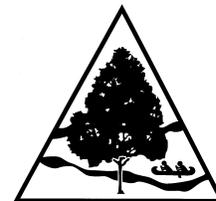




Hunterdon County  
Division of Parks & Recreation  
**News Release**



Mailing Address: PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
Office Location: 1020 State Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ  
Telephone (908) 782-1158 • Fax (908) 806-4057  
E-mail: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: [mconroy@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:mconroy@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

09/05/2016

### **Bald Eagle Display at the Hunterdon County Arboretum**



Our taxidermy mount of an adult Bald Eagle has arrived and is now on public display at the Hunterdon County Arboretum, located at 1020 Rt 31 North, Lebanon, NJ.

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation, compared to other county parks is a small one, but we are mighty, and good at what we do. The care and dedication our staff puts into our everyday operations, through trips, programs, special events, concerts and nature camps, brings in thousands of people every year. Now, each park visitor can revel in the

fact that they are responsible for our request to have a Bald Eagle on display being granted. We could not have gotten this regal bird without them.

After new Division Head, Dan Bush and Chief Park Naturalist, Tom Sheppard discussed even, the remotest possibility that our request would be granted, Tom reached out to Valerie Slocumb of the United States Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird Division. He completed the request and included all the many permits we already hold as a park facility with an impressive taxidermy collection and a few live species the we use to educate the public. We were fortunate to have assistance from Congressman Leonard Lance and his staff and local 23<sup>rd</sup> district Assemblyman and former Hunterdon County Freeholder, Erik Peterson to assist in our goal of locating an eagle. We received notice after a more than a nine-month journey from Wildlife Repository Specialist, Doni Sprague, who sent us a photograph of the mount and the tracking number, so we could time out the delivery.

After months of waiting and many e-mails, the FedEx truck finally arrived with one huge box left inside. The staff gathered around as Division Head, Dan Bush reached deep into the packing noodles to reveal the Eagle. The photo was impressive, but here was the real deal. Poised as if

to take flight, wings curved, beak ajar, razor sharp talons gripping a log, the peering yellow eyes and white head and tail, unmistakable. This is one magnificent bird.

Our county has been home to a nesting pair of Bald Eagles since 1994. Today there are eight active sites. Our naturalists have been fielding questions and sighting reports from the public and providing facts about Bald Eagles ever since the first nesting occurred. Based on these calls our park staff discovered and reported two of the nesting sites to the state for their confirmation.

Every year as part of our Bird Trip Series, we focus one on Bald Eagles and their recovery. We take our patrons out to view the nesting Bald Eagles in the Northwest corner of New Jersey and the surrounding areas. The mount will provide the first educational opportunity to our patrons and allow them to view an Eagle in detail, which would not be possible when seeing live specimens in the wild. This year we actually conducted a special Bald Eagle Program and brought in a State Monitor to discuss with the public the State's activities in monitoring, studying and managing the population of Bald Eagles in New Jersey. The species is still listed as an Endangered Species for Breeding in New Jersey. Demand by the public is requesting that we repeat this program.

As the Eagles numbers continue to improve in our area, the mount will allow us to create new and special programs to not only educate our public about Bald Eagles, but also how the co-exist with them since they will always be protected by the National Symbols Act.

Be sure to stop in and visit the Arboretum Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:30 pm. Our website has more information at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us) click Parks & Recreation. Call the office with questions at (908) 782-1158.

**Pre-registration is required download a form from our website at:**  
[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/parks/forms/ProgramRegistrationForm.pdf](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/parks/forms/ProgramRegistrationForm.pdf)

**For more information call the Parks Division at (908) 782-1158.**  
[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/harbinger.html](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/harbinger.html)