Ocean County Park System

Jakes Branch County Park

1100 Double Trouble Road
Beachwood, NJ 08722
732-281-2750

www.oceancountyparks.org

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****

Ocean County
Board of Chosen Freeholders

Virginia E. Haines
Chairwoman of Parks and Recreation
Barbara Jo Crea
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Ocean County Department
of Parks and Recreation

Michael T. Mangum, *Director*

Mary Jane Bavais, *Assistant Director*

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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)
- Playground (5-12 yrs)
- Open Play Field
- Pickle Ball
- Play Trail

Passive Recreation

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

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.

Jakes Branch County Park Trail Map

Legend

0.3 mi.	Spruce Street Trail (red blazes)	Park Boundary	Nature Center and Restrooms
3.8 mi.	Tindey Hiking Trail (blue blazes)	Stream	Open Play Field
0.2 mi.	Swamp Spur (white blazes)	Dirt Road	Playground
0.5 mi.	Plant Discovery Trail	Paved Road	Baseball/Softball Fields
0.7 mi.	Interpretive Trail (green blazes)	Boardwalk	Soccer/Multi Use Field
2.6 mi.	Bike/Multi Use Trail (yellow blazes)	Bench	Tennis Courts/Pickle Ball
0.5 mi.	Play Trail (Purple blazes)	Picnic Area	Basketball Courts
		Play Pocket	

Trail Blazes

Straight Left Right

N

Scale (miles)

0 0.05 0.15 0.25

Double Trouble State Park

Pine Street

Sugar Sand Road

Private Property

Jakes Branch

Cedar Street

Spruce Street

Baker Street

Daisy Road

Tamarack Road

Chestnut Street

Birch Street

Double Trouble Road

Garden State Parkway