

Essex County Environmental Center

SUMMER 2022

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.

Essex County Environmental Center offers a variety of seasonal environmental education programs for individuals, groups and families. While currently, face masks/coverings are no longer required in our facility and on our grounds, we respect the individual choices 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
Honey Bees & 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.)

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: \$8 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

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*, Dinosaur Park Visits* 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: \$10 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

YOUTH GARDEN CLUB

Tuesdays, June through September

4pm to 5pm

Dates: June 7, 21; July 12, 19; August 2; Sept. 6, 20



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). Advanced registration required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10/child/session**



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 4, 18, 25; July 16, 23, 30; August 6, 20, 27

10am to 11am

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 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' 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 Friday, September 23rd from 3:30-5pm or Saturday, September 24th from 9-am. Items will be judged and awarded the afternoon of September 24th at the Essex County Environmental Center's Annual Fall Family Festival. For more information, visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/fairs/>.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Monthly on the 4th Monday

7pm to 9:30pm

For all ages. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. For details, please email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, to learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall on the fourth Monday of every month. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult; free for NJWA members**



MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

7pm to 9 pm

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. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult, free for ECBS and NJBA members**



JUNE 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



SATURDAY MORNING OUTDOOR YOGA

Saturdays—June 11, 18 & 25

10am to 11am

Ages 16 and older. All levels welcome. Experience the joy of practicing yoga in the great outdoors on Essex County Environmental Center's deck. In this class, you will be guided through a sequence of movements designed to stretch and strengthen the body. Yoga postures will be linked to the breath in a continual flow, with attention paid to physical alignment. Dress comfortably and please bring your own mat. During inclement weather, class will be moved indoors. Advance registration, pre-payment and a minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **No refunds for missed classes; class CREDIT ONLY issued on a case-by-case basis. Fee: \$15 class, \$10 for those 65 and older**

Yoga instructor Julia Lawlor received her RYT-250 yoga teaching certificate at Jaipure Yoga in Montclair in 2019. She has also had training in yoga for mental health, trauma and addiction, and has taught classes for women with breast cancer at Englewood Hospital and women in recovery at a drug rehab center in Newark. She is eager to share with others the benefits that she's enjoyed in the regular practice of yoga.



EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Monday, June 6

6pm to 8pm

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: \$20 per person**

COMMUNITY COMPOST BIN AND RAIN BARREL SALE

Pick-up on Sunday, June 12

10am to 2pm

Backyard Composting is an excellent way to reduce trash going to landfills and allows you to make your own compost! Rain Barrels reduce water costs, keeps our water clean and provides a natural source of water for plants and gardens all while reducing the number of pollutants that enter our storm drains. Orders must be placed by June 10th. Pick-up at Garibaldi Hall. For more information and for purchasing options, please visit <https://essex.compostersale.com/>.



JUNE 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Tuesday, June 14

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; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

6pm to 7:30pm



DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, June 22

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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE

Monday, June 27

6pm to 7pm

For children ages 6-12. Test your wildlife wisdom in a hands-on exploration as you play games of inquiry to examine a variety of skulls, tracks, furs, feathers and scat! Compare and contrast form and function and discuss with a naturalist. All participants make and take a clay animal track. 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**



JULY 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SATURDAY MORNING OUTDOOR YOGA

Saturdays—July 9, 16, 23 & 30

10am to 11am



Age 16 and older. All levels welcome. Experience the joy of practicing yoga in the great outdoors on Essex County Environmental Center's deck. In this class, you will be guided through a sequence of movements designed to stretch and strengthen the body. Yoga postures will be linked to the breath in a continual flow, with attention paid to physical alignment. Dress comfortably and please bring your own mat. During inclement weather, class will be moved indoors. Advance registration, pre-payment and a minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **No refunds for missed classes; class CREDIT ONLY issued on a case-by-case basis. Fee: \$15 class, \$10 for those 65 and older**

Yoga instructor Julia Lawlor received her RYT-250 yoga teaching certificate at Jaipure Yoga in Montclair in 2019. She has also had training in yoga for mental health, trauma and addiction, and has taught classes for women with breast cancer at Englewood Hospital and women in recovery at a drug rehab center in Newark. She is eager to share with others the benefits that she's enjoyed in the regular practice of yoga.

