

Essex County Environmental Center ~ Public Programs

SPRING 2022



The Essex County Environmental Center is located at 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland in Essex County West Essex Park and is a facility of the Essex County Parks System. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Essex County West Essex Park is open to the public every day from dawn until dusk. Pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. **All programs require a minimum number of participants to run.** For more information, please call 973-228-8776.

Essex County Environmental Center continues to offer a variety of seasonal environmental education programming for groups and families. All in-person programming occurring indoors requires mask wearing and social distancing. Outdoor masking is optional.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation and participation!

FIELD TRIP OFFERINGS FOR ORGANIZED GROUPS **(Schools, Scouts, Church/Community Organizations, Home Schools, Etc.)**

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

\$75 per program, 45 minutes

Choose from the Following Virtual Field Trip Topics

Seasonal Discovery Nature Tour/ Frog Pond Science
Backyard Birding/Butterflies/ Fish & Fishing 101
Camping 101/ Lenape Learning Area Tour & Lenape Skills
Passaic River Studies/Mighty Migrations/ Wild about Wildlife
Honey Bees & Native Pollinators/Green Building Tour
Recycling (*grant funded and free for Essex County institutions while funds last*)...and more!



IN-PERSON FIELD TRIPS

Organized Group Bookings

(Institutions, Scouts, Municipal Recreation Programs, Homeschoolers, Etc.)

All ages. Program length is 1.5 hours. Choose from a variety of seasonal topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center. Social distancing and mask wearing (while indoors) required. Inquire by calling the Center at 973.228.8776. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$8 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

All ages. Winter topic selections include: Seasonal Nature Adventure, Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Animal Tracking, Owls the Night Hunter, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101, and *Dinosaur Park Visits. Social distancing and mask wearing (while indoors) required. One group at a time with a limit of 10 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center at 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

YOUTH GARDEN CLUB

Tuesdays, April through September

4pm to 5pm

Dates: April 26; May 10, 24; June 7, 21; July 12, 19; August 2; Sept. 6, 20



For ages 5 and up. Together we'll grow food in our garden plot and learn about everything from soil to seeds along the way. Participants will get hands-on experience with planting, harvesting and cooking. Session themes include: soil and composting, seed planting and labeling, thinning, weeding and watering, selective harvest, garden pests, healthy eating and more! This is a drop-off and pick-up class (children only). Advanced registration required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10/child/session or \$80 for the full series.**

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesdays—March 9, April 6, May 11, June 8

4pm to 5pm

For children ages 5 through 9. Uncover and discover ecosystem interactions at the frog pond. Explore with nets, magnifiers and microscopes to investigate what lives at the pond and learn from a naturalist what can be done to protect and conserve the pond inhabitants. Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**



FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursdays—March 10, April 7, May 19, June 16

4pm to 5pm



For children ages 5 through 10. We'll explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate nature in our wooded wetland habitat. Together we hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**

ESSEX COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

To explore programming for all ages, visit <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>!



Join us at the county fair! Essex County 4-H would like to invite all youth K-12 to participate in the county 4-H Spring Fair. The fair will be held in partnership with the Essex County Environmental Center Earth Day Celebration on April 23rd. A detailed fair submission book can be found at <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>. All projects will be showcased and awarded based on the Danish judging system. Each submission will receive a participation ribbon and judges' notes. Youth can submit projects in any of the spring divisions including Indoor Gardening, Arts and Crafts, Small Animals, Writing Technology, Photography and Environmental Education. Scouts, school groups and homeschool groups are encouraged to submit projects.

The Essex County 4-H Healthy Small Animals Club is recruiting new members. Youth in grades 4-8 meet to share their passion about animals, learn about small pet care and participate in state and county small animal events. Meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 4pm to 5pm. To register, contact Essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu.

