

## History of the South County Park

The 42-acre parcel of land between Routes 179 and 202 was once the site of the Hunterdon Drive-in Theater, the County's first and only drive-in. County business leaders formed and financed their own management company for its creation in 1950. It used the latest technology from RCA motion pictures and sound equipment. In 1958, its name was changed to the Ringoes Drive-in, which operated until 1976 when it closed due to declining attendance. It re-opened between 1981 and 1986 as the Gem Theater. In 2002, the County acquired the site to serve as the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds.

The County has also acquired three undeveloped tracts, adding to the acreage of the South County Park. The first two are on the east side of Route 179 in West Amwell Township. The first acquisition occurred in 2001 and preserved 173 acres, while the second obtained in 2004 adding an additional 79 acres. In 2006, the County acquired 47 acres increasing the Fairground Section to a total of 341 acres.

## Hunting

In order to control the deer population, hunting is permitted on the undeveloped section of the park. This is the wooded area to the east side of Route 179 in West Amwell Township. Hunters must obtain a special permit issued by the Division to hunt in the park. Visitors during hunting season are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange or confine visits to Sundays if entering this section.

(Revised 11/2019)

## South County Park

**Location:** The South County Park is located in East and West Amwell Townships at the junction of Route 179 and 202. The park is open only during scheduled events. Temporary restroom facilities are available during these events. The physical location address is 1207 Rte 179, Lambertville

**Directions to the Fairground Section:**  
**From the Flemington Area:** Take Route 202/31 south for approximately 6 miles to the exit for Route 179 south. Once on Route 179, the entrance is about 500 yards on the right beyond the overpass.

**From the Lambertville Area:** Take Route 179 north toward Ringoes. After about 5 miles you will see the park entrance on the left.

## Recreational Opportunities

With the exception of scheduled events that are held within the Fairground Section of the park, no other types of recreational opportunities are offered at this time.



*Antique Farm Equipment at the 4-H Fair*

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.

## Reservable Facilities

Most of the structures and field areas of the South County Park can be reserved for special activities. For information, availability, or general inquiries about events at the South County Park, contact the park office at (908) 782-1158.



*Cows at the 4-H Fair*

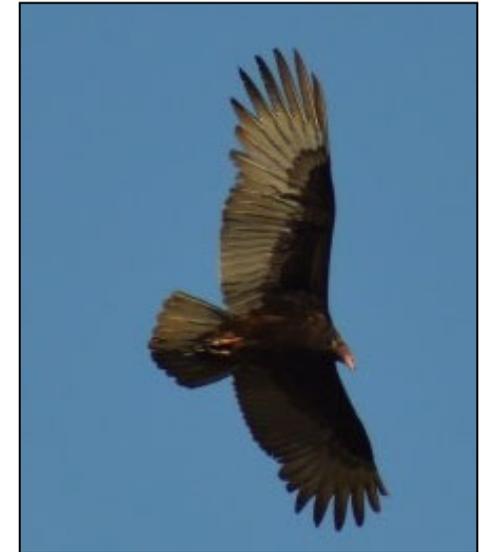
## Agricultural Fairs

The South County Park serves as the home for the Hunterdon County 4-H Agricultural Fair. Since colonial times, agricultural fairs have been the way local agrarian-based communities gathered in friendship to celebrate the year and share common interests. The Hunterdon area held such events as early as 1745. The purchase of land and organization of the official fair began in Flemington in 1855. In 1933, it became the famous "Flemington Agricultural Fair." With the exception of several years during the Civil War when the fairgrounds were used as a training ground for Union troops, the Flemington Fair ran uninterrupted for 145 years until moving to the South County Park in 2004.

It is the policy of the County to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities upon advance notice of need. Persons requiring accommodations should make a request at least two weeks prior to program attendance.

