



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

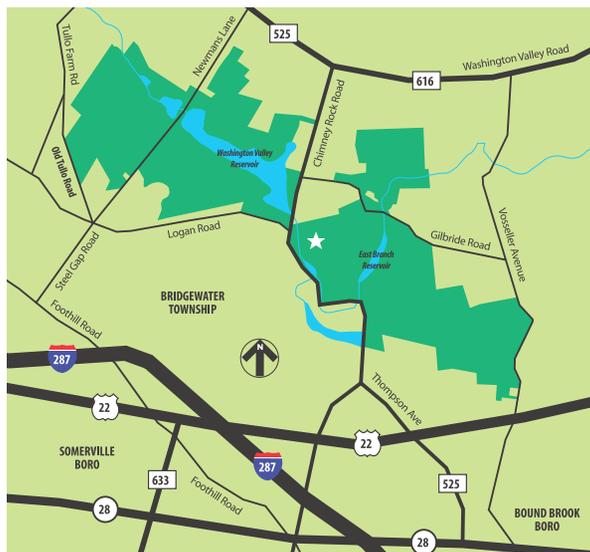
Recreation

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 Washington Valley 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 • 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**

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.