A SERVICE OF THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS



UNION COUNTY We're Connected to You!

Winter at Trailside



2015 Workshops for Children, Families & Adults

TRAILSIDE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER 452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092 (908) 789-3670

www.ucnj.org/trailside

A facility of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation

This season, The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites you to visit Trailside Nature and Science Center to experience over 4,500 square feet of interactive environmental exhibits. Take part in one of the many unique and educational programs designed to spark the imaginations of both you and your child! Enroll in a class or visit on your own. Hours of operation are 12 - 5 PM daily.

Read on for information about programs that children can take part in with an adult, drop-off workshops for children ages 4 to 6, dropoff workshops for grade school children, family programs, adult workshops, teacher training opportunities and special events.

Trailside's location in the scenic Watchung Reservation provides the perfect classroom for fun while learning about the environment and the natural world around us.

On the next page, you will find important program registration information. In the center is a registration form to remove and mail in or deliver to Trailside. Please register only one child on each form.

Classes fill quickly, so please register soon, before the programs you want are filled!



In order to accommodate everyone, please let us know in advance if you or a member of your group has any special needs.



2015 WINTER HOLIDAY HOURS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19 President's Day, February 16 Noon - 5:00 PM

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT SUMMERI

Trailside 2015 Summer Camp Programs

- Pre-first grade programs for 4 & 5 year old children (children must be 4 years of age by June 1, 2015)
- Half and full-day camps for children entering grades 1-9
- Friday Family workshops
- Tuesday Evening workshops
- Family Evening Campfire
- · Over-night Beginner Family Camp-Outs









Important information on registration for Trailside Summer programs is located in the *back* of this brochure.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- Registration is required for all programs except where indicated in the program description. Class sizes are limited.
- Registration is in-person or by mail. In-person registration is done at Trailside daily, from noon-4:45 PM.
- To register, specify classes on the registration form in the center of this brochure and mail it with your check or deliver it to Trailside. Please use a separate registration sheet for each child. Call Trailside for class space availability *prior* to sending a check or making the trip to Trailside, (908) 789-3670.
 - Include your check, made payable to "County of Union," for the appropriate amount.
 - Trailside accepts Visa, MasterCard, AMEX & Discover in person only. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.
 Classes marked rain or shine are held in the rain unless the
 - weather is severe. Please call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 on the program date to find out if a program has been postponed/cancelled due to inclement weather.
 Trailside reserves the right to cancel a program due to low
- enrollment or severe weather. In the event of cancellation, a Trailside credit will be issued. Re-scheduling for a rain date is not considered a cancellation.
- Trailside credit will be issued ONLY if the program is cancelled by the registrant at least three (3) days in advance OR if we can find a substitute from the waiting list. Please call if your child can not attend a program.
- No refunds will be given for any program.
- Please be prompt when dropping off or picking up your child. Due to the brief class period of the workshops, it is important to start and end on time.
- Trailside reserves the right to remove a disruptive or inappropriately aged child from a program. If a disruptive or inappropriately aged child is removed from a program, no credit or refund will be offered.
- Each class will spend some time outside (more in nice weather and less in wet or cold weather), so please, dress your child appropriately in boots and a raincoat when necessary. Long pants tucked into socks offer protection from ticks.
- For programs that meet off-site, see the enclosed map or call Trailside for directions.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

TODDLER TIME

Sensory hikes, stories, crafts and activities to acquaint adults and children with the natural world. Dress for outdoors.

BRING: A baby carrier or sling; strollers are <u>not</u> recommended.

WHO: Adult with child/children up to three years of age. Older chil-

dren will not be permitted to attend.

Maximum 4/family per class. Pre-register.

WHEN: Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 AM or Fridays, 9:30-10:30 AM

MEET: Trailside Visitor Center

DRESS: Appropriately for the weather; if possible, we will go

outside.

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/family OC - \$12/family



Feb. 3 To Den or Not to Den - Winter is or 6 a tough time for wildlife. Animals adapt to the cold in different ways. Learn which of our animal neighbors sleep all winter while others "vacation" in warmer places.

