



GREEN HERITAGE

The Newsletter of Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks & Recreation Agency Vol. 42 No. 1 Spring 2008

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: The Human-Wildlife Connection in New Jersey

Wildlife sightings are generally a pleasant experience. Watching an elegant egret along the shoreline or catching a glimpse of an elusive red fox illustrates the beauty and variety of nature. However, when these encounters get too close for comfort they can be cause for concern. Imagine a black bear rummaging through the garbage or spotting a coyote nearby. While threatening encounters are still a rare occurrence, nuisance encounters with smaller creatures seem to be on the rise.

At what point do wildlife encounters become a problem?

If you've had any Canada Geese on your property, you know they are famous for the volume of excrement they produce each day (anywhere from 1-5 pounds, depending on whom you ask). Other common nuisances include squirrels/bats in the attic, rabbits eating the garden vegetables, grazing deer that destroy shrubs and trees, or groundhog burrows under the porch or shed.

PROXIMITY ALERT

As our human habitat expands, the frequency and manner in which we encounter wildlife changes.

With these changes, new questions arise. People are generally happy and willing to live alongside wildlife, as long as the critters remain mostly in the background, leaving few traces

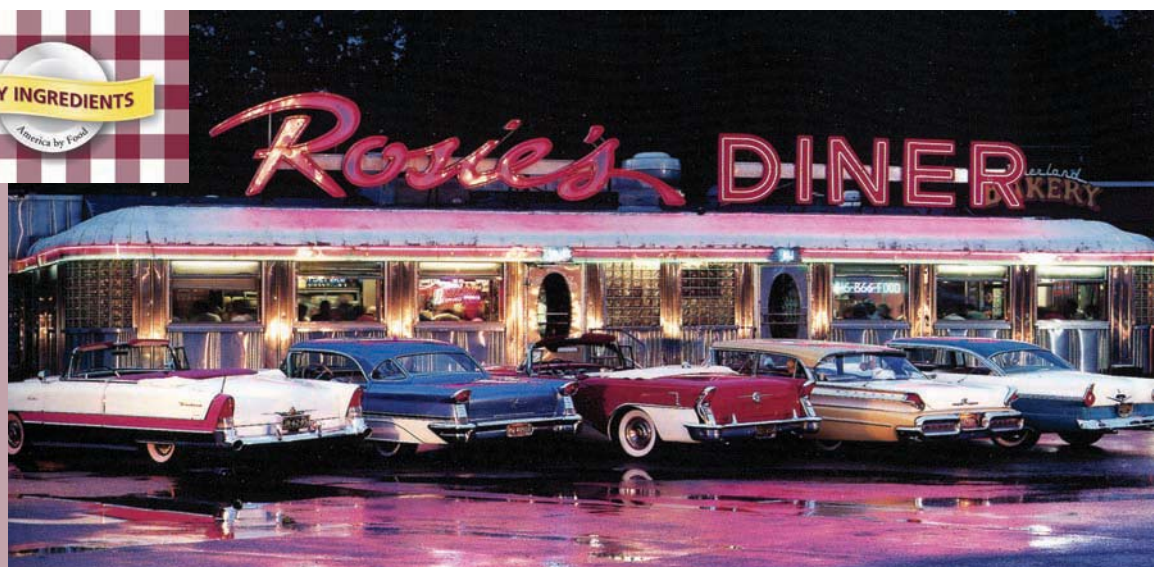


Above: A large flock of Canada Geese; left Squirrel; right Groundhog (Woodchuck).

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Historic Walnford Becomes Walnfood May 31-July 13

With arrival of the Smithsonian Exhibit, "Key Ingredients" to Upper Freehold, Walnford visitors can explore the evolution of the American Kitchen through photos, artifacts and illustrations. Call (609) 259-6275 for more information.



Pictured is an American food institution, Rosie's Diner of Rockford, MI (Photograph by Jerry Berta).

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Wildlife, continued

and posing no threats. But once a species damages the infrastructure (eg, beaver dams that cause flooding), threatens health or well-being (eg, Lyme Disease, rabies) or destroys landscapes and vegetable gardens—these creatures wear out their welcome.

The question then becomes—what impact or degree of risk is the public willing to tolerate? And, what policies are wildlife agencies expected to implement? The answer depends, in part, on the public's attitude toward wildlife, a complicated and often emotional issue.

