



**Monmouth County Park System
Annual Report 2006**

*"Fresh air, clean water, beautiful place!" "Lovely...breathtaking." "Refreshing and beautiful."
 "A very nice experience for myself and family."
 "So many things to see and learn." "Great, and so close to home!"*

Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners

Mission Statement

The Board of Recreation Commissioners is committed to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Monmouth County by providing park and recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services of the highest quality and to furnishing these recreational opportunities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible.

The Board shall pursue this mission

- by studying, planning, acquiring, improving, and managing lands of county significance for parks, recreation, conservation, and open-space preservation;
- by protecting and interpreting natural, historic, and cultural resources of county significance;
- by providing recreational facilities, programs, and services to meet the county-wide needs of the citizens of Monmouth County for the re-creation and well-being of body, mind, and spirit; and
- by implementing this mission in accordance with the Board's adopted County Park and Recreation Policy and other adopted policies.

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Front Cover Photos 1.Thompson Park Day 2.Holmdel Park 3.Thompson Park
4.Sunnyside Equestrian Area 5.Thompson Park - National Trails Day
6.Thompson Park Day 7.Historic Longstreet Farm 8.Bayshore Waterfront Park

The Monmouth County Park System logged a record 4.8 million visits in 2006.

Who are all these visitors? Some are first time park users, such as new parents and grandparents, or people who have recently relocated to the county. Others are lifelong residents who have been visiting the county parks for years, including people who faithfully exercise on the trails, mothers who bring their children to the playgrounds and camps, or teachers who take class trips to park programs year after year.

After visiting a park facility or event, many people write in to say they had a nice time; others tell staff in person. Interestingly, whether it's the 1st visit or the 50th, people generally say the same thing: *Thank you for preserving this piece of land...I'm glad there is a park here... The county parks are so clean and beautiful...This event was very well-organized; we had such fun...Your staff are helpful and courteous... (and, a favorite) I feel lucky to live here.*

Given this feedback, a picture of how your parks and open spaces figure into the lives of area residents begins to emerge. In New Jersey especially, people cherish open spaces where they can seek solitude or walk freely and explore. They appreciate access to the wide variety of well-maintained recreational facilities and well-organized programs provided by the Park System. And, they are often delighted and surprised by both the depth of knowledge and courtesy of park staffers.

With ongoing support from the County Board of Recreation Commissioners and the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Park System will continue its work preserving the county's open spaces, maintaining the parks, and offering recreational options for the residents of Monmouth County to enjoy.



Thompson Park



Longstreet Farm



Garden Sprouts at Deep Cut Gardens

This Annual Report is dedicated to the many people who enjoy the county parks and share their park experiences with park staff. The pages that follow contain profiles of some park visitors at their favorite sites, as well as quotes excerpted from letters, emails and comment books.



Senior Hikers Keep on Keeping on

With countless hours spent hiking the county parks, Barry Miller of Middletown probably knows the more than 110 miles of trails in the Park System as well as anyone. Each week, he and a handful of other hikers meet at Holmdel Park to complete a challenging 5-mile, 2-hour trek through the park's hilly, wooded trails.

On a beautiful morning in late September, Barry is joined by Eatontown neighbors Janice Beeby and Doris Tierney, and Dian Woodroffe of Shrewsbury. Today there are 4, but sometimes as many as 8 people show up for the hike. Most of them know each other from participating in the Park System's Senior Hikers Program- a series of walks offered each season for active adults 55 and over. This group has expanded to include friends and neighbors and has been meeting informally for about 4 years.

The hikers follow a similar route each time and the pace has been carefully planned so that late-comers can easily catch up. They purposely travel past exit points so that people can "cut out early" if they get tired or just want a shorter walk. The group has also scouted a number of picturesque sites to walk past or stop at along the way, places to sit and rest after a hilly patch, or to stop and take in the scenery. And, since the forest offers some cover from rain and snow, the group is able to hike in inclement weather and throughout the seasons.



Holmdel Park

When asked why they enjoy hiking so much, the group has plenty to say about walking outdoors. Of course, there are the health benefits. Barry confesses he likes to eat, and a long hike in the woods is an excellent way to burn calories.

Dian points out that it's also about maintaining good health. As a senior, she explains, "What you are is what you are going to be...It's important not to let good health slip away because you can't get it back so easily anymore."

She also mentions a friend who was having trouble sleeping, and eventually needed a prescription. Dian doesn't think she'll ever need a sleeping pill, "I walk the trail in my mind and the next thing I know I'm asleep." In fact, visualizing the trails is a common relaxation method among the hikers. "I just close my eyes and I'm there," says Barry.

There's also the benefit of good conversation and beautiful surroundings. Talking, everyone agrees, makes the time go by faster. According to Janice, "We hike longer with the group than if we were by ourselves, and two hours pass very quickly." And, adds Dian, "Every time we walk, at least once someone says how lucky we are to live in Monmouth County. We have such a great Park System."

*"Monmouth County Parks are what all parks should be!" "Excellent facility. Great staff!"
2 "Thanks. We appreciate what you've done here...honoring plants and wildlife!" "Ahhh, serenity."*

Year After Year, Park Attracts Teachers & Students

With 21 years of experience attending the Indian Longhouse nature program at Huber Woods Park, Ocean Township Elementary School teacher Denise Palaia knows a thing or two about the Lenape Indians.

The weather was just perfect when 41 fourth graders, 6 parents, and 2 teachers arrived by school bus at the pastoral Huber Woods Environmental Center for one of the Park System's most popular educational programs- Indian Longhouse. During the next 4 hours, the students built a real Native American structure from wooden poles, string and canvas using just their hands, and some clam shells for digging.

This program fits neatly into the school's teaching unit on New Jersey, which focuses in part on the Lenape Indians. According to Ms. Palaia, who has 28 years of teaching experience, "It's a wonderful experience because the students actually become Lenape Indians for the day," using the materials and building techniques available at the time. It's also a great opportunity for youngsters to practice socialization and teamwork skills.

The parents agree. "It gets them outdoors where they can learn and have fun at the same time. And, they get to use their hands." Throughout the day, parents

can be spotted pitching in to assist with building and, of course, taking pictures. There are many photo opportunities as they record the day's step-by-step accomplishments: making ladders, digging and planting support beams, binding the longhouse together, and finally, attaching the canvas.

