



MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY • NJ

# bark Rangers



Exploring Parks,  
One Tail Wag at a Time

ACTIVITY BOOK

THIS ACTIVITY BOOK BELONGS TO:

# Hey there, Ranger!

## Welcome to the Middlesex County Bark Rangers.

This activity book will take you and your hooman on adventures around the county parks. Complete five activities to achieve official “Bark Ranger” status. Please raise your right paw for the Bark Rangers pledge:

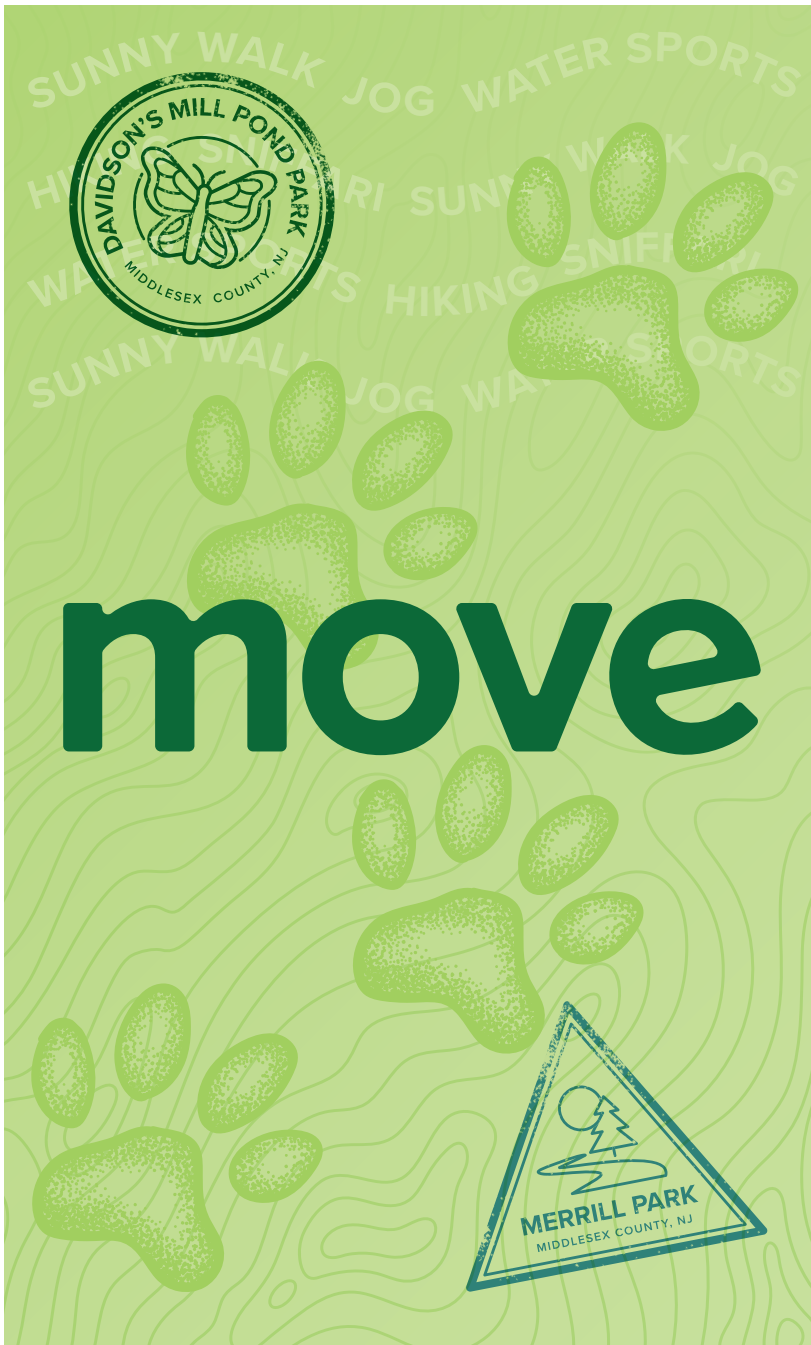
“As Middlesex County Bark Rangers, my hooman and I promise to protect the parks by picking up after ourselves and respecting wildlife. We will do our best to preserve the county parks while playing, chasing, and sniffing.”

