



**Citizens for Informed Land Use**  
**PO Box 632**  
**Holmdel, NJ 07733**

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“Keeping Holmdel *Holmdel*– The Parks of Holmdel” is the third in a series of Land Use and Open Space publications aimed at citizen education and sponsored by the Friends of Holmdel Open Space (FOHOS) and Citizens for Informed Land Use (CILU).

Friends of Holmdel Open Space is a non-profit, non-political organization formed to raise funds to preserve land in Holmdel. It is chartered as a 501 (c) (3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to FOHOS, c/o Elise Donovan, President, 12 Indian Creek Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

Citizens for Informed Land Use is chartered as a non-profit, non-partisan 501 (c) (4) membership organization whose mission is to promote informed and thoughtful land use decisions and protect Holmdel’s natural resources. Contributions are not tax deductible. Membership information is available from Jim McCorkel, Co-President, CILU, Box 632, Holmdel, NJ 07733 and on CILU’s website, <[www.holmdel-cilu.org](http://www.holmdel-cilu.org)>.

# The Role and Value of Parks

Those of us who live in Holmdel are fortunate to have access to many beautiful parks. Our parks make life in Holmdel better – even if we rarely visit a park. While we usually think of parks as places for recreation, they bring considerable economic and environmental benefit to our community. They help strengthen our social connections and they bring invaluable beauty to our daily lives.

The recreational value of parks is usually the first thing we experience. Public parks give us the opportunity to be physically active, an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. The fields, trails, and greenways of Holmdel’s parks encourage healthy habits at every age, whether you play organized sports, hike for miles in the woods, or just play catch with your dog and a Frisbee. A brisk walk in the park does as much to build your cardiovascular fitness as time indoors in a gym – but it’s a lot more fun. Just being outdoors in the sun and fresh air renews a sense of well-being and peacefulness. Time spent in natural open spaces can reduce your stress, lift your mood, and refresh your spirit.



The social value of parks for Holmdel residents of all ages contributes to a greater sense of shared community and civic pride. Parks provide places to meet new people, socialize with friends, share meals, and model healthy behavior. Young people learn the benefits of park play early in life when good habits take hold. Children who use the many playgrounds in our parks enjoy a greater variety of equipment than they have at home, and get to socialize with a larger circle of new friends. And those who play sports learn valuable lessons in perseverance, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. The more time we spend in parks, the greater our commitment becomes to protecting our green open spaces and passing them on to future generations.

Even if you don’t often visit one, parks provide our community with economic and environmental benefits that serve the entire community.

Studies show that proximity to community parks and protected public land increases the value of adjacent private land. And even if you don’t live near a park, you still gain property value because our parks contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Holmdel and help keep our community a desirable place to live and work for homeowners and businesses.

Parks and public lands offer important environmental benefits. Parks provide “green” buffers to construction and potential sprawl, helping to limit over-development in Holmdel and preserving our town’s unique character.

Parks help protect our water supply, prevent flooding, and safeguard our wetlands. Like other open space, parks absorb rain that might otherwise end up in storm drains or your basement. Instead, that water is filtered through the soil to recharge the aquifers that feed our reservoirs. In this way parks not only help protect our drinking water, they also save us money by reducing the costs of flood control or cleanup.

Trees consume carbon dioxide (a “greenhouse gas”) and produce oxygen which is vital to maintaining the balance in the air we breathe. Natural areas don’t heat as much in summer as developed areas, so they help keep our neighborhoods and our planet cooler. Parks are natural sound barriers against the noise pollution of modern life and help make our lives more tranquil. Our green vistas offer a visually soothing few moments even when riding through town on errands.

Finally, our local parks preserve natural wildlife habitats as rural, agricultural, and forest landscapes are being lost to development. Our parklands provide thousands of indigenous and migratory species with protected havens and allow bird and animal species to co-exist with people. This co-existence reminds us that we too are a part of the natural order.

The bottom line? Our parks are keeping our environment healthy, our property values high, and our lives rich with beauty— even if we rarely visit a park. Of course, those who spend the most time in our parks have the most fun!

