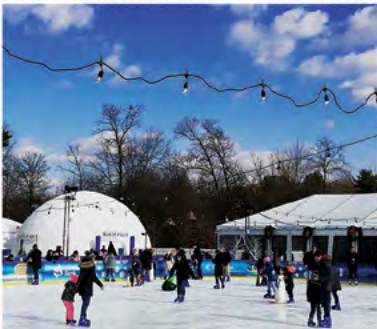




Bergen County Parks Guide





Bergen County Executive
James J. Tedesco, III

Board of County Commissioners

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Mary J. Amoroso, Vice Chairwoman
Dr. Joan M. Voss, Chair Pro Tempore
Rafael Marte, Commissioner
Thomas J. Sullivan, Commissioner
Steven A. Tanelli, Commissioner
Tracy S. Zur, Commissioner

Dear Residents,

Bergen County boasts one of the most breathtaking parks systems in the state, the region, and even the entire country. Whether your interests lie in hiking, golfing, horseback riding, pickleball, camping, skiing, picnicking, or any of the myriad of activities our parks offer, you'll find endless opportunities for you and your family to relish our vast expanse of nearly 10,000 acres of parkland.

The Bergen County Parks System features nine historic sites, an environmental center, six top-notch golf courses, and an enchanting community zoo. From the scenic mountains of Mahwah to the serene marshes of the Meadowlands, the Bergen County Parks System truly has something for everyone.

I wholeheartedly invite you to explore our parks to see all we have to offer for you and your family. For more information about our parks, please don't hesitate to contact us at 201-336-PARK (7275) or visit our website at www.co.bergen.nj.us./parks

Warm regards,

James J. Tedesco, III
Bergen County Executive







Department of Parks

Craig Dorsett, *Acting Director*

Ron Subramaniam, *Assistant Director*

OUR MISSION

The Bergen County Parks Department is dedicated to providing recreational opportunities for all, preserving open space, enhancing environmental health, and protecting significant cultural and historic sites for current and future generations.

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General Information

Most parks open at sunrise and close ½ hour after sunset.

Exceptions are made for facilities with lighting. Information about hours, rates, directions, schedule of events, and permits may be obtained from the Bergen County Department of Parks by visiting our website at www.co.bergen.nj.us/parks or by calling 201-336-7275.

Bergen County Golf Registration

The Bergen County Division of Golf allows golfers to play at any of our six courses for a discounted rate if they pay an annual registration fee. Registration fees for a “County Golf ID Card” are:

- Adult Resident – \$60
- Senior Resident – \$45
- Junior Resident – \$45
- Non-Resident – \$100
- Active Military/Military Veterans – \$45

New registrations can be done in-person at any golf course. The application for the “County Golf ID Card” can be found at www.golfbergencounty.com. For questions, please call the Division of Golf at 201-336-7259.

Permitting

Permits are required for many activities in the County Parks System. Examples include:

- Hosting a picnic
- Reserving an athletic field
- Holding a special event
- Using the archery range
- Professional photography
- Camping
- Utilizing the crew boat launches in Overpeck County Park and Riverside County Park–South
- Flying model planes

These applications are available online on the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal at www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.

Filming

A Bergen County film permit is required to film in any county park. Permit fees vary depending on length of shoot, crew size, and number of vehicles. Please contact the Bergen County Office of Film & Television for additional information at www.co.bergen.nj.us/film-tv-office or by calling 201-336-6972.

Safety Precautions

Park-goers can rest assured that Bergen County Parks are routinely patrolled by security officers and animal control officers. For life threatening emergencies, please dial 911. If you witness unlawful or unsafe activities, please call the Bergen County Public Safety Operations Center at **201-785-8500**.

Do not feed or approach wildlife or unfamiliar domesticated animals like dogs or cats. If you see an animal behaving strangely or aggressively, calmly move to a safe location and alert park staff. If you are scratched or bitten, alert park staff and contact a healthcare provider immediately.

Avoid insect borne diseases like West Nile and Chikungunya by wearing insect repellent and avoid damp or boggy areas. When hiking and camping, wear long pants, long socks, and long sleeves as a precaution against deer ticks which can carry Lyme disease. Check pets and areas of exposed skin regularly for ticks.

Important Phone Numbers and Links

Bergen County Parks Department

Website:

www.co.bergen.nj.us/parks

Bergen County Parks Department:

201-336-7275

Division of Historic & Cultural Affairs:

201-336-7267

Division of Golf:

201-336-7259

Office of Permits & Special Events:

201-336-7261

Bergen County Zoo:

201-262-3771

McFaul Environmental Center:

201-891-5571

Darlington County Park:

201-327-3500

Golf

Website:

www.golfbergencounty.com

Golf Course Information: 201-336-7280

Darlington Golf Course: 201-634-3160

Darlington Driving Range: 201-634-3168

Orchard Hills Golf Course: 201-447-3782

Overpeck Golf Course: 201-336-7298

Rockleigh Golf Course: 201-768-6354

Soldier Hill Golf Course: 201-336-6031

Valley Brook Golf Course: 201-664-5890

Recreation Partners

Bergen Equestrian Center:

201-336-3370

bergenequestrian.com

Saddle Ridge Riding Center:

201-847-9999

saddleridgeridingcenter.com

New York/New Jersey Trail Conference:

201-512-9348

nynjtc.org

Camp Glen Gray:

201-327-7234

glengray.org

Campgaw Mountain Ski:

201-327-7800

skicampgaw.com

Teaneck Creek Conservancy:

201-836-2403

teaneckcreek.org

Hackensack Riverkeeper:

201-968-0808

hackensackriverkeeper.org

Overpeck County Park Paddling Center:

201-957-3085

Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddling Center:

551-341-0170

Bergen County Rowing Academy:

bcrowingacademy.org

Passaic River Rowing Association:

prra.org





RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

No matter the season, there are a myriad of active and passive recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy throughout the parks system.



Archery

Try your hand at one of the oldest sports in the world, dating back to 2800 BCE, at the Campgaw Mountain Archery Range. Free and open daily to anyone with a Bergen County Archery Permit, Campgaw Mountain Archery Range is the perfect place for both beginners and experts looking to hone their skills. To apply for a Bergen County Archery Permit, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits

Baseball/Softball

Grab your bat, cap, and glove and head on down to one of the locations to play our nation's pastime:

- Artesian Fields County Park
- Overpeck County Park – Overpeck Sportsplex & Ridgefield Park Area
- Pascack Brook County Park
- Riverside County Park – North & South Areas
- Saddle River County Park – Fair Lawn Area, Otto C. Pehle Area, & Rochelle Park Area
- Samuel Nelkin County Park
- Van Saun County Park

To apply for use of an athletic field, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits

Basketball

Open first come, first served, the County Parks System features several basketball courts. Step up your game at one the following locations:

- Darlington County Park
- Overpeck County Park – Henry Hoebel Area–North
- Saddle River County Park – Otto C. Pehle Area & Rochelle Park Area
- Samuel Nelkin County Park

Bocce

Riverside County Park–North is home to bocce courts that are open to the public on a first come, first served basis.



Camping

Bergen County offers three unique locations to go camping— Campgaw Mountain Reservation, Ramapo Valley County Reservation, and Camp Glen Grey. Campgaw Mountain Reservation and Ramapo Valley County Reservation are ideal locations to camp for families and small groups. To camp at either location, you must obtain a permit from the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits. The permit costs \$10 per night, per site, and each site allows up to six people.

Camp Glen Gray is an independently managed camping destination located on Bergen County Parks land in Mahwah.

An overnight, weekend-only (Friday night to Sunday morning) facility, reservations for Camp Glen Gray can be made online at www.glengray.org or by phone at **201-327-7234**. Campsites and cabins are both available to rent. For pricing and more information, please visit: www.glengray.org.



Cricket

Once one of the most popular sports in the United States until baseball's dominance emerged after the Civil War era, cricket is seeing a resurgence in many communities across New Jersey, especially here in Bergen County. Leagues and groups may utilize the following fields to play this exciting 11 vs. 11 sport:

- Overpeck County Park – Henry Hoebel Area–North
- Saddle River County Park – Fair Lawn Area

To apply for use of an athletic field, please visit the Bergen County Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.

Disc Golf

Test your skills at the only public disc golf course in New Jersey, located in the foothills of the Campgaw Mountain Reservation.

Dog Parks

Bergen County Parks are the perfect place to bring your furry companion! Dogs are allowed in County Parks (with the exception of the Bergen County Zoo, the James A. McFaul Environmental Center, and Darlington County Park during swim season) as long as they are kept on a 6ft leash. Currently, there are six Off-the-Leash Dog Parks located in every corner of Bergen County. We encourage you to explore them all!

- Overpeck County Park – Henry Hoebel Area–South
- Riverside County Park–South
- Saddle River County Park – Wild Duck Pond Area
- Samuel Nelkin County Park
- Van Saun County Park
- Wood Dale County Park

Football

Toss the ol' pignskin around at:

- Overpeck County Park – Henry Hobel Area–North & Overpeck Sportsplex
- Riverside County Park–South

To apply for use of an athletic field, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal:

www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.

Fishing

Catch-and-release fishing is permitted at designated ponds, lakes, and streams in the Bergen County Parks System. The following parks have at least one site for fishing:

- Campgaw Mountain Reservation
- Camp Glen Gray
- Dahnert's Lake County Park
- Darlington County Park
- Overpeck County Park
- Pascack Brook County Park
- Ramapo Valley County Reservation
- Saddle River County Park – Wild Duck Pond Area, Glen Rock Area, & Otto C. Pehle Area
- Samuel Nelkin County Park
- Wood Dale County Park

The State of New Jersey requires anyone age 16 and older to have a valid license to fish at freshwater locations with a handline or rod and line. Fishing licenses must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing while engaged in fishing and must be exhibited to law enforcement, Bergen County security, and/or parks personnel on request.

Golf

With six beautiful county golf courses that vary in difficulty and character, Bergen County is the ideal place to catch a round for novices and experts alike. For more information, see page 91.

Group Picnics

A Picnic Permit is required for group picnics of 10 or more people in any county park. Picnic fees vary based on the number of attendees, county residency status, and the type of area requested.

Picnic Permits can be booked up to 6 months in advance. The Picnic Permit Application can be found on the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.

Hiking

Hiking trails can be found at Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Campgaw Mountain Reservation. To view trail maps, please visit: www.co.bergen.nj.us/parks

Hiking essentials: Comfortable hiking shoes or boots, dress for the weather (e.g. jacket/rain gear, hat, etc.), trail map, flashlight or headlamp, food, water, first aid kit, sun protection, insect repellent, and a whistle to alert rangers to your location if you become lost or disoriented.

Ice Skating

In the winter, grab your skates and head over to Van Saun County Park to enjoy the Rink at Bergen County's Winter Wonderland. Open from late November to the end of February, visitors are welcome to skate at Bergen County's outdoor ice rink!

Horseback Riding

Interested in learning how to ride or in honing your equestrian skills? The Bergen County Parks System is home to both the Bergen Equestrian Center and the Saddle Ridge Riding Center. For more information, see page 116 for the Bergen Equestrian Center and page 127 for the Saddle Ridge Riding Center.



Model Planes

Flying model airplanes is permitted in the Aerodrome located in Overpeck County Park, Henry Hoebel Area–North. Only electric planes are allowed. Pilots must have a valid Academy of Model Aeronautics license and a Model Plane permit from the Bergen County Parks Department. To obtain a permit, please visit: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.



Pickleball

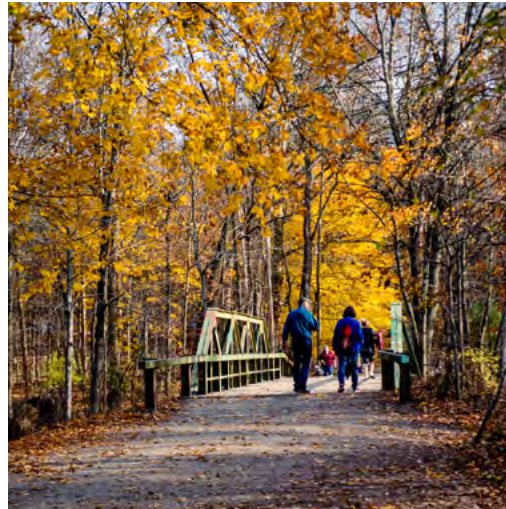
Several Bergen County Parks are now home to the fastest growing sport in America: PICKLEBALL! A racquet sport combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and badminton, pickleball is easy to learn and fun for all ages!

