



THE PARKS OF BERGEN COUNTY

The 38 parks County parks reflect the diversity of landscapes and people in Bergen County. The County Department of Parks is responsible for more than 9000 acres of land, ranging from natural preserves and passive recreation parks in the north to numerous smaller active recreation parks and historic sites in the more urban sections of the County. The County's parks, and the communities that house them, are quite diverse and currently there is a lack of cohesion among the various park properties. While this heterogeneity reflects the rich variety that is representative of Bergen County, it is also an obstacle for effective management of the parks and long term park sustainability. The Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES) is leading an interdisciplinary team of landscape architects, planners, ecologists, event managers, concession planners, and marketing experts with the goal to identify the characteristics of the Bergen County recreation and open spaces, accommodate the needs of current residents, and respond to projected future growth of the County. Thrifty budgeting requires correct information about existing conditions in order to make informed decisions where investment is most urgently needed to provide appropriate service to residents and how to maintain the parks with greatest economic efficiency.

