

Essex County Environmental Center ~ Public Programs

SUMMER 2021



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 small groups and families. All in-person programming requires mask wearing and social distancing.

Thank you for your continued support and participation!

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

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

\$50 per program, 45 minutes

Choose from the Following Virtual Field Trip Topics



Seasonal Discovery Nature Tour / Frog Pond Science
Backyard Birding/ Lenape Learning Area Tour &
Lenape Skills Camping 101 / Fish & Fishing 101/ Passaic
River Studies Mighty Migrations / Butterflies / Wild about
Wildlife

Recycling (*grant funded and free for Essex County
institutions while funds last*)/ Green Building Tour / Honey
Bees & Native Pollinators ...and more!

IN-PERSON (OUTDOOR ONLY) FIELD TRIPS

Organized Group Bookings (Institutions, Scouts, Municipal Recreation Programs, Etc.)

Max 15 participants including group leaders/chaperones. Program length 1 hour. Choose from a variety of topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center. Inquire within by calling the Center at 973-228-8776. Mask wearing and social distancing required. Minimum 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$8 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

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! All programs are held completely outside. Social distancing and mask wearing required. One group at a time with a limit of 6 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).**

SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS



ESSEX COUNTY 4-H—Essex County 4-H invite Essex County youth to participate in programming for all ages. For more information, visit <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>.

4-H YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB

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/.

4H Young Gardeners Club meets on Wednesdays throughout the month of June from 4pm to 5pm, then July through August on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am, and the months of September and October on Wednesdays from 4pm to 5pm. For more information, call 973.353.1337.

PASSAIC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Saturday, June 12 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: \$25 per person**



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

Tuesday, June 15 6pm to 7:30pm

For youth ages 8-17. Take a walking tour of our grounds with a naturalist and enjoy opportunities to take photographs that can be submitted in our Parks Photography Contest! Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child**

SMORES n' MORE

Thursday, June 22 6pm to 7:30pm

For Families. Come out to 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 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**



CAMPING 101

Wednesday, July 7 6:30pm to 8pm



For all ages. Join a staff naturalist for a short walk on the trails to experience forest life at dusk and then setup a campsite. Afterwards, enjoy a campfire, mint tea and some fire-popped organic popcorn. 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**

EVENING PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Wednesday, July 21 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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$15 per person**



SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS



BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI

Saturday, July 17 to Saturday, July 31, 2021

~ Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm
Saturdays, July 17, 24 & 31 from 10:30am to 1:30pm

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)**

THE VERY HUNGRY MONARCH CATERPILLAR

Saturday, July 17, 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. 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**



BUZZ INTO ACTION with INSECT EDUCATION

Saturday, July 24, 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. 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**

BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 31, 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. 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**



EVENING PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Tuesday, 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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$15 per person**

BATS OF NEW JERSEY

Wednesday, August 4 5:30pm to 7pm

For students in grades 1 through 5. Ever wonder what kind of local bats are catching bugs in your backyard? Or where they sleep? Learn from a bat enthusiast about our upside-down friends, play the role of a bat biologist in a simulated study and take home plans to build a bat house! Advanced registration and payment are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child**



SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS

BUZZFEST

Saturday, August 7 10:00am to 11am, 11:30am to 12:30pm, or 1pm to 2pm



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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. Limited space per time slot; choose to book from one of three time slots. **Fee: \$15 per participant (includes a take-away item per paid participant)**

FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

Monday, August 9 5:15pm to 7:15pm



adult

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

NIGHT HIKE

Tuesday, August 10 6:30pm to 8pm

All ages are welcome. First, we'll make our own natural insect repellent and then we'll wander in our wooded wetland to look for 'whoooo' might be awake as the sun goes down. 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**



WALTER KIDDIE DINOSAUR PARK FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, August 17 5:15pm to 7:15pm



For adults and children ages 7 and up. Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1.5 miles 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: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

LOOKING AHEAD

2021 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 8, 2021, so grab a camera and visit an Essex County Park! **NEW PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY ADDED.** 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



OTHER OFFERINGS

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

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 Ninth grade excited and engaged in environmental science related outdoor activities.

BOX THEMES/GRADE LEVEL

\$40 per box

Butterfly Safari.....	Pre-K-4 th
Flying Friends (Birds).....	Pre-K-4 th
Buzz Box (Pollinator Insects and Gardening).....	PreK-4 th
Hop, Walk & Slither!.....	1 st -2 nd
Junior Naturalist.....	3 rd -4 th
Wilderness Skills.....	5 th -9 th

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 Pick-up, please call 973.228.8776 upon arrival.

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 mastergardener@essexcountynj.org.

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon (NJA) – Kelly Wenzel 908.396.6506

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 973.353.1337

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 (973.228.8776) at your earliest convenience 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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COUNTY OF ESSEX

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

973.228.8776 / www.essexcountyparks.org