



## SUMMER HOURS

The first days of summer usher in the prime conditions for spending more time outdoors: warm weather and extra daylight. Take advantage of this new-found time to expand your exercise routine, explore trails, work on a new talent, or just relax in nature with family or friends. Your county parks are free, located nearby, and open every day of the year until dusk with well-lit parking, comfortable amenities, and countless recreational activities to enjoy.

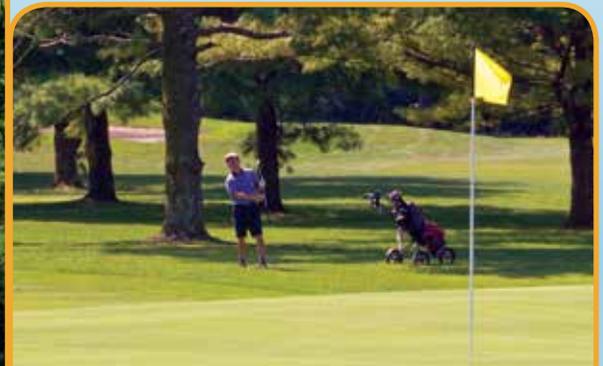
### Late Afternoon (3-4:30 p.m.)

Each afternoon after the temperature peaks, the sun dips, shadows lengthen and people may start thinking about what to do with the rest of their day. Maybe you got off work early, or completed some other activity with energy to spare. When the weather is good, the late day has an inviting glow, it feels perfect for an outside activity.

### Parks Close at Dusk— When is That, Exactly?

It depends. The exact park closing time changes over time, because dusk (shortly after the sun goes down) changes. Our goal is to allow visitors to enjoy the parks as long as there is light remaining and provide time to get to their cars and exit before we close. So given that, the closing times for the parks this summer are as follows (also available on our website):

- Jun. 11 – Jul. 15: 9:30 p.m.
- Jul. 16 – Aug. 19: 9 p.m.
- Aug. 20 – Sep. 3: 8:30 p.m.
- Sep. 4 – Sep. 23: 8 p.m.



Take advantage of special matinee pricing at all our golf courses every afternoon this summer. Pictured: **Howell Park Golf Course**



**Open Swim** is available seven days a week during the heart of summer at the **Fort Monmouth pool in Tinton Falls**. You can buy daily, monthly or seasonal passes. If you come on a Monday, it's Campfire Night—bring some hot dogs or veggies to grill on the firepit.



Kids enrolled in the **Outdoor Odyssey Summer Camps** enjoy a late afternoon stroll on the trails at the end of an active day. Here's a group at **Thompson Park**.



**Tennis**, anyone? If you feel like moving around after sitting at your desk all day, take a tennis lesson after work. **Dorbrook Recreation Area and Thompson Park** (pictured).

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### Early Evening (4:30 to 6 p.m.)

As the evening sets in, the light changes. Shadows lengthen and the sun sits lower in the sky, casting indirect light through the trees and landscape. This is a relaxing, quiet time of day when it's especially nice to be near the water or in the woods.



It is not uncommon to see people enjoying the summer views via paddleboard, while visiting the **Claypit Creek section of Hartshorne Woods Park**.



If you'd rather be fishing, check out the lake at **Turkey Swamp Park** to cast a line from a freshwater shore for bass, blackfish, crappie and bluegill species.



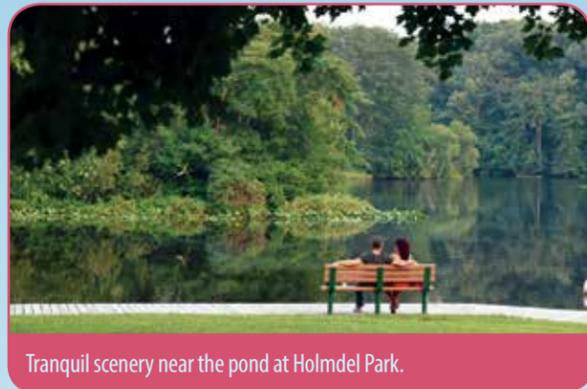
When you take an afternoon walk through the century forest at **Clayton Park**, you may come across woodland species like this **Fowler's Toad**.



With a little wind, the sun sparkles off waves at the **Manasquan Reservoir**. It's a beautiful backdrop for nature photos or a walk. Sailboats are moored here for lessons, available during the summer.