- Feb. 10 Animals Do The Craziest Things Heart shaped canders and Valentine's cards are nothing compared to the show that nature puts on in the name of love! Explore some of the flashiest and strangest ways that animals compete for a mate. Make a craft to bring home for some one you love.
- **Patterns in Nature** Learn about the honeycombs in a beeor 20 hive, spots on a bird and stripes on a snake. Search the reservation for these lovely and important signs of repetition. Create your own pattern craft to take home.
- Feb. 24 Maple Sugaring Sugar maple sap is collected in Febru- or ary and March and is used to make delicious maple syrup.
 Hug a maple tree to see if it is big enough to give sap and

Toddler Time continued...



- Run, Fly or Swim Away Discover some of the amazing or tricks animals use to avoid being eaten. Have fun trying out ways agility, speed and quick-thinking allow animals to stay safe and survive in the wild.
- Mar. 10 Tropical Treasures Heat up the winter months by discovering interesting facts about the mystical rainforests around the world. Learn why these forests are important and what you can do to protect them.
- Mar. 17 Give a Hoot Learn the secrets of New Jersey's owls: what they look like, how they hunt, what they eat and what they sound like. Practice owl calls and make your own owl to take home.
- Mar. 24 Spring's a-Coming! Spring has finally arrived, and it means or 27 more sunshine, warmer temperatures, longer days and animals waking up from long winter naps. Explore the outdoors looking for signs of spring.

TWO OF US

An interactive program encouraging nature discovery through hikes and other indoor/outdoor activities.

WHO: 3 or 4-year-old child with an adult. Pre-register.

Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.

WHEN: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 PM or Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 AM FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child & adult OC - \$12/child & adult

- Feb. 4 Winter Survival Join us for a winter wonderland hike and find out where animals go in the winter. Discover who is sleeping, who migrates and who stays around for the cold winter months.
- Feb. 11 Crazy for You Did you know some birds decorate with
 or 12 flowers and other brightly colored objects to impress a mate? Explore some of the weirdest and wackiest courtship behaviors in the animal kingdom.
- **Feb. 18 Nature's Patterns** Nature is filled with beautiful patterns of color and shapes. Hike to look for some of these fascinateing designs, learn why they exist and create your very own pattern craft to take home.
- Feb. 25 Magnificent Maples Count the points on a maple leaf or 26 and feel the bark of a sugar maple tree. Discover how sap is turned into syrup and taste 100% real maple syrup.



Two of Us continued...

- Mar. 4 Escape Artists Many animals stay still when a predator is near. If the predator comes too close, the animal will run, fly or swim away as fast as it can to avoid getting eaten. Practice sneaking, chasing, freezing and fleeing as you learn about the remarkable ways animals keep themselves safe from danger.
- Mar. 11 Taste of the Tropics Investigate a tropical rainforest from forest floor to the top layer, over 200 feet high! Discover the unique sites and sounds associated with this special ecosystem.
- Mar. 18 Whoooo Goes There? Learn about New Jersey's native
 or 19 screech, barred and great horned owls. See owl feathers and talons and discover how these birds are adapted for night life.
- Mar. 25 Rrriiinnggg... Time to wake up! Sunshine, longer days or 26 and warmer temperatures means...SPRING! Hike to look for signs of spring and count the birds, mammals, insects and flowers you find.

SMALL FRY DAYS

A drop-off program to foster awareness and appreciation of the natural world through nature hikes, exploration and activities. Dress for outdoors.

- WHO: 4-6 year olds. Pre-register.
 - Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.
- WHEN: Wednesdays, 9:45 -11:00 AM or Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 PM
 - FEE: Per class: IC \$10/child OC \$12/child
- Feb. 4 Winter Wildlife Cold weather can be hard on the plants and animals of the Watchung Reservation. Discover the ways they have adapted to cope with these cold, winter months and search outside for homes and hideouts.

Small Fry Days Continued...

- Feb. 11 Animal Antics Discover some dazzling displays per- or formed by animals seeking to attract a mate or warn off rivals. From dances and songs to feats of strength, understand the elaborate ways animals communicate.
- Feb. 18 Pretty Patterns Nature is filled with interesting designs or 19 and patterns; from petals on a flower to spots on a fawn. Walk outside and find out how these patterns are beneficial to plants and animals.
- **Feb. 25** From Sap to Syrup See how 100% real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test and try to identify the <u>real</u> thing.
- Mar. 4 The One That Got Away Have fun hopping, running, or 5 "flying" and "swimming" as we explore the incredible ways animals handle the challenge of keeping safe from hungry predators.
- Mar. 11 Rainforest Romp Discover the different kinds of plants
 or 12 and animals that live in a rainforest. Measure the amount of rain that falls, listen to tropical sounds and make a paper parrot to take home.
- Mar. 18 Prowling for Owls Whooo knows about these nocturnal hunters? Learn about New Jersey's owls and listen to their calls. Hike to a pine grove in search of owl pellets.



