



## 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

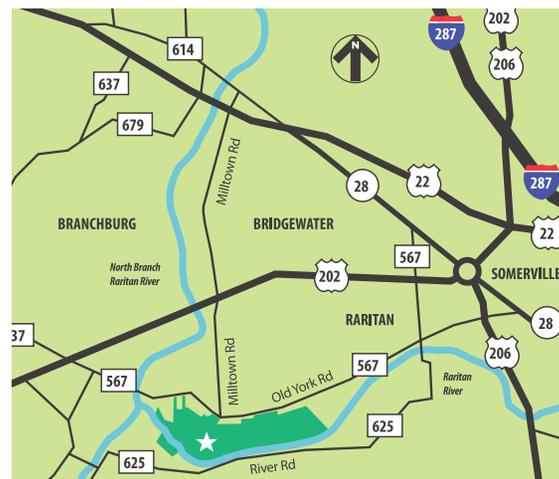
Colonial Park Putting Course/Paddle Boats	Ext. 5023
Colonial Park & Green Knoll Tennis	Ext. 5021
Permits	Ext. 5225
Therapeutic Recreation	908 526-5650
Warrenbrook Pool	Ext. 5018

### 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.

5/19



# Welcome to Duke Island 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.*



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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 Reserve • Spooky Brook Golf Course  
Torpey Athletic Complex • Warrenbrook Golf Course & Pool  
Washington Rock Park • Washington Valley Park



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## Duke Island Park

Duke Island Park, located in Bridgewater Township, is a site of rich natural beauty which offers varied recreational experiences.



Truly an “island” park, it is traversed by the historic Raritan Power Canal. The Somerset County Park Commission acquired this 339-acre site in 1958, and has developed it to provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities and special events for park visitors.

## Picnic Areas



Duke Island Park offers five picnic areas, available by reservation for groups ranging from 20-150 people. Additional picnic tables line the picturesque

river trail, and are available on a casual basis. Among these is a fully accessible area, with a paved path, concrete patio, and tables which accommodate wheelchair seating.

## Playground

A playground is located in the park adjacent to play and picnic areas. It features barrier-free equipment.

## Walking and Bike Trails

Three and a half miles of picturesque trails await walkers, joggers, and bikers along both the canal and the Raritan River in Duke Island Park. The section located by the river is paved for accessibility.



## Athletics and Lifetime Sport Opportunities

A softball field is available by permit for leagues and tournaments. When not reserved for this use, the field is available for those who wish to practice or have a friendly game.

In the winter, supervised ice skating and general cross-country skiing are offered when weather permits. The Raritan River is stocked by the New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife, and offers prime fishing locations for beginner and expert anglers. Hikers, walkers, and birdwatchers may take advantage of the trails which follow along the river and pass through the extensive wooded areas.



## Summer Concert Series in the Park

It would not be summer without music in the park! Duke Island Park plays host to the Summer Concert Series of free performances each Sunday evening from the end of June through August. Music lovers of all ages bring their lawn chairs and picnic baskets and enjoy a variety of lively sounds, from Motown and big band to “oldies” and the blues.



## Visitors Center

The Visitors Center is located near the main parking area, and houses the Park Ranger office and restroom facilities. Rangers are available for information on recreation activities, and to provide brochures and maps of the Park Commission facilities. The rangers also provide a variety of programs.



## Natural History

Duke Island Park is a sanctuary for many of the plants and animals that are characteristic of the region. Between the Raritan River and the canal, an open

deciduous forest provides habitat for several species of owls and many deer and small animals. In the spring and fall, migrating warblers and many other species of song birds draw birdwatchers to the park. On warm days, painted turtles can be seen sunning themselves on the logs in the canal. Waterfowl, hawks, and an occasional osprey soar above the sycamores and hemlocks which line the banks of the Raritan River. Walkers seek solitude on the woodland trails, and wildflower lovers enjoy a rich variety of native plant species, especially the Virginia Bluebells which carpet the forest floor in April.



## 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.