



Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks,
Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

JANUARY 2019

ISSUE 12

Upcoming:

Approach of Anniversary

As the 125th anniversary of the Essex County Park System approaches, the Parks Archives is undertaking a series of newsletters and Facebook posts to tell the park system's story.

News:

We're on Facebook!

Follow us on Facebook over the next two years as we document the history of the very first county park system. In addition to recounting the process leading up to its establishment, we plan to highlight many other events throughout the history of the ECPS.

Look up the Archives of the Essex County Park System on Facebook and be sure to like the page!



Essex County Executive
Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

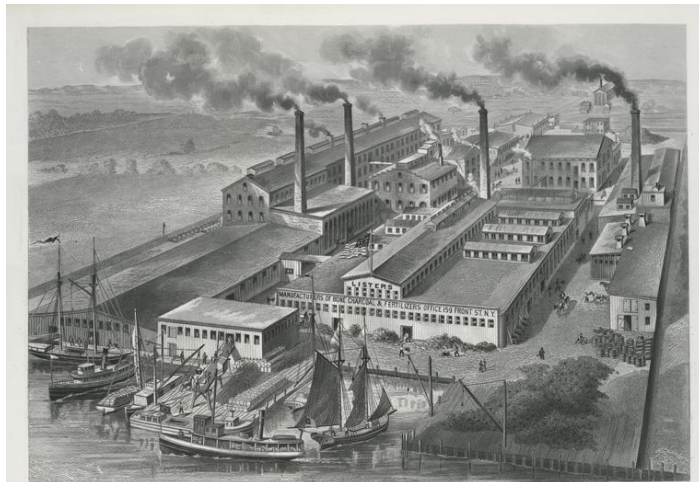
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Putting Essex County First

Businessmen Led Effort to Create Park System

Newark in the 19th Century was a city experiencing great economic growth and industrialization. Factories and quarries became a defining feature of the Essex County landscape. With this manufacturing boom, the population expanded rapidly. Some, seeing the toll this was taking on the public's access to fresh air and recreation, advocated for the creation of parks. There were less than 25 acres of parkland in the entire county.

Newark's first attempt at forming a commission for the creation of parks in 1867 failed and disbanded in 1871. But interest remained. The Newark Board of Trade formed a park committee to discuss the idea. It was not until a meeting of the Board of Trade of the Oranges on January 3, 1894 that the notion of a county-wide system of parks took hold.



Source: New York
Public Library

Passaic Agricultural Chemical Works

LIVERY BROTHERS, PROPRIETORS, NEWARK, N.J.

This meeting was instrumental in two ways. First, it brought the Orange and Newark Boards of Trade together on the "greater park system" idea. Second, the Newark Board was represented by newspaperman William A. Ure, who would be influential in stirring public interest in the parks concept. Follow us at our Facebook page to see how these two factors were crucial in the creation of the Essex County Park System!