



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

 **FRIENDS of the
Monmouth County
Park System, Inc.**

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* Cover photo of Gun Barrel at Battery Lewis,
Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the *Friends of the Monmouth County Park System*, I am excited to share with you our Annual Report for 2014.

Last year, with the assistance of the Timolat family, we continued our landscape renovation project at Timolat Farm in Huber Woods Park, Locust, NJ. In addition, we began Phase I of the Battery Lewis restoration project. Located in Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands, NJ, this World War II battery was crucial to the coastal defense of New York Harbor. The *Friends of the Parks* funded the research and application fees for the National Register of Historic Places administered by the Department of the Interior. I am proud to announce that we were notified in December that we are being awarded this distinction. Phase I also included funding for exhibit research and design for Battery Lewis. In the following pages, you will read about other exciting projects in our parks that we were proud to be a part of.

This year we were extremely proud to provide funding for additional activities and programs for the Urban Recreation Division through our Recreation Assistance Program (RAP) and for the Therapeutic Recreation Division.

I invite you to join me in celebrating all of the *Friends of the Parks* 2014 accomplishments highlighted in this report. We are proud of our role and ability to provide vital support to the Monmouth County Park System, and we sincerely thank our members and supporters for their continued generosity. We can all use a little help from our *Friends*.

Thank you,



Marilyn Staron
President

Our Mission

The *Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc.*, is a member-based, 501 (c)(3) charitable organization that provides financial support exclusively for Monmouth County Park System enhancements, including:

- preserving historical and natural resources,
- providing recreational opportunities for urban youth, and
- providing activities for individuals with disabilities within the community.

Families & Friends Create Lasting Tributes to Loved Ones

Thompson Park Honorary/Memorial Tree Grove

Families and friends may plant trees in the Thompson Park Tree Grove in memory/honor of loved ones. In 2014, the following tree was dedicated:

- A *Franklinia Altamaha* (Franklin Tree) from the staff of Portray Salon, in memory of Rose & Arthur O'Mahoney

Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree



With this program, families and friends may add leaves to the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree in memory/honor of loved ones. In 2014, the following leaves were donated by:

- Audrey Johnson, in memory of William C. Johnson, Jr.
- Roslyn Schleifer, in memory of Lillian Hopkins

Bench Donation Program

Park benches allow families and friends to establish a lasting memorial/honorary tribute to loved ones by placing a bench in designated areas in the Monmouth County Park System. In 2014, the following benches were added:



- In Deep Cut Gardens, from Holly Rohlf in memory of Catherine Mary Rohlf
- In Hartshorne Woods Park, from Joann Parsons in memory of Ted Parsons from Meghan Massett in memory of Bartholomew Francis Brenner, III
- At Turkey Swamp Park, from Tim Dafick in memory of Patrick Thomas Ring



Partnerships

Public Employees Support the Friends of the Parks through MCPECC & NJSECC

The *Friends of the Parks* are proud to be an approved 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that participates in the New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (NJSECC) and the Monmouth County Public Employees Charitable Campaign (MCPECC). These two programs enable county and state employees to make a contribution to the *Friends of the Parks* through payroll deductions.

The *Friends of the Parks* received \$886 in 2014 from employees who participated in each of these programs.

Matching Gifts

Employee matching gift programs are a great way for donors to increase their donations made to the *Friends of the Parks*. In 2014, we received \$273 in matching gifts from corporations whose employees generously donated to the *Friends of the Parks*. Thank you to the Merck Foundation and the Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts for generously donating on behalf of Christopher Brett, Anne Marie Mantz, and Erin McNamara.

Special Projects Completed in 2014

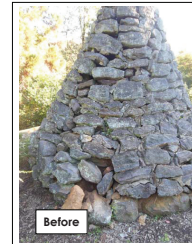
Timolat Farm Landscape Restoration Phase II – \$38,050

Timolat Farm is located within Huber Woods Park, Middletown. This tranquil property is graced with four tiered ponds, rolling meadows and whispering forests. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had reclaimed the meadows and woods, allowing invasive species to capture the setting. Phase II of this restoration project included meadow clearing, tree removal, stump grinding, and invasive plant species eradication. Native flowers and ferns were planted along the front pond. The funding for this project was provided through a private donation from Kimberly Timolat Short and Cecile Timolat McCaffery (daughters of the Timolat family).

