



Jackson Woods Fall 2025

Dear Friends of Jackson Woods,

The holiday season is approaching and it is always a time for reflection and gratitude. Fall in Jackson Woods has been extremely productive and winter weather will soon bring all our volunteers a much needed rest. Hibernation begins at Thanksgiving and ends in March. Thank you all for your tireless support, camaraderie, laughs, and for making Jackson Woods an outstanding community destination.

Fall Happenings

In September Girl Scout Troup 573 held a Bridge Crossing ceremony and dedicated their new park bench near the pond. The girls received their Bronze Award for identifying a community issue, creating and carrying out a plan to address it, and having a positive community impact. Thank you girls for all you have done in Jackson Woods. It was a pleasure working with all of you and your leaders. On September 5 Rumson Garden Club volunteers worked in their native plant garden to spruce things up, weeding and mulching. The Lutheran Church sent volunteers on September 14 to plant daffodils, weed and mulch the lavender garden in the front of the park.

In early October, we worked together with Earthshare NJ and their volunteer team from MJH Life Sciences to install a beautiful rain garden on school property opposite the park's Avenel Boulevard entrance. A collaboration with the schools, who handled the site preparation, and the Green Team and the Environmental Commission, who organized and funded the plants, the garden will filter pollutants out of runoff that flows off school property into the stream by the park's Avenel entrance. Earthshare NJ, we appreciate all you do on behalf of Jackson Woods.

We hope everyone enjoyed our tree walk with Gerry Lingner on October 19. The informative walk and talk was capped off by coffee and donuts. Special thanks to Cato and Gwen Johnsen for their donation of two miniature lighted spruce trees to add to our "garden of lights" this fall. Look for all our solar lit trees if you pass by the Avenel entrance in the evening.

And last, but definitely not least, Jack-o-Lantern Woods was a huge Halloween success. Thank you Danna Kawut for your tireless efforts organizing the party and Stan Dziuba and the fun loving DPW for setting the stage with animatronics, hay bales, pumpkins and tons of candy. Long Branch families truly appreciate your efforts and look forward to this yearly event.





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Thank You Supporters and Volunteers

Bruce Davis has been diligently cleaning our walking paths. Nancy Libro continues her painting, sprucing up our wheelbarrows, frog, ladybug and butterfly bench. Donna, Matt, Gerry, Norman, Annette and Andrew, the park would not be where it is without you. Thanks also to Brookdale College students under the direction of Erin Tierney, Assistant Director of Student Clubs and Community Service, and Monmouth University students for their continuous work in Jackson Woods. We had a great time planting the daffodils secured for us by Abel Gomez, Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development. Thanks to the DPW for delivering the bulbs in time for planting. Great teamwork and the daffodils will be a beautiful addition to Jackson Woods come spring. Thank you to Jersey Cares for continually sending us volunteers and to (GMS) Group Management Services of Mount Laurel, NJ who spent a day out of the office weeding, mulching and planting in the beautiful Long Branch sunshine. This park has and will always be fueled by the collaborative efforts of many groups and individuals.

New Art in the Park

Rich and Dorsey Lucas have created a sneak peak of a new sculpture. It's hiding on the back of our message center. Be sure to check it out. The new sculpture, donated by Nan and her husband Rich Catanese, will be installed on Friday, November 14, to the left of the message center.

Joe Pruiti has created a dragonfly to go along with the beautiful butterfly he installed this summer. Both hang prominently in the park not far from the pond. Thank you also to Mark Davis for always faithfully delivering Rook burlap bags to the park to help with weed control, for donating plants and for his new sculpture by the girl scout bench.



Zoom Presentation about Friends of Jackson Woods: November 18 at 7 PM

We often get questions about how Jackson Woods was transformed from a neglected and unsafe park into a thriving community oasis. If you would like to know more, please join us for this webinar sponsored by our friends at Earthshare NJ. Pre-registration is required at the link below.

Registration: <https://earthsharenj.networkforgood.com/events/91941-environmental-equity-today-webinar-the-story-of-jackson-woods>



Jackson Woods may be quiet for the winter months but please continue to drop off sneakers at our various drop off locations throughout the city and beyond. Each bag of sneakers earns us a small donation and helps the environment by keeping them out of landfills. Tis truly the season to be thankful and to celebrate. Hopefully some of you may want to celebrate by donating to [Monmouth Conservation Foundation](#) in the name of Jackson Woods so that we may continue to create a unique environmental oasis in the midst of the North End of Long Branch. Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathy Buchan and Nan Simon
Friends of Jackson Woods