# South County Park

## Trail Map and Guide



*Turkey Vulture*

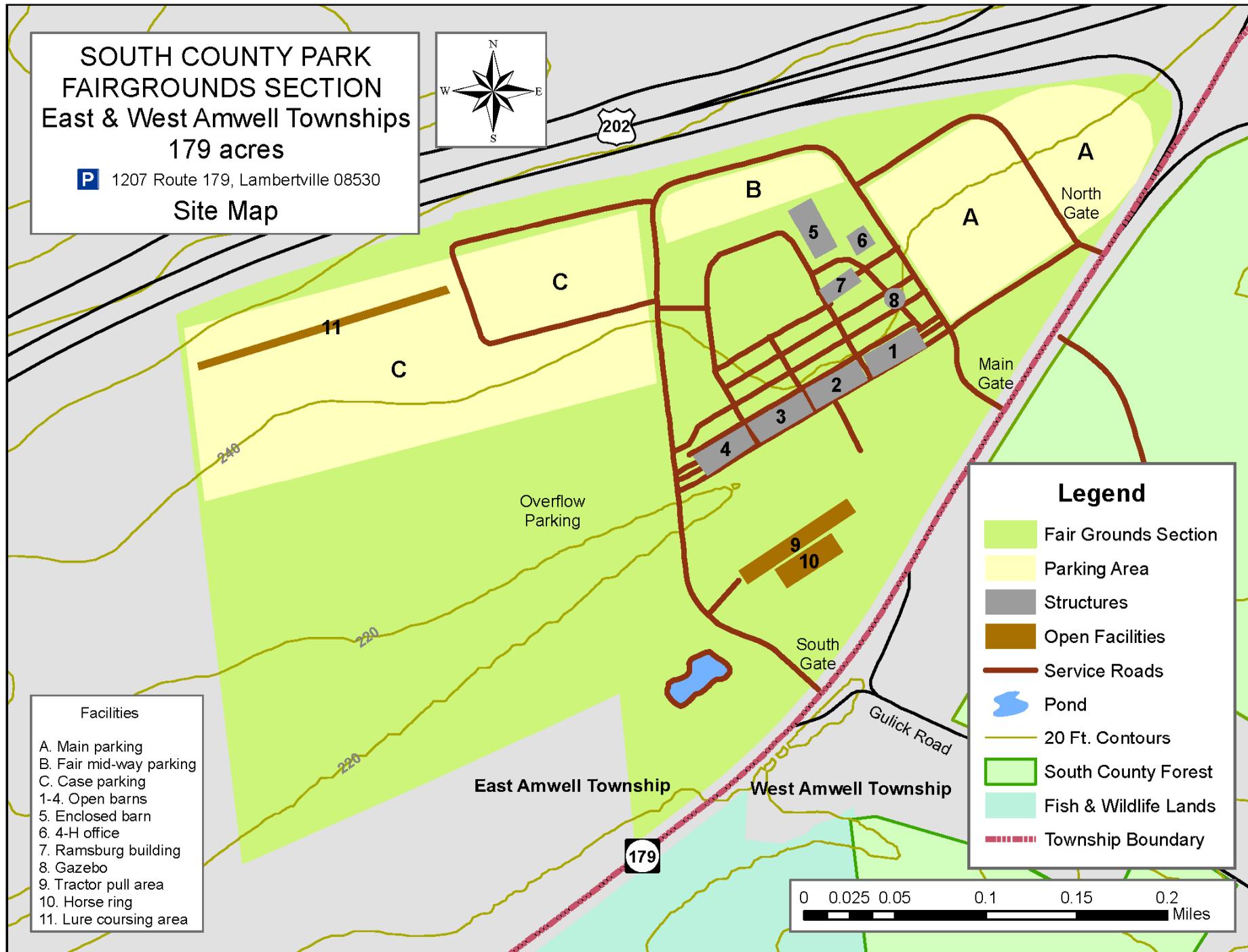


Hunterdon County  
**Division of Parks and Recreation**  
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(click on "Parks & Recreation")

*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 Chosen Freeholders 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.