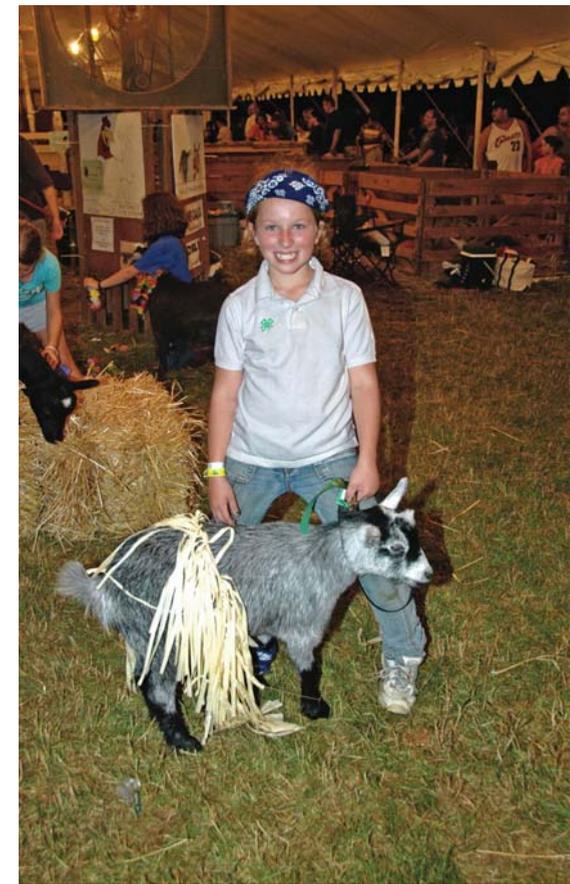
The Monmouth County Fair moved to the Park in 1975, when the Park System agreed with the Monmouth County 4-H Association to co-sponsor it there. Agricultural fairs had taken place in the County intermittently at least as early as the 1850s, and the 4-H Association started running an annual Monmouth County Fair at Freehold High School in the 1950s. When the 4-H was looking



for a new place to hold the Fair, the East Freehold Showgrounds provided an ideal location, and collaboration with the Park System brought the Fair to a new level of public participation. More than 9,000 people attended the first fair at East Freehold in 1975 and more than 68,500 attended the 35th Fair there in 2009. Each year a Park System manager chairs the Fair, and many employees devote themselves to making the Fair one of the most popular events in the County.

The Park System hosted the Park's first dog show in 1982, and dog shows have grown increasingly popular there since. The Monmouth County Kennel Club's annual dog show on Memorial Day Weekend attracts thousands to the Park.

The County added 20 acres to the Park in 1983 and has planted shade trees and installed picnic tables that attract many visitors even when there are no events taking place. A tributary of the DeBois Creek, which drains to the Manasquan River, runs along the northern and western boundaries of the site. The Park's good soils and its proximity to the population center of Freehold Borough make it ideal for recreation.