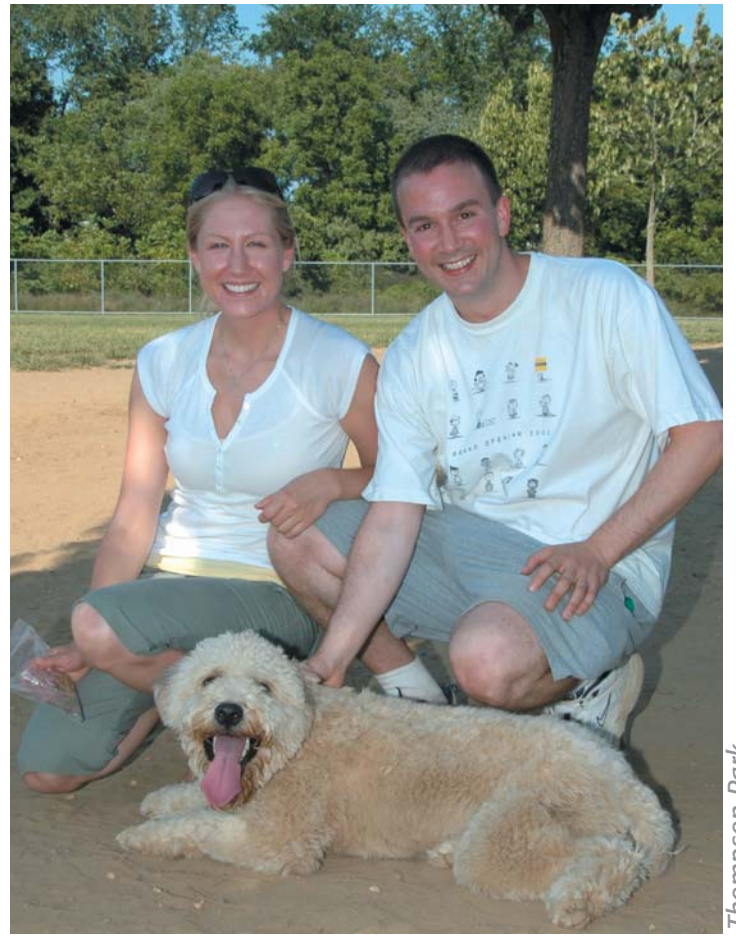
The program requires the students to use a tying technique known as "wrapping and frapping," which Ms. Palaia practices with her classes beforehand. As a result, the students are "very excited" on the day of their field trip to put their new-found skills into practice. The concept of "cross-over" used in the tying is a tough one, she notes, especially since the children must apply the technique while looking down (to build the ladder), and while looking forward (to attach the beams.) It encourages the students to concentrate and use their visual perception.

By the time they reach 4th grade, according to Ms. Palaia, the students are no longer learning to read, but reading to learn. The educational material is "more curriculum-based, and there's a lot more content." That doesn't, however, seem to bother any of the students as they tackle task after task to build their longhouse. To quote one attendee, "This is the most fun field trip I ever had!" After they break for lunch (a picnic in the park) they return, equally energized, to finish the houses, climb inside, and learn about the Lenape people who once lived here.



Huber Woods Park

*"Very restful!" "Beautiful in the snow. What a special place!"
"This place is amazing." "What wonderful history." "So pretty." 3*



Thompson Park

Young Couple Discovers Park

Local residents Joe Patane and Nancy Dockray- and their energetic Wheaten Terrier Clyde- followed the advice of their veterinarian and discovered a whole new environment.

Joe, who is from Brooklyn, credits Nancy, a North Jersey native, for their move to Monmouth County; the pair recently and happily settled in Red Bank. Nancy soon found a job teaching while Joe, a self-described “computer guy” who also has an MBA and runs a non-profit website, enrolled full-time in graduate school at Monmouth University. They say their new life is “perfect and peaceful,” with the convenience of town blending with the green grass and open spaces of Monmouth County.

Although their new home has a yard, they find that 1-year-old Clyde is “super-energetic” and really needs his exercise. So they enjoy bringing him to the off-leash dog area at Thompson Park. Joe notes, “There’s nothing like this in North Jersey that I know of.” And, as he recently discovered when he entered the park from another direction, Thompson Park is much bigger than it looks. (At 665 acres, it’s one of the larger Park System sites.)

With the recent move, a new job in teaching, going back to school, and a dog to take care of, Joe and Nancy feel like they have a whole new life. And, they

credit Clyde for some important lifestyle changes as well. “Making time for your dog also means making time for yourself,” says Joe, “and I look forward to doing more of that.”

Many new pet owners share a similar sentiment. When the dog goes outside, you go outside, too; and this guarantees a daily dose of fresh air and exercise.

If Joe and Nancy plan on spending more time in the parks, they should have no trouble...especially, if this was a typical visit. They wanted Clyde to be good and tired when they left, so they waited for him to finish running around the fenced area with his new friend. But in the time it took Clyde to expend his excess energy, Joe and Nancy ended up in conversation with a handful of other dog owners, as well as a few park staffers. They had discovered one of the less well-known benefits of visiting the Off-Leash Dog Area- it’s a great place to socialize, for owners as well as their pets.

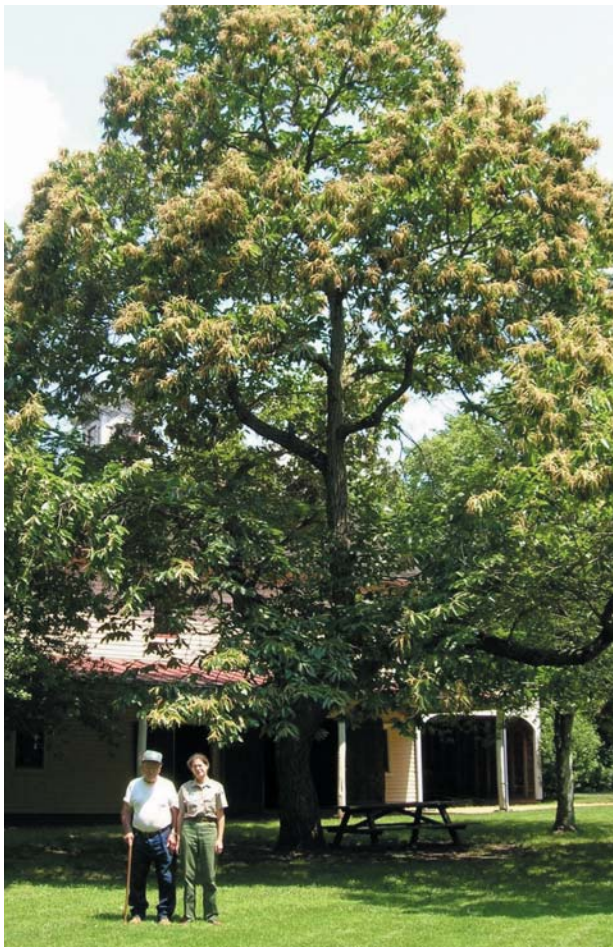
4 *“This is a regular entertainment spot for us.”
“A delight to tour!” “Fantastic.” “Beautiful! Heaven on earth.”*

A Stroll Down Memory Lane

Upper Freehold resident Frank Inman says Historic Walnford has been “like a home” to him and shares some memories of the area's rich history as he reflects on how life has changed in the past half century.

