

OTHER

Requested Group Hikes

Naturalist-led hikes in Mercer County parks are available for groups. Hikes feature current natural events such as blooming wildflowers, and how organisms prepare for winter. During the hike the group will seek common insects and birds, and animal tracks and signs. To request a group hike at a County park, email jlear@mercercounty.org.

Information on School Trips

Currently, the Park Commission does not offer formal nature field trips for school groups. Look for our school field trip brochure beginning this summer for the 2009-2010 school year. However, if a classroom is interested in a nature walk with the County Naturalist, please contact the Mercer County Park Commission. These school group nature walks can be hosted at any Mercer County Park and will run from 60 to 90 minutes. To request a school group walk, email jlear@mercercounty.org.



The Mercer County Park Commission offers over 5,300 acres of parkland and open space for park enthusiasts. Regardless of your age, level of fitness or ability, interest in passive or active recreation or where you call home, Mercer County truly offers something for everyone.

PARKS

- Baldpate Mountain
- Curlis Lake Woods
- Herrontown Woods Arboretum
- Mercer County Park
- Mercer County Park Northwest
- Millyard Park
- John A. Roebling Park
- Rosedale Park
- South River Walk Park



McDade Administration Building
640 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
Phone: 609-989-6540
Fax: 609-989-8174

Park Commission Website:
<http://nj.gov/counties/mercer/commissions/park/>
(click on the Nature Programs & Activities link)
E-mail: jlear@mercercounty.org

NATURE PROGRAMS &

Mercer County Park Commission

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
Kevin B. Bannon, Executive Director, MCPC
Andrew R. Worek, President, MCPC



Mercer County's parks are alive with native plants and wildlife, which makes them the perfect setting to experience the great outdoors. This season, the Mercer County Park Commission is hosting nature programs for adults, children and families. These offerings vary from brisk trail hikes at Baldpate Mountain, to pond explorations and discovery oriented preschool programs.

This brochure lists the types of nature activities the Park Commission offers. For more information or to register for a program, visit our website: <http://nj.gov/counties/mercer/commissions/park/>
(click on the Nature Programs & Activities link)

NATURE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES IN MERCER COUNTY PARKS



PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Marsh Minnows: A parent and child nature program

Spending time in nature fuels a child's imagination. Parents, why not join in the experience? With the guidance of Mercer County's Naturalist, you and your child will search for multi-legged critters, dissect a plant or flower, and explore the marsh for birds and frogs. Through hands-on nature explorations, children develop their attention to detail as they use their senses to discover the outdoors. Programs include a group story or experiment, an outdoor hike and a craft. Grow to appreciate nature with your little one.

At the Marsh Nature Center

For children ages 3–5 and their parent



Please note: **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.** The program registration form can be found on the Park Commission Website.

YOUTH NATURE ACTIVITIES

Baldpate Birders: Young Birders Club

Baldpate Mountain has been identified as an "Important Bird Area". Get hooked on birding in a park rich with bird life. During these hikes we'll have a chance to view a great diversity of species from our common chickadees to elusive ground-nesting warblers.

In addition to identifying birds, we'll develop a better understanding of their behavior and importance to the environment. Young birders will take part in conservation projects for Mercer County Parks to ensure the presence of birds in the future.

Sunday mornings at Baldpate Mountain
For ages 11 – 14 years



ADULT NATURE ACTIVITIES

Early Birds

Join us for a casual hike, with your binoculars of course. These early a.m. walks are dedicated to spotting our fine feathered friends. Never picked up a pair of binoculars before? No problem, all abilities of birders are welcome.

Monday mornings at Mercer County Parks
For adults, Free

Tuesday Trail Treks

Become inspired by nature, get motivated to exercise, or join us to learn some new hiking trails. Mercer County is bursting with beautiful parkland and its here for your enjoyment. Take in fresh air, energize your body and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature with Mercer County's Naturalist on Tuesday morning treks. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle.

Tuesday mornings at Mercer County Parks
For adults, Free

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Sunday Strolls

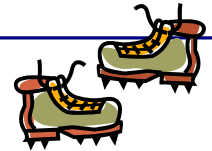
Put down the newspaper and lace up yours and your little one's sneakers. Spend time as a family and grow closer while playing in nature. Each month's relaxed, Sunday-styled program will send your family along the trail in search of different signs of nature.

Sunday mornings at Mercer County Parks
For families

Explore Your Parks

Get out of the house and go explore! This NEW Sunday afternoon program will unite you and other outdoor enthusiasts for a fun, brisk hike. Each Sunday we'll be on the trails of a different Mercer County Park. These hikes are a great alternative if you can't make our Tuesday Trail Treks.

Sunday afternoons at Mercer County Parks
For adults, Free



Additional family programs are offered on Sundays and some Wednesdays. Please visit our website for details.

To see the full nature program calendar visit our website.

<http://nj.gov/counties/mercer/commissions/park/>

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