Available on a first come, first served basis, stop by a court at one of the following parks to try it out:

- Overpeck County Park – Ridgefield Park Area
- Riverside County Park–South
- Saddle River County Park – Rochelle Park Area
- Samuel Nelkin County Park
- Wood Dale County Park

Coming soon to:

- Pascack Brook County Park
- Van Saun County Park



Rowing and Kayaking

The Bergen County Parks System has designated water access locations for rowing and kayaking.

The Hackensack Riverkeeper (see page 121) operates seasonal rowing at both the Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddle Center and the Overpeck County Park Paddle Center. In addition, the Henry Hoebel Area—South of Overpeck County Park and Riverside County Park—South both feature a designated rowing launch for competitive crew teams. If you are interested in learning how to row, please check out the County’s two rowing partners: the Bergen County Rowing Academy on page 115 and the Passaic River Rowing Association on page 125. If your organization is interested in reserving one of the crew boat launches, please submit an Athletic Field Application found on the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits

Skiing/Snowboarding/ Tubing

Bergen County is home to a ski slope at Campgaw Mountain Reservation which offers five trails at a 276-foot drop and a tubing run (see page 128). Better on flat terrain? Ramapo Valley County Reservation is a popular spot for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

Soccer

With five fields across the Bergen County Parks System, there are plenty of places to play the world’s most beautiful game. Soccer fields are located in:

- Overpeck County Park – Overpeck Sportsplex & Ridgefield Park Area
- Riverside County Park—South
- Saddle River County Park – Fair Lawn Area

To apply for use of an athletic field, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal:

www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.



Swimming and Water Recreation

During the summer season, swimming is offered at The Lakes at Darlington County Park. Patrons can cool down by swimming at the lower lake or braving the Wibit Splash Zone water obstacle course at the upper lake.

Winter Activities

After any given snowfall, several Bergen County Parks become sledding and snowshoeing hotspots.

Bergen County's Winter Wonderland at Van Saun County Park attracts over 30,000 visitors each year and promotes year-round access to the Bergen County Parks System. It features outdoor skating, games, a beer and wine garden, ice bumper cars, and live entertainment. Winter Wonderland has become a cherished holiday tradition and is New Jersey's premier destination for holiday family fun!



Artesian Fields County Park

Boulevard and Gilbert Street, Elmwood Park

This 44-acre, hidden gem in Elmwood Park features nature walking paths through mostly untouched forest, as well as a softball field and a baseball field. Off the beaten path, this County Park is a natural oasis in the middle of suburbia.



Borg's Woods County Park

Fairmont Avenue, Hackensack

This 15-acre nature preserve with woodlands and wetlands is located within our county seat of Hackensack. An old growth remnant of deciduous forest, the preserve features trees that are estimated to be over 200 years old. Trailheads can be found at the end of Byrne Street and at the end of Allen Street on Fairmount Avenue. Limited street parking is available. Visitors should note the trail is short, encompassing 1/5 of a mile (1056ft).

Belmont Hill County Park

79 Botany Street, Garfield

Belmont Hill County Park is a small 10-acre park atop Belmont Hill in Garfield with a sprawling lawn and views of Manhattan.



Dahnert's Lake County Park

**411 Midland Avenue,
Garfield**

Dahnert's Lake County Park provides 10 acres of recreation in a busy urban center. Amenities include a playground, two gazebos, a half-mile long pedestrian pathway, fishing, and a roller hockey rink. Limited street parking is available.



Hackensack River County Park & Pathway

**Hackensack Avenue,
Hackensack**

Located along a 5-mile stretch of the Hackensack River, the Hackensack River Pathway provides access at several points along the trail. While not a fully connected pathway, each portion allows for a quiet getaway from the otherwise busy region.

People seeking a break from the busy workday, bird watchers, and those who are just out for a different experience can enjoy a walk along the river and marvel at the variety of wildlife that lives on the waterfront. Entrances to the park are located periodically along the trail.



Campgaw Mountain Reservation

200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah

- **Skiing/Snowboarding**
- **Concessions**
- **Hiking**
- **Archery**
- **Fishing**
- **Picnicking**
- **Camping**

Within its 1,194 acres of forest, the sprawling Campgaw Mountain Reservation offers something for everyone throughout the year.

Come visit Campgaw Mountain Reservation during the summer, spring, and fall to hike 10 miles of marked trails, practice your aim at the archery range, spend a night in the great outdoors at the campgrounds, have a relaxing picnic in the woods, or play a round of disc golf in the only public course in Bergen County! For more information on camping, see page 12.

When the temperature dips in the winter, enjoy skiing, snowboarding, and snow-tubing at Ski Campgaw. For more information, see page 128.

Maps for Campgaw Mountain Reservation are available through the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference at www.nyjnjt.org.

Campgaw Mountain is also home to the Fresh Roots Environmental Center operated by Bergen County Parks recreation partner, the Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization (MEVO). For more information, see page 123.



Camp Glen Grey

200 Midvale Mountain Road, Mahwah

Deep in the heart of the Ramapo Valley, this rustic former Scout camp was established in 1917. When the County acquired the property in 2002, Glen Gray was one of the oldest Scout camps in operation in the country. Today, the camp is an outpost in the Ramapo Mountains that can accommodate groups of all sizes and needs.

In addition to hiking trails that connect to the greater regional trail network, the camp's Lake Vreeland is equipped with boat rentals and ample fishing opportunities along its shore. Camping accommodations include cabins, lean-tos, and tent sites.

In the winter, wood stoves in the cabins will keep you warm. Additionally, many of the cabins also have electricity.

In keeping with the camp's rustic mode, bathroom facilities at the campsites consist of latrines. Flush toilets are available in warm weather and located off the parking lot.

Your family or organization can play sports and games at Mary Post Field or enjoy the campfire ring and amphitheater for an outdoor gathering or event. A dining hall (with a kitchen) may be used for indoor events and meals.

Camp Glen Gray is located near several points of interest, making it the perfect base camp for exploring the region. While feeling secluded from the hustle and bustle of modern life, the camp is never too far from modern amenities if one finds themselves in need of something.





DARLINGTON COUNTY PARK

600 Darlington Avenue, Mahwah

Resting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains, the 127-acre Darlington County Park offers a unique afternoon getaway.



Start Gate



Darlington Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

THE LAKES AT DARLINGTON

Tucked away at the base of the Ramapo Mountains, Darlington County Park is conveniently located between major highways, making it the ideal summer destination for a beach trip close to home. The park features three lakes: the first lake is designated for fishing, the second lake, with its white sand beach, provides the perfect opportunity to swim and relax, and the third lake is home to the Wibit Splash Zone water obstacle course.

The Lakes at Darlington are open for swimming every Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, 10AM to 6PM, weather permitting. Fishing is permitted year-round for those with a valid NJ Fishing License, except when the pond is frozen.










The park also includes paved and unpaved pedestrian pathways, wooded picnic areas, open lawns, basketball and handball courts, and plenty of bird and wildlife observation areas throughout.

The Parks Department charges an entrance fee during swimming season. Discounts are available to Bergen County residents.



Darlington County Park



-  Fishing
-  Picnic Area
-  Swimming (Seasonal)(\$)
-  The Splash Zone (Seasonal)(\$)
-  Beach Volleyball
-  Basketball
-  Bird Watching
-  Hand Ball
-  Restrooms



Darlington County Park now features the Wibit Splash Zone, an inflatable water obstacle course comprised of a puzzle of configurations including ramps, slides, rope climbs, and a trampoline. This ticketed amenity operates during the swim season, weather permitting. The Wibit Splash Zone has two separate courses, one for adults 48 inches or taller and a second course for children between 39 and 48 inches in height. Bergen County residents enjoy discounted pricing on tickets.



JAMES A. MCFAUL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

150 Crescent Avenue, Wyckoff

This 81-acre wildlife preserve is a destination all nature-lovers will enjoy.





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS BERGEN COUNTY
JAMES A. McFAUL
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

James J. Tedesco III
County Executive

The McFaul Environmental Center was founded in 1967 and named after former Bergen County Parks Executive Director, James A. McFaul, who was instrumental in the development of the site. Purchased in 1962, the property was originally an 81-acre pig farm. It began its transformation into a wildlife sanctuary in 1966 when the 2.5-acre waterfowl pond was excavated.

Today, the park includes bird shelters, an auditorium, natural history displays, a browsing library, a memorial gazebo, natural science aquariums, and monthly art displays. Visitors can enjoy the grounds by walking on a $\frac{2}{3}$ mile gravel-surfaced woodland nature trail. There is also paved access to a 300ft boardwalk that takes visitors along the edge of the pond to a two-story observation platform. The observatory overlooks a butterfly/hummingbird garden and a pond which supports various species of waterfowl.

For schools and other groups, a large selection of nature education programs and workshops are conducted weekdays throughout the year.

The Environmental Center also hosts popular seasonal programs, including the acclaimed pancake breakfast and maple sugaring demonstration, apple cidering, the haunted hideaway of horrors, halloween hayrides, and the gingerbread creations contest.

The Environmental Center is open daily. The park opens at 8AM on Weekdays and 8:30AM on Weekends and Holidays. Park closing times change with the seasons. The earliest the park closes in the winter is 5:15PM and the latest in the summer is 6:45PM. Please call the Environmental Center for an up-to-date schedule at **201-291-5571**.

The Museum is open 8:30am-4:45pm on Weekdays and is open 10am-4:45pm on Weekends. It is closed on holidays.



Regulations

All groups of 10 or more must have a Park Use Permit. Weddings and photography are allowed at the Environmental Center by permit only. The park is carry-in/carry-out, so trash must be removed or placed in dumpsters located in each parking area.

The park is a wildlife sanctuary. All plants and animals are protected by law.

For more information about all programs, fees, and permits, visit www.mcfaulenvironmentalcenter.com.





OVERPECK COUNTY PARK

**Leonia, Palisades Park, Ridgefield Park,
and Teaneck.**

Spanning 770+ acres, Overpeck County Park is Bergen County's premier recreational venue.



Overpeck Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

Overpeck County Park



Overpeck County Park, named for Overpeck Creek which flows through the park, spans four Bergen County municipalities—Leonía, Palisades Park, Ridgefield Park, and Teaneck.

With nearly 800 acres, Overpeck County Park is Bergen County's premier recreational venue. Visitors can enjoy over six miles of walking, biking, and nature paths, various sports courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, a pollinator garden, and catch-and-release fishing.



The park also features the Bergen County World Trade Center Memorial, a grass amphitheater for special events, athletic fields (by permit), a crew boat launch (by permit), the Overpeck Aerodrome (by permit), Overpeck Paddle Center with kayaks and canoes to rent, the Bergen Equestrian Center, and Field Station: Dinosaurs.

Overpeck County Park is a place where visitors can relax, play, enjoy time with family and friends, and come together as a community.



Overpeck County Park is divided into five open sections:

- **Henry Hoebel Area–North**, Leonía
- **Henry Hoebel Area–South**, Leonía
- **Ridgefield Park Area**, Ridgefield Park
- **Overpeck Sportsplex**, Palisades Park
- **Teaneck Creek Area**, Teaneck

Henry Hoebel Area–North

40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia



The Henry Hoebel Area–North, located in Leonia, boasts a wide variety of amenities including sports courts, cricket pitches, a fitness station, a football field, a track, an off-leash dog park area, and the Bergen County World Trade Center Memorial.

There is a double-looped paved pathway that is extremely popular with joggers, dog walkers, and more! This section is also home to the Bergen County Aerodrome, where flying model electric airplanes is allowed by permit.





World Trade Center Memorial

The Henry Hoebel Area–North is home to the Bergen County World Trade Center Memorial, which honors county residents killed during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Bergen County holds a ceremony at the memorial on September 11th every year to memorialize those lost on that tragic day.