### Twilight & Sunset (6 to 7:30 p.m.)

This is the magical time of day where anything can happen. The light may play tricks on your eyes or the moon may rise before the sun sets. The sky itself may look like a pastel painting or a ball of fire.



Tranquil scenery near the pond at **Holmdel Park**.



The sun sets over the meadows at **Big Brook Park**, and the moon rises over the trail.



The sunset at **Bayshore Waterfront Park** can change from pastel blue to dazzling orange in a matter of minutes. This group walking the beach (above) catches the view between stages.

If you are visiting the parks around dinnertime, or close to it, you may smell cooking. It is likely from a group who is grilling out in the parks.



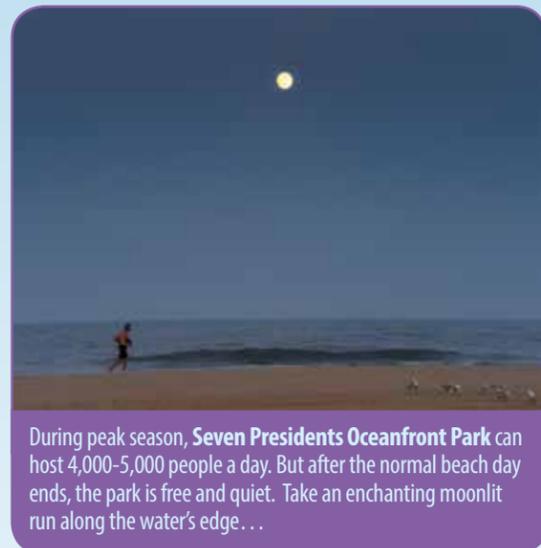
Campers cook pizza on the grill at **Turkey Swamp Park**, while another group gathers on the **Dorbrook Recreation Area** lawn for professional grilling tips.

### Evening Arrives (7:30 until 9 p.m.)

As the sky darkens along the water, twinkling lights from houses or a boat may appear in the distance. If it's a near or full moon, light will reflect off the water and brighten the sky. If not, a campfire will have to do.



See the lights twinkle from a bridge near **Fisherman's Cove in Manasquan** or from a house (and boat) across the river from **Blackfish Cove in Hartshorne Woods Park**.



During peak season, **Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park** can host 4,000-5,000 people a day. But after the normal beach day ends, the park is free and quiet. Take an enchanting moonlit run along the water's edge. . .



or relax in the cool night air with this scenery.



If you'd rather just sit around a fire, our **Coastal Adventures Nature Camp for Girls** includes an evening campfire. You can also celebrate your birthday with a seaside campfire, call 732-872-7369 for scheduling and details.

## MEASURING UP

The Monmouth County Park System has earned a reputation as one of the finest park systems in New Jersey through hard work, careful planning and continued growth. We are also dedicated to continued improvement by comparing ourselves to the best park systems in the country. There are two ways we can do this.

The first is an extensive accreditation process by the **Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)** which occurs every five years, takes dozens of staff hours to prepare for and culminates in a three-day visit by representatives from park systems around the country. The second is by participating in the **National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Park Metrics Program** which collects data on park budgets, human resources and facilities from around the country, then provides an annual report that we can use to measure our performance against peer park systems.

### CAPRA

In 1994, CAPRA established 151 standards that reflect the best practices in the industry, organized into 10 major categories that cover every aspect of park operations:

1. **Agency Authority, Role and Responsibility**
2. **Planning**
3. **Organization and Administration**
4. **Human Resources**
5. **Financial Management**
6. **Programming and Services Management**
7. **Facility and Land Use Management**
8. **Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security**
9. **Risk Management**
10. **Evaluation, Assessment and Research**

## Always Improving: Recent Park Projects



*A new restroom building and plaza was built at the Rocky Point Section of Hartshorne Woods Park and the parking lot expanded for easier access and visitor comfort.*



*Battery Lewis at Hartshorne Woods Park (part of the Navesink Military Reservation) was restored to allow visitors inside; tours are available. ([www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com))*



*Expansion is underway at the popular Creative Arts Center in Thompson Park, adding a new wing to increase the number of classes offered and a gallery space for exhibitions and student art displays.*

The CAPRA accreditation process benefits the agency undergoing the review by comparing all of its functions against rigorous national standards. If successful, accreditation allows the park system to tell the public with authority that it ranks among the nation's best.

