Come and explore the New Jersey Meadowlands!

The NJSEA offers a number of resources for Meadowlands District municipalities and educational programs for the public. They include:

- Digital mapping services
- Shared heavy equipment pool, including jet-vac truck
- Scientific research and air, soil and water quality testing conducted by the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI)
- Guided pontoon boat cruises, canoe tours and nature walks
- More than 21 parks and eight miles of walking and hiking trails
- Annual Butterfly Day
- Year-round environmentally themed workshops and programs for all ages, including animal visits and art workshops
- Science and environmental education programs for students in Grades K-12 focusing on ecology, chemistry, biology, astronomy and natural history
- Public viewing nights and astronomy lessons at the William D. McDowell Observatory
- Annual Halloween Party and Spooky Walk
- The Flyway Gallery, featuring local environmental art exhibits
- Tideland Treasures gift shop, featuring environmentally themed educational products for kids, birding books, home and garden decor, and much more.

Welcome to River Barge Park

Welcome to River Barge Park. This award-winning 5.5-acre, hand-scaped accessible urban jewel is located on the Hackensack River in Carlstadt and provides much-needed public access to the river in southern Bergen County.

River Barge Park offers a variety of boating activities, splendid riverfront views and a tranquil setting for relaxation, bird watching and environmental education. The park includes a boat ramp, docks, paddling and rowing launch points, a marina with 17 public slips for rental, a scenic promenade with picnic tables, and paths lined by native plants.

The docks serve as the launch point for the NJSEA’s highly popular pontoon boat cruises. The two-hour cruises run from late May through September and are led by experienced guides who explain the region’s history and point out the area’s flora and fauna. The NJSEA also offers guided pontoon boat tours and canoe trips of the Hackensack River.

For a complete schedule, go to njmeadowlands.gov and click on “Events.” The Sports Authority also offers guided pontoon boat tours that point out the area’s flora and fauna. The NJSEA also offers experienced guides who explain the region’s history and point out the area’s flora and fauna. The NJSEA also offers guided canoe tours throughout the Meadowlands.

The new park has a rich history. In the 1940s, the site was part of Sky Harbor, a seaplane base that trained hundreds of aviators during World War II. The property later became the home of the Barge Club, an iconic area restaurant named for two early twentieth century wooden railroad barges that made up the core of the facility. The property later became the home of the Barge Club, an iconic area restaurant named for two early twentieth century wooden railroad barges that made up the core of the facility.

River Barge Park advances the NJSEA’s commitment to sustainability and green building through its incorporation of energy-efficient LED railing lights, solar powered and LED marina lights, and environmentally friendly stormwater management, collection, and filtering systems.

In 2013, the former NMC received a Chapter Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for River Barge Park’s ecologically sustainable site design.

About the NJSEA: The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority is the planning and zoning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, comprising parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties. In February 2015 the former New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) was consolidated into the NJSEA.

Nature programming: In collaboration with the Bergen County Audubon Society, the NJSEA offers free twice monthly nature walks and additional special events. For a complete schedule, go to njmeadowlands.gov and click on “Events.” The Sports Authority also offers guided pontoon boat tours and canoe trips of the Hackensack River.

The Meadowlands Nature Blog: meadowblog.net, includes daily updates and great photography of the region’s flora and fauna, environmental-themed news and information about NJSEA public programs.

Created in 1969, the NJMC (now NJSEA) has fought to end illegal dumping and encourage appropriate development in the Meadowlands District, and has helped to protect thousands of acres of wetlands and open space. The agency has also developed or contributed to the design of 21 parks throughout the District.
The Hackensack River estuary encompasses the southern part of the river and its adjoining marshes and mudflats. It is part of the larger New York/New Jersey Harbor estuary, located at the confluence of the Hudson River and many smaller rivers—including the East River in New York and the Raritan River in New Jersey. Estuaries are bodies of water where rivers meet the ocean and salt water meets fresh water. The unique characteristics of estuaries make them diverse and productive ecosystems that are home to many types of plants and wildlife.

The Hackensack River flows 50 miles from Lake Lucille in Rockland County, New York, south to Newark Bay. The waterway is essentially divided by the Oradell Dam into two rivers, with fresh water north of the dam and brackish (a mix of fresh water and salt water) south of the dam.

Paddlers, pay attention to the tides! The tidal currents on the Hackensack River can be strong, and it is important to know when they are going in or out. In the Meadowlands there are tidal changes of up to six feet twice a day. Paddling is easiest around high or low tide, or heading south when the tide is going out and heading north when the tide is coming in. Free canoe guides are available by calling the number below. Also, there are free mobile applications available that can give you the tide at Carlstadt, Garrett’s Reach. One such app is at tideapp.com.

Additional guides:
- The New Jersey Meadowlands: A Natural Escape
- Richard W. DeKorte Park Trail Guide
- Richard W. DeKorte Park Butterfly Guide
- Birds of the Meadowlands Checklist
- Hackensack River Boating and Paddle Guide

To receive free copies, call 201-777-2431. For more information about our public programs or to register for a pontoon boat cruise and canoe tour call 201-460-4677.