Mar. 25 or 26 Spring Tyke Hike-Scrunch up that nose, wiggle your toes and get ready for a hike to find red cardinals, orange rocks, yellow dandelions and green clovers. Search high and low for all the colors of spring, and learn about the exciting things happening during this time of year.

GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS AFTERSCHOOL EXPLORATIONS

A drop off program designed to acquaint your child with nature explorations, hikes and outdoor activities.

WHO: 1st - 3rd graders. Pre-register.

WHEN: Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 PM

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child OC - \$12/child



Feb. 5 Winter Seasonal Explore the Watchung Reservation in winter. Learn how to identify trees without their leaves and hike the nursery trails to search for deer paths, raccoon tracks and other animal signs.

- **Feb. 12 Bird Feeder Frenzy** Take a short walk outdoors to look for our feathered friends. Help fill the feeders in the Bird Viewing Area and learn to identify some common birds by sight and sound. Find out about the different types of seed used to attract birds and make a bird feeder to take home.
- **Feb. 19** Surviving in the Wild Discover what it takes to survive during the cold winter months. Find out what to bring on a winter hike, how to create a shelter using branches and leaves and how to build a fire. Warm up around the fire with hot chocolate and marshmallows. **DRESS WARMLY.**
- **Feb. 26** Snow Fun Explore the art and science of a natural winter wonder snow! Discover how plants and animals depend on snow to survive. Learn interesting facts, go on a snowflake hunt and make a snowflake craft to take home.
- Mar. 5 Outrageous Owls Discover which owls inhabit the Watchung Reservation. Take a walk to known roosting sites to search for owl pellets and feathers. Learn to identify local owls by site and sound.

Afterschool Explorations continued...



- Mar. 12 Learn to Lead Discover the preparations, precautions and the do's and don'ts of hiking. Learn to use a trail map, read trail blazes and lead the group down a marked trail.
- Mar. 19 Keepers of the Trail Prepare to get down and dirty! Work together to maintain part of Watchung Reservation's trail system. Help enhance wildlife habitat and create brush piles from fallen logs, twigs and branches.
- Mar. 26 Crazy Camouflage Blending in is an important adaptation that allows animals to better survive in the wild. Discover all the different ways that animals "fool" others. Play a camouflage game and see how well you blend in.



Story Time Saturdays & Sundays 3:00 PM

Meet at the Trailside Visitor Center Donations appreciated.

ADULT WORKSHOPS

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Workshops are for adults, ages 18 and older. Doors open 15 minutes before program.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:15 - 8:15 PM Re-enactment: Franklin D. Roosevelt (An Arsenal for Democracy)



The date is December 29, 1940, Franklin Roosevelt has just been re-elected to an unprecedented third term in office. But the world is in crisis. Europe and America may soon be

drawn into war. Learn what President Roosevelt was thinking. Listen to his plea for the support of our Allies. Experience first hand the history that shaped our nation. Neil Hartley portrays F.D.R. in a fully staged historical presentation that brings to life the background behind the famous address that implored: "We must be an arsenal for democracy." This program is made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.



Fee: Free. Donations welcomed.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7:00 – 8:00 PM Lecture: Bee Colony Collapse Disorder

Bee Colony Collapse Disorder has had a deleterious impact on many agricultural crops world-wide. The decline of the bee population in our country has significantly increased the cost to farmers. Tim Schuler, New Jersey State Apiarist, will lecture on three causes of trauma to the European Honey Bee. Enhanced by a power point presentation, the lecture will define the ecological problems we face, the impact on the bee-keeping industry and how professional bee keepers and hobbyists have responded to this crisis. **Fee**: Free. Donations welcomed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Teacher Training: Project WOW

The Wonders of Wetlands is an instructional guide for formal and non-formal educators. Over 50 hands-on, multi-disciplinary activities are provided in lesson plan format with extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects and a wetlands resource guide. Activities are correlated with the National Science Education Standards. Guidebook included with fee. Participants receive six (6) NJDOE credits. Morning refreshments provided. **Bring:** a lunch. **Fee:** \$20/person.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

10:00 – 11:30 AM Guided Nature Hike

Join a Trailside naturalist for a guided hike along one of the bucolic trails in the Watchung Reservation. You will learn to identify some of the winter trees, observe signs of animal activity and learn the ways in which plants and animals adapt to the stress of winter. This will be an opportunity to walk deeper into the trail system and experience the beauty of the Watchung Reservation. Please dress appropriately for the weather. **Fee**: \$10/IC, \$12/OC.



