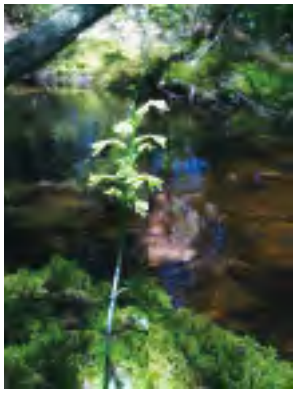
Native Plants You May See

The Atlantic White Cedar swamps that border Lochiel Creek harbor a diversity of wildlife. A short walk along the blazed hiking trail reveals hummocks where American cranberry, golden club, blueflag iris, swamp azalea, and sweet-bay magnolia grow alongside these unique plants:

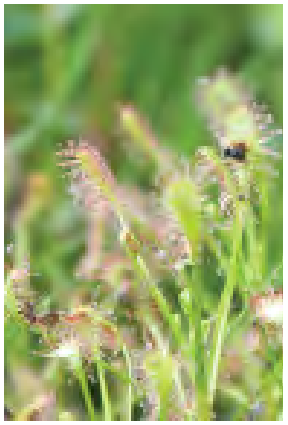


Green Wood Orchid

Beginning in late July, look for the greenish -white flowers of this inconspicuous plant. The flower stalk extends from a single long leaf to about six inches above the carpet of Sphagnum Moss.

Spatulate-leaved Sundew

This diminutive plant is easily spotted in wet areas thanks to the glistening "dew" on its leaves. It gets its energy from the sun, but absorbs vital nutrients from insects trapped and digested by the sticky dew.



Pink Lady's Slipper

This native orchid can be best seen in May to the middle of June when in full bloom. The orchid shaped like a moccasin lady's slipper thrives in the acidic soil of the Pine Barrens and grows in small colonies.

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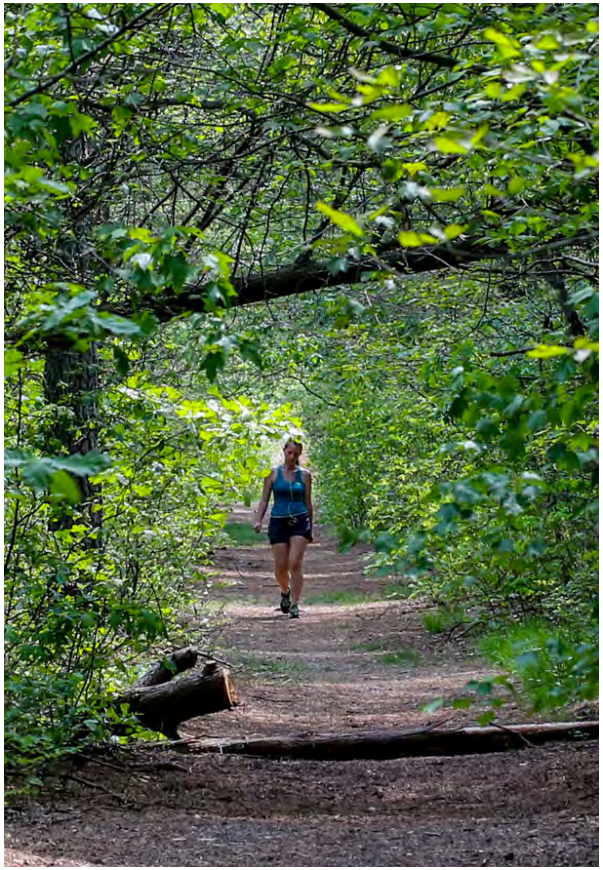
Ocean County Parks and Recreation