Field Station: Dinosaurs

This section of Overpeck County Park is also home to Bergen County recreational partner and educational attraction Field Station: Dinosaurs (see page 117). By combining cutting-edge science with the creative minds of great artists and teachers, this one-of-a-kind experience is thrilling, educational, and fun for the whole family. For tickets, hours, and pricing, please visit:




www.jerseydinosaurs.com



Henry Hoebel Area–South

40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia



-  Pollinator Garden
-  Bergen Equestrian Center
-  Crew Boat Launch (by Permit)

The Henry Hoebel Area–South in Leonia is home to a pollinator garden, a crew boat launch (by permit), and the Bergen Equestrian Center.

The Bergen Equestrian Center (see page 116), established in 1974, is a multi-service horse facility on 22 acres of landscaped grounds, providing a home for over 75 horses. Amenities include three outdoor riding rings, two indoor riding rings, air-conditioned tack rooms, and a heated lounge with a panoramic view of the main indoor arena for an optimum year-round experience.

Programs include children’s camp, group and individual riding lessons, corporate team building, and “A Stable Life; a non-riding equine

treatment program, guided by qualified professions, focused on prevention, education, healing, and assisted recovery for those dealing with life challenges like anxiety, isolation, loss, addiction, or symptoms of PTSD.



Ridgefield Park Area

199 Challenger Road, Ridgefield Park



The Ridgefield Park Area of Overpeck County Park opened in 2010 and quickly became the most utilized section of the park.

It features baseball, softball, and soccer fields, tennis and pickleball courts, a playground, a large grass amphitheater, clean and convenient restrooms, a boat launch, a Paddling Center with kayaks and canoes to rent operated by the Hackensack Riverkeeper (see page 121), catch-and-release fishing, and miles of walking path.



Overpeck County Park

This section of Overpeck County Park also features complimentary electric vehicle charging stations thanks to a public-private partnership between the County of Bergen and Shell Charging.

The Amphitheater at Overpeck County Park is the ideal destination for community events. The Ridgefield Park Area hosts several large County events, benefit walks, cultural festivals, concerts, and more every year. Additionally, it is the site of Bergen County's annual summer concert series and 4th of July celebration.



Overpeck Sportsplex

200 Roosevelt Place, Palisades Park



Overpeck County Park



The Sportsplex's football field is named for famed New Jersey coach Vince Lombardi and hosts several local high school football games as well as soccer matches. When not in use for sporting events, the outside three track lanes are open to the public, providing the perfect outlet for runners and walkers. The four ball fields together host over 250 baseball and softball games per season.







The A.D.A.–accessible Challenger Field provides Bergen County's special needs community with an opportunity to play baseball and enjoy America's favorite pastime.



Teaneck Creek

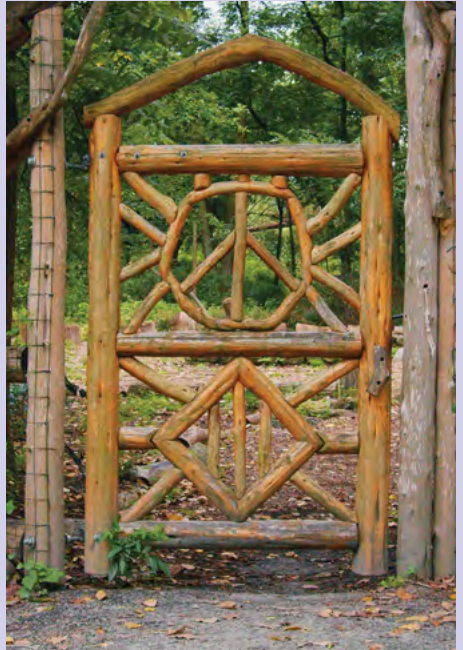
20 Puffin Way, Teaneck



-  Five Pipe Mural
-  Peace Labyrinth
-  Great Views
-  Bird Watching Area
-  Pollinator Garden
-  Hiking Trail

In 2020, the Parks Department began a 20-acre wetland-restoration effort to restore the native ecosystem of the Teaneck Creek section of Overpeck County Park.

The project included the removal of invasive plants species, the reintroduction of tens of thousands of native plants, and innovative natural infrastructure, including the first regenerative stormwater conveyance system in New Jersey. The project's first phase was successfully completed in 2022. This was the County's first habitat restoration project, righting years of environmental injustices that occurred at Overpeck County Park and its surrounding areas.



Overpeck County Park

The park has already witnessed a remarkable return of wildlife. Over the next few years, as the native plants continue to flourish, the wildlife population will continue to grow and thrive.

This section of Overpeck County Park is managed by the Teaneck Creek Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the park. For more information about the Teaneck Creek Conservancy, see page 129.

For more information, visit www.teaneckcreek.org or call **201-836-2403**.



Pascack Brook County Park

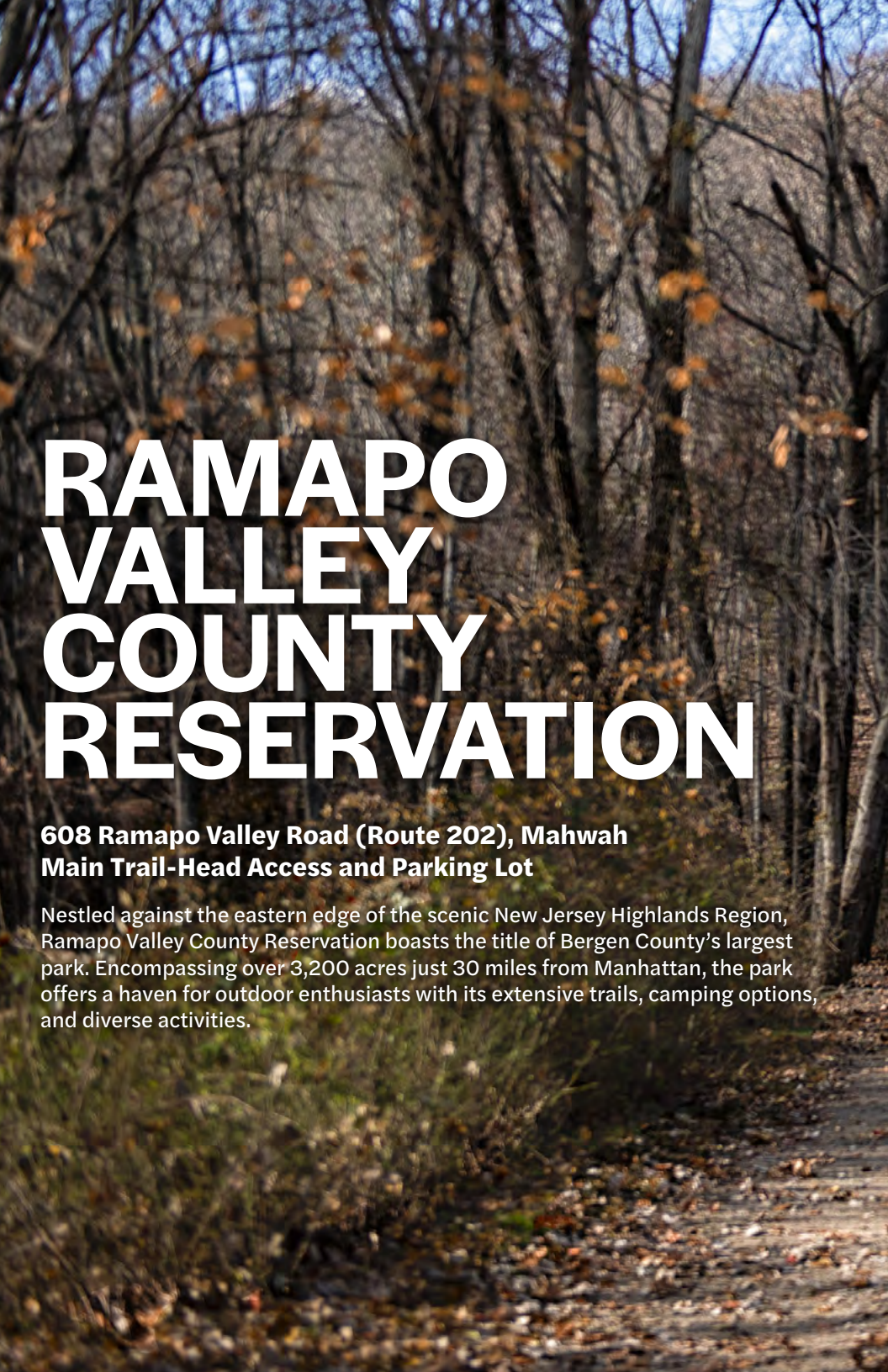
150 Emerson Road, Westwood



Pascack Brook County Park spans the two northern Bergen County towns of Westwood and River Vale. The park features athletic fields, a playground, a pond for catch-and-release fishing and model boating, tennis courts, and biking/walking paths. A walking path connects Pascack Brook County Park with Westvale Park, a Westwood municipal park. Pascack Brook County Park will see major renovations to their sport courts, including the addition of pickleball courts.

With 45 picnic tables and two pavilions, Pascack Brook County Park is the ideal location for both small and large gatherings. For additional information about fishing, see page 13.





RAMAPO VALLEY COUNTY RESERVATION

**608 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah
Main Trail-Head Access and Parking Lot**

Nestled against the eastern edge of the scenic New Jersey Highlands Region, Ramapo Valley County Reservation boasts the title of Bergen County's largest park. Encompassing over 3,200 acres just 30 miles from Manhattan, the park offers a haven for outdoor enthusiasts with its extensive trails, camping options, and diverse activities.



Ramapo Valley County Reservation

Located in the ecologically diverse Highlands Region, Ramapo Valley County Reservation is Bergen County's largest park. With funds from the County, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, and generous donors, Camp Glen Gray, and the former scout camps Camp Tamarack and Camp Todd were acquired, resulting in 3,268 acres of preserved parkland just 30 miles from Manhattan.

There is canoe & kayak access to the Ramapo River and several ponds to enjoy a calm day of fishing. In the winter, the Ramapo Valley County Reservation is a cross-country skiing destination, as well.

Hiking

The reservation consists of 22 miles of maintained gravel walking trails. Visitors can hike and camp along the reservation's trails that connect to Ringwood State Park, Skylands Manor, and Hawk Rock.

Check out the Vista Loop, a hike you can complete in a day. It explores several vistas, including a waterfall and a panoramic view of New York City.



Maps for Ramapo Valley County Reservation are available through the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.



Riding Center

The Ramapo Valley County Reservation also features the Saddle Ridge Riding Center, a county-owned facility privately operated by Saddle Ridge Riding Center, Inc., offering a full-service equestrian facility set on over 28 acres of mountains, fields, and trails. See page 127.

Camping

Ramapo Valley County Reservation has nine campsites, available by permit. Permits are issued from 3pm on the date selected until 10am the following day. The permit costs \$10 per night, per site, and each site allows up to six people. Fire permits are required for each campsite. For camping details, see page 12.

To obtain a camping permit, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal: www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits.





RIVERSIDE COUNTY PARK

NORTH & SOUTH

Ideal for a lazy afternoon with your family, friends, or pets, Riverside County Park spans 85 acres along the Passaic River in Lyndhurst and North Arlington.



Riverside Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

Riverside County Park–North

401 Riverside Avenue, Lyndhurst



Riverside County Park–North is comprised of nearly 36 acres of parkland that include several active recreational features. Catch a ball game at Breslin field or enjoy a little slice of Italy at the bocce courts. In addition, there are tennis courts with lights for evening play, a tennis practice wall, a softball field, outdoor fitness equipment, and a pedestrian walking path.

Riverside County Park–North is ideal for a relaxing afternoon in the park with friends, family, or your furry companion. The park is home to an off-the-leash, fenced dog park, a playground, and a pavilion perfect for picnicking.



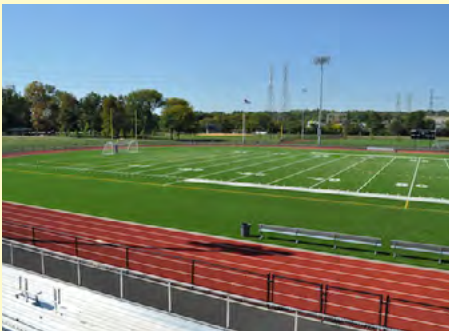
Riverside County Park–South

516 River Road, North Arlington



Riverside County Park–South is comprised of over 51 acres of parkland. It features the new state-of-the-art Bergen County Rowing Center (see page 52), the brand-new community performance space, The Stage at Riverside County Park–South, one baseball field, two softball fields, tennis and pickleball courts (with lighting), and a multi-use stadium for track & field, soccer, and football. This section of Riverside County Park also includes a picnic pavilion, a boating dock with storage for rowing in the Passaic River, and a nearly one-mile pedestrian walking path.