FAMILY PROGRAMS SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Families with children of all ages are invited to take part in weekly theme hikes/nature related talks. Programs last about 45 minutes. Dress appropriately for the program and the weather. For scout programs, please see our group brochure. **Donations appreciated.**

- Feb. 7 Summer Camp Lottery Begins Union County residents are invited to stop by the Trailside Visitor Center between February 7-20 from 12-5 P.M. daily, or until numbers run out, to draw a number which will indicate the position on line for summer camp registration on March 7, 2015. Proof of residency will be required.
- Feb. 21 Winter Trees Discover why trees lose their leaves for the winter. Work with your family to use buds, branches and bark to identify tulip, beech, dogwood and walnut trees. Learn which tree smells fruity, looks like an elephant's foot or has bark like an alligator's skin. 2:00 PM
- Feb. 28 Tracking 101 Identify tracks of different animals that live in the Watchung Reservation. Discover the best places to look for tracks and take a walk to figure out what wildlife species have been visiting the area. Our walk will conclude around a campfire with hot chocolate and marshmallows. 2:00 PM
- Mar. 7 Summer Camp Registration for Union County Residents-Union County residents who drew a lottery ticket between February 7-20 will return to register for summer camp and family programs.
- Mar. 21 Birds at the Feeder Color, shape, size and behavior are clues to help us identify birds. Go bird watching at the Backyard Wildlife Habitat and discover the diversity of birds that visit backyard feeders. 2:00 PM
- Mar. 28 Early Spring Hike As spring arrives, plants, trees and animals are becoming active. Explore the area around Lake Surprise for young leaves, spring peeper frogs, groundhogs and other signs of spring. Meet: Lake Surprise parking lot. See #6 on map. 2:00 PM



FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

February 13 - 16

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents special programs for families & adults during the Presidents' Day Holiday.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:15 - 8:15 PM Re-enactment: Franklin D. Roosevelt

Experience first hand the history that shaped our nation. Neil Hartley portrays F.D.R. in a fully staged historical presentation that brings to life the background behind the famous address that implored: "We must be an arsenal for democracy." Program made possible by New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Fee: Free. Donations welcomed.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

1:15 - 2:15 PM Snakes & Turtles of NJ

Find out what turtles and snakes have in common and where they go for the winter months. Meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's reptile collection. Fee: \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 & MONDAY, PRESIDENTS' DAY, FEB. 16 2:30-3:30 PM The Journey of Sap to Syrup

See how 100% real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test to see if you can identify the *real* thing.

Fee: \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC.

WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT - SUNDAY, FEB. 15

You're invited for a Sunday of winter fun featuring

Disney's "FROZEN"

Outside on the big screen. Warm up and enjoy campfires and hot chocolate throughout the event.

Movie starts at 5:00 PM

Arrive at 4:00 PM for a guided Twilight Hike with a Trailside Naturalist

PRESIDENTS' DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1:30 - 2:15 PM Matinee - Fantasy, Illusion and Magic

Join Joe Fischer for a fast paced show has the perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy and excitement. Recommended for children ages 4 and up. Space is limited. Tickets go on sale at 1 PM No strollers please. Fee: \$5/person.

Trailside Summer Camp & Family Programs Registration Procedures for 2015

Union County recognizes the need to conduct a fair and efficient registration system to handle the demand for Trailside's summer camps. A lottery system will be used to determine your place in line for summer program registration on **March 7**, **2015**. Summer brochures and registration cards will be distributed when you draw a lottery number. If you have any questions please call Trailside at (908) 789-3670.

