



GREEN LINK

VOL. 19 NO. 5

SEPTEMBER /OCTOBER 1996

Planning our parks

The folks in Design and Development have been very busy lately. Ask Joe Sardonía, Supervising Park Planner, what he's working on and he rattles off a lengthy list. It seems that almost every park in the system has a project on the drawing board. But as Joe points out, there is always renovation that needs to be done. "Mandates occur, structures wear out, areas outlive their usefulness."



Design & Development (l to r): Jim Mowczan, Laura Bunting, Joe Sardonía, Robin Ostrowski, Andy North, Susan Stafford-Smith

As an example, Joe cites the Americans with Disabilities Act. "When it came about, a committee was formed and a plan was devised to have accessible routes in all the parks, concentrating on high use areas." Thus began the ongoing task of redoing many parks' facilities. "Last year at Turkey Swamp Park we installed accessible walkways from the shelter building to the lake front; this year it was the shelter area out to the parking lot. Meanwhile, we redid the bathrooms to meet ADA guidelines and the roof because, well, it needed redoing."

But an excess of work is nothing new to Joe who, after a short time with the Park System, saw one of his colleagues leave. Joe then became one of only two Landscape architects for the whole Park System. "But now we

have five landscape architects, three of whom are state certified, and a professional engineer."

Asked about the advantage of having professionals on staff, Joe smiles. "We can't walk away from a job. If there's a problem somewhere, we hear about it." By this, Joe refers to work that is contracted out to consultants. For most projects, it is the responsibility of Design and Development to evaluate what's needed, get bids

from outside contractors, determine who gets the job, and work with that contractor to get the job done correctly. Smaller projects are often taken care of in-house.

"For the Turkey Swamp project," Joe explains, "we were able to do

"Design and Development is not the first name our department has had. We originally wanted to call ourselves the LAPD- Landscape, Acquisition, Planning, and Design- but that acronym was already being used."
Joe Sardonía, Supervising Park Planner

the building renovations in-house. But putting in accessible walkways for the disabled had to be

"Park Planning" continued on page 2

Referendum looks to increase preservation funding

The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted to again place a non-binding referendum on the November ballot to gauge public opinion on expanded open space preservation. The referendum calls for increasing the open space tax bill, which will increase the annual funding from \$4 million (approved in 1987) to \$10 million.

The additional funding will allow the Freeholders to continue their efforts to preserve county open space and farmland, ensure that quality public recreation facilities and opportunities expand with population growth, and provide financial means to manage county park and recreation lands and their improvements in the future. Of the additional \$6 million, \$4 million would be used for acquiring land and \$2 million would be used on park area improvements. While no decisions have been made on specific projects or priorities, possibilities include public accommodations at several parks. Funding from the 1987 referendum helped preserve 1465 acres at 11 park areas.

INSIDE

- Photo exhibit..... p. 2
- A look back..... p. 3
- Fair Photos..... p. 4
- Halloween Safety..... p. 5

contracted out." Current work at Turkey Swamp Park and Dorbrook Recreation Area recently led to the awarding of contracts for construction of a roller hockey rink, basketball courts, and other facilities. "In-house, we determined all the designs, dimensions, construction materials, and other specifications. All except for the pool at Dorbrook, for that we hired a consultant because we have no pool experts on the staff."

Along with the renovation of existing parks, Design and Development also handles the planning of future park areas. Work is now in progress, for example, on Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone Township. Hopefully, bids will be advertised shortly for the development of two 18-hole courses (a links style course and a woodland style course), as well as a practice/teaching facility and clubhouse. Construction on the course is expected to begin in December, and the entire project will be completed by 2000 or 2001.

Joe says that although it sometimes takes a while for a project to come together, it's rewarding to see the finished result. "For extensive projects, it can be several years between the idea conception and development. But, in the long run, all the planning is worth it." □

A fond farewell

We would like to acknowledge three long-time employees who have recently taken the big leap into retirement:

Gerry Savitz - 27 1/2 years

Evelyn Caultett - 20 years

Marilyn Herman - 19 1/2 years

Good luck, and remember, if you care to fill those vacant hours with a little volunteering, you know how to reach us!



This photograph of a marcher grieving at the burning pit in Treblinka, Poland, is just one of the pictures soon to be on display at Debra Rothenberg's photographic exhibit "Out of the Ashes: Poland to Israel" at Thompson Park's Visitor Center.

New photo exhibit remembers the Holocaust

In April, photographer Debra Rothenberg took a trip which changed the way she viewed life. This trip will be the subject of an upcoming exhibit at the Thompson Park Visitor Center titled "Out of the Ashes: Poland to Israel." The exhibit contains photographs that Debbie took while traveling with the Northern Jersey Chapter of the March of the Living, an educational Holocaust trip for high school students.

"It was definitely one of the most memorable experiences in my life," Debbie explains. "It was very emotional. Very draining." The first week was spent in Poland where 6000 Jews from 42 countries participated in the 2-mile walk from Auschwitz to Birkenau. "The purpose of the march is to remember those who died and to ensure that the atrocities don't happen again."

Although geared towards high school students, many adults also took the trip – some who were actual Holocaust survivors. "Our group had three survivors in it. One was at Auschwitz. Another had been kept in an 8-foot by 10-foot room with about 12 other people." Debbie says that regardless of age or background everyone in the group bonded

well. "With the shared experience that we had, we all looked to each other for comfort. We were like a family."

The group toured the concentration camps, many of which remain untouched from the days when they were used. "I remember standing in one of the camps, looking at glasses, hair, luggage— things that were real, not placed there. I saw children's shoes, children who were killed just for being Jewish, and I began to think of my nieces and nephews and my friends' children."

From Poland the group headed to Israel where they spent the second week. While the first week had been a somber reminder of those who died, Israel was a celebration of life. "Israel is one of the most visually beautiful places and everyone was so relieved to get there." Despite the bad press, Debbie says, it's really a wonderful place. "The people are friendly and there's so much history. It was an uplifting end to a meaningful trip."

Debbie's photographic exhibit runs from September 29 through October 20 at the Thompson Park Visitor Center. □

Accolades

"Recently we played a course that required spikeless shoes. We were somewhat upset and felt the lack of spikes would cost strokes. In fact, we found the opposite to be true. Your Howell Park groundskeeper, **Matthew Clement**, also pointed out to me the damage caused on sidewalks and lawns by spikes. By the way, Matthew is a real gentleman and does a super job. Your [county's] residents are very fortunate to have such golf facilities."

John J. Mauro, N. Bergen

"I want to thank **Dave Delleff** for his assistance in supplying us a sign for our Asbury Park Satellite Office. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, in an effort to improve public safety in Asbury Park, has established an office there. We wanted it to be a very professional looking office. With the assistance of Dave, that has been accomplished."

John Kaye, Monmouth County Prosecutor

"Recently this office finished its 16th Annual Senior Citizens Art Exhibition and Contest at Thompson Park. For the first time, we had the artists' reception and award ceremony outside. Our special thanks to **Rich Olsen** who provided us with the portable stage and extra chairs. **Ed Jones**, not only this year but over many years, has helped to set up the art show, take care of the lighting, and help with the Art Show Reception. **Sara Nazareta** has always provided us with last minute details. **Jill Barba** did a magnificent job of hanging the 119 entries. **Mary Beth Bull**, our contact person, was most helpful through the years."

Jud Thorne, Clerk to the Director, M.C. Office on Aging

Dear **Angela Knox**, We enjoyed another season of summer musicals at Thompson Park. Both productions were ingeniously staged, with an energetic and talented cast. We would like to thank you and your associates for the wonderful job that you've all done."

Betty and Tony Chien, Holmdel

Recently, I completed two classes in Deep Cut Gardens and I am so pleased with what I accomplished. I especially want to thank **Christine McGrath** and **Corki Barszczewski**, the two young ladies who are completely responsible for the success of this program. They are delightful - put everyone at ease, so helpful and encouraging. Christine gave excellent instructions and both ladies are my reason for signing up for another class.