*CAPRA accreditation ensures that a park agency delivers a high level of quality by independently evaluating it against established industry benchmarks.*



*Pool and pool house renovations were completed at Big Brook Park. The Park System now has three pool facilities, up from just one a few years ago.*

This periodic review provides park staff with a timely reminder to maintain efficiency. Since the process requires documentation of policies and procedures, it also serves as a feedback loop of accountability. Once the agency is engaged in the accreditation cycle, it becomes common practice to review and update operations methods, policies and procedures. This regular review also promotes better documentation of decision-making processes.

CAPRA evaluation also certifies to elected officials that the park system in which they have entrusted many valuable public resources is operating at the highest professional standards and upholding strict fiscal controls. If accredited, the agency may be justified in continuing to request financial support.

Finally, CAPRA accreditation lets the public know that the agency is providing a high level of service and remains mindful of the taxpayer's financial commitment to the agency. Because this review requires public input and oversight, it ensures that the park system is accountable to the public through customer feedback and satisfaction surveys. The park system must also follow the latest trends in recreation services and visitor experiences at the best cost.

We received our first accreditation in 1994, the same year the CAPRA guidelines were established. We have continuously maintained this status, gaining re-accreditation in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. We look forward to doing so again in 2019.

## NRPA PARK METRICS

Since this program started in 2009, each participating park agency can query data collected from parks across the country. The goal is to build a customized report that compares similar park agencies based on budget, number of employees, type of political jurisdiction or community type. Park professionals can then use this benchmark data for planning and public information purposes, or when seeking additional financial support.

*NRPA Park Metrics allow a park agency to compare itself against others for planning, public information or financial purposes.*

The 2019 **NRPA Agency Performance Review** presented this year's national findings, comprised of data from

1,075 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States. One interesting take-away for us is how different the Monmouth County Park System is from the "typical agency" in terms of population served. While the average park agency serves just over 39,000 residents, we serve 630,000. It's also important to note that some urban park systems serve over 1.5 million residents while other small town parks departments serve less than 1,500 residents.

The following chart shows how the Monmouth County Park System compares to 20 other park systems with a population in the same range as ours, 500,000-700,000 residents.

Keep in mind that we are a regional agency dedicated to open space and recreation, while others may be city recreation departments in heavily developed areas. This can affect certain comparisons.

Our financial metrics for both revenue and expenditures, see **Effectiveness & Agency Operations** on the chart, are among the best for a system of our size, as is the number of park acres per 1,000 residents. In terms of **Workload/Facilities**, our total acres of undeveloped open space are amongst the highest and we offer twice as many programs compared to other systems of our size.

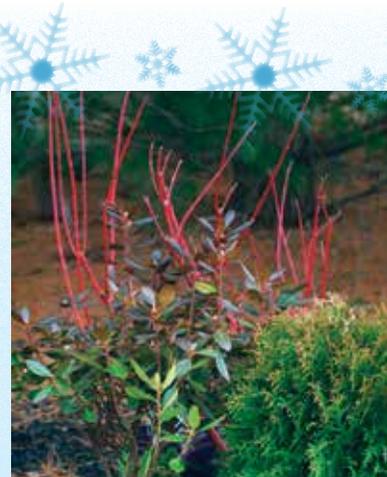
2019 Monmouth County Park System Agency Performance Review	Population of 626,351	Parks with jurisdiction population of 500,000 to 750,000		
	Monmouth County Park System	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
<b>Effectiveness</b>				
Operating expenditures per capita	\$46	\$32	\$37	\$55
Revenue per capita	\$25	\$4	\$10	\$19
Total revenue to total operating expenditures	54.8%	10.6%	33.9%	56.6%
Total tax expenditures per capita	\$21	\$18	\$28	\$40
Operating expenditures per acres of all lands	\$1,411	\$1,470	\$2,647	\$8,111
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	27.6	3.9	8.4	20.5
Number of residents per park	15,658.8	3,851	5,112.3	14,384
Number of acres per park (average)	432	20	52	104
<b>Agency Operations</b>				
Agency's total annual operating expenditures	\$29,000,000	\$18,914,636	\$22,584,200	\$36,102,205
Agency's total annual non-tax revenues	\$15,900,000	\$2,562,633	\$6,023,880	\$11,402,400
<b>Workload/Facilities</b>				
Total number of parks+non-park sites (easements, vacant land parcels, etc.)	174	46.5	169	215.5
Total acres of parks + non-park sites	20,553	2,784	10,287	15,337
Acres of Developed Open Space	985	985	2,342	6,057
Acers of Undeveloped Open Space	16,299	185	424	4,477
Total number of trail miles managed or maintained by the agency	150	48	112.9	153
Number of operated buildings	523	32	45	109
Square footage of operated buildings	1,209,202	397,280	734,370	1,109,361
Total number of programs offered	6,230	420	1,250	2,965
Total program participants	110,541	30,155	123,000	335,200
Total parks contacts (annual visits)	6,533,106	657,280	1,928,742	5,550,544

