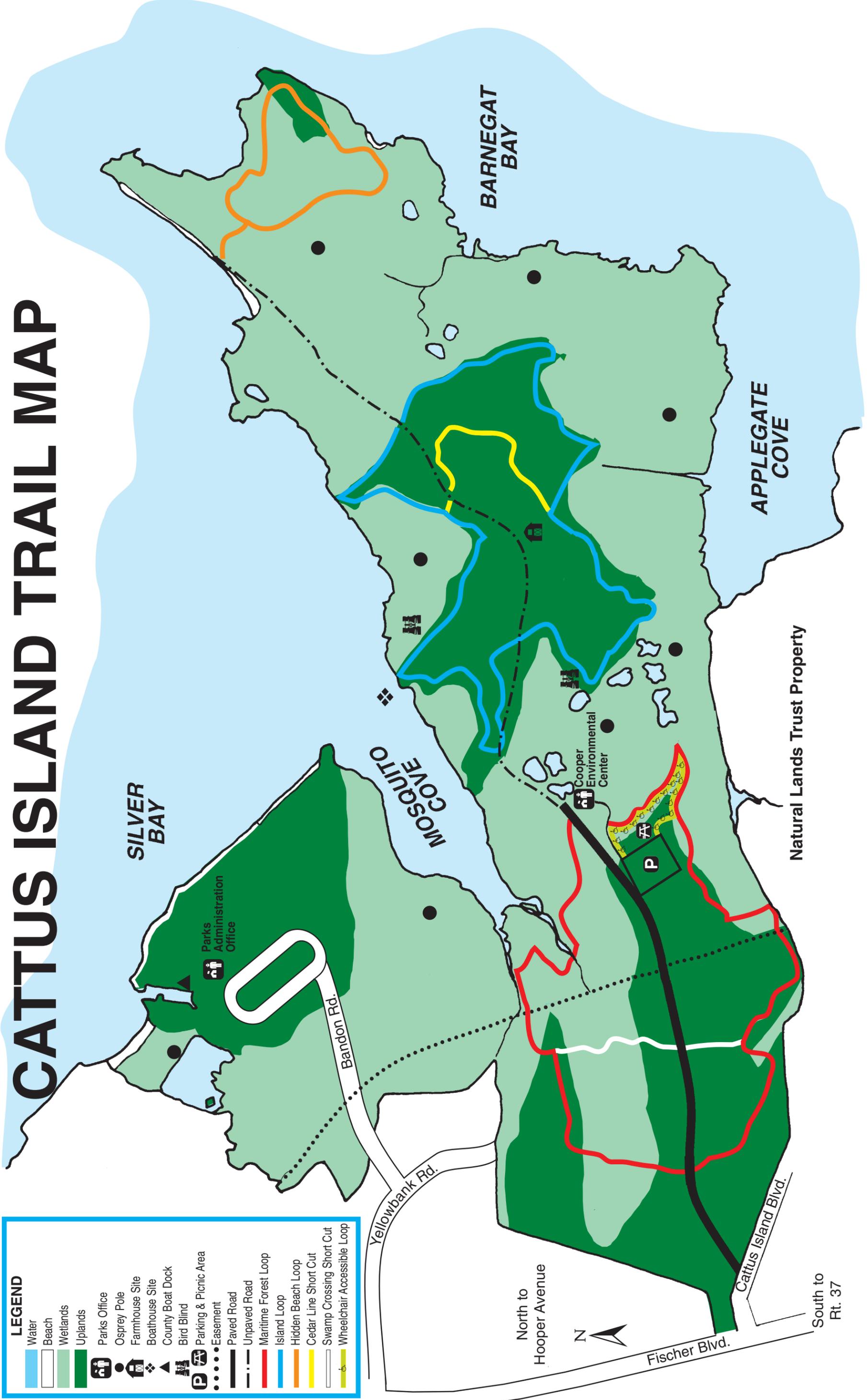


CATTUS ISLAND TRAIL MAP



LEGEND	
	Water
	Beach
	Wetlands
	Uplands
	Parks Office
	Osprey Pole
	Farmhouse Site
	Boathouse Site
	County Boat Dock
	Bird Blind
	Parking & Picnic Area
	Easement
	Paved Road
	Unpaved Road
	Maritime Forest Loop
	Island Loop
	Hidden Beach Loop
	Cedar Line Short Cut
	Swamp Crossing Short Cut
	Wheelchair Accessible Loop



The staff conducts numerous public programs. These are held most week-ends, and some events. To find out about the many public programs offered at Cattus Island, please obtain a copy of the Park system's quarterly schedule, available at the center.

