JOSEPH N. DIVINCENZO, JR., *Essex County Executive* and The Board of County Commissioners Welcome you to enjoy



Essex County Environmental Center

20th Year Celebration





Join us to celebrate 20 years of excellence in environmental education!





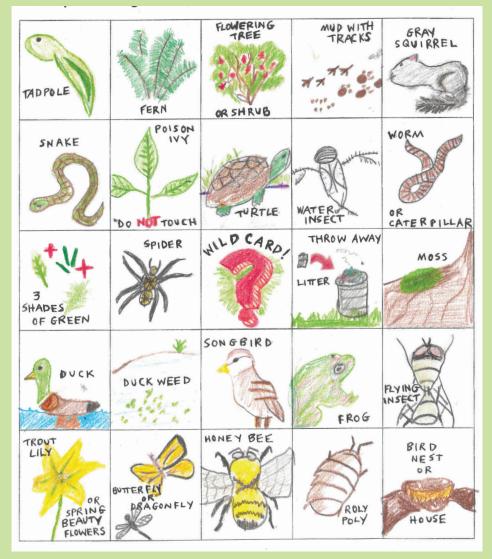
UNITY OF CASES

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue Roseland, NJ 07068 973.228.8776

PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

Environmental Center BINGO

When you see an object that is below, place an "X" on the square.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVING EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PATRONAGE!

Be an Essex County Environmental Center Junior Naturalist! Join us for a program at the Environmental Center or offsite at an Essex County Parks Department event and collect a stamp.

Attend five or more and win a prize!

	1	
1		

See a full calendar of events at essexcountyparks.org/calendar



ACTIVITY: LOCATE YOUR FAVORITE PARKS

The Environmental Center in West Essex Park is one of 23 parks, 5 reservations and a variety of recreation facilities that are dynamic locations to enjoy the outdoors, engage in athletic competitions and get closer to nature.



Why is it important to you:



ACTIVITY: NATURALIST JOURNAL

Naturalist: A person who studies living things.

Journal: Writing or drawings about what you think and see. To be a good naturalist you should move slowly and quietly. Use your ears, eyes, and nose to make discoveries. Below write or draw in your Naturalist Journal about what you discover around the Environmental Center.

To help keep the environment pollution free, make sure to properly dispose of any waste you make. Also, you can help even more by picking up any trash you see and putting it in the garbage or recycling.



JUNIOR NATURALIST PLEDGE

ENVIRONMENTAL C • E • N • T • E • R

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I promise to preserve and protect the plants, animals and history of Essex County Parks and my community by observing park rules and showing respect for the environment wherever I go.

This certificate awarded to

Naturalist

Date



There are many ways to tell if an animal is in the area even without seeing them. You can look for the animals' footprints, droppings, feather/fur, or listen for sounds.

Match the animal to its footprint.





ACTIVITY: GET CONNECTED

Essex County's web of life connects plants and animals to the environment they call home. Essex County Parks are full of special places that meet the needs of its residents and visitors. Connect yourself to the web of life by drawing yourself in your special park place!

vo things I saw:

Two things I heard:_____

Two things I smelled: _____

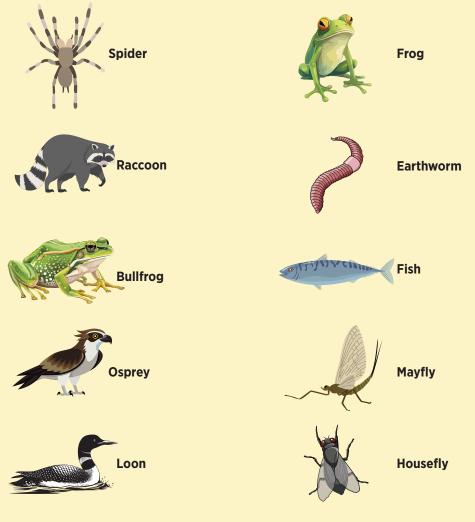
Two things I touched:_____

ACTIVITY: WHAT'S FOR DINNER

Like strands in a web, all plants and animals in Essex County Parks depend on each other for survival. Just like people, animals eat all different kinds of food. Herbivores eat plants. Carnivores eat other animals. Omnivores eat both plants and animals. Some creatures are the recyclers of the natural world. They help to recycle nutrients by eating dead stuff.

What are you?

Draw a line connecting each animal with the food it eats. (Some may eat more than one; choose the best match.)



ACTIVITY: I SPY

Five Tips for Watching Wildlife

Look in the right place, at the right time.

Knowing a little about the connection between animals and their habitats will help you know where to look for wildlife.

Extend your senses.

Try using special equipment: binoculars, spotting scopes or magnifying glasses.

Blend into your surroundings.

