



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone
Communications
732-842-4000, ext. 4256
klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com

or

Patti Conroy
Visitor Services
732-842-4000, ext. 4247
pconroy@monmouthcountyparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, October 21, 2025

**COUNTY PARKS TO HOST INFORMATION SESSION ON
PROPOSED OPEN SPACE TAX INCREASE**

LINCROFT — Residents are invited to attend to an information session on the County's Open Space Plan hosted by the Monmouth County Park System on Monday, October 27 at 6 p.m. in the Thompson Park Visitor Center, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft. This year's general election ballot will include a public question on the Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund. County residents are being asked to consider an increase to the tax that would raise the current collected amount of 2.75 cents to 3.75 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation.

The Open Space Trust Fund has supported the purchase of over 571 properties, adding 9,967 preserved acres of County-owned open space. In addition, through the Municipal Open Space Grant Program established by the County Commissioners in 2002, 51 of Monmouth County's 53 municipalities have participated in the program, with 291 grants awarded for land acquisition and park development totaling \$61 million.

Monmouth County is actively working to acquire properties within the project areas identified in the Monmouth County Open Space Plan. Negotiations or appraisals are currently underway with the owners of more than 20 properties. There are many more land preservation projects on the horizon as long as funds are available.

What Will the Proposed Open Space Trust Fund Increase Support?

- ***Dedicate*** sufficient funds for purchasing more park land before open space is forever lost.
- ***Provide*** new access to rivers, lakes, bays and the ocean for recreation.
- ***Create*** new parks; expand existing parks; preserve greenways, stream and trail corridors; dredge recreational waterways; and create connections between parks to establish an integrated open space system throughout the County.
- ***Preserve*** vital watersheds and wetlands, which protect critical drinking water supplies, provide habitat for birds and aquatic life, and prevent flooding.
- ***Advance*** preservation of the County's natural, historic and scenic resources.
- ***Expand*** recreational opportunities throughout the county, which promote health and wellness.
- ***Foster*** balanced development throughout the County to support a vibrant local economy with sustainable practices that keep our communities livable.

For more information about Monmouth County's Open Space program, please visit

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com or call 732-842-4000, ext. 4312. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.

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