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
The 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.

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 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 Hartshorne Woods Park may 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/ants 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.

Monmouth County
Board of County Commissioners
Board of Recreation Commissioners

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