

Essex County Environmental Center

SUMMER 2024

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 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. 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.)

For 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: \$12 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

For 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: \$12 child, \$15 adult or \$40 per family (2 adults, 2 children).** *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.



LITTLE EXPLORERS
Mondays – June 3, 17
For Ages 2 and 3; 10am to 11am
For Ages 2 through 5; 3pm-4pm

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. This is not a drop off class; adults must accompany children. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB



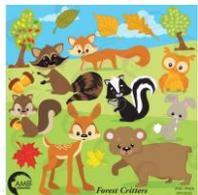
Tuesdays – June 4, 18; July 9, 23; August 6, 20; Sept. 10 **4pm to 5pm**
For ages 5 and up. Together we'll grow food in our garden plot and learn about everything from soil to seeds along the way. Participants will get hands-on experience with planting, harvesting and cooking. Session themes include 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). **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesday, June 12

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. **Fee: \$12 per child per session**



FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursday, June 6

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. **Fee: \$12 per child per session**

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN



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 1, 15, 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 17, 24, 31
September 7, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19
10am to 11am**

For children in grades K to 12. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes from? 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' CONTEST & 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 Saturday, October 5th from 12:00pm-3:30pm. Items will be judged and awarded at the Family Fall Fest on October 6th at the Essex County Environmental Center's Annual Fall Family Festival. For more information, visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/fairs/>.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Get ready for back to school by making new friends and exploring your leadership potential through outdoor adventure activities at various Essex County parks. Youth will be guided through a series of adventure-based learning activities including team building, canoeing, service projects, hiking and visiting Tree Top Adventure Course. Youth will learn valuable leadership and life skills. This program is open to middle-school age youth. For more information, visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/summer-camps/>

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



HORTICULTURE FOR SENIORS

Monday—June 17, July 29, August 19

1pm to 3pm

For senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The monthly topics are *Herbs You Can Grow and Eat* (reserve your seat by June 10); *Butterflies in New Jersey* (reserve your seat by July 22); and *All About Bees* (reserve your seat by August 12). Meet in Garibaldi Hall, 621A Eagle Rock Road, Roseland. Advance registration is required one week prior to the program. For more information or to register, call the Master Gardener Helpline at 973.228.2210. **FREE**

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. 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, email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, 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 2nd 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 and www.ecbs.squarespace.com. **FREE for ECBS and NJBA members**

GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

6pm to 9:30pm

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. **FREE**



JUNE 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



ESSEX COUNTY SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPOUT

Starting Saturday, June 1 at 12PM to Sunday, June 2 at 11am

Activities are designed for children ages 4 through 12. Families with young children seeking a nature-intensive outdoor experience are invited to register for the 9th annual SMR Family Campout, taking place at Summit Field in Essex

County South Mountain Reservation. Co-sponsored by the South Mountain Conservancy & Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, this event features programming from the Essex County Environmental Center, nature games, animal exhibits from Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, guided hikes, kids' exploration and crafts, live music, a campfire with stories, morning yoga and a Sunday breakfast. For more information, please email familycampout@somocon.org. Advanced registration is required. Stay up-to-date by signing up for the South Mountain Conservancy eBulletin at www.somocon.org. **Fee: \$50 per family (up to 5 family members).**

HONEYBEES AND THEIR RELATIVES

Tuesday, June 11

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Join Master Beekeeper Landi Simone and our Essex County Beekeepers for a presentation about honeybees. This informative eco-talk given by Landi, an expert beekeeper, points out the differences between honeybees and other stinging insects, identifies challenges facing bees and beekeepers, and gives an outline of the bees' life cycle and management. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child; \$15 per adult; free for members of the Essex County Beekeepers Association.**



JUNE 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Thursday, June 13

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. This rribbetting 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:**

\$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult



DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, June 18

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. 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 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Friday, July 12

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 2024

Saturday, July 13 to Saturday, July 27

Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm & Saturdays, July 13, 20 & 27 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)**

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

JULY 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



THE VERY HUNGRY MONARCH CATERPILLAR

Saturday, July 13

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, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child; \$15 per adult**

BUZZ INTO ACTION with INSECT EDUCATION

Saturday, July 20

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, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child; \$15 per adult**



BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 27

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, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child; \$15 per adult**



INSECTS OF SUMMER NIGHTS

Monday, July 29

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! Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**



AUGUST 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Wednesday, August 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**

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

AUGUST 2024 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

POLYPORE PAPER

Friday, August 9



For families. We can find, prod, pick, examine and in many cases even eat mushrooms, but for this program we'll be making our own mushroom paper! Together we take a short hike to collect polypores like Turkeytail Mushroom and crust fungi like False Turkey tail found on dead oaks. We'll use blenders to make mushroom pulp and turn it into paper. The cell walls of fungi are made of a biological polymer called chitin, which is similar to cellulose—the key ingredient in plant-based paper. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two**

children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult.

5:30pm to 7pm

BUZZFEST

Saturday, August 10

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. Fee: \$15 per participant (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**



10am, 11am, 12pm or 1pm

GARDEN HERBAL SCRUB-MAKING

Tuesday, August 13



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! **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

5:30pm to 7pm

FOREST MUSHROOMS 101

Thursday, August 15

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. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

5:30pm to 7pm



FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Monday, August 26

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. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

6pm to 7:30pm

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

LOOKING AHEAD



2024 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 11, 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

Adventure Begins at Your Library

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, SWAMP EXPLORATIONS and LENAPE LIVING

Imagine Your Story™ 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.

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS)

John DeBenedett johndebenedett@yahoo.com

Essex County Environmental Commission

Tara M Casella 973.228.8776

Great Swamp Bonsai Society

John Michalski 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

Amy Rowe 973.228.3179

Rutgers Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H)

Marissa Blodnik 973.353.133

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County Help Line

973.228.2210

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

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carlos M. Pomares, President, Commissioner District 5

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Brendan W. Gill, Commissioner-At-Large

Romaine Graham, Commissioner-At-Large

Wayne L. Richardson, Commissioner-At-Large

Patricia Sebold, Commissioner-At-Large

Robert Mercado, Commissioner District 1

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas, Commissioner District 2

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

Putting Essex County First