

1.4.1 AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Monmouth County Park System Mission Statement

The Board of Recreation Commissioners is committed to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Monmouth County by providing open space, park and recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services of the highest quality and to furnishing these recreational and educational opportunities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible. The Board shall pursue this mission in the following ways:

- 1. by studying, planning, acquiring, improving, and managing lands of county significance for parks, recreation, conservation, historic, agricultural, and open-space preservation;*
- 2. by protecting and interpreting natural, historic, and cultural resources of county significance;*
- 3. by providing recreational facilities, programs, and services to meet the county-wide needs of the citizens of Monmouth County for the recreation, health and well-being of body, mind, and spirit; and*
- 4. by implementing this mission in coordination with elected and appointed County officials and in accordance with the Board's adopted policies.*

Open Space Preservation Goals [Source: County Open Space Plan]

Permanently preserve public land of county significance to support future regional conservation and recreation needs throughout the county.

The preserved County land should form an integrated system of open space that is sufficiently diverse and comprehensive to protect the significant natural and man-made landscapes that have defined Monmouth County in past generations and to provide a wide range of resource-based recreation opportunities for current and future generations.

Open Space Preservation Objectives [Source: County Open Space Plan]

Encourage the State to actively pursue implementation of its State open space plan including the expansion of its open space holdings in Monmouth County and to act as a responsible steward of State-owned open space.

Encourage continued State funding of County, municipal, and non-profit park acquisition and improvement projects and consideration of a specific allocation to counties for regional open space acquisition.

Encourage all government entities at the Federal, State, regional and local levels to review surplus lands for their potential open space values prior to disposal and act to ensure that such lands of particular park, recreation, and open space value remain in public ownership.

Encourage municipalities to develop open space plans that address local issues of redevelopment, protection of natural, cultural and historic resources, recreation opportunities, preservation of community character and green infrastructure.

Encourage municipalities to establish and utilize local open space trust funds to acquire, develop, and maintain local park, recreation, and open space areas.

Encourage municipalities and private developers to pursue creative development techniques to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources and protect and potentially create public recreation resources without the expenditure of public funds.

Encourage pedestrian and bicycle linkages between different open space areas and between open space areas, residential areas, schools, and other centers of activity.

Encourage farmland preservation at the State, county and local levels.

Influence Federal, State, regional and local policies that impact open space.

Work with the County Planning Board and County Geographic Information Systems Office to compile accurate maps of municipally preserved farmland and open space.

Recommend that the Board of Chosen Freeholders increase funding for County park capital improvements and the budget for County park operations in proportion to the acquisition of additional land in order to prevent a drop in the basic level of service as the system grows.

Promote public awareness and appreciation of the open space resources and park facilities available to them.

Manage, design, and improve County park properties in a manner that protects valuable resources and is consistent with the designated purposes, unique character, and physical conditions of each property.

Support municipal efforts to acquire and improve park and open space lands to meet local needs through a County-funded grant program and special assistance to State-designated Urban Aid communities.

Recommend that the Board of Chosen Freeholders increase the funding for open space preservation, including farmland preservation, while land is still available to be preserved.

Seek interagency cooperation to preserve open space of county significance and work to avoid interagency competition or conflict.

Acquire sites as part of the County Park System in accordance with the Sites List and guidelines of the County Open Space Plan.

Park Development and Maintenance Goals [*Source: Park Development and Maintenance Plan*]

The Park System shall develop and maintain areas and facilities to support public use and programming within County park lands to meet the county-wide needs of the citizens of Monmouth County.

The Park System shall protect and interpret the natural, historic, and cultural resources that are part of the Monmouth County Park System.

Park Development and Maintenance Objectives [*Source : Park Development and Maintenance Plan*]

Sustain and enhance the inventory of open space resources in order to retain the many values for which they are preserved.

Maintain park improvements to ensure that they serve the purposes for which they are intended and meet or exceed the standards of quality expected by the public.

Ensure public safety, reduce risk exposure and improve facility and site accessibility to meet mandated standards.

Improve existing facilities and provide new regional facilities necessary to meet visitor needs and expectations.

Provide sufficient operating and capital resources to manage open space resources, maintain park improvements, maintain public safety, and expand recreation opportunities through the improvement of existing facilities and creation of new facilities.

Recreation Services Plan Goals *[Source: Recreation Services Plan]*

The Park System shall provide a range of quality regional recreational services, programs, and places that enhance and enrich the overall lives and wellness of the people who live and work in Monmouth County.

The Park System shall promote leisure activities and an appreciation of open space and the natural, historic and cultural resources that both support resource-based activities and contribute to the quality of life of the people who live and work in Monmouth County.

The Park System shall furnish recreational opportunities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible and, where appropriate, generate revenue to support the overall recreation services provided by the Park System.

Recreation Services Plan Objectives *[Source: Recreation Services Plan]*

Provide quality year-round opportunities for individuals, families, and groups of all ages, interests, abilities, and skills from throughout Monmouth County to engage in a variety of recreation activities.

Preserve and provide opportunities for recreation activities which are dependent on scarce and/or special land, natural, historic, or cultural resources.

Embrace a resource conservation ethic within the Park System and encourage the same ethic among Monmouth County residents and visitors.

Promote and support a positive County image through quality park sites and memorable recreation experiences.

Inform the public about the availability of Park System recreation services and opportunities.

Generate sufficient revenue to support the availability of a full range of quality facilities, programs and services including a variety of free programs and special events open to the general public and subsidized programs for the disadvantaged.

Promote and support the development and maintenance of lifetime recreation skills and prepare individuals for independent, self-directed participation in the recreational activities of their choice.

Promote and support healthy lifestyles and wellness of body, mind and soul through creative and recreative pursuits.

Provide opportunities for persons with physical and cognitive disabilities to participate in a variety of recreation activities that offer therapeutic benefits.

Make reasonable accommodations to ensure that financial, transportation or physical barriers do not preclude County residents from opportunities to participate in Park System programs and use its facilities.

Work with others to expand and promote the opportunities for recreational activities available to Monmouth County residents and visitors.

Retain qualified individuals to deliver Park System recreation services to the public and support the professional growth of Park System employees through training and participation in professional organizations and continuing education opportunities.

Assess service delivery and continually make refinements to achieve high quality, efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and consumer satisfaction.