LIFESTYLES AND WILDLIFE

Government agencies usually have a limited range of choices when responding to wildlife problems. Cost is one critical factor; so is public tolerance for strategies such as hunting or sharp shooters.

People's attitudes toward wildlife are influenced by many factors and can be deeply personal: geography (rural vs. urban residence), an unfavorable experience with wildlife, knowledge of or experience with livestock, presence of pets in the home, feelings about hunting, likes (or dislikes) for certain species, etc.

For instance, it would make sense for a rural farmer to have a more realistic, business-like relationship with wildlife. After all, the land is his livelihood and any potential wildlife threat could have a big financial impact. Without economic strings attached, however, a person living and working in an urban setting may be free to develop a more romanticized view of wildlife. Consider how some New Yorkers, for whom wildlife sightings can be a rare and precious occasion, "famously" appreciate nature. Pale Male, the red-tailed hawk who moved into the eave of a fancy Fifth Avenue apartment building near Central Park, became a very big story when tenants and supporters clashed over his right to be there.

AS STEWARDS AND PROTECTORS OF THE LAND, THE PARK SYSTEM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE COUNTY'S PARKLANDS (WATER, AIR, PLANTS AND ANIMALS). WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY, COMES THE NEED TO BALANCE WILDLIFE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES WITH THE RECREATION NEEDS OF RESIDENTS WHO USE THE PARKS.



The white tailed deer is prevalent in neighborhoods and parks throughout Monmouth County causing extensive damage to forests ecosystems.



Since 2003, the Park System has used exclosures to measure the extent of forest damage caused by deer browsing. Note the distinctly thicker vegetation inside the fenced area that is protected from grazing deer.

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Beaver

IMAGES OF WILDLIFE

People who do not participate in an outdoor lifestyle or who have limited first-hand experience with wildlife may rely to some extent on characterizations from stories they have read in books or seen in movies. However, these stories tend to anthropomorphize (give human qualities) to wildlife. And the notion that animals may be more like us than we think is not entirely accurate.

When wildlife is shown as cute and friendly, instead of wild and potentially dangerous, it can give people—especially children—the wrong idea. If there is no real-world negative information to offset these portrayals, it is easy to develop an unnatural affection when there should be respect or wariness instead.



Rabbit

Cartoon and storybook characterizations of wildlife can influence our understanding in away that isn't healthy for us, or for them.

While very entertaining, Winnie the Pooh (bear) and Bugs Bunny (rabbit), offer a clearly skewed portrait of their species. Compare the fictional character of Wile E. Coyote with the real one that attacked both humans and animals in this area last spring. Consider also how wildlife is portrayed in movies such as *Bambi*, *The Lion King* or even books such as *Watership Down*.

Even real animals that have been dramatized for the screen, such as Lassie or the mongoose families featured in *Meerkat Manor*, are depicted in a way that emphasizes their social and human qualities. If we aren't careful, these depictions can influence our understanding of wildlife in a way that isn't healthy for us, or for them.

PLEASE! DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS

To provide more accurate information about how to treat common wildlife species, some agencies have launched public information campaigns. The California Department of Fish and Game, for instance, launched the "Keep Me Wild" program in 2003 (www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild).

According to their website, and to wildlife experts here in New Jersey as well, most wild animals naturally fear humans and keep their distance. However, access to our food and garbage can cause them to change their natural ways and lose their fear of humans—this is particularly true for bear and coyote.

Food and garbage can cause animals like bear and coyote to lose their fear of humans.

Animals are creatures of habit. They get used to gathering food alongside our communities. Once exposed, they want more and more. To keep this problem from getting worse, please:

- Don't leave any food or garbage outside
- Cover your compost piles
- Do not put pet food outdoors; put away bird feeders
- Clean the BBQ grill; pick up fallen tree fruit
- Fence your vegetable garden
- Use animal-proof trash containers (some towns have already passed ordinances requiring residents to use garbage cans with lids.)
- Install motion-sensitive lights around house
- Bring pets inside
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places

NEVER BE TOO FRIENDLY

Don't be too friendly to wild animals, or attempt to treat them like pets. They won't offer the same in return. If an animal approaches too closely, scare it away; yell and make loud noises, and make it as unwelcome as possible in your territory. This may go against your instincts, but the greatest kindness you can offer to wild animals is to let them remain true to their own nature.



