



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
Natirar Rangers	908 781-2560
North Branch/Headquarters	908 722-1200
Ranger Headquarters	908 231-0802

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 Natirar

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.*



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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 • Natirar
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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Natirar

Natirar is a 411-acre property located in the scenic hills of Somerset County within the municipalities of Peapack/Gladstone, Far Hills, and Bedminster. There are 247



acres located in Peapack/Gladstone, 124 acres in Far Hills, and 40 acres in Bedminster. Formerly the estate of Kate Macy Ladd and Walter Graeme Ladd, the property is rich in culture and history. The property features extensive areas of lawn and woodland, river access, and scenic views. The property also contains historic farm buildings and various other residential structures and out-buildings dating from the mid-18th through mid-19th centuries. The North Branch of the Raritan River and the Peapack Brook traverse the property. Natirar presents a unique opportunity for a single property to preserve, showcase, and interpret many aspects of the area's rich architectural, cultural, historic, and archaeological heritage.

History



Walter Graeme Ladd and his wife, Catherine ("Kate") Everit Macy Ladd, began to acquire land in what are now Peapack-Gladstone, Far Hills, and Bedminster in

April 1905. Eventually, the Ladds created one of the largest estates in the area, encompassing some 1,000 acres stretching from what is now Route 206 on the west, across the North Branch of the Raritan River on the east, and from Highland Avenue in Peapack on the north, to what is now Route 202 on the south. They named their estate "Natirar," an anagram for the Raritan River that meanders for two miles through the property.

The Ladds' brick 40-room Tudor-style mansion, with limestone trim and slate roof, extensive oak paneling, and molded plaster ceilings, was completed in 1912.

The main residence, several of the principal out-buildings, and the overall lay-out and landscape of the estate were designed by Guy Lowell, a Boston-born architect who is most famous for his design of two public buildings; the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (plus later additions) and the New York County Court House on Foley Square in Manhattan.

Beginning in 1908, Mrs. Ladd provided a convalescent facility on the Natirar estate, originally at "Maple Cottage;" a large residence that once stood along Peapack Road where *"deserving gentlewomen who are compelled to depend upon their own exertions for support shall be entertained, without charge, for periods of time while convalescing from illness, recuperating from impaired health, or otherwise in need of rest."*



Following Mrs. Ladd's death, title to Natirar was conveyed to the Kate Macy Ladd Fund and the convalescent facility was relocated from "Maple Cottage" to the renovated main residence, where it operated until 1983, the 50th anniversary of her husband's death. That year, in accordance with the provisions of Mr. Ladd's will, the property was sold and was purchased by Hassan II, the King of Morocco. King Hassan died in 1999 and Natirar was inherited by his son, Mohammed VI. In 2003, Somerset County purchased the estate from Mohammed VI. Soon after, Somerset County leased the mansion and associated outbuildings for the development of a world class spa/retreat facility.

Watershed Protection



Natirar offers substantial and unique opportunities unavailable elsewhere within the watershed on a property under single ownership. Preservation of the tract in its current condition will greatly enhance the sustainability

of the natural system of the North Branch of the Raritan River and the Peapack Brook. Both the quantity and quality of a vital drinking water supply will be protected and improved. The ecological integrity of one of Somerset County's major waterways will be safeguarded. Critical habitats in the form of forests and wetlands will be protected. Substantial areas of critical floodplain will be preserved safeguarding downstream residents from future flooding.

Walking Trail

The picturesque 1.3 mile Great Meadow Trail, and the 1.0 mile Upper Field Nature Trail await park visitors as they pass along the scenic North Branch of the Raritan River corridor, through beautiful wooded areas and across fields and meadows. The splendor of the property is ever present while you walk, jog, bike, or horseback ride along these magnificent trails.



Protect Your Parks



Please follow the posted park regulations and obey all other signage within the park 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 at all times. 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.