

## About Wescott Preserve

Wescott Preserve is named after Lloyd Wescott (1907-1990), an agriculturalist and philanthropist who was the founder and first chairman of the Hunterdon Medical Center. Wescott and his wife Barbara purchased this farm in 1959, and raised dairy cows. In 1966, they donated 15 acres of land to the County for open space, which became Hunterdon's first County park. The park even predates the Division, which was established in 1973. The Wescotts donated an additional 65 acres to the county four years later. In 2006, 102 acres of mature woodlands and meadows along the Lockatong Creek were added through the generous efforts of the Peters family, the Hunterdon Land Trust, and the County. Next door is a former one-room schoolhouse. Built out of stone in 1861, it was known as the John Reading School or District Schoolhouse #97.



Old Schoolhouse Building

## Hunting

In order to control the population of deer on park property, hunting is permitted. Hunters must obtain a special permit issued by the Division. Visitors between September and February are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange or confine visits to Sundays.

With the exception of park properties with reservable facilities, all properties are "carry in / carry out" and trash/recycling receptacles are not provided. Please plan accordingly and do not leave any trash/recyclables behind.

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

## Wescott Preserve

**Location:** Wescott Preserve is located in Delaware Township. The parking areas are located at 70 Raven Rock-Rosemont Road, Stockton 08559 and 63 Strimples Mill Road, Stockton. The park is open from sunrise to sunset. *Please note that there are no restroom facilities at this preserve.*

### **Directions from Flemington to Raven Rock-Rosemont Road Parking Lot:**

Travel west on Route 12 to the circle and take Route 523 south. In Sergeantsville, turn right onto Route 604 and proceed to Rosemont. In Rosemont turn left onto Route 519. Route 519 makes an "S" bend while leaving Rosemont. Near the end of the "S" Bend, turn right onto Raven Rock-Rosemont Road. Proceed on Raven Rock-Rosemont Road approximately a mile until you come to the preserve located on the right.

### **Directions from Flemington to Strimples Mill Road Parking Lot:**

Travel west on Route 12 to the circle and take Route 523 south. At the junction with Route 604 in the center of Sergeantsville, turn right onto Route 604 and proceed to Rosemont. At Rosemont turn right onto Route 519 and proceed north. Strimples Mill Road will be a left turn in about a mile. Proceed on Strimples Mill Road for about 1.5 miles. After a hard left bend, the parking area will be on the left.



Lockatong Creek

(Revised 5/2017)

## Recreational Opportunities

Wescott offers an easy to moderate 1/2-mile loop trail off of Raven Rock-Rosemont Road that winds through meadows and hardwoods and provides a vista overlooking the creek. A 1.5-mile hiking trail connects Strimples Mill Road to Mimi's Trail. This trail continues another mile and enters the Hunterdon Land Trust's Zega Tract, which has a parking lot on Raven Rock-Rosemont Road. Fishing is permitted in the Lockatong Creek and access to the creek is by the loop trail. State Fish and Wildlife laws apply. For more information on Hunterdon Land Trust, contact them at (908) 237-4582 or <http://hunterdonlandtrust.org/>.

## Habitat & Wildlife

Wescott Preserve offers a unique diversity in habitat and a wonderful opportunity to view wildlife. It exhibits a stately stand of Eastern Hemlock trees, uncommon in the county. Hemlocks have been hurt by the Woolly Adelgid, an invasive insect from Asia. Studies have been done on the Hemlocks at Wescott Preserve to help discover solutions to this pest.

The meadow provides shelter and food for grassland species. Eastern Bluebirds and American Kestrels take advantage of the nesting boxes. Crickets, katydids, and other insects call from the meadow during the summer.

The Lockatong Creek, a native trout stream, provides an excellent draw for wildlife. Crayfish and other aquatic invertebrates live in the stream. Tracks from deer, raccoons, and other animals can be found along the banks of the stream and the edge of the trail. Within the wooded areas, other signs of wildlife can be observed, such as woodpecker holes in trees.

It is the policy of the County to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities upon advance notice of need. Persons requiring accommodations should make a request at least two weeks prior to program attendance.

# Wescott Preserve

## Trail Map and Guide



Monarch Butterflies



Hunterdon County

### **Division of Parks & Recreation**

PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ

Telephone (908) 782-1158

Fax (908) 806-4057

E-mail: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Website: [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)

(click on "Parks & Recreation")

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

## **SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

*The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:*

"The Board of Chosen Freeholders may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground, or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation."

***These rules and regulations*** have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

**Permits:** A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity, shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

**Prohibited Acts:** The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel-powered modeled aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

**Regulated Activity:** The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery-powered modeled aircraft and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property:** No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources:** No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

**Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People:** No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

**Vehicles:** All the provisions of the NJ State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.**

**Enforcement:** The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2, thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation.

**Penalties:** Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body, or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

**NOTE:** County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.