Deep Cut Gardens – Mt. Vesuvius Restoration – \$19,500

Mt. Vesuvius is a unique peanut stone landscape feature in Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown. These gardens date back to the 1920s. In 1935, the notorious Vito Genovese bought the property and hired landscape architect Theodore Stoudt to design a pseudo-Italian style garden. Mr. Genovese's only insistence was the design include water features and a rendition of Mt. Vesuvius. The miniature Mt. Vesuvius was built from locally harvested peanut stone and was used as entertainment at parties when it belched smoke.

Time and the elements had eroded this landmark. The *Friends of the Parks* funded masonry repairs to restore this unique feature.



Disc Golf Course Supplies – \$6,188

Disc Golf is the hottest rage in tournament team sports. Disc Golf is based on the game of golf, substituting Frisbees and chain baskets. Like traditional golf, courses have obstacles and the lowest score determines the winner. Thanks to the help of the *Friends of the Parks*, the Monmouth County Park System will have two courses at Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport.

Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) – \$3,208

This peer-led accreditation review board conducted an on-site evaluation of the Monmouth County Park System in June. 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 lodging for the accreditation team. In November, the Park System was notified that it was awarded its 4th CAPRA re-accreditation.



Historic Longstreet Farm – \$3,060

The farmhouse has custom made shutters and hardware. The staff has a new period Santa suit as well as new flannel dresses.

Greener NJ Documentary – \$2,500

Greener NJ is a nonprofit organization which is producing a documentary on the Monmouth County Park System. The documentary will illustrate the balance the Monmouth County Park System has been able to achieve in promoting active recreation while it preserves and conserves open space and protects our most precious resources – wildlife and fresh water. The *Friends of the Parks* funding allowed Greener NJ to acquire the necessary insurance and permits to begin filming.

Monmouth County Park System Public Information – \$340

The visitor waiting area at Dorbrook Recreation Area has a flat screen television (with wall mounting brackets) and multimedia streaming system to run Park System information and publicity.

Special Projects Completed in 2014 (continued)

Historic Landmark Designation for Battery Lewis – \$10,920 and Exhibit Design for Battery Lewis – \$16,000

Battery Lewis (located in Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands) was part of the North Atlantic Coastal Defense to defend New York Harbor from German invasion during WWII. The *Friends of the Parks* have hired a professional exhibit designer to develop interpretive displays. Funding was provided for historic research and application fees for the nomination as a historic site. In the fall, the Monmouth County Park System was notified of the acceptance of this site to the National Register of Historic Places. The *Friends* are funding future phases of this restoration which will include displays and placement of the gun barrel.



Annual Distributions

Camp Scholarships & Programs for Urban Youth – \$15,469

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, farm tours, a trip to see the Harlem Globetrotters, 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 – \$8,878

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 seminars for continuing education thanks to *Friends of the Parks* funding.



Volunteer Events, Trail Tools, National Trails Day Luncheon, and Holiday Cards – \$2,261

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.



Annual Distributions (continued)



Holiday Trip, Semi-Formal, and Day at the Beach for Individuals with Disabilities – \$2,950

Each year the *Friends of the Parks* sponsor the Annual Therapeutic Recreation Semi-Formal at Tatum Park, Middletown. The group also attended a beach outing and *Disney on Ice – Let's Celebrate*. The *Friends of the Parks* paid for admission, refreshments and transportation for participants and chaperons.

Events

Friends of the Parks Annual Membership Meeting

1st Constitution Bank, The Mulheren Family, and Brinkerhoff Environmental Services sponsored a buffet breakfast for the *Friends of the Parks* members who attended the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting, held at the Hominy Hill Golf Course Clubhouse, Colts Neck. After a brief business meeting lead by Board President Marilyn Staron, Monmouth County Park System Naturalist Tanya Dinova discussed seasonal nature and wildlife. Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor Lauren Gerber highlighted the division and the importance of *Friends* funding for the participants.

Annual Golf Outing – \$21,655

The *Friends of the Parks* Annual Golf Outing was held at Hominy Hill Golf Course in Colts Neck. The outing began with a continental breakfast, followed by 18 holes of golf on the Robert Trent Jones designed championship course. This par 72 course is rated as one of the top 25 public courses by Golf Digest. The outing concluded with a putting contest, luncheon and prizes.



Chris Carton takes a swing at it.