## Plant STARS of Winter

Ruth Carll, Naturalist & Horticulturist

One of the most common garden questions we get is: "What can I plant in my yard for winter interest?" When we are thinking about the winter landscape, the nurseries are closed and it is not planting season. Then, winter ends and we are on to spring and summer gardens. Let's solve the dilemma of drab winter landscapes by shopping for and planting plants for winter interest now.

When selecting plants, a wise shopper looks beyond blooms for the year-round benefits and extended value that the plant can bring. Flowers only last so long. During the rest of the year, the plant can still play a vital role beautifying the yard. Here's a selection of perennial plants that work together to form the skeleton of a gorgeous, four-season landscape. All receive their acclaim for multiple attributes that give them extended, year-round value.



Clockwise Red twig dogwood, globe arborvitae, rhododendron

## Evergreen Shrubs – keystones of the Zone 7 Landscape

- **Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*)** is a stellar shrub for this area. It's an evergreen, so it has a presence year round, with winter color and beautiful red new leaf growth in spring. It blooms twice per year, in spring and fall. This plant likes shade but can tolerate some sun. And, best of all, deer don't like it! It is a slow-grower, so purchase the largest size that you are comfortable with.



Andromeda has new red leaf growth all year and flowers in spring and fall. Note how flowers emerge like little bells and bloom in drooping clusters, red and white varieties shown. (CREDIT:Wikicommons, PlantAddicts.com, Wikicommons)

- **Glossy Abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora*)** is a readily available, easy to grow, drought tolerant and disease resistant plant—an all-around champ and yet not commonly used. Fragrant, pale pink flowers and red calyx create extended color from spring through fall. Plus, the evergreen leaves are a delicate compliment for sturdier looking rhododendrons, so now you know where to plant them!



Abelia with green leaves of summer, reddish leaves of fall and spring flowers with calyx. (CREDIT:Wikicommons, ©Proven Winner PlantAddicts.com, Wikicommons)

- **Japanese Camellia (*Camellia japonica*)** offers visual variety with its dark green leaves, bright pink flowers and compact form. This shrub can continue to produce a large number of flowers in mid-winter, but prefers a dry, acidic soil in order to do so.



Camellia pink flowers and leaves (CREDIT:Wikicommons)

- **Rhododendron/Azalea** are staple evergreen shrubs for all zone 7 landscapes. While the common, large, broad-leaved varieties are perfect for backdrops, there are also compact, dwarf options with different color and texture to use as accent plants, along borders and walkways. When choosing an azalea, make sure to pick an evergreen variety as some are deciduous. Also, look for varieties marked "Encore" as these bloom more than once per year.



Regular size rhododendron vs dwarf variety of azalea (CREDIT: ©Proven Winner PlantAddicts.com, right)

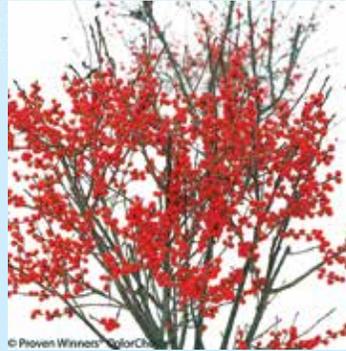
## Deciduous Shrubs that Shine in Summer & Winter

• **Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)** excels at screening during the warmer months, with light green leaves and pale yellow flowers. But this plant really shines in winter when the leaves drop, because its bright red bark adds striking color to winter yards. It's a good choice for areas that remain damp because it likes regular water. Red Twig Dogwoods come in a variety of sizes, from compact 2 ft. dwarf varieties to about 8' ft. tall, and look best when planted in groups.