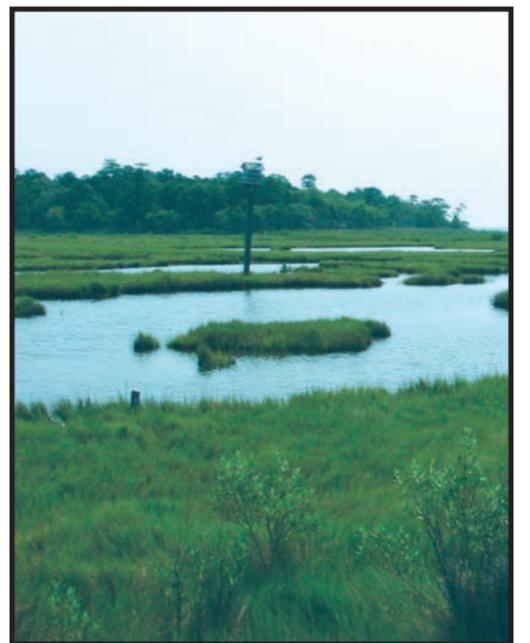
Named in honor of the late Ocean County environmentalists A. Morton Cooper and his wife Elizabeth, the Center was designed to meet the growing environmental educational and recreational needs of Ocean County as perceived by the Board of Chosen Freeholders and its advisors. Our 5,000 square foot building includes an eighty seat meeting room, major exhibit area, library, and the Park's restrooms. The Park staff updates displays regularly in order to reflect the seasonal cycle of nature.

>Welcome to Cattus Island, one of your Ocean County Parks. The Board of Chosen Freeholders dedicated this park for nature conservation and education. This designation provides a quiet, less congested setting for the public. The preserve supplies a place to enjoy and learn about our local natural heritage. Protected within our over 500 acre park, saltmarsh and pine forest flourish with natural creatures living undisturbed by human interference.

Cattus Island is primarily a pedestrian facility. Arriving vehicles stop in our parking area. Visitors may then take advantage of over five miles of marked trails and two miles of unpaved road. We encourage cyclists to remain on the fire road only. Persons who cannot walk may use their park via a barrier-free loop which connects the parking lot, environmental center, saltmarsh and picnic grove. Of course, all visitors should first stop at the Cooper Environmental Center to enjoy the exhibits and get a copy of the calendar of events. So, come walk, sightsee, birdwatch, bicycle, and witness nature. To get to Cattus Island, take Fischer Boulevard north from its intersection with Route 37 in Dover Township (Toms River). At the third traffic light turn right onto Cattus Island Boulevard. Or, from Hooper Avenue, take Fischer Boulevard south. At the second traffic light turn left onto Cattus Island Boulevard.

AN INVITATION

CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK



Cattus Island Park/Cooper Environmental Center
 1170 Cattus Island Boulevard
 Toms River, NJ 08753
 (732) 270-6960
 Toll-Free 1-877-OC PARKS
 TTY (732) 270-5573
www.co.ocean.nj.us/parks/default.htm

Cattus Island has remained a single parcel since the Board of Proprietors for the Province of East Jersey divided these shores in 1690. During the Revolutionary War, locals used the area to bring captured British vessels into the Toms River in order to off-load their cargoes. Later owners farmed the island, raised livestock, and harvested salt hay. In 1895, John V.A. Cattus, a New York importer, bought the land. Hunting, fishing and boating were his family's favorite sports. Mr. Cattus also used the area as a pleasure retreat for his metropolitan friends.

Land buyers purchased the property in 1961, but the NJ Wetlands Act of 1970 and the NJ Coastal Area looks like an island when viewed from the water at a distance. When its surrounding saltmarshes are inundated by tides. It also We call Cattus an island because it looks like an island and cedar swamps maintain a precarious foothold. contrasts. On the upland edges of the marsh, small freshwater bogs dot this wetland landscape, thus providing many scenic Bay. Although primarily a saltmarsh, numerous hummocks The peninsula divides Silver Bay from its parent Barnegat jutting out into the bay waters of central Ocean County. Cattus Island is primarily composed of a peninsula

