

Passaic County Parks & Recreation



JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM BOOKLET



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have made a great decision in becoming a Junior Ranger candidate with the Passaic County Department of Parks and Recreation. We hope you have fun learning more about our park system and all of its natural resources.

Below, you will find the requirements for completing your journey to becoming a Passaic County Parks Junior Ranger.

If you are between the ages of 5 and 8, please complete pages 2-6 of this booklet. Then on page 10, write the name of the ranger led activity that you participated in and have the ranger initial it.

If you are between the ages of 9 and 12, please complete pages 2-9 of this booklet. Then on page 10, write the name of the ranger led activity that you participated in and have the ranger initial it.

Full Name: _____

Age: _____



OUR PARKS!



The Passaic County Department of Parks and Recreation manages 13 parks, which include over 16,000 acres of public land. Answer the questions below to tell us about your experiences in the parks.

What parks have you visited in Passaic County?

Which is your favorite park?

Draw a picture below of your favorite thing to do when visiting a park:



PASSAIC COUNTY HAS 13 BEAUTIFUL PARKS!



Highlands Preserve



Tranquility Ridge



Apshawa Preserve



Goffle Brook Park

How many Passaic County Parks have you visited?



Garret Mountain Reservation



Dundee Island Park



3

HABITAT, SWEET HABITAT

Living things need places to live, grow and reproduce. We call these **habitats**. Habitats provide living things with their **basic needs** of food, water, shelter, space and air. The Passaic County Parks have different types of habitats, including forests, fields, ponds, rivers/streams and wetlands.

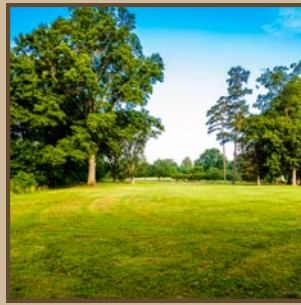
Visit one of the Passaic County Parks, find a type of habitat (from the ones below), explore it, and describe how it meets the needs of the living things that live in it.



River/Stream



Forest



Field



Pond



Wetland

Name of Park: _____

Type of Habitat: _____

Give examples below of how living things will find each of these needs:

Food: _____

Water: _____

Shelter: _____

Habitat: _____

Air: _____



Draw your habitat.



ANIMAL SIGNS SCAVENGER HUNT

Looking for animals in the parks is a fun way to spend the day. But don't get discouraged if you do not find many because they are always leaving clues that they have been around. And looking for these signs is just as fun. It's like being a wildlife detective!

Go on a scavenger hunt in your favorite Passaic County Park and see how many of these signs you can find!



Animal Tracks



Feathers



Litter



Spider Webs



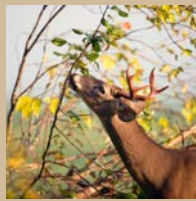
Deer Beds



Holes in the ground



Nests



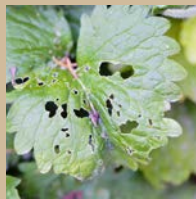
Chewed Twigs



Acorns



Animal Sounds



Chewed Leaves



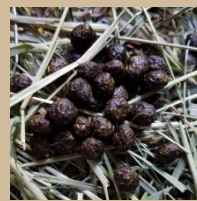
Dens



Bones



Eggs or Egg Shells



Animal poop



“LEAVE NO TRACE” PRINCIPLES IN PASSAIC COUNTY PARKS



1. Plan ahead and prepare



2. Dispose of waste properly in the garbage cans



3. Be considerate of other visitors



4. Travel and park on designated roads and trails



5. Do not feed the wildlife



6. Do not leave BBQ grills/picnic areas dirty



7. Do not take plants or animals

Park Rangers teach visitors to respect the parks and nature. They call this, “Leave no Trace.” Choose one of the principles above and explain why it is so important for visitors to follow:



STRUCTURAL AND BEHAVIORAL ADAPTATIONS

Animals and plants that live in Passaic County have to be able to survive in their habitats. To do this, they have special features called **adaptations**. These can be **structural**, which are physical features like a bird's bill or a deer's fur. They can also be **behavioral**, like a frog catching flies or a beaver building a dam.

Read about each animal's adaptations and write an "S" if it structural or a "B" if it is behavioral.