Friends of the Parks President Marilyn Staron (left) & Freeholder Lillian Burry (center) with the Winning Foursome: Joe Spinapont, Roger Bartsche, Doug Sterner & Chuck Wolf



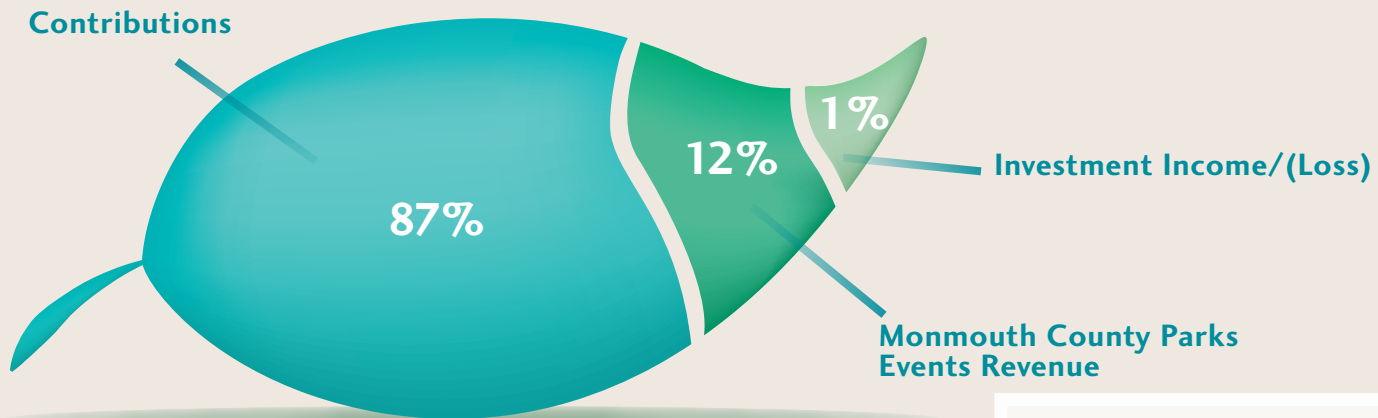
The Monmouth County Fair

The 40th Annual Monmouth County Fair was the fair of the 3 "F's" – Family oriented, Fun and lots of Free events. Three lucky winners shared the Super 50/50 drawing of \$9,437, and thirteen people shared \$6,515 in daily drawings.

Strut Your Mutt – \$5,870

Record breaking crowds at Thompson Park Day cheered on costume-clad dogs and their human partners at the *Friends of the Parks* Annual Strut Your Mutt Halloween Parade and Costume Contest. Trophies were awarded by Monmouth County Freeholder Director Lillian Burry and Monmouth County Freeholder Serena DiMasio. The contest was sponsored by Garden State Veterinary Specialists. The audience was also treated to a demonstration given by the K-9 Unit of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

