The Battle of Monmouth
June 28, 1778

June 18, 1778 – The British Army under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton abandoned Philadelphia and began marching to the city of New York. The next day, the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington left Valley Forge and moved on to harass the British. The morning of Sunday, June 28, 1778, found the British Army of 20,000 men camped along the west bank of the Dividing Brook, some of the British wounded or incapacitated. In Manalapan, a British post, Freehold Borough (now Freehold Borough) some of the British wounded or incapacitated. 

Molly Pitcher
Mary Hays McCauly to Susan Hackendorn, c. 1830.

"...you have been wishing some days past to come up with the British, you have been wanting to fight, now you shall have fighting enough before night."
Captain, Rhode Island troops
June 28, 1778
Battlefield Trails—North

The history hikes north of the Middle Brook are best accessed from a small parking lot on the Sutfin Farm. They also can be reached from the Conover-Perrine house parking lot and by foot from the Visitor Center.

Washington (Yellow & Blue) Trail (0.86 mi.)
This trail leads to the main Continental Army position. Back-and-forth along this hill, Washington rode, encouraging his men and organizing a counter-attack as the British began withdrawing.

Lafayette (White) Trail (1.51 mi.)
Lafayette commanded the reserves behind the ridge. When British troops appeared north of Spotswood North Brook, Lafayette led the reserves west hoping to ambush the British. This trail parallels Lafayette’s route towards the 1753 Presbyterian meeting house.

Col. Cilley (Dashed Blue) Trail (1.62 mi.)
The blue trail crosses the swale where two battalions of “picked men” (temporary light infantry) were positioned. It then parallels the route that they took when Washington sent them to attack the withdrawing British.

Connector (Red to Southern Trails) (0.54 mi.)
When the Col. Ciley (dashed blue) trail turns west to return to the Sutfin parking lot, visitors can turn south then north to reach the southern trails and the Visitor Center. This trail parallels the route that the Royal Highlanders followed as they were pursued by the Continentals.

Molly Hays (Orange) Trail (1.07 mi.)
The Molly Hays trail begins at the Perrine-Conover House parking lot, joins the Washington trail, and then swings west to overlook the spring that provided water to Washington’s army. The first segment of this trail can be used to link the Conover-Perrine House parking lot to the other marked trails.

Farms (Green) Trail (3.98 mi.)
The Farms trail loops through and around the fields of the Perrine, Sutfin, and Craig farms. Visitors can use segments of the Farms Trail, the other marked trails, and unmarked trails to create their own battlefield hike.

Sutfin Woods (Dashed Orange) Horse Trails (1.97 mi.)
These woodland trails originate at the parking lot west of the Cobb House.

Battlefield Trails—South

Most of the southern trails are reached from the Visitor Center or Picnic Grove parking lots. Most are moderate in difficulty as they descend and climb 60-foot hills.

The red gravel path that circles the Visitor Center parking lot is level and completely accessible.

Hedgerow and Parsonage (Dashed Red) Hike (1.43 mi)
This trail crosses Spotswood South Brook to loop through the most fought-over portions of the battlefield. The knoll at the north end of the Parsonage Hill provides splendid views.

Washington meets Lee (Orange) Trail (0.22 mi.)
This short trail leads from a Westrock Road parking lot to a monument and wayside commemorating the dramatic meeting of Generals George Washington and Charles Lee.

Combs’ Farm Recreational Trails
Four trails of differing lengths (Red: 1.71 mi., White: 1.34, Green: 1.05, Yellow: 0.57) start half-way down the hill in front of the Visitor Center and circle through the woods to the left. All have a 50-foot change in elevation from the Spotswood South Brook terrace to the upland. Visitors can create level hikes by using those portions of the trails that circle the upland fields.

North of the Visitor Center, the Pink Trail (0.29 mi.) plunges downhill to connect the two boardwalks across the brook. Between the boardwalks, the trail follows the edge of the flood plain.

To the northeast of the Visitor Center, the Blue Trail (0.51 mi.) circles through young woods.

Be alert, be careful - Parks include natural hazards such as ticks and poison ivy. Stay on the trails, avoid tall vegetation.