Janet Keeler, Wanmassa

A look back

10 Years Ago

"Monmouth County Park System has announced the availability of "Green and Growing," a slide presentation beneficial to all civic organizations, church groups, corporate meetings, garden clubs, women organizations, first-aid associations, PTA, and all interested parties....

"Green and Growing" traces the 25 year history of the Monmouth County Park System, from its acquisition in 1961- Shark River, totaling 5,000 acres, to the 1985 acquisition of Dorbrook Park, a 388-acre site.... The Park System has 20 facilities, 15 parks, 4 golf courses, and 1 conservation area, 9 of which were donated by Monmouth County residents and 12 were acquired through the State Green Acres funds."

From the Aug/Sept Green Heritage, 1986

15 Years Ago

"...The Monmouth County Park System and the Board of Chosen Freeholders dedicated the latest Park System acquisition, the Pine Brook Golf Course at Covered Bridge in Manalapan Township The approximately

60-acre donation includes an 18-hole golf course, par 61; clubhouse with a full basement; a one-story, L-shaped maintenance building; 10 golf carts and a complete underground irrigation system. Pine Brook Golf Course is a 100% donation from Hovnanian Enterprises Inc., the developer for Covered Bridge."

From the Sept/Oct Green Link, 1981

20 Years Ago

"We should shortly be hearing word from Green Acres on the final approval for the Acquisition and Development of the North End Beach Operation in Long Branch....Final planning is now taking place with a two (2) year development plan for beginning construction in late spring of 1977.... This new park has been officially designated as Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park. This name was mutually agreed upon by the officials of the Park System and the City of Long Branch. The term Seven Presidents comes from the fact that seven Presidents have had summer residences in the City of Long Branch."

From the Oct 31 Employee Newsletter, 1976



In the spring of 1984, Mike McDonell became the first person to kayak from the Thompson Park Visitor Center to the maintenance area.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Jim Truncer



Friends on the move

The Friends of the Park System are certainly not letting any grass grow under their feet. Their annual golf

tournament held this past May 22nd at Hominy Hill Golf Course was one of the best ever, hosted by the Friends. This year's Longstreet Farm Dinner was also well received as this annual fund raising event continues to grow. This year the Friends have continued to provide financial support for the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP) as well as having provided funds for

- Exhibits and Reading Room at Longstreet Farm
- Visitors Map at the Manasquan Reservoir
- Beach Wheelchair for Seven Presidents Park
- Volunteer Awards
- Publication of the book, "Slavery & Freedom in the Rural North, African-Americans in Monmouth County 1665-1865"
- Restoration of Koi Pond at Deep Cut Gardens

A Friends Committee chaired by John Linney has been working on developing a Strategic Plan for the organization to address such issues as

- Membership
- Activities
- Public Relations
- Financial Forecast
- Projects

Through the efforts of this Committee, the Friends Board will be in a position by the end of this year to have in place for 1997

- A Financial Plan
- A Membership Program
- New Activities and Events
- New Projects and Priorities and
- An Organization to Carry Out These Objectives

The future of our Park System depends upon the interest and support of the citizens of our county. A well developed plan of action and a well organized effort are the foundations for a successful Friends support program. In addition, we have an obligation to be

committed to the development and nurturing of the Friends if we expect them to be successful. It is also our responsibility to develop and propose meaningful projects that are attainable. We are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated Friends organization that is interested and willing to support its Park System.

If you have ideas and projects that you would like the Friends to consider adopting, please let Donna Lane or Cindy Cornman in the Friends office know. They can be reached by inter-office mail, addressed to "Friends", or by calling (908) 975-9735.

The Friends are getting ready to do even more in 1997. Our challenge is to be ready with projects to propose to the Friends. Let's not miss a wonderful opportunity to move forward. Citizen support is our future. □

Quote: "A customer is most important. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption of our work. He is the purpose of it. He is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity."

