



Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

APRIL 2019

ISSUE 15

Upcoming:

Workshops for Non-Profits

Free workshop are being offered on grant writing basics (Mon, May 6) and accessibility planning (Mon, May 20) for history non-profits and local government units. The free workshops, sponsored by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs, will be held at the Turtle Back Zoo Education Center from 3-5 pm. Call 973-735-6230 for details and to register.

News:

Presentations Available

In February, Parks Archivist, Kathy Kauh, gave a talk at the Bloomfield Public Library on the beginnings of the Essex County Park System titled "Early Innovation in a Public Space." If your organization would like to schedule a presentation on the Essex County Park System as we approach its 125th anniversary, please contact us.

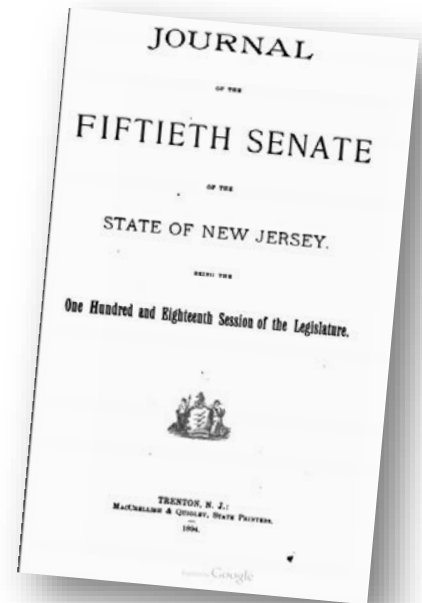


Essex County Executive
Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

115 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104
www.essex-countynj.org
973-735-6231

Joint Committee Acts Quickly

One hundred twenty-five years ago, on April 14, 1894, a joint meeting of the Park Committee of the Newark Board of Trade and representatives of the Orange Board of Trade took up the subject of a plan for a county-wide park system. They appointed Frederick W. Kelsey and A.Q. Keasbey to prepare a bill to be introduced to the state legislature. The bill would authorize a five member, non-partisan, special commission for Essex County, to devise a scheme for a countywide system of parks.



Frederick W. Kelsey

Most of the members of the joint committee preferred the commission be permanent in order to "accomplish permanent benefit." However, Keasbey prevailed with his argument that it was inconsistent to have legislation for a permanent board to perform a temporary act, that of mapping out and reporting on a plan for the park system. The proposed bill was presented to the joint committee on April 25, 1894, unanimously approved, and sent on to Senator George W. Ketcham in Trenton, who had previously expressed his support of the idea.

Putting Essex County First