As a young man during the 1940s, Frank Inman was hired as a farm hand and caretaker at the Waln property, a sprawling estate and farm owned by Anne Wightman Meirs (widow of Richard Waln Meirs.) One of his early jobs was “settin' out the trees.” Many trees were planted to beautify the property,- mostly hollies, pines, pink dogwoods, and one very prominent Chinese chestnut. Mrs. Meirs was an avid horticulturalist and directed most of the tree plantings to screen buildings such as the barn, corn crib and house.

Interestingly, when Mr. Inman planted these trees, he was actually making an important and historic change to the property; he was helping to transform the site from a working farm into a pastoral country estate.



Historic Walnford

Caretakers managed all aspects of the property, from landscaping to farming crops to animal husbandry. In that capacity, Mr. Inman also helped care for the site's dairy cows. During the warm-weather months, this meant leading 48 Guernseys down the cow path, (which is still there, by the way) and out to pasture in the fields. In the winter, he chopped corn stalks and leaves into fodder for the cows' bedding. He also grew the very same corn he would use as both feed and fodder for the cows.

Country living for the Waln family descendants at the site was already fading by the time Frank Inman arrived. Mrs. Meirs and her husband were the first property owners in four generations who did not live on site full-time. While the caretakers lived in a special wing of the Waln house, Mrs. Meirs spent most of her time at a larger estate in Philadelphia.

In 1948, Mrs. Meirs closed the dairy farm and sold off all the cows and machinery at a big farm sale. Mr. Inman continued to work at Walnford and other farms for another year before moving on to take a job on the Pemberton-Hightstown railroad (now the Park System's planned Union Transportation Trail.)

The Park System is fortunate that Frank Inman returned to Walnford after his retirement to offer his invaluable perspective to visitors and staff. If you are lucky enough to see him on your next Walnford visit, please be sure to ask about the beautiful Chinese chestnut he planted more than 60 years ago.



*“A wonderful educational experience- especially for children.” “Breathtaking.”
“A beautifully maintained park.” “Very relaxing and interesting.”* 5



Local Painter Inspired by Scenery

Local artist Earl Martell has a personal connection to Thompson Park dating back almost three decades. He can be seen most days of the week, surrounded by his paintings and equipment, capturing the scenery near Marlu Lake on canvas.

Earl Martell's family settled in this area in 1965. He was playing soccer with the Middletown Men's Summer Soccer League in the 1970s when that organization first set up home field at Thompson Park. He was also an All-American player on the Brookdale soccer team and spent a lot of time running the fields at Thompson Park, (then a dairy farm), for long-distance practice.

Although it was through running and soccer that Earl first developed his relationship to Thompson Park, now it is painting that draws him to its meadows, roadways and landscape. After much life experience, travel, and a painting career that landed him a studio/gallery space in Newark, Earl moved back to the area full time after 9/11 and now lives in Eatontown.

For Earl, Thompson Park is an area with deep historical connections. As a painter who appreciates beautiful scenery and as an athlete who still exercises every day, it is no surprise that he was drawn to spend time there.



Thompson Park

Earl brings a digital camera with him on his daily walks and takes pictures when he is struck by a certain composition. When he finds himself taking the same picture over and over again, he knows it will become a painting. He then returns with his equipment and positions himself to paint the scene.

Earl sees his paintings as long-term projects and enjoys visiting a site each day to see how things change over time. He explains it like this, "even if you see the same bench every day, it is different every day because nature is always in the process of renewal and decay; and we are a part of that process. As an artist, painting is a way to express yourself through the changing landscape."

In total, Earl has approximately 35 paintings of Thompson Park, 20 of which are finished and framed. The paintings represent all four seasons and, as staff can attest, it is not unusual to find Earl out in the park in the middle of winter. "That's the best time to see structure," says Earl. "The underlying neutralization of color becomes apparent in winter; the bark, stalks and earth tones are all on display." In other words, to a painter like Earl, there is still great beauty after all the color and leaves are gone.

*"What a peaceful, wonderful place!" "We come back every year."
6 "Really fun stuff-a great Father's Day activity." "This farm is awesome!"
"What a treasure! Hats off to Monmouth County for preserving this estate!"*

The Place to Play

It's an unseasonably warm day in November and the kids are off from school, a perfect day for the park. At Dorbrook Recreation Area in Colts Neck, everyone is dressed in shorts or short sleeves, the parking lot is full, and there are well over a hundred people of all ages enjoying the Challenger Place playground.

With its sandbox and multiple jungle gyms, slides and swings, this is a must-see destination for area parents and grandparents, with young children. Sea Bright resident Dina Long, for example, travels out to Dorbrook so that her son can enjoy the park with the “diggers and sand - as if there isn't enough sand in Sea Bright,” she jokes.

The Long family recently discovered this playground when Dina's husband and son visited Dorbrook with friends. Since then, 3 1/2 year-old Sam keeps asking to come back. Like most youngsters, he really enjoys the swings, as well as the motorcycles and roller slide (a slide with built-in rollers.) As a parent, Dina “loves that it's safe and well-contained, so you can keep an eye on your kids while they play.”

There are multiple benches where adults can sit and watch their children, as well as tables so the whole family can relax and enjoy a packed snack or beverage.

Interestingly, most visitors probably don't even realize the playground's most outstanding feature- universal accessibility. This barrier-free playground has specially

raised surfaces, for instance, that make it easier for people in wheelchairs to get around. There are cushioned swings and padded ground cover as well, to help those with physical disabilities.

Challenger Place, like other Park System playgrounds, is also designed to provide different levels of play for different ages and abilities. As a consequence, children who have been visiting the playground for years still find new features to explore. Tinton Falls resident Tricia Hicks says that her 4-year-old Madeleine has enjoyed the slides and monkey bars ever since she started walking. But before that, it was all about the sandbox. Also, parents with children of different ages can bring them all and know that each child will find something to do.

Children who aren't yet big enough to enjoy most of the playground features can visit the park to socialize. Lincroft resident Karen Varichio, for example, brings her 1-year old Luke a couple of times a month just to walk around and see the other kids. “He gets so happy when we arrive,” she says.

While their children may be of different ages, all the parents who visit Dorbrook's Challenger Place have one thing in common - they also enjoy the park's water playground, or Sprayground, in the summer. One of the area's most well-known attractions, it's the perfect place to cool off when the temperature goes up, making Dorbrook a great destination whatever the season.



Dorbrook Recreation Area

*“Thank you for preserving this important property for us all!” “My whole family had fun. This place is wonderful.”
“We’re here again!!! We love this place.” “Everything is beautiful.” 7
“What a wonderful adventure!”*

Open Space Preservation

Monmouth County Park System lands complement the existing federal, state, and municipal parks within the 427 square mile county. Monmouth County is the third largest county landowner, with the Park System being the steward of all County-owned park and recreation lands.

