

## About Deer Path Park

When Alois and Berta Batz bought a 122-acre farm in 1952, they envisioned it as a family retreat for visitors to enjoy. They constructed a bathhouse, boathouse, and a playground. In 1968, they established Deer Path Camp for children. Retiring from farming, the Batzes converted tractor storage sheds into shaded picnic sites and a corner into the camp's office and nurse's station. For \$25 a week, children from ages 5 to 13 could participate in swimming, boating, horseback riding, archery, tennis, and more. An estimated 125 children attended the camp each year.

The county acquired the property in 1977 for use as an active park. Deer Path Park, which officially opened in 1985, provides a wide diversity of recreational activities for the public.

## Fitness and Running Trails

The one-mile fitness trail consists of 15 different exercise stations. The stations offer a balanced program of strength, endurance, and coordination exercises.

An additional two miles of trails are available for running or walking. **Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, and owners must clean up after their pets.** There is also a one-mile designated horse trail.

Deer Path serves as the home course for the Hunterdon Central Regional High School cross-country and track teams. During the winter months, these trails are available for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

It is the policy of the County of Hunterdon to provide reasonable modifications to persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service.

## Deer Path Park

**Location:** Deer Path Park is located in Readington Township at 120 West Woodschurch Road, Flemington 08822. The park is open from 8:00 AM to sunset.

**Directions from the Flemington Area:** Take Route 31 north about 4 miles from the Flemington Circle. Turn right onto West Woodschurch Road, following the signs for Deer Path Park and the YMCA. Proceed about 0.7 miles on West Woodschurch Road to the driveway to the park on the right. The YMCA's entrance is the immediate right off of the driveway. Continue past the YMCA entrance. The parking lot for the soccer fields will be visible on the left-hand side of the driveway. The main parking lot for the park is located at the end of the driveway near the restrooms.

**Directions from the Clinton Area:** Take Route 31 south about 6.5 miles from Interstate 78. Use the jug handle for West Woodschurch Road to cross over Route 31. Follow the signs for Deer Path Park and the YMCA. Then follow the corresponding directions above.

## Fishing

Deer Path Pond is a 3-acre spring-fed pond which offers wide open banks. Anglers can fish for a variety of species which include bass, catfish, and sunfish. The pond is designated for catch and release and State Fish and Wildlife rules apply. *Until further notice, the pond is closed due to storm damage.*

(Revised 5/2023)

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

## Picnic and Pavilion Facilities

Deer Path offers free walk-in picnic sites with grills at Locust Grove and Hideaway Pavilions.

The Cedars and Overlook Pavilions are reservable for groups of 25 or more people. Both are located near parking areas and include running water and electric onsite.

**Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted, except by special permit at the Cedars Pavilion.**



*Cedars Pavilion and playground*

## Memorial Gazebo and Garden

Named in remembrance of Alois and Berta Batz, this gazebo and small garden offer a place of color and tranquility along the pond. This site is popular for wedding photos.

## Softball and Soccer Fields

There are two soccer fields and a softball field that can be reserved independently or in conjunction with a pavilion. The soccer fields were constructed by the Hunterdon United Soccer Club and serve as their home fields.

## Special Events

Special events and performances are offered at Deer Path Park at various times throughout the year. The most notable is the Summer Concert Series. Other events include Performance Camp, community festivals, and scout events. Contact the main office for the latest schedule of community events.

## Reservations

Reservations for use of the picnic pavilions, sports fields, or gazebo for special events such as weddings can be made by contacting the Park Office (Arboretum) during business hours.

# Deer Path Park

## Trail Map and Guide



*White-tailed Deer buck*



Hunterdon County  
**Division of Parks & Recreation**  
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Website: <https://co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm>

*Office Hours:*  
*Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM*

**SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:

"The Board of County Commissioners may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground, or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation."

**These rules and regulations** have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

**Permits:** A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity, shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

**Prohibited Acts:** The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel-powered modeled aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

**Regulated Activity:** The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery-powered modeled aircraft and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property:** No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources:** No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People:** No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

**Vehicles:** All the provisions of the NJ State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.**

**Enforcement:** The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2. thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation.

**Penalties:** Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body, or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

**NOTE:** County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.

