Welcome to Duke Island Park

MISSION STATEMENT

The Somerset County Park Commission
is committed to excellence in promoting
stewardship of land and resources,
providing outstanding recreation opportunities
and leisure services, and fostering
an environment which is service oriented
and responsive to public needs.

Somerset County Park Commission
F.O. Box 5327, North Branch, NJ 08876
www.somersetcountyparks.org
908 722-1200

Park Information
Event Hotline Ext. 5351
Lord Stirling Park
Environmental Education Center Ext. 5002
Lord Stirling Stable Ext. 5010
North Branch Park/Headquarters Ext. 5200
Park Rangers (Cell) 908 285-3800
Park Rangers (Office) Ext. 5121

Field Playability
Colonial Park & Howe Athletic Complex Ext. 5355
Duke Island Park Ext. 5354
Mountain View Park Ext. 5358
North Branch Park Ext. 5353
Quail Brook Park Ext. 5356
Torpey Athletic Complex Ext. 5352

Golf Courses
Golf Office/Information Ext. 5428
Green Knoll Ext. 5005
Neshanic Valley Clubhouse Ext. 5006
Neshanic Valley Learning Center Ext. 5020
Quail Brook Ext. 5004
Spooky Brook Ext. 5003
Warrenbrook Ext. 5016

Recreation
Colonial Park Putting Course/Paddle Boats Ext. 5023
Colonial Park & Green Knoll Tennis Ext. 5021
Permits Ext. 5225
Therapeutic Recreation 908 526-5650
Warrenbrook Pool Ext. 5018

Gardens
Buck Garden General Info Ext. 5011
Buck Garden Photo Permits Ext. 5621
Colonial Park Gardens General Info Ext. 5008
Colonial Park Gardens Photo Permits Ext. 5721

Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may use the Relay Service at 711.
Duke Island Park

Duke Island Park, located in Bridgewater Township, is a site of rich natural beauty which offers varied recreational experiences. Truly an “island” park, it is traversed by the historic Raritan Power Canal. The Somerset County Park Commission acquired this 339-acre site in 1958, and has developed it to provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities and special events for park visitors.

Picnic Areas

Duke Island Park offers five picnic areas, available by reservation for groups ranging from 20-150 people. Additional picnic tables line the picturesque river trail, and are available on a casual basis. Among these is a fully accessible area, with a paved path, concrete patio, and tables which accommodate wheelchair seating.

Playground

A playground is located in the park adjacent to play and picnic areas. It features barrier-free equipment.

Walking and Bike Trails

Three and a half miles of picturesque trails await walkers, joggers, and bikers along both the canal and the Raritan River in Duke Island Park. The section located by the river is paved for accessibility.

Athletics and Lifetime Sport Opportunities

A softball field is available by permit for leagues and tournaments. When not reserved for this use, the field is available for those who wish to practice or have a friendly game. In the winter, supervised ice skating and general cross-country skiing are offered when weather permits. The Raritan River is stocked by the New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife, and offers prime fishing locations for beginner and expert anglers. Hikers, walkers, and birdwatchers may take advantage of the trails which follow along the river and pass through the extensive wooded areas.

Summer Concert Series in the Park

It would not be summer without music in the park! Duke Island Park plays host to the Summer Concert Series of free performances each Sunday evening from the end of June through August. Music lovers of all ages bring their lawn chairs and picnic baskets and enjoy a variety of lively sounds, from Motown and big band to “oldies” and the blues.

Visitors Center

The Visitors Center is located near the main parking area, and houses the Park Ranger office and restroom facilities. Rangers are available for information on recreation activities, and to provide brochures and maps of the Park Commission facilities. The rangers also provide a variety of programs.

Natural History

Duke Island Park is a sanctuary for many of the plants and animals that are characteristic of the region. Between the Raritan River and the canal, an open deciduous forest provides habitat for several species of owls and many deer and small animals. In the spring and fall, migrating warblers and many other species of songbirds draw birdwatchers to the park. On warm days, painted turtles can be seen sunning themselves on the logs in the canal. Waterfowl, hawks, and an occasional osprey soar above the sycamores and hemlocks which line the banks of the Raritan River. Walkers seek solitude on the woodland trails, and wildflower lovers enjoy a rich variety of native plant species, especially the Virginia Bluebells which carpet the forest floor in April.

Protect Your Parks

Please follow the posted park regulations so that everyone may enjoy the park. Leave flowers, plants, animals, and other features as you found them. Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages is not permitted. Pets must be on leashes. The park is open each day from dawn until dusk, unless otherwise posted. Park Rangers are available to assist you.

Somerset County Park Commission welcomes everyone to participate in its programs and facilities regardless of race, color, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or religious or political affiliation.