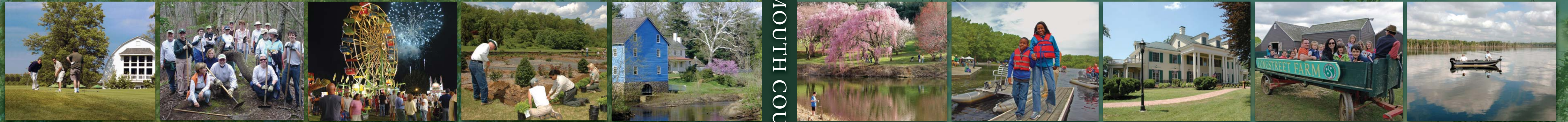


The Monmouth County Park System



The Monmouth County Park System • THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS • Clifford W. Zink

• T H E F I R S T F I F T Y Y E A R S •

Clifford W. Zink

THE FRIENDS OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

ZINK • THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM



The Monmouth County Park System

• T H E F I R S T F I F T Y Y E A R S •

The Monmouth County Park System

• T H E F I R S T F I F T Y Y E A R S •



Clifford W. Zink

Copyright © 2010 The Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

ISBN 978-0-615-35501-6

First Edition

Published and funded by The Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc., a membership-based 501(c) (3) charitable organization that provides financial support exclusively for Monmouth County Park System enhancements, including historical and natural resource preservation, recreation for urban youth, and activities for individuals with disabilities within our community.

The Friends of the Monmouth County Park System

P.O. Box 686, Lincroft, N.J. 07738

Tel: (732) 975-9735

www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com

Gregory Hunt, *President*

Maria Wojciechowski, *Executive Director*

Project Director: Gail L. Hunton

Book Design: Frank Mahood

Proofreader: Carol Maglio

Printed in the United States of America on FSC-certified paper by

Walsworth Print Group

306 North Kansas Avenue

Marceline, Missouri 64658

www.walsworthprinting.com



Dedication

THIS HISTORY of the Monmouth County Park System is dedicated to the men and women who have given their time and talents to create a nationally recognized open space, parks and recreation agency to serve their fellow citizens. Credit for the growth and success of the Park System belongs to many individuals over the past 50 years – farsighted County leaders, dedicated employees, generous donors, and supportive volunteers and non-profit organizations that enhance the services that we provide to the public. Every successful land preservation story and every beautiful park or recreation activity presented on these pages is the result of the actions of people who worked for the common good, and this book is a tribute to them.

This publication, written to commemorate the Park System's 50th anniversary, was made possible by The Friends of the Parks and the efforts of Park System staff. Special thanks go to Gail Hunton, Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist, who coordinated the development and editing of this publication, employees who provided information and photographs, Clifford W. Zink who researched and wrote the text, Frank Mahood who designed the book, and Carol Maglio who proof read the copy.

