

## Park Hours

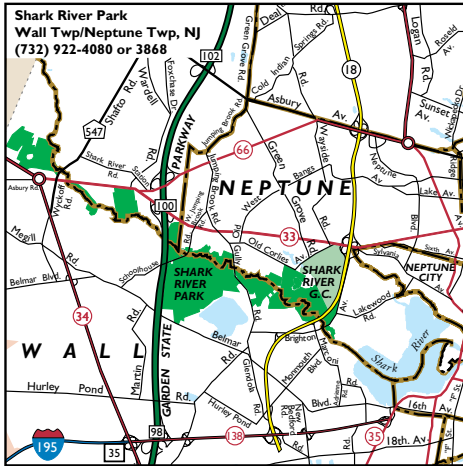
Shark River Park is open every day of the year from 8am to dusk, free of charge.

## Information About Lyme Disease

To avoid contact with the deer tick that may carry Lyme Disease, stay away from tall grass and shrubby areas, wear light-colored clothes, tuck long pants into socks, and check yourself for ticks during and after each visit to the park.

## For More Information

Call (732) 842-4000 or visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com).



### From Garden State Parkway, Exit 100

To Main/Schoolhouse Rd. Entrance: Take Hwy. 33 East for 0.5 miles to Schoolhouse Rd. Turn right onto Schoolhouse Rd. and follow to park entrance on right.

To Gully Road Entrance: Follow Hwy. 33 East for about 1 mile, turn right onto Gully Rd. (convenience store/gas station on corner). Stay right onto Gully Road at curve, and follow to park entrance on the right.

To Hillside Area: Follow Hwy 33 East for 2.8 miles, follow signs for All Turns/Exit Route 18 N. At light, turn right onto Brighton Ave and follow for 1 mile. Turn left onto Hillside Rd, parking lot on right.

### From State Hwy. 18

To Main/Schoolhouse Rd. Entrance: Take Exit 8, and travel Hwy. 33 West for 1.8 miles to Schoolhouse Rd. Turn left onto Schoolhouse Rd (convenience store/gas station on corner) and follow to park entrance on right.

To Gully Road Entrance: Take Exit 8 and follow Hwy. 33 West for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Gully Rd. (church/gas station on corner). Stay right on Gully Rd. at fork, pass American Legion Hall and follow to park entrance on right.

To Hillside Area: Follow Hwy 33 East to signs for U-turn/Exit Route 18 North. At first light, turn right onto Brighton Ave and follow for 1 mile. Turn left onto Hillside Rd, parking lot on right.

Monmouth County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Board of Recreation Commissioners



## Monmouth County Park System

# Shark River Park



Neptune, NJ  
Wall Township, NJ



[www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com)

## Welcome to Shark River Park

Established in 1960 with surplus land from construction of the Garden State Parkway, Shark River Park is the first and oldest Monmouth County Park. There are more than 957 acres along either side of the Shark River in Neptune and Wall Township. The waterways, sandy hills, forests and pond at this site attract anglers and hikers in the summer, and cross country skiers and ice skaters in winter. Also, a variety of picnic facilities host thousands of park visitors each year.



## Fishing and Skating on the Pond

Area residents can fish the park's scenic white pine and oak-lined pond. It contains largemouth bass, catfish, sunfish, yellow perch, shiners and black crappie. The Shark River, which flows near the pond, is stocked seasonally with trout. A state fishing license is required for anglers over age 16. To ice skate in winter, please call (732) 842-4000, ext. 36 to check conditions first.

## Playground, Shuffleboard, and Horseshoes

Children will enjoy climbing, swinging, sliding and rocking on the features of this playground. There are also facilities for shuffleboard and horseshoes: equipment may be signed out for free at the Shelter Building.



## Open Picnic Areas

Shark River Park has more than 95 shady picnic tables and 42 grills for visitors to enjoy for free on a first come, first-served basis. Bring your own charcoal if you would like to cook. Groups of 50 or more must obtain a free permit first; please call (732) 842-4000.

