

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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**New Jersey
Meadowland
Commission**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJMC Fourth Annual Butterfly Day Set for Sunday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Family Friendly Celebration of Winged Marvels Includes Butterfly Walks and
Talks, Kids' Scavenger Hunt, and Butterfly Costume Contest*

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is pleased to announce that it will host its Fourth Annual Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park on Sunday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The highly popular, family-friendly event includes butterfly walks and talks, a scavenger hunt and butterfly costume contest for kids, and information tables. Last year nearly 700 people attended Butterfly Day.

“Butterfly Day is the highlight of our summer programming and provides a great opportunity to bring families and people of all ages together to enjoy, learn about and appreciate these beautiful, winged marvels and the many ways that they benefit the environment,” said Marcia Karrow, Executive Director of the NJMC. “We invite everyone to spend a wonderful day at DeKorte Park and enjoy all the natural wonders the Meadowlands has to offer.”

The Butterfly Day schedule includes frequent butterfly walks and an hourly slide show and talk on the butterflies of DeKorte Park. A native plant walk is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. There are also daylong scavenger hunts for children. This year the Commission has added a Butterfly Costume contest, inspired by the many children who have attended past events dressed in butterfly regalia. The costume contest is at 1 p.m. and is for ages 12 and under, with prizes awarded to the top three winners. In addition, there will be several raffle drawings for great prizes including tickets to NJMC Pontoon Boat Cruises on the Hackensack River.

Butterflies commonly seen in DeKorte Park at this time of year include Black Swallowtails, Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Pearl Crescents. The centerpiece of Butterfly Day is the Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz Memorial Butterfly Garden. Located outside the Meadowlands Environment Center, the garden features cone flowers, butterfly bushes and butterfly weed to attract butterflies. Jill's Garden was built to honor the memory of Rutherford native Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz, the youngest member of the flight crew assigned to TWA flight 800, which fell into the ocean off Long Island on July 17, 1996.

Butterfly Day is co-sponsored by the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) and the North Jersey Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. The BCAS will have tables set up with information on butterfly identification, binoculars and gardening to attract butterflies. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Food will not be sold at Butterfly Day.

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