Coyote

Rebuilding The Thompson Park Visitor Center

Two years after a tragic fire destroyed the historic mansion at Thompson Park, a new Visitor Center is under construction on the original site. With its central place in the park landscape re-established, the building will reclaim its role as a prominent landmark on Newman Springs Road.

M&M Construction Company of Union, New Jersey is the General Contractor, and Epic Management of Piscataway is the Construction Manager hired to oversee the \$7.1 million project. The project is expected to be completed in early 2009.

SERVING 21ST CENTURY NEEDS

The design of the new Visitor Center respects the architecture of the original building while providing for the needs of a growing county. Modern design elements such as full accessibility at all levels, an elevator, energy-efficient features, and a full fire sprinkler system will be incorporated.

The exterior will look very much like the original 1896 Colonial Revival mansion.

- Columned porches, standing seam metal roof, distinctive French doors, large wood sash windows, and historic yellow and green paint scheme are part of the plans.

- Originally a service wing, the rear has been enlarged to accommodate modern code requirements as well as additional public program space. New stair towers reference the old belvederes (windowed towers) that topped the former building.
- The Visitor Center grounds will be serviced by a system of lighted accessible walkways. Specimen boxwood, as well as the stately and magnificent European Copper Beech (not shown in photo) will be maintained as part of the landscape.

The interior spaces have also changed to improve the building's intended use.

- First floor rooms include a reception gallery where visitors can get park information and register for programs, as well as exhibit space.
- The rooms at the west end of the building have been reconfigured to create a larger meeting room.
- Public space has also been increased with a new Program Room on the second floor with large windows that offer expansive views of the park.
- Park System staff offices and support areas will occupy a portion of the second floor and the entire third floor.



The former Visitor Center, pre-fire



352 Red Hill Road GSP Exit 114 Middletown, NJ 07748 732-671-6050

All About The Rhododendron: *A Plant Of Extraordinary Beauty*

Randy McHaney, Senior Gardener

A short history of the rhododendron in the U.S. would have to include mention of John Bartram, a botanist whose name occurs over and over in the historical records of American horticulture. He discovered, then sent, the first Rhododendron specimen to England in 1750. The plant he sent was *Rhododendron maximum*, commonly known as Rosebay Rhododendron, a late flowering plant that usually opens in mid to late June.



Rosebay Rhododendron

Though not as spectacular in flower as many of its American cousins and sporting rather small trusses by comparison, Rosebay Rhododendron makes up the difference with its attractive dark green foliage and bold, eight-inch leaves. It is also the hardiest of all the American rhododendrons, indigenous from Nova Scotia to northern Georgia and northern Alabama into Ohio.

RHODODENDRONS HYBRIDIZE WITH EASE

There are approximately 900 species of rhododendron, and an infinite number of cultivars because they are easily hybridized. This has made them very popular with collectors and plant societies, but almost impossible to catalog. When you purchase a rhododendron plant from a reputable dealer, hang on to its name for dear life!

When you purchase a rhododendron plant from a reputable dealer, hang on to its name for dear life!

If lost, there's a good chance that neither you nor anyone else might ever be able to identify it again.

The evergreen Catawba Rhododendron, botanically known as *Rhododendron catawbiense*, has been the hybridizing parent of many cultivars. Occurring naturally in the southern Allegheny Mountain range from Virginia to Georgia, this plant is named for the Catawba tribe of Native Americans. It was first discovered growing near the Catawba River which flows through the region within a short distance of Pittsburgh.

RHODODENDRON CULTIVARS OF DEEP CUT

Over the years, Deep Cut has acquired several rhododendron hybrids from various donations. 'Blue Peter,' a type of *catawbiense*, was a favorite of Dr. Lewis, a local grower and plant pathology professor at Rutgers. His own rhododendron garden was a local legend; students and plant enthusiasts would trek over to his yard each spring to enjoy the incredible collection.



"Blue Peter" Rhododendron, a type of *catawbiense*. Notice the bright, filtered sunlight; an ideal setting for a rhododendron.

Local growers at the Princeton Rhododendron Society were the hybridizers of several other cultivars that grow at Deep Cut. Purchased at their annual sale and donated to the park, these are very special since they are "local born," so to speak.

Other plants arrived in a more traditional way. 'Roseum elegans,' a cultivar known for extreme hardiness, was donated

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Rhododendron, continued

by a major wholesale nursery. Historically, these were the first group of hybridized catawbiense to gain popularity in the late 1800s. This happened when several plants survived an extremely cold winter at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston and were thus christened the "ironclads." These have been used as breeding parents to help extend the hardiness range of new hybrids ever since.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Rhododendrons prefer shade for the most part, and will thrive on north facing slopes under deep-rooted trees that are limbed up approximately twenty feet. This location creates bright, filtered light. Other exposures will work—such as east, west or south—but it will be difficult to protect them from summer heat and winter sun. Rhododendrons also prefer moist, rich garden soil which is enriched each year from decaying foliage, especially oak, beech, red maple and other acid-type hardwood leaves.



"Dora Amateis," a semi-dwarf hybrid with beautiful white flowers, is tough as nails and extremely popular. It has one of our native species, Carolinianum, as half of its parentage. In Europe it is grown over a large, extended range that includes parts of Norway.

AZALEA VS. RHODODENDRON

Until the mid 1800s, azaleas and rhododendrons were classified separately for several taxonomic reasons. Today, azaleas are classified as rhododendrons but the word azalea persists in garden use and custom. In the literature you will see reference to deciduous azaleas, a large group of rhododendrons that drop their leaves and often flower early in the spring before the leaves or just as the leaves are appearing. It creates a stunning effect. Many of these hybrids possess incredibly brilliant colored flowers.

Others are species unto themselves, and are more subtle and refined. *Rhododendron bakeri*, for instance, the Cumberland azalea, is named for the Cumberland River in southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee. It is a handsome plant with red flowers.



Deciduous Azalea



Cumberland Azalea

DEEP CUT GARDENS IS PROUD TO PRESENT...

Rose Parterre Grand Opening

Enjoy a June day touring the newly-restored rose parterre and other gardens of Deep Cut, attend free lectures in the Horticultural Center, and have your garden questions answered.

FREE ADMISSION/FREE PARKING

Date and time to be announced

Visit us on the web
(www.monmouthcountyparks.com)
or call 732-671-6050 for more information.

GET READY FOR SPRING...

The Great Spring Perennial Plant Swap



Bring your perennial plants in 1 quart, 1 gallon or 2 gallon containers and exchange them for others of the same size.

It's fun, free and easy!

Saturday, April 26, 2007, 10 am – 2 pm

Call the Deep Cut Horticultural Center (732-671-6050)
for more information.

It's Time to....

April ✓

- Finish pruning this month. If shrubs are overgrown and need rejuvenation, now is the time to cut back up to one-third of the oldest canes to the ground to promote new growth.
- Work compost and manure into beds as soon as soil is friable. If you don't have compost, maybe this is the year to start – Check out the Home Composting Site at Deep Cut to learn more.
- Divide and transplant any perennials that were not taken care of in the fall, fertilize any that have been in the ground for at least a year, mulch to retain moisture and stabilize soil temperatures.
- Set out supports where needed before plants get too large.
- Apply pre-emergent weed killer early in the month, if using it.
- Apply dormant oil spray if you have had a problem in the previous year with scale or other pests as labeled.
- Set out hardy annuals like pansies, violas, alyssum and harden off plants started indoors.
- There's still time to start seeds of annuals, perennials and vegetables. Transplant seedlings to containers when they have three true leaves and apply a dilute fertilizer solution on young seedlings started last month.
- This is an ideal time to plant ornamental trees and shrubs.
- Check out Deep Cut Gardens Perennial Plant Swap on Saturday, April 26. It's fun, free and an opportunity to meet other gardeners.

May ✓

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs as soon as flowering is finished.
- Spring bulb foliage may look quite ragged now. Carefully remove dead flower stalks but leave foliage until it has browned and withered – green foliage is making food for next year's bloom.
- Mid-May it's finally safe to plant warm season vegetables, annuals, and tender bulbs, rhizomes, tubers and corms. Wait until the soil is warm for tomatoes, peppers and dahlias.
- When transplanting or planting new seedlings, incorporate organic matter, lime and fertilizer and do it on an overcast day or provide temporary shade. Pinching off flowers and buds at transplanting encourages a stronger root system.
- When planting tomatoes, remove all but the top leaves and set the plant deeply, right up to those leaves; the

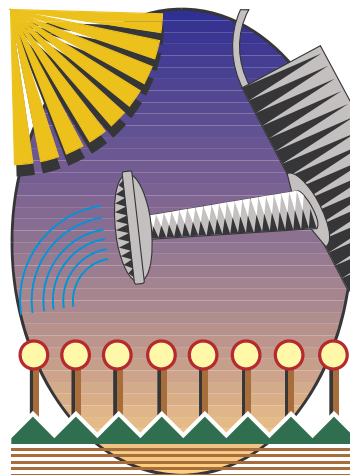
buried stems will produce a deeper, stronger root system. Place stakes or cages now to avoid damaging roots later.

