

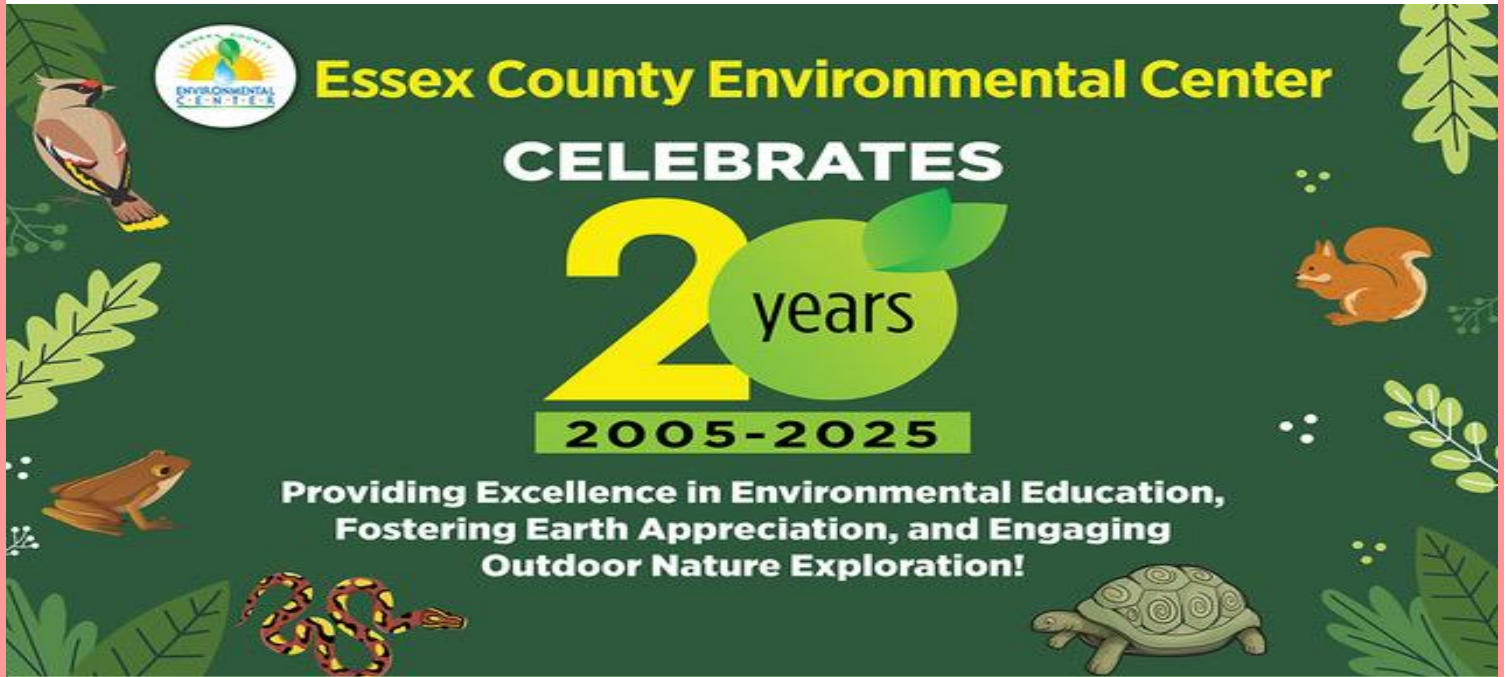
# Essex County Environmental Center

## SUMMER 2025

### 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.



### FIELD TRIP OFFERINGS FOR ORGANIZED GROUPS

(Schools, Scouts, Church/Community Organizations, Home Schools, Etc.)

#### VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Choose from a variety of topics. Call the Center for more information, 973-228-8776. **Fee: \$75 per program, 45 minutes**

#### 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 less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$12 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

##### **Small Groups/Pods and Families**

**All ages.** Summer topic selections include: Summer Seasonal Adventure, What's in That Hole? Lenape Village Tours, Camping 101, Backyard Birding, Geodesic Dome Gardening, Frog Pond Science, Wildflower Walk, Nature Journaling, Wetland Biodiversity 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: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult. \*Where noted, additional fees apply.**

## CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).



### LITTLE EXPLORERS

**Mondays—June 9 & 16**

**For ages 2 and 3 from 10am to 11am AND for ages 2 to 5 from 3pm to 4pm**

**For ages 2 to 5.** Join us for explorations of nature as we study plants and animals and observe the colors, shapes, textures, and sounds in the Environmental Center's forest habitat. Please come dressed for the weather; all classes include an outdoor adventure. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult. Paths cannot accommodate strollers. Please be prepared for all weather conditions. Maximum of two children per adult. All sessions are limited to 10 children. **Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).** Fee: \$15 per child per session

### FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

**Thursday—June 12**

**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. **Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).** Fee: \$15 per child per session

### FROG POND CLUB

**Wednesday—June 11**

**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. **Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).** Fee: \$15 per child per session



### GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB

**Tuesdays—June 10, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19; September 9**

**4pm to 5pm**



**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](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).** Fee: \$15 per child per session

# RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ESSEX COUNTY



**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**  
**Cooperative Extension**  
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County offers a variety of programs for our community. To explore the full range of programs, please visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/>.

## ESSEX COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### 4-H YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB

**Saturdays—June 7, 21, 28; July 5, 19, 26; August 2, 16, 23, 30;  
September 6, 27; October 4, 18, 25  
9:30am to 11:30am**



**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 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.

### FARMPRENUERS

#### Summer 2025

4-H, in partnership with the Montclair Community Farms Coalition, is recruiting a team of teenage youth to address food insecurity 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>.

### HORTICULTURE FOR SENIORS

**Mondays—June 16, July 28, August 18  
1pm to 3pm**



**For senior citizens.** Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. Topics include: *Caring for Roses in Brookdale Park* (reserve by June 9); *Hydrangeas: Everything You Need to Know About America's Favorite Shrub* (reserve by July 21); and *All You NEVER Wanted to Know About Ticks* (Reserve by August 11). The program meets in Garibaldi Hall, 621A Eagle Rock Road, Roseland. Advance registration is required one week prior to the program. For reservations and information, contact the Master Gardeners of Essex County Helpline at 973.228.2210 or [mgsex@essex.njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:mgsex@essex.njaes.rutgers.edu). **FREE**

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

**Monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**

**7pm to 9pm**

**For adults and children ages 16 and up.** Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by month. Meet in Garibaldi Hall on the fourth Monday of every month; dates may change, call the Center prior to meeting date to confirm the schedule. For details, please email Bob Amarant at [bobamarant@gmail.com](mailto:bobamarant@gmail.com). To learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. **FREE for NJWA members**





## MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



### ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

**Monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

**7pm to 9pm**

**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](http://www.njbeekeepers.org) or [www.ecbs.squarespace.com](http://www.ecbs.squarespace.com). **FREE for ECBS and NJBA members**

### GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

**Meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

**6pm to 9pm**

**For adults and children ages 12 and up.** Attendees bring trees, pots, and tools for display, discussion, and problem-solving. Each meeting features a special topic related to the training and cultivation of bonsai for everyone from beginners to masters. Check out the Facebook page [greatswampbonsaisociety](https://www.facebook.com/greatswampbonsaisociety) for the latest updates on meeting topics and special events. For more information, email John Michalski at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com). **FREE for GSBS members**



## JUNE 2025 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

**Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).**

### FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

**Tuesday, June 10**

**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.

**Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

### FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

**Thursday, June 12**

**5:30pm to 7:30pm**

**For families.** This rrrribbetting program will take an up-close look at our wetland and pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult.**



### 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAILS / GET OUTDOORS DAY

**Saturday, June 14**

**9am to 1pm (plus limited afternoon activities)**



**For all ages.** Celebrate National Trails Day with the Essex County Parks Department! A variety of hikes for all ages and abilities will be offered in select Essex County Parks locations, led by the Essex County Environmental Center, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and our partner organizations—South Mountain Conservancy, Hilltop Conservancy, Eagle Rock Conservancy with Sierra Club's Essex Chapter, Branch Brook Park Alliance, NYNJ Trail Conference, NJ Native Plant Society, Essex Chapter and the New York City Parks Department's Greenbelt Native Plant Center. For more information and to register, visit [www.essexcountyparks.org](http://www.essexcountyparks.org). **FREE**