Wild animals are sensitive to disturbances in their environment. Some helpful hints include: Walk slowly and keep your voices low, approach from downwind, move only when necessary, crouch down and hide your eyes.

Bring a field guide or two.

Field guides help us to identify and learn about natural history. Find the right guide as they come in all shapes, sizes and degrees of difficulty.

Respect wildlife.

Remember to be respectful as you watch wildlife and back away if you notice the animal is in distress or nervous. Never attempt to touch a wild animal.

ACTIVITY: CREATE & BIRD LIST

Keep a list of every bird species you see from the windows.

Add the highest number you see at one time for each species to make it a bird count.

Species

Bird Count Number 3

ex. American Goldfinch

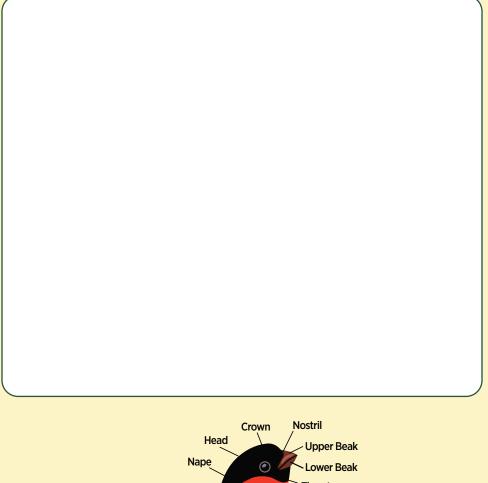
Note: You can download the Merlin Bird App (Merlin. allaboutbirds.org) to a smartphone or tablet and take it with you wherever you go. It'll identify birds around you by sound!

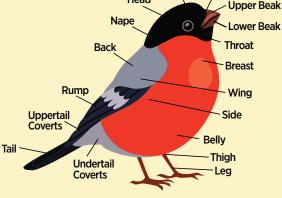
DID YOU KNOW?

Our New Jersey State bird, the American Goldfinch, is a drab yellow-brown in winter, but in spring the males turn bright yellow and black.

ACTIVITY: SKETCH & LIVE BIRD

Look at the feeders or walk along our trails. Find a bird that is relatively still and try drawing it below. Include as many features as possible to help you identify your bird.





12



Here at the Environmental Center, you can see many different interesting things. There is a **Rain Garden** which reduces **run-off**. A **Lenape** learning area which shows how these **native** people lived. The **Frog Pond** is popular habitat to visit where you can spot frogs and **cattails**. If you're quiet enough, you might even spot a deer, squirrel, or even a **bear**.

Find the words bolded in the paragraph above and circle them in the puzzle below.

D	Ν	0	Ρ	G	0	R	F	Е	С
0	0	С	Т	Е	С	А	R	V	Н
V	J	G	А	L	W	Т	Κ	Т	Y
Е	R	Κ	Q	Т	F	Ν	W	Т	Ρ
L	R	Т	S	F	Т	G	Κ	А	Ν
Х	Е	А	0	Κ	F	А	В	Ν	Ζ
Е	Т	Ν	Е	А	G	R	Т	L	Ζ
Ζ	U	Q	А	В	Т	D	Х	L	F
R	Ζ	Κ	Н	Ρ	W	Е	С	Κ	S
Ν	А	Н	Т	Х	Е	Ν	Т	Ν	W

FUN FACT Black Bears are not always black. Their fur can also be tan, brown and, in rare cases, white.

ACTIVITY: HOW FAST CAN YOU FLAP YOUR WINGS

Try it for 20 seconds, counting your wing-flaps (one flap = raising your arms up and back down). Then multiply by three to get your "wing flaps per minute."

> Number of wing-flaps_____ x 3 = _____ (flaps/minute)

Whew! No wonder these birds are constantly looking for food to give them energy!

DID YOU KNOW? Hummingbird wings are very small, so the birds have to work extra hard to stay in the air. The Ruby Throated Hummingbird beats its wings about 50 times per second during flight!



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Be a Fan & Follow Us!



Essex County Environmental Center



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https://essexcountyparks.org/calendar



"Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages. Walk in our woods, catch a frog, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn to fish, and much more. It's all about nature and it's all at our Environmental Center."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

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

The Essex County Environmental Center has a year-round schedule of public programs ready for your participation!

See our full calendar of events https://essexcountyparks.org/calendar

Thank You to Our Funders, Partners, Volunteers and Valued Patrons!

Essex County Utilities Authority The Landsberger Foundation TD Bank PSEG ReWorld (formerly Covanta Essex)

Essex County Environmental Center Volunteers Essex County Environmental Commission Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) Great Swamp Bonsai Society New Jersey Audubon (NJA) New Jersey Woodturners Association Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Essex County Rutgers Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County





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