Organizations Support & Revenue

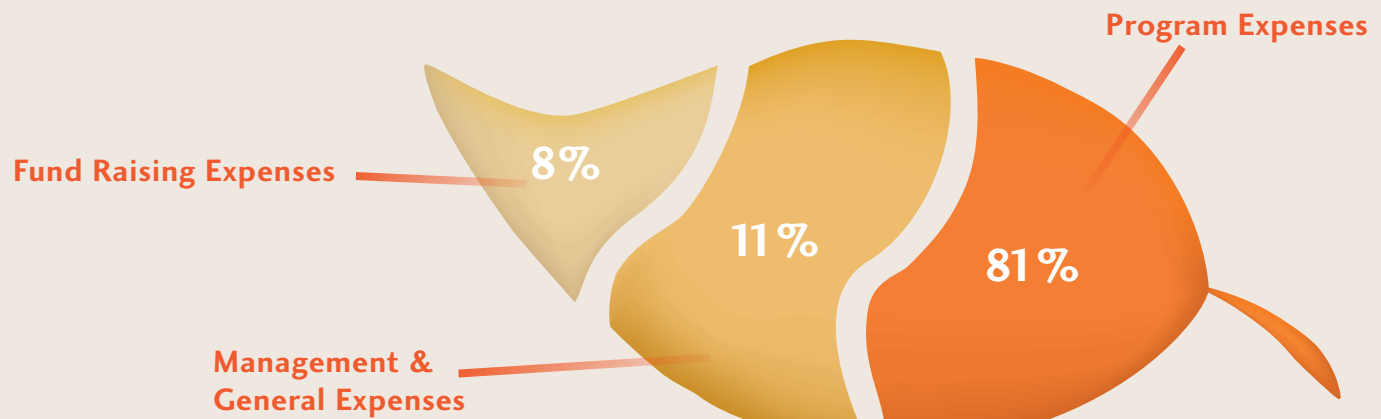


Organization Support & Revenue

Monmouth County Parks Events Revenue	\$ 27,525
Investment Income/(Loss)	\$ 1,707
Contributions	\$ 192,339
Total Organization Support & Revenue	\$ 221,571

- Monmouth County Parks Events Revenue
- Investment Income/(Loss)
- Contributions

Organization Expenses

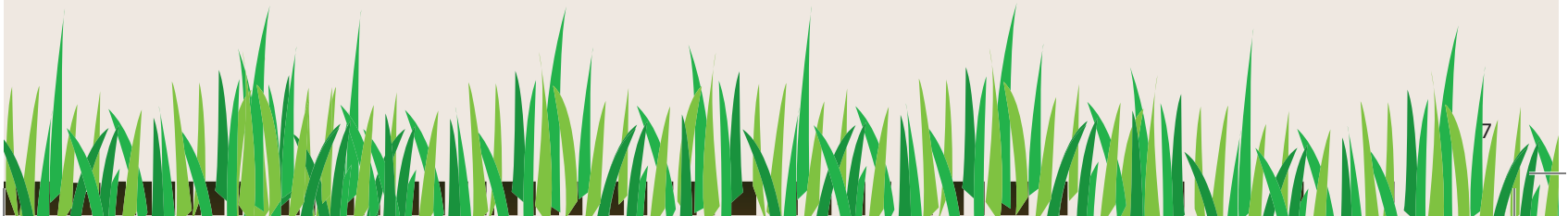


- Fund Raising Expenses
- Management & General Expenses
- Program Expenses

Organization Expenses

Program Expenses	\$ 234,173*
Management & General Expenses	\$ 32,067
Fund Raising Expenses	\$ 24,115
Total Organization Expenses	\$ 290,355
Increase in Net Assets	\$ (68,784)

*See Special Projects and Annual Distributions, page 3 & 4



Donors and Sponsors

The *Friends of the Parks* could not operate without the generous support of donors and sponsors. They allow us to fund special projects and programs that enhance the Monmouth County Park System and enrich the experience of the visitors to the parks.

