

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2017

INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION FOR BATTERY LEWIS, HARTSHORNE WOODS PARK, HIGHLANDS – \$50,000

Over the past four years, the *Friends of the Parks* have provided funding for research, development, fabrication and installation of the Battery Lewis interpretive exhibits in Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands. Battery Lewis was part of North Atlantic Coastal Defense to defend New York Harbor from German invasion during WWII. As part of this project, the *Friends of the Parks* also provided the funding for the historic research and application fees to have Battery Lewis listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation was granted in August 2015. Historic artifacts, maps and photos were also included in this project. The *Friends of the Parks* are proud to announce this project is complete. The total *Friends of the Parks* funding for this project since 2014 was \$92,000. All are invited to attend the exhibit opening ceremony on May 19, 2018.



TIMOLAT FARM, HUBER WOODS PARK, MIDDLETOWN - \$17,442

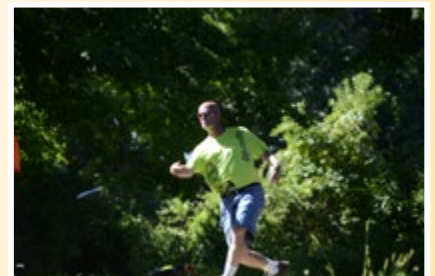
As part of a continuing project, the *Friends of the Parks* provided funding for an architectural firm to assess the farmhouse and the barn. Renovations and improvements have been approved to continue in 2018. The funding for this project was provided through donations from Kimberly Timolat Short and Cecile Timolat McCaffery.

UNION TRANSPORTATION TRAIL, UPPER FREEHOLD - \$4,607

Through a Rails to Trails Conservancy grant, the *Friends of the Parks* purchased bollard stanchions for access to the trail. These bollards prevent motorized vehicles from entering the trail while still allowing Park System vehicles access.

DISC GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS, WOLF HILL RECREATION AREA, OCEANPORT - \$273

Construction supplies, including posts and cast iron hooks, were purchased for the disc golf course at Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport. These posts and hooks allow players to hang their equipment bags while playing the course. Additional improvements will continue in 2018.



HISTORIC SERVICES COSTUMES, HISTORIC LONGSTREET FARM, HOLMDEL PARK, HOLMDEL - \$463

The *Friends of the Parks* funded historic replicas of work dresses and period style costumes for staff and docents.

2017 ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS

MEMORIAL & HONORARY DONATIONS – \$10,084

The Manasquan Reservoir, Thompson Park Off-Leash Dog Area, Thompson Park Memorial Gazebo and Holmdel Park have new benches for visitors to enjoy, thanks to several generous donors. In addition, several trees were planted in the Thompson Park Memorial Tree Grove and the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree received a memorial leaf.



CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS FOR URBAN YOUTH – \$8,548

The *Friends of the Parks* continue to support the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP) by providing 20 scholarships for children from Monmouth County's underserved communities such as Asbury Park, Neptune Township, Neptune City, and Long Branch. These campers are able to participate in week-long summer camps (including door-to-door transportation), summer concerts, boat tours, and farm tours. In addition, the *Friends of the Parks* fund a trip to see the Harlem Globetrotters, an afternoon at Sky Zone, and holiday parties, as well as programs at the Park System's Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park. Proceeds from our Annual RAP Appeal support this effort.

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION & TRAINING – \$3,754

Continuing education is an important component to keeping an organization vital. Monmouth County Park System employees were able to attend national training seminars and in-house training seminars for continuing education thanks to *Friends of the Parks* funding.



VOLUNTEER EVENTS, TRAIL TOOLS, NATIONAL TRAILS DAY LUNCHEON, AND HOLIDAY CARDS – \$3,268

The *Friends of the Parks* are proud to show our appreciation for the volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System. We sponsor the National Trails Day Luncheon on the first Saturday in June, provide dessert at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in March, and pay for Thanksgiving cards and postage. In addition, the *Friends of the Parks* were proud to purchase new tools for the volunteer trail team. These dedicated volunteers maintain over 125 miles of Monmouth County Park System trails.

SEMI-FORMAL FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – \$775.81

Each year the *Friends of the Parks* sponsor the Therapeutic Recreation Semi-Formal at Tatum Park, Middletown. This funding includes: refreshments, entertainment and gift bags for all attendees.

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS:

Thursday, April 25 – Elegant Wine and Craft Beer Tasting, Holland Activity Center, Middletown

Wednesday, May 16 – Annual Golf Outing, Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck

Saturday, May 19 – Battery Lewis Exhibit Opening Ceremony, Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands

Wednesday-Sunday, July 25-29 – 50/50 Raffles at the Monmouth County Fair, East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold Township

For additional information, please contact Maria Wojciechowski
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