



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 • East County Park
Green Knoll Golf Course & Tennis Center • Leonard J. Buck Garden
Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center and Stable
Little Brook Sanctuary • Natirar Park • Neshanic Valley Golf Course
North Branch Greenway Park • North Branch Park • Mountain View Park
Quail Brook Golf Course • Ralph T. Reeve Cultural Center
Raritan River Greenway • Skillman Park • Sourland Mountain Preserve
South Branch Greenway • Spooky Brook Golf Course
Torpey Athletic Complex • Warrenbrook Golf Course & Pool
Washington Rock Park • Washington Valley Park

Somerset County Park Commission

P.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.



Welcome to Natirar Park



**Somerset County
Park Commission**



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 Trails

The picturesque 1.3 mile Great Meadow Trail, the 1.0 mile Upper Field Nature Trail, and the 1.0 mile Lower 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 leashed 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.