James J. Truncer, *Secretary-Director,*
Monmouth County Park System

Contents

| | | | |
|--|------|--|-----|
| <i>Dedication</i> • James J. Truncer | v | 13. Huber Woods Park | 112 |
| <i>Illustrations</i> • Gail L. Hunton | viii | 14. Hominy Hill Golf Course | 116 |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> • Clifford W. Zink | ix | 15. Deep Cut Gardens | 120 |
| <i>Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Board of Recreation Commissioners</i> | x | 16. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park | 124 |
| | | 17. Clayton Park | 126 |
| | | 18. Weltz Park | 128 |
| | | 19. Pine Brook Golf Course | 129 |
| | | 20. Historic Walnford | 130 |
| | | 21. Dorbrook Recreation Area | 134 |
| | | 22. Bayshore Waterfront Park | 138 |
| | | 23. Manasquan Reservoir | 140 |
| | | 24. Henry Hudson Trail | 144 |
| | | 25. Monmouth Cove Marina | 145 |
| | | 26. Sunnyside Recreation Area | 146 |
| | | 27. Charleston Springs Golf Course | 150 |
| | | 28. Crosswicks Creek Greenway | 152 |
| | | 29. Manasquan River Greenway | 154 |
| | | 30. Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area | 155 |
| | | 31. Bel-Aire Golf Course | 156 |
| | | 32. Wolf Hill Recreation Area | 157 |
| | | 33. Big Brook Park | 158 |
| | | 34. De Bois Creek Recreation Area | 158 |
| | | 35. Union Transportation Trail | 159 |
| | | 36. Perrineville Lake Park | 160 |
| | | 37. Metedeconk River Greenway | 162 |
| | | 38. Yellow Brook Tract | 162 |
| | | <i>Bibliography</i> | 163 |
| <i>Part I: The First Fifty Years</i> | | | |
| Prologue | 1 | | |
| The Sixties | 4 | | |
| The Seventies | 18 | | |
| The Eighties | 34 | | |
| The Nineties | 48 | | |
| The 2000s | 64 | | |
| <i>Part II: Monmouth County Parks</i> | | | |
| 1. Shark River Park | 84 | | |
| 2. Holmdel Park and Historic Longstreet Farm | 86 | | |
| 3. Turkey Swamp Park | 90 | | |
| 4. Howell Park Golf Course | 92 | | |
| 5. Thompson Park | 94 | | |
| 6. Baysholm Tract | 98 | | |
| 7. Durand Tract | 99 | | |
| 8. East Freehold Showgrounds | 100 | | |
| 9. Tatum Park | 102 | | |
| 10. Shark River Golf Course | 104 | | |
| 11. Hartshorne Woods Park | 106 | | |
| 12. Mt. Mitchell Scenic Overlook | 110 | | |

■ Illustrations

WE SET OUT to illustrate the Monmouth County parks in this book with photographs taken by Park System employees, and the results have exceeded our expectations. Employees took the vast majority of the 423 photographs in this book, and the quality of their images shows both the excellent skills of these amateur photographers and their deep connections to the open spaces, facilities, and natural resources within the Park System.

Many of these employees anonymously provided their photographs to the Park System archives over the years. Many others have generously shared their photographs for this publication, and we especially thank Andrew Coeyman, Kelly Cole, Maribeth Gardner, Bruce Gollnick, Robert Henschel, Linda Hubbell, George Lentz, Mark Miller, Andi Monick, and Ken Thoman for their fine contributions. Robert Henschel, a long-time Park System naturalist, has photographed the parks for over 30 years and deserves special recognition for several of the signature images in this book. Clifford Zink also provided key photographs of several parks.

The task of assembling historical images for this book was especially challenging because the Thompson Park Visitor Center fire in

2006 destroyed hundreds of the Park System's photographs of parks, programs and people over many years. We thank all the Park System employees who hunted through their files to locate and reproduce images, and especially Cheryl-Stoeber Goff and Lisa Bonelli.

Gail L. Hunton, *Monmouth County Park System*

Credits:

| | |
|----------|---|
| page xii | (Garden State Parkway), N.J. Turnpike Authority |
| page 2 | (Charles Pike), Monmouth County Planning Board |
| page 10 | (Walter Schoellner), Monmouth County Archives |
| page 25 | (Indian Hill Farm), Randall Gabrielan |
| page 29 | (Deep Cut Farm), Kathy Dorn Severini, DBA Dorn's Classic Images |
| page 66 | (SPUR Benefit), Gerard M. Saydah, Saydah Studios |
| page 75 | (Theodore Narozanick), Monmouth County Archives |
| page 98 | (Helen Herrmann), Lois Pollak Broder and Helen C. Pike |
| page 129 | (Pine Brook Golf Course Dedication), Monmouth County Archives |

Acknowledgments

THIS BOOK originated with Jim Truncer's desire to document the accomplishments of the many dedicated people who have contributed to creating and building the Monmouth County Park System in the last six decades. It has been my great pleasure to work with Jim, Gail Hunton, and many other employees and supporters in researching the story of the Park System and summarizing it in this book. All the people I've met along the way share a passion for open space, nature, wildlife and local history, and for helping people enjoy the parks for recreation, learning, and pleasure.

The project began with interviews of twenty-six employees, donors, and elected officials to record their oral histories of the founding and development of the Park System. Gail organized and assisted with the interviews, and Park Ranger Steve Dickinson videotaped most of them. The resulting oral history collection is rich with personal remembrances, insights and details, and it will continue to be a resource for future researchers. We are grateful to all the interviewees for generously sharing their experiences and wisdom. Our interviews with Mike Huber and Ed and Joanne Mullen were particularly inspiring as they graciously related the stories of their major gifts of land to the people of Monmouth County.

