

40 Years



**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**  
1969-2009

## **NJMC NEWS RELEASE**

*Contact:* Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer  
Phone: 201-460-4619 • Cell: 201-615-8570  
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Summer Activities Abound in the Meadowlands**

**LYNDHURST, N.J.** – You don't have to go far this summer for a fun and affordable family outing. From bird walks to boat trips to picnics in the park, there's plenty to do right here in North Jersey's backyard – the Meadowlands.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission offers a wide variety of free and low-cost ecotourism opportunities to help visitors and residents alike better understand – and enjoy – this unique environment. In addition to the NJMC's popular pontoon boat cruises and canoe trips, summer programs include a "Salute to America" outdoor concert featuring the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, on June 27, and a "Butterflies for Beginners" course that will include photography and garden tips, on July 19. And on Monday and Wednesday nights, the public is welcome to view the stars through the state-of-the-art telescope at our new observatory.

"I invite everyone to discover the vast natural beauty and recreational opportunities in the Meadowlands," said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. "From the peregrine falcons and osprey now nesting along the Hackensack River to the rich diversity of wildlife in the creeks and marshes, the real Meadowlands is so much more than what you see from the highways and bridges."

The Meadowlands District includes 21 parks with more than eight miles of trails to explore. To see the river up close, join the NJMC's guided pontoon boat cruises – a great opportunity for a family picnic, or to photograph some of the 270 bird species identified in the District. You can also grab a map with GPS markers and set out on the water trail yourself. If you have your own boat, Mill Creek Point Park, in Secaucus, provides a public boat launch, plus benches so those on shore can also enjoy the view.

DeKorte Park, the 110-acre home of the NJMC, features several miles of trails that wind among wetlands, lawns and forests, providing excellent views of wildlife with the Manhattan skyline in the distance. The park also includes the Meadowlands Environment Center, which runs a variety of free and low-cost public programs

for families and other groups, and the William D. McDowell Observatory, which houses a research-grade telescope that is open to the public for free Monday and Wednesday nights.

Upcoming NJMC events include:

- **Sunday, June 21:** Father's Day Canoe Paddle of Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus. 8:30 a.m. Information: 201-460-4640 or [www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html).
- **Monday, June 22:** Slow Food Talk and Tasting – Learn about the slow food movement, which emphasizes fresh, local food grown and produced in an environmentally responsible way. 1 p.m. Meadowlands Environment Center, Lyndhurst. Information: 201-460-8300 or [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).
- **Saturday, June 27:** The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents a “Salute to America!” concert at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst. 7:30 p.m. \$5, children 17 and under free. Tickets: 201-460-4637 (cash/check); 201-684-7844 (charge).
- **Sunday, July 19:** Butterflies for Beginners – Learn about optics for butterflies and how to start your own backyard butterfly garden, followed by a short walk. 1 p.m. Meadowlands Environment Center, Lyndhurst Information: 201-460-2002 or [jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov).
- **Saturday, Aug. 22:** Let There Be Mud – A day with shorebird expert and photographer Kevin Karlson, including nature walk, shorebird-ID seminar, and slideshow/talk, at DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Information: 201-460-2002 or [jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov) (time TBA)

Ongoing NJMC events include:

- Guided pontoon boat and canoe tours of the Hackensack River and surrounding marshes throughout the summer. The two-hour tours depart certain weekends and weekday evenings. Information: 201-460-4640 or [www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html).
- William D. McDowell Observatory, open to the public on Monday and Wednesday nights from 9 to 10 p.m. Information: 201-460-8300 or [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).
- Free public programming for older adults at the Meadowlands Environment Center, through July 30. Information: 201-460-8300 or [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).

NJMC Background:

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is the zoning and regulatory agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, composed of parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties. The Commission was created in 1969 to clean up and control illegal dumping, plan for appropriate development, and preserve and protect the Meadowlands' unique urban estuary. The NJMC has invested tens of millions of dollars in local infrastructure and municipal programs, and today promotes sustainability through its green building and alternative energy programs. The Commission also encourages eco-tourism and environmental stewardship with boat tours of the Hackensack River, nature walks, and a science education program that has introduced tens of thousands of children and adults to the wonders of the Meadowlands.

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