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THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM FILLS FEBRUARY WITH FUN



*Let your creativity flow during **Open Ceramics**.*

LINCROFT – Think things are quiet in your county parks this time of year? Think again! The Monmouth County Park System is filling February with fun, family-friendly activities. Here's what is planned:

Winter Beach Walk

Friday, February 1 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan

Take a guided walk with a Park System Naturalist along the beach collecting and identifying

some of the ocean's natural treasures. Make sure to dress in warm clothing and bring along something to carry shells. **FREE!**

Groundhog's Day

Saturday, February 2 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Enjoy facts and folklore about groundhogs, historical winter fun, seasonal chores and maybe a few signs of spring. **FREE!**

Purls of Wisdom Knitting Bee

Saturday, February 2 from 12-2:30 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Share patterns, get some work done on a forgotten project, or learn a new hobby during this informal knitting bee. Farm staff will be on hand to help newcomers with casting on or to teach the basics. More seasoned knitters are welcome to share their love of knitting.

FREE!

Open Ceramics

Sunday, February 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 age 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.

Nature Story Time

Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11-11:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Enjoy some of our favorite stories. We'll also have nature-themed items related to each story. Open to ages 2-5 years with adult. **FREE!**

Roving Naturalist

Saturday, February 9 at 9 a.m.

Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen - Meet in the Activity Center parking lot.

Join our Roving Naturalist for a walk and discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two. This is a 1.5-2 hour program, but feel free to join in or drop out at any point. Dress for the weather as light rain and snow are not deterrents.

FREE!

Blacksmith Demonstration

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

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Wondrous Winter Walk

Thursday, February 14 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Rocky Point section parking lot in Highlands.

Thursday, February 28 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen - Meet in the Activity Center parking lot.

Tag along with a Park System Naturalist as you explore the serenity that is nature in the wintertime. ***FREE!***

Cookstove Demonstration

Saturday, February 16 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See what the farm staff is cooking on the woodstove. ***FREE!***

Backyard Birds Count

Saturday, February 16 at 9 a.m.

Big Brook Park, Marlboro

Sunday, February 17 at 9 a.m.

Huber Woods Environmental Center, Middletown

Join a Park System Naturalist as we explore the parks in celebration of the Great American Backyard Bird Count. We'll start by looking at what winter birds are at our local feeders and then take a short walk to see what birds we can identify along our trails. It's a great way to get started in birding. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed.

FREE!

Seashell Sunday

Sunday, February 17 from 1-2 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

See an assortment of live mollusks, crustaceans, and cool beach finds and artifacts while learning where shells come from and how to collect them without harming the environment. Bring unidentified or interesting finds to share with a Park System Naturalist.

FREE!

School's Out Drop-In Day at the Fort

Monday, February 18 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Enjoy Science Exploration Stations, Take Home Kids Creations and Building Fun during this self-guided program open to ages 5-10 with adult. The cost is \$5 per child per day; cash or check only.

Open Shoot Archery

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

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

All equipment is provided for this open shoot. No outside equipment permitted. This is not an instructional clinic and NOT designed for beginners. Open to ages 10 and up; under 18 with adult. The cost is \$10 per person; cash or check only.

The Casual Birder

Thursday, February 28 at 9 a.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk and 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. ***FREE!***

Nature Lecture Series: Herons, Egrets and Other Wading Birds

Thursday, February 28 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Discover where wading birds nest, what they eat, where they migrate, and their unique characteristics during this talk by a Park System Naturalist. ***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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