BACKGROUND OF A UNIQUE AREA

As a gemstone often shows its many sparkling facets, AN ECOLOGICAL GEM

form the Greater Barnegat Bay Ecosystem. All provide food and shelter to birds, mammals, fishes and an amazing assortment of minuscule creatures which together a backdrop throughout the winter. In August, while the feathery fringe of Common Reed provides white species of Marsh Mallow paint a spectacularly vibrant picture out before you. Located here are Bulrush, Chairmaker's Rush, Salt Hay, Cord-grass, and Common Reed. Large pink and Azalea, False Heather, Sundew, Lady Shipper, Turkey Beard, and Sand Myrtle. Close to 300 plant species grow in the park. The base of the marine food chain, saltmarshes and wetlands, make up 70% of the Cattus tract. Our public accesses afford an opportunity to observe this important ecosystem firsthand. In the marsh, a whole panoply of salt-tolerant plants spreads out before you. Within our acreage, extensive saltmarshes and pine-oak forests are interspersed with Atlantic White Cedar swamps, freshwater bogs, maple-gum swamps, and successional fields. Huge specimen pines and hollies tower over other native species such as Swamp

FACILITIES

- Cooper Environmental Center ♿
- Public Picnic Area ♿
- Six Miles of Marked Trails
- 1500 Foot Boardwalk ♿
- Dr. V. Eugene Vivian Library ♿
- An Extended Viewing Deck to the edge of the saltmarsh ♿
- Pedestrian Bayside Access
- Osprey Nesting Poles
- Bay Beach for Seining
- Tree & Shrub Identification Loop ♿

TRAIL MILEAGES

	Maritime Forest Loop	1.7 miles
	Swamp Crossing	.4 miles
	Cedar Line Short Cut	.3 miles
	Island Loop	2.2 miles
	Hidden Beach Loop	.7 miles
	Unpaved Road	1 mile

TRAIL BLAZES

- Right Turn
- Left Turn
- Beginning / End

**Park open daily dawn - dusk;
 Center open daily 8 - 4 :30 p.m.**



JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Too young to be called volunteers, a small group of local children began coming to the Center regularly in 1981. They helped maintain our live animals and displays and assisted the Naturalist staff in guiding people around the facility. Organized that summer under the title of Junior Naturalists, these youngsters have since come to augment the regular volunteer organization and complement the professional staff. The group is supervised by the Naturalists and works closely with them. Anyone interested in becoming a Junior Naturalist should contact the staff at the Cooper Center.



Facilities Review Act of 1973 precluded any kind of construction projects. In 1973, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders utilized public tax dollars and Green Acres funds to purchase and save the land as an open space development project. Our Freeholders placed Cattus Island under the jurisdiction of the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation. The land lay as a conservation area until 1976, when public environmental tours began on a regular basis. County parks personnel started the active development of a trail system at Cattus in the winter of 1977-78. In the fall of 1980, the opening of the Cooper Environmental Center completed the development of Cattus Island County Park. The Freeholders recognized the need to provide regular public input into the operation of this unique facility and established a Cattus Island Advisory Council in the spring of 1981. In 1987, the Freeholders purchased the Johnson Estate, which lies adjacent to the Park.

PUBLIC USE

Cattus Island County park is open to the public from dawn to dusk every day. We encourage public activities that do not impact on the conservation-natural area designation of the Park. No special permission is needed to come to Cattus Island during regular open hours except that we require all groups to register in advance. We encourage all visitors to stop and see the exhibits at the Environmental Center prior to their use of the Park grounds. We aspire to meet all ADA standards and discriminate against no persons. If you need special assistance, please call the Cooper Environmental Center prior to your visit.

GROUP USE

All groups must register in advance of their visit to Cattus Island County Park. Due to the nature of the facility, we encourage Naturalist-guided tours for all groups. We advise group leaders wishing to have a guided tour of Cattus Island to make arrangements well in advance of their desired visit.



OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
John C. Bartlett, Jr., Director
Chairman, Parks & Recreation
 John P. Kelly
 James F. Lacey
 Gerry P. Little
 Joseph H. Vicari

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
 Michael T. Mangum, Director
 Michael J. Fiure, Assistant to the Director
 Mary J. Bavais Mehorter, Superintendent of Recreation
 Christopher Claus, Principal Park Naturalist

CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL
 Janet Kline, Secretary
 Duane Grembowicz
 Robert Grimaldi
 Linda Kelly
 Janet Larson
 Dr. James Merritt
 Terence M. O'Leary
 Lois Schoeck
 John P. Wnek, Chairperson

Prepared and Printed by the
 Ocean County Printing & Graphic Arts Department
 C.P.128