Riverside County Park–South will soon include a completely inclusive playground that features safety surfaces, shading, fencing, and a quiet play area for residents of all abilities. These features will be supported by improved lighting, safer walking routes within the park, new pedestrian access points, and closer parking facilities.



Bergen County Rowing Center

797 Riverside Avenue, Lyndhurst

The Bergen County Rowing Center, located in Riverside County Park–South, is operated by the Passaic River Rowing Association (PRRA) (see page 125).

The Passaic River, a wide tidal river in northern New Jersey, offers a 12-mile stretch south to Newark and north to Garfield. This new facility provides unprecedented access to this once neglected waterway and includes a 120ft-long dock with public access during park hours for kayaking and canoeing. First opened in September 2022, this state-of-the-art facility has already hosted several high school and collegiate regattas.





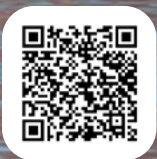
BERGEN COUNTY
ROWING CENTER
AT RIVERSIDE
COUNTY PARK



SADDLE RIVER COUNTY PARK

**Ridgewood, Paramus, Glen Rock, Fair Lawn, Saddle Brook,
and Rochelle Park**

Centrally located, this 587-acre park lines the banks of the picturesque Saddle River and its tributary brooks for 10 miles, offering visitors a variety of passive and active recreation.



Saddle River Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

Saddle River County Park



Saddle River County Park is one of the oldest assets in the Bergen County Parks System with portions of the park initially opening to the public in 1952.

This linear park features seven distinct areas and a historic landmark that is connected by over ten miles of pathways. Saddle River County Park includes a six-mile bike and pedestrian path that runs through Ridgewood, Glen Rock, Fair Lawn, Paramus, Saddle Brook, and Rochelle Park. The path parallels the Saddle River and Ho-Ho-Kus Brook traversing past the 125-year-old historic county site, the Easton Tower (see page 85) and a scenic waterfall at Dunkerhook Park.



The six areas include:

- Wild Duck Pond Area
- Fair Lawn Area
- Glen Rock Area
- Dunkerhook Area
- Otto C. Pehle Area
- Rochelle Park Area



Wild Duck Pond Area

1133 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood



The Wild Duck Pond Area is the most northern section of Saddle River County Park. Located in Ridgewood, the Wild Duck Pond Area can be reached from the south via the bike and pedestrian path along an invigorating 2-mile stretch that hugs the river. Park amenities include picnic areas, a pavilion for large groups, a playground, and a dog park. For generations, this suburban refuge has offered visitors passive and active recreation with pond activities including model boating and fishing with the proper permits.

Restoration

In 2022, the Tedesco administration completed a major \$1.7 million ecological restoration of the Wild Duck Pond which included replacing the degrading pond liner and installing three new LED multi-colored fountains and aerators.

These additions assist with water circulation and maintain a healthy level of oxygen in the pond to support wildlife and reduce and manage algae growth. Following recommendations from the 2019 Bergen County Parks Master Plan, the Wild Duck Pond also saw the implementation of stormwater best management practices through the construction of stormwater treatment wetlands, fringe wetlands within the pond, and the utilization of native plants appropriate for this freshwater wetland system.



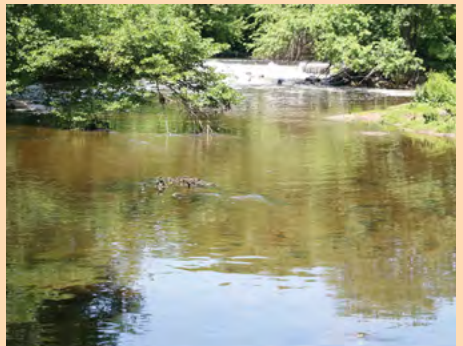
Dunkerhook Area

260 Dunkerhook Road, Paramus



Located in the northern region of Saddle River County Park, the Dunkerhook Area has a playground and numerous picnic areas.

There is an area on the Saddle River reserved for fishing and a lovely waterfall for nature lovers to enjoy. The bike and pedestrian path forks just beyond the falls, which leads to either the Wild Duck Pond Area in Ridgewood or the Glen Rock Area.



Glen Rock Area

631 Prospect Street, Glen Rock







The Glen Rock Area of Saddle River County Park offers visitors numerous amenities, all accessible by the mixed-use bike and pedestrian path. This area of the park includes a playground, two tennis courts, a picnic area, and pavilion area for large groups, available by permits. The pond allows for visitors to partake in model boating and fishing with the proper permits.



Fair Lawn Area

2-49 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn



-   Mixed-Use Path
-  Mixed-Use Grass Field
-  Cricket

The Fair Lawn Area of Saddle River County Park features Sheridan Field, a mixed-use grass field that can host Gaelic football, soccer, and cricket. To apply for use of an athletic field, please visit the Bergen County Parks Permit Portal:

www.co.bergen.nj.us/permits

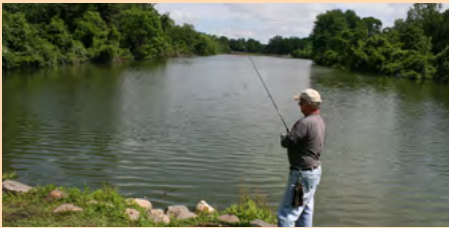


Otto C. Pehle Area

Saddle River Road, Saddle Brook



Named after a former Bergen County Parks Commissioner, the Otto C. Pehle Area continues along the mixed-use path, including a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile loop around the pond. The park also features a popular playground. In addition, there is a softball field and a pavilion, both available for use with proper permits. The Otto C. Pehle Area is also home to the Yitzhak Rabin Tree Grove.



Rochelle Park Area

Railroad Avenue, Rochelle Park



The Rochelle Park Area is home to newly renovated sports courts that include tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts. Additionally, the Rochelle Park Area includes a playground, a softball field, and a pavilion for group gatherings, available by permit. Further south along the pedestrian and bike path, in Saddle Brook, is Vander Sande baseball field. The mixed-use path in this area begins at Railroad Avenue and winds along the river for approximately one mile.





Samuel Nelkin County Park

1 Parkview Drive, Wallington



Tucked against a hillside, Samuel Nelkin County Park offers 17 acres of activities for visitors including a playground, a dog park, fishing areas, pickleball courts, and a newly resurfaced tennis court. There is also a baseball/softball field and a covered pavillion available by permit.

Formerly known as Wallington County Park, the space was renamed in 1979 in honor of former Wallington Mayor and NJ Transit President, Samuel Nelkin, who deeded the 17-acre property to the Bergen County Parks Commission in 1954.



Van Buskirk Island County Park

New Milford Avenue and Elm Street, Oradell



Kayak Launch

Van Buskirk Island County Park is a man-made island in the middle of the Hackensack River, formed to support industry in the area. The Hackensack Water Company transformed the island in the 1880s into one of the earliest water filtration plants in the nation. Bergen County acquired the property in the 1990s. Today, it offers prime birdwatching opportunities and is home to the Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddle Center, allowing visitors to interact with the tree-lined Hackensack River.

For more information on the Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddle Center, see page 122.





VAN SAUN COUNTY PARK

**216 Forest Avenue, Paramus and
Continental Avenue, River Edge**

A favorite among families, Van Saun County Park is home to the Bergen County Zoo, the Bergen County Miniature Railroad, the Millennium Carousel, the Harmony Splash Pad, a playground, walking paths, the historic Washington Spring, and tranquil scenery. Van Saun County Park has something for everyone!



Van Saun Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

Van Saun County Park



Spanning over 130 acres, Van Saun County Park is one of Bergen County's most utilized and beloved parks. With a multitude of opportunities for passive and active recreation, Van Saun County Park offers something for everyone to enjoy!



Winding through the park is a mixed-use path for bikes and pedestrians that takes you past the Millennium Carousel, the pony barn, the Washington Spring Garden County Historic Site (see page 89), and the Bergen County Zoo where visitors can see over 40 different species of animals and take a ride on the Bergen County Miniature Railroad.

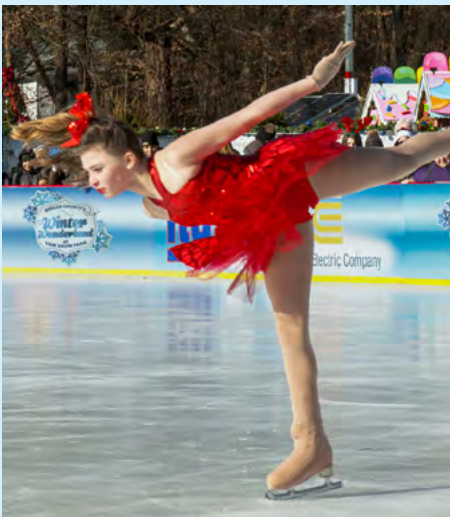


Other popular attractions include Walden Pond, a playground, and the ADA-accessible Harmony Splash Pad with a water sprinkler feature (open seasonally, 10AM to 4PM). There are pavilions and picnic areas, as well as a baseball field and a softball field, all available with the proper permit. In addition, the park hosts tennis courts and an off-the-leash dog park for visitors to enjoy. Van Saun County Park is also one of the locations of the Bergen County Parks Department's "Movies in the Park" series, which hosts free movie screenings after sunset through the summer season.



Every winter, Van Saun County Park transforms into "Bergen County's Winter Wonderland," North Jersey's premier destination for holiday family fun! Winter Wonderland amenities include ice skating, ice bumper cars, a beer & wine garden, food trucks, live music, and visits with Santa!

Van Saun County Park

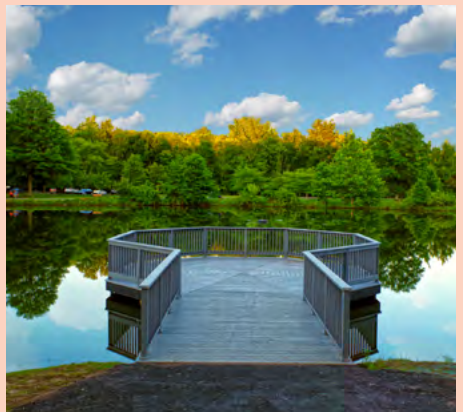


Wood Dale County Park

103 Prospect Avenue, Woodcliff Lake



Wood Dale County Park offers an array of activities within its 118 acres. Whether you're looking for shady pavilion area, a playground, recently resurfaced tennis and pickleball courts, or a dog park to enjoy with your furry friend, Wood Dale County Park has just what you need. A short walking trail circles the pond, perfect for an afternoon stroll in the park.







BERGEN COUNTY ZOO

AT VAN SAUN COUNTY PARK

The Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun County Park is one of the most iconic and beloved destinations in the entire Bergen County Park System.



ZOO Interactive Map!

Scan the QR code and access our interactive map.

Operating Hours and Admission Fees

Open 7 days a week, weather permitting

216 Forest Avenue, Paramus

April through November

10AM–4:30PM daily

(Last admission is at 4pm)

November through March

10AM–3:30PM daily

(Last admission is at 3pm)

Admission is charged during the spring, summer, and fall.
For current prices, visit the Bergen County Zoo's
Official webpage or call the Main Office.

Contact Information

Main Number: 201-634-3771

General information: ext.110

Birthday party information/reservations: 201-634-3108 or 3125

Education Programs: 201-634-3108 or 3125

Special Rules

- No pets of any kind
- No feeding of any zoo animals
- No smoking or vaping
- No bicycles, skateboards, or scooters
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult



Bergen County Zoo



First opened as a nursery rhyme-themed children's zoo in 1960, the Bergen County Zoo has been the source of fond memories for over 60 years as one of New Jersey's most beloved community zoos.

The Bergen County Zoo has over 40 different species of animals in its collection. The Zoo works with various endangered species and participates in numerous conservation projects.