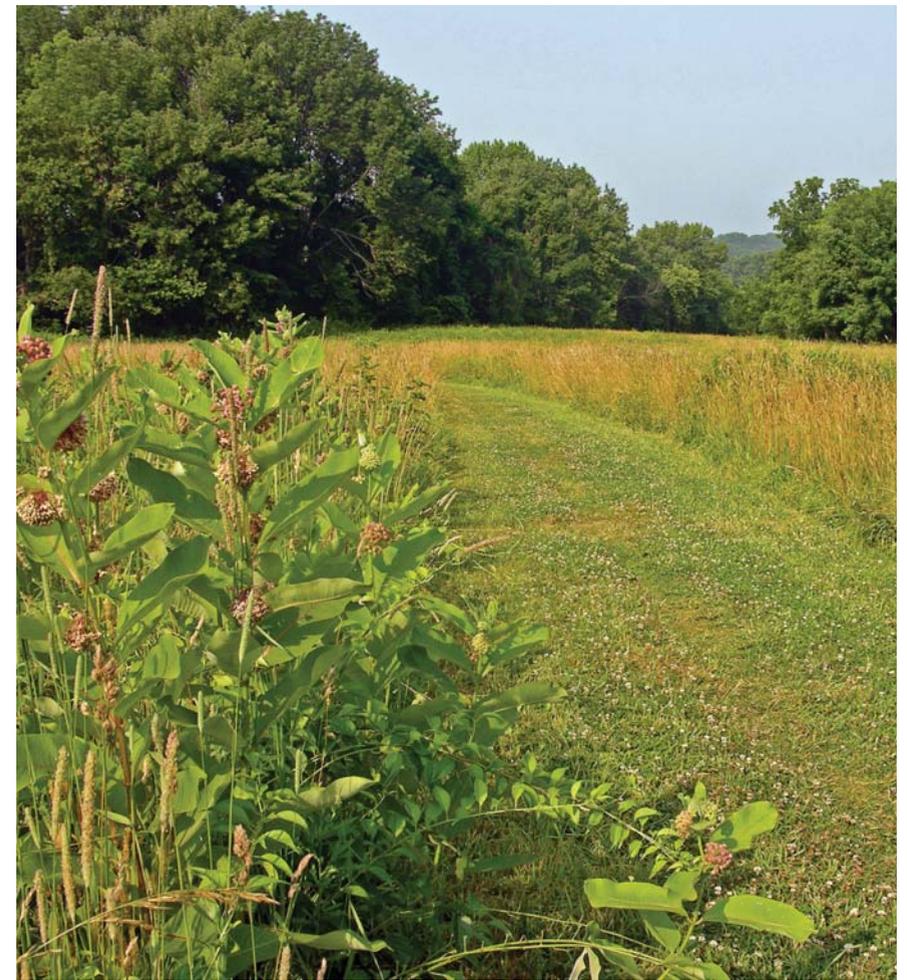


9. Tatum Park | 1973–169 ACRES; 2009–366 ACRES

TATUM PARK began with a donation of 73 acres of Indian Springs Farm in Middletown by Genevieve Hubbard Tatum, the fourth Monmouth County woman within five years to donate her property for a County park. The Park System used a Federal Land and Water Conservation grant to purchase the remaining 97 acres of the farm. Victor “Bud” Grossinger, a four-term Freeholder and the first Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners, had grown up on the farm and he worked closely with Mrs. Tatum (pictured below) on her donation.

Reverend Benjamin William Bennett, a pastor of the Middletown and Holmdel Baptist Churches, built the original farm house in the early 1800s. Bennett served for two terms as a U.S. Congressman and his son, William Bennett, later served as a Monmouth County Freeholder. After Captain John B. Story, who commanded six whaleboats operating off the Monmouth coast, acquired the property in 1852, it became known as Story Farm.

Mrs. Tatum’s father-in-law, Charles Tatum, purchased the property in 1905 as a summer residence and named it Indian Springs Farm after a local legend about Indians using springs on the site. Tatum was president of the Whitall Tatum Company, which dated to 1806 and was the oldest glass manufacturer in the United States, with plants at Keyport in Monmouth County and Glassboro and Millville in South Jersey that made food and specimen jars. After Tatum died in 1920, his son Frederick Cooper Tatum became President of Whitall Tatum, and he and his wife





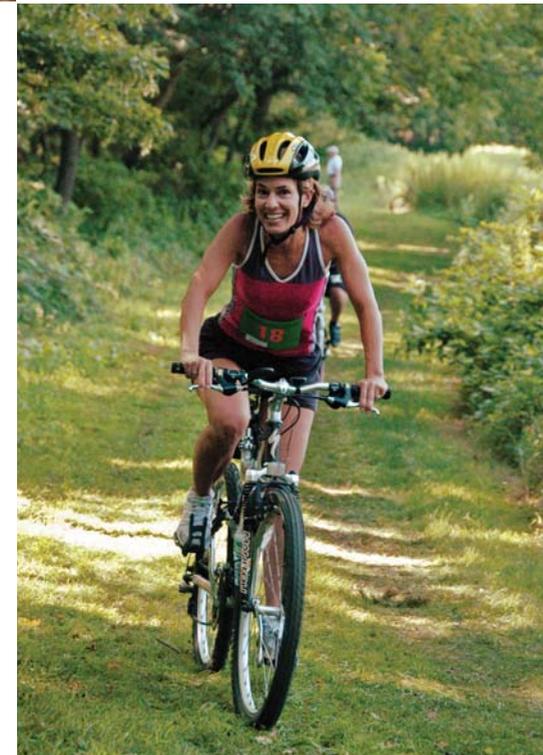
Genevieve moved into the house and expanded it. Bud Grossinger's father trained horses and ran the farm for the Tatums. The Park System converted the Tatum House into the Holland Activity Center, and offers a variety of popular programs and classes there including children's theater and dance, Chinese language, tai chi, yoga, aerobics, and pilates.

The Park System doubled the size of Tatum Park in the 1970s. The Federal Bureau of Recreation in 1974 transferred the 5-acre former U.S. Navy Middletown Radio Propagation Site on Red Hill Road to the Park System, which converted the building into the Red Hill Activity Center. The County purchased 41 acres of Brookside Farm from the Van Schoick Family in 1976, and acquired the 149-acre "Deepdale" tract with the help of the N. J. Conservation Foundation in 1979.

In 1980, the family of Bertha Heath (pictured below at dedication) donated funds to help establish the Clinton P. and Mary E. Heath Wing at the Red Hill Activity Center in honor of her parents and other members of the African American community of Red Hill in Middletown. Clinton Heath came from North Carolina in 1888 to work as a tenant

farmer and saved enough to buy a 50-acre farm on Harmony Road where he and his wife raised 13 children. Bertha, the youngest child, graduated from Middletown Township High School in 1926 and from the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing in 1930. She earned a degree in Public Health from New York University in 1948, a master's degree in Nursing from Columbia University in 1958, and worked in New York for 44 years as a nurse and nurse educator.

