

Trail Rules

Below are some important rules to help make your visit safe and enjoyable:

- Please take a trail map from the nature center or review the trail kiosk before using the trails.
- Be sure to check the closing times posted at the park entrance before using the trails.
- For your safety, please stay on the marked trails.
- Alcoholic beverages, smoking, and campfires are not permitted.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Please pick-up after your pet.
- Carry out your trash and a little extra if you can!
- Do not feed or approach wildlife, please enjoy it from a distance.

Public Use

Admission to the park and nature center is **FREE**.

The park is open every day from **7:00 am to dusk**.

The nature center is open
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday - Sunday:
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
except certain holidays. Inquire at the front desk for our holiday schedule.

****Please be advised that ticks may be present****

Jakes Branch County Park

Jakes Branch County Park is a place where education and recreation combine to provide visitors with a unique experience. Our facility offers opportunities for both **active** and **passive** recreation.

Active Recreation

- Soccer Fields
- Baseball & Softball Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Multi-Use Field
- Tot Lot (2-5 yrs) and Playground (5-12 yrs)
- Open Play Field
- Pickle Ball



Passive Recreation

- Hiking/Walking Trails
- Picnic Area with charcoal grills and tables
- Nature Center with five-story Observation Deck



Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

John C. Bartlett, Jr.
Chairman of Parks and Recreation
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Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation

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www.oceancountyparks.org

<http://www.facebook.com/OceanCountyParks>



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Ocean County Parks and Recreation

Jakes Branch County Park

1100 Double Trouble Road
Beachwood, NJ 08722
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www.oceancountyparks.org

Jakes Branch Nature Center

The nature center provides natural education through:



exhibits about the history, wildlife, and ecology of the Pinelands...



live reptiles and amphibians...



programs, activities and presentations for all ages.

History

The first known people to inhabit this area were the Lenni Lenape Indians. Artifacts from a large Lenape village were found along the Toms River just north of the park. In 1761 a colonial settler named Jacob Jacobs built his saw mill on a tributary of the Toms River. Originally called Jacob's Branch, the tributary's name was shortened over time to Jakes Branch. Today, the park's namesake stream flows along the northern property boundary.

In 1914, the New York Tribune ran a headline in their newspaper announcing: "Subscribe to the New York Tribune and secure a lot at Beautiful Beachwood." Most of the park's property is unsold land from this promotion. It was given to Beachwood Borough in 1917 by the head of the Tribune's promotions department, Mr. Bertram C. Mayo. In the early 1950's, the Garden State Parkway was constructed, separating this area from the rest of Beachwood.

Ocean County purchased the property from Beachwood in 2000. Originally planned as Ocean County's third public golf course, environmental restrictions shaped Jakes Branch County Park into the facility you see today. In order to protect the sensitive ecology of the park, only 40 of the 400 acres were developed. The result is Ocean County's first park to offer both active and passive recreation at a single location.

Group Programs

We provide environmental programs to Ocean county groups including schools, scouts, clubs, churches, and civic organizations free of charge. Outreach programs are available for groups who may not have transportation to our facility. All groups planning to visit our park must make arrangements in advance. Please contact the nature center to receive a copy of our Group Education Brochure or schedule a program.

