



**New Jersey Meadowlands Commission**

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## NJMC MARSH DISCOVERY TRAIL REOPENING

*DeKORTE PARK, LYNDHURST*

# SEPT. 24, 2014

*The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is proud to announce the reopening of its most popular walkway, the Marsh Discovery Trail. Originally opened in 1991, the Marsh Discovery Trail attracts thousands of nature lovers, bird watchers, school children, and those simply looking for a tranquil place for relaxation and reflection each year.*



The half-mile boardwalk loop extends over DeKorte Park's Shorebird Pool, providing a unique vantage point to observe and photograph the Meadowlands' abundant wildlife and amazing natural beauty, as well as the New York City skyline six miles to the East. The trail includes four bird-blinds, two study docks, two shaded classrooms, two open classrooms and several seating areas.

The trail incurred extensive damage during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Before today, the trail had not been fully functional since Hurricane Irene.

When originally opened, the Marsh Discovery Trail was one of the first barrier-free marsh nature trails constructed in the State of New Jersey. The Commission's commitment to maintaining this same level of accessibility was

paramount during the Trail's renovation.

The Marsh Discovery Trail is a vital component of field-based environmental education programs offered by the NJMC's Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC). Educators use the path as a teaching tool for the thousands of students in Grades K-12 who participate in MEC classes each year. Students learn about the marsh environment

in the walkway's shaded and open classroom areas and use the two study docks to dip net for organisms and collect water samples.

The Trail is also used in the MarshAccess Program. MarshAccess is an educational program offered at the MEC for people of all ages with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities. The Marsh Discovery Trail allows MarshAccess participants access to hands-on educational

activities and to experience the Meadowlands' natural environment.

The NJMC, in partnership with the Bergen County Audubon Society, offers free, twice-monthly guided nature walks throughout the Meadowlands region, including the Marsh Discovery Trail. The trail is a great place to see Least Bitterns, Marsh Wrens and other waterfowl in the

Shorebird Pool, and Red-winged Blackbirds and various raptors overhead during all seasons.

The Marsh Discovery Trail, like DeKorte Park, is open from 8 a.m. to dusk year-round excluding holidays. It may be accessed through the main entrance gate located along the Shorewalk, a short walk from the Meadowlands Environment Center; or from the mid-point of the Transco Trail.