



Somerset County Park Commission

PO Box 5327, North Branch, NJ 08876
www.somersetcountyparks.org

Parks

Colonial Park Rangers	732 873-2695
Duke Island Park Rangers	908 722-7779
Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park	908 766-2489
Lord Stirling Stable	908 766-5955
North Branch/Headquarters	908 722-1200

Golf Courses

Green Knoll	908 722-1301
Green Knoll Pitch & Putt	908 722-1302
Neshanic Valley	908 369-8200
Quail Brook	732 560-9528
Spooky Brook	732 873-2242
Warrenbrook	908 754-8402
Tee Time Reservation Service	908 231-1122

Recreation

Colonial Park Putting Course and Paddle Boats	732 873-8585
Colonial Park Tennis	732 873-2695
Green Knoll Tennis	908 722-1303
Picnic & Athletic Field Permits	908 722-1200 ext. 225
Therapeutic Recreation	908 526-5650
Warrenbrook Pool	908 754-8404

Gardens

Buck Garden & Wedding Photos	908 234-2677
Rose Garden & Wedding Photos	732 873-2459
Perennial Garden/Arboretum	732 873-2459

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



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**

- Colonial Park • Duke Island Park • North Branch Park • Lord Stirling Park
- Green Knoll Golf Course & Tennis Center • Quail Brook Golf Course
- Spooky Brook Golf Course • Warrenbrook Golf Course & Park • Woodfern Farm
- Sourland Mountain Preserve • Washington Valley Park • Leonard J. Buck Garden
- Watchung Mountain Greenway • Little Brook Sanctuary • South Branch Reserve
- Neshanic Valley Golf Course • North Branch Greenway Park
- Raritan River Greenway • East County Reserve • Chipman Tract
- Ralph T. Reeve Cultural Center • Torpey Athletic Complex



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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 of 50 people or more. A larger picnic area, which features a pavilion and a softball field, can accommodate groups up to 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 innovative, barrier-free equipment.

Walking and Bike Trails

Two 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



Two softball fields are available by permit for leagues and tournaments. When not reserved for this use, the fields are 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 brochures and maps of the Park Commission facilities and programs are also available.



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 song birds 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.