Your county parks are an investment in the future well-being of Monmouth County citizens. Open spaces, combined with recreation services and improved facilities, act as an economic stimulant, help reduce healthcare costs, reduce vandalism, produce revenue, enhance land values, act as a catalyst for tourism, and help the workforce to be more productive.

In 2006, 227 acres were added to existing park areas, increasing the total acres of your Park System to 12,613 acres. An additional 755 acres are held as conservation or public access easements that provide a buffer between development and natural areas.

Acres added to existing park areas in 2006 were:

Bayshore Waterfront Park	> 1 acre
Crosswicks Creek Greenway	17 acres
DeBois Creek Recreation Area	26 acres
Huber Woods Park	99 acres
Manasquan River Greenway	65 acres
Turkey Swamp Park	16 acres
Union Transportation Trail	3 acres

Twelve acres were added to Monmouth County's Open Space inventory as a conservation easement in Upper Freehold Township.

The commitment of Monmouth County's Board of Chosen Freeholders was reinforced in 2006 when they placed a non-binding referendum on the November ballot, asking voters to support a conversion of the County's Open Space Trust Fund from a fixed amount to an apportioned tax rate of 1.5 cents for each \$100 of equalized property valuation. County voters approved the measure by a 65% margin, providing for

the Open Space Trust Fund to increase proportionately with local property values and enable the County to purchase open space, protect drinking water sources, filter noise and air pollution and provide more recreation opportunities. Ultimately, the Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund helps the Park System move toward the long-term goal of permanently preserving 19,099 acres for County open space, park, and recreation purposes.



Freeholder Lillian Burry presents the 1st Open Space Grant Program sign to Neptune Twp. Recreation Director Dawn Thompson

Annually, the County collects \$16 million through the voter-approved County Open Space Tax and commits \$2 million to the Open Space Fund to assist municipal open space and park development projects. Your Park System administers this competitive program. In 2006, the program's third year, the 14 municipalities that received approval for projects were Atlantic Highlands, Freehold Township, Howell, Keansburg, Keyport, Millstone, Neptune City, Neptune Township, Ocean Township, Oceanport, Spring Lake Heights, Tinton Falls, Upper Freehold Township and Wall Township.

Visitor Services Information

The offering of recreation programs and events extends your Park System's delivery of services to the residents of Monmouth County. Participation in organized park activities provides many people with an introduction to the county's open spaces that are protected for their use and enjoyment.

Visitor Services accomplishments in 2006 included:

- Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the national award-winning 'Creatures of the Night' family fun hayride at Huber Woods Park
- Addition of 'Happy Trails to You and Baby' program series for new parents and babies up to nine months of age. The group walked at a new park each week and spent time socializing while keeping fit in the outdoors.
- Expansion of group story hours at Huber Woods and Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center to include birding and sea life topics
- Continuation of family-oriented outdoor offerings and overnight camping trips to Turkey Swamp Park with 'Spring into Spring' and 'Halloween Overnight'
- Creation of interpretive displays about invasive plant species, discovering the outdoors, cultural oddities and antiquities, and creative arts
- Addition of 'Summer Chefs' cooking program to introduce children to the joy of cooking tasty, nutritious food in a safe way during warm weather
- Increase in arts & craft, music, geography, and fitness offerings by expanding programs at the Henry Hudson Trail Activity Center
- Coordination of the weekly participation of children in Monmouth University summer camps
- Expansion of home-schooled student programming to include art and craft programs
- Provision of 800 Recreation Assistance Programs to 9,542 Monmouth County youth
- Provision of physical activity opportunities to 2,898 urban youth with the Mobile Recreation van

- Coordination of 8 summer Extreme Team weeks when 59 teens tested themselves while exploring new types of recreation.
- Expansion of marine science programs by 15%
- Continuation of O2 (Outdoor Opportunities.) O2 engages 12 to 15 year olds in activities to promote positive self-image and peer interaction.
- Provision of 81 days of activities at the Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park for a total of 3,886 units of service to the local community
- Establishment of a summer instructional swim program for children with special needs
- Offering 40 programs geared to adults and children with special needs, including 63 campers in the Recreation Challenge and Adult Adventurers programs
- Organization of 2 successful student art exhibits at the Thompson Park Creative Arts Center
- Presentation of the highly-successful 'Sunday Smilers' and 'Children's Summer Theatre' series
- Addition of 'Nature Now' photograph feature to monmouthcountyparks.com
- Conversion of the Park System's Directory to a seasonal publication



Manasquan Reservoir

"Wow. You've done a great job making this park inviting and lovely."

"Great place for all ages." "Love the park...the fishing is amazing."

"Unbelievable spot, so beautifully preserved." "Beautiful farm - I love it!"

2006 County Park Acreage - by Category*

Open Lands

Baysholm	71
Yellowbrook Tract	337

Recreation Areas

DeBois Recreation Area	135
Dorbrook Recreation Area	535
Sunnyside Recreation Area	135
Wolf Hill Recreation Area	92

Regional Parks

Bayshore Waterfront Park	222
Big Brook Park	378
Clayton Park	422
Hartshorne Woods Park	787
Holmdel Park	565
Huber Woods Park	357
Perrineville Lake Park	485
Shark River Park	933
Tatum Park	366
Thompson Park	665
Turkey Swamp Park	2048

Special Use Area

Deep Cut Gardens	54
East Freehold Showgrounds	81
Longstreet Farm, Historic	9
Manasquan Reservoir	152**
Monmouth Cove Marina	11
Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook	12
Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park	38
Walnford, Historic	36

Unclassified

Durand Tract <i>(leased to Freehold Township for recreational purposes)</i>	94
Weltz Park	165

