

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2019

2019 – THE YEAR OF DEDICATIONS – \$17,296



16 Memorial Benches, 7 Memorial Trees and 4 Commemorative Plaques!

As a result of generous donors, Holmdel Park, Deep Cut Gardens, Thompson Park, Bayshore Waterfront Park and the Henry Hudson Trail have new benches for visitors to enjoy. This was a record number of placements.

Thanks to a \$5,000 donation from the Stevenson Family, three cherry trees were planted along the pond at Holmdel Park.

Additionally, Holmdel Park received a red maple tree and a flowering red bud, plus two dogwood trees were dedicated in the Thompson Park Tree Grove and Thompson Park Estate. The Deep Cut Gardens

Commemorative Tree received four memorial brass leaves. We are pleased to announce that we have completely filled the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree!



BROOKDALE FARM NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES APPLICATION – \$10,000 THOMPSON PARK, LINCROFT

Historic research for the application for Brookdale Farm to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places was completed and submitted to the National Park Service. Brookdale Farm was the original name for what is now known as Thompson Park, Lincroft. The Thompson family has a rich history of philanthropy here in Monmouth County. Geraldine Thompson was the founder of the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey, encouraged and assisted Monmouth County in opening a TB Clinic in Wall and was a crusader in women's prison reform. Brookdale Farm was the Thompson's summer home and consisted of what is today's Thompson Park and Brookdale Community College. The Friends of the Parks were proud to help preserve this historic piece of Monmouth County's rich history. The State of New Jersey has approved the nomination application and final approval for the acceptance is pending from the National Park Service.

COMMISSION FOR ACCREDITATION OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES, CAPRA - \$4,276 HOSPITALITY

This peer-led national accreditation review board conducted an on-site evaluation of the Monmouth County Park System in April. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides certification through this process as a way of recognizing park and recreation agencies for excellence in operations and service. The Friends of the Parks were happy to host a hospitality event and pay for lodging for the accreditation team. In November, the Park System was notified that it was awarded its 5th CAPRA re-accreditation. The Monmouth County Park System was the first county park system in the country to receive this prestigious recognition!

HISTORIC SERVICES – \$2,074

HISTORIC LONGSTREET FARM, HOLMDEL

The Friends of the Parks purchased a Fairbanks-Morse engine for the thresher at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel. This period style thresher is used to harvest wheat. The Friends also purchased over 18 yards of fabric, three historic patterns, and a large number of sewing notions (corset supplies, thread, scissors, etc.) to be used for the reproduction of historic clothing; also funded were 19th century replicas of work dresses and hats for staff and docents.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

TIMOLAT FARM, HUBER WOODS PARK, MIDDLETOWN - \$157,381.61

Timolat Farm is located within Huber Woods Park, Middletown. This tranquil property is graced with four tiered ponds, rolling meadows, whispering forests, a farmhouse and a barn. As part of a continuing project, the Friends provided funding for site improvements to the property, farmhouse and barn. Renovations and improvements are scheduled to continue through 2021. The Friends have previously funded invasive species remediation and native plant restoration. This phase of the project will include architectural plans and renovations to the barn. Once complete, these improvements will allow the Park System to host programs, day camps and group activities in this amazing structure. Funding and historic support for this project was provided through generous donations from Florence Timolat Short and Cecile Timolat McCaffery (daughters of the Timolat family).

LIONS CLUB SENSORY DEN - \$122,000

The Friends were excited to coordinate with the Colts Neck Lions Club and the Monmouth County Park System to add a sensory play area to Challenger Place, Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck. This addition features sensory play equipment that is musically themed and designed for visually impaired children. The Friends of the Parks were delighted to accept this generous donation from the Colts Neck Lions Club on behalf of the Park System. A ribbon-cutting dedication is planned for April 4, 2020.

2019 ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS FOR URBAN YOUTH – \$13,992

The Friends of the Parks continue to support the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP) by providing 20 scholarships for children from Monmouth County's underserved communities such as Asbury Park, Neptune Township, Neptune City, and Long Branch. These campers are able to participate in week-long summer camps (including door-to-door transportation), summer concerts, boat tours, and farm tours. In addition, the Friends fund a trip to see the Harlem Globetrotters, an afternoon of bowling, holiday parties, and programs at the Park System's Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park. Proceeds from our Annual RAP Appeal support this effort.

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION & TRAINING – \$3,874

Continuing education is an important component to keeping an organization vital. Monmouth County Park System employees were able to attend national training seminars and in-house training conferences for continuing education thanks to Friends of the Parks funding.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS, TRAIL TOOLS, NATIONAL TRAILS DAY LUNCHEON, AND HOLIDAY CARDS – \$2,238

The Friends of the Parks are proud to show our appreciation for the volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System. We sponsor the National Trails Day Luncheon on the first Saturday in June, provide dessert at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in March, and pay for Thanksgiving cards and postage. In addition, the Friends of the Parks were proud to purchase new tools for the volunteer trails team. These dedicated volunteers maintain over 125 miles of Monmouth County Park System trails.

SEMI-FORMAL AND A DAY WITH JOHN MARSHALL FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – \$696

Each year the Friends of the Parks sponsor the Therapeutic Recreation Semi-Formal at Tatum Park, Middletown. This support includes: refreshments, entertainment and gift bags for all attendees. In addition, the Friends provided funding for a visit from CBS's own weather expert, John Marshall. Participants learned the ins-and-outs of weather reporting and got to report the weather in front of a green screen – just like the pros.

2019 FUNDRAISING EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP - \$32,788

Through your generous support, we are able to support the many worthwhile requests for special projects and annual distributions from the Monmouth County Park System.

WINE, SPIRITS AND CRAFT BEER TASTING - \$23,193

This third annual event mixes wine connoisseurs, foodies, local beer crafters and locally distilled non-GMO spirits in a picturesque setting that is supplied by Tatum Park, Middletown.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - \$20,135

Golfers were delighted to tee off at a new location for the Friends Annual Golf Outing. Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone played host to the outing this year. The event includes 18 holes of golf, games of skill and chance, breakfast, gift bags, lunch and most of all – fun for a good cause!

50/50 RAFFLES AT THE MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR - \$18,821

There is nothing more exciting than the county fair! The Friends of the Parks add to the thrill of the rides, games, carnival barkers, music and fireworks by running the 50/50 raffles.

STRUT YOUR MUTT HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE - \$5,700

Families and friends love this canine/human costume parade every October at Thompson Park Day.

UPCOMING 2020 EVENTS:

- April 4** – Lions Club Sensory Den Playground Opening and Dedication, Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck
- May 20** – Annual Golf Outing, Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone
- July 22 – 26** – 50/50 Raffles at the Monmouth County Fair, East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold Township
- September 17** – Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting, Tatum Park, Middletown