- Direct-sow seeds for basil, beans, corn and other warm- weather vegetables and herbs.
- Most houseplants can safely spend the summer out-doors; just remember to acclimate them gradually and keep them in filtered sunlight.
- Chemical controls will be ineffective against grubs seen now - wait until mid-July or August.



June ✓

- Visit Deep Cut Gardens for the Grand Opening of the Rose Parterre. Check our website for date and time.
- If you haven't already done so, apply organic mulch to beds to conserve moisture, stabilize soil temperature and control weeds.
- Most annuals and perennials will benefit from pinching and deadheading to encourage compact, lush growth.
- Continue to plant warm-weather flowers, vegetables and herbs, filling in where early crops have finished.
- Fertilize lawn if you have not done so this spring. If watering is needed, water deeply and early in the day. frequent, shallow watering encourages weeds and shallow, vulnerable root systems. Try not to mow if grass is wet; it encourages the spread of disease.



When Trees Flower

Here are three noteworthy flowering trees to look forward to this Spring.



Yellow magnolias are special, and 'Elizabeth' is the most special of the these. The large primrose yellow and fragrant flowers are a knockout. This hybrid (*Magnolia acuminata* x *denudata* 'Elizabeth') was introduced by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden in the 1980s and can get quite large but maintains a nice pyramidal shape.

The Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) is beautiful when in flower, but is too large and much too messy for the home landscape. The pale violet foxglove-type flowers on 12-inch upright panicles are not always dependable since they are often hit by late frost. But about every four years, this plant is spectacular.



Downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) is a native small tree that can reach 15 to 25 feet in height by 30 foot width under cultivation. The early white flowers are refreshing, especially in the late March landscape. There's a very nice specimen in the parking lot at Tatum Park. I think it stops traffic, but you be the judge.

Librarian Retires After 27 Years Service

There was sadness mixed with happiness as Mae Fischer's friends and coworkers gathered at Deep Cut last December to bid her farewell and wish her luck in retirement. Park System Director James J. Truncer spoke and expressed what staff were all feeling—that she will be missed but not forgotten. Mae plans on volunteering and staying active in the Park System community.



Park System Librarian Mae Fischer holds up a plaque presented to her by Director James J. Truncer for her 27 years of service.

Day Lily Day

at Deep Cut Gardens
Saturday, June 28,
10am - 2pm

Free horticultural advice, displays, garden design ideas, videos and so much more

Free Admission/Free Parking

NATURE CORNER



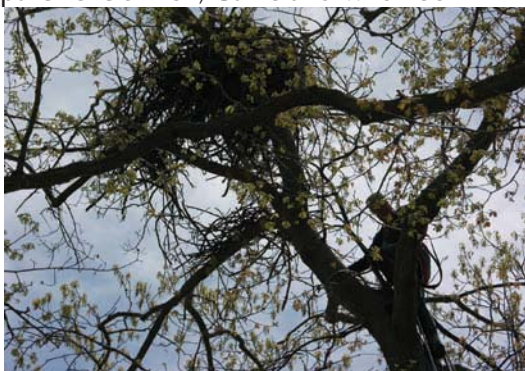
Banding Bald Eagles at the Manasquan Reservoir

By Joe Reynolds, Park System Naturalist

From a local naturalist's point of view, one of the best biological events to take place during winter is when bald eagles begin laying eggs. Last year (2007), an egg was laid around February 7, a male eaglet hatched about six weeks later on March 19, and fledged (began flying) on June 8.

However, what I recall most about that nesting season was what happened for just a few hours on a warm day in May.

Officials from NJ Department of Fish, Game and Wildlife's Endangered & Nongame Species Program visited the reservoir to band the leg of the site's newest eaglet, but also to transport from Maryland a foster female chick for our resident eagle parents to care for.



