

About Howell Township, NJ

Centrally located in southern Monmouth County, Howell is a shopper's delight. Easy access via its highway system brings people who seek value and quality from surrounding areas. National chains and family-owned retail businesses share highway frontage with many specialty shops. Almost every consumer need can be met in Howell. In addition, our professional community is second to none. A vast array of health care professionals take the worry out of being sick or injured. The Howell Chamber of Commerce works closely with the community, making Howell a fine place to live and shop.

Amenities

Howell residents find ample recreational and leisure opportunities available. Country living accented by wide open spaces is part of Howell's charm. Set in this rustic historical setting are modern facilities, shopping, restaurants and recreational amenities. Howell provides the best of both worlds-history and rural appeal blended into modern times.

The Jersey shore and its long stretch of beaches is only minutes away to enjoy for boating, fishing and relaxation. There are two 18-hole public golf courses, historic Allaire State Park and Howell Golf Course, operated by Monmouth County. There are numerous parks within the township offering softball, baseball and soccer fields as well as basketball courts. Areas with fitness/jogging trails, picnic areas and tot lots with play apparatus are established within the township.

Annual events throughout the county include seafood festivals, jazz festivals, a county fair and movies in the park and on the beach.

The nation's oldest harness racing track, Freehold Raceway, is nearby as well as Monmouth Park which offers thoroughbred racing, "the sport of kings."

Howell residents can also enjoy the excitement of Six Flags-Great Adventure located in neighboring Jackson Township. Atlantic City and the Meadowlands Sports Complex are within easy driving distance.

An active cultural life is available to Howell residents. Theater productions, music concerts, art shows and dance performances abound. Nearby, PNC Arts Center provides an amphitheater for open-air summer performances. The Monmouth County Arts Council sponsors more than 2,500 high-quality, inexpensive or free concerts, films, dance and theater productions, musicals, creative writing programs, art exhibitions, and arts education programs to over 700,000 children and adults throughout the region each year.

Howell is recreational living at it's best. Plus, the cultural resources of the rest of New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia are all within easy accessibility.

The youth of the community are also served by the several little league groups offering recreational and sports activities. In addition, the Howell Township Police Athletic League (PAL) provides sports, recreation and educational programs for all segments of the population throughout the year and includes the PAL Theater Company, special needs opportunities, summer camps and clinics.

Transportation

Howell is linked to the world's greatest markets - New York and Philadelphia - via The Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike, Interstate 195, Routes 9, 18, 33 and

34. These major highways combined with a network of county and local roads make every part of Howell easily accessible.

Howell is also located in the main business corridor between Washington and Boston. New Jersey Transit provides frequent and efficient commuter bus service to the Newark-New York Metropolitan area, as well as frequent service to many other points in the state. There are two Park & Ride lots, one is located on Route 9 North at Strickland Road, with the other lot located at Aldrich Road on the Route 9 corridor.

Direct rail service is provided to hundreds of acres of industrially-zoned land. Imports and exports are efficiently handled from points in Howell through Port Authority facilities at Newark and Elizabeth. The Delaware River Port District, the second largest port in the US is equally accessible, putting world markets within minutes from business doors.

Newark Liberty International Airport is approximately 50 minutes away. Philadelphia International Airport is also within easy commuting distance. Locally, Allaire Airport provides air taxi, small commercial and private plane service.

Community Profile

Population/Land

Howell Township has the largest area of any township in Monmouth County. Its' 62.10 square miles contains a population of approximately 50,000 residents. There exists a wide range of living styles from farms to single family detached homes to condominium communities to suit all tastes. A large variety of horse farms, agricultural crops and horticultural entities abound in Howell. In addition there is a proportionate percentage of land zoned for commercial and industrial purposes.

Schools

Howell has the largest elementary school system in the county. Residents benefit from the top-rated school system. Children attend one of our elementary schools, middle schools, or the Freehold Regional High School District. The School Board is comprised of nine elected members and a President selected from that body. The Regional Board of Education services the older children with two elected members to represent Howell's interests. The Regional System services Howell, Freehold Township, Freehold Boro, Farmingdale, Marlboro, Manalapan and Colts Neck. In addition to serving the regional needs of each individual school's geographic area, each school also services specialty curriculum, such as math and science. Howell's specialty is the performing arts, therefore not only Howell residents but region wide students with an interest in the arts attend Howell High School.

