



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

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 |
| North Branch/Headquarters | 908 722-1200 |
| Park Ranger Headquarters | 908 231-0802 |

Golf Courses

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|------------------------------|--------------|
| 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

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|---|-----------------------|
| 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.



09/07



Welcome to Lord Stirling Stable



Somerset County
Park Commission

Lord Stirling Stable at Lord Stirling Park

Lord Stirling Stable, located in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township, offers a wide variety of equestrian activities for all ages and abilities. This beautiful natural resource occupies the western portion of the Great Swamp Basin. Lord Stirling Park has been designated solely for environmental and equestrian activities. The Environmental Education Center offers a variety of programs, and trails for pedestrian hiking. Lord Stirling Stable also offers a variety of lessons and events, and has trails limited to equestrian use.



The Facilities

The facilities on the 450 acres of Lord Stirling Stable consist of the main barn and office building, a viewing area overlooking the 80' x 240' indoor ring, a pony party pavilion, maintenance areas, and three outdoor rings—a Dressage Ring, a round ring, and a stadium jumping ring. There are also 14 miles of well maintained equestrian trails that weave through fields and woods.

Programs and Events



Lord Stirling Stable offers English Saddle riding lessons, horse rentals, pony rides, pony parties, several types of workshops, adult and junior rider horse shows, the Girl Scout Horse Fan Badge course, introductory rides, beginner trail rides, and moonlight rides. Private horse owners may purchase trail permits to enjoy the beautiful trails or to use the cross country course and the indoor ring.

Friends of Lord Stirling Stable

The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable are a group of riders who support the equestrian activities of the Somerset County Park Commission Lord Stirling Stable by contributing their ideas, volunteering their time, and donating revenue generated from sponsoring events to help provide a continuous and expanding program of activities. In recent years, these events have included clinics, Salute to Horse Power Car and Motorcycle Show, nature rides, a dressage show, pleasure drives, jumping tournaments, and a Winter Holiday Festival, just to name a few. Several events are also co-sponsored by the Stable with the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable. These include Family Fun Day (games on horseback), private horse hunter paces, and a three-phase Combined Driving Event.



History



In 1967, the Federal Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was established, and the Park Commission purchased a major segment of contiguous future parkland in Somerset County. The Passaic River Great Swamp parklands, also known as the Passaic River Area Park, became Lord Stirling Park. The park was named with assistance from the Basking Ridge Historical Society (now the Historical Society of Somerset Hills) in honor of William Alexander, Lord Stirling, a Revolutionary War patriot who served with distinction under General George Washington and whose estate was located on a portion of the tract.

Born in New York City in 1725, William Alexander traveled to England in 1756 and pursued the lapsed Scottish title once held by the Alexander family. Upon his return to America, Alexander assumed the title, the Earl of Stirling.

In 1762, Stirling began construction of his estate. With the outbreak of the American Revolution, he was first to volunteer in the Somerset County militia and given the rank of colonel. He was promoted twice to brigadier general and then major general. Stirling entertained many dignitaries at his estate, including Generals Knox, Greene, and Lafayette, along with Elias Boudinot, president of the First Continental Congress. He died in 1783.



In the early 1900's the property was a cattle farm owned by Dr. Charles Frederick Baker, an x-ray specialist who practiced in Newark. He sold the farm to John Jacob Astor VI in the early 1940's. The Astors built the barn and raised dairy cattle. Mr. Astor shipped orange blossom branches from Florida to provide the cow stalls a fragrant aroma.



The 429-acre Astor property was purchased by the Somerset County Park Commission on December 21, 1967 to fulfill the Park Commission Master Plan designating that a riding stable be built in the northern part of Somerset County. Lord Stirling Stable opened in the spring of 1969 with 30 horses. Today, the equestrian center owns twice the number of horses, along with many ponies.