## How to Contact our Township and County Parks

### Monmouth County Parks

**Website** - <http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com>

**Phone** - Park System Headquarters: (732) 842-4000

### Holmdel Parks and Recreation Dept.

**Website** - <http://www.holmdeltownship-nj.com>

**Phone** - Parks & Recreation Office: (732) 946-2820 Ext. 1225

# The Parks of Holmdel

Within Holmdel Township's 18 square miles, there are ten beautiful parks – eight are Township parks (shown in dark green) and two are County parks (shown in light green). Open to the public and available to everyone, they are distributed throughout the Township so that there is a park within a few miles, or within easy walking distance, of your home—no matter where you live in Holmdel. Many of our parks are accessible to the handicapped and many are being upgraded. Our parks are continually being maintained and improved by **Holmdel Township's Parks and Recreation Department and the Monmouth County Park System**, assisted by citizen volunteers who participate in programs and projects sponsored by organizations such as the Holmdel Youth Activities Association (HYAA), Holmdel Environmental Commission (HEC), Holmdel Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, and the Monmouth County Clean Communities Program.

**Alocco Park -**  
On Middle Road between Laurel and Palmer Aves. The only park serving this portion of town, it is used by people of all ages. Basketball courts, softball fields, picnic tables, playground and a paved walking/jogging trail.

**Labbe Park -**  
West side of Rt. 35 (adjacent to Newstead Development). Softball field, basketball court, picnic tables and a recently refurbished playground. Most of the park remains undeveloped - crisscrossed by a network of informally routed trails used mostly by neighborhood children.

**Ackerson Indian Hill Park -**  
On Holmdel Road adjoining the fields behind Indian Hill School. Open fields, paved walking trails, basketball courts, and picnic tables welcome visitors to this spacious 12 acre park.

**Holmdel Swim Club and Tennis Center -**  
(Paid membership is required for admission). On Bailey Lane off Holmdel Rd. surrounded by 25.6 acres of resort-like privacy. Offers tennis lessons to adults and children. Swim club activities include: Summer Senior Splash, Teen Night, Friday Night Pizza and DJ Party. Features three pools, diving tank, basketball courts, playground, pavilion, and concession stand.

**Veterans Memorial Park -**  
A contemplative area adjacent to Phillips Park, this 4.5 acre park and site of Holmdel's annual Veteran's Day ceremony. Features a large pavilion for public enjoyment that can be reserved for special events.

**Phillips Park -**  
Near the top of Telegraph Hill Road. Features a softball field, lighted baseball field, basketball courts, backstops for handball or for tennis practice, picnic tables and hiking trails surrounded by a ring of tall, lush trees. The six mile long Ramanessin Brook Greenway begins here.

**Holmdel Park -**  
Monmouth County's most popular park, providing year-round recreation opportunities. Entrance is at Longstreet and Roberts Rds. Includes the recently acquired Ramanessin Brook Conservation Area (part of what was the Chase tract). Hike, jog, or ski along 10+ miles of trails which take you through fields, clearings, woods and wetlands, natural plant and wildlife habitats and across bridges spanning streams and ponds. There are tennis courts, picnic areas, an arboretum, activity center, concession stand, and historic Longstreet Farm. High school teams use the park's world-class cross country course.

**Bayonet Farm -**  
Largest Holmdel Township park offering hiking, strolling, bird watching, cross-country skiing, or just relaxing. Entrance is on Middletown Rd. Explore its woodlands, open fields, and access to the Ramanessin Brook Conservation Area. Features historical treasures such as the Harding House, Swanson House, Red Barn and Gray Barn. Site of annual Earth Day and Music & Arts Festivals, Boy & Girl Scout camp outs, June music concert, summer art classes, family reunions, and guided star gazing. Can be rented for weddings, photo shoots and other special events.

**Cross Farm -**  
Holmdel Township's second-largest park hosts many organized sports. Its 300 acres south of Rt. 520 provide open fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse. There's also a playground, paved walking/biking trails, an outdoor pavilion and gazebo, and a concession stand. Holmdel celebrates its annual Community Day here with food, games, vendors, rides, fireworks, and community spirit. Families enjoy an annual Halloween Parade and an Easter Egg Hunt. Reserve the pavilion for picnics, children's parties, and family reunions.

**Thompson Park -**  
South side of Rt. 520 east of Cross Farm. Holmdel shares this 665 acre County park with Middletown. Features fishing and canoeing at Marlu Lake as well as miles of paved and unpaved trails, athletic fields, tennis courts, a large playground, and an activity center. Offers year-round art and enrichment classes for youth and adults in its Activity Barn and Creative Arts Center, and presents musical theater performances for families during the summer in its Theater Barn.