Highlights over the years include the hatching of an Andean Condor chick and its subsequent release in the Andes Mountains of Columbia as part of an international conservation program. Additionally, numerous rare and endangered species are part of the collection as part of multi-institutional captive breeding programs.



Most recently, the Zoo has partnered with the Red Wolf SAFE program to help in the repopulation of this endangered species in the wild. In 2021, two males were brought to the Zoo with the assistance of the Wolf Conservation Center.





Education Opportunities

The Bergen County Zoo offers a wide variety of educational programs throughout the year. Programs are available to public, private, and home school groups; scouts, recreation groups, and playgroups; local nursing homes and public libraries; and individuals and families.

School Groups

From September through June, schools and groups can reserve programs offered either on-site in the Zoo's Education/Discovery Center classroom or off-site at their own facility. There are many programs to choose from. Playgroups, home school groups, and other organized groups may also schedule an education program throughout the year. All of these programs are hands-on, and include a live animal demonstration. To learn more about current programming, call the Education Department or visit the Zoo website.

Bergen County Libraries

Zoo educators also present programs for children at public libraries throughout Bergen County. These programs also include a live animal guest. If you have not seen a zoo program at your library lately, ask your librarian to give us a call!



Children & Family Programs

During the summer, the Bergen County Zoo offers Zoo Camp for children ages 3–17 years old. Children 3–12 years old tour different parts of the zoo, observe the animals, play games, and make crafts. They also enjoy an up-close animal encounter each day. Children 13–17 years old, called “Junior Zookeepers,” will explore different aspects of a career in zookeeping. Junior Zookeepers gain hands-on experience as they learn about our animals, prepare their diets, and clean their enclosures.

Zoo Babies and Zoo Kids are our newest child–adult programs. Each series lasts several weeks and encourages our youngest visitors (1–4 years old) to spend quality time with their favorite adult, learning about the zoo’s animals through songs, movement, activities, and special zoo “safaris.”

Additional animal programs are offered during school breaks and occasional weekends throughout the year.

These programs range from 1–3 hours in length, and may be offered on weekdays, weekends, and evenings. Some are for children only and some are for the entire family.

Zoo Birthday Parties are available for children 5 years old and older; maximum of 20 children. Parties last 90 minutes and include a live animal demonstration.



Volunteers

Volunteers are an important part of our Education Department, with opportunities for teenagers and adults, alike.

Junior Docents, available to high school students, participate in conservation efforts, learn about wildlife, and hone their public speaking skills while educating visitors within the zoo. The regular Docent program, available to those 18 and up, empowers volunteers to serve as educators and interpreters both inside the zoo and out in the community, assisting with a variety of educational programs all year long. For more information on training sessions and to access applications, please visit the zoo's website.



HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

The County is dedicated to the preservation and celebration of its county-owned historic sites. With educational programming, seasonal events, and more, residents are encouraged to connect with Bergen County's rich history.





Baylor Massacre Burial Site

Rivervale Road & Red Oak Drive, River Vale

Hours:

Open year-round from sunrise to ½ hr after sunset

Contact:

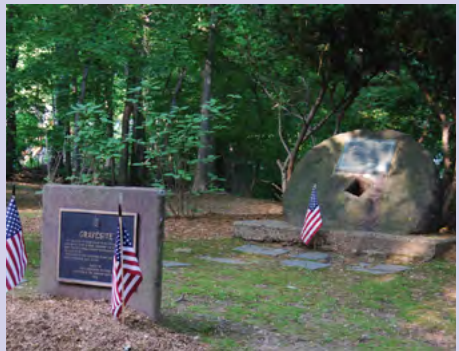
201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information

On September 27, 1778, during America's Revolutionary War, American Forces under Lt. Colonel George Baylor's command were dispatched to watch the bridge over the Hackensack River at the intersection of what is now Rivervale Road and Old Tappan Road. Shortly after midnight on September 28, British forces launched a surprise attack on the 3rd Continental Light Dragoons in what is known today as the Baylor Massacre. The attacking British forces were led by General Charles "No-Flint" Grey. His men used their muskets and bayonets to club and stab the sleeping dragoons. The next day, a detachment of the Bergen County Militia was dispatched to this area to look for survivors.

Finding six dead at the bridge, and fearing the possible return of British troops, they hurriedly buried the men in abandoned leather tanning vats located next to the river. In 1967, when the property was threatened with development, the County was contacted and worked to acquire the site.

A subsequent archaeological dig located six sets of remains. In 1974, the patriots' remains were reinterred in the park and the original millstone was donated to serve as their gravestone. In 2003, new historic interpretive signs, sitting walls, and accessible pathways were dedicated.



Camp Merritt Memorial Monument

Traffic circle at intersection of Knickerbocker Road & Madison Avenue, Cresskill

Hours:

Can be viewed daily and is brightly lit at night.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information.

The Camp Merritt Memorial Monument marks the center of an important World War I embarkation camp. More than one million U.S. soldiers passed through the camp on their way to and from the battlefields of Europe. Camp Merritt covered an area of 770 acres that included Cresskill, Demarest, Dumont, Haworth, and Tenafly. Strategically built between two major rail lines, the camp had a capacity of 42,000 men and contained 1,300 buildings of all uses.

In August 1919, the Bergen County Board of Commissioners purchased land for the monument. The 65ft-tall granite obelisk was formally dedicated on May 30, 1924 and is modeled after the Washington Monument in our nation's capital. On the base are the names of the 578 people who died in the camp, mostly as a result of the 1918 worldwide influenza epidemic.

In the bottom section of the obelisk is a large Art Deco-style carved relief by the sculptor Robert Ingersoll Aitkin that depicts a striding "doughboy" with an eagle flying overhead.

Set into a large boulder near the base of the obelisk is a copper plaque with a relief of the Palisades, alluding to Camp Merritt's role as an embarkation point, designed and made by the local artist Katherine Lamb Tait. In the ground is a three-dimensional stone carving of the map of Camp Merritt.

The monument sits in the middle of a busy traffic circle. Visitors are urged to use caution if crossing the traffic circle to enter the monument area.



Campbell–Christie House at Historic New Bridge Landing

Historic New Bridge Landing 1209 Main Street, River Edge

Hours:

Open year-round during Bergen County Historical Society events.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information.

Bergen County Historical Society:

201-343-9492

www.bergencountyhistory.org

The Campbell–Christie House is a 1774 sandstone home located at Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge. Now on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, the house was originally located in New Milford. The house was saved from demolition and moved to its current location in 1977.

In the 18th century, the house was originally built by Jacob Campbell who ran a public tavern out of it. The house was later sold to John Christie, a blacksmith, who continued as tavern-keeper.

This site also contains the County-owned historic 1888–89 Pratt-type, “pony” truss, iron swing-bridge now used by walkers and cyclists. The second stone house on site is the 18th century Demarest House.

It was moved here from New Milford in 1955 and is owned by the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation. The third stone house is the Steuben House. It is owned by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry and operates as the headquarters of the Bergen County Historical Society.



Circle of Honor War Memorial

Bergen County Court House, 10 Main Street, Hackensack

Hours:

Available for viewing year-round.

In May of 1993, the six marble slabs that make up the Circle of Honor War Memorial were dedicated at the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack. The memorials, set in a semicircle and overlooking a red neon eternal flame housed in granite, commemorate veterans who fought bravely in defending our nation during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Beirut conflict, and Operation Desert Storm.



Bergen County Remembers

Near the Circle of Honor, Bergen County and its cultural partners have installed monuments dedicated to remembering tragic events in history. The goal is to keep the memory of the victims alive so that future generations never repeat those mistakes. Circling the flagpole at the Court House are monuments to The Holocaust, Slavery, The Great Hunger, The Armenian Genocide, and The World War II Comfort Women.



Easton Tower

Red Mill Road, Route 4 & Saddle River Road, Paramus

Hours:

Can be viewed from sunrise to ½ hr after sunset from the road and the Saddle River Pedestrian Path.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information.

Easton Tower is a unique rubble stone and wood frame structure along the Saddle River. It was built in 1899-1900 as the centerpiece of the ornately landscaped property of the Edward Easton estate, where it cleverly disguised the pump and water tower used to maintain the gardens. Today, it is now surrounded by busy roadways but is protected within the Saddle River Park Bikeway.

Edward D. Easton (1856-1915) is best known for his 1886 patent granted for the engraving of sound by incising wax cylinders.

Easton went on to make his fortune in the recording industry as a founder, and eventually president, of the Columbia Phonograph Company.

Easton relocated his family to Arcola in 1889, an area of modern-day Paramus, and commissioned the design of a landscaped estate.

The tower became a favorite of photographers and was also used in early silent films. This is the only structure that remains from Easton's estate.

The County acquired the tower in 1956, and most recently restored it in 2008. Easton Tower is on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.



Garretson Forge & Farm

4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn

Hours:

Open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 1PM–4PM during the spring and fall. Also open for special events.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information.

www.garretsonfarm.org

Garretson Forge and Farm is one of the oldest sandstone houses in Bergen County and reflects over 200 years of architectural changes. The stone homestead and farm were occupied by six generations of the Garretson family, from 1720 through the middle of the 20th century.

In 1974, the homestead was threatened with demolition. In response, local citizens founded the Garretson Forge & Farm Restoration, Inc. in order to raise funds to purchase the house. This goal was realized with the assistance of the Bergen County Board Commissioners, and in 1977, the County of Bergen acquired the 1.84-acre property.

Today it is a furnished historic house museum. Garretson Forge & Farm Society's volunteers conduct house tours and special events throughout the year.

The grounds behind the house are used by the Master Gardeners of Bergen County and volunteers who grow a wide variety of specialty crops. The garden is a certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation habitat.

The County completed extensive restoration of the house and farm buildings in 2012, and again in 2023, to replace the roof and greenhouse. The house is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.



Gethsemane Cemetery

**Corner of Summit Place & Woodland Avenue,
(with entrance on Summit Place north of Route 46),
Little Ferry**

Hours:

Secured Historic Site: Open by appointment only and for special commemorative events.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Call for accessibility information.

Gethsemane Cemetery is located west of the Hackensack River in southwest Bergen County. The 1860 deed of sale identifies it as a “burial ground for the colored population of the Village of Hackensack.” Although few gravestones remain visible today, the burial of over 500 people have been documented, including three Civil War veterans. The cemetery’s most famous burial is that of Elizabeth Dulfer who was born enslaved c. 1790, freed in 1822, and died in 1880. During her lifetime, she became one of the wealthiest business owners and landholders in Bergen County.

Gethsemane Cemetery figured in the center of controversy after the burial of Samuel Bass. When he died on January 22, 1884, his family wanted to bury him in the Hackensack Cemetery but the request was denied due to his race. Mr. Bass was then buried in Gethsemane Cemetery. New Jersey Governor Leon Abbett protested the denial and two months later, in March 1884, New Jersey’s “Negro Burial Bill” was passed, desegregating cemeteries in New Jersey.

In 1985, Bergen County acquired the neglected cemetery and dedicated it as a County Historic Site. It was entered into the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1994 for the historical significance it played in the enactment of N.J.’s early civil rights legislation and for containing evidence of West African burial customs.

In 2003, the county celebrated the dedication of new reflection areas and interpretive panels that tell Gethsemane’s story and list the names of over 500 people known to be buried here. More recently, a new storymap has been added to the Parks website where visitors can take a virtual tour of Gethsemane Cemetery. The cemetery is open by appointment and for special events, including the county’s annual Juneteenth Celebration.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument

**Fairleigh Dickinson University, University Plaza Drive,
Hackensack**

Hours:

Available for viewing year-round.

Contact:

201-336-7275

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at Fairleigh-Dickenson University twice. Once in October of 1966 at the old Rutherford Campus and again a year later in October of 1967 at the Teaneck Campus.

In a ceremony on October 12, 2014, members of the Bergen County Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument Committee were joined by elected officials, dignitaries, and Fairleigh Dickinson University President Sheldon Drucker for the unveiling of the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue.

The bronze statue was sculpted by acclaimed artist Richard Blake and is located on the Hackensack River Pathway as it crosses FDU's Metropolitan Campus from the Hackensack side over the river leading to the Teaneck side.



