

# Thompson Park

Lincroft, NJ



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

## Welcome To Thompson Park

*Established in 1968 when Geraldine Thompson bequeathed the famed 19th century horse estate "Brookdale Farm" to the citizens of Monmouth County, Thompson Park's 667 acres now serve as headquarters for the Monmouth County Park System. The preserved historic buildings offer a rich glimpse into the area's past, while the surrounding fields, trails and lake provide a beautiful location for outdoor activities. In 2020, Brookdale Farm was added to the National Register of Historic Places and is now a Historic District.*

### Visitor Center

The site's original grand colonial revival mansion (cover photo), built in 1896 as the Thompson family residence, was destroyed by a fire in 2006. It was rebuilt to retain its signature columned porches, metal roof, French doors, and yellow/green paint scheme and re-opened in 2009 as an information center with exhibits and program/office space. The manicured front lawn features some remarkable trees.

### Playground

Located next to a shaded area of picnic tables, this modern playground offers hours of fair weather fun for children and parents to enjoy.

### Creative Arts Center

Arts, crafts, pottery and ceramics classes are offered year round, days and evenings, weekdays and weekends, for all ages and skill levels. This state of the art facility was renovated in 2019.

### Off-Leash Dog Area

Bring your dog to this fenced-in area next to the Craft Center for a leash-free run (open during regular park hours). Guidelines available at [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com).

### Fields & Meadows

Play frisbee, relax on the lawns, or watch wildlife—the meadows are home to many bird, animal and insect species. Rent a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis on-site after the snow falls for a strenuous winter work-out.



## Fishing/Boating at Marlu Lake

Cast from shore, or bring a canoe/kayak or trailered boat (electric motors only) to fish for bass, bluegills and perch on this calm 21-acre lake; NJ freshwater license required for anglers age 16-69.



## Tennis Courts & Athletic Field

Enjoy a match on one of four tennis (and pickleball) courts available on a first-come, first-served basis. One rugby field is available by reservation for league use; fee required. Call 732-848-456-4278, ext.1.

## Group Picnic Areas

Thompson Park is a lovely setting for group picnics (up to 125 people, groups >50 require a permit). A large Picnic Tent or the Old Orchard Picnic Shelter (with grills) are available by reservation for a fee. Call 732-842-4000, ext 1.

## 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 the 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 the parks is threatening the health of native plant and animal species. Portions of Thompson Park may be open for deer hunting during some or all of the State-regulated hunting seasons. All hunting areas are clearly posted. Call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312, or visit [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com) for more information.

## Park Hours

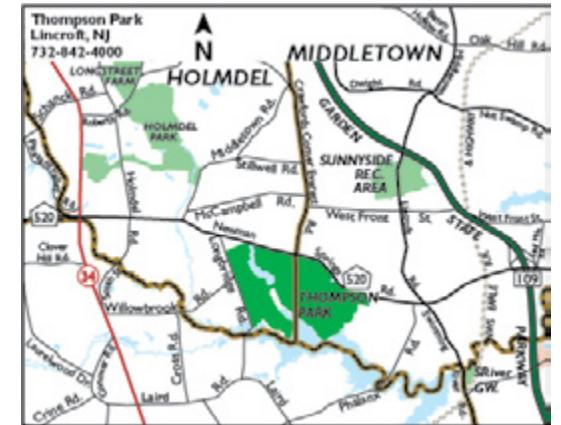
Thompson Park is open every day of the year from 6am to dusk, free of charge. Park Rangers are available to assist you.

## 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](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks).

## For More Information

For information about the County's 43 parks, recreation areas, and golf courses or a complete listing of the more than 6,000 classes and programs offered by the Park System each year, call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312, (TTY/TTD 711) or visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com).



**From the Garden State Parkway:** Exit 109 to Route 520 (Newman Springs Road) west. Follow for 2.2 miles (past entrance to Brookdale Community College) and turn left into park.

**From Western Points:** Route 33 East to Route 9 North or Route 79 North. Turn east onto Route 520 (Newman Springs Road). Follow signs to park. From Route 537 East, pass Dorbrook Recreation Area, turn left onto Tinton Ave/ Swimming River Road. Follow north and make a left onto Route 520 (Newman Springs Road). Follow signs for park on left.

Monmouth County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Board of Recreation Commissioners



## Trails

Thompson Park has 14 miles of multi-use trails. Please stay on marked routes, take a 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. **NOTE: At a brisk pace, it takes approximately 20 minutes to walk 1 mile (1.6 km).**



## Trail Key

### Paved Trail:

- **Thompson Loop:** A long, 4.2 mile (6.8 km) loop trail through the heart of the park and along the northern perimeter. This trail is designated moderate for length.
- **Inner Loop:** This 1.2 mile (2 km) accessible loop trail travels from the playground to Marlu Lake and back; or opt for the 0.8 mile (1.3 km) shortcut.

- **Marshy Walk:** Take this 0.2 mile (0.3 km) trail for a very short walk in the forest, with boardwalks to cross wetland areas.

- **Woodland Trail:** This 0.6 mile (1 km) trail for all ages takes only about 10 minutes to walk.

- **Track Loop:** This beautiful 1 mile (1.6 km) loop trail is shaded by a canopy of trees and enjoyed by runners. The 0.7 mile (1.1 km) grassy **Wanderer Trail** inside provides good wildlife views and adds another 10 minutes to your walk or run.

- **Marlu Trail:** Start this 0.8 mile (1.3 km) walk near Marlu Lake and travel through forest and field to Route 520 where it joins the paved Thompson Loop.

- **Reservoir Loop:** This 4.8 mile (7.8 km) loop offers a lengthy and scenic hike around the Swimming River Reservoir and Marlu Lake; both grass and dirt trails.

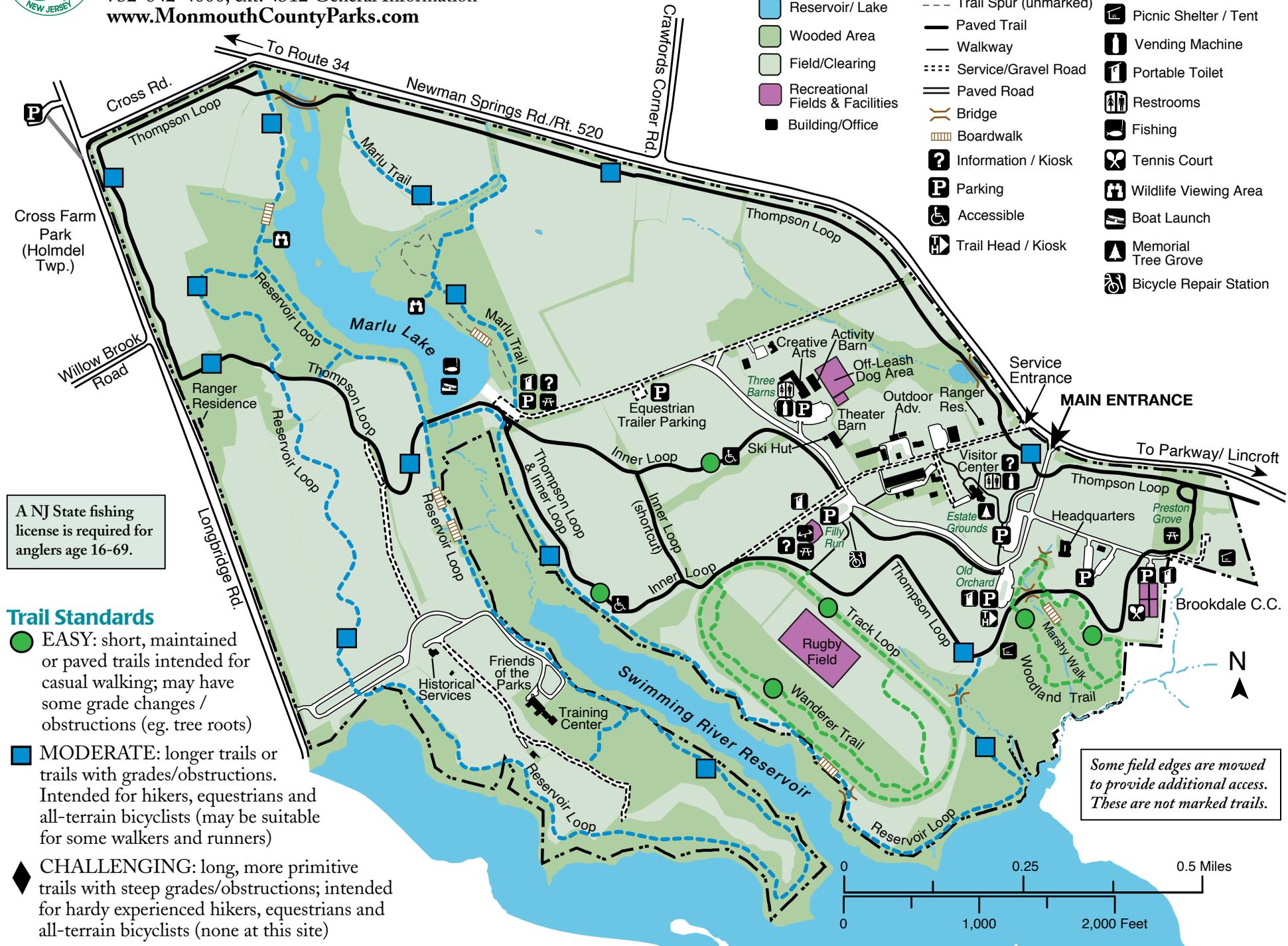


# Thompson Park

805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738  
732-842-4000, ext. 4312 General Information  
[www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com)

## Legend

- |                                    |                             |                          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| — — Property Line                  | — — Easy Trail              | 🎡 Playground             |
| ~ ~ River/Stream                   | — — Moderate Trail          | 🍷 Picnic Area            |
| ■ Reservoir/ Lake                  | - - - Trail Spur (unmarked) | 🏠 Picnic Shelter / Tent  |
| ■ Wooded Area                      | — Paved Trail               | 🚪 Vending Machine        |
| ■ Field/Clearing                   | — Walkway                   | 🚻 Portable Toilet        |
| ■ Recreational Fields & Facilities | ⋯ Service/Gravel Road       | 🚽 Restrooms              |
| ■ Building/Office                  | — Paved Road                | 🎣 Fishing                |
|                                    | 🌉 Bridge                    | 🎾 Tennis Court           |
|                                    | 🚶 Boardwalk                 | 🦋 Wildlife Viewing Area  |
|                                    | ❓ Information / Kiosk       | 🚤 Boat Launch            |
|                                    | 🅅 Parking                   | 🌳 Memorial Tree Grove    |
|                                    | ♿ Accessible                | 🔧 Bicycle Repair Station |
|                                    | 🏠 Trail Head / Kiosk        |                          |



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

## Trail Standards

- **EASY:** short, maintained or paved trails intended for casual walking; may have some grade changes / obstructions (eg. 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 (none at this site)

Some field edges are mowed to provide additional access. These are not marked trails.