Red Twig Dogwood in the snow; in its leafy green stage during spring, summer and fall; and with blooming white flowers in spring. CREDIT: PlantAddicts.com; PlantAddicts.com; and Wikicommons)

• **Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)** is a deciduous holly that puts on an amazing display in winter. After dropping their leaves, brightly colored berries cling to every stem. There are different varieties with berries ranging from bright pink to purple. These hardy plants can tolerate wet, acidic soil so they are perfect for this area. They can grow to 3-10 ft. tall but tolerate pruning if they get too large. This shrub will also attract winter birds to your yard.



Winterberry (CREDIT: ©Proven Winner PlantAddicts.com) and a robin feeding

## Other Perennials with Big Benefits

• **Lenten Rose (*Helleboris sp.*)** is so named because it blooms in early spring during Lent. It makes a wonderful shade garden plant, and is evergreen except for a brief period of rest in January, which is usual. It has spotted, sturdy leaves and blooms in white or pink. Hellebores can be expensive, but they are worth it because they bloom for months and provide year-round interest.



Hellebore at Deep Cut Gardens, pink variety and white variety in the snow

• **Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*)** is a low-growing ground cover for shade or partial sun. The evergreen leaves are purple, as are the flowers in spring. Ajuga will provide a spot of color throughout winter. The rosette, connected by runners, can spread rapidly making this an excellent ground cover but may need controlling once it has covered the desired area.



Ajuga at Deep Cut

• **Gold Mop False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)** has lemony-yellow foliage to create a wonderful bright spot in winter. This is an excellent foundation plant but care is needed to space it appropriately as it looks small and round in stores but will spread up to four feet when mature. It is also disease-resistant and will tolerate full to partial sun.



Gold mop cypress

## A Collection of Winter Interest Plants Defined:

- 1 Red twig dogwood
- 2 Rhododendron
- 3 Heather
- 4 Gold mop false cypress
- 5 Globe arborvitae



# Upcoming Events

Saturday  
June 29

Daylily  
Day



Sunday  
September 8

Bonsai  
Day



June is  
peak rose  
season at  
Deep Cut  
Gardens.



Saturday  
September 14

Rose  
Day



## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We have weeds but we don't want them. We would rather have you! Every Wednesday and Saturday, 9-11 a.m., join our drop-in volunteer work days and help us keep looking our best. Meet at the Horticultural Center front desk.



Volunteers help wrestle this gnarly invasive vine out of a tree.

Saturday  
September 21

Fall  
Plant  
Swap



# It's Time To.... Deadhead!

**Dead-heading is the process of removing spent flowers to keep plants blooming.**

Producing flowers is an expensive undertaking for a plant; the pigments, scents and nectar require a lot of nutrients and sugars. But once the plant has been pollinated and begins to produce fertilized seeds, there is no more need for the flower. The seeds produce a hormone that tells the plant that reproduction has been accomplished, and the plant should stop blooming.

Many home gardeners are less interested in seed production and more interested in blooming. Therefore, we remove the spent flowers before seeds send out the "stop blooming" hormone.

## When to Deadhead?

Visit your yard to deadhead often. I spend 15 minutes making a loop of my yard, plucking off spent flowers daily. It is my relaxing after work stroll. Ideally, every two or three days should be enough. Longer than this and the newly formed seeds will start talking!

## Who Needs to Deadhead?

It is easier to ask, "Who doesn't need to deadhead?" Almost all plants will continue blooming if the spent flowers are removed. Those that don't are usually plants that produce many tiny flowers in clumps or stalks. In order to remove these, you would need to take off the entire clump and this is not necessary. Once all the flowers on a stalk or clump are finished, then you can deadhead the entire unit. Lantana, Astilbe, Celosia and Sedum are examples of plants that don't need deadheading to continue blooming.

## How to Deadhead?

Your goal is to remove the newly formed seeds more than the flower itself. Seeds are located in the base of the flower and therefore, you need to take off the entire flower in order to remove them. Turn the flower over and look at the bottom. Find where it is attached to the stem and cut, pinch or snip the stem. This ensures that the entire flower is removed.