Washington Spring Garden

Van Saun County Park, Forest Avenue, Paramus

Hours:

Open from sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

Washington Spring, located in Van Saun County Park, is associated with General George Washington and the movement of his Continental Army through Bergen County during the American Revolutionary War. On September 4, 1780, General Washington moved approximately 14,000 Continental Army troops into a strategic encampment west of the Hackensack River in modern day River Edge .

10-year-old Cornelius Banta, son of a local famer, reportedly saw Washington watering his horse at the spring, giving rise to the name “Washington Spring.” Van Saun County Park, whose 138 acres include Washington Spring, was created in 1957.



Wortendyke Barn

13 Pascack Road, Park Ridge

Hours:

Seasonal programming from July through October. All other visits by appointment only.
Call for accessibility.

Contact:

201-336-7275

The Wortendyke Barn, a National Register landmark built c.1770, is an outstanding example of a “New World Dutch Barn,” an architectural structure found throughout 18th and 19th century Bergen County.

The interior structure of the barn is made completely of local wood, down to the nails. Massive tulip poplar anchor beams, supported by posts creating an H-frame, support the entire structure. New World Dutch Barns were wider than long with very steep, sloping roofs, allowing for a large storage area inside.

Side bays housed a variety of farmyard animals, and hay was stored above in a roomy hayloft. The large entrances on both gable ends allowed for the efficient unloading of the wagons. Since the floors were raised off the ground on a sill, the wood plank floors could last for decades. The Wortendyke Barn’s exhibits include handmade 18th and 19th century farm implements and tools, the history of the Wortendyke family farm, and an exhibit showing the unique construction of the barn.

The county has undertaken several restoration projects at the site over the years. In 2014, the County completed a major restoration of the barn building. A new cedar-shake roof and updated restroom were installed in the summer of 2023.

Today, the barn is used for educational and musical programming throughout the year, including the popular “Music at the Barn” concert series.



A golfer in a blue shirt and cap is seen from behind, standing on a green golf course. The background is filled with large trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and brown. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, capturing the beauty of a golf course in fall.

GOLF COURSES

**Darlington, Orchard Hills, Overpeck, Rockleigh, Soldier Hill,
Valley Brook.**

With six sprawling courses, whether you're a novice out for a relaxing round or a seasoned veteran, our Division of Golf has a course for you.



General Information

Bergen County Golf Registration

Bergen County's Division of Golf offers an annual golf registration that allows golfers to access county-owned courses for a discounted rate and book tee-times up to seven days in advance.

Registration categories include:

- \$60** – Adult Resident (age 18-61)
- \$45** – Junior Resident (age up to 17)
- \$45** – Senior Resident (age 62+)
- \$45** – Military Veteran Resident (all ages)
- \$45** – Active-Duty Military (all ages)
- \$100** – Non-Resident (all ages)

For more information on the Bergen County Golf Registration Card, visit www.golfbergencounty.com

Golf Lessons

Bergen County's Division of Golf offers paid lessons as an opportunity to improve your game. Sessions are offered in both half-hour and full-hour sessions. For more information, visit www.golfbergencounty.com.

Book a Tee Time

Registered golfers can book a tee time online at www.golfbergencounty.com. Registered golfers may make a reservation seven days in advance.

Group Golf

The Group Golf program is available for small groups (maximum 28 players) Monday thru Friday beginning at 11am. Group Golf is not available on weekends or holidays. A Group Golf application can be found online at www.golfbergencounty.com and should be submitted to the Division

of Golf office well in advance of the desired day of play.

Outings

Any organization can reserve a Bergen County golf course for an outing. Darlington, Overpeck, and Rockleigh golf courses are available for outings on Mondays and Soldier Hill & Valley Brook golf courses are available on Mondays and Wednesdays. Outings are available for groups of more than 40 players with Shot Gun Outings requiring a minimum of 80.

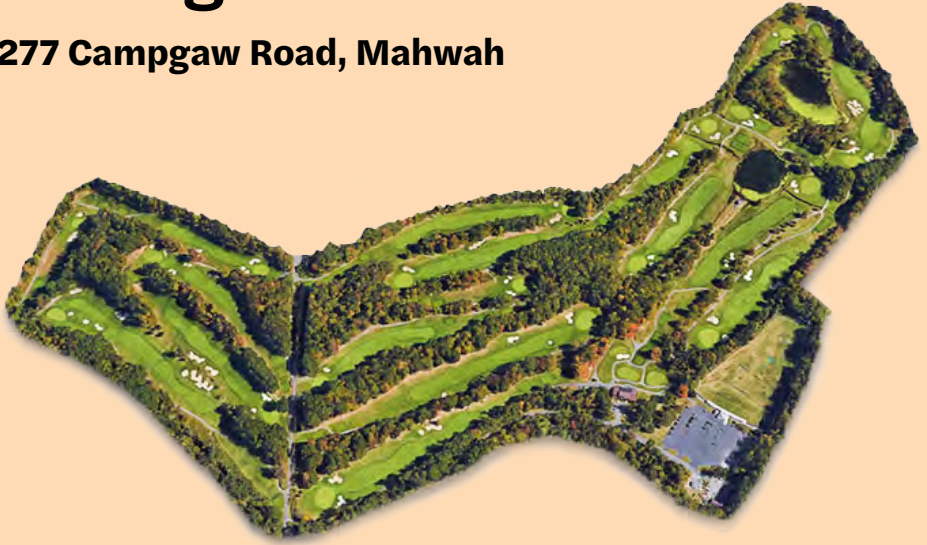
An Outing Application can be found online at www.golfbergencounty.com and must be submitted to the Division of Golf office well in advance of the desired day of play; requests are processed on a first come, first served basis. For groups of 28 players or less, see the Group Golf Program. Outings and Group Golf are not allowed on weekends or holidays.

Tournament Schedules

Applications and complete yearly schedules are available online at www.golfbergencounty.com.

Darlington

277 Campgaw Road, Mahwah



Darlington Golf Course is a 6,547-yard, par 71 in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountain Range. Tree-lined fairways and frequent changes in elevation ensure a challenging and pleasurable golf experience. The course begins and ends on the lowest part of the course. Holes #1–3 and #15–17 are on relatively flat terrain where bunkers and water hazards create the challenge. The stretch of five par 4's, beginning with #6, are routed through rolling hills where accuracy and distance control are at a premium. The long #9, at 476 yards, tests even the most accomplished golfer.

Darlington also has a 40-tee, concession-operated driving range.

Maintenance Day: Tuesday; course opens at 9AM.



Darlington Driving Range

279 Campgaw Road, Mahwah

The Darlington Driving Range and Learning Facility is one of the largest in Bergen County. The facility has undergone major renovation with new advanced netting and ball dispensers. Our 40-station tee line, 20 of which are covered for use during inclement weather, is fitted with brand new mats and balls.

Golf Professionals are available for individual and group lessons. They also offer adult and junior clinics and participate in the PGA Hope program for veterans and active military. For more information, visit the Game Improvement page on our website golfbergencounty.com.

Driving Range Buckets

Small	\$10
Medium	\$12
Large	\$15



Orchard Hills

404 Paramus Road, Paramus



Orchard Hills Golf Course is a 5,552-yard, par 70 located in central Bergen County. The course was originally designed in 1925 as the Orchard Hills Country Club. In the late 1960's, in conjunction with the development of Bergen Community College, the course was rerouted to a 9-hole track and opened to the public. The layout has a comfortable mix of short par 4s and challenging par 3s, allowing for an enjoyable round for players of all skill levels.

Maintenance Day: Monday; opens at 9AM.



Overpeck

273 East Cedar Lane, Teaneck



Overpeck Golf Course, a 6,584-yard, par 72, sits on 140 acres at the top of New Jersey's Meadowlands. The course is located in a natural wet setting with a number of ponds, lakes and creeks to test the most skilled golfer. The predominant water feature on the front nine is the Overpeck Creek, which presents a strong strategic element on several holes. Overpeck Creek bisects holes #5, #6, #7, and #9, challenging golfers from tee to green.

The back nine also has its share of water. Holes #13-16 circle the banks of a large lake. The 217-yard #14 and the 392-yard #15 can be monsters if the wind is blowing out of the south. The course finishes with a short par 3 designed to end the round on a high note.

Maintenance Day: Tuesday; opens at 9AM.



Rockleigh

15 Paris Avenue, Rockleigh



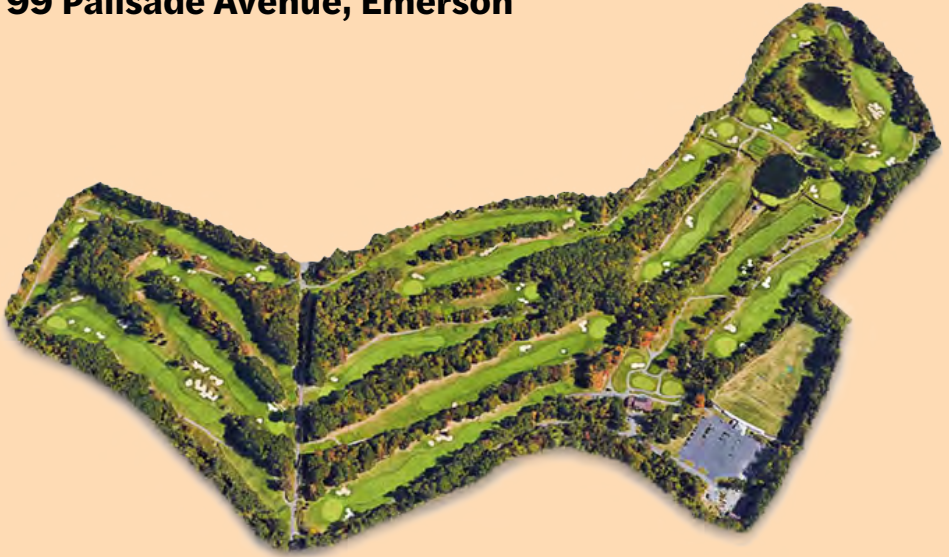
Rockleigh Golf Course, a 6,584-yard, par 72, offers a scenic round of golf with rolling hills and strategic bunkers. The course is the County's only 27-hole facility and plays as two distinct courses, featuring a variety of holes to challenge golfers of all skill levels. The front nine starts easy with two short par 4s, but quickly ramps up with a challenging par 3 over water. The back nine includes uphill battles and strategic water hazards. The additional nine holes are perfect for beginner golfers looking to hone their skills.

Maintenance Day: Wednesday Blue; Thursday Red & White, opens at 9AM.



Soldier Hill

99 Palisade Avenue, Emerson



Soldier Hill Golf Course in Emerson is a 6,949-yard, par 71 and offers superior playing conditions. Many of the picturesque holes demand accurate shot-making from tee to green while others offer ample landing areas and gentle sloping greens. The back nine winds through open terrain with strategic water hazards while the front nine is characterized by mature tree lined fairways. The layout of open and wooded holes provides challenges to golfers of all skill levels.

Maintenance Day: Monday; opens at 9AM.



Valley Brook

15 River Vale Road, River Vale



Valley Brook Golf Club is a 6,211-yard, par 70, offering scenic and challenging round designed by Bill Boswell. Renovated in 2001 and again in 2014, the course winds along the banks of Pascack Brook, providing a unique experience for residents. Rolling terrain and strategic landscaping create a classic layout that tests golfers of all skill levels.

Maintenance Day: Wednesday; opens at 9AM.



The Pioneer Tour

Created in 1995, the Pioneer Tour was developed to provide beginners with a sound foundation in both golf mechanics and golf etiquette.

In a county where tee times are at a premium, it is often difficult for young golfers to find a place to play. The Clinic, Q-Tour, and Pioneer Tour introduce young golfers to the game and provide opportunity for play. Over eight hundred kids participate in the program every year.

For more information, visit www.golfbergencounty.com.



AllPar Golf Program

The AllPar Program brings the enjoyment of golf to youth with special needs. The program teaches an introduction to the game, emphasizing basic information and instruction. The fundamentals are presented by the instructors and reinforced by teaching assistants in both a classroom setting and on the practice tee. The use of Snag golf equipment, large-face plastic clubs and tennis balls, provides the first step in the learning process. The instructors present the grip and stance for a putting stroke and then students practice these concepts on the practice tee.

