



## 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 • 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

## Somerset County Park Commission

PO Box 5327, North Branch, NJ 08876

[www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org)

### Parks

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Colonial Park Rangers                                   | 732 873-2695 |
| Duke Island Park Rangers                                | 908 722-7779 |
| Environmental Education Center<br>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 |

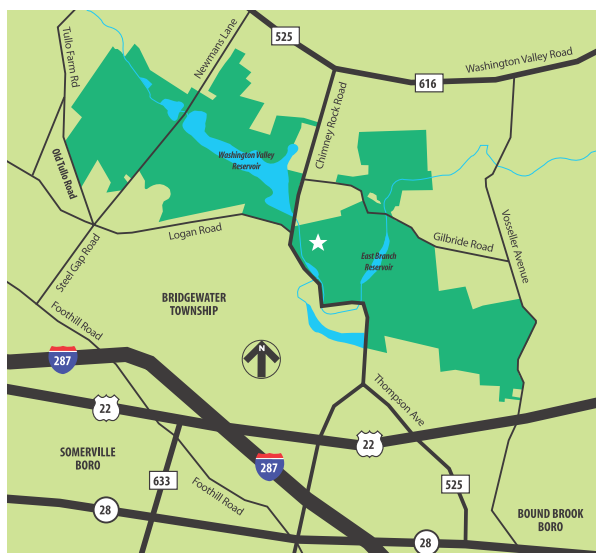
### Recreation

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 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 Washington Valley Park



**Somerset County  
Park Commission**

## Washington Valley Park



Washington Valley Park consists of approximately 715 acres that lie along the First Watchung Ridge in Bridgewater Township. The park contains the former

Bound Brook Elizabethtown Reservoir that will become the focal point of the park along a network of trails.

The park is located between the first and second Watchung Mountains at the geographic center of Somerset County. It consists of Pine and Hemlock forests, open freshwater wetland marshes, impressive rock outcroppings, numerous historic features and a 21-acre reservoir.

Washington Valley Park offers several recreational opportunities in an undisturbed natural setting, including hiking, mountain biking, and hawk watching.



The more than seven miles of trails are great for hiking, and some of the best mountain biking in the state.



Washington Valley Park's Hawk Watch Area is one of the East Coast's premier locations to watch thousands of raptors migrate south every autumn. And, if fishing is what you like, the reservoir is where you need to be. This body of water offers a multitude of fishing opportunities.

Whether you are a person seeking solitude, or someone who is bringing their family for a day of fun, Washington Valley Park has something for the outdoors person in all of us. The park can be accessed from Vosseller Avenue at Millers Lane, and also at Newmans Lane.

## Hawk Watch Area

From August through November, the Washington Valley Park Hawk Watch Area is host to several hundred hawkwatchers from all over the northeastern United States. They come to witness the thousands of hawks, falcons, and eagles flying overhead, sometimes just over the treetops. Armed with binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras, the hawkwatchers wait patiently while keeping an eye in the sky. They wait to both count and identify the onslaught of raptors making their journey south to far away places in Central and South America. Endangered and threatened birds like Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, and Bald Eagles are some of the most noteworthy of the birds soaring above the area, especially when weather conditions are just right.



## Reservoir



Washington Valley Park Reservoir is a 21-acre impoundment located in Bridgewater Township. The impoundment lies within the Lower-Raritan River drainage,

and was created in the 1920's by the damming of the West Branch of Middle Brook for water supply to the Bound Brook area. Four small, unnamed tributaries also feed the impoundment. Located at the east end of the reservoir, near the dam, the maximum depth of this body of water is 22 feet.

Access to the reservoir can be gained by parking in the Newman's Lane parking lot. The reservoir does not have a boat ramp. There are, however, extensive trails around the perimeter of the reservoir for shoreline fishing.

The reservoir, with its steeply sloped banks, offers the angler several species of fish including Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Yellow Perch. All that is needed is a New Jersey fishing license, which can be purchased at a nearby sporting goods store.

## 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.

## Trail Tips

- Know your physical condition.
- Choose an appropriate trail for your ability before you begin your trip.
- Share the trail. Bikes always yield to others. Hikers yield to equestrians.
- Leave no trace. Please carry out your trash.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Be courteous and alert.
- Avoid using trails during wet conditions.
- Follow all park rules and regulations.
- Be responsible.

Thank you.