



Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks,
Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

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ISSUE 22

News:

History in the Reservations

Interpretive signs were recently installed in Eagle Rock and Mills Reservation. Funded by a Heritage Tourism grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust, the signs provide historic background to the natural features and scenery. Learn about Llewellyn Haskell's Eyrie and the early automotive Hill Climb at Eagle Rock. Enrich your visit to Mills Reservation by reading about the nearby reservoir, the Osborne & Marsellis quarry, and David and Ella Mills.

Upcoming:

Join the Celebration!

Be part of the 125th Anniversary celebration of the Essex County Parks! If you have old photos taken of you or your family in any of the Essex County parks, we would enjoy seeing them and hearing your cherished park memories as we prepare for this special anniversary in 2020. Send images/stories to archives@parks.essexcountynj.org or call 973-735-6230 to discuss.



Essex County Executive
Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

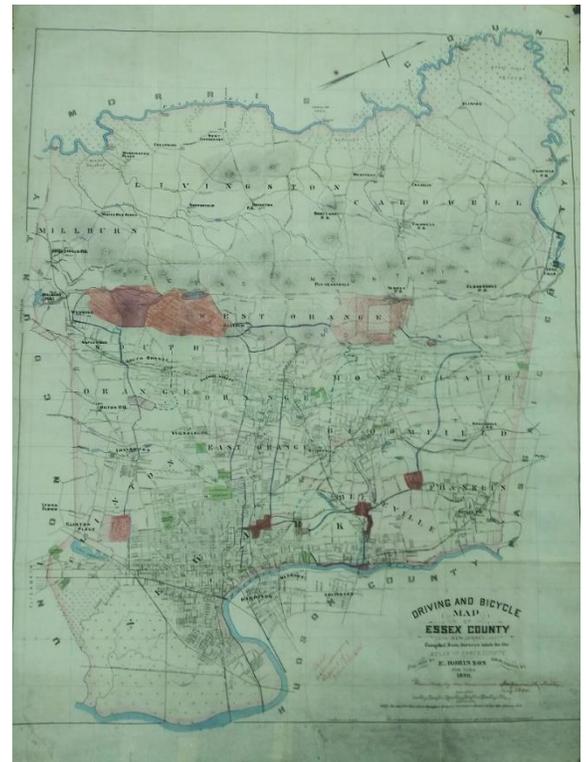
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Putting Essex County First

Comparing the Proposed Park and Parkway Systems

In the autumn of 1894, after contracting several landscape architect firms to survey the county, the Essex County Park Commission looked over the draft proposals for the fledgling county-wide park system. The suggested parks and parkways demonstrated each firm's priorities in terms of geographic location, interconnectivity between parkways and trolley systems, and their ambitions for how many parks the nation's first county-wide system would encompass.

The proposal drawn up jointly by John Bogart and Nathan Barrett (shown on the right) recommended six parkways, four that ran from east to west and two from north to south. Gray and Blaisdell's plan (see Issue 21), on the other hand, had a greater emphasis on parks than parkways. Unlike Bogart and Barrett's, it included neighborhood parks and the area around Weequahic Lake. Of note is their proposed



location along Newark Bay near the present-day Port of Newark. Known at the time as the Newark Meadows, it would have consisted of shallow tidal wetlands.

A comparison of the two schemes shows similarities. The southern division of Branch Brook Park was included in both proposals, as were both Eagle Rock and South Mountain Reservations. Both design teams proposed creation of a parkland along the Passaic River; a park that would prove harder to achieve.

If given an 1894 map of Essex County, what locations would you have proposed for our park and parkway system?