Targets placed a short distance from the golfer are used to convey the importance of distance control and alignment. Once these skills have had a chance to sink in, chipping is introduced. The full swing is only discussed after the development of the shorter swings of putting and chipping.

Exposure to the different areas of the golf course increase the interest of the players. The practice tee and green serve as home base for the program. A walk through a few holes and the setup of a short course, either on the practice range or the course, help with the enjoyment of the activity.

The lesson plan provides a path of instruction. The talking points are shared with the participants in the meeting area before they proceed to the practice tee.

The pace of the program depends on the development of the individual participant. Entire families are encouraged to participate so the interest created at the program continues during family recreational opportunities.

Contact Bergenfield Public Schools Special Services at **201-385-8600** for further information.

Junior Golf Summer Camp

Youth golfers ages 8–12 are eligible to participate in a Junior Golf Summer camp at Darlington Golf Course. Sessions run weekly throughout the summer. All golfers must bring their own clubs to camp. For more information and registration, visit www.GolfBergenCounty.com.

Access to the Links

The Bergen County Division of Golf partners with the Northern Valley Regional High School to lead a program called Access to the Links which provides unique opportunities for teens with autism.

The program helps eligible students form closer bonds with peers while participating in an activity within the community. Students with special needs and their peers play and enjoy the game of golf, side-by-side. During the summer months, students on the high school golf team will join the Access students on the course to demonstrate the skills taught by the golf professional. For more information, call **201-768-3200**.





SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year, the Bergen County Parks Department hosts an array of special events for the enjoyment of our residents.

Art in the Park

Each October, artists from all over Bergen County come together to enjoy an afternoon of exhibition and sale at the annual Art in the Park. More than 100 adult visual artists are featured, representing a wide scope of artistic diversity. This juried show is judged in six categories: Acrylics/Oils; Drawings/Prints/Pastels; Mixed Media; Photography (Digital/Traditional); Photography (Digital Manipulation); and Watercolors. Public art demonstrations, special organizational exhibitions, and live music performances round out a lively day at Van Saun County Park.

For more information about the event, call **201-336-7292**.



Bergen County's Winter Wonderland in Van Saun County Park

Skip the toll and head on down to Van Saun County Park for Bergen County's Winter Wonderland, North Jersey's premier destination for winter family fun. Open on weekends from the Friday after Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, Bergen County's Winter Wonderland offers families the chance to be transported to a winter paradise right here in Bergen County.

Enjoy open air ice skating, live music, games, activities, holiday themed food trucks, a beer & wine garden, and Bergen County's award-winning ice bumper car attraction.

Bergen County's Winter Wonderland features several programmed events, including:

- Visits from Santa
- Winter Wonderland's Annual Tree Lighting
- Winter Wonderland's Annual Menorah Lighting
- Winter Wonderland's Annual Kinara Lighting
- Learn to Play with the New Jersey Devils





After the New Year, The Rink at Winter Wonderland remains open for ice skating and ice bumper cars through the end of February.

Bergen County's Winter Wonderland is available for private and corporate parties.

For tickets, dates, and more information, visit www.BergenCountyWinterWonderland.com.



Bergen County's Star-Spangled Spectacular

July 4th, 2024 marks the first annual Bergen County's Star-Spangled Spectacular! The County has partnered with the New Jersey Wind Symphony to put on a special patriotic performance in Overpeck County Park that will feature a flavor of both professional and local talent, family activities, food trucks, and a fireworks show to celebrate the holiday!

We invite you to bring the whole family down to The Amphitheater at Overpeck County Park to enjoy the festivities! Expect this new annual event to grow over the next few years as the County of Bergen and the Parks Department begin preparations for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 2026!

For more information, visit www.bergenjuly4th.com.



Let it GLOW!: A Holiday Lantern Spectacular

Let It GLOW: A Holiday Lantern Spectacular is a special winter event hosted annually in the Bergen County Zoo, thanks to a partnership between the County, the Friends of the Bergen County Zoo, and Tianyu Arts & Culture, Inc.

The event features traditional Chinese lanterns with a modern twist, including dozens of hand-painted, larger-than-life structures that celebrate culture, animals, and the warmth of the holidays. With over 30 different scenes, each hand-made, artistic wonder is more breathtaking than the last.

For more information, visit
www.friendsofbergencountyzoo.org.



Movies and Music in the Park

Join Bergen County under the stars and enjoy summer evening Movies and Music in the Park.

On Wednesdays and Fridays in the summer, enjoy screenings of popular movies in the middle of a natural oasis. A half an hour after sunset, Van Saun County Park becomes an outside movie theater. Wednesday nights are geared to a more mature audience, while Friday nights feature family-friendly favorites. Experience movie nights with family and friends amid a pocket of nature in the middle of Paramus.

At 7PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July and August, enjoy musical entertainment by talented performers from all over the tristate area. The Amphitheater at Overpeck County Park and The Stage at Riverside County Park–South become homes to a myriad of musical performances that everyone will love. From rock ‘n roll classics, to top-tapping bluegrass, experience music outside in nature with summer, evening air on your skin.

For a full schedule of performances and movies, follow the Bergen County Parks System on social media or visit www.co.bergen.nj.us.



Music at the Barn

Occurring on the last Sundays of the months July–October, the longstanding Music at the Barn is a free concert series showcasing top, local talent in the setting of Wortendyke Barn, a county historic site. The final concert in the series each year is the annual Bluegrass and Cider, a crowd favorite featuring nationally renowned bluegrass musicians.

Limited seating is available; attendees are welcome to bring chairs/blankets. The barn is open to visitors before the concert and during intermission. ADA accessible parking is available at the site. For more information about the concert series, call **201-336-7292**.

The Wortendyke Barn has been a Pascack Valley landmark since its construction on 500 acres of land bought by the Wortendyke family in 1735. It was used continually as a barn into the 20th century and is one of only six pure Dutch barn types in Bergen County. In 1997, the barn opened as a museum with agriculture exhibits that include 18th and 19th century farm implements and tools, and the history of the Wortendyke family farm. For more information on this historic site, see page 90.



The Fall Harvest Festival

The Fall Harvest Festival, an autumn staple in Bergen County, is hosted at the end of September in the Ridgefield Park Area of Overpeck County Park. The festival features 4-H and Master Gardener displays and exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, local farm vendors, live music, educational and hands-on activities for children, carnival games and rides, and more! This joint partnership between Rutgers 4-H and the Bergen County Department of Parks is a seasonal highlight for families in Bergen County. Spend time outdoors while enjoying a collection of classic and novel autumn festivities.

For more information about the Rutgers 4-H Cooperative, see page 126.

For a full schedule of upcoming events, visit www.co.bergen.nj.us.

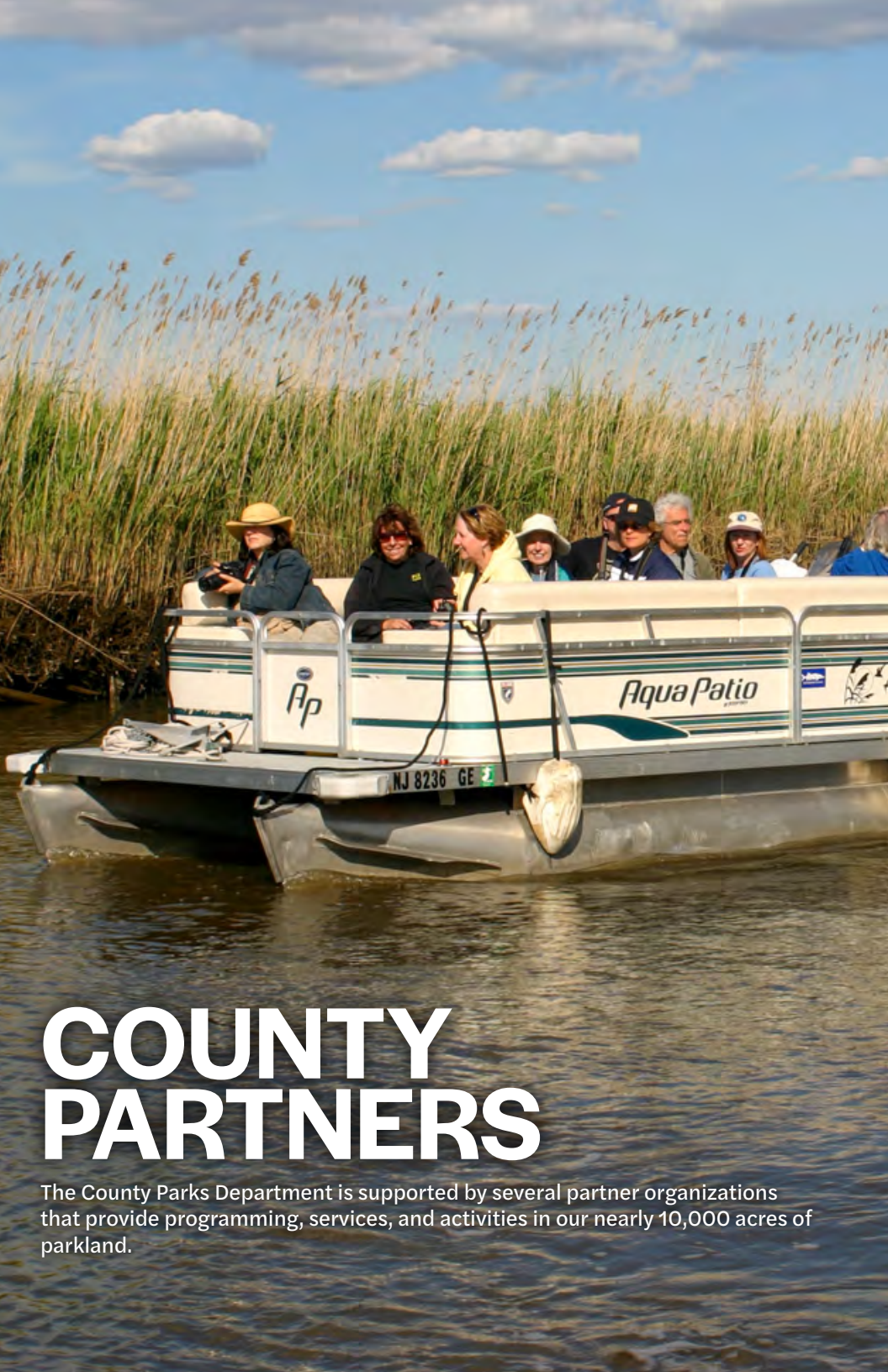


Veterans Day Golf

In honor of Veterans Day, Bergen County offers a free round of golf at any of the County's six golf courses to all Bergen County Veterans and active-duty service members. This is just one small way that Bergen County shows its appreciation and gratitude to those who serve our country. To enjoy this opportunity, Veterans and active-duty service members must be residents of Bergen County. Active-duty service member and Veteran status will be confirmed upon tee-time check in.

For applicable dates and more information, visit www.golfbergencounty.com.





COUNTY PARTNERS

The County Parks Department is supported by several partner organizations that provide programming, services, and activities in our nearly 10,000 acres of parkland.

Bergen County Audubon Society

PO Box 235, Paramus

Since 1941, the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) has advocated for the protection of wildlife in its natural habitat by providing opportunities for observation and conservation. A non-profit organization, funds raised through donations and membership dues allow them to carry out important education and conservation initiatives.

The Bergen County Audubon Society maintains the BCAS Butterfly Garden in Overpeck County Park. Located next to the Bergen Equestrian Center, the Butterfly Garden is a pollinator habitat restoration project using all native plants, paid for entirely by Bergen County Audubon Society and generous donations from the public. It's open and free for all to enjoy and learn about the wonders of the natural world in Northern New Jersey.

Come relax in this beautiful pocket of nature and learn about how you can change the world by cultivating native plants in your own backyard!

Contact information:

www.bergencountyaudubon.org



Bergen County Rowing Academy

40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia

The Bergen County Rowing Academy (BCRA), founded in 2014, is a charitable organization whose mission is to offer the sport of rowing to people of all ages and levels of experience. Whether you want to try out rowing for the first time or are interested in competing, there is a program for you. BCRA offers programs for anyone interested in the sport of rowing, including: Men's, Women's, Co-Ed, Beginner, Intermediate, and Competitive. For those who would like to watch from land, BCRA hosts regattas in the spring and summer. BCRA's boat pen is located in the Ridgely Park Area of Overpeck County Park.

