

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-2002 Cell: 201-615-8570
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov



F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Jan. 27, 2010

**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

Visitors Up, Electricity Use Down at NJMC

LYNDHURST, N.J. – More people are using New Jersey Meadowlands Commission parks and facilities while the Commission is using less electricity to power its buildings, NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio said today. The positive developments are a result of the Commission’s increased eco-tourism efforts and energy-efficiency initiatives.

More than 60,000 people visited NJMC facilities, including DeKorte Park and the Meadowlands Environment Center, in 2009 – a 20 percent spike over 2008. Over the same time frame, the NJMC used nearly 20 percent less electricity to power its administration building.

“We are thrilled that more people are discovering the natural beauty of the Meadowlands and taking advantage of the high-quality and affordable public programming that the NJMC offers,” Ceberio said. “At the same time, we continue to make positive strides in energy conservation, helping improve the environment and our bottom line.”

The Commission achieved a 17-percent energy savings at its administration building in 2009 thanks to several energy-efficient initiatives. These included the installation of motion-sensors that turn off lights in rooms and hallways when no movement is detected after a period of time, the replacement of traditional incandescent and fluorescent lights with more energy-efficient models, and an upgrade of the building’s heating and ventilation system.

The Commission is also helping businesses save energy through its Meadowlands Challenge, a friendly competition that encourages local companies to become more energy efficient through increased recycling and other energy saving methods.

The Commission is also projecting a 33 percent cost savings on stationery in 2010 while helping the environment. The NJMC is switching to a less expensive paper stock that includes 60 percent recycled content. The new stationery is also certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, which ensures that forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible and socially beneficial manner.

Visitors to the NJMC in 2009 included more than 25,500 people who explored DeKorte Park – the home of the NJMC – a one-square-mile oasis of urban wetlands and nature trails framed by the New York City skyline. This month the park was named among the top birding hot spots in the country by Birder’s World magazine. The

NJMC and the New Jersey Audubon Society offer free, twice-monthly bird walks at DeKorte and other Meadowlands parks.

More than 13,500 people last year visited the Meadowlands Environment Center, which offers year-round public programming and houses the Flyway Gallery, which hosts local nature-themed exhibits, the Discovery Station interactive learning center, and the Tideland Treasures gift shop. The NJMC also hosted more than 12,600 students and chaperones who participated in educational programming at the Commission's new science center.

Some 1,500 stargazers in 2009 visited the Commission's William D. McDowell Observatory, which houses a research-grade telescope. The observatory is open to the public on Monday and Wednesday nights, and astronomy learning sessions are offered on Tuesday nights.

For more information on the NJMC, its facilities and public programs, visit www.njmeadowlands.gov and www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec.

###