## JUNE 2025 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).

### GROWING VEGETABLES USING INTENSIVE GARDENING PRACTICES

Saturday, June 28

10am to 12pm



**For adults.** Join Claudia Urdanivia, Urban Agriculture Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex and Hudson Counties, to learn to make the most of your vegetable garden plot by growing intensively and using best practices such as succession planting, interplanting, and crop rotation. For all garden levels. Meets in Garibaldi Hall. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar). **Fee: \$15 per adult**

## JULY 2025 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

### EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Thursday, July 17

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. **Fee: \$30 per person**



### BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI 2025

Saturday, July 12 to Saturday, July 26

**Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm & Saturdays, July 12, 19 & 26 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 be accommodated when possible. Tent and programming to take place at the Garibaldi Hall side of Environmental Center grounds. *Fees collected go to the Essex County Parks Foundation and directly back to Environmental Center programming.* **Tent Visit Fee: \$8 per person (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**

### THE VERY HUNGRY MONARCH CATERPILLAR

Saturday, July 12

10:30am to 11:30am

**For 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 or by mail. This program is supported by the Essex County Parks Foundation. **Fee: \$15 per person (includes a visit to the live butterfly tent)**



### BUZZ INTO ACTION with INSECT EDUCATION

Saturday, July 19

10:30am to 11:30am



**For 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 or by mail. This program is supported by the Essex County Parks Foundation. **Fee: \$15 per person (includes a visit to the live butterfly tent)**

## JULY 2025 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar).

### BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 26

10:30am to 11:30am



**For families.** 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 or by mail. This program is supported by the Essex County Parks Foundation. **Fee: \$15 per person (includes a visit to the live butterfly tent)**

### INSECTS OF SUMMER NIGHTS

Monday, July 28

5:30pm to 7pm

**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! **Fee: \$15 per person**



## AUGUST 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

### EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Wednesday, August 6

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. **Fee: \$30 per person**



### BUZZFEST

Saturday, August 9

10:15am to 11:15am; 11:30am to 12:30pm; OR 12:45pm to 1:45pm

**For all ages.** Have you ever wondered how honey goes from hive to jar? Come join our local beekeeper and see a real hive! You'll even get a sample taste. Learn about bees, their current challenges, and how we can help. Take home a bee themed craft. Limited space per time slot; must book from one of three time slots **Fee: \$15 per participant (includes a take-away item)**

### FOREST MUSHROOMS 101

Thursday, August 14

5:30pm to 7pm

**For families with 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. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**



### FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Thursday, August 25

6pm to 7:30pm

**For families.** This rrrribbetting program will take an up-close look at our wetland and pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**



## LOOKING AHEAD



### 2025 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

**Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 10**, so grab a camera and visit any 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 on the first Monday of each month at 6pm. Some dates may change. This Board has openings; if you are interested in serving, please email a letter of interest and resume to [tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org](mailto: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 the 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](mailto:mastergardenerec@gmail.com).

## ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

### Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS)

John DeBenedett [johndebenedett@yahoo.com](mailto:johndebenedett@yahoo.com)

### Essex County Environmental Commission

Tara M. Casella [tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org](mailto:tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org) / 973.228.8776

### Great Swamp Bonsai Society

John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

### New Jersey Audubon (NJA)

Scott Barnes 908.396.6506

### New Jersey Woodturners Association (NJWA)

Bob Amarant 908.442.4729

### Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Essex County Rutgers Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H)

Marissa Blodnik 973.353.1337

### Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County Help Line

973.228.2210

### ATTENTION:

*If 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](mailto: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**

## **ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Essex County Environmental Center  
621-B Eagle Rock Avenue  
Roseland, NJ 07068

*Putting Essex County First*