## Large Group Picnic Areas (By Reservation, For Fee)

Celebrate outdoors by reserving one of two large-group picnic areas. The Shelter Building (with kitchen) is available for rental by groups up to 80 (except during ice skating season, December 15 – March 15). Or, reserve the covered picnic shelter and its large grill cooking area, either with adjacent outdoor picnic area (max. 250 people) or without picnic area (max. 125 people). Visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for site photos and annual prices. Call (732) 842-4000 for reservations.

## Protect Your Parks

The Park System preserves and manages natural and cultural resources on more than 14,500 acres of land in Monmouth County. Protecting water quality, eliminating invasive plant species, and promoting healthy wildlife habitats are just a few objectives. Please help protect the park by leaving flowers, plants, animals, and other features as you found them; adhering to posted park rules; using designated containers for trash, recyclables and pet waste; and keeping your pets leashed. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

An overabundance of white-tailed deer in and around this park is threatening the health of native plant and animal species. Portions of Shark River Park may be open for deer hunting during all or some of the State-regulated hunting season. All hunting areas are clearly posted. Call (732) 842-4000, ext. 4237 or visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for more information.

## Trails

Shark River Park has 9 miles of multi-use trails to walk, run, hike, bike and ride horses. Please stay on marked trails, plan your route, take a trail map with you, and wear appropriate safety gear. **NOTE: At a brisk pace, it takes approximately 20 minutes to walk 1 mile (1.6 km).**

## Trail Key

- **BRIDGE LOOP:** This short 0.4 mile (0.6 km) **EASY** trail offers a picturesque tour alongside the Shark River. **Foot Traffic Only**
- **CEDAR LOOP:** **EASY** 1.2 mile (1.9 km) loop trail travels through the center of the park (a 0.2 mile extension through Atlantic White Cedar bog connects to Gully Road)
- ♥ **FITNESS TRAIL:** Illustrated signs along the Cedar Loop guide fitness enthusiasts, counter-clockwise, through a 20 station/32 exercise workout
- **HIDDEN CREEK:** At 2 miles (3.2 km), this **MODERATE** loop travels through forests of red maple (lowland) and pine-oak (upland). A portion of this trail—from Schoolhouse Rd. trailhead to Pine Hills trail—is **Foot Traffic Only** (no equestrians/bicycles)
- **PINE HILLS:** **MODERATE** 1.4 mile (2.3 km) trail travels off Hidden Creek to explore the “hills” of Shark River Park
- **SHARK RIVER RUN:** This 2.4 mile (3.9 km) trail, one way, offers a long **MODERATE** hike through all the sections of this park. **NOTE:** Trail crosses two busy roads
- ◆ **RIVER’S EDGE:** This short, primitive, **CHALLENGING** trail follows the Shark River for 1 mile (1.6 km), one way, on the north side of the park

## Trail Standards

- **EASY** (green circle): short, well-maintained or paved trails intended for casual walking
- **MODERATE** (blue square): longer trails with some grades/obstructions; intended for hiking (may be suitable for some walkers and runners)
- ◆ **CHALLENGING** (black diamond): long, more primitive trails with steep grades, obstructions; intended for hardy, experienced hikers