4-H, in partnership with the Montclair Community Farms Coalition, is recruiting a team of teenage youth to address food security while exploring urban agriculture, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship, expanding the market for local grains via the development and sale of pizza, organic grain products, and other farm based "value added" products. For more information, please visit <https://www.montclaircommunityfarms.org/farmpreneurs-internships>.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Monthly on the 4th Monday

7pm to 9:30pm



For adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. For details, please email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, to learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall on the fourth Monday of every month. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult; free for NJWA members**

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

7pm to 9 pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. The Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS), a chapter of the NJ Beekeepers Association, is dedicated to teaching new beekeepers how to manage their bees and helping experienced beekeepers to do it better. If you think you might be interested in keeping honeybees and would like to explore what's involved, you're welcome to join. ECBS meets at Garibaldi Hall from 7pm to 9pm on the second Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted. **Dates and topics are: March 8, *Weird Swarm Control Techniques*; April 12, *Apitherapy—Not Just Stings! Using products from the whole hive to improve health and wellness*; and May 10, *Brood Factories*.** For more details on monthly programs, visit www.njbeekeepers.org and www.ecbs.squarespace.com. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult, free for ECBS and NJBA members**



WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

SATURDAY MORNING OUTDOOR YOGA—May 14, 21 & 28 10am to 11am



All levels welcome. Experience the joy of practicing yoga in the great outdoors on Essex County Environmental Center's partially shaded deck. In this class, you will be guided through a sequence of movements designed to stretch and strengthen the body. Yoga postures will be linked to the breath in a continual flow, with attention paid to proper physical alignment. Dress comfortably and please bring your own mat. During in-clement weather, class will be moved indoors. Indoor masking is required. Advance registration, pre-payment and a minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **No refunds for missed classes; class CREDIT ONLY issued on a case-by-case basis. Fee: \$15 class, \$10 for those 65 and older**

Yoga instructor Julia Lawlor received her RYT-250 yoga teaching certificate at Jaipure Yoga in Montclair in 2019. She has also had training in yoga for mental health, trauma and addiction, and has taught classes for women with breast cancer at Englewood Hospital and women in recovery at a drug rehab center in Newark. She is eager to share with others the benefits that she's enjoyed in the regular practice of yoga.

MARCH 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SMORES n' MORE NIGHT HIKE



Tuesday, March 8

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. Build a campfire and practice fundamental fire skills in a safe and controlled environment. Once we get our fire burning, we'll roast marshmallows and make s'mores. All ages are welcome. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY

Basic Seed Starting: Rutgers Master Gardeners introduce you to the fun of growing your vegetables and flowers from seeds. Get an early start on your garden and save money too! Register in advance; all classes are held virtually on Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thursday, March 10; 7pm to 8:30pm

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIscO-hqDwsH9DyiIUulQajFNgzH-92gz7P>

Saturday, March 12; 9am to 10:30am

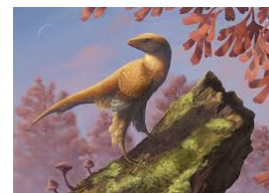
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAucOuorDIqHNDiLNsQjWZdpbGfiWQTHQG>

FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, March 23

5:15pm to 7:15pm

For families with young children ages 4 and up. Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1 mile total to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Grallator dinosaur tracks from the late Triassic age. Using clay, we'll make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Monday, March 28

6pm to 7pm

For children ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**



APRIL 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SPRING FOREST EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 2

9:30am to 1pm

For families with children ages 1 to 6. Celebrate the beginning of spring with a self-guided story walk reading of the "Little White Rabbit" and an egg hunt within the forest grounds of the Environmental Center. Kids bring your favorite basket to collect eggs and earn surprises! In the spirit of being "green," participants will exchange eggs for small prizes. The eggs are sanitized and reused for future events and programs. A spring craft giveaway is included. Bad weather cancels. Advanced registration is required; limited space available. For more information and/or to schedule a personalized time slot, call the Center at 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$15 per child**



APRIL 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY

Planning Your Vegetable Garden: Rutgers Master Gardeners discuss the basic ideas from selecting the plants to grow, the layout of the garden. Raised bed? Compost? Come with your questions so you can have a successful harvest this year. Register in advance; all classes are held virtually on Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thursday, April 7; 7pm to 8:30pm

https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvf-utqDgoG93DB3Mmouo96_IVqtlj4EA3

Saturday, April 9; 9am to 10:30am

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEud-upqz0jH9NUVo4fldfQfNz9YzXY511i>

SPRING CAMP

Tuesday, April 12; Wednesday, April 13; Thursday, April 14

OR Tuesday, April 19; Wednesday, April 20; Thursday, April 21 **12:30pm to 4:30pm**



