



## Somerset County Park Commission

P.O. Box 5327, North Branch, NJ 08876

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



## 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

# Welcome to Leonard J. Buck Garden



**Somerset County  
Park Commission**



## History



Established as a private garden in the 1930s, The Leonard J. Buck Garden consists of 29 acres featuring a series of rock outcroppings and

woodland gardens situated in Moggy Hollow, a wooded valley in Far Hills, New Jersey. The garden was donated to the Somerset County Park Commission by Helen R. Buck in 1976 and is named for her husband, Leonard J. Buck, who conceived of and designed the garden with landscape architect Zenon Schreiber.

## Geology of Moggy Hollow

Beginning 115,000 years ago, during the last ice age, sometimes mile-high glaciers were pushed across continents, changing the topography. The Wisconsin glacier moved southward acting like a giant bulldozer, pushing, and scraping the land in front of it. As Earth warmed and ice sheets melted, the water left behind formed a series of large lakes. One of the largest lakes was called Glacial Lake Passaic. About 13,000 years ago the lake overflowed, eventually joining the Raritan River, through a small gap in its rim at a location just north of Buck Garden, called Moggy Hollow.



The basalt rock ledges and outcroppings that comprise the marvelous rock structures currently visible within Leonard J. Buck Garden were disgorged from volcanoes hundreds of millions of years earlier before the glaciers. Thousands of years later surviving the powerful force of the glacier and its rushing waters are the unique rock outcroppings you see today.

## Horticulture Displays



The Leonard J. Buck Garden features a diverse collection of rare and beautiful plants. Alpine and rockery plants are found tucked among the distinctive ancient rocks that define the garden. Connecting the outcroppings are woodland trails lined with wildflowers, ferns, and other shade plants. Below the Visitor Center is the F. Gordon Foster Fern Collection, a shade garden of lush, hardy ferns and perennials. Buck Garden's peak season of bloom is spring, when delicate wildflowers, diminutive alpenines, and colorful azaleas compete for attention; however, horticultural interest and abundant natural beauty are on display all year.

## Education

Buck Garden offers a variety of exhibits, workshops, lectures, and an annual plant sale. A current list of programs and events is available by visiting [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org). Guided garden tours are available by permit and with an advanced reservation. Self-guided groups are welcome during regular hours. Follow us on social media (LjBuckgarden on Facebook and Instagram) for updates and engaging happenings in the garden.



## Visitor Services

Public restrooms are located in the Visitor Center. Wedding, engagement, and all posed, family, or formal photography sessions must be arranged by permit. To obtain a permit, please call 908-722-1200 ext. 5621. Wedding and other formal ceremonies are not allowed at Buck Garden.



## Visitor Guidelines



The Leonard J. Buck Garden is a public garden of national horticultural, geological, and historical significance. Many of the flowers, shrubs, trees, and outcroppings are rare,

delicate, and for everyone to respect and enjoy. Please help us to maintain the garden's beauty by following these simple guidelines:

- Pets, (apart from service animals), smoking and all active sports including bicycling, fishing, and swimming are not permitted.
- Picking or harvesting of plants and climbing on rocks is prohibited.
- Photographers and artists must always remain on the garden paths. Visitors are not allowed to walk in garden beds.
- Picnicking is permitted in the courtyard as well as the deck adjacent to the Visitor Center, or in the picnic arbor located above the perennial border.
- Portrait and event photography by permit only.
- Leave No Trace. Please dispose of any refuse in trash/recycling receptacles at the Visitor Center entrance.
- Everyone is welcome. We ask adults to accompany young children.

## Hours

10 am - 4 pm Weekdays  
10 am - 5 pm Saturday  
12 pm - 5 pm Sunday  
8 am - 7 pm Thursday  
(May - September)  
Closed weekends and major holidays (Dec - Mar)

## Admission

Donations kindly accepted \$6 per adult and \$3 per senior or child.

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