A state biologist climbs high into the nest to retrieve the native male eaglet and lower him carefully to the ground for banding. He was placed in a specially designed canvas bag used to lower and raise young birds to a nest.

About a month earlier, a strong nor'easter toppled a tree near the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Close to the top of that tree was a nest with a female eaglet inside. The bird was too young to fly and upon impact to the ground, broke a leg bone. Wildlife biologists took care of the injured eaglet, but by the time her bone was healed, her parents had abandoned the nest. After communicating with state officials in New Jersey, biologists decided that nest conditions at the Manasquan Reservoir could accommodate the new eaglet (the male eaglet was the right age to accept a foster sibling).

STORM ORPHANED EAGLET PLACED AT RESERVOIR

On May 4, 2007, the foster eagle arrived with staff and volunteers from the park and NJ Fish and Wildlife on hand. Equipment was set up on the ground for banding, and to record physical information about the juvenile eagles, such as height, wingspan, beak length, and talon size. Timing is everything—the process had to be quick to minimize any stress to the adult birds and lessen discomfort to the young. The male eaglet was carefully fitted with two leg bands, same as his newly adopted sister. In New Jersey, many 5-8 week old bald eagles are banded with a silver US Fish and Wildlife band on the left leg, and a green NJ Fish and Wildlife band on the right leg; both with distinctive codes.

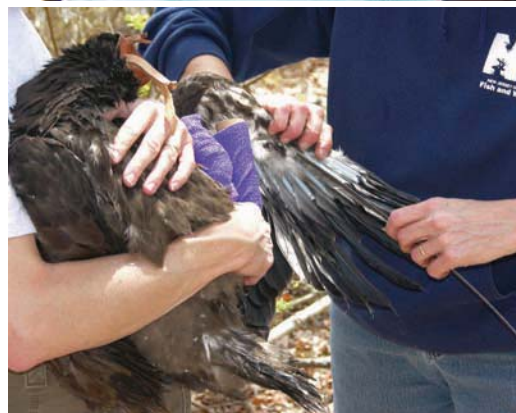
State biologists place a green band on this eaglet. Note the size of those talons! They are taped for most of this process to prevent injury.



State biologists use calipers to take critical measurements of the eaglet, who is masked to help him stay calm.



Measuring the wing



The colorful bands allow people to see where these juvenile birds go after they fledge and leave the nest. It is one important tool for scientists to determine population and knowledge of an eagle's location. With this kind of information, our society can better protect habitat for bald eagles.

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Towns Awarded Money For Parks & Recreation

2007 OPEN SPACE GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Eleven Monmouth County municipalities were awarded a county grant for Open Space projects this past December. Since the program's inception in 2003, 40 towns have been awarded over \$10 million for 63 local park acquisition and development projects.

Aberdeen	Sea Wall Park Project	\$169,000
Allentown	Breza Road Acquisition Phase 1	\$250,000
Belmar	River Road Acquisition	\$250,000
Hazlet	Veterans Memorial Park Improvements	\$238,000
Howell	Easy Street Dog Park	\$150,000
Holmdel	Mahoras Brook/Waackaack Creek Greenway Acquisition	\$250,000
Sea Bright	Oceanfront Skate Park	\$153,000
Sea Girt	Elementary School South Rehabilitation	\$238,000
Tinton Falls	Riverdale Avenue East Acquisition	\$250,000
Union Beach	Scholer Park Phase II	\$103,000
Upper Freehold	Breza Road Acquisition Phase 1	\$250,000

This annual competitive matching grant program is funded by the County Open Space Trust Fund. Each town may file one application a year and is eligible for up to \$250,000. State-designated Urban Aid Communities are responsible for providing a minimum of 25% of the total eligible project costs, while all other municipalities are responsible for providing a minimum of 50%.

BREZA ROAD ACQUISITION: THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

More than 300 acres of Western Monmouth County farmland will be preserved in public ownership thanks to a partnership of six government agencies, two non-profit organizations, and an anonymous private donor. The Borough of Allentown and Township of Upper Freehold were each awarded \$250,000 in 2007 Municipal Open Space grants to help with their share of the cost of acquiring the Breza Road property, estimated at a total of more than \$7 million.

The Borough of Allentown is a small, historic, densely developed village less than 1 square mile in area. Its two neighbors—Upper Freehold and Washington Township (in Mercer County)—are large rural townships experiencing development pressure. Allentown officials have long advocated for a preserved greenbelt around the village to protect the historic character of the community and provide a place for recreation.

