

Park Hours

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

Tick Advisory

To avoid contact with the ticks that may cause illness: stay away from tall grass and shrubby areas, walk in the center of trails, wear light-colored clothes, tuck long pants into socks, and check yourself for ticks during and after each visit to the parks. Read more about preventing tick bites at www.cdc.gov/ticks.

Monmouth County Park System

Shark River Park



Neptune, NJ
Wall Township, NJ



www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

Welcome to Shark River Park

Established in 1960 with surplus land from construction of the Garden State Parkway, this is the first and oldest Monmouth County Park. There are more than 988 acres along either side of the Shark River in Neptune and Wall Township. A variety of picnic facilities host thousands of park visitors each year.



Fishing and Skating on the Pond

Area residents can fish the park's scenic white pine and oak-lined pond (mostly sunfish.) A state fishing license is required for anglers age 16-69. To ice skate in winter, please call

732-842-4000 to check conditions first.



The Shark River, which flows near the pond, is stocked seasonally with trout. A popular site for nature activities, please note that fossiling is allowed only with park programs.

Playground, Shuffleboard, and Horseshoes

Children will enjoy climbing, swinging, sliding and rocking on the features of this playground (see front cover). There are also facilities for shuffleboard and horseshoes: equipment may be signed out for free at the Shelter Building.

Open Picnic Areas

Shark River Park has more than 95 shady picnic tables and 35 grills for visitors to enjoy for free on a first come, first-served basis. Bring your own charcoal if you would like to cook. Groups of 50 or more must obtain a free permit first; please call 732-842-4000, ext. 1.

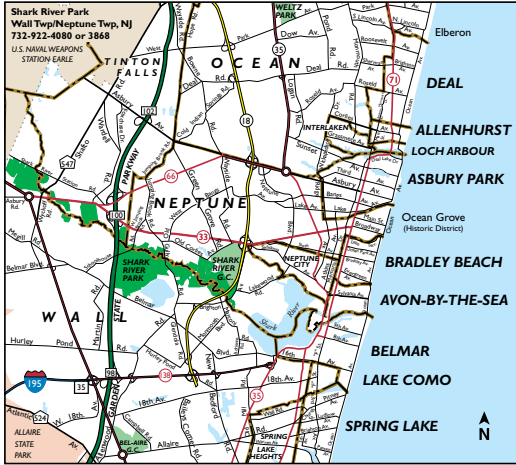
Large Group Picnic Areas (By Reservation, For Fee)

Celebrate outdoors by reserving one of two large-group picnic areas. The Shelter Building (with kitchen) is available for rental by groups up to 80 (except during ice skating season, Dec. 15 – Mar. 15). Or, reserve the covered picnic pavilion and its large grill cooking area. Visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com for site photos and prices. Call 732-842-4000, ext. 1 for reservations.

Protect Your Parks

The Park System preserves and manages natural and cultural resources on more than 17,000 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 Shark River Park may be 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. 4237 or visit www.MonmouthCountyParks.com for more information.



From Garden State Parkway, Exit 100

To Main/Schoolhouse Rd. Entrance: Take Hwy. 33 East for 0.5 miles to Schoolhouse Rd. Turn right onto Schoolhouse Rd. and follow to park entrance on right.

To Gully Road Entrance: Follow Hwy. 33 East for about 1 mile, turn right onto Old Corlies Ave. (convenience store/gas station on corner). Stay right onto Gully Road at curve, and follow to park entrance on the right.

To Hillside Area: Follow Hwy. 33 East for 2.8 miles, follow signs for All Turns/Exit Route 18 N. At light, turn right onto Brighton Ave and follow for 1 mile. Turn left onto Hillside Rd., parking lot on right.

From State Hwy. 18

To Main/Schoolhouse Rd. Entrance: Take Exit 8, and travel Hwy. 33 West for 1.8 miles to Schoolhouse Rd. Turn left onto Schoolhouse Rd. (convenience store/gas station on corner) and follow to park entrance on right.

To Gully Road Entrance: Take Exit 8 and follow Hwy. 33 West for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Old Corlies Ave. (church/gas station on corner). Stay right on Gully Rd. at fork, pass American Legion Hall and follow to park entrance on right.

To Hillside Area: Follow Hwy. 33 East to signs for U-turn/Exit Route 18 North. At first light, turn right onto Brighton Ave and follow for 1 mile. Turn left onto Hillside Rd., parking lot on right.



