



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

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

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\* Cover photo of Thompson Park

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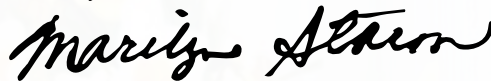
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, I am excited to share with you our Annual Report for 2013.

Last year was a monumental year for Friends of the Parks as we dispersed a record amount of funding in support of the Monmouth County Park System. In the following pages, you will read about many exciting projects in our parks, including the completion of two special projects which were privately funded, in addition to our support of 2013 Special Projects and Annual Distributions.

From your perspective, it may appear that Friends' spending on projects in 2013 far outpaced donations and membership support. True, in 2013 we spent more money than were able to raise on our own. We were pleased to support two large projects, Timolat Farm in Middletown and Tony's Place in Long Branch thanks to the generosity of private, restricted funding we received between 2008 and 2010. With these designated funds we were able to begin Phase I of the landscape restoration project at Timolat Farm and release funds toward the playground re-surfacing project at Tony's Place. In recent years, the Friends were entrusted with \$152,000.00 from Cecile Timolat McCaffrey and Florence Timolat Short for landscaping, hardscaping and drainage improvements to several ponds on the Timolat property, which is part of Huber Woods Park. In 2009, we were provided \$109,664 from Challenged Youth Sports towards Tony's Place, a universally accessible playground at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.

I invite you to join me in celebrating all of the Friends' 2013 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 2013, the following tree was dedicated: An Allegheny Serviceberry Tree was commissioned on April 1, 2013, by: Karen and Phil, Kristen and Bob, Alli and Paul, Elyse and Nelson, Jane and Bob, and Judy in memory of Suzanne Wetzel Seemann



*Commemorative Tree at Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown*

## 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 2013, the following leaves were added by:

- Jim, Amy & Simon Eber in honor of Ann Klein
- Friends of the Parks in honor of Roberta Sheridan
- Tom, Linda S. & Fay H. in memory of Susan Liu

## 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 2013, the following benches were added:



*Teak benches have been placed in Deep Cut Gardens, Huber Woods Park & Tatum Park*

- In Deep Cut Gardens, from Michael Kennedy in memory of June L. Kennedy
- In Deep Cut Gardens, from Janice Orrick in memory of Jillian Marie Orrick
- In Holmdel Park, from Mark Megallo in memory of Claire Megallo
- At the Manasquan Reservoir, from Catherine Rispoli in memory of Larry Rispoli
- In Sunnyside Recreation Area, from Robert Mason in memory of Alexis T. Mason



*Dedication ceremony at Turkey Swamp Park, for the Al Picerno memorial bench donated by his daughter Noelle.*



*Gerry Clearwater enjoying the bench he donated to the Henry Hudson Trail*

# 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 \$841 in 2013 from employees who participated in each of these programs.

## Matching Gifts

Employee matching gifts programs is a great way for donors to increase their donations made to the Friends of the Parks. In 2013, we received \$435 in matching gifts from corporations whose employees generously donated to the Friends of the Parks.

Thank you to everyone who continues to remember the Friends of the Parks through payroll deductions.

# Special Projects Completed in 2013

## Tony's Place Resurfacing Project - \$107,777

Tony's Place is a universally accessible playground for children of all abilities that is located in Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch. With the permission of Challenged Youth Sports, the Friends of the Parks released \$107,777 to the Monmouth County Park System to replace the specially designed flooring component which had begun to disintegrate. This funding will assist in completing the project so this facility can once again be enjoyed by all.

## Historic Landmark Designation for Battery Lewis – \$10,000

Battery Lewis, located in Hartshorne Woods Park, was part of the North Atlantic Coastal Defense System during WWII, where two 16" cannons guarded the Atlantic Coast from this battery. This project continues in 2014.

## Historic Longstreet Farm – \$7,483

Historic Longstreet Farm has some new additions for the house, farm exhibits, and staff. The Friends of the Parks purchased a pair of 3 year-old black Percheron mules. These "Mollies" (which means female in farm talk) are named Jenn and Alice. The house has custom designed and manufactured shutters and hardware. The staff has new period costumes and a period Santa suit. Plus, there is a replica bathing suit displayed in the exhibit.