Services

In 1991, a public referendum changed the form of government from the Township Committee to the current Council/Manager form of government. The current makeup of Council is an elected Mayor and four at-large council persons. The elected terms are for four years.

The 30,000 square foot Justice Building located in the Municipal Complex on Old Tavern Road, houses the Police Department and the Court. This facility incorporates energy efficient passive solar design and accommodates state-of-the-art computerized radio and telephone communications as well as a fully computerized record system. This is an impressive structure that should be viewed by all of Howell's present or future residents.

The Police Department protects the citizens of Howell within its 62.10 square miles and hundreds of miles of roadways. Howell's police department has frequently led the state in DWI enforcement. Highly skilled officers also are subject to call by county agencies as part of specialized operations. The 9-1-1 emergency system is under the auspices of the County.

The second half of the Justice Building houses the Howell Municipal Court. The traffic court is extremely busy with Howell having several hundred miles of roadways including four major highways within its' jurisdiction. Howell's court has a no nonsense reputation and is viewed as being extremely well administered.

Fire protection is handled by five independent fire districts, Adelpia, Freewood Acres, Ramtown, Southard and Squankum. The fire districts have independent taxing authority. They are governed by an elected Board of Fire Commissioners. In addition to tax revenues, the fire companies' auxiliaries raise substantial income through private fund raising. The Bureau of Fire Prevention carries out a wide range of fire related activities. These include, but are not limited to, education, inspections and investigations.

Frequently working at the side of fire and police personnel are the volunteers of Howell's various First Aid Squads. These volunteers give freely of themselves and their time. State requirements demand that a high degree of skill is possessed by these good Samaritans. As a matter of fact, the law requires that they spend over 100 hours per year in training alone. The squads receive a small stipend from the town, but have no taxing ability and rely heavily upon their own fund raising abilities and the good will of the community they serve. The three squads are Farmingdale-Howell, Howell and Ramtown First Aids.

Library

The Howell Township Library, located at 318 Old Tavern Road, is open six days a week and is associated with the Monmouth County Library System. The library provides educational, recreational, and cultural services through print and electronic sources, professional services, informational resources, and innovative programming.

Manasquan Reservoir

The Manasquan Reservoir is the jewel in the great green belt stretching through the center of Howell. Consisting of thousands of acres of land owned by the State, County and Municipal government, this lush green mosaic of open space provides leisure and recreational activities for residents of every age group all year long.

The components that make up this Green Way include the Manasquan Reservoir and the Howell Golf course, administered by the Monmouth County Park System, Oak Glen Park, the Howell Township Municipal Complex and the Bear Swamp natural area, under the direction of Howell Township, and the State's Allaire State Park. All this is just

a stone's throw from the intersection of U.S. Highway I-195, connecting the Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike with U.S. Hwy. 9.

A site for numerous group and solitary recreational activities is provided. Visitors can enjoy fishing, biking, hiking, basketball, baseball, soccer, bird watching, canoeing, sailing, picnicking and horseback riding. There are also seasonal boat tours and kayaks and rowboats are available for rent.

Not only does this vast Green way serve the community as a site for recreational activities, but day and night, silently, it completes its most important task-preserving and enhancing the quality of our air and water. The pines of this region pump millions of cubic yards of oxygen-rich air into our environment. The River and its tributaries can supply some thirty million gallons of clear, pure water to Monmouth County residents.

A naturalist's delight, the area is well known for its abundance of wild flowers that will tempt both artists and photographers with a full palette of delicate colors. Wild orchids, lilies and other flowers fill the air with a sweet fragrance.

Bird watchers can experience the thrill of watching osprey and fish hawks as they display their fishing prowess. Blue birds have been spotted near the parking lots singing a welcome to visitors and snow-white Egrets are often seen in the wetlands area on Georgia Tavern Road. Parts of this green belt encompass a pinelands environment and shelters the northern-most population of the Pine Barren Tree Frog, as well as the Pine Warbler, Tanager and Orioles. As the sun goes down, their song is replaced by that of the wood thrush, the call of owls, and the mournful note of the whippoorwill.

Wild life is abundant. It's possible to sight white tail deer, wild turkey, grouse, quail, woodcock, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, possum and fox in the woods surrounding the reservoir. The river is stocked with several kinds of trout. Towards the estuary, one can find blue fish and herring. Anglers might even snag pickerel or bass in the Reservoir.