For children in grades 1 through 5. Restore the bond between children and nature. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature right here at the Essex County Environmental Center. For details, call the Center at 973.228.8776. Advanced registration and payment are required. **Fee: \$180 per child for all 3 days OR \$70 per child/per day**

DIY RECYCLED PAPERMAKING

Tuesday, April 12

6pm to 7pm

For families or elementary age children. Join an Environmental Center naturalist to learn to turn your household paper waste into beautiful paper right in your own kitchen. Make and take recycled paper. Together we can reduce our waste and take better care of mother earth! Call 973.228.8776 to register. **FREE (This program is sponsored by the Essex County Utilities Authority.)**



'gARTbage' ART CONTEST

Register by Thursday, April 14

Project Drop-Off, Friday, April 22



Do your part to contribute to a cleaner greener world by creating art out of garbage! This g'ART'bage contest aims to challenge youth to be thoughtful and creative in building a sculpture made of garbage (non-recyclable material). Team and individual projects are welcome in the following categories: Grades K-4, Grades 5-8 and Grades 9-12+. Projects must be able to withstand the elements as they are showcased in an outdoor display on the Essex County Environmental Center during the week of Earth Day! Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place 1st in all categories; 2nd and 3rd place entries will be recognized with a plaque, certificate and a small gift from the

Environmental Center. Pre-registration required, contact 973.228.8776 or email tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org.



APRIL 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EARTH DAY 2022 Saturday, April 23

11am to 3pm

All ages. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our annual outdoor Earth festival. On this special day, the Essex County Environmental Center will make extra efforts to share its wonder and appreciation of the natural world with its patrons, partners and friends. Enjoy a day filled with crafts, games, and recreational opportunities, such as canoeing and hiking. Enjoy demonstrations, information, a local eco-vendors sale, with Environmental Center staff and partner groups on hand to guide you throughout the day. **FREE EVENT (items may be for sale)**



COMPOSTING FOR KIDS



Monday, April 25

6pm to 7pm

For families or elementary age children. Join an Environmental Center naturalist to meet some worms and learn about the wonderful world of compost. Together we can reduce our waste and take better care of mother earth! Call 973.228.8776 to register. **FREE (This program is sponsored by the Essex County Utilities Authority.)**

FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, April 27

5:15pm to 7:15pm

For families with young children ages 4 and up. Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1 mile total to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Grallator dinosaur tracks from the late Triassic age. Using clay, we'll make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



ESSEX COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Master Gardener grown tomato plants, basil and herbs will be featured along with perennials, shrubs, and woodies at the Annual Plant Sale. Local honey and honey products will be for sale. Spring planting advice from trained volunteers. Sale takes place in two Essex County Park locations or visit the online store at www.mgessex.org.

Friday, April 29 & Saturday, April 30 at

Essex Presby Memorial Iris Gardens

Upper Montclair, NJ

Friday from 10am to 4pm

Saturday from 9am to 3pm

&

Saturday, May 7th at

Essex County Environmental Center Garibaldi Hall

Roseland, NJ

9am to 3pm

MAY 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

TODDLER SENSORY HIKE

Monday, May 2

10am to 11am

For children ages 1-5 with caregiver supervision. Bring your toddlers for a sensory exploration outside with a naturalist. Visit the forest trails, frog pond, Passaic River and more. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



FAMILY WETLANDS DISCOVERY WALK

Wednesday, May 4

5:30pm to 7pm

For families. Explore our trails with a naturalist, identify spring wildflowers, visit the frog pond and uncover and discover ecosystem interactions. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Tuesday, May 10

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. This rribbetting program will take an up-close look at our pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **\$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



PASSAIC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Saturday, May 14

9am to 1pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. Paddle up the Passaic River from the Environmental Center to Okner Park in Livingston! Pack your own snack to enjoy at the park and then float back down to Garibaldi Hall where we launched. The session includes basic paddling safety and techniques and all equipment. For intermediate and advanced paddlers. Children ages 12 and up may paddle with a parent guardian. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per person**



4H YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB

Saturdays, May 14, 21, & 28 10am to 11am



For children in grades K through 12. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes? How you can find a rainbow in a garden? The 4-H Young Gardener's Club can provide the answers to these questions and more. Learning and fun happen all the time here. Meet in Garibaldi Hall.