*The Friends of the Parks purchased a new replica bathing suit which is on display in the exhibit at Historic Longstreet Farm*



*Jenn and Alice adapting to their new home at Historic Longstreet Farm*

## Historic Walnford Exhibit– \$2,258.00

Visitors to Historic Walnford can take a trip back in time while exploring the new turbine exhibit.



## Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center – \$2,845.00

Pavilion II has a new custom painted mural depicting a visitor's experience when hiking the trail. This colorful landscape highlights a visitor's view of wildlife, flora, and fauna along the trail and reservoir.

## Timolat Farm Landscape Restoration – \$75,940.00

Timolat Farm, located in Huber Woods Park is graced with four tiered ponds which run down the hill to the Navesink River. These ponds were designed 101 years ago by James Timolat in order to irrigate his farm and orchard, to harvest ice, and provide a scenic landscape. Over time nature has eroded and overgrown the lovely peanut stone features and ponds. This restoration project included tree removal, stump grinding, and invasive plant species eradication. Stone and concrete features along the streams and ponds were repaired and native flowers and ferns were planted along the front pond. The funding for this project was provided through a donation from Kimberly Timolat Short and Cecile Timolat McCaffery (daughters of the Timolat family).



*Timolat Farm pond after Friends' restoration project*



*Timolat Farm pond before restoration*

# Annual Distributions

## Employee Education and Training - \$5,469

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



## Programs for Urban Youth - \$14,470

Through the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP), the Friends of the Parks provided 20 scholarships for children from a few of Monmouth County's urban communities. The children attended week-long summer camps (including door-to-door transportation), summer concerts, boat tours, farm tours, and programs at the Monmouth County Park System's Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park.



*Santa makes an appearance at the Holiday Party for the Urban Recreation Program*

## Programs for Volunteers - \$3,648



Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, and purchased cards and postage for Thanksgiving greetings to all volunteers.

The Friends of the Parks received a \$5,000 anonymous donation to be used exclusively for volunteer recognition. We would like to thank this donor for this generous donation.

## Programs for Individuals with Disabilities - \$1,707

The Friends of the Parks sponsored the Annual Therapeutic Recreation Semi-Formal held at the Holland Activity Center in Tatum Park. Young adults with disabilities enjoyed an evening of dinner, dancing, games, and prizes.



The Friends of the Parks also sponsored a beach outing to Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park and a trip to Disney on Ice: Dare to Dream, which included transportation, admission, and refreshments.



## Open Houses and Dedications

The Friends of the Parks also provided the funds for refreshments for the visitors to the Annual 9-11 Memorial Observance at Mt. Mitchell Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands.

Volunteers provide valuable assets to the Monmouth County Park System. They participate as docents in various park locations as well as assist with programs such as therapeutic horseback riding lessons, historical interpretation, and outdoor adventures. They also provide thousands of hours of labor in building and maintaining over 120 miles of park trails, beaches and gardens.

To honor the volunteers, the Friends of the Parks sponsored the National Trails Day Luncheon, provided dessert at the Annual



## Friends of the Parks Annual Membership Meeting

Brinkerhoff Environmental Services and the Mulheren Family sponsored a buffet breakfast for the Friends of the Parks members who attended the 2013 Annual Membership Meeting, held at the Hominy Hill Golf Course Clubhouse. After a brief business meeting lead by Board President Roberta Sheridan, Monmouth County Park System Naturalist Chris Lanza introduced guests to the turtles of New Jersey. Monmouth County Park System Assistant Secretary-Director Bruce Gollnick explained the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the Monmouth County Park System and the Park System's vital role in the relief distribution effort. Maria Wojciechowski spoke on the impact of Friends of the Parks funding and donation to the Monmouth County Park System and citizens of Monmouth County.

## Annual Golf Outing – \$21,720

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.