Contact information:

www.bcrowingacademy.org



Bergen Equestrian Center

40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia

The Bergen Equestrian Center, is a multi-service horse facility on 22 acres of landscaped grounds providing a home for over 75 horses.

Amenities include three outdoor riding rings, two indoor riding rings, air-conditioned tack rooms, and a heated lounge with a panoramic view of the main indoor arena for an optimum year-round experience.

Programs include children’s camp, group and individual riding lessons, corporate team building, and A Stable Life— a non-riding equine treatment program focused on prevention, education, healing, and assisted recovery for those dealing with life challenges like anxiety, isolation, loss, addiction, or symptoms of PTSD.

The Bergen Equestrian Center is also home to Columbia University’s “Man O’ War Project,” which aims at providing equine therapy to veterans suffering from PTSD.

Contact information:

bergenesequestriancenter@gmail.com

201-336-3370

www.bergenesequestrian.com



Field Station: Dinosaurs

3 Overpeck Park Driveway, Leonia

The Henry Hoebel Area—North of Overpeck County Park is home to the world-class family attraction, Field Station: Dinosaurs. The destination combines cutting-edge science with the creative minds of great artists and educators to create a one-of-a-kind experience that is thrilling, educational, and fun for the whole family. Field Station: Dinosaurs is a wild scientific expedition in Bergen County's beautiful Overpeck County Park, on the banks of a scenic creek and surrounded by natural woods. Over 30 life-sized, moving, realistic dinosaurs come to life thanks to the brilliant engineering of the world's leading roboticists and the imagination of our artists. Our expedition takes every family on a shared adventure—full of mystery, surprise, and a sense of awe. Walk along wooded trails, check out life-like dinosaurs, and enjoy a full schedule of shows, games and activities, all of which is included in your Day Pass admission.

Contact Information:

www.jerseydinosaurs.com



Friends of Glen Gray

200 Midvale Mountain Road, Mahwah

A rustic outpost in the Ramapo Mountains, Camp Glen Gray has been operated by the Friends of Glen Gray since 2001, when the longtime Boy Scout camp became part of the Bergen County Parks System.

The Friends oversee all camping reservations and use of facilities, which includes cabins that can accommodate up to 30 people and campsites set up for leanto and regular tent camping. Camping reservations are only available during the weekends and must be booked in advance. Rowboat rentals are available during boating season. Despite the feeling of a remote campground, Glen Gray is conveniently located near major highways and is an ideal spot for both beginner and experienced campers. The Friends of Glen Gray also host volunteer weekends where they help maintain the camp and improve facilities.

Contact Information:

201-327-7234

www.glengray.com



Friends of the Bergen County Zoo

216 Forest Avenue, Paramus

Friends of the Bergen County Zoo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing financial support to the Bergen County Zoo for the welfare of its animals, educational programs, and family-friendly facilities.

The Friends achieve this through donations, sponsorships, and the sale of yearly memberships.

Membership with Friends of the Bergen County Zoo lasts one year from date of joining and includes various membership levels. In addition to unlimited free admission, all membership levels also receive 10% off gift shop purchases, invitations to exclusive members only nights, pre-sale access to event tickets, and first knowledge of other events and happenings at the Zoo.

Membership applications can be completed on the Friends of the Bergen County Zoo website, in-person at the Zoo, or printed out and mailed in.

Contact Information:

[*friends@friendsofbergencoutyzoo.org*](mailto:friends@friendsofbergencoutyzoo.org)

[*www.friendsofbergencountyzoo.org*](http://www.friendsofbergencountyzoo.org)



Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc.

4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn

Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc. was started in 1974 to buy the historic Garretson house and save it from demolition. Three years later, ownership of the property was transferred over to the County of Bergen. GFFR, Inc. is a volunteer organization whose mission is to preserve and maintain the Garretson homestead, keeping it open to the public, providing history programming, and to fostering environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity. The Bergen County Master Gardeners maintain a pantry garden, herb garden, pollinator garden, and native plant garden on the grounds.

Contact Information:

[*info@garretsonfarm.org*](mailto:info@garretsonfarm.org)

[*www.garretsonfarm.org*](http://www.garretsonfarm.org)



Hackensack Riverkeeper

Established in 1997 under the leadership of Captain Bill Sheehan, the Hackensack Riverkeeper is dedicated to safeguarding, conserving, and revitalizing the Hackensack River to enhance the well-being of both people and wildlife reliant on it. Bergen County's partnership with the Hackensack Riverkeeper has made it possible to offer waterfront activities to those who want to enjoy a varied park experience. These activities are a great way for families to enjoy the beauty of our natural resources while also learning about the need to protect them.

Overpeck County Park Paddling Center

Ridgefield Park Area

Enjoy a new perspective of Overpeck County Park by viewing it from the water! The Hackensack Riverkeeper, offers kayak and canoe rentals for visitors. Embark on an exploration of the stunning lake at the core of Bergen County. Overpeck Creek's calm, non-tidal waters make it perfect for families and beginners. The Overpeck County Park Paddling Center is open mid-May through mid-October. In spring and fall, it is open Fridays–Mondays, 10AM–6PM. In the summer, it is open seven days a week, 9AM–7PM. Kayaks, stand up paddle boards, and canoes are available for rent.

Contact Information:

201-957-3085

www.hackensackriverkeeper.org



Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddle Center *200 Elm Street, Oradell*

Experience the tranquility of paddling through the serene, forest-framed waters of the Hackensack River. Situated below the Oradell Dam and slightly upstream from the Head of Tide, this freshwater segment of the river meanders by the historic Hackensack Waterworks, offering an ideal setting for beginners and families.

Through Bergen County's collaboration with the Hackensack Riverkeeper, the new paddle center provides unprecedented access to the Hackensack River and allows visitors to engage with Van Buskirk Island County Park in a new, exciting way.

The Van Buskirk Island County Park Paddling enter is open weekends and holidays, 10AM–6PM, from mid-May through mid-October. Kayaks, stand up paddle boards, and canoes are available for rent.

Contact Information:

551-341-0170

www.hackensackriverkeeper.org



MEVO Fresh Roots Farm

200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah

Located at the end of Fyke Road beyond the campgrounds at Campgaw Mountain Reservation, is the Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization's (MEVO) Fresh Roots Agricultural Environmental Center. Established in 2015, the MEVO Fresh Roots Farm is a community built and managed productive agricultural operation, which contains a permaculture food forest, fruit and vegetable gardens, large scale compost space, and a reused and recycled bulk material storage and tool area.

This community space focuses exclusively on sustainable farming and education, and benefits thousands of people every year. MEVO offers affordable environmental education programs which teach students about sustainability and local food.

Contact information:

201-316-4888

www.mevo.org



New York–New Jersey Trail Conference

600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah

The New York–New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains, and protects public trails. Their headquarters is located in the historic 1891 Darlington Schoolhouse, which borders the Ramapo Valley County Reservation. The Schoolhouse was renovated, in part, with funds from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, Historic Preservation Grant Program. The Trail Conference provides programming and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. They sell maps and books about trails in the region, many of which are located within the Bergen County Parks System. Visit their website to get involved, for membership information, and trail recommendations.

Contact information:

201-512-9348

www.nynjtc.org



Passaic River Rowing Association

797 Riverside Avenue, Lyndhurst

The Passaic River Rowing Association (PRRA) is a community-based, not-for-profit rowing club that provides various programs for all ages and skill levels. From April to October, PRRA organizes a variety of programs from the beginner Learn-to-Row program to competitive programs for youth and adults.

Since 2003, PRRA has partnered with Bergen County to offer community rowing programs in Riverside County Park–South. Now operating out of the brand-new, state-of-the-art Bergen County Rowing Center, PRRA is expanding its offerings to provide community rowing, training, and environmental stewardship programs.

The club owns various rowing shells for members' use, in addition to private shell storage. Each October, PRRA hosts the “Head of the Passaic Regatta,” one of the largest regattas in New Jersey, which attracts over 1,000 competitors from the tri-state area.

Contact information:

[*row@prra.org*](mailto:row@prra.org)

201-283-2069

[*www.prra.org*](http://www.prra.org)



Rutgers Cooperative Extension/4-H

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) is a partnership that began in May 1914 when county, state, and federal governments agreed that, through proper collaboration, they could provide all citizens with access to the wealth of knowledge generated by public universities. The RCE has served New Jersey residents for over 100 years in the areas of agriculture, resource management, horticulture, nutrition, and 4-H Youth Development. The Master Gardener Program is popular and productive, with dedicated volunteers working throughout the Bergen County Park system installing and maintaining important plantings. Since 1985, the Master Gardener Helpline has operated from April through September, giving valuable advice on solving garden and landscape problems with minimum use of pesticides (Integrated Pest Management).

The Bergen County 4-H office provides youth the opportunity to participate in educational and social activities including various educational workshops, the Annual 4-H Awards Night, Potluck Holiday Dinner, Winter Camp, and Favorite Foods. Another highlight is the 4-H and Master Gardener Fair, part of the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival (see page 111). Project areas include gardening, rocketry, robotics, equine science, pet therapy, and nature.

All 4-H clubs participate in community service opportunities throughout the year. NJ SNAP-Ed (NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) is a program operated collaboratively with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County. SNAP-Ed brings nutrition education to people who are eligible for and receiving SNAP benefits.

Contact information:

bergen4h@rce.rutgers.edu

Agriculture: 201-336-6780

Horticulture Consultant: 201-336-6788

Master Gardener Hotline:

201-336-6783/6784

4-H Youth Development: 201-336-6785

SNAP-Ed: 201-336-6782

www.bergen.njaes.rutgers.edu

Saddle Ridge Riding Center

900 Shadow Ridge Road, Franklin Lakes

The Saddle Ridge Riding Center, a county owned facility privately operated by Saddle Ridge Riding Center, Inc., is a full-service equestrian facility set on over 28 acres of mountains, fields, and trails. The facility offers horse boarding, trail rides, English and Western lessons, summer camp, training, birthday parties, and horse shows.

The riding complex features fully lit indoor and outdoor arenas, hot water wash stalls, a round pen, a second working outdoor arena, and numerous turnouts.

Private and group lessons are available for riders of all skill levels.

Trail rides are available 7 days a week, from March to the beginning of November, by appointment only. Participants must be at least eight years old, and trail rides allow a maximum of six people per trip. All rides must be accompanied by an experienced trail guide.

All of our programs provide positive and comfortable, yet challenging lessons to improve the abilities of both horse and rider. The staff continuously strives to maintain and enhance the facility to provide our boarders and students with a high level of service.

Contact Information:

201-847-9999

www.saddleridgeridingcenter.com



Ski Campgaw

200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah

Nestled in the Ramapo Mountains is a 42-acre, ski, snowboarding, and tubing destination that features a 276ft vertical drop and 100% snowmaking capabilities.

Ideal for beginners and riders looking to tune up for the season, Ski Campgaw has two chairlifts, three surface lifts, as well as a “Magic Carpet” lift on the bunny hill. Ideal for specialized children’s program for youngsters ages 3-6.

Ski Campgaw has eight beginner/intermediate trails in total, all of which are equipped with lights for night riding.

Not a skier or snowboarder? No problem! Ski Campgaw also features an exhilarating 800ft snowtubing runs with two surface lifts.

Ski Campgaw offers rentals for skis, snowboards, and helmets.

The facility is open from November 15th to March 15th, conditions permitting.

Contact information:
201-327-7800
www.skicampgaw.com



Teaneck Creek Conservancy

20 Puffin Way, Teaneck

The Teaneck Creek Conservancy is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to the reclamation and protection of the environmental, cultural, and historical legacy of the Teaneck Creek watershed.

Formed in 2001, the organization serves as steward over 46 acres of a restored wetland that makes up the Teaneck Creek section of Overpeck County Park.

The Teaneck Creek Conservancy provides educational opportunities with partners like Bergen County Audubon Society, Holy Name Hospital, the Puffin Cultural Forum, Teaneck Public Library, and Teaneck Public Schools.

The Conservancy maintains 1.3 miles of trails for outdoor enjoyment and showcases permanent and ephemeral eco-art installations.

Contact information:

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www.teaneckcreek.org



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