

Park Hours: Hartshorne Woods Park is open every day of the year from 8am to dusk, free of charge.

For more Information: Call (732) 842-4000 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com



From Garden State Parkway Exit 117

(North or Southbound) 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

Traveling northbound, turn right; southbound, use jughandle and turn left onto Navesink River Rd. (just north of Cooper Bridge, near Red Bank). Travel east on Navesink River Rd. for 4.7 miles (joins 8A north). Follow around 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.

Monmouth County Park System

Hartshorne Woods Park

Middletown, NJ



www.monmouthcountyparks.com

Welcome to Hartshorne Woods Park

This hilly, forested 791-acre site overlooks the Navesink River. This park is among the highest elevations along the Atlantic Coast & features prominently in area history as a former coastal defense site. 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 2,300 acres of land. By the early 1800s, some of the land was sold to private individuals and the U.S. government, but large portions remained in Hartshorne family ownership.

The Park System acquired the first 660 acres of this park in 1974. Additional land was conveyed from the government in 1984, and subsequent purchases—including the 44-acre, Claypit Creek section in 2005—brought the park to its current size.

Military Installations at Rocky Point

The Hartshorne property was a desirable defense site because of its high elevation. Through the years, it hosted a number of different land and air-based military installations to defend New York Harbor and surrounding areas.

During the WWII era, batteries for heavy artillery were built on this site to modernize coastal defense efforts. These concrete and earth encasements or bunkers – considered “bomb-proof” at the time – protected personnel and equipment. These structures can still be viewed today.

With the rise of strategic air power and nuclear weapons, the reliance on artillery guns for coastal defense ended.



Bunker Loop

During the Cold War Era from the 1950s–1970s, the site served as a missile defense site and command center with radar, computers and electronic plotting devices. Structures from this era have all been removed.

Fishing

Anglers can cast for striped bass, fluke and flounder in the Navesink River from the pier at Black Fish Cove (a steep, 0.7 mile walk from the Rocky Point parking lot).



Blackfish Cove

Protect Your Parks

The Park System preserves and manages natural and cultural resources on more than 14,500 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 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com for more information.

Hartshorne Woods Park

Navesink Ave. and Portland Rd, Middletown, NJ
 (732) 872-0336 or 2670
 www.monmouthcountyparks.com



LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Building/Office | --- Easy Trail | 🅑 Parking |
| ■ Wooded Area | --- Moderate Trail | 🚻 Portable Toilet |
| ■ Battery/Bunker | --- Challenging Trail | 🚶 Foot Traffic Only |
| ■ Field/Clearing | — Paved Trail | 👁 Viewing Area |
| ■ River/Pond | ⋯ Maintenance Road | 🎣 Fishing |
| 🌿 Wetlands | — Paved Road | ❓ Information |
| --- Property Line | — Bridge | 🍷 Picnic Tables |
| ~ Stream | 🗼 Water Tower | 📍 Trail Head |

Trail Key

Buttermilk Valley Section

- **King's Hollow:** EASY 0.7 mile (1.1 km) trail through oak trees and wild flowers
Foot Traffic Only
- **Candlestick:** EASY 1.5 mile (2.4 km) loop with abundant mountain laurels and wooded overlook
Foot Traffic Only
- **Laurel Ridge:** MODERATE 2.5 mile (4 km) trail for a longer hike; features a wooded overlook

Monmouth Hills Section

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

Rocky Point Section

- **Battery Lewis:** EASY paved, 0.4 mile (0.6 km) loop around the battery
- **Lewis Overlook:** EASY 0.2 mile (0.3 km) loop with spectacular views
Foot Traffic Only
- **Command Loop:** MODERATE 0.4 mile (0.6 km) paved trail to the former Highlands Army Air Defense Site (HAADS)
- **Bunker Loop:** MODERATE paved 0.3 mile (0.5 km) loop to a wooded bunker site
- **Battery Loop:** MODERATE paved 1.3 mile (2.1 km) loop from Battery Lewis to a smaller bunker, other trails and scenic views of the river
- **Black Fish Cove:** MODERATE paved 0.2 mile (0.5 km) hike to the Navesink River pier. Beware, it's a steep return!
- ◆ **Rocky Point Trail:** CHALLENGING 2.3 mile (3.7 km) natural surface trail following the outer edges of Rocky Point

Trails

Hartshorne Woods Park has the most extensive and challenging series of trails in the Park System: over 14 miles. Please stay on marked trails, plan your route, take a trail map with you, and wear appropriate safety gear.

NOTE:

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

Trail Standards

- EASY: short, well-maintained or paved trails intended for casual walking
- MODERATE: longer trails with some grades/obstructions; intended for hiking (may be suitable for some walkers and runners)
- ◆ CHALLENGING: long, more primitive trails with steep grades, obstructions; intended for hardy, experienced hikers

Information about Lyme Disease

To avoid contact with the deer tick that may carry Lyme Disease, stay away from tall grass and shrubby areas, wear light-colored clothes, tuck long pants into socks, and check yourself for ticks during and after each visit to the park.