These local communities were galvanized into action when a developer proposed a highly controversial plan within the recommended greenway. With support of elected officials and technical assistance from the non-profit Trust for Public Land, the group conceived an alternative to the development plan and negotiated an agreement to buy the property.

- Upper Freehold Regional School District bought 118 acres for a much needed middle school site
- Washington Township is acquiring 50 acres as public open space
- Allentown is purchasing 78 acres in two phases
- Upper Freehold is buying another 68 acres, also in two phases

The non-profit Monmouth Conservation Foundation and State Green Acres Program are also contributing funds to the project. Trust for Public Land Project Manager Kathy Haake described the project as “an excellent example of what can be accomplished when you have a good regional plan and local officials willing to work together for the common good.”



Breza Road

More Open Space Grant \$\$\$ Available in 2008

Applications for the 2008 round of County grants for municipal open space projects will be mailed to each Mayor, Clerk and Administrator in May, 2008; a September deadline is anticipated. For more information on the program and copies of the current application form and Policy and Procedures Manual, please visit the Park System's website at www.monmouthcountyparks.com and click on Municipal Open Space Program. If you have questions or would like a hard copy of the Manual, please contact the Program Administrator at 732-842-4000, Ext. 4472.

Eagles, continued from page 9



The new female (left) and native male (right) back in their nest. At this age (6-8 weeks) it is almost impossible to distinguish males and females. Even as adults, the only clue is the different size (females are larger).

Quick Facts About Bald Eagles in Monmouth County

- The Bald Eagle remains on the endangered species list in New Jersey.
- There are three active nest sites in the county: Swimming River Reservoir, Manasquan Reservoir, and Manasquan River (on the border of Monmouth and Ocean County).
- Resident Bald Eagles in New Jersey do not generally migrate. But, during winter, eagles from northern New England and Canada migrate to New Jersey for the milder weather and food supply.

By late August, both eaglets had matured enough to fly on their own and leave the nest area. Separately, they will fly many miles away from the Manasquan Reservoir to continue a coming-of-age quest for food and independence, a remarkable journey that is driven largely by instinct. Knowledge of the eaglets' movements will come by people recognizing the numbers on the leg band and reporting their whereabouts to NJ Fish and Wildlife.

As state and county park officials work to protect bald eagles from disappearing in Monmouth County, we should not forget that we can all play a pivotal role in bald eagle restoration efforts. One of the most important ways is to make sure our local waters are clean and healthy for eagles to find food. Another way is to ensure that there are plenty of natural areas and open spaces for eagles to live. What we do today will help secure that bald eagles will always be around for people to enjoy.

- Bald eagles are both hunters and scavengers. They hunt fish, waterfowl and small critters, and scavenge from deer carcasses and road kill.
- Eagle bones weigh less than half the total weight of a bird's 7,000 feathers, which makes it easier to gain altitude and glide as it searches for prey.
- Wild bald eagles may live as long as thirty years, but the average lifespan is probably about fifteen to twenty years.
- Young bald eagles are sometimes mistaken for golden eagles; it doesn't look like an adult until it reaches 4-5 years. Immature eagles have a dusky brown head and tail, a brownish bill, and blotches of white and cream on the body.
- As with most birds of prey, females are larger than males. Females reach a length of 43 inches, weigh about 15 pounds, and can have a wingspan of 92 inches. Males reach a length of 33 inches, weigh about 9.5 pounds, and can have a wingspan of 82 inches.
- For more information, please visit: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensphome.htm>



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PARK SYSTEM

**ATTENTION GARDENERS, BAKERS, COOKS, CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS ...
GET YOUR GAME ON AT THIS YEAR'S COUNTY FAIR
JULY 23-27, 2008 ENTER THE HOME & GARDEN COMPETITION!**

Bring your beautiful beans, darling dahlias, crazy cakes, nifty needlepoint and more. This festive competition is open to all amateurs regardless of residency. (EXCEPTION: county residency required for Honey and Canning). Visit monmouthcountyparks.com for entry categories and instructions.



**NEW AT THIS YEAR'S FAIR!!!
1ST ANNUAL BACKYARD BBQ AND
COOK-OUT**

All new activities and entertainment, including Circus Night (Thursday), Wild West Night (Friday), and our first ever BBQ Competition (judged on Saturday). Details online.

