

## A Brief History of The Murray Farmhouse and Barn: a New Jersey Historic Site

In 1969 a group of dedicated citizens hoping to save Poricy Brook from the impacts of a proposed sewer trunk line formed the Poricy Park Citizens Committee. Their campaign was successful and in 1973 the Citizens Committee was incorporated as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization to begin the task of preserving the land that is now Poricy Park.

Between 1971 and 1973, using funds from private contributors, Middletown Township, The Nature Conservancy, and the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the Committee was able to purchase the land, build the park's Nature Center and restore the historic Murray farmhouse and barn. The Township agreed to designate the park as a nature preserve and lease the park to the Citizens Committee for a nominal annual fee. Educational programs at the park began in the summer of 1975 and by 1978 a full schedule of programs for school classes and the public were underway.

In its history the organization has grown both in size and in the scope of its services. Because of this, in 2004 the Board of Directors and Members voted to change the name of the organization to the Poricy Park Conservancy (PPC). Like other community based non-profit conservancies, PPC provides a wide range of benefits and services from stewardship of the park's 250 acres of woods, trails, and waterways and management of its New Jersey State Historic Site, to the presentation of hundreds of programs and special events for the public throughout the year

## Poricy Park Features

**Nature Center** - Open to the public during listed hours. Houses many interesting live creatures, a classroom for programs including school field trips, a gift shop, and a lobby with interactive displays!

**Murray Farmhouse and Barn** - Open to the public during listed hours. Contains many unusual artifacts typical of the colonial era and shows unique construction found in colonial times.

**Fossil Beds** - Visitors can find 70 million year old cretaceous era marine fossils.

## Poricy Park Programs

Join us for a variety of unique programs that stimulate and engage people of any age. Our programs connect people to both our natural and colonial history. Our programs bring visitors through an authentic 1770 New Jersey State Historic site, many different habitats, and 70 million year old fossil beds!

**Community Programs** - Throughout the year we offer a wonderful selection of programs such as: the Tavern Party, kite making/flying, maple syruping, colonial dancing, nature hikes, star gazing, colonial games, fossil hunts, spinning and weaving, frog calls, colonial candle making tracking, and much more!

**Theme Birthday Parties** - One-of-a-kind birthdays that everyone will remember! Possibilities include Fossil Hunting and Pond Exploring!

**Summer Camps** - Summer camp at Poricy Park is where childhood memories are made! We have a summer full of theme camps that bring everything back to the basics. Our full day and half day camps give campers hands on fun with nature!

**Scouts** - We offer many programs that help both Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts achieve their scouting goal! Programs are individually scheduled to help leaders with their group goals!

### Park Hours

**Poricy Park trails:**  
Open year round from dawn until 10:00 PM.

**Nature Center Hours:**  
Mon thru Fri 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Weekends: per scheduled programs