Tatum Park is located on the County's cuesta ridge and contains headwaters for Waackaack Creek, which drains to the Raritan Bay through Keansburg. The park today is about 75% forested, with an old growth forest of American beech and red and white oak in the southern hollows, and a late-succession forest of tulip poplar, sweet birch, and spicebush that has grown up on former fields and orchards. Old fields with native wildflowers provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and small mammals and the hawks that prey on them. The Park has more than six miles of trails, including one through a magnificent grove of American holly.

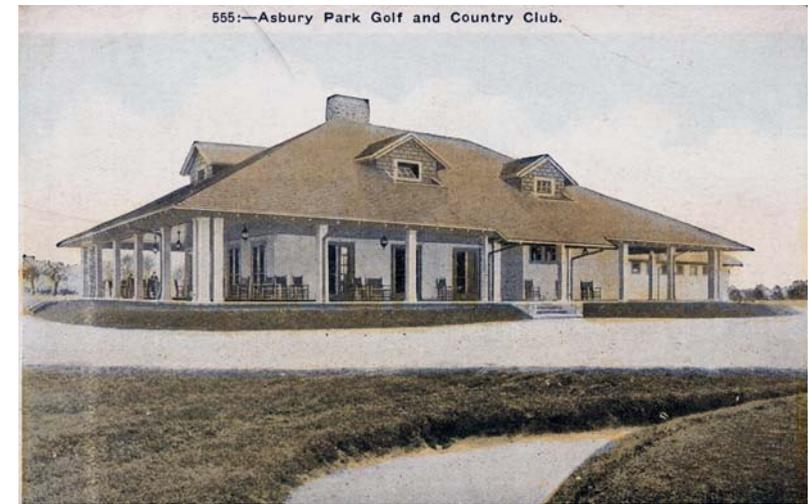
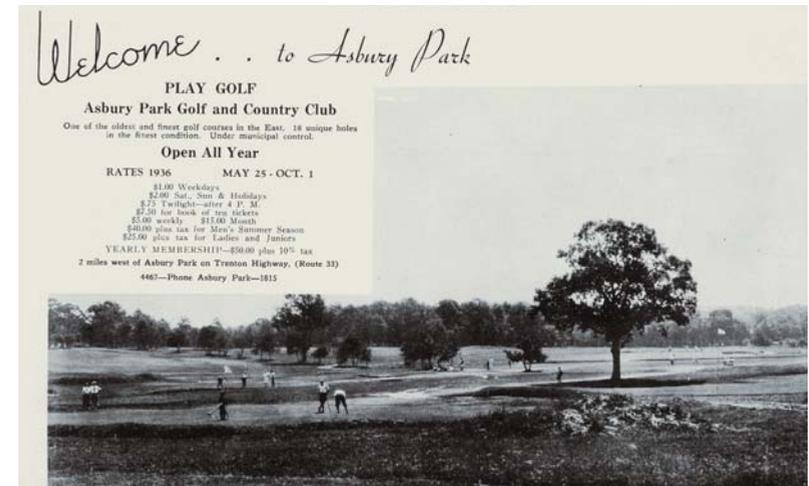


10. Shark River Golf Course | 1973-176 ACRES

IN THE EARLY 1800s the County established an Almshouse Farm for the poor on the site of Shark River Golf Course. The City of Asbury Park acquired the property in 1897 for a possible reservoir that was never completed. In 1918, Asbury Park commissioned the Scottish golf pro Joseph "Scotty" l'Anson to design the Asbury Park Golf and Country Club on the site as an amenity for its residents and many summer visitors. l'Anson created it as a "penal" course with hazards that "penalize"

golfers who make errant shots. Back then golf course architects like l'Anson hit balls on partially completed courses to see where they went astray, and then placed hazards like bunkers where the balls landed.

The City used the course for victory gardens during the Second World War and leased it to a golf course operator in 1954. The extension of Route 18 in the 1960s cut off the southernmost portion of the course, requiring the redesign of some of its fairways and holes.



SHARK RIVER GOLF
COURSE



The Park System acquired the course in 1973 to preserve it from the proposed development of 2,000 houses on the site. Besides destroying the golf course, the intensive development would have threatened the forested wetlands along its 2.5 miles of frontage on the Jumping Brook and the Shark River.

Today, the Shark River Golf Course is one of the oldest golf courses in the County. In 2005, the Golf Maintenance staff researched the course's original "penal" design and restored portions of it that had been modified over the years. The 18-hole, par 71 course has a total length of 6,457 yards, and experienced golfers enjoy it for challenging and rewarding rounds of golf.

