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CELEBRATE PARKS & RECREATION MONTH WITH THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

MIDDLETOWN — July is Parks and Recreation month! The Monmouth County Park System has filled the month with activities for county residents to enjoy. Here's what is planned for July:

Fishy Fun

Saturday-Sunday, July 2-3 at 10:30am

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell

Make a fish print or a paper fish craft. Then help us feed the fish in our pond.

Creature Feature

Saturdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 10-11am

Huber Woods Park, Brown's Dock Road, Middletown

Discover fascinating facts about many of the critters that share the county with us through live animals, taxidermy and other artifacts.

Celebrate Independence Day

Saturday-Monday, July 2-4 from 1-4pm

Historic Walnford, Walnford Road, Upper Freehold

Celebrate Independence Day by dipping a quill in ink, donning the fashions of 1776 and imagining life in early America.

Dragonfly Nature Walk

Saturday, July 9 at 10am

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell

Join us for a nature walk as we look for dragonflies. Meet in the lobby. Bring a net if you wish.

Climb Time

Saturday, July 9 from 10am-2pm

Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft

Sunday, July 17 from 1-5pm

Turkey Swamp Park, Georgia Road, Freehold

Join us for a FREE chance to try our 25 foot rock climbing wall.

Eco-Kayak Drop-in Tours on the Navesink River

Thursday, July 7 from 3-4:30pm

Tuesday, July 19 from 12noon-1:30pm

Thursday, July 21 from 2-3:30pm

**Claypit Creek section of Hartshorne Woods Park, Locust Avenue,
Middletown**

Join a Park System Naturalist for a leisurely paddle on the beautiful Navesink River. Novice paddlers welcome. All equipment is provided - single and tandem kayaks are available. Wear appropriate clothing that can get wet. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$20 per person. Cash or check only. First come, first served.

Summer Canoe Rentals

Saturday-Sunday, July 9-10 from 9am-3pm

Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft

Canoes will be available for rental at Marlu Lake. All equipment is provided but a limited number of canoes are available. The cost is \$15 per canoe (which accommodates 1-3 people) for two hours. Cash or check only.

A Honey of a Bee

Sunday, July 10 at 1pm

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell

Learn about our state insect and its importance.

A Taste of Geocaching

Saturday, July 16 from 10am-2pm

Thompson Park Visitor Center, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft

Try this high-tech treasure hunt! This self-led program will help you explore the outdoors in a whole new way. GPS units and basic instructional packet provided.

The cost is \$15 per group (up to four people).

Threshing Demonstration

Saturday-Sunday, July 16-17 from 12noon-2pm

Historic Longstreet Farm, Longstreet Road, Holmdel

See this labor-intensive way of harvesting and processing wheat as the farm staff uses equipment from the 1890s and draft animals.

Sandcastle Adventure

Saturday, July 16 from 4-6pm

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Ocean Avenue, Long Branch

Meet on the beach in front of the pavilion and search for shells and other treasures. Then have fun building a sandcastle using these found items. Please bring a shovel and small bucket. Other molds and tools will be provided.

Participants will have their photo taken with their creations. The cost is \$5 per person; cash or check only.

Ice Cream! Edible History

Sunday, July 17 from 3-4pm

Historic Walnford, Walnford Road, Upper Freehold

Join us for cranking and then tasting this sweet, cool treat as we learn about the history of ice cream as we sit in the shade of the ice house.

Sailboat Rentals

Saturday, July 23 from 9am-12noon

Manasquan Reservoir, Windeler Road, Howell

Are you a sailor without a boat? Rent a 15' American or 12' Laser Pico sailboat. Those renting sailboats must provide a Red Cross, US Sailing or MCPS sailing card. The cost is \$80 per boat. Two person maximum per boat. Cash or check only.

Snake & Shell Day at the Cove

Sunday, July 24 from 10-11am, 11:30am -12:30pm & 1:30-2:30pm

Fisherman's Cove Activity Center, Third Avenue, Manasquan

See and learn about live snakes! Bring along a few favorite beachcombing treasures and we'll help you identify them. All are welcome. Space limited to 20 people. Sign-up sheet available at the site starting at 9am.

37th Annual Monmouth County Fair

Wednesday-Friday, July 27-29 from 5-11pm

Saturday, July 30 from 11am-11pm

Sunday, July 31 from 11am-6pm

East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold

Enjoy the old-fashioned fun of this country fair including 4-H exhibits, amusement rides, entertainment, fireworks, home and garden competitions, an antique & classic auto show and other special attractions. Admission is \$7; ages 12 and under free. Some attractions require additional fees.

Let's Go Outside

Saturday-Sunday, July 30-31 at 2pm

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Georgia Tavern Road, Howell

Join us for a short nature walk. Meet in lobby.

Summer Seining

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays through August 26 from 11am-12noon
Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth
Discover marine life while seining Raritan Bay. Meet on the beach near the fishing pier. Closed-toed shoes required. Sorry, NO GROUPS.

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the Park System at (732) 842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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PICTURED – The pie-eating contest is just one of the many exciting events held at the Monmouth County Fair. This year’s Fair will be held Wednesday-Sunday, July 27-31 at East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold.