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**THE PARK SYSTEM WELCOMES FALL
WITH A VARIETY OF OCTOBER ACTIVITIES**



*Enjoy autumn family fun during **Thompson Park Day!***

MIDDLETOWN - Ready to celebrate fall? This October the Monmouth County Park System has plenty to offer the entire family to enjoy. From exploring the parks with our Roving Park System Naturalist to swapping your old Halloween costumes for new-to-you ensembles, this October is packed with all sorts of fun and excitement. Here's some of what the Park System has to offer you and your family this October:

Roving Park System Naturalist

Friday, October 2 at 10 a.m.

Huber Woods Park, Middletown

Sunday, October 25 at 1 p.m.

Big Brook Park, Marlboro

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and learn about seasonal points of interest. Meet in the parking lot. FREE!

Lunch Break Basketball

Fridays, October 2-30 from 12-1:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Spend your lunch playing full court pick-up games in our climate controlled gym.

The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Eco-Kayak Drop-In Tour of the Manasquan Reservoir

Saturday, October 3 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Novice paddlers welcome! Single and tandem kayaks are available on a first come basis. All tours depart on time. Program is limited to 12 participants. Wear clothing that can get wet. Open to ages 14 and up, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Weight limits for kayaks are 250 lbs. for single and 400 lbs. for a double. Inclement weather will cancel the tour. The cost is \$20 per person, cash or check only.

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, October 3 from 11-11:45 a.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Join us for story time! If the weather is nice, look for the clue at the Horticultural Center's entrance that leads to the secret spot. If it's rainy or cold, we'll be inside.

Recommended for ages 3-7. FREE!

Follow Your Nose Hike

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 at 1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Join a Park System Naturalist for this hike along the bracken trail and find scented clues along the way. FREE!

Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 and 10 & 11 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Monday, October 12 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell

These 45-minute tours are narrated by Park System Naturalists and include opportunities to view local wildlife. The cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child, 12 and under. Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center.

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, October 4-25 from 8-10 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Drop by the Fort Monmouth Recreation Center and shoot some hoops on its full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Climb Time

Sunday, October 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Holmdel Park, Holmdel

Try the Park System's 25' portable climbing wall and experience the sport of rock climbing close to home. Climbers must be 42" or taller and age 8 or older (under 18 with adult). FREE!

Open Ceramics

Sunday, October 4 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft

Choose from a large selection of bisque fired pottery pieces to glaze and make your own. Children 12 and under are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only. Pieces will be fired in about a week.

Open House of the Historic Seabrook-Wilson House

Sundays, October 4-25 from 1-4 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Visit this house, which dates back to the early 1700s, and see displays on the ecology of the bay and local history. FREE!

Photography Reception at Historic Walnford

Sunday, October 4 from 3-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Meet the photographers of the Crestwood Village Photography Club during this opening reception. Their images of Walnford will be on display from 1-4 p.m. in the Cow Barn from October 4-November 1. FREE!

Eek-O-Fabulous Costume Swap Drop Off

Monday-Friday, October 5-9 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Upcycle gently used kids', adults', and even pet costumes for a spooktacular new-to-you ensemble. Costumes must be dropped off in advance at one of the locations below. For each costume you bring, receive a token entitling you to a "new" costume the day of the swap. Costume drop-off is at the Huber Woods Environmental Center, Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Thompson Park Visitor Center, Dorbrook Recreation Area Visitor Center, and Fort Monmouth Recreation Center. The Swap is Sunday, October 11 from 12-2 p.m. at the Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft. FREE!

Coffee Club Mahjong

Tuesdays, October 6-27 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shuffle your tiles and build your walls as you play this ancient, fast-paced Asian game. Both American and Chinese rules will be followed. All levels welcome. The cost is \$4 per person per day; cash or check only.

Teen Open Gym Basketball

Wednesdays, October 7-28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens age 13-18 are invited to play or practice on our courts. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only. Under 18 with parental supervision.

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, October 11 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Come see what the Blacksmith is making in his workshop. FREE!

Ravine Crossing Chorale

Sunday, October 11 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Theater Barn, Lincroft

Ravine Crossing Chorale presents "For Better or Worse," a chorale interpretation of love songs in a variety of styles. FREE!

Butterfly Walk

Wednesday, October 14 at 12 p.m.

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch

Join a Park System Naturalist and head outside to identify butterflies. Walk may be a mile or more. Open to ages 12 and up, under 18 with adult. FREE!

Family Gym Time

Wednesdays, October 14-28 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

We'll have tunnels, gym mats, scooters and other play equipment set up for your entertainment. This is an open play format with no instruction provided. Parent supervision is required and Rec Center staff will be present if you have questions or need assistance. Open to all ages, under 18 with adult. The cost is \$10 per family per day; cash or check only.

Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up

Thursdays, October 15-29 from 8-10 p.m.

Monday, October 26 from 7-9 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

This basketball program is open to men and women age 20 and over. Emphasis of this program is exercise and fun. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Ask a Naturalist

Friday, October 16 from 9-11 a.m.

Shark River Park, Wall Township

Tuesday, October 27 from 1-3 p.m.

Weltz Park, Ocean Township

Explore the trail with a Park System Naturalist. Afterwards, our Naturalist will set up a table to field any and all questions. Feel free to bring your finds and photographs from other adventures and our Naturalist will try to identify them. FREE!

Music Man Rich Marzec

Saturday, October 17 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy music from the 1890s. FREE!

Whose Bones Are Those? Nature Program

Saturday & Sunday, October 17 & 18 at 11 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Test your skeleton ID skills with our animals x-rays during this nature program.

Then make your own skeleton creation to take home. FREE!

Thompson Park Day

Sunday, October 18 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

From the scarecrow contest to doggie costume contest, Thompson Park Day offers everything a fall festival should - pumpkin painting, wagon rides, arts & crafts, kids

races, entertainment and so much more! Admission and parking are free; some activities require a fee.

Tinsmith Demonstration

Sunday, October 18 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Come see a tinsmith at work. FREE!

Nature Lecture Series: The Real Story of the Jersey Devil

Thursday, October 29 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Discover the possible origins of the Jersey Devil legend during this talk led by a Park System Naturalist. FREE!

Herbivore, Carnivore & Omnivore Nature Program

Saturday & Sunday, October 31 & November 1 at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Examine teeth and skulls to determine what these animals ate. FREE!

“Here lies...” Historical Headstones

Saturday & Sunday, October 31 & November 1 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Watch as skilled craftsman Tom Kelleher of Old Sturbridge Village visits Walnford and carves a traditional slate headstone and shares some early American social history on marking the passing from this life to the next. FREE!

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.