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JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH



*The highlight of the summer is the **Monmouth County Fair** Wednesday-Sunday, July 22-26.*

LINCROFT— July is Parks and Recreation Month! The Monmouth County Park System will spend the month doing what it does best – offering exciting recreation programs and providing outstanding facilities. “Parks and recreation programs provide a major contribution to a high quality of life,” said Monmouth County Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, “and our citizens can be proud that their investment in parks and open space makes Monmouth County an exceptional place to live.”

With its parks, golf courses and family campground, the Park System provides countless ways to keep active, happy and healthy throughout the summer. “Be sure to get outside and enjoy

the fresh air and the green spaces the County parks have to offer,” said Board of Recreation Commissioners Chairman Fred J. Rummel. “Take a walk or bike ride around the Manasquan Reservoir or enjoy the view and scents of summer blooms at Deep Cut Gardens; these activities and many more await you this summer in our many County parks.”

Already open for the season, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, offers everything needed to enjoy a day at the beach during the summer months: snack bar, sheltered eating areas, volleyball area, outdoor showers and changing areas, and areas for surfing. Lifeguards are on duty daily through Labor Day. Both daily and seasonal park access passes can be purchased. The site also offers an inclusive playground.

More of a golfer than a surfer? Head to a county course! With eight Park System golf courses at six locations throughout the county, golfers are sure to find one to suit their level of play. Hominy Hill Golf Course in Colts Neck is perfect for golfers looking for a challenge while Bel-Aire’s executive style courses are great for a quick round. Other golf courses are Charleston Springs in Millstone, Howell Park in Howell, Pine Brook in Manalapan, and Shark River in Neptune.

While the Park System offers many golf courses, there is only one Sprayground and it can be found at Dorbrook Recreation Area. This popular water-enhanced playground, located on Route 537 in Colts Neck, is open seven days a week through September 13 from 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on weekends. Make it a day by bringing a picnic and visiting the playground.

One day not long enough? Head to Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold, and spend the night at the campground. With its playgrounds, trails, fishing and boating, Turkey Swamp Park’s campground is family-friendly and affordable. Rowboats, canoes and paddleboats can be rented at the park’s lake. Most Saturday evenings throughout the summer, campers are invited to enjoy family-friendly fun such as stories, games and tasty treats during the park’s ***Campfire Programs***. Call 732-462-7286 for more information or to make reservations.

Turkey Swamp Park isn’t the only place to rent a boat. The Manasquan Reservoir in Howell has rowboats and kayaks available for rental. Visitors can also go on naturalist-led boat

tours of the site. Weekend and holiday tours are available at 2, 3, 4 & 5 p.m. through October 12. Wednesday tours are available at 2, 3 & 4 p.m., July 1-August 26. Evening boat tours are available the first Friday of each month through September. These tours are a great way to see wildlife.

Park System Naturalists also offer *Summer Seining* at Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, now through August 21. This free program examines the variety of fish, crabs and other critters found in Sandy Hook Bay. Participants should wear closed-toed shoes and sunblock. Drinking water is recommended.

The highlight of the summer is always the *Monmouth County Fair*. Held Wednesday-Sunday, July 22-26 at East Freehold Showgrounds in Freehold, the 2015 Fair features fireworks, entertainment, live music, all-new rides and much more! Be sure to see the 4-H animal exhibits, the home and garden competition, and firemen's competition. Admission is \$8 per person; children 12 and under enter free.

For more information about any of these activities, visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.

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