

# SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2025

Founded in 1991, this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization facilitates sponsorship and hosts fundraising events and activities to raise money for special projects in the parks.

**IN 2025, THIS INCLUDED:**



Funding for historic site improvements and enhancements is vital to keep history alive. The Friends have hired a construction company to begin renovations at the Carriage House at Historic Portland Place. Additional funding was provided to Historic Longstreet Farm for historic costumes. Plus, funding was provided to purchase artifacts and exhibit items for the Park System's collection. – \$64,747

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**\$50,989**

Benches are significant not only to the aesthetics of a park and as a respite for visitors, but also to commemorate the memory of a loved one. This has become the number one fundraiser for the Friends. During this past year, The Friends placed 26 memorial benches in the following park areas: Deep Cut Gardens, Dorbrook Recreation Area, Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Hartshorne Woods Park, Henry Hudson Trail, Holmdel Park, Hominy Hill Golf Course, Huber Woods Park, Swimming River Park, Thompson Park, and Turkey Swamp Park. – \$50,989



For additional information, please contact Maria Wojciechowski at Friends of the Parks, PO Box 686, Lincroft, New Jersey 07738  
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# SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2025 - CONTINUED

**\$14,395**



The Friends were thrilled to open the Braille Trail at the Manasquan Reservoir. This first-of-a-kind endeavor was a partnership with the Colts Neck Lions Club. It features an interactive trail exhibit with cast bronze wayside exhibits, braille descriptions, and an audio narrative. The New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA) has selected the Braille Trail for its 2025 Excellence In Design Award. – **\$14,395**



**\$6,120**

Creatures of the Night is one of the Park System's most popular Fall programs. This interactive hayride takes visitors on a curated trip through Huber Woods Park. Each turn introduces a new thrilling creature who could be met in the park after dark. Thanks to a generous donation from a volunteer, the Naturalists were able to buy new customs for this favorite event. – **\$6,120**

In addition, the Friends continued to provide recreation assistance funding for camp scholarships, after-school programs, and park excursions for the Urban Recreation Division and Community Recreation Division. Funding was also provided for outdoor recreation programs, volunteer programs, therapeutic recreation programs, as well as for advanced education and training seminars and courses for Park System staff. – **\$36,321**

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The Friends of the Parks are pleased to provide this support for the Monmouth County Park System.

These highlighted contributions to the Monmouth County Park System totaled:  
**\$172,572**

UPCOMING 2026 EVENTS:	
June 6 –	Pickleball Tournament at Dorbrook Recreation Area
July 22-26 –	50/50 Raffles at the Monmouth County Fair, East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold Township
September 15 –	Annual Golf Outing, Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck