

Monmouth County Park System

Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook

Atlantic Highlands, NJ



www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

Welcome to Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook

Located next to 259 foot high Mount Mitchell, this overlook sits on the Atlantic Coast's highest headlands south of Maine, providing beautiful views of Sandy Hook, Raritan Bay and the New York skyline. There are two viewing areas with descriptive panels that explain the view and geography of the site. This 12-acre park is also home to the Monmouth County 9/11 Memorial honoring the memory of county residents who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



Mount Mitchell sits on the borough line dividing Atlantic Highlands and Highlands. The Park System acquired this land in 1973 with NJ Green Acres funding following efforts by a local citizen's group to protect the site from development.

Naming of the Site

In 1816, a surveying expedition named this site for naturalist and botanist Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell (1764-1831). Dr. Mitchell was a remarkably educated man who held degrees in medicine and law; worked as a professor of agriculture, chemistry, natural history, botany and drug remedies; and served as a member of congress in both the House and the Senate. A talented teacher, explorer, and statesman, Mitchell counted among his many accomplishments a voyage on Robert Fulton's first steamboat and the excavation of one of America's first mammoths.

Activities

Visitors to Mount Mitchell can take in the expansive views of one of our most important and famous cities; contemplate the events of September 11, 2001; or enjoy the playground. Photographers and artists may be inspired to capture the amazing colors and scenery of this vista on film or paper, while geography buffs will enjoy the unique perspective afforded by the location.

1980 Hostage Memorial

The seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran in November 1979, and the ensuing Iranian hostage crisis when 52 Americans were held captive for 444 days, led to the building of this memorial. One large flagpole commemorates the crisis, while the memorial plaque has eight sides for the eight soldiers who died in a 1980 rescue attempt.



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 rules; using designated containers for trash and recyclables; and keeping your pets leashed. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Uniformed Park Rangers maintain and supervise the park, and are available to assist you.

9/11 Memorial

Built with donations raised by the 9/11 Memorial Committee and the Friends of the Parks, the County's 9/11 Memorial was dedicated in 2005. It features a timeline walkway to recollect the day's events; a stone base carved with the names of the 147 county residents who lost their lives; and an eagle sculpture by artist Franco Minervini clutching a beam from one of the fallen towers. The eagle—America's symbol of freedom—represents the patriotism shown throughout the country after the attacks. Set against views of New York, the memorial honors both the lives lost and the fearless display of heroism by rescue teams and citizens who responded to the tragedy.

Meaning of the 9/11 Memorial Landscape

The walkway leading to the memorial reflects the journey of grief taken when someone loses a loved one. Initial feelings of darkness and despair, followed by a gradual journey into the light, are represented by select plantings, upward sloping walkway, and expansive water view toward the city.

- ① The journey begins with monochlor evergreens of cedar and holly, with a ground cover of shrub and fern to reflect the initial period of darkness.
- ② The landscape then becomes lighter where tall white oak trees are surrounded along the perimeter by red oak, white ash, black gum and flowering trees, with a groundcover of unmowed fescue grass symbolic of plants near the Pennsylvania field where Flight 93 crashed.
- ③ Finally, visitors enter "the light" by approaching a plaza rimmed with a mix of perennials and grasses. Seven birch trees around the plaza symbolize the four planes and three buildings involved in the 9/11 tragedy.