Trails

Shark River Park has 6 miles of multi-use trails to walk, run, hike, bike and ride horses. 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 Key

BRIDGE LOOP: This short 0.4 mile (0.6 km) **EASY** trail offers a picturesque tour alongside the Shark River. **Foot Traffic Only.**

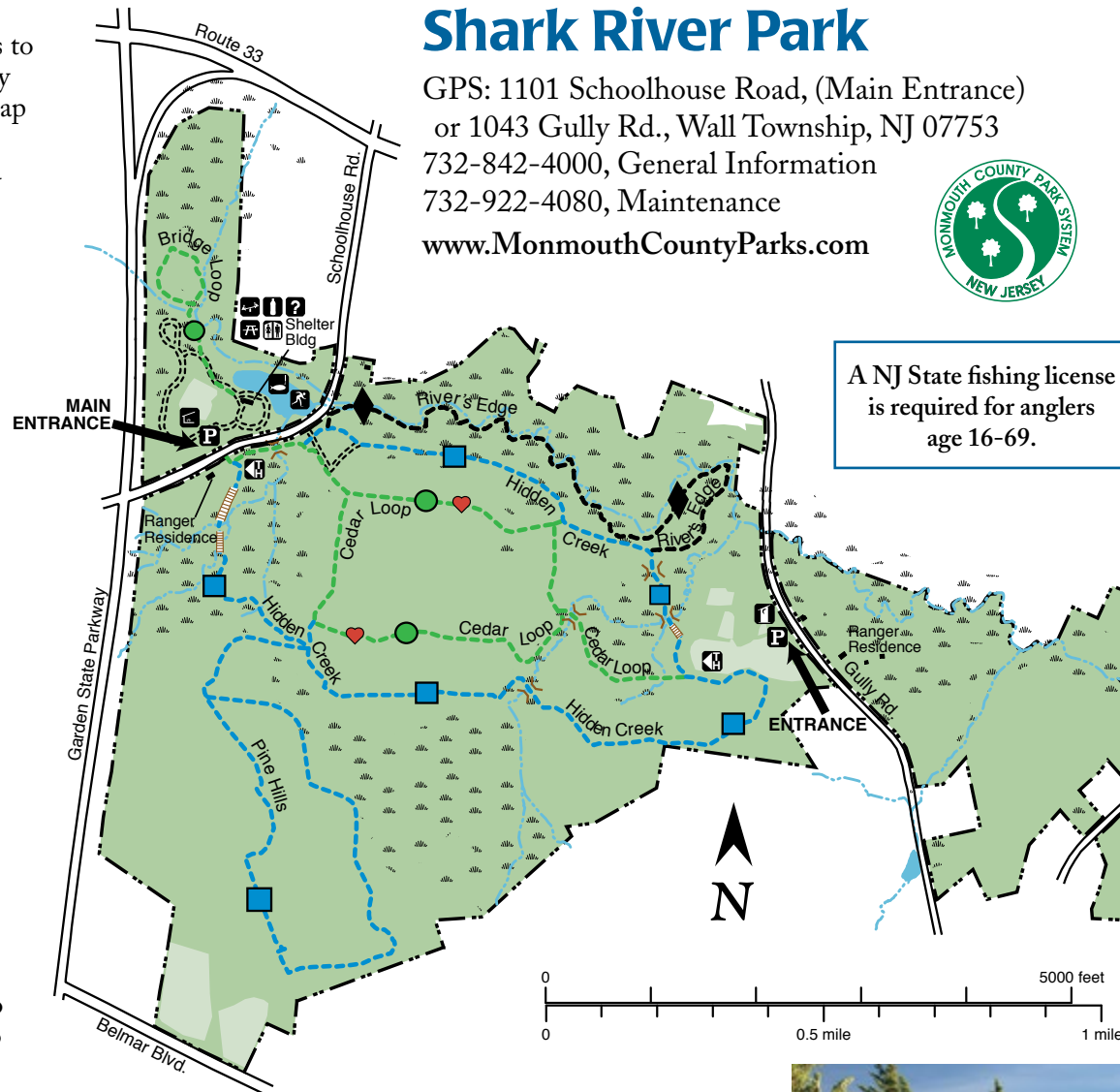
CEDAR LOOP: **EASY** 1.2 mile (1.9 km) loop trail travels through the center of the park (a 0.2 mile extension through Atlantic White Cedar bog connects to Gully Road).

FITNESS TRAIL: Illustrated signs along the Cedar Loop guide fitness enthusiasts, counter-clockwise, through a 20 station/32 exercise workout.

HIDDEN CREEK: At 2 miles (3.2 km), this **MODERATE** loop travels through forests of red maple (lowland) and pine-oak (upland). A portion of this trail—from Schoolhouse Rd. trailhead to Pine Hills trail—is **Foot Traffic Only** (no equestrians/bicycles).