JULY 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Wednesday, July 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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$20 per person**



BIKE RIGHT – LEARN TO RIDE

Thursday, July 14

10:30am to 12:30pm

For children ages 5 and older. Make learning to ride a bike easier for your child with TransOptions' Bike Right Learn to Ride class. Bike Right Learn to Ride will teach children the safe, easy and effective way to learn to ride. Using this "balance first" method, parents help get their children rolling while the child does most of the work. Participants learn the basics of balancing, starting, stopping, and steering a bike, as well as proper helmet fit and adjustment. Please bring a helmet and a bike (without training wheels) in good working order. In the event of rain, this program will not be rescheduled. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child**



BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI

Saturday, July 16 to Saturday, July 30, 2022

Tent Hours ~ Monday through Friday from 12pm to 3pm & Saturdays, July 16, 23 & 30 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)**



EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Wednesday, July 20

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 ages 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: \$20 per person**



THE VERY HUNGRY MONARCH CATERPILLAR

Saturday, July 16

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. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. 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**



JULY 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

BUZZ INTO ACTION with INSECT EDUCATION



Saturday, July 23

10:30am to 11:30am

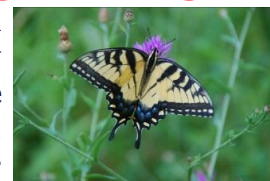
Ages 5 and up. Love insects? Join us for a family-fun and hands-on presentation all about bugs n' butterflies. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 30

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. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. 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**



FROG POND ADVENTURE

Monday, July 25

6pm to 7:30pm



For families. This rrrribbetting program will take an up-close look at our pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. 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**

AUGUST 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Tuesday, August 2

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: \$20 per person**

PLASTER WILDLIFE TRACKING

Saturday, August 6

12pm to 1:30pm

For families with young children ages 6 and up. Predict what tracks you might find in our wooded wetland habitat and go search the forest and river edge. We'll discover hooved, clawed and webbed animal feet and see how wildlife is especially adapted to the terrain. All participants make and take a plaster animal track. 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**



AUGUST 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SATURDAY MORNING OUTDOOR YOGA—August 6

10am to 11am



Age 16 and older. All levels welcome. Experience the joy of practicing yoga in the great outdoors on Essex County Environmental Center's deck. In this class, you will be guided through a sequence of movements designed to stretch and strengthen the body. Yoga postures will be linked to the breath in a continual flow, with attention paid to physical alignment. Dress comfortably and please bring your own mat. During inclement weather, class will be moved indoors. Advance registration, pre-payment and a minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **No refunds for missed classes; class CREDIT ONLY issued on a case-by-case basis. Fee: \$15 class, \$10 for those 65 and older**

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DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, August 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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

BUZZFEST

Saturday, August 13

10am, 11am, 12pm, or 1pm

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. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **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)**



FINDING BIGFOOT

Wednesday, August 17

5:30pm to 7pm

For families with young children ages 5 and up. Let's have some forest fun and uncover the mysteries of Bigfoot! Maybe he has been hiding in our environmental center habitat all along. Let's check the trail camera, examine fresh tracks and sign, look for sleeping nests, scratching posts and see what we can uncover on this genuine scientific field study. 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**



AUGUST 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

BIKE RIGHT – LEARN TO RIDE

Saturday, August 20

10:30am to 12:30pm



For children ages 5 and older. Make learning to ride a bike easier for your child with TransOptions' Bike Right Learn to Ride class. Bike Right Learn to Ride will teach children the safe, easy and effective way to learn to ride. Using this "balance first" method, parents help get their children rolling while the child does most of the work. Participants learn the basics of balancing, starting, stopping, and steering a bike, as well as proper helmet fit and adjustment. Please bring a helmet and a bike (without training wheels) in good working order. In the event of rain, this program will not be rescheduled. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child**

FOREST MUSHROOMS 101

Wednesday, August 31

5:30pm to 7pm

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: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



LOOKING AHEAD



2022 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 7, 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 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 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 mastergardenerec@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS



SUMMER LIBRARY OUTREACH PROGRAMS Oceans of Possibility

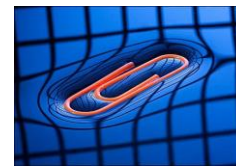
An Essex County Environmental Center Staff Naturalist will travel to your library!

Maximum of 20 participants per class.

Program Length: 1-hour Fee: \$150 (includes materials fee)

\$25 Travel fee for neighboring counties.

FOR AGES 5 - 10 YEARS



TOPICS: AMAZING WATER/WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE/PREDATORS AND PREY

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.

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

New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) – 908-396-7409

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) – John DeBenedett, johndebenedett@yahoo.com

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 (NJW) – Bob Amarant, 908.442.4729

Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) – Marissa Blodnik, 973.353.1337

Essex County Environmental Commission- Tara M Casella, 973-228-8776

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

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Tyshammie L. Cooper, Commissioner District 3

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Putting Essex County First