\$5,000 +

Garden State Veterinary Specialists

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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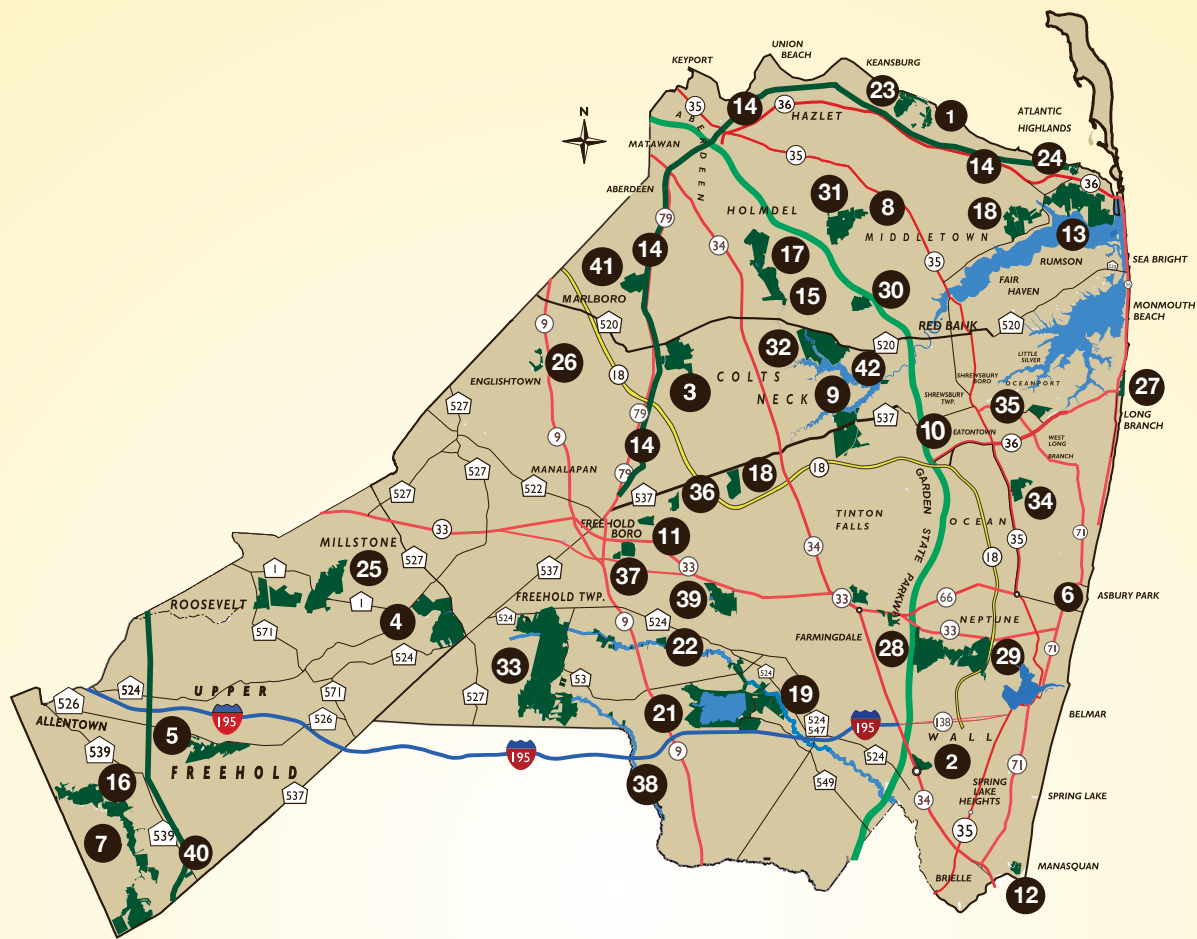
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Park Facilities

1. Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth
3. Big Brook Park, Marlboro
5. Clayton Park, Upper Freehold
7. Crosswicks Creek Park, Upper Freehold
9. Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck
10. Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls
13. Hartshorne Woods Park, Middletown
17. Holmdel Park, Holmdel
18. Huber Woods Park, Middletown
21. Manasquan Reservoir, Howell
25. Perrineville Lake Park, Millstone
27. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch
28. Shark River Park, Wall
31. Tatum Park, Middletown
32. Thompson Park, Lincroft
33. Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold Twp.
34. Wetz Park, Ocean Twp.
35. Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport

Golf Courses

2. Bel-Aire Golf Course, Wall
4. Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone
18. Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck
19. Howell Park Golf Course, Howell
26. Pine Brook Golf Course, Manalapan
29. Shark River Golf Course, Wall

Special Use Areas

6. Coastal Activity Center, Asbury Park
8. Deep Cut Cardens, Middletown
11. East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold Twp.
12. Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan
14. Henry Hudson Trail, Freehold Boro to Aberdeen to Atlantic Highlands
22. Manasquan River Greenway, Freehold to Howell
23. Monmouth Cove Marina, Port Monmouth
24. Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands
30. Sunnyside Recreation Area, Middletown
40. Union Transportation Trail, Upper Freehold

Historic Sites

15. Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel
16. Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Undeveloped Sites

36. Baysholm Tract, Freehold Twp.
37. De Bois Creek Recreation Area, Freehold Twp.
41. Deep Run Recreation Area, Marlboro
38. Metedeconk River Greenway, Freehold to Howell
42. Swimming River Greenway, Tinton Falls
39. Yellow Brook Tract, Howell

***The Monmouth County Park System's 120-Ton WWII Gun Arrives at Battery Lewis.
It's finally here!***

The 68-foot, 120-ton WWII gun, originally mounted on the Battleship USS New Jersey, is now on-site at Hartshorne Woods Park. Battery Lewis was part of the North Atlantic Coastal Defense, guarding the New York Harbor from possible German U-Boat invasion during WWII. The gun barrel, which is nearly identical to the original Battery Lewis guns, was removed from the battleship in 1954 and warehoused in a naval yard in Norfolk, VA. The Friends funded historic research for the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and exhibit design for the Park System's planned exhibits at Battery Lewis. This is a multi-year project that will highlight the historic significance of this Monmouth County military installation.



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