



Monmouth County Park System Portland Place Visitor Improvements, Hartshorne Woods Park PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Portland Place, a historic Hartshorne family property, was donated to the Park System in 2008 by Daniel Ward Seitz, a Hartshorne descendant. Consistent with the terms of the bequest and the site master plan, the 4.7-acre riverfront property will be managed as a historic site within Hartshorne Woods Park. With a combination of funds from the Seitz bequest and the county capital budget, the Park System has restored the main house and has listed the property on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Park System will now design and construct the support facilities necessary for the site's intended use. These improvements will be located on a separate county-owned property adjacent to Portland Place that is not included in the National Register designation but was part of Portland Place until 1881. The project will include rehabilitation and adaptive use of an early 19th century barn for visitor orientation, exhibits and restrooms; restoration of a late 19th century water tower; demolition of the existing greenhouse and former caretaker's cottage; reorientation of the entrance drive to improve sightlines for visitors entering and exiting Portland Place; an unpaved gravel 10-space lot; site utilities; and accessible walkways between the parking area, the barn and the house museum.

REASON FOR PROJECT:

Support facilities are required for the site's intended use. Portland Place offers a unique opportunity to interpret a historic property that is closely related to the history of Hartshorne Woods as a whole, while also providing opportunities for passive recreation and enjoyment of the riverfront setting.

DESIGN APPROACH/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

All proposed building work will follow *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The parking lot will be buffered from the street.

PROJECT STATUS: *The Park System has revised plans for visitor improvements. The stand-alone restroom building was removed from the project, and the unpaved gravel parking area was reduced from 25 to 10 spaces. The construction contract was awarded on November 2, 2020. This phase of construction on the buildings, site utilities and walkways will be complete in July 2021, followed by a separate contract for construction of a gravel parking lot and access drive.*

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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