



Monmouth County Park System Swimming River Park

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A new County Park is being created on the border of Middletown and Red Bank, along the Swimming River just prior to its confluence with the Navesink River. The 11 acre property formerly known as Chris' Landing was named "Swimming River Park" and became a component of the Swimming River Greenway, which currently contains 16 acres of County owned parcels, along with other State and municipal owned lands. The long-term goal is to acquire additional adjacent properties as they become available to help protect the Swimming River watershed.

The property has functioned as a boating facility since the 1960's in the River Plaza section of Middletown. The focus of the operation was a boat ramp for access to the Swimming River, limited boat slip and moorings, a small bait & tackle shop, and winter boat storage. Middletown Township had been interested in the acquisition of the property for a public park for many years, and in 2015 it was acquired by the Park System with assistance from the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. The Park System plans to replace the aging boat ramp and bait & tackle shop and to make other site improvements as shown on the attached Concept Plan.

REASON FOR PROJECT:

This recent addition to the Park System provides scenic views of Red Bank and the Navesink and Swimming Rivers. The acquisition of a former privately owned boat ramp now provides additional public access to the river for fishing, crabbing, wildlife observation, and exploration of the picturesque marshes and coves in the Swimming River watershed.

DESIGN APPROACH:

The Park System is working with NJDEP to improve water quality for the Swimming River watershed and secure public access to the river. The existing facilities on the site were heavily damaged during Hurricane Sandy. Due to age and hurricane damage these facilities will be completely replaced. The Park System intends to expand recreational opportunities by redesigning the site. The park improvements will be built to current code, provide accessibility, and increase public access.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Environmental investigative work has disclosed the presence of dredge materials, historic fill and asphalt millings on the property. A remediation plan must be developed and implemented for future site improvements. Funds for the remediation were set aside by the former owner as part of the site purchase. New or replacement improvements to the site will require NJDEP permits. The environmental permitting and remediation will take several years to complete.

PROJECT STATUS:

Environmental permitting and development of a remediation plan continue with assistance from Brinkerhoff Environmental Services of Manasquan, NJ. The Park System has developed a concept plan for site improvements (see page 2). Demolition of all existing buildings was completed in July 2019. The Park System awarded a contract in August 2019 to Spiegle Architectural Group for architectural and engineering services to develop construction documents for the proposed boathouse, parking, trails and related site improvements. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2021, pending NJDEP approval of the remediation plan and required permits, as well as capital budget funding.



Concept Plan for Swimming River Park
Plan subject to change depending on permitting and additional land acquisition.

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