Advance registration is required; call 973.353.1337 or visit

essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/.

PASSAIC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Thursday, May 19

6pm to 8pm

For adults and children ages 10 and older. Take a leisurely paddle on the Passaic River! Paddlers will enjoy scenery and peacefulness as they paddle up the river and float downstream. Geared for beginners and children 10 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet in the Garibaldi Hall parking lot. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call

973.228.8776. **Fee: \$20 per person**



MAY 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SPRING JOURNALING OUTDOOR CLASS

Monday, May 23

5:30pm to 7pm

All ages (children under 5 require caregiver supervision). Discover the joy of phenology, the cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Let us find a special place to write and draw our spring discoveries and appreciate the warmth and change of the season. Maybe partake in some spring birding! We will also hike the grounds to note seasonal changes and beautiful discoveries. We will make our journals here on site. Friends and family are encouraged to join. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, May 25

5:30pm to 7:30pm

For families with young children ages 4 and up. Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1 mile total to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Gallator dinosaur tracks from the late Triassic age. Using clay, we'll make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



LOOKING AHEAD

NATURE EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

July 11 to July 22, Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten 12:30pm to 3:30pm

July 25 to August 5, Grades 1 and 2 12:30pm to 4:30pm (SESSIONS FULL)

August 8 to August 19, Grades 3 and 4 12:30pm to 4:30pm (SESSIONS FULL)

Enjoy exploring and discovering woodland and river habitats for insects, birds, amphibians, Lenape life and much more. Sign up for one or two weeks per grade level. Call the Center at 973.228.8776 for details. Advance registration is required. **Fee: \$160 per child/per week for Pre-K and K, \$180 per child/per week for Grades 1 and 2; \$200 per child/per**

week for Grades 3 and 4



BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI

Saturday, July 16 to Saturday, July 30, 2021

Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm

Saturdays, July 16, 23 & 30 from 10:30am to 1:30pm

For all ages. Featuring live butterflies and butterfly-themed programming for all ages. Must book a time slot by calling the Center at 973.228.8776. Walk-ins will not be accommodated. **\$8 per person (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**



2022 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 7, so grab a camera and visit an Essex County Park! Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of your visit to the County Park System. For rules and regulations, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—Meetings are held virtually the first Monday of each month at 6pm. Some dates may change. For an up to date listing of meeting dates or for more information, please contact Essex County Environmental Affairs Coordinator Tara M. Casella at 973.228.8776 or visit <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/partners>.

GARDENING—Do you have garden-related questions? Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County and a Master Gardener will gladly assist you on their FREE helpline service. Helpline hours are Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Call 973.228.2210 or e-mail mastergardenec@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS

EXTRA! EXTRA! Calling all Nature Enthusiasts....



Grades Pre-K through 7. Youth Eco-Activity Boxes Available for Purchase! Looking for enrichment ideas? The Environmental Center educational staff has custom made boxes designed to excite and engage youth in nature exploration and active learning. The boxes are intended to keep children in pre-K through seventh grades excited and engaged in environmental science related outdoor activities.

Box themes include: Spring Discovery, Butterfly Safari, Buzz Box (Bees), Flying Friends (Birds), Hop, Walk & Slither, Junior Naturalist, Wilderness Skills and more!

Fee: \$40/Box

The boxes include crafts, projects, activities and outdoor fun opportunities! Boxes available for pick-up only at the Essex County Environmental Center Limited Availability! For more information, please call 973.228.8776.

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon (NJA) – John DeBenedett johndebenedett@yahoo.com

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) – Joe Lelinho 973.403.8662

West Essex Park Conservancy (WEPC) – Ron Pate 973.669.8030

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) – Jan Zientek 973.228.3179

New Jersey Woodturners Association (NJWA) – Bob Amarant 908.442.4729

Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) – Marissa Blodnik 973.353.133

ATTENTION:

If you are not already on our e-mail list and you would like to receive an electronic file of our brochure as well as other e-notices and alerts, please call the Center at 973.228.8776 or e-mail tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org with an e-mail address.

Thank you!



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, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It's all about nature and it's all at our Environmental Center.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive

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