Conservation Area

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area	52
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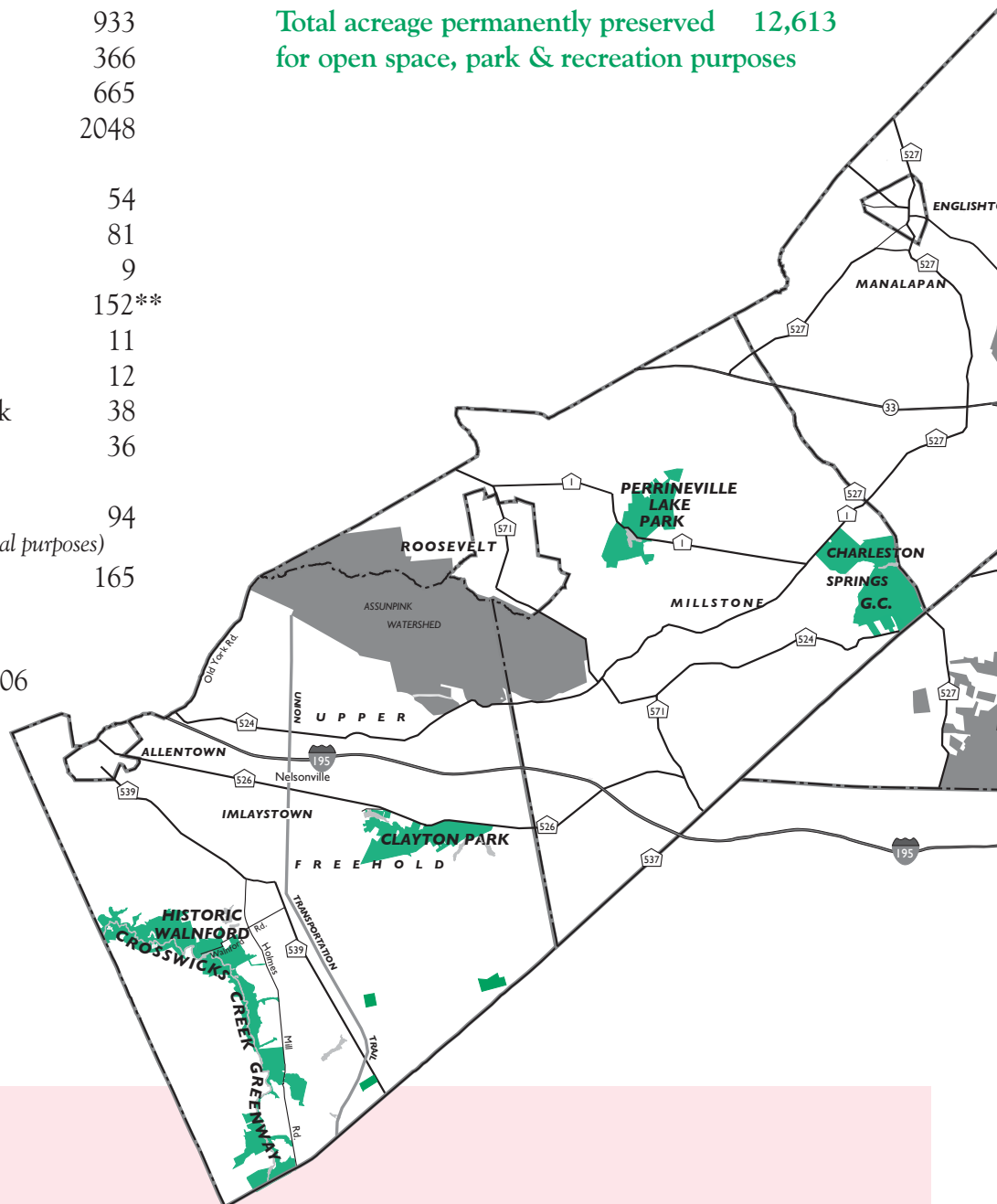
Golf Courses

Bel-Aire Golf Course	101
Charleston Springs Golf Course	770
Hominy Hill Golf Course	183
Howell Park Golf Course	308
Pine Brook Golf Course	61
Shark River Golf Course	176

Greenways

Crosswicks Creek Greenway	1245
Henry Hudson Trail	100
Manasquan River Greenway	346
Metedeconk River Greenway	83
Union Transportation Trail	3

Total acreage permanently preserved 12,613
for open space, park & recreation purposes



*Several parks were reclassified in 2006

**An additional 1052 acres are owned by NJ Water Supply Authority and managed by the Park System

Projects and Improvements

The Park System continued to improve visitor access to and use of park facilities throughout the county by completing several projects. Additionally, on-going maintenance activities, including building repairs and alterations, painting, roofing, paving and plantings, were completed in 2006.

Activities, events and projects in the county parks in 2006 included

- Settling with the County's insurance provider on the \$9.8 million claim related to the February fire at the Thompson Park Visitor Center. The 17,000 square-foot former Thompson family home was destroyed by a fast-moving fire on February 6th. The Monmouth County Fire Marshall determined the cause of the fire to have been a contractor's acetylene torch.

- Completion of an official cross-country trail and improved visitor access parking lots at Shark River Park

- Assisting the Borough of Manasquan with 75th Anniversary festivities held at the Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area

- Completion of the second year of a Deer Management Program, including the opening of 11 parks for the controlled hunting of white-tailed deer. The Program addresses the escalating growth of the number of white-tailed deer and their impact on health of the forest and plant communities in Monmouth County parks.



Thompson Park

- Working cooperatively with the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission on a program at Holmdel Park's Shaw Arboretum
- Completion of work on trail sections at Holmdel Park's Ramanessin section, Turkey Swamp Park's Red Fox Trail and Metedeconk Trail, Shark River Park's Hidden Creek Trail
- Assisting the NJ DEP in a small, scientific mammal and vegetative sampling program at Turkey Swamp Park
- Improving visitor amenities and handicapped access to the Sprayground at Dorbrook Recreation Area
- Resurfacing of the Challenger Place playground at Dorbrook Recreation Area and the playground at Manasquan Reservoir
- Creation of a trail access to the new Timolat property at Huber Woods Park
- Consolidation of access to Thompson Park and creation of additional vehicle parking and improved visitor access to the park's trails
- Repairing the Marlu Dam and providing access to the south side of Thompson Park
- Expansion of the Off-Leash Dog Area at Thompson Park to include ADA access to the entire area
- Planting 70 large-caliber trees at Thompson Park
- Hosting 29 horse and dog events at East Freehold Showgrounds
- Installation of an orienteering course at Turkey Swamp Park (project completed by an Eagle Scout)
- Adding a new Wildlife Observation Blind at the Manasquan Reservoir
- Expanding the use of Charleston Springs Golf Course by building and opening a multiple-use trail and parking lot

12 *"Monmouth County Parks-our home away from home."
"The bird room was a big hit...so happy to have found this park."
"Amazing-loved the story about the house." "Great!" "How lovely!"*

2006 Park Attendance

Bayshore Waterfront Park.....	181,141
Bel-Aire Golf Course -18 holes.....	26,187
Bel-Aire Golf Course - 9 holes.....	14,366
Clayton Park.....	48,195
Charleston Springs Golf Course	49,867
Deep Cut Gardens.....	78,965
Dorbrook Recreation Area.....	679,877
East Freehold Showgrounds.....	127,805
Hartshorne Woods Park.....	88,412
Henry Hudson Trail.....	252,870
Historic Longstreet Farm.....	87,580
Historic Walnford.....	9,936
Holmdel Park.....	790,303
Hominy Hill Golf Course.....	38,138
Howell Park Golf Course.....	32,003
Huber Woods Park.....	54,236
Manasquan Reservoir.....	770,848
Monmouth Cove Marina.....	28,923
Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook.....	127,531
Pine Brook Golf Course.....	24,888
Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.....	316,508
Shark River Golf Course.....	32,690
Shark River Park.....	234,105
Tatum Park.....	149,776
Thompson Park.....	360,308
Turkey Swamp Park.....	216,171