Raffle winner Ed Ghigliotti and volunteers Ashley Nunez and Brianna Markowitz

## Flavour: Party on the Promenade – \$5,456

The Friends of the Monmouth County Parks were honored to be selected as the non-profit recipient of the raffle proceeds and gift auction from an exclusive tasting event on May 23rd at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank. This exclusive evening featured samplings from Red Bank's top chefs and restaurants.



Michael Wojciechowski, Friends of the Parks Executive Director  
Maria Wojciechowski, Friends of the Parks Board Member  
Barbara McMorrow, and Patrick McMorrow

## The Monmouth County Fair

The 39th Annual Monmouth County Fair was the best fair ever...because there was no rain! "Nothing but blue skies coming your way," could have been the theme song. The Friends had a five year record high in 50/50 raffle sales. Total sales netted: \$15,245 The Super 50/50 brought in a total of \$8,621. Just look at the happy winners.



Friends of the Parks Board Member Mariann Musella with a lucky raffle winner



Eager young Friends of the Parks volunteers bantering with the Fair robot



Joanne & Jeanne Walker selling Super 50/50 tickets

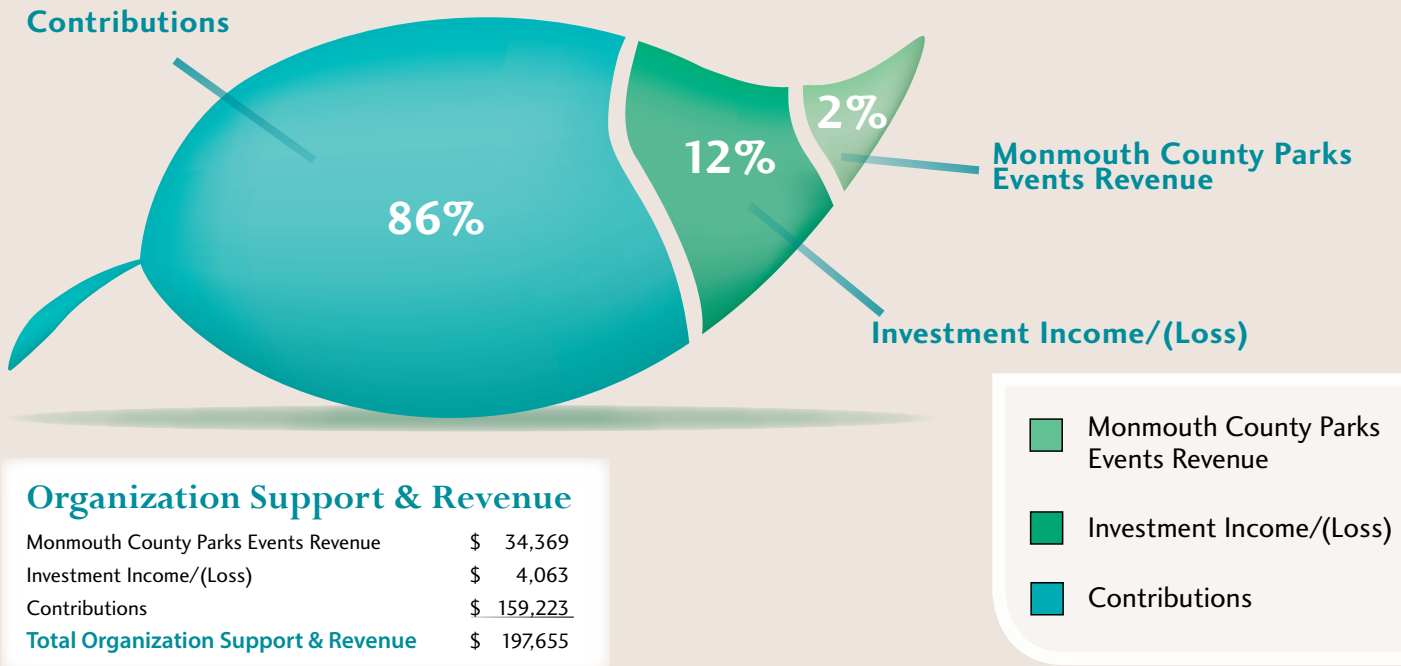
## Strut Your Mutt – \$7,193

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. This year, the guest announcer was Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, and trophies were awarded by Monmouth County Freeholder Director Thomas Arnone 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.

