

## Park Hours

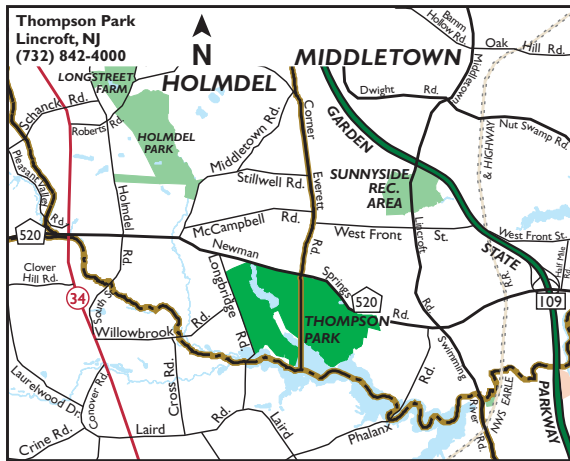
Thompson Park is open every day of the year from 7am to dusk, free of charge. Park Rangers are available to assist you.

## Lyme Disease Information

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/after each visit to the park.

## For More Information

For information about the County's 40 parks, recreation areas, and golf courses or a complete listing of the more than 5,000 classes and programs offered by the Park System each year, call 732-842-4000 ext. 4312 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.



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Monmouth County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Board of Recreation Commissioners

# Monmouth County Park System

# 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.

## 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.

## Craft Center

Arts, crafts, pottery, and ceramics classes are offered year round, days and evenings, weekdays and weekends, for all ages and skill levels.

## 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 And 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 people age 16-69.



## Tennis Courts & Athletic Fields

Enjoy a match on one of four tennis courts available on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, several regulation-sized fields are available by reservation for league use; fee required. Call 732-542-1642.

## 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 15,000 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. 4237 or visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for more information.

## Trails

Thompson Park offers almost 14 miles of multi-use trails. Please stay on marked routes, take a 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

### Paved Trail:

- **Thompson Loop:** A 4.2 mile (6.8 km) loop trail through the heart of the park & around the northern perimeter. Park at Old Orchard.
- **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. Park at Filly Run or Three Barns.
- **Marshy Walk:** An EASY 0.2 mile (0.3 km) trail perfect for a very short walk in the forest, with boardwalks to cross wetland areas. Park at Old Orchard.
- **Woodland Trail:** This EASY 0.6 mile (1 km) trail for all ages takes only about 10 minutes to walk. Park at Old Orchard.
- **Track Loop:** This EASY, 1 mile (1.6 km) loop trail is shaded by a canopy of trees. The 0.7 mile (1.1 km) grassy **Wanderer Trail** inside provides good wildlife views and adds another 10 minutes to your walk. Park at Filly Run.
- **Marlu Trail:** This MODERATE, 0.8 mile (1.3 km) trail begins near Marlu Lake and travels through forest and field to Route 520 where it joins the Thompson Loop. Park at Marlu Lake or Three Barns.
- **Reservoir Loop:** This MODERATE 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 Links to Thompson Loop. Park at Old Orchard or Marlu Lake.



# Thompson Park

805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738  
732-842-4000 • www.monmouthcountyparks.com

## Legend

- Property Line
- River/Stream
- Reservoir/ Lake
- Wooded Area
- Field/Clearing
- Easy Trail
- Moderate Trail
- Trail Spur (unmarked)
- Paved Trail
- Service Road
- Paved Road
- Information / Kiosk
- P Parking
- A Picnic Area
- P Picnic Shelter / Tent
- ♿ Accessible
- H Trail Head / Kiosk
- ? Playground
- B Building/Office
- M Vending Machine
- S Soccer Field
- T Portable Toilet
- R Restrooms
- F Fishing
- T Tennis Court
- W Wildlife Viewing Area
- B Boat Launch
- B Bridge
- B Boardwalk
- T Memorial Tree Grove



## Trail Standards

- **Easy:** shorter, well-maintained trails for casual walking
- **Moderate:** longer trails with some grades/obstructions for hiking, equestrians and all-terrain bicycles (may be suitable for some walkers and runners)
- ◆ **Challenging:** long, more primitive trails with steep grades/obstructions for hardy experienced hikers, equestrians, and all-terrain cyclists

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