



# Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks,  
Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

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## Upcoming Events:

**Holiday at Kip's Castle**  
**Wed-Sun 12-4 in December**  
22 Crestmont Rd., Verona, NJ.  
*Free self-guided tour of portion of this unique 1905 mansion. Or call 973-433-7469 for more extensive Holiday Candlelight Tour (fee).*

## News:

Take your own virtual tour of Kip's Castle through time! Thanks to a NJ Council for the Humanities grant, we have added a Kip's Castle Oral History Collection to [www.HistoryPin.org](http://www.HistoryPin.org). On the site, search Kip's Castle. Entries include a photo of the Castle and an audio clip from an interviewee with a personal connection to the unique site.

### Contact Us:

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

## Signs Interpret History of Reservation

Interpretive signs, researched and curated by the Parks Archives staff, have been installed at four locations in Essex County South Mountain Reservation. Funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Trust License Plate Fund for Heritage Tourism, the signs provide a historic context to the scenery - the rocks, trees, and waterways - found within the 2000+ acre park.

The sign shown here, located not far from Hemlock Falls, describes the Olmsted Brothers landscape design philosophy for the reservation and how that differed from prior use of the land.



Another marker, at the Painter's Point parking area, highlights the role the West Branch of the Rahway River has played in this region. Washington Rock at the southern tip of the park exemplifies the importance of the entire Watchung Mountain range during the Revolutionary War and as a source of rock for the later development of northern New Jersey. The fourth sign, at the Turtle Back Rock Picnic Area, describes the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was located there and the work of the CCC at South Mountain and other parks within the Essex County Park System.

*Putting Essex County First*