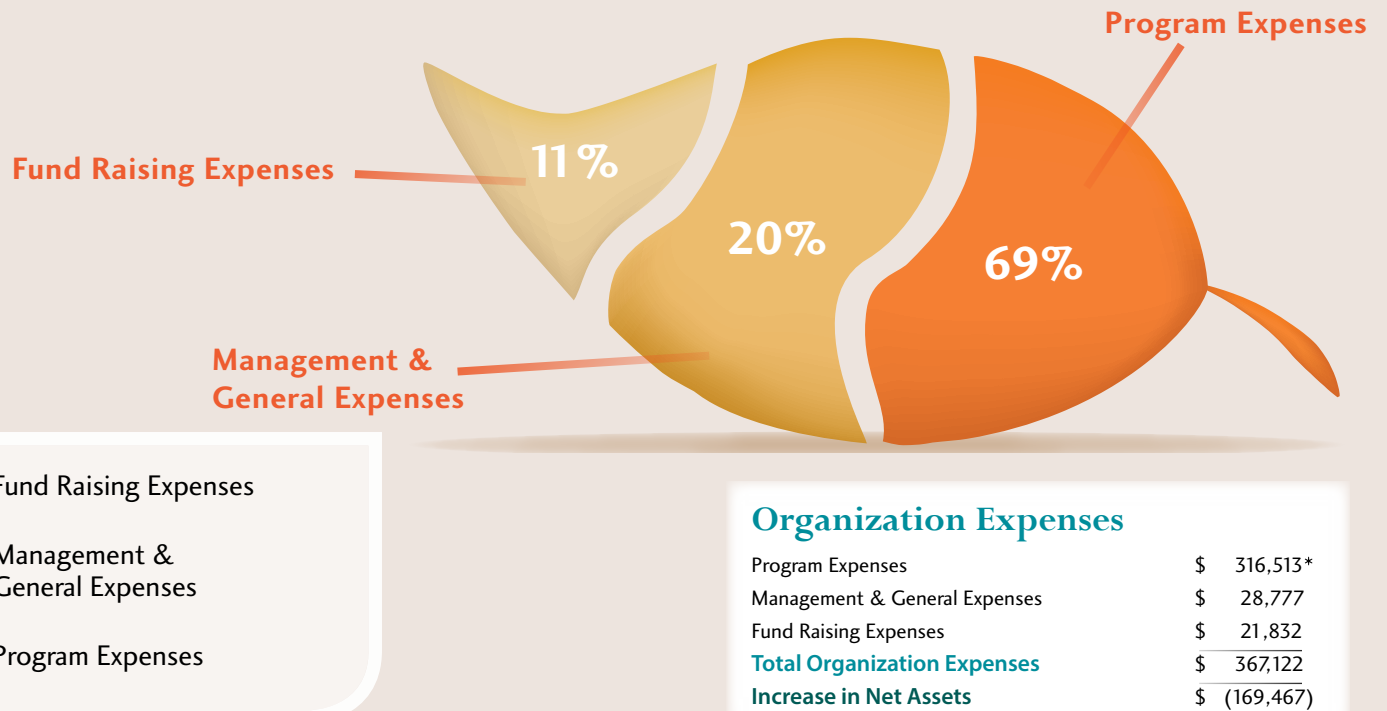


Freeholder Serena DiMasio with Strut Your Mutt participant

# Organizations Support & Revenue



# Organization Expenses



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

# Donors and Sponsors

The *Friends* 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 +

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## \$2,500 - \$4,999

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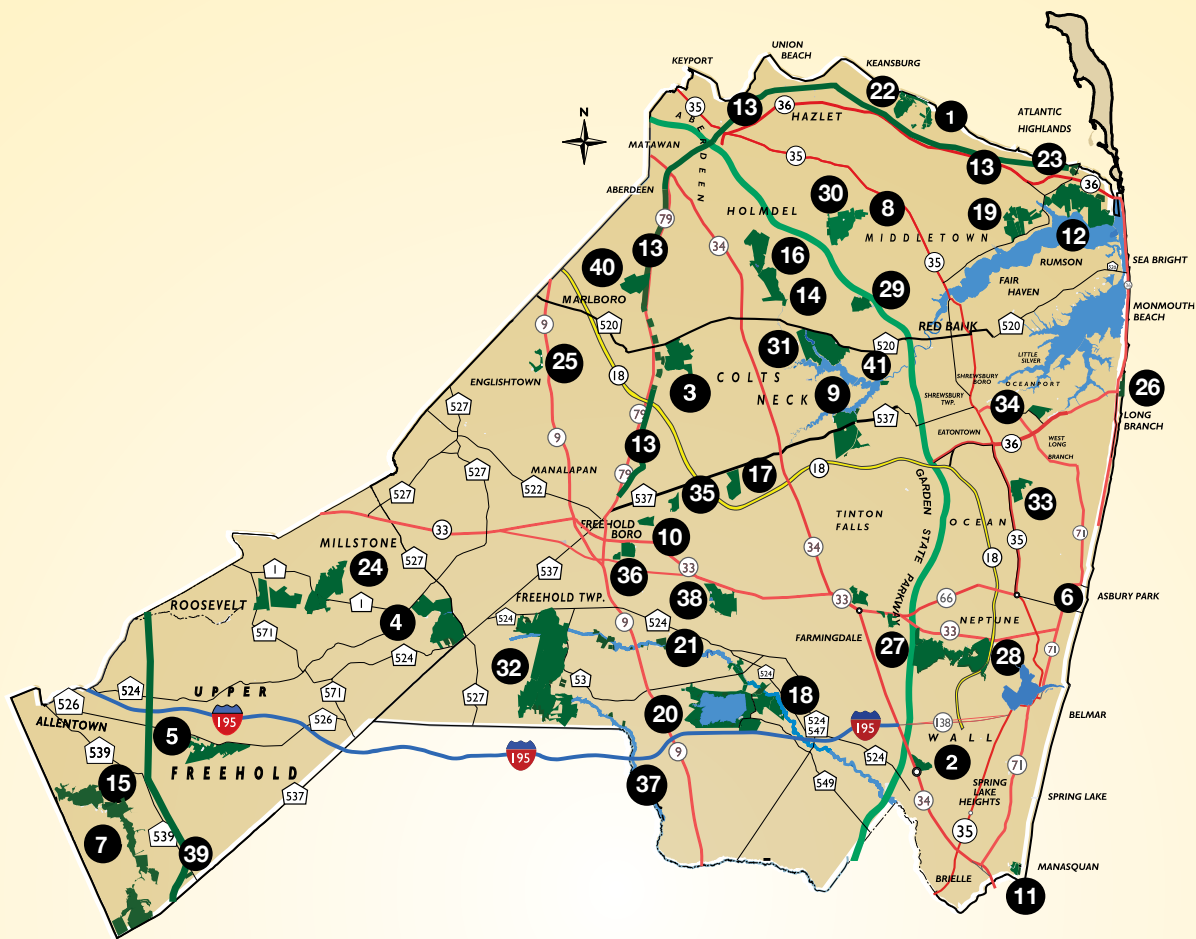
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## Park Facilities

1. Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth
3. Big Brook Park, Marlboro
5. Clayton Park, Upper Freehold
7. Crosswicks Creek Greenway, Upper Freehold
9. Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck
12. Hartshorne Woods Park, Middletown
16. Holmdel Park, Holmdel
19. Huber Woods Park, Middletown
20. Manasquan Reservoir, Howell
24. Perrineville Lake Park, Millstone
26. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch
27. Shark River Park, Wall
30. Tatum Park, Middletown
31. Thompson Park, Lincroft
32. Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold Twp.
33. Weltz Park, Ocean Twp.
34. Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport

## Golf Courses

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

## Special Use Areas

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

## Historic Sites

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

## Undeveloped Sites

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



**FRIENDS of the  
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