

Hartshorne Woods Park

Middletown, NJ



www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

Welcome to Hartshorne Woods Park

This hilly, forested 794-acre site overlooks the Navesink River & features prominently in area military history. Known for its challenging trail system and scenic views, Hartshorne Woods is a popular park for area hikers, bicyclists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Park History

This park is named after Richard Hartshorne, an English Quaker from London who settled here in 1669 and acquired more than 2,400 acres of land. Hartshorne’s vast landholdings were divided among his descendents and gradually sold, but most of what is now Hartshorne Woods Park remained in family ownership until the mid 1900s.. The Park System acquired the first 660 acres of this park in 1974. The U.S. government conveyed additional land in 1984, and subsequent purchases – including the 44-acre Claypit Creek section in 2005 – brought the park to its current size.

Navesink Military Reservation (NMR) Historic District at Rocky Point

Chosen as a desirable coastal defense site for the NY harbor due to its elevation, the Army established the Navesink Military Reservation here during WWII with two heavy artillery batteries and facilities for 300 soldiers. Battery Lewis, the largest coastal fortification built in NJ, is a massive earth-covered concrete and steel structure that housed two 16-inch caliber guns (each 168 ft. long, weighing 153-tons). After WWII, the Air Force and Army adapted the site as a command center for radar surveillance and missile defense (Highlands Army Air Defense Site). Cold War era radar equipment and structures have been removed. Today the entire 224-acre former military base is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit restored Battery Lewis to learn more about the park’s military past.



Battery Lewis

Fishing

Anglers can cast for striped bass, fluke and flounder in the Navesink River from the pier or shoreline at Black Fish Cove (a steep, 0.2 mile walk from the Rocky Point parking lot). All anglers age 16 and up must register online (for free) to fish in marine and fresh tidal waters of NJ. www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov.



Black Fish Cove

Protect Your Parks

The Park System preserves and manages natural and cultural resources on more than 18,000 acres of land in Monmouth County. Protecting water quality, eliminating invasive plant species, and promoting healthy wildlife habitats are just a few objectives.

Please help protect the park by leaving flowers, plants, animals, and other features as you found them; adhering to posted park rules; using designated containers for trash, recyclables and pet waste; and keeping your pets leashed. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

An overabundance of white-tailed deer in and around this park is threatening the health of native plant and animal species. Portions of Hartshorne Woods Park maybe open for deer hunting during all or some of the State-regulated hunting season. All hunting areas are clearly posted. Call 732-842-4000 ext.4312 or visit www.MonmouthCountyParks.com for more information.

Park Hours

Hartshorne Woods Park is open every day of the year from 7 a.m. to dusk, free of charge.

Avoiding Tick Bites

Ticks that may cause illness can be active year-round (highest risk Apr.-Jul.). Take precautions: use insect repellent; wear light-colored clothes, long sleeve shirt tucked into pants/pants tucked into socks; check yourself for ticks during and after park visits; shower soon after being outdoors. To minimize contact keep to formal trails, walk in the center; stay away from tall grasses, brush/shrubs, leaf litter, branches and woodland edges next to lawns and athletic fields. Protect your pets. Read more at www.cdc.gov/ticks.



From Garden State Parkway Exit 117: (North or South-bound) Follow Rt. 36 (East) for 12.6 miles. Turn right (before the bridge) onto Portland Rd. Follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

From State Hwy 35: Navesink River Rd. east for 4.7 miles (joins 8A north). Follow bend and turn right onto Locust Ave., cross bridge. At next intersection (stone church) turn right onto Navesink Ave. (8B-East). Follow for 0.8 miles (past Buttermilk Valley entrance). Turn right onto Rt. 36 and follow for 1.2 miles. Turn right (before the bridge) onto Portland Rd., follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

From Sea Bright/southern shore points: Follow Route 36/Ocean Ave. north. Cross the Highlands bridge. Make first right and follow U-turn signs (under bridge). Come up the hill turn left onto Portland Rd. Follow for 0.7 miles to Rocky Point entrance.

Hartshorne Woods Park

Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
Park Maintenance: 732-872-0336 or 2670
www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

GPS/Maps Use:

NMR/Rocky Point 1402 Portland Rd.
Highlands, NJ 07732

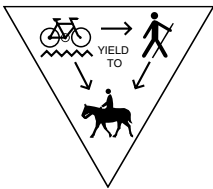
Buttermilk Valley 307 Navesink Ave.
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Claypit Creek 259 Locust Ave.
Rumson, NJ 07760



Trails

Hartshorne Woods Park has the most extensive and challenging series of trails in the Park System: over 15 miles. Please stay on marked trails, plan your route, take a trail map with you, and wear appropriate safety gear. Obey the rules for right of way: bicyclists yield to all other trail users; pedestrians yield to equestrians.



Battery Loop Trail

NOTE: At a brisk pace, it takes approximately 20 minutes to walk 1 mile (1.6 km).



Trail Standards

- EASY:** short, maintained or paved trails intended for casual walking; may have some grade changes/obstructions (e.g. tree roots)
- MODERATE:** longer trails or trails with grades/obstructions; intended for hikers, equestrians and all-terrain bicyclists (may be suitable for some walkers and runners)
- CHALLENGING:** long, more primitive trails with steep grades/obstructions; intended for hardy, experienced hikers, equestrians and all-terrain bicyclists

Trail Key

CLAYPIT CREEK SECTION

- Claypit Run:** This 0.9 mile (1.4 km) natural surface trail starts as a casual walking path [0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop] with scenic views, then travels northeast into wooded wetlands, crossing Hartshorne Rd. to connect with main trail system of the park at Laurel Ridge

BUTTERMILK VALLEY SECTION

- King's Hollow:** A 0.7 mile (1.1 km) loop through oak trees and wild flowers **Foot Traffic Only**
- Candlestick:** This 1.5 mile (2.4 km) loop features abundant mountain laurels and a wooded overlook **Foot Traffic Only**
- Laurel Ridge:** Take this 2.5 mile (4 km) loop for a longer hike through the forest, features a wooded overlook extension

MONMOUTH HILLS SECTION

- Cuesta Ridge:** This 1.6 mile (2.6 km) linear trail travels from Buttermilk Valley to Rocky Point
- Grand Tour:** A primitive 3.1 mile (5 km) trail through the forested heart of the park

ROCKY POINT SECTION/ NAVESINK MILITARY RESERVATION (NMR)

- Battery Lewis:** Paved 0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop around the battery
- Lewis Overlook:** Hike up this 0.2 mile (0.3 km) loop to the top of the battery for spectacular views of the water **Foot Traffic Only**
- Command Loop:** This short 0.3 mile (0.5 km) paved trail takes you to a former radar tower site
- Bunker Loop:** Another short 0.3 mile (0.5 km) paved loop takes you around a wooded bunker site
- Battery Loop:** This longer paved 1.3 mile (2.1 km) loop travels from Battery Lewis to Battery 219 and features an overlook with scenic views of the river. It's a steep climb on return.
- Black Fish Cove:** This short paved 0.2 mile trail (0.5 km) goes down to the Navesink River pier. Beware, it's a very steep return!
- Rocky Point Trail:** Take this challenging 2.3 mile (3.7 km) natural surface trail to explore the forest and scenery of Rocky Point