## When to Stop Deadheading?

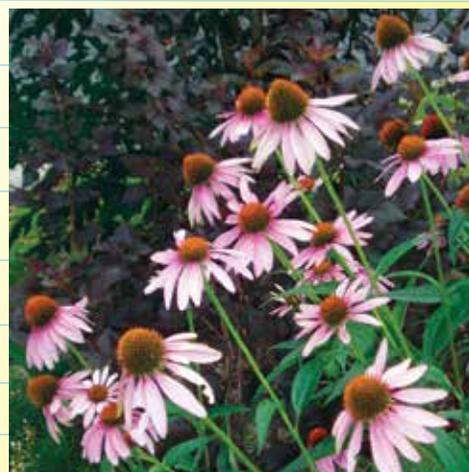
Deadheading extends the bloom time but not indefinitely. Stop deadheading when the production of flowers noticeably slows. I allow some plants, such as coneflowers (pictured), to go to seed to reseed the flower bed and feed birds in the fall. Also, I can collect them to replant later.



How to deadhead Columbine



How to deadhead May Apple



Coneflower

*"A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them."*

*—Liberty Hyde Bailey, American Horticulturalist (1858-1954),  
Credited with helping to start agricultural extension services and the 4-H*

# CORNER

## NATURE

### Prowling for Owls

Sam Skinner, Senior Park Naturalist

If you go for a walk in the parks at dusk and hear the recognizable “hoot” of an owl, it might be a good idea to stop and look around. Owls are very intriguing birds with their nocturnal habits, eerie calls, and icy stares. But it may be the ability to rotate their heads 270 degrees that earned them a prominent place in myth and superstition.



Short Eared Owl in flight

### Meet the Resident Owls of Monmouth County

The **Great Horned Owl** is the most easily seen and heard, with its famous hooting “Ho Hoo Hoo, Ho Hoo Hoo” call. These owls are vocal all year, but especially when looking for mates from October through January. This large owl (22” tall, 44” wing span) has long ear tufts and weighs 3 lbs\*. It does not make its own nest but will use an old hawk, osprey, crow or squirrel nest. Their population is stable, and can be found in virtually every Monmouth County park where there’s a large stand of deciduous or coniferous trees.



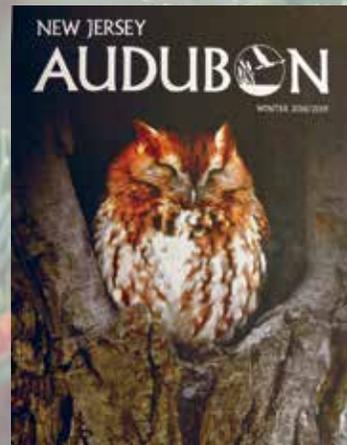
Great Horned Owl, with and without cover (winter and summer)

The **Barred Owl** has a loud and interesting call, “Hoo hoo ho-ho, hoo hoo ho-hooooow” (“who cooks for you all”), that may be heard in the middle of the day when it is overcast. This is another large owl (22” tall, 42” wing span) and weighs 1.6 lbs. A cavity nester that prefers swampy woodlands, this owl’s population is stable in North America, but endangered in New Jersey. Due to habitat loss, this owl is a hard find, but there have been sightings in **Turkey Swamp Park, Hartshorne Woods and Shark River Park.**



Barred Owl

The **Eastern Screech Owl** is small (8.5” tall, wing span 20”) and weighs only 6 oz. It is well-camouflaged, exhibiting two color phases, red and gray, and has two ear tufts. For a small owl, its primary song sounds big, like a horse—a strong descending whinny with a falsetto quality. Screech owls are vocal all year. This owl is a cavity nester that makes use of old woodpecker excavations. But it will also nest in boxes placed in convenient locations, and in trees in urban neighborhoods. With a stable population, the Eastern Screech Owl is very common and can be found in **virtually every county park.**



This local Eastern Screech Owl (red phase, our photo left) is now a celebrity, having made the cover of this winter’s NJ Audubon Magazine.

