



## New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

ELECTRONIC NEWS  
JANUARY 2010

### FLYWAY GALLERY

"Portraits in Nature"  
by Douglas Goodell

Feb. 2 through Mar. 26

# NJMC Today

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

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## Greetings from Acting Chairman Richman

Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's monthly electronic newsletter. The year is only a month old and already the Commission is engaged in a number of projects that are helping improve the quality of life in the Meadowlands District. We have good news to share on several fronts, including national recognition for DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC, plus progress with our solar projects and flood-control efforts. Thanks for tuning in.

Thank you,  
**Charles A. Richman**

Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Acting Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

## 2010 BUDGET ADOPTED

In December the Commission adopted a \$12 million spending plan for 2010 that is down 5 percent from 2009 and 15 percent from 2008. The budget funds a number of programs and services that benefit Meadowlands District residents and provide tax relief to District municipalities, including the Commission's shared equipment pool, flood control projects and public programming at the Meadowlands Environment Center. Budget reductions are being accomplished through efficiencies in internal operations and reductions in discretionary spending.



## SOLAR PROJECT ADVANCES



The Commission is making strides toward establishing a solar energy array on parts of the closed 1A Landfill in Kearny. The NJMC is currently in negotiations to lease a portion of the 35-acre former landfill to SunDurance Energy, which would design, operate and own the solar panels on the site. SunDurance estimates that the solar array will generate about 3 megawatts of electricity. Last year the Commission received \$8.5 million in federal funding through the state Board of Public Utilities for use toward the project.

## FLOOD CONTROL WORK CONTINUES

Work began in January on the second phase of the NJMC's \$5.5 million flood control project – the largest in Commission history – to reduce flooding on Route 17 near the East Rutherford/Rutherford border. The work involves the restoration of a 3/4-mile drainage ditch in Rutherford that will help to further reduce flooding on the busy highway. In 2009 the NJMC installed new tide gates in both boroughs and highway closures have since been reduced. This project is part of the more than \$8.5 million the NJMC has invested in flood control projects over the past six years to protect District residents and property owners and keep traffic and commerce flowing freely in the region.

## ELECTRICITY USE DOWN AT NJMC

Thanks to several energy-efficient initiatives, the Commission achieved a nearly 20 percent reduction in electricity use in its administration building in 2009. Energy saving projects included the installation of motion-sensitive light switches and a change from incandescent and fluorescent lights to more energy-efficient models. The NJMC is also helping local businesses save money and energy through its Meadowlands Challenge, a friendly competition that encourages local companies to increase recycling and reduce power use.

## DEKORTE PARK NAMED TOP BIRDING HOT SPOT

The January issue of Birder's World Magazine named DeKorte Park – the home of the NJMC – one of the top birding hot spots in the country. DeKorte Park, a one-square-mile oasis of urban wetlands and family-friendly nature trails -- framed by the New York City skyline -- is a great place to see raptors, shorebirds and waterfowl, or just enjoy nature in general. The park is open to the public dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, or you can join the free, guided bird walks hosted twice-monthly by the NJMC and the Bergen County Audubon Society. The next walk – "Super Bird Sunday" -- is set for DeKorte Park on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m., and features special prizes. For more information on this and other bird walks visit the NJMC's Nature Blog at [www.meadowblog.net](http://www.meadowblog.net), or click on the "Events" button on the NJMC's home page, at [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov).



## VISITORS ON THE RISE

It was a banner year in 2009 for attendance at DeKorte Park, home of the NJMC. More than 60,000 people visited the NJMC campus last year – a 20 percent spike over 2008. The numbers include more than 25,500 people who explored the park itself, and more than 13,500 people who visited the Meadowlands Environment Center, which hosts year-round public programming. The Commission also attracted more than 12,600 students and chaperones to its new science education center and welcomed more than 1,500 stargazers to its William D. McDowell Observatory. The observatory, which houses a research-grade telescope, is open to the public for free on Monday and Wednesday nights and offers astronomy learning sessions on Tuesday nights. For more information on NJMC facilities and public programming, visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov) and [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).

## MEADOWLANDS HISTORY BLOG LAUNCHED

The NJMC is bringing the rich and colorful history of the region to life through its new Meadowlands History Blog, [www.meadowpast.net](http://www.meadowpast.net). The blog, launched in January, will highlight local museums, historical sites and events, spotlight notable residents and explore some of the more unusual happenings in the Meadowlands of yesterday and today. It will also include links to a wide range of local and regional history sites and programs. The new blog joins the NJMC's popular Meadowlands Nature Blog, [www.meadowblog.net](http://www.meadowblog.net), and Economic Growth and Sustainability Blog, [www.njbiz.net](http://www.njbiz.net).

**The Meadowlands History Blog**

Celebrating the Rich and Colorful History - and History Makers - of the Meadowlands

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

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"Portraits in Nature," a free photography exhibit by Ridgewood resident Douglas Goodell, will be on display at the NJMC's Flyway Gallery from Tuesday, Feb. 2 through Friday, March 26. The Flyway Gallery is located in the Meadowlands Environment Center, in DeKorte Park, in Lyndhurst, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 201-460-8300 or visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov).