

What is available at the James A. McFaul Environmental Center?



The main building, which overlooks the waterfowl pond, has an Observatory, browsing library and natural science exhibits. Winding paths on this 81-acre site bring you to through a nature trail to woodland gardens and animal shelters. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk takes you along the edge of the pond to a two-story observation platform.

A covered picnic pavilion is available near the main building and another open, wooded picnic area sits on top of a hill. There are free Tuesday films and other special events throughout the year.

There are 75,000 daffodils and flowering trees on the grassy slopes. Plantings of ornamental grasses, herbs, roses, hostas and astilbes provide additional beauty in any season. A naturalized field area and woodland contain many plant species that provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife species, including insects, birds and mammals.



About the Center

The James A. McFaul Environmental Center was founded in 1967. Originally an 81-acre pig farm, the property was purchased in 1962. In 1966 the 2.5-acre waterfowl pond was excavated. The paved drive, animal shelters and parking areas were added soon after. In 1987 the name of the park was changed to the McFaul Wildlife Center in honor of longtime Bergen County Parks Executive Director, James A. McFaul, who had been instrumental in the development of the site. Then in 1990 the name was changed to the James A. McFaul Environmental Center to better reflect the park's programs.



Today the 81-acre Wildlife Sanctuary offers nature programs and workshops. The site includes a waterfowl pond, bird shelters, a boardwalk, nature trail, memorial gazebo and natural science exhibits. The Environmental Center gardens include specialties such as Daffodil Hill, Rhododendrons, Ornamental Grasses, the herb garden, and various memorial plantings.

If you have any questions, please contact the Center at (201) 891-5571 or email: wildlifecenter@co.bergen.nj.us. Thank you for your interest in the James A. McFaul Environmental Center!

- The James A. McFaul Environmental Center is open year-round to the public. All groups of 10 or more must have a Park Use Permit. Wedding photo permits are available. Professional photography also requires a permit.
- Admission is free; call for seasonal hours.
- For schools and other groups, a large selection of nature education programs are conducted weekdays by our staff. There are special public programs conducted throughout the year.
- The indoor exhibit contains live native animals, freshwater aquariums, natural history displays, and monthly art or theme displays.
- The observatory overlooks a butterfly/hummingbird garden and a pond which supports various species of waterfowl.
- Nature-study workshops and lectures are offered to children and adults throughout the year. Call Center for times.
- The 81-acre park has flowering displays throughout the warm-weather months.
- The park is carry-in/carry-out so trash must be removed or placed in dumpsters located in each parking area.
- The park is a wildlife sanctuary; all plants and animals are protected by law.
- No feeding of wildlife.
- No pets of any kind are permitted in the park.



HOW TO GET HERE

From Route 17 North: Take the Hollywood Avenue/HoHoKus Exit. Turn left onto Hollywood Avenue. Follow the signs for Bergen Co. Route 502 West. Go straight at the traffic light and up a hill to a stop sign. Turn right onto Franklin Turnpike. At the first light, turn left onto Wyckoff Avenue. Stay on Wyckoff Avenue through two lights. Look for Environmental Center sign on the left. Turn left onto Crescent Avenue. The park is on the left at the bend in the road.

From 287 West/South and Route 17 South: Take the Lake Street Exit. Turn left onto East Crescent Avenue. Follow to the fourth traffic light (Walgreens on the right) and turn right onto Wyckoff Avenue. Follow Wyckoff Avenue for about 8/10ths of a mile and look for Environmental Center sign on the left, adjacent to guard rails. Turn left onto Crescent Avenue. Park is on the left at the bend in the road.

From Route 4 West to Route 208 North: From Route 208 North take the 1st Goffle Road Exit to Midland Park/Ridgewood. Follow Goffle Road all the way to the end. At the light, make a left onto Godwin Avenue and go approximately 1.8 miles. Look for the Environmental Center sign indicating a right turn. Turn right onto Crescent Avenue. The park is on the right at the bend in the road.

From Interstate 287 North or South to Route 208 South: From 208 South take the Ewing Avenue Exit. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp. At light turn right onto Franklin Avenue. Go through two traffic lights. Take third right turn between guard rails onto Crescent Avenue. Park is on the left at the bend in the road.

From the Garden State Parkway North or South: Take Exit 165 for Ridgewood Avenue West (going toward Ridgewood). Follow Ridgewood Avenue until you enter the village of Ridgewood. Go to the top of the hill to the R.R. station. Turn right onto Broad Street. Turn left at the light and go under R.R. trestle. Stay to the left and go straight through the next light. This becomes Godwin Avenue. Follow Godwin for approximately two miles. Look for Environmental Center sign indicating a right turn. Turn right onto Crescent Avenue. Park is on the right at the bend in the road.

From northeastern Bergen County: Follow signs for Bergen Co. Route 502 West through Alpine, Closter, Emerson, Westwood, Washington Twp. and HoHoKus. After crossing Rt. 17 in HoHoKus, the road is called Hollywood Avenue. Follow the directions from Rt. 17 North above.

**For assistance with injured or orphaned wildlife
please call 1-609-292-2966**

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/bornwild.htm>

Every year, especially during the spring and early summer, the lives of many young animals are disrupted. Well-intentioned people may attempt to 'save' these animals, and more often than not, the mother is nearby witnessing her young being taken.

Young **rabbits** found at a nest site do not need to be rescued. The mother rabbit will not return as long as a person is standing near the nest site.

Young **birds** are sometimes found on the ground near a nest. When this happens, the best thing to do is to put the bird carefully back into the nest. Don't worry about getting your scent on the bird; it will not affect the mother's care. If you can't reach the nest, leave the bird on the ground.

If you find a young **fawn** laying alone, **leave it there**. The mother comes back several times each day to nurse the fawn. If you've already picked the fawn up and brought it home - **put it back**. Even one or two days after removal from the wild, fawns have been

successfully reunited with their mothers, by returning them to the place where they were found. Adult deer spend much of the day feeding and loafing. Fawns that are not strong enough on their legs to keep up with the adults are left behind. Usually young fawns are quite safe because their color pattern and lack of scent help them to remain undetected until their mother's return.

JAMES A. McFAUL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



James J. Tedesco

County Executive

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

James G. Koth

Director of Parks

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