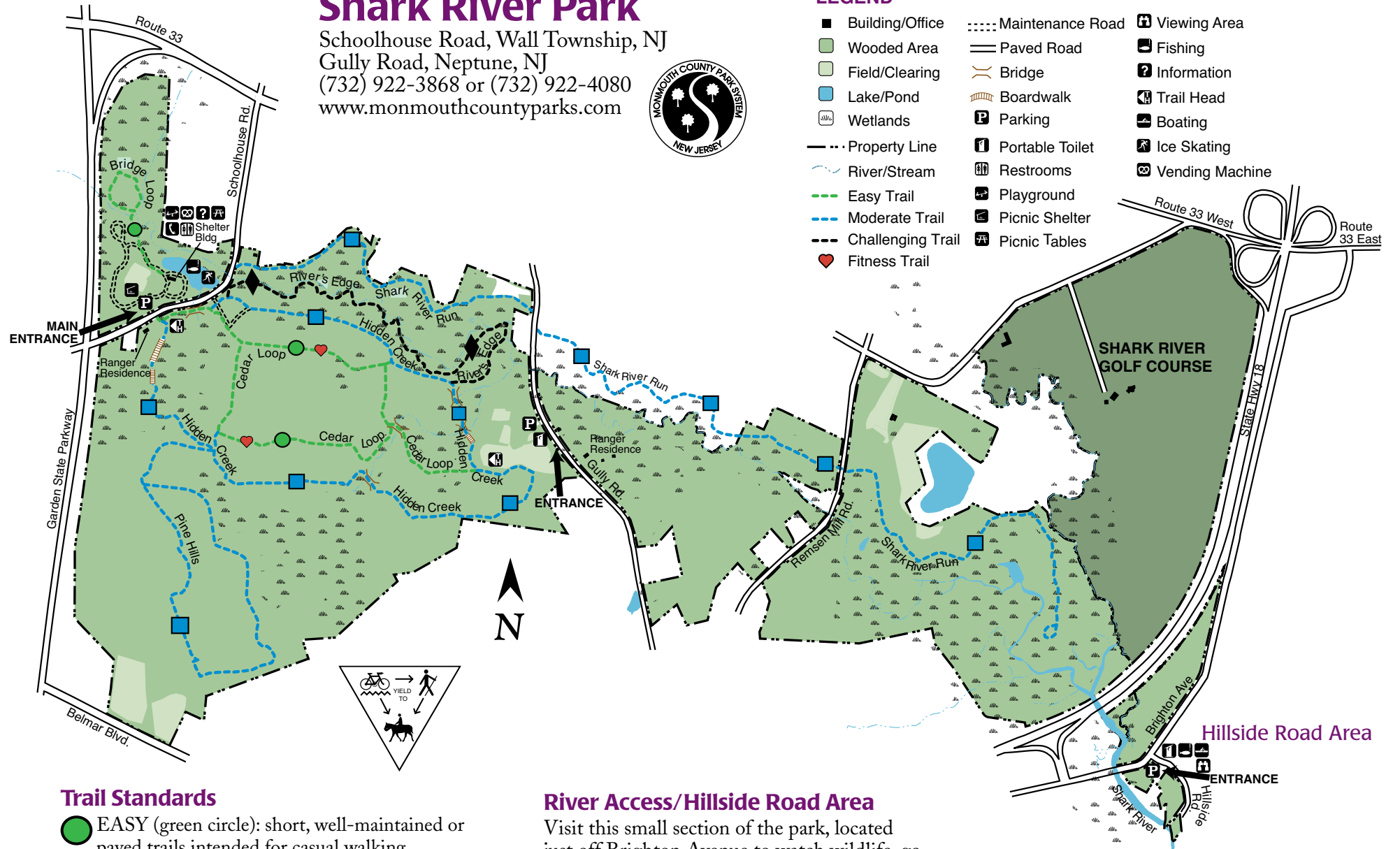
# Shark River Park

Schoolhouse Road, Wall Township, NJ  
Gully Road, Neptune, NJ  
(732) 922-3868 or (732) 922-4080  
www.monmouthcountyparks.com



## LEGEND

- |                     |                    |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Building/Office   | ⋯ Maintenance Road | 🏠 Viewing Area    |
| 🌲 Wooded Area       | — Paved Road       | 🎣 Fishing         |
| 🌳 Field/Clearing    | ⌒ Bridge           | ❓ Information     |
| 🌊 Lake/Pond         | 🚶 Boardwalk        | 📍 Trail Head      |
| 🌿 Wetlands          | 🅑 Parking          | 🚤 Boating         |
| — Property Line     | 🚻 Portable Toilet  | 🛷 Ice Skating     |
| 🌊 River/Stream      | 🚽 Restrooms        | 📦 Vending Machine |
| — Easy Trail        | 🎡 Playground       |                   |
| — Moderate Trail    | 🛖 Picnic Shelter   |                   |
| — Challenging Trail | 🍷 Picnic Tables    |                   |
| ♥ Fitness Trail     |                    |                   |



## River Access/Hillside Road Area

Visit this small section of the park, located just off Brighton Avenue to watch wildlife, go fishing or to put-in kayaks at the Shark River. Also, November and December are great months to view sunsets over the river, like the one pictured on the front cover.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Small, car top vessels only; water access is challenging, especially at low tide.