Total Attendance.....4,821,630

- Opening the Short Game Area at Charleston Springs Golf Course for play
- Rebuilding hole #4 on the Par 3 Course at Bel-Aire Golf Course
- Completion of an accessible patio and walkways at Shark River Golf Course
- Construction of a new 3rd hole and reversing the 9th hole at Shark River Golf Course
- Improving drainage in the #18 green area at Pine Brook Golf Course



Thompson Park

“An absolutely wonderful and inspiring learning center!”
“This park is wonderful!” “Like always, we learned something new.” “Glorious” ¹³

Park Supporters

Volunteers in Parks



The Volunteers In Parks program is an umbrella under which 1,023 individuals donated 22,589 hours of their time to help the Park System during 2006. Volunteer experiences ranged from acting in summer theater and building boardwalks on trails to guiding groups of visitors at the historic sites

and assisting with programs for individuals with disabilities. Scout groups and service club members turned out en masse to help with dune habitat restoration at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park. Park Rangers worked alongside 216 volunteers who gave 1,134 hours of their time to maintain trails in 2006. Volunteers led 55 bus trips to sporting and cultural events. Members of Monmouth County's Master Gardener program worked hard to help keep gardens blooming at Deep Cut Gardens, Thompson Park, and Mt. Mitchill Scenic Overlook. Volunteering or helping out at races and special events, assisting disabled horseback riders, leading hikes, and clearing out water bars on trails are but a few of the ways that hundreds of people make a difference in the Park System. To become

part of **Volunteers In Parks**, contact the **Volunteer Office at Coordinator of Volunteers**, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738 or by email at volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com; or call 732-842-4000, ext. 4283.



Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park



Turkey Swamp Park

Friends of the Parks



The "Friends of the Parks", a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization, is comprised of citizens and businesses committed to supporting the Park System. Since 1991, the Friends have had a positive impact on the landscape of the parks by providing additional funding for recreation programs and special improvement projects. In 2006, the Friends funded the start-up of a Memorial Tree Grove at Thompson Park, as well as improvements to the park's off-leash dog area and challenge ropes course for the outdoor adventure program; period-appropriate clothing and antiques for Longstreet Farm; and "camperships" benefitting summer programs for urban youth. Annual activities included a golf outing, Ballads in the Woods and support of the trail maintenance program.

To become a Friend of the Parks, contact Friends of the Parks, P.O. Box 686, Lincroft, NJ 07738-0686; visit www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com; or call 732-975-9735.

"The highlight for all of us was the live music." "Courteous" "Gorgeous"

"One of the best organized and fun events of the year!"

"I couldn't have asked for better service." "We had a great time at the festival today."

Special People United to Ride

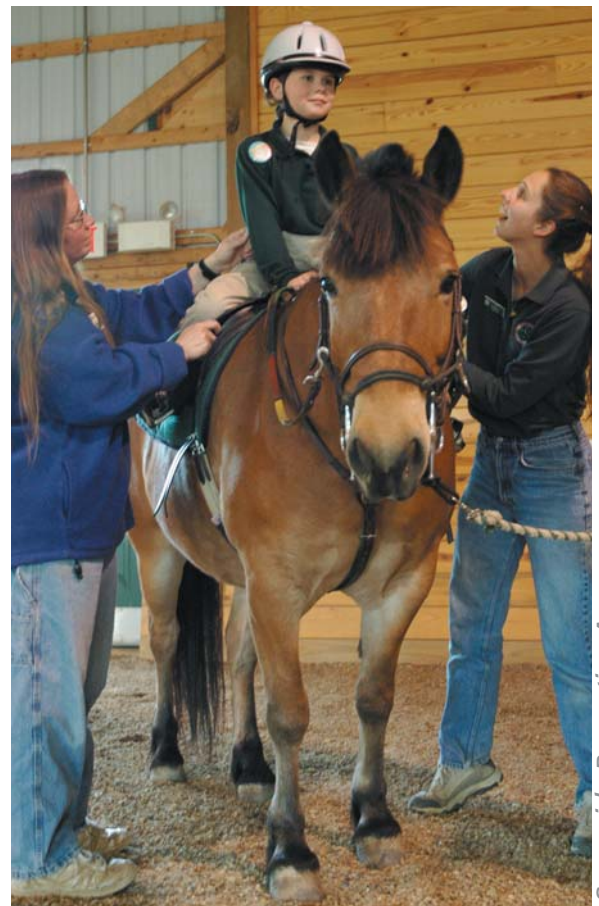


SPUR

Celebrating a 25-year partnership, the Park System and Special People United to Ride (SPUR) have collaborated to provide people with disabilities year-round opportunities to participate in a therapeutic horseback riding program. SPUR, a not-for-profit 501(c)3

charitable organization, has assisted in this effort by raising funds to provide student scholarships, acquire therapy horses, purchase specialized riding equipment, train volunteers and instructors and construct the riding area and stables at Sunnyside Recreation Area. In 2006, 96 disabled riders were afforded the socio-motor benefits of individually designed and supervised therapeutic riding lessons. SPUR provided 17 of these students with “riderships.” Building on the success of the therapeutic riding program, a new advanced group program was established called ARIES (Advanced Riders and Independent Equestrians of SPUR).

To learn more about SPUR, write to SPUR, c/o Monmouth County Park System, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738-1695; visit www.spuronline.org; or call 732-224-1367



Sunnyside Recreation Area



Huber Woods Park

Monmouth Conservation Foundation



The Monmouth Conservation Foundation continues to partner with your Park System, local municipalities, and other organizations to ensure a green and open landscape in Monmouth County. The Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization is dedicated to acquiring

and holding our County's rapidly diminishing open space until the Park System or a local municipality is able to purchase and permanently preserve and manage the land. In 2006, the group coordinated the purchase of the Timolat tract as an addition to Huber Woods Park and served as the local information source for the County's November open space ballot question. To date, the Foundation has assisted in the permanent preservation of over 3,100 acres, of which more than 2,100 acres are part of your Park System. To learn how you can help, write Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Box 4150, Middletown, NJ 07748; or visit www.monmouthconservation.org; or call 732-671-7000.