For a full list of guidelines, visit:  
[DiscoverMiddlesex.com/BarkRangers](https://www.discovermiddlesex.com/BarkRangers)



## HOW TO BECOME A Bark Ranger

- 1 SELECT YOUR ACTIVITY.**  
From puppy picnics to sunset walks to snapping the pawfect pic, this book is filled with activities to help you and your hooman explore the great outdoors.
- 2 FILL YOUR ACTIVITY BOOK**  
with notes and memories as you complete each activity.
- 3 COMPLETE FIVE ACTIVITIES**  
to win matching Middlesex County bandanas for you and your hooman (each activity can only be counted once).
- 4 SUBMIT PROOF OF PARTICIPATION**  
at: [DiscoverMiddlesex.com/BarkRangers](https://www.discovermiddlesex.com/BarkRangers)
- 5 SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES.**  
Have your hooman join the [@MiddlesexCountyBarkRangers](https://www.facebook.com/MiddlesexCountyBarkRangers) Facebook group.



TEACH YOUR HOOMAN HOW TO  
LET LOOSE AND EMBRACE THE

# zoomies

- 1 **SNIFF OUT THE BEST TRAIL** at John A. Phillips Park or Davidson's Mill Pond Park.

**tip** Make sure your hooman doesn't forget to pack your portable water bowl - no one wants to watch you try to drink out of a water bottle again!

- 2 **TAKE IN THE NATURAL BEAUTY (AND SMELLS!)** on an early-morning or late-evening walk. Head to **Merrill Park** or **David B. Crabiel Park** for paved walking trails.

**3 NOSES TO THE GROUND FOR THIS ONE!**

Explore a new park with a sniffari. The rules are simple: you set the pace, you choose the direction, and you sniff as long as you want. **No leash-tugging, hoomans!** Any park is good for this one.

Find a park near you!



 Bench	 Bush	 Dog
 Flowers	 Leaves	 Picnic Table
 Pond	 Stick	 Trashcan

**HAVE YOUR HOOMAN RECORD YOUR FINDINGS WITH OUR BARKING BINGO BOARD.**

**4 TRY SOMETHING NEW!**

Have your hooman grab their kayak, paddleboard, or canoe and head to the **Helmetta Pond Paddling Trail** for an adventure.

**tip** New to water sports? Make sure your hooman packs your life vest just in case!



**5 READY TO PICK UP THE PACE?**

Break out your hooman's worn-(or chewed-)in sneakers for a refreshing jog. Try the **Middlesex Greenway** for a paved pathway or **John A. Phillips Park** for hiking trails.

## Activity Log

Hoomans, document your pup's progress here with the MOVE merit badge stickers.

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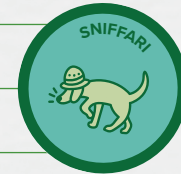
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## REMIND YOUR HOOMAN IT'S TIME to play

- 1 **MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS** at the off-leash dog parks in **Thompson Park** or **Donaldson Park**.
- 2 **GO FETCH** and prove to your hooman that you've got what it takes to be the next Air Bud!
- 3 **PUT YOUR BRAIN POWER TO THE TEST** with this DIY enrichment toy below!

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOOMANS:

1. Place a few treats or pieces of kibble in each cup of a muffin tin.
2. Cover each cup with a tennis ball or other toys to create a puzzle.
3. Encourage your dog to sniff out and remove the tennis balls to uncover the hidden treats.

**TOY VARIATION:** On hot days, add water with the treats and pop your muffin tin in the freezer!

- 4 STUCK INSIDE?** Teach your hooman a new game. This one's called Hide & Seek. They hide, you seek!

**tip**

Make sure your hooman rewards you properly for finding them. We recommend a yummy treat or LOTS of belly rubs.