The call of the **Barn Owl** is a spine-tingling shriek with a series of hisses. It has long legs, dark eyes, a white breast, tawny wings and a heart shaped face. This mid-size owl (16” tall, wing span 42”) weighs 1 lb. and is hard to spot because it hunts strictly at night. It will not leave its roost until well after dark. Barn Owls have an affinity for man-made structures and will nest in barns, nest boxes, cavities and caves. It has world-wide distribution and the population is stable, but is **very difficult to see in Monmouth County because of nocturnal behavior.**



Barn Owl

# Shhhhh--Non-Resident Owls

Wintering owls are less vocal and unlike resident owls, they are seldom heard. These migrants usually start to show up in late October and then head back in March.

**Long-Eared Owls** were former breeders in NJ but are now seen only in the winter. Their ear tufts are so long that they are compared to rabbit ears. Some people even refer to this species as the “Rabbit-Eared Owl.” The long ear tufts contribute to their long slender profile (15” tall, wing span 36”, weight 9 oz.) with dark brown streaks and barring—a color pattern that makes them almost invisible to the untrained eye.



*Long-Eared Owl, with and without camouflage*

This owl will roost alone or in groups, and will often return to the same winter roost year after year. While the North American population is stable, it is considered endangered in NJ where modern farming practices have reduced its habitat. Long-Eared Owls prefer large stands of tall conifers, and have wintered in **Thompson Park, Yellow Brook Tract, Manasquan River Greenway, Crosswicks Creek Park and Big Brook Park.**

The **Short-Eared Owl** (15” tall, wing span 38”, weighs 12 oz.) has a pair of very small, centrally located ear tufts. This bird hunts at night, but can also be seen hunting during the day, close to sunset. It spends the day on the ground in open expanses of marshes and grassy fields, then takes flight in the early evening. Endangered in NJ, the North American population of Short-Eared Owls appears to be stable. **Look for them during winter in Thompson Park, Dorbrook Recreation Area and Wolf Hill Recreation Area.**



*Short-Eared Owl Credit: Jeff Lee*



*Snowy Owl*

The **Snowy Owl** is the largest owl in North America (23” tall, wing span 52”, weight 4 lbs). They hunt night and day. The ones that visit us during winter are usually immature, so they are predominantly white with some mottled brown barring. Since they come from the arctic tundra where there are no trees, they are accustomed to perching on elevated

mounds in order to scan the flat terrain for lemmings, a small rodent. They are annual visitors to Sandy Hook and Long Beach Island, but the North American population is in decline. Finding a Snowy Owl can take considerable time and effort by walking along the long sandy beaches of NJ; **they have been spotted at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.**

The smallest owl (8” tall, wing span of 17”, weight 2.8 oz.) to visit Monmouth County is the **Northern Saw-Whet**. This diminutive owl is very secretive and almost never flies during the day because it attracts a whole host of antagonists (small passerines such as chickadees, blue jays and crows that don’t like owls because they are predators). They gang up on the Saw-Whet during the day when the owl is not hunting. With light coloring and brown overtones, Saw-Whets can blend into almost any background, but prefer deep thickets with some greenery, such as honeysuckle vines, for cover. This past winter of 2019 was one of the most prolific migration years for the Northern Saw-Whet in NJ: over 200 were banded on Sandy Hook. The previous high count was 76. This owl has been seen in **Thompson Park, Big Brook Park, Yellow Brook Tract and Manasquan River Greenway.**



*Saw-Whet Owl, up close and in the wild*

## Sought-After Sightings

The best time of year to see owls in our parks is winter because there are more species around, and less foliage to provide cover.

When looking for owls, search in stands of evergreen and thickets. Once you locate a suitable habitat, there are two tell-tale signs an owl has been there: whitewash and owl pellets. Whitewash is owl excrement and looks like white paint. Owl pellets are oblong shaped objects, about 1-4”, made up of compressed hair and bones from parts of prey they are unable to digest. Owls eat their small prey whole.

The indigestible hair and bones are stored in their crop and then regurgitated later. These pellets will be found on the ground around where they roost.

Owls are stealthy. It takes a lot of practice to spot one, even when you know there is an owl in the tree. Please remember that if you find one, do not disturb it.



*Owl pellet from a Long-Eared Owl*



# GREEN HERITAGE

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## SUMMER LIGHTS

### *In this Issue...*

Twilight in the Parks  
How We Compare  
Planting for Winter Interest  
Owls of Monmouth County



Turkey Swamp Park in the evening light



Visit [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com)