

Essex County Environmental Center

SUMMER 2023

Public Programs



*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 offers a variety of seasonal environmental education programs for individuals, groups and families. While face masks/coverings are no longer required in our facility and on our grounds, we respect individuals' choices that people are making for their comfort and safety. To mask or not mask, please join us in practicing mutual respect for others and their choices.

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
Honeybees & 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. Inquire by calling the Center at 973.228.8776. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if fewer are booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$10 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

All ages. Summer topic selections include: Seasonal Adventure, What's in That Hole?, Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Frog Pond Science, Plant Identification Walk, Owls the Night Hunter, Nature Journaling, Wetland Biodiversity, Camping 101*, Fishing 101* and MORE! 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, June through September

4pm to 5pm

Dates: June 6, 20; July 11, 25; August 8, 15; Sept. 12

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). Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$10/child/session**

ESSEX COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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



4-H YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB

Saturdays—June 3, 17, 24; July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 19, 26
10am to 11am

For children in grades K to 12. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes? How to find a rainbow in a garden? The 4-H Young Gardener's Club can provide find the answers to these questions and more. Learning and fun happen all the time here. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advanced registration required; please call 973.353.1337.

ESSEX COUNTY GARDENERS' SHOWCASE

Rutgers Extension of Essex County 4-H program invites all Essex County youth and adults to participate in the upcoming county Gardeners' Contest! Entries will be accepted at Garibaldi Hall at the Essex County Environment Center, 621A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, on Friday, September 22nd from 3:30pm-5pm. Items will be judged and awarded the afternoon of September 23rd at the Essex County Environmental Center's Annual Fall Family Festival. For more information, visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/fairs/>.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Monthly on the 4th Monday

7pm to 9:30pm

For all ages. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners. 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**

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

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. 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**



JUNE 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



BONSAI SHOW AND OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 3

10am to 4pm

All ages. The Great Swamp Bonsai Society presents its annual Bonsai Show and Open House for the first time at the Essex County Environmental Center. Dozens of trees will be on display, with lectures, demonstrations, and raffles throughout the day. Come and learn the principles and techniques of this amazing horticultural art form. For more information, please email John Michalski at huonia@aol.com. **FREE**

CANOE CLINIC ON THE PASSAIC RIVER

Monday, June 5

6pm to 8pm

For families with children ages 6 and older. Are you a beginner, curious about the river or just want to experience a short and safe paddle? Join Environmental Center canoe instructors to learn paddle skills at our canoe launch. This is geared for beginners and children 6 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Environmental Center staff will provide all the equipment and instruction to get you started. Buoys will mark an area available for canoe paddling and guides will be on site to provide instruction. Learn the skills and access points to take advantage of the wonderful recreation and wildlife watching opportunities on the river, right here in Essex County! Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

Fee: \$20 per person



BEEKEEPER TALK: HONEYBEES AND STINGING INSECTS

Tuesday, June 13

7pm to 8pm

All ages. Join us for an informative eco-talk given by expert Beekeeper Landi Simone, pointing out the differences between honeybees and other stinging insects. This presentation identifies challenges facing bees and beekeepers and gives an outline of the bees' life cycle and management. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult; free for members of the Essex County Beekeepers Association.

JUNE 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Wednesday, June 14

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. This rrrribbetting program will take an up-close look at our pond ecosystem. Search and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, June 20

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 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

JULY 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Friday, July 7

6:30pm to 8:30pm

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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$20 per person**



BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI 2023

Saturday, July 15 to Saturday, July 29

Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm & Saturdays, July 15, 22 & 29 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. Tent and programming to take place at Garibaldi Hall side of Environmental Center grounds. **Fees collected go to the Essex County Parks Foundation and directly back to Environmental Center programming.** **Fee: \$8 per person (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**

JULY 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



THE VERY HUNGRY MONARCH CATERPILLAR

Saturday, July 15

10:30am to 11:30am

Ages 3 to 5. Come dressed for a butterfly story walk around the trails to learn about a day in the life of the monarch. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Thursday, July 20

6:30pm to 8:30pm

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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$20 per person**



BUZZ INTO ACTION with INSECT EDUCATION

Saturday, July 22

10:30am to 11:30am



Ages 5 and up. Love insects? Join us for a family-fun and hands-on presentation all about bugs n' butterflies. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

INSECTS OF SUMMER NIGHTS

Monday, July 24

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. Discover insects of summer nights, both the pesky and the pretty – they all have their place. First, we'll make our own natural insect repellent, and then together we'll explore in search of fireflies, ladybugs, aphids, moths and more before returning to make and take an insect mosaic craft! Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**



BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 29

10:30am to 11:30am



Adults and children ages 8 and older. Learn about butterfly gardening in this hands-on workshop. We'll learn about native host and nectar plants and how they support our New Jersey butterflies. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

AUGUST 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Thursday, August 3

6:30pm to 8:30pm



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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$20 per person**

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Friday, August 11

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 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**



BUZZFEST

Saturday, August 12

10am, 11am, 12pm, or 1pm

For all ages. Have you ever wondered how honey goes from hive to jar? Come join local beekeepers and see a real hive! You'll even get a sample taste. Learn about bees, their current challenges, and how we can help. Make-and-take bee themed crafts and activity stations included. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Limited space per time slot; choose to book from one of four time slots.** Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$15 per participant (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**