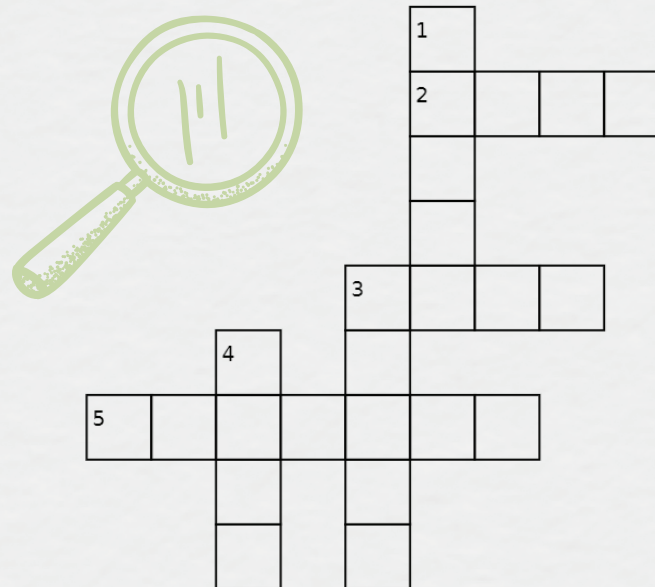
- 5 PUT YOUR "GOOD DOG" SKILLS TO THE TEST** with these training games that can be played at any park or at home.

**CHECK:** Have your hooman point to different objects and places in the park with the command "check" for you to sniff out.

**RECALL:** This one's easy! When your hooman calls your name, go straight to them and wait for your "Good Dog" reward.

**FIND IT:** Have your hooman hide treats around your home. Then, put that sniffer to work to find them!

**TEST YOUR HOOMAN'S SKILLS WITH THIS CANINE CROSSWORD!**



**DOWN**

- 1. A yummy reward
- 3. How dogs explore new areas
- 4. Common outdoor activity for dogs & hoomans

**ACROSS**

- 2. Dogs love to do this in grass or dirt
- 3. A basic command
- 5. A dog's favorite pastime

DOWN: 1. TREAT 3. SNIFF 4. WALK  
ACROSS: 2. ROLL 3. STAY 5. PLAYING

**ANSWERS**

## Activity Log

Hoomans, document your pup's progress here with the PLAY merit badge stickers.

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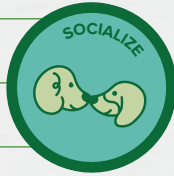
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SLOW DOWN AND ENJOY THE  
MOMENT WITH AN ACTIVE  
**rest day**

- 1 FIND YOUR INNER ZEN** with a paws-and-reflect meditation at **Roosevelt Park** or **Old Bridge Waterfront Park**.

[Record your meditation reflections here.](#)

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- 2 BIG STRETCH!** Stretching is good for you – and your hooman! Roll out the mats and teach them how to down dog like a pro at **Joseph Medwick Park** or **Alvin P. Williams Memorial Park**.

**3 EVERYTHING IS BETTER WITH TREATS.**

Have your hooman pack the following for a delicious puppy picnic in the park. For parks with picnic groves, visit: **William Warren Park, Johnson Park, or Fords Park.**

**FRESH FRUIT:** Apple slices, strawberries, and blueberries are great options!

**VEGETABLES:** Get in some greens with cucumber slices and carrot sticks.

**CHEESE:** Plain cheese like cheddar and mozzarella are perfect, but be mindful of portion sizes with this one!

**4 SHOW OFF YOUR FAVORITE FIT** at the newest county park, **Thomas Mundy Peterson Park**, or one closest to you.

**tip** If it's a hot day, opt for a cooling vest or shirt!



**5 TIRED OF YOUR HOOMAN SNAPPING ENDLESS PICS OF YOUR CUTENESS?**

Use it to your advantage! We recommend charging one treat per picture. Head to **Raritan Bay Waterfront Park** for a scenic bay view or **Spring Lake Park** for a gazebo backdrop.

**tip** Tell your hooman to tag us @MiddlesexCountyNJ when they post that cute pic of you.



## Activity Log

Hoomans, document your pup's progress here with the REST merit badge stickers.