Mahatma Gandhi

Halloween Safety

There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a treat for the entire family. Halloween dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from improper costume design that can create a "trick-or-treating" hazard. The National Safety Council offers the following suggestions:

Costume Design

- Only fire retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- Be sure that costumes are loose enough so that warm clothes can be worn underneath and also allow freedom of movement.
- Costumes should not be so long they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of accidents on Halloween.)
- Choose outfits made of light colored materials. Strips of reflective tape should be used to make children even more visible.
- For youngsters under the age of 12, attach their name, address, and telephone number to their clothes, but not in an easily visible place.

Face Design

- Masks can obstruct vision. Facial makeup is safer, more colorful, and more comfortable.
- When buying special Halloween make-up, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," "Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Most manufacturers list ingredients and/or chemical analysis on packages. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application.
- If masks are worn, they should have openings for the nose and mouth, and large eye holes for good visibility.

Accessories

- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.

Know Your Park System:

Question #1: Who is currently the Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners?

- Mr. Edward Loud
- Mrs. Adeline Lubkert
- Mr. Theodore Narozanick

Question #2: How large is the Manasquan Reservoir?

- 1,203 Acres
- 483 Acres
- 720 Acres

Answer #1 "b" Mrs. Adeline Lubkert
 Answer #2 "c" 720 Acres of Water Area
 Total acreage, including above, leased from the State of New Jersey is 1,051 Acres.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ODDS'N ENDS

BIRTHDAYS

September

- 2. Susan Lounsbury
- 3. Kelly Cole
- 6. Katie Kelly
- 7. Sheila Ellentuck
- 8. Ken Skinner
- 9. Aldrich Sawyer-Dolby
- 10. Jim Mowczan
- 10. Jeff Wyant
- 11. Anne Simon
- 11. Susan Stafford-Smith
- 15. Robert Flick
- 17. Mark Borchert
- 18. Bill Dowstra
- 18. Gerald Moss
- 21. Matt Clement
- 24. Bob Cahill
- 26. Ken Herceg
- 28. Rich Olsen
- 28. Jim Register
- 28. George Richdale

October

- 1. Bob MacDonald
- 2. Donna Browne
- 2. Alice Wikoff
- 7. Nicole Nicotra
- 7. Steve Supczynski
- 8. Amy Pease
- 8. Barbara Thompson
- 11. Christine Erhardt
- 11. John Gillespie
- 12. Bill Greene
- 13. Bob Duncan
- 13. Ron Luepke
- 16. Wayne Nordell
- 17. Dick Dreyer
- 19. Todd Ensign
- 21. Dave Delleit
- 24. Jamie Regan
- 26. Howard Wikoff
- 27. Jennifer Troisi
- 29. Kivin Brown

MILESTONES

Richard Leyh, Shark River Park Golf Course, and wife Eileen were blessed with a baby girl, Rachel Anna 6/19/96. Rachel Anna weighed 8 lbs. and was 19" long.

Christine Erhardt, Therapeutic Rec, and husband Walter are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Elizabeth Christine, 6/14/96. Elizabeth Christine weighed 10 lbs. and was 20" long.

Judi Zurick Delisa announces that her daughter Melissa married Edward James on June 8. The newlyweds honeymooned in Europe.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1991...Oct...Maryann Elwood | 1976...Sept...Richard Boesch |
| 1991...Oct...Ralph Johnson | 1976...Sept...William Schoenleber |
| 1991...Oct...Chris Plantamura | 1971...Sept...Aldrich Sawyer-Dolby |
| 1986...Oct...Nicole Nicotra | 1971...Sept...Robert Caddock |
| 1986...Oct...Scott Schaaf | |
| 1976...Sept...Frank Biddle, III | |

NEW EMPLOYEES

Jagdish Patel, Electrician / Special Maintenance
Martin Gassaro, Park Ranger / Tatum Park
Robert Anderson, Park Ranger / Shark River Park
Michael Demauro, Park Ranger / Thompson Park
Michael Wassong, Park Ranger / Thompson Park