*“We had a great time at the festival today.” “Wonderful”
“That was the best way to start the day.” “Accommodating”* 15

2006 Park System Volunteers

Individuals who gave more than 40 hours of service

Jackie Abeltin	Joyce Henry	Ashley B. O'Hagan	Rickey A. Smith
Jessica E. Adametz	Jonathan M. Herbst	Joanne O'Leary	Mary Stacey
John Alfonso	Christopher Hetem	Alex Osnato	Christian Stacey
Beverly N. Anthony	Lauren M. Huber	Krutika Parasar	Andrew B. Staniforth
Kate Barron	Frank Inman	Dina Parrello	James Steele
Catherine M. Barry	Billy Introcaso	Jan L. Paul	Sean D. Stever
Stavros Basis	Jean Isley	Wende Pickens	Brooke Stoppiglio
John Bauer	Robert Isley	Devon Pluck	Jennifer A. Tandler
Bob Beccarelli	Linda Jensen	Linda Pollack	Doris Tierney
Patricia Bernstein	Amy L. Johnson	Kenneth A. Puryear	Matthew S. Utnick
Kirk Bixby	Charles Katten	Hayley Radin	Samantha Vallone
Pete Brady	Ben Katz	Robert L. Randall	Barbara A. Venanzini
Christine Brienza	Daniel Kelly	Betty Randall	Kevin R. Walsh
Stacy B. Brody	Carl Kowalski	Melissa Reese	Helen Weber
William Brown Jr.	Caitlin B. Krow	Jason Reilly	Lyndsay Williams
Sandy Burn	Jeanne Laffer	Krystal Roccaro	Laury Wills
Nina K. Cabrera	Lawrence Lagan	Leslie E. Roche	Owen T. Wilson
Harris E. Cabrera	Christine Landuyt	David E. Roche	Joyce Wingerter
Lucy I. Cabrera	Linda Lawton	Stephanie Rockwell	Ronald C. Wright
Emma Caccavale	Brooke Lichter	Susan Ryan	Tamra N. Wroblesky
John Caddock	Jeanette Lingelbach	Helene Schroeder	Rebecca Wu
Stacy Coppola	Gerry Lingner	Richard Scott	August E. Wuillermin
Joe Coppola	Chelsea M Livingstone	Casey O. Shields	Amanda Zablocky
James Cusick	Lindsey Lobaugh	Richard Siessel	Shelley Ziegler
Raymond Dademo	Peter MacConnell		
Kirsten Dademo	Stephen Mackiewicz		
Cynthia Dannen	Kate Maloney		
Doug Davenport	Ralph Maratea		
Danielle Decker	Karen Martin		
Louise Del Collo	Michelle D. Masarik		
Elizabeth Devine	Dawna L. McClendon		
Arthur Dietrich	Patrice McCoy		
Robert Ernsdorff	Kevin T. McGee		
Kristie Eshelman	Jessica Mejia		
Phillip Esposito	Alisha Mejia		
Stephanie A. Fernandez	Carol E. Migrala		
Harden Fowler	Michael S. Miller		
Michelle Gagliardi	Barry I. Miller		
Ruth Gariepy	Ray Miller		
Justine E. Giannino	Alysson M. Mondoro		
Kelly E. Giles	Jeff Mondoro		
Keith M. Gissubel	Eileen Murphy		
Michael Graw	Chelsea Murray		
Rachel Gross	Drew Nathanson		
Martin Grubman	Alexanne Neff		
Sarah Gyory	Jackie Neill		
James Henry	Arthur Neill		

2006 Volunteer Groups

Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow (Na Tsi Hi Lodge);
Pack 3 (Little Silver); Pack 205 (Middletown); Troop 50
(Shrewsbury); Troop 110 (Lincroft); Troops 258 & 300
(Howell); Troop 866 (Matawan)

Canon USA

Georgian Court University

Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts Troop 388 (Middletown);
Troop 905 (Manalapan)

Huber Woods Equestrian Association

Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association

Matawan Downtown Alliance

Millstone Trail Blazers

Middletown High School North

Monmouth County Vocational High Technology
High School Environmental Club

Oak Hill Academy

Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Master Gardeners,
Monmouth County

Shrewsbury Borough School

Shore Regional High School Interact Club

Timberland Store, Jackson

*"What wonderful history." "Wow. We love this place!"
"Extremely informative and upbeat." "Fantastic" "Every day was another adventure."
16 "My kids have never had a better-trained group of counselors."*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(unaudited)

Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balances For Year Ending December 31, 2006

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Donations</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$8,739,052	\$	\$8,621,096	\$117,956
INCOME				
County Appropriation				
Salaries/Wages	16,363,294	16,363,294		
Other Expense Appropriation	3,775,548	3,775,548		
Revenue				
Donations	6,574			6,574
Golf Courses	8,743,131	5,905,300	2,837,831	
Parks	1,864,738	791,373	1,073,365	
Monmouth Cove Marina	756,389		756,389	
Visitor Services	1,970,550		1,970,550	
Total Funds	\$33,480,224	\$26,835,515	\$6,638,135	\$6,574
EXPENDITURES				
Personnel	17,342,218	16,714,674	627,544	
Operations	9,042,250	3,269,063	5,756,190	16,997
Line Item Capital Expenditures				
Buildings & Facilities	174,737	12,181	162,556	
Equipment- Additional	255,973	212,170	43,803	
Equipment- Replaced	1,169,922	1,044,457	125,465	
Site Improvements	142,902	34,287	108,615	
General Revenue Returned to Treasurer				
Golf Courses	5,905,300	5,905,300		
Parks	791,373	791,373		
Total Expenditures	\$34,824,675	\$27,983,505	\$6,824,173	\$16,997
Excess (Deficit) in Revenues	-1,344,451	-1,147,990	-186,038	-10,423
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$7,394,601	-\$1,147,990	\$8,435,058	\$107,533
Capital Cash & Open Space Expenditures: *				
Site Improvements	\$3,729,317			
Land Acquisition	22,355,551			
Total	\$26,084,868			

* not included in above statement of expenditures

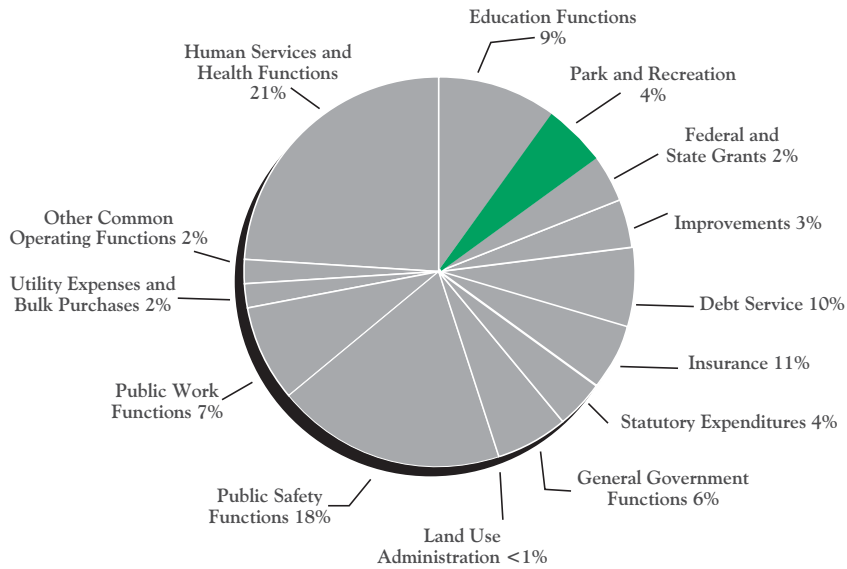
2006 Value of Other Donations, Contributions and Grants Received