Jim's vision and dedication to quality provided inspiration throughout this project. Bruce Gollnick and Dave Compton shared their long perspectives on what it takes to build and operate a first class Park System. Gail, Spence Wickham and Andy Coeyman readily provided access to their Acquisition and Design files during the research, and Faith Hahn articulated her knowledge and vision of planning within the Park

System. Joe Sardonía conveyed his knowledge of the design of several park facilities, and Dave Pease relayed his enthusiasm for the game of golf and the exacting maintenance that keeps the Park System's golf courses in top form. Nancy Borchert and Jim Hoffman shared their experience in the administration of the Park System and in building Visitor Services, respectively. Howard Wikoff, Doug Krampert and Tom Kellers all described their experiences in developing historical and nature programs. Ken Thoman and Anna Luiten compiled ecological summaries for the parks that illustrate their intimate knowledge of the natural places, plants and wildlife under the Park System's stewardship.

Research Assistant Daniella Fischetti tirelessly collected and organized historic documents from Park System archives and from the Monmouth County Archives, where Gary Saretzky helped with many requests. Cheryl Stoeber-Goff provided access to numerous documents in the Historical Services archive. Barbara DeLorenzo and Fran Lorelli graciously compiled countless copies of documents for me at Acquisition and Design. Carol Maglio skillfully edited the final manuscript and Frank Mahood significantly enhanced the quality of the book with his excellent designs.

I am especially grateful for the enthusiastic support that Maria Wojciechowski and the Friends of the Parks have provided for several phases of this park history.

Above all, however, I am indebted to Gail Hunton, with whom I've had the pleasure of working on several projects over the last two decades, for her professionalism, grace, and tireless devotion to producing the best book possible with the resources available to us.

Clifford W. Zink

N RECOGNITION of Monmouth County leaders who have actively supported the preservation of open space and the development of outstanding recreational opportunities in Monmouth County.

*Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders
1960–2010*

Walton Sherman
Earl L. Woolley
Abram D. Voorhees
Victor E. Grossinger
Joseph C. Irwin
Charles I. Smith
Marcus Daly
Benjamin H. Danskin
Eugene J. Bedell
Harry Larrison, Jr.
Albert E. Allen
Axel B. Carlson, Jr.
Ernest G. Kavalek
Philip N. Gumbs
Ray Kramer
Thomas J. Lynch, Jr.
Jane G. Clayton
Allan J. MacDonald
Joseph A. Palaia
Allan J. Macdonald
Frank A. Self
Clement V. Sommers
Frank A. Campione

Thomas J. Powers
John D'Amico, Jr.
Theodore J. Narozanick
John A. Villapiano
Amy A. Handlin
Carmen M. Stoppiello
Edward J. Stominski
Robert D. Clifton
William C. Barham
Lillian G. Burry
Anna C. Little
Barbara J. McMorrow
John P. Curley
Amy A. Mallet

*Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners
1962–2010*

Victor E. Grossinger
Walter Schoellner
James Ackerson
James J. Truncer
Alfred Pool
Robert Schuchart
Donald E. Mc Kelvey
Robert Laughlin
Ross W. Maghan
Chester L. Morgan
Axel B. Carlson, Jr.
Albert E. Allen
Ray Kramer
Craig A. Frankel
Robert Marks
Robert M. Higgins
Martin J. Vaccaro
Ernest G. Kavalek
E. Wayne Kavalek
Allan J. MacDonald
James J. O'Shaughnessy
Fyllis G. Feldman
Frank E. Kane

William Kunkel
Paul S. Masnick
Adeline H. Lubkert
Kenneth R. Foulks
Nicholas A. Codispoti
Donald M. Lomurro
Edward J. Loud
Frederick W. Monsees
John J. Bradshaw
Channing P. Irwin
Michael G. Harmon
Nickolas Tuyahov
Frederick Kniesler
Anthony E. Musella
Fred J. Rummel
Violeta Peters
Carl Williams, Jr.
N. Britt Raynor
Kevin Mandeville
Thomas E. Hennessy, Jr.
Michael W. Brim
David W. Horsnall
Melvin A. Hood