**Farmhouse Hours:**  
3:00-4:00 PM usually on the last Sunday of the month

**Fossil Beds Hours:**  
Open April through October from dawn till dusk.

### For More Information

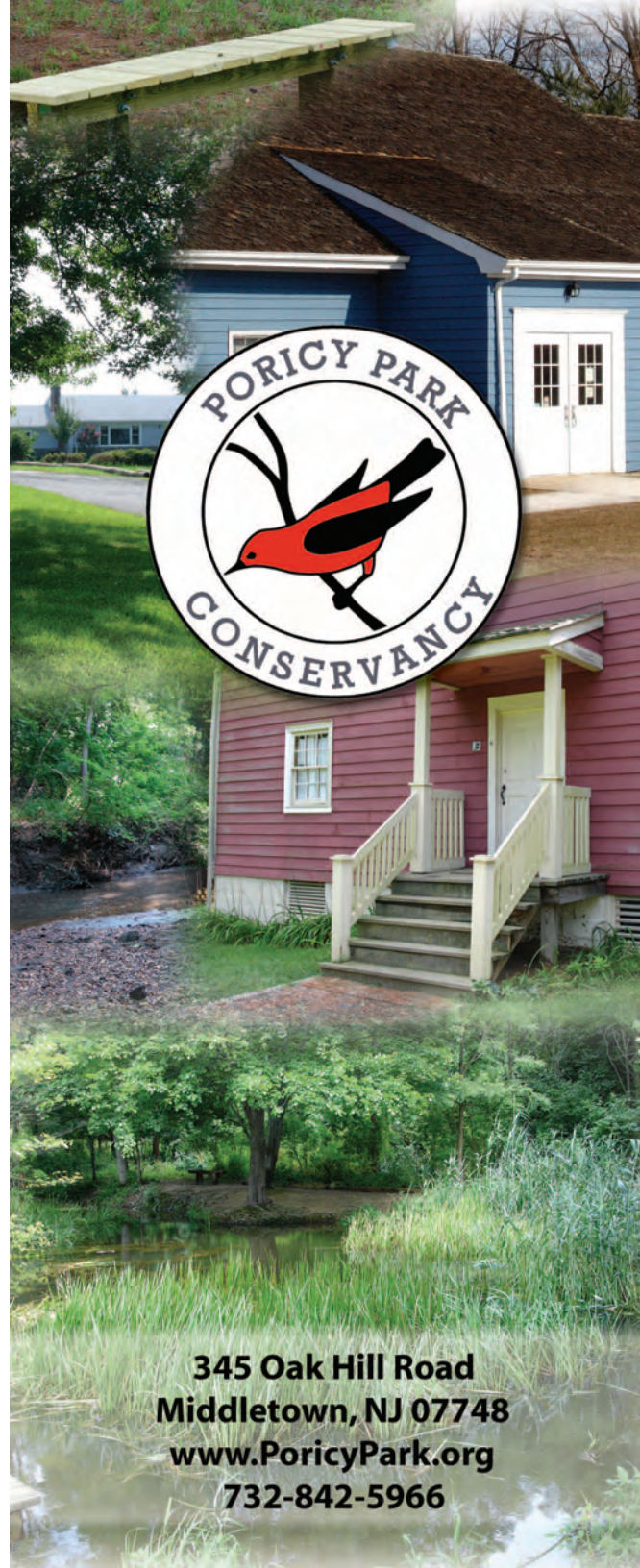
Check out our Website at <http://www.PoricyPark.org>  
or e:mail at [PoricyPark@verizon.net](mailto:PoricyPark@verizon.net)

Street Address for gps systems:  
345 Oak Hill Rd  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

### Mailing Address:

Poricy Park Conservancy  
P.O. Box 36  
Middletown, NJ 07748

You can also give us a call at 732-842-5966,  
or fax us at 732-842-6833.



## Welcome to Poricy Park Conservancy

Poricy Park Conservancy has been preserving 250 acres of open space, wildlife and their habitats, prehistoric fossil beds, and the Historic Murray Farmhouse.

Poricy Park is an exceptional ecological resource whose 250 acres make it one of the largest parks in Monmouth County. Poricy Park is a regional resource, serving residents throughout New Jersey and the Tri-state area. The park is a center for environmental and cultural education, enhancing the community's enjoyment and appreciation of nature and local history.

Poricy Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization that depends primarily on member's financial support to keep the Conservancy at the pinnacle of environmental education, historical preservation, and natural beauty. Please take a moment to browse through our website at [www.PoricyPark.org](http://www.PoricyPark.org) and also consider joining the Conservancy's efforts by becoming a member. Membership in the Poricy Park Conservancy entitles you to a member's newsletter, discounted program and event fees, advanced notice of events, discounted merchandise, and invitations to member's only events.

Further, a membership directly contributes to securing the educational, historic, and natural resources of Poricy Park Conservancy for this and future generations.

## Our Mission Statement

Dedicated to the preservation of its natural resources and historic site for use in education and enjoyment by present and future generations.

## Our Vision

Poricy Park Conservancy, a non-profit organization, will be managed to preserve and interpret the woodlands, fields, river and marsh ecosystems, a bed of Cretaceous fossils, collections of natural objects, and a restored 18th-Century farm. Quality hands-on educational programs of natural science, environmental and colonial living studies will be provided to the community.