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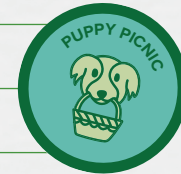
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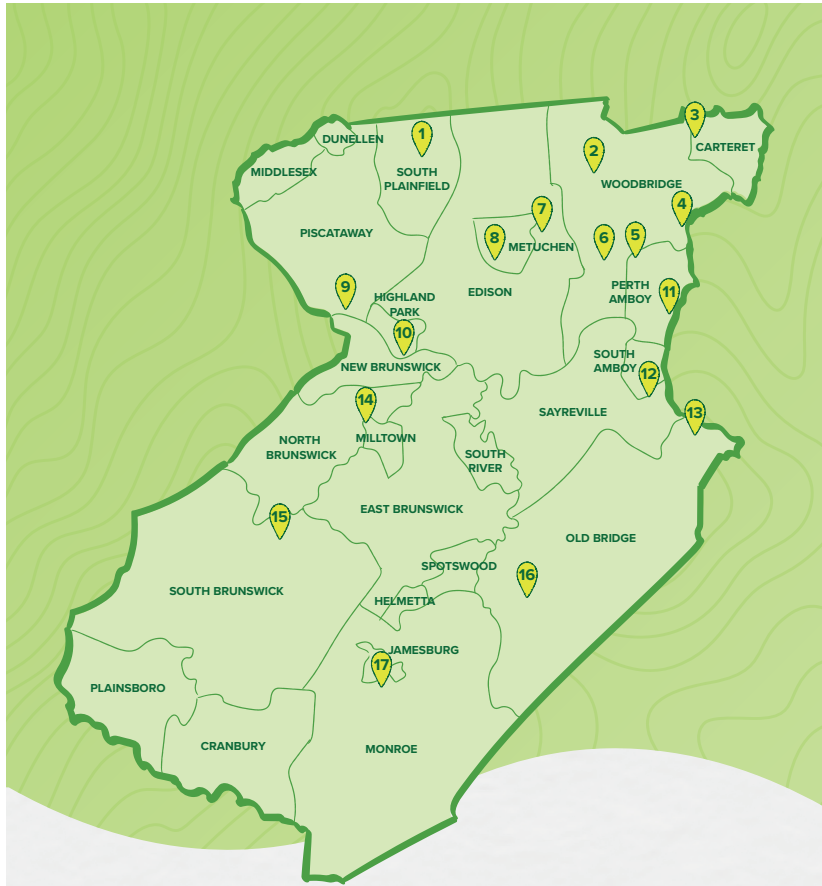
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|---|---|--|
| 1. <b>SPRING LAKE PARK</b><br>South Plainfield          | 7. <b>ROOSEVELT PARK</b><br>Edison                    | 13. <b>OLD BRIDGE WATERFRONT PARK</b><br>Old Bridge              |
| 2. <b>MERRILL PARK</b><br>Woodbridge                    | 8. <b>MIDDLESEX GREENWAY</b><br>Metuchen              | 14. <b>DAVID B. CRABIEL PARK</b><br>Milltown and North Brunswick |
| 3. <b>JOSEPH MEDWICK PARK</b><br>Carteret               | 9. <b>JOHNSON PARK</b><br>Piscataway                  | 15. <b>DAVIDSON'S MILL POND PARK</b><br>South Brunswick          |
| 4. <b>ALVIN P. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL PARK</b><br>Woodbridge | 10. <b>DONALDSON PARK</b><br>Highland Park            | 16. <b>JOHN A. PHILLIPS PARK</b><br>Old Bridge                   |
| 5. <b>WILLIAM WARREN PARK</b><br>Woodbridge             | 11. <b>THOMAS MUNDY PETERSON PARK</b><br>Perth Amboy  | 17. <b>THOMPSON PARK</b><br>Monroe and Jamesburg                 |
| 6. <b>FORDS PARK</b><br>Woodbridge                      | 12. <b>RARITAN BAY WATERFRONT PARK</b><br>South Amboy |  |

# Park Rules

- 1 Pups must be over four months to enter an off-leash dog park.
- 2 We know bath time is fun, but please refrain from bathing in park waterways.
- 3 Sports practice must stay in the backyard. Pups are not allowed in the pickleball courts, roller skating/hockey rinks, turf fields, or park sports fields.
- 4 Please make sure your hooman uses a leash 6' long or shorter.
- 5 Stay safe and stylish with collars that show off your license tags.
- 6 Hoomans, don't forget to scoop the poop and keep our parks clean!
- 7 The parks are open from sunrise to sunset - puppy eyes won't change our minds!

Find activities offered at each park here!



# Congratulations!

YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR  
BARK RANGER TRAINING.



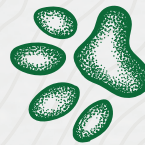
Please have your hooman submit  
proof of participation at  
[DiscoverMiddlesex.com/BarkRangers](https://DiscoverMiddlesex.com/BarkRangers)  
to receive your official Bark Rangers bandana.