PINE HILLS: **MODERATE** 1.4 mile (2.3 km) trail travels off Hidden Creek to explore the “hills” of Shark River Park.

RIVER'S EDGE: This short, primitive, **CHALLENGING** trail follows the Shark River for 1 mile (1.6 km), one way, on the north side of the park.



Shark River Park

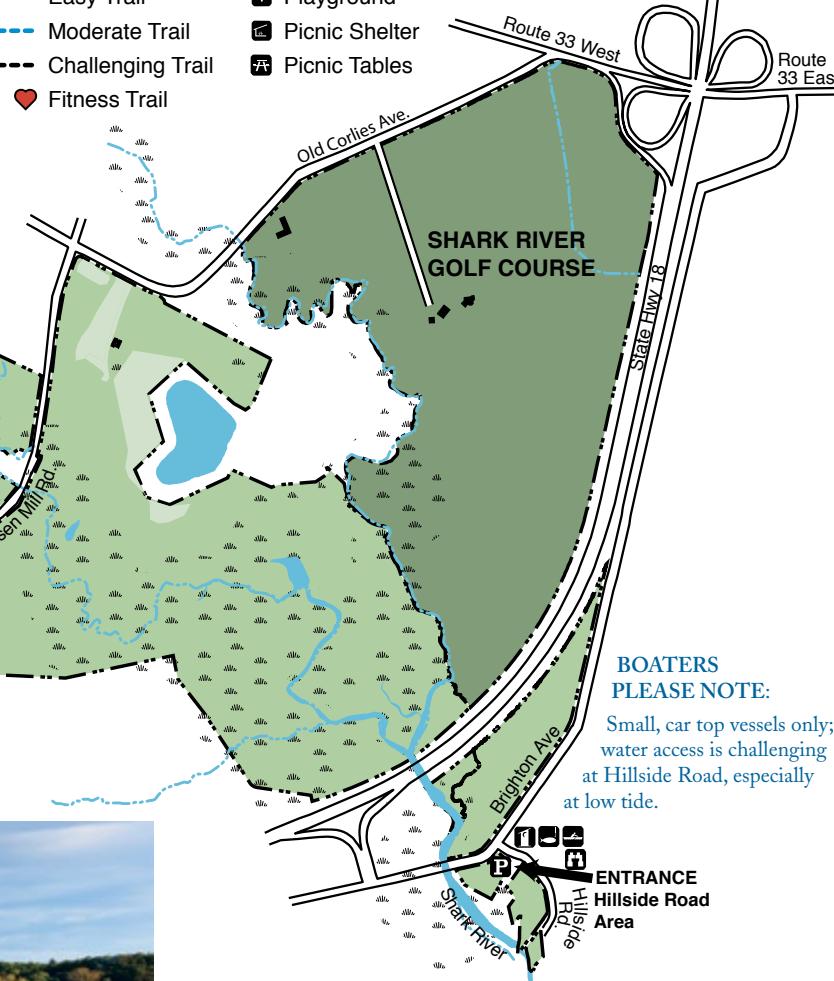
GPS: 1101 Schoolhouse Road, (Main Entrance)
 or 1043 Gully Rd., Wall Township, NJ 07753
 732-842-4000, General Information
 732-922-4080, Maintenance
www.MonmouthCountyParks.com



A NJ State fishing license is required for anglers age 16-69.

LEGEND

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Building/Office | ⋯ Maintenance Road | 🦋 Wildlife Viewing |
| ■ Wooded Area | — Paved Road | 🎣 Fishing |
| ■ Field/Clearing | — Bridge | ❓ Information |
| ■ Lake/Pond | — Boardwalk | 📍 Trail Head |
| 🌿 Wetlands | 🅅 Parking | 🚤 Boating |
| — Property Line | 🚻 Portable Toilet | 🛷 Ice Skating |
| — River/Stream | 🚽 Restrooms | 📺 Vending Machine |
| — Easy Trail | 🎡 Playground | |
| — Moderate Trail | 🏠 Picnic Shelter | |
| — Challenging Trail | 🍽️ Picnic Tables | |
| ♥ Fitness Trail | | |



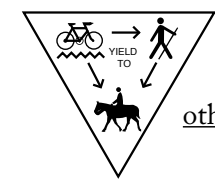
BOATERS PLEASE NOTE:
 Small, car top vessels only; water access is challenging at Hillside Road, especially at low tide.

Trail Standards

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



River Access/Hillside Road Area
 Visit this small section of the park, located just off Brighton Avenue to watch wildlife, go fishing or to put-in kayaks at the Shark River.



Please obey the rules for right of way: bicyclists yield to all other trail users; pedestrians yield to equestrians.