**345 Oak Hill Road  
Middletown, NJ 07748  
[www.PoricyPark.org](http://www.PoricyPark.org)  
732-842-5966**

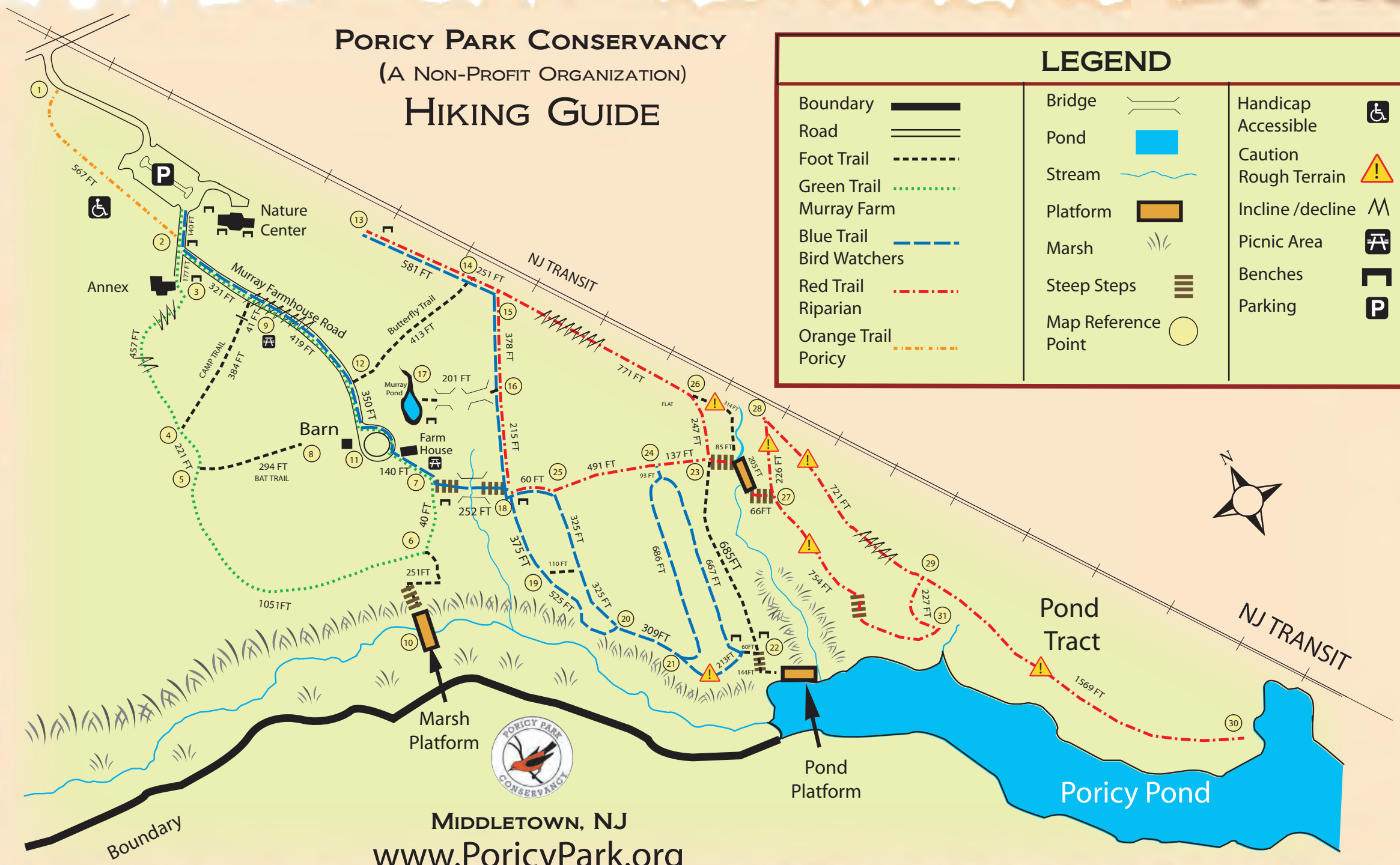
# PORICY PARK CONSERVANCY

(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

## HIKING GUIDE

### LEGEND

Boundary		Bridge		Handicap Accessible	
Road		Pond		Caution	
Foot Trail		Stream		Rough Terrain	
Green Trail		Platform		Incline /decline	
Murray Farm		Marsh		Picnic Area	
Blue Trail		Steep Steps		Benches	
Bird Watchers		Map Reference Point		Parking	
Red Trail					
Riparian					
Orange Trail					
Poricy					



MIDDLETOWN, NJ  
[www.PoricyPark.org](http://www.PoricyPark.org)