FOREST MUSHROOMS 101

Monday, August 14

5:30pm to 7pm

For families with young children ages 6 and up. Fascinated by fungi? Explore the local forest for gilled, pored, ridged and toothed mushrooms with naturalist David Alexander. We'll learn their anatomy and create whimsical, yet realistic air-dry clay replicas of what we find. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

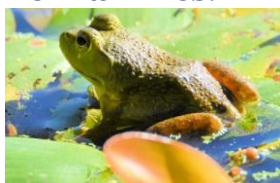


FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Monday, August 21

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. This rrrribbetting program will take an up-close look at our pond ecosystem. Search and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



AUGUST 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



GARDEN HERBAL SCRUB-MAKING

Monday, August 28

5:30pm to 7pm

For families. Make and take a homemade herbal scrub. Visit our geodome to harvest lemon balm and lavender. Learn about the power of scent, care for your skin and how to use nature to promote self-care. We will select our favorite scents using herbs and essential oils and add them to either a sugar or salt scrub of our choice.

Time outdoors on the trails is a must! So, dress for the weather. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

LOOKING AHEAD

2023 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 6, 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 Parks System. For rules and regulations, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—Meetings are held hybrid-in person and virtual- on the first Monday of each month at 6pm at the Essex County Environmental Center. Some dates may change. This Board has openings, if interested to serve please email a letter of interest and resume to tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org. 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 mastergardenerec@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS

SUMMER LIBRARY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

An Essex County Environmental Center Staff Naturalist will travel to your library!

Maximum of 25 participants per class.

Program Length: 1-hour Fee: \$150 (includes materials fee)

\$25 Travel fee for neighboring counties.

FOR AGES 5 - 10 YEARS

TOPICS: MIGHTY MIGRATIONS, FROG POND SCIENCE and LENAPE LIVING

All Together Now™ is a trademark of the Collaborative Summer Library Program™

For information and to register, contact David Alexander at 973.228.8776 or dalexander@parks.essexcountynj.org.

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.

NJ AUDUBON BIRDING FIELD TRIPS IN ESSEX COUNTY

SUMMER 2023 URBAN OASIS FIELD TRIPS

Led by Dave Hall, Associate Naturalist



Field trips are designed for ages 12 and up. Have you ever wanted to “bird watch” but didn’t know where to begin? Would you like to find some of the hidden gems in Essex County? Let New Jersey Audubon be your guide. Summer is the time to see, hear and learn about the species of birds that nest in Essex County. Walks encourage beginners and challenge experts. The trips also offer a chance to learn the territorial songs and behavior of birds that are residents all year long. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Essex

County Parks System. Registrants will receive a confirmation call/e-mail in the event of a cancellation. Pre-registration is required. Payment may be made via credit card. Walk-ins are not permitted. To register, please call 908-396-6386 or visit <https://njaudubon.org/calendar/urban-oasis/>.

THURSDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

Essex County Hilltop Reservation Birding Meander

Thursday, June 15

8:30am to 11am

This is a great time to view nesting birds such as Indigo Buntings and House Wrens. We will also explore the restored meadow habitat for Bluebirds as well as butterflies and other insects. Meet at Mountain Avenue and Courter Lane, North Caldwell. **Fee: \$10 NJA members/\$15 non-members**

Essex County South Mountain Reservation Birding Meander

Thursday, July 13

8:30am to 11:30am

We hope to find breeding birds around the reservoir, in hillside forests, and on meadow edges in this very large, well-preserved park. Meet at Oakdale parking lot. **Fee: \$10 NJA members, \$15 non-members**

Essex County Becker Farm Birding Meander

Thursday, August 24

8:30am to 11am

Explore both field and forest while enjoying beautiful vistas of the Passaic River Valley. This is the right time to discover late breeding birds like American Goldfinch plus early “fall” migrants and dispersing young birds that are not quite sure where they belong after their parents have left. Meet at Essex County Environmental Center. **Fee: \$10 NJA members, \$15 non-members**

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SATURDAY MORNING FIELD TRIPS

Troy Meadows Birding Walk

Saturday, June 17

8am to 11am

We hope to find breeding birds in the wetland meadows and forests of this largely intact Morris County hotspot. Exploring varied habitats for breeding birds such as warblers, flycatchers and more. Footing may be wet. Meet at the small parking area along Troy Meadow Rd, close to the gas pipeline crossing. **Fee: \$10 NJA members, \$15 non-members**

Hatfield Swamp Birding Meander

Saturday, August 26

8am to 11am

We hope to find early fall migrants in the wetland meadows and forests of this largely intact Essex County reservation. Exploring varied habitats for a wide variety of birds including warblers, flycatchers and more. Footing may be wet. Meet at Stop & Shop, 875 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ, and carpool from there to different parts of this large reservation. **Fee: \$10 NJA members, \$15 non-members**

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) – Scott Barnes 908-396-6506

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) – John DeBenedett, johndebenedett@yahoo.com

West Essex Park Conservancy (WEPC) – Ron Pate, 973.669.8030

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) – Amy Rowe, 973.228.3179

New Jersey Woodturners Association (NJWA) – Bob Amarant, 908.442.4729

Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) – Marissa Blodnik, 973.353.1337

Essex County Environmental Commission- Tara M Casella, 973-228-8776

Great Swamp Bonsai Society – John Michalski, huonia@aol.com



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

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Putting Essex County First