Draw a Lottery Number - February 7 through February 20, 2015

- 1. Beginning on Saturday, February 7 through Friday, February 20, 2015 from noon 5 P.M., Union County residents may visit Trailside's Visitor Center to draw a random lottery number.
- 2. This number will indicate the registrant's position on line for Summer Registration on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8 A.M. 3 P.M.
- 3. In addition to a number designating your place on line, your lottery ticket will also indicate the time you should arrive at Trailside on March 7, 2015. This will eliminate the need for you to stand in line for hours.
- 4. The lottery will be conducted to February 20, 2015 unless all tickets have been drawn before that date.
- 5. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, will be required to draw a number.
- 6. Only one number may be drawn per family/address. You may only pick a lottery ticket for your own family.
- 7. The registrant's name, address, phone number, lottery number and arrival time will be recorded when the lottery number is chosen.

<u>Union County Resident Registration Day – Saturday, March 7, 2015 - 8 A.M - 3 P.M.</u>

- 1. You must bring your lottery ticket with you to registration.
- 2. The registrant must be present when their name and number is called or their position in line will be forfeited. If the registrant arrives after their number is called, but within their designated hour they may register at the end of their one-hour time block. If the registrant misses their one-hour block of time, they may return at 3:30 pm to register.

Continued.

Summer Camp and Family Program Registration Procedures cont...

3. A PERSON MAY ONLY REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN WITH THEIR LOTTERY TICKET.

4. If a person cannot be present at their appointed registration time, they may send a representative. The representative must have the family's lottery ticket, must come at the appointed time, and may register only the children/family of the name on the lottery ticket.

<u>Summer Camp Sessions Will Be Limited As Follows For the 2015</u> Summer Season:

A. Children in the Pre-First Grade programs for 4 & 5 year olds Children enrolled in the Pre-First Grade programs MUST be four (4) years of age BY JUNE 1, 2015.

Limited to two (2) weeks of camp and cannot repeat the same camp session.

Will not be permitted to take a morning and afternoon session during the same camp week.

B. Children Entering the 1st - 9th Grade Camps

Limited to two (2) weeks of full-day combination camps or four (4) weeks of half-day camps

Camp sessions cannot be repeated

C. Family & Evening Programs

Families will not be permitted to repeat the same Friday Family, Tuesday Evening, Campfire or Beginner Camp Out program in the 2015 season

D. Waitlist Books

As camps and family programs fill, waitlist books will be available for each program. Participants will be called from the wait list books as cancellations occur with camps/family programs.

<u>Out-of-County Resident Registration – Monday, March 9, 2015 - Noon - 4:45 pm</u>

- 1. Registration for out-of-county residents will take place on Monday, March 9 from noon 4:45 P.M. Lottery tickets will not be required.
- 2. Not all camps/programs/workshops fill the first weekend of registration. Registration for Union County and Out-of-County residents will continue noon 4:45 P.M. daily until classes are filled.

Continued.

Summer Camp and Family Program Registration Procedures cont...

Payment Policies

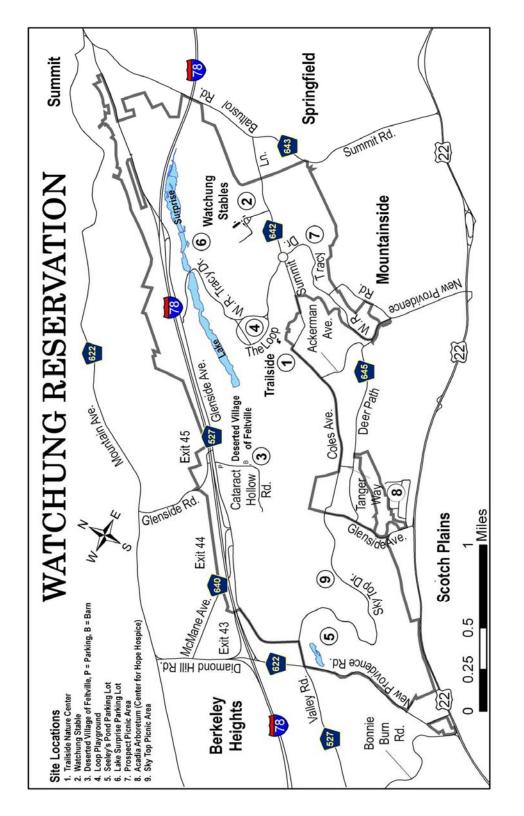
- 1. Payments must be made in full. Make checks payable to "County of Union."
- MasterCard, Visa, AMEