North Branch Park

North Branch Park, located in Bridgewater Township, is the home of the Somerset County Park Commission administrative offices and Therapeutic Recreation Department. This 185 acre park, acquired in 1961, offers nearly a mile of frontage along the North Branch of the Raritan River. In addition to being the host location of the annual 4H Fair, the park is used extensively for major exhibits, shows, and fairs.

Picnic Areas

North Branch Park offers two picnic areas, available by reservation for corporations and family groups of 50 people or more. Brook Grove, located near one of the softball fields, can accommodate 150 people, and has a children’s playground nearby. River Grove, adjacent to a large playing field, can be reserved for groups up to 100 people. A pavilion is located on the fairgrounds, and may be reserved for group use. Picnic tables are located along the river, and are available on a casual basis.

Therapeutic Recreation

North Branch Park is also home to Therapeutic Recreation which provides year-round activities and events for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The goal of the Therapeutic Recreation program is to promote an active leisure lifestyle that improves physical, cognitive, emotional, and social skill functioning and enhances participants’ abilities, health, and wellness through the provision of recreation programs.

Athletics and Lifetime Sport Opportunities

The North Branch of the Raritan River offers prime fishing locations, and is stocked each year by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Two softball fields are available for rental for leagues, tournaments or pick-up games. The park also has a soccer field and a flying field for model aircraft enthusiasts. Model rocket hobbies may launch their crafts on a section of the park grounds dedicated for their use. Two horse show rings are used for fairs, shows, and training.

Special Events

North Branch Park is home to several county-wide special events. Each Fourth of July, the Somerset County Park Commission sponsors the Independence Day Family Festival, with live musical entertainment, children’s activities, historical reenactments, and a grand fireworks finale. In August, North Branch Park hosts the Somerset County 4H Fair. Areas of the park are also rented to special groups wishing to host events such as dog shows, circuses, and bicycle road races.

Natural History

North Branch Park lies within the floodplain of the North Branch of the Raritan River. Although much of the park area is characterized by broad grass lawns, wildflowers and native shrubs are found in great numbers near the picnic areas and wooded portions of the park. Great Blue Heron, egret, and waterfowl can be seen along the river, and many birds thrive in the forested areas that buffer the river channel. Walkers, bikers, and bird-watchers co-exist with the fishermen and photographers who enjoy the natural beauty of North Branch Park.

Greenway Park

Greenway Park is a nine acre tract also located on Milltown Road in Bridgewater. A lighted in-line skating rink, a basketball court, and an open play field are available. Access to fishing locations on the North Branch of the Raritan River is provided.

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.