

Eagle Rock Reservation is a 408.33-acre tract of wooded land located in the central section of Essex County on the crest of the First Watchung Mountain. The ridge got its name in the early 19th century when bald eagles nested in the rocky cliffs on the eastern edge. The lookout point at Eagle Rock (see map - F3, F4) provides visitors with a spectacular view of the New York City skyline, and is the location of the county's September 11 Memorial (F3). Mainly undeveloped, the reservation is predominately a red oak forest.

Distinguishing Features

- o Unrivaled view of the New York City skyline from the George Washington Bridge to the Verrazano Bridge
- o The "Old Casino" located at the edge of the cliff, now converted into the Highlawn Pavilion restaurant, noted for its excellent cuisine and spectacular view (F4)
- o September 11, 2001 Memorial. Sculpture and plaza commemorate the location where thousands viewed the 9/11 tragedy (F3)
- o Hiking trails
- o Picnic area (E3)
- o Softball diamond (D3)
- o Cross-country skiing
- o Horseback riding trails
- o Habitat to a wide range of flora and fauna

| <u>Trail Key</u> | <u>Difficulty</u> | <u>Length (miles)</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Bridle / Horse Trails | Easy | 8.34 |
| Yellow Lenape Trail | Easy | 1.83 |
| Red Walking Trail | Easy | 1.68 |
| Blue Trail | Moderate | 1.75 |
| White Trail | Moderate | 0.94 |
| Green Trail | Moderate | 1.15 |

The **Eagle Rock Reservation Conservancy**, formed in 2004, under the auspices of the Essex County Department of Parks, is a volunteer organization whose goal is to maintain, protect, preserve, and restore Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation through fundraising, trail maintenance, and raising awareness of the importance of the reservation to the environment of Essex County. New members are welcome.



-Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive

Our historic park system is a green oasis in the densely populated and ever-expanding Essex County. Our reservations offer rustic hiking trails and stunning views, our parks provide places to picnic and play, and our state-of-the-art recreation and educational facilities enhance our quality of life. We hope that you take advantage of our beautiful open spaces, and Experience Essex to the fullest.

The **Essex County Park System** was created in 1895 and is the first county park system in the United States. The System consists of more than 6,000 acres made up of 17 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, golf driving range, off-leash dog facilities, plus a castle.

Rules and Regulations:

- No littering; Place litter in garbage receptacles
- Use of glass bottles is prohibited
- Park vehicles on paved areas and in designated locations
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited
- Animals must be on a leash
- Ride bikes on paved vehicular roadways only; No bikes on trails
- Fires and/or barbecues allowed in designated areas only
- Organized sports activities in designated areas only
- Please report any unauthorized sales or commercial activities

Parks are closed from 10 PM to Dawn

(Mills Reservation and Brookdale Park close at 9 PM)

Essex County Park System (973) 268-3500

**Essex County Sheriff's Office/Police Division
(973) 482-2100**

Thanks to: Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, Essex County Office of Environmental Affairs/Environmental Commission, the Eagle Rock Conservancy, Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University for map development, John Loiacono, Jack Millelot & Anthony Francis for GPS-ing trails and map/text development.

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ESSEX COUNTY

Eagle Rock Reservation

Department of Parks, Recreation,
And Cultural Affairs
Essex County, New Jersey
<http://www.essexcountynj.org>



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

Essex County Executive

and the Board of County Commissioners



~Putting Essex County First~

Made by Eagle Rock Reservation Conservancy (ERRC May 2021)