Muskrat

- Have two layers of fur to keep them warm and dry
- Dig burrows, build lodges, and dig tunnels
- Have ears and nostrils that close automatically when under water



Great Horned Owl



- Communicate with hoots, hisses, and screams
- Build nests in tree cavities
- Have special eyes to see in the dark, with 3 eyelids for protection

Oak Trees

- Have deep roots to gather water
- Curl their leaves and drop them during dry periods
- Produce more acorns when they are not crowded together



Wood Frog



- Have big, bulging eyes to see both predators and prey
- Have special bodies that can freeze during the winter
- Migrate to ponds in the early spring



LET'S GO ON A VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT!



Go to
passaiccountynj.org/departments/parks-recreation/parks
and find the answers to the following questions!

Search



1. At which park can you swim in a pool with your family?

2. Where can you workout on a fitness or exercise station?

3. Where can you let your dog have fun in a dog park?

4. Which parks have pavilions to rent for parties and celebrations?

5. Where can you take relaxing hikes on beautiful trails?

6. Where can you enjoy fun pick-up games of basketball?

7. Which parks have refreshing spray parks to cool off in?

8. What is the largest county park, at over 2,000 acres?

9. Where can you go bird watching with friends?

10. Which park has a historical castle and observation tower?

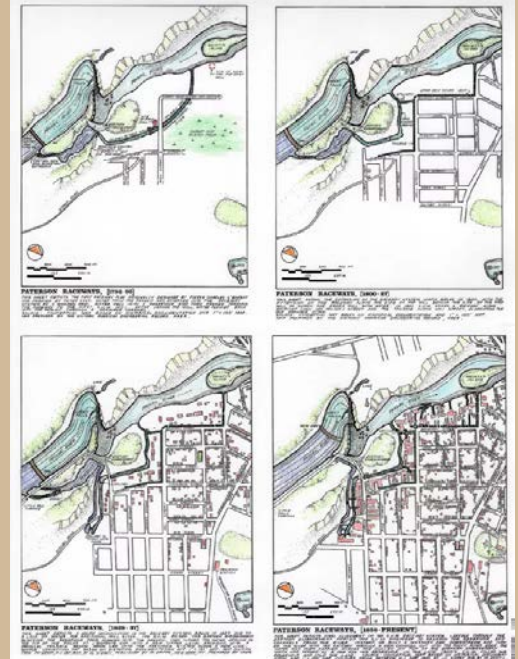


THE GREAT FALLS OF PATERSON



History:

In 1792, Alexander Hamilton, an important American patriot, recognized the potential of harnessing power from the Great Falls. With his leadership, Paterson would become America's first planned industrial city, using the energy of the falls to power factories and mills and help our country become an independent economic world leader. Besides having plentiful water and a large change in elevation, the location of the city also offered abundant sources of timber and stone, as well as easy access to large cities, like New York and Philadelphia.



Power & Manufacturing:

Raceways, or channels, were dug to direct water away from the falls to power factories throughout Paterson. Being on a large hill, this allowed water from one factory to travel downhill and be reused by another and so on. Eventually this same waterpower was used to generate electricity to power factories. Textiles, such as cotton, wool and silk were manufactured in the factories. Paper, building materials and machinery were also produced, as were locomotives, firearms, and aircraft engines.



Declining Production:

The success of the mills and factories led to large numbers of people moving to Paterson in search of jobs. These factories made lots of money for their owners, but this money was not fairly shared with the workers, many of whom were children. The workers protested a number of times by holding strikes, refusing to work unless they were paid more and had better working conditions. These strikes led to many of the factories closing or moving to other parts of the United States. By the 1960's, only a few mills remained in Paterson.



1. Why are the Great Falls so important to the history of Paterson?

2. What might have kept the factories and mills from closing?



Please list the Junior Ranger activity that you attended. If you were unable to attend an in-person activity, please list two National Park Service on-line based Junior Ranger Activities that you completed and attach a screen shot image that verifies your completion of these activities. Go to nps.gov/kids/online-activity-guides

Activity Name:

Date Completed:

Thank you for participating in the Passaic County Junior Ranger program! Please email your completed booklet to ParksAndRecreation@passaiccountynj.org. Please list "Junior Ranger" in the subject line of your email. Alternatively, you may also mail your completed booklet to the following address:

**Passaic County Department of Parks and Recreation
Junior Ranger Program
1310 Route 23 North
Wayne, NJ 07470**