Lochiel Creek County Park

Barnegat Boulevard North, Barnegat, NJ 08005



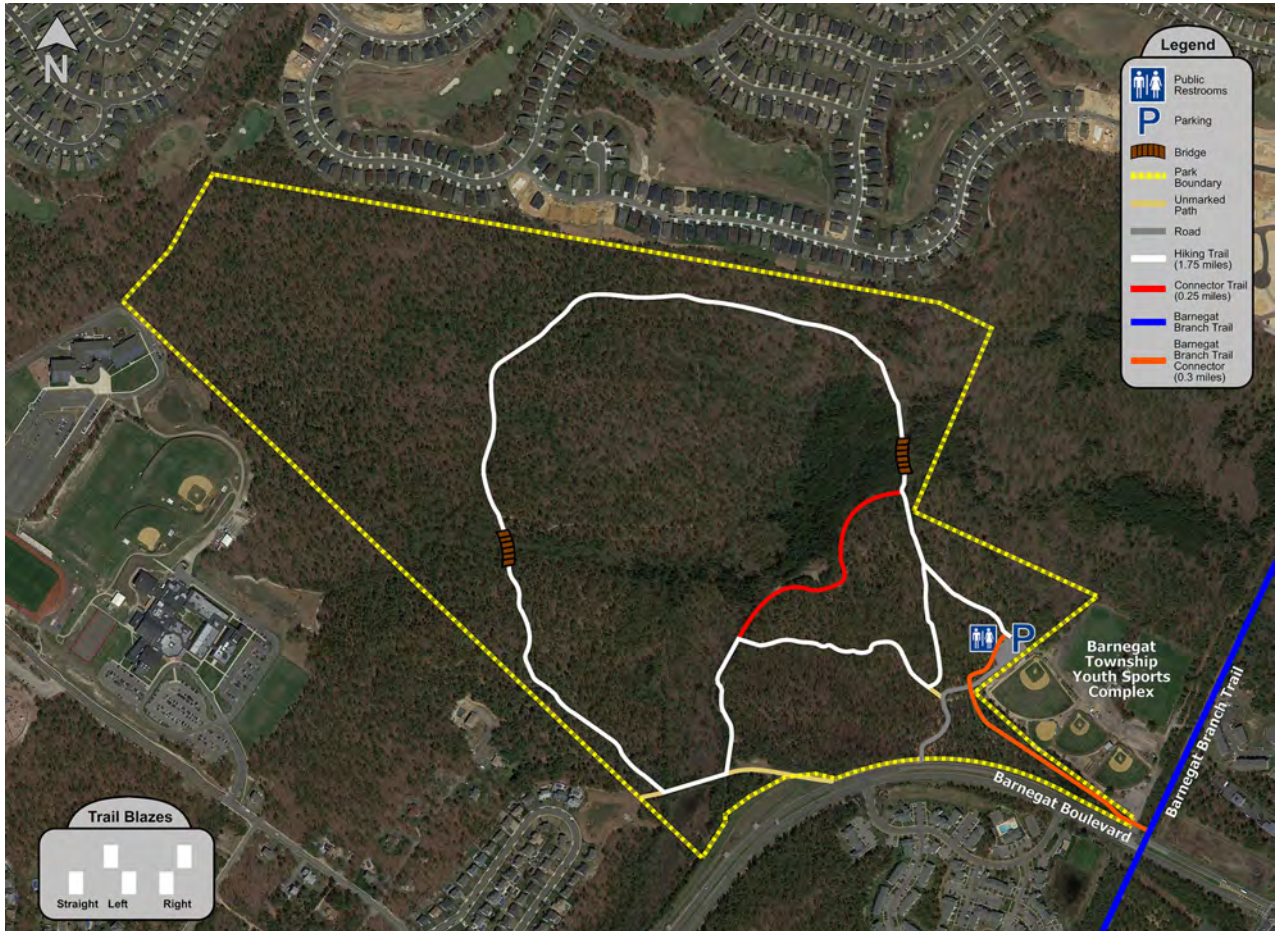
www.oceancountyparks.org

About Lochiel Creek County Park

Lochiel Creek County Park opened in 2014 and is the hidden gem that covers over 177 acres of forests and wetlands. Its unique name dates back hundreds of years to the original landowners who had an estate in Scotland of the same name. The park is located along the westbound side of Barnegat Boulevard in Barnegat Township. As you enter the park, the roads wind among pines and blueberries into a quiet and pristine setting.

The property on which the park is located was slated to be developed into residential housing. The site was identified as a high priority for protection because of a large population of rare plants that are federally and state listed as protected. The properties that make up the park were acquired by Ocean County in 2002, 2004, and 2008.

Amenities include a comfort station with restrooms, ample parking and a 1.75 mile marked nature trail. The trail highlights the park's diversity as it meanders through rolling hills; relic sand dunes from a time when the area was a prehistoric beach. The trail also crosses the park's namesake Lochiel Creek, which flows through an Atlantic White Cedar swamp rich with strange carnivorous plants and beautiful native orchids. The diversity of wildflowers and wildlife within the park provide for a stunning walk no matter what time of year you visit.

Lochiel Creek County Park

One of the most convenient features of the park is its accessibility to the Barnegat Branch Trail. The parking area serves as a trailhead where visitors can access 6.5 contiguous miles of the Barnegat Branch Trail. A short connector trail leads from the parking area at Lochiel Creek County Park to the intersection of Barnegat Boulevard and the Barnegat Branch Trail.