



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone or
Communications
732-842-4000, ext. 4256
klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com

Patti Conroy
Visitor Services
732-842-4000, ext. 4247
pconroy@monmouthcountyparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPRING INTO FUN THIS APRIL IN A COUNTY PARK



Great Spring Perennial Plant Swap

LINCROFT — April brings the *Spring Craft Show*, *Earth Day* and the start of the *Creative Arts & Music Festival* and countless other opportunities to enjoy the Monmouth County Park System. Here's what's planned for the month:

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, April 2 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 with adult. **FREE!**

Mill Demonstrations

**Saturdays & Sundays, April 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24 and 30 & May 1
from 1-4 p.m.**

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Experience the gristmill in action during these demonstrations. **FREE!**

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, April 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 8-10 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shoot some hoops in the Rec Center's full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Ask a Naturalist

Saturday, April 2 at 10 a.m.

Union Transportation Trail - Meet in the Millstream Road parking lot in Upper Freehold.

Monday, April 11 at 10 a.m.

Charleston Springs Golf Course - Meet in the Stonebridge Trail parking lot, Stagecoach Road, Millstone.

Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.

Weltz Park - Meet in the parking lot on West Park Avenue in Oakhurst.

Explore the trail with a Park System Naturalist. Afterward, our Naturalist will answer your nature related questions. **FREE!**

Roving Park System Naturalist

Sunday, April 3 at 9 a.m.

Shark River Park, Wall - Meet in the main parking lot.

Saturday, April 23 at 9 a.m.

Tatum Park, Middletown - Meet in the Holland Activity Center parking lot.

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and learn about seasonal points of interest. **FREE!**

Open Ceramics

Sunday, April 3 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.

Music Man Rich Marzec

Sunday, April 3 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy music from the 1890s. **FREE!**

Open Shoot Archery

Sunday, April 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

This shoot is open to experienced archers ages 10 and up, under 18 with adult. All equipment is provided. No outside equipment permitted. The cost is \$10 per person; cash or check only.

Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up

Mondays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 7-9 p.m.

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 8-10 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.

Coffee Club Mahjong

Tuesdays, April 5, 12 & 19 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.

The Casual Birder

Thursday, April 7 at 9 a.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan - Meet at the Activity Center.

Thursday, April 21 at 9 a.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown – Meet in the parking lot.

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk. We'll meander for about an hour and see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy this walk. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. Open to ages 8 and up. **FREE!**

Family Gym Time

Fridays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 9:30-11 a.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 ages 1-4 with adult. The cost is \$10 per pair per day; cash or check only.

Felting Demonstration

Saturday, April 9 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See how the process of felting wool can be used in garments during this demonstration. **FREE!**

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, April 10 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Baaa-ack to Baaa-sics, Working with Wool

Sunday, April 10 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

See and learn the how and why of working with wool. **FREE!**

Seashore Scientist: Bivalves - The Ocean's Amazing Natural Filters

Saturday, April 16 from 12-1 p.m.

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch

Learn about the incredible water cleaning ability of bivalves during this interactive discussion. We'll also do some hands-on experiments. **FREE!**

Knitting Demonstration

Saturday, April 16 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Learn about the art of knitting during this demonstration. **FREE!**

Monarch Butterflies

Saturday & Sunday, April 16 & 17 at 11 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn about these fascinating creatures during a PowerPoint presentation. **FREE!**

Great Spring Perennial Plant Swap

Saturday, April 23

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Plant drop off from 8:30-10 a.m.

Plant selection from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bring plants in one-quart, one-gallon or two-gallon containers and take home the same size and number of plants. Please label all plants. Herb and vegetable seedlings may also be exchanged. Invasive plants will not be accepted. **FREE!**

Spring Craft Show

Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tatum Park Red Hill Activity Center, Middletown

Find a unique, hand-crafted gift for yourself or a special person in your life during this show. Admission and parking are free.

Sheep Shearing/Wool Days

Saturday & Sunday, April 23 & 24 from 12-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

This annual demonstration allows visitors to appreciate the work of an old-fashioned sheep shearer. *FREE!*

Earth Day Activities 2016

Sunday, April 24 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

We're celebrating Earth Day with free eco-activities throughout the county. Here's what is planned:

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Enjoy an interactive show and tell program and tours of historic Seabrook-Wilson House, locally known as the "Spy House," which dates back to the early 1700s.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Find out how to become an earth-friendly gardener and ways to compost.

Huber Woods Environmental Center, Middletown

See snakes and reptiles during a family-oriented show and enjoy kid-friendly interactive exhibits inside the Environmental Center.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Enjoy live animal shows at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and nature walks at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft

Discover how to make eco-fashion items from recycled materials.

Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold

Meet a Park System Naturalist at Oak Point Shelter Building for nature walks through the park. Tours depart approximately at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

National Go Birding Day

Saturday, April 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn some bird watching tips and practice them in the field. **FREE!**

Creative Arts & Music Festival

Saturday & Sunday, April 30 & May 1 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

See the works of fine artists from all mediums including pottery, jewelry, photography and painting. Also enjoy live music. Admission and parking are 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.

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