(not included in Financial Statement - unaudited)

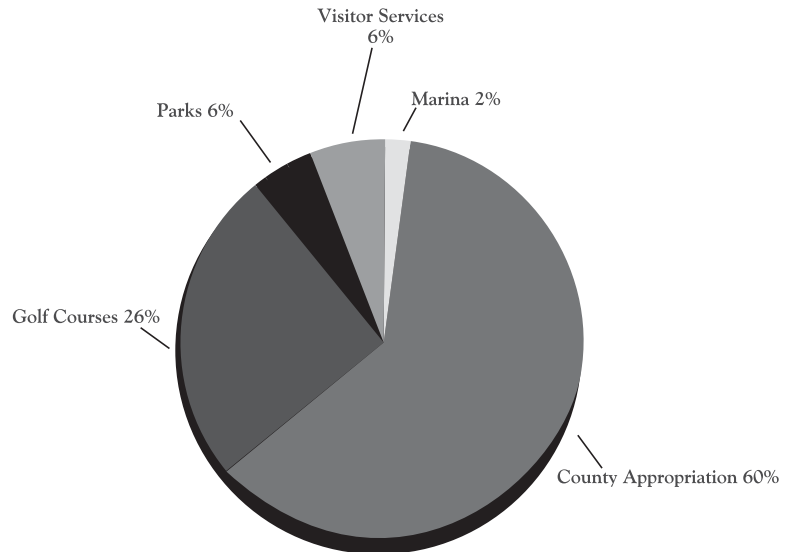
<u>Donations and Contributions</u>	\$	\$
Bayshore Development Office - misc. office furniture/equipment		500.00
Friends of the Parks		
RAP and other programs	22,340.00	
Park System History Project	25,000.00	
Various Park Improvements	23,300.00	
N.J. Historical Commission Grant	16,000.00	
		86,640.00
Land Donations - 3.5 acres (additions to Yellow Brook Tract)		100,000.00
Monmouth University Urban Rec. Camps		9,845.00
Monmouth Conservation Foundation (MCF)		
Acq. Addition Huber Woods (Timolat)	1,000,000.00	
Other Acq. and Support Services	17,868.00	
		1,017,868.00
Special People United to Ride (SPUR)		
Scholarships	5,345.00	
In Kind Donations/Misc. Items	1,200.00	
Horse	7,500.00	
Building Capital/Phase 2	120,000.00	
		134,045.00
Miscellaneous Donated Items		670.00
 <u>Grants</u>		
N.J. Green Acres Grants - Various Acquisition Projects		990,379.00
 <u>Volunteer Hours</u> *		
1,023 volunteers for a total of 22,589 hours @ \$18.05/hr		407,731.45
	Total	\$2,747,678.45

* Based on Points of Light value

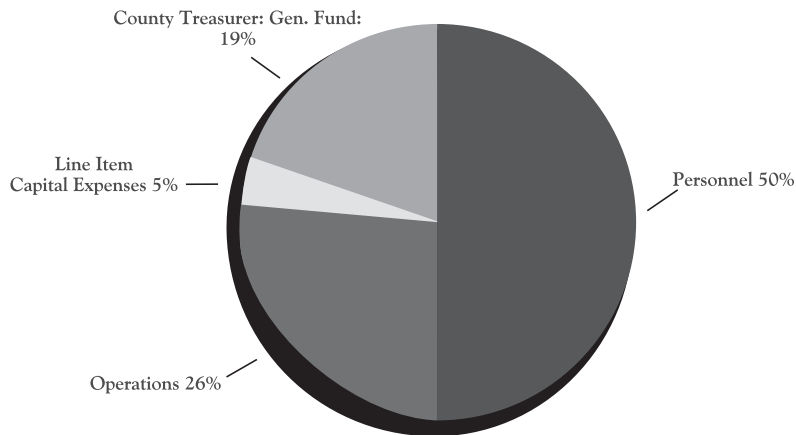
2006 Monmouth County Budget Appropriations



2006 Park System Revenue (\$33,480,224.) By Source



2006 Park System Expenditures (\$34,824,675.) By Source (Excluding Capital)



2006 Quick Facts

Park Operations

Acreage

Total acres in County Park System.....	12,613
Acres acquired in 2006.....	227
Total acres in Monmouth County.....	301,804
Long - term county open space acreage goal.....	19,099
Largest park (in acres) - Turkey Swamp Park.....	1,568
Smallest park (in acres) - Mt. Mitchill Scenic Overlook.....	12
Total miles of trails.....	113
Acres managed as natural field areas.....	1,546

Visitation

Total County Park Visitation in 2006.....	4,821,630
County population (County Planning Board Estimate).....	650,036
Visitation increase at Dorbrook Recreation Area.....	23%
Summer visitation at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.....	165,173
Camper nights at Turkey Swamp Campground.....	20,114

Recreation

Programming

Total recreation programs offered.....	4,467
Participants in programs.....	119,707
Participants in Recreation Assistance Programs.....	9,542
Mobile Recreation participants.....	2,898
Attendance at the Monmouth County Fair.....	67,500

Golf

Total rounds of golf (all courses).....	218,140
Non-resident Golf Reservation Service Cards sold.....	103
Resident Golf I.D. Cards sold.....	20,482

Personnel

Full-time staff.....	361
Part-time staff (seasonal).....	366
Program/contractual employees.....	200
Volunteers.....	1,023
Total volunteer hours.....	22,589
Members of the Board of Recreation Commissioners.....	9

Your Monmouth County Park System is proud to have achieved national accreditation by the National Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Your Park System is proud to be the first accredited of agency out of only 55 accredited agencies in the nation and one of only two organizations in New Jersey to have achieved such an honor.

Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders

William C. Barham, Director
Robert D. Clifton, Deputy Director
Theodore J. Narozanick
Anna C. Little
Lillian G. Burry

Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners

Edward J. Loud, Chairman
Frederick C. Kniesler, Vice Chairman
Adeline H. Lubkert, Past Chairman
Channing P. Irwin
Michael G. Harmon
Fred J. Rummel
Violeta Peters
Carl Williams, Jr.
N. Britt Raynor
Kevin Mandeville
Malcolm Carton, County Counsel
James J. Truncer, Secretary/Director

1	2	
3	4	5
6	7	

*Back Cover Photos 1.Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook 2.Holmdel Park
3.Hartshorne Woods Park 4.Historic Longstreet Farm 5.Holmdel Park
6.Hominy Hill Golf Course 7.Deep Cut Gardens*



Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738



732-842-4000

info@monmouthcountyparks.com
www.monmouthcountyparks.com



The Nation's First Accredited Park and Recreation Agency