

Bald Eagles Soar Again in the Amazing Meadowlands



Photo courtesy of Roy Woodford

A decade ago, seeing a Bald Eagle in the Meadowlands was a big deal.

That's because both the eagle and this region took a beating in the middle part of the last century.

Rampant use of the pesticide DDT had a lethal effect on this magnificent raptor's reproduction nationwide, while illegal dumping and other widespread forms of pollution made the Meadowlands -- a wetlands oasis next door to midtown Manhattan -- a toxic wasteland.

Then a small miracle happened. After DDT was outlawed, the Bald Eagle began to make a comeback. And after the Meadowlands' polluters were forced to clean up their act and the region's wetlands were protected, our natural environment made an incredible recovery as well.

The result: Bald Eagles are now seen regularly year-round throughout the region, to the point that last winter several of our naturalists counted 19 of these majestic raptors in the same marsh at the same time. A

pair of eagles has successfully nested nearby three of the past four years.

If you'd like to see a Bald Eagle, join one of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) and Bergen County Audubon Society's free, guided Meadowlands bird walks held on the first Sunday and third Tuesday of each month. During our fall



and winter walks, we'll often see an eagle soaring above the Hackensack River estuary.

To celebrate the eagle's incredible comeback, the NJMC and Conserve Wildlife Foundation have partnered on a free 62-page lavishly illustrated eBook about this American icon. For more information on how you can read the eBook online or download it to



your computer, go to our website at www.njmeadowlands.gov and click on the link under "News and Alerts."

In all, some 280 species of birds visit the Meadowlands or breed here during the year, including many on New Jersey's threatened, endangered and species-of-special-concern lists.

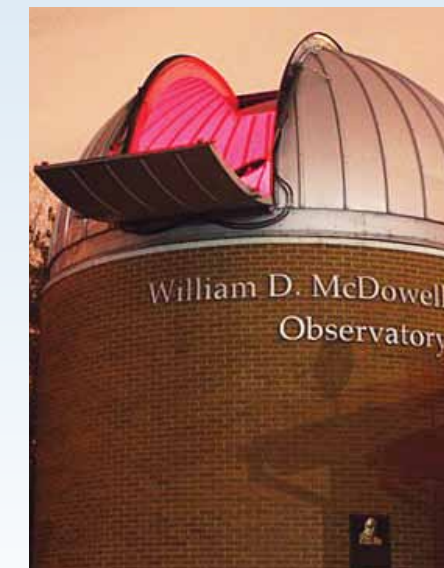
DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the region's biggest park, is home to the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC), where visitors can learn more about this unique urban estuary, check out environmentally themed monthly art shows at the Flyway Gallery, or pick up bird checklists, maps of our extensive trail system, and more.

While you are at the MEC, be sure to visit the Tideland Treasures gift shop. The store features Meadowlands-oriented nature books, environmentally themed games and science kits, home and garden décor, and other great gifts. The MEC is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Your natural Meadowlands experience doesn't have to end when the sun sets. At the NJMC's

William D. McDowell Observatory, the 20-inch, research-grade telescope is open to the public for free stargazing. The MEC also offers evening and weekend entertainment, including concerts, films, children's programs and other free or low-cost events for visitors of all ages.

For more information on the NJMC and these events and programs, visit njmeadowlands.gov or call the NJMC at 1-201-460-1700. ■



See page 10 for a map of DeKorte Park.

Meet Me in the Meadowlands™ Where Footballs and Egrets Fly



- River Cruises
- Canoe Tours
- Bird Walks
- Nature Programs
- Art Gallery
- Observatory
- Special Events



**New Jersey
Meadowlands Commission**

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