## OFFICIAL BARK RANGERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

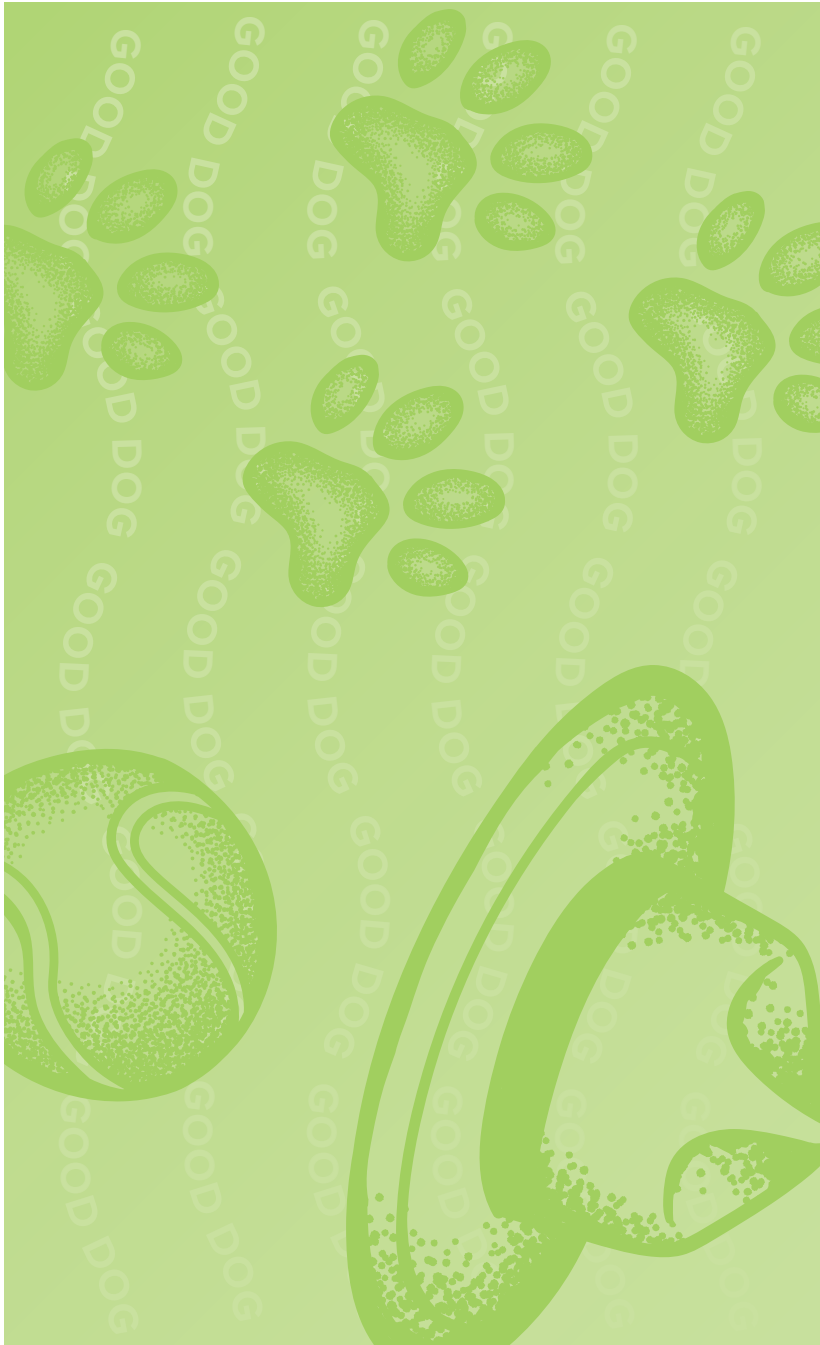
"I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
pledge to uphold the duties and responsibilities of a  
Bark Ranger with honor and enthusiasm. I promise to always  
respect wildlife and the rules of the park, to be a good  
ambassador for fellow "floofs," and to demonstrate "Good  
Dog" behavior at all times. I will protect and preserve the  
natural beauty of our parks, be courteous to other parkgoers,  
and leave no trace or drool behind. Woof! Woof!"

Date:



Signature:





**To the hoomans,  
Dogs are part of our world  
for a short while, but we  
are their whole world. We  
hope this activity book helps  
you take them on as many  
adventures as you can.**

#MCBarkRangers

Share Middlesex County  
Bark Rangers with your  
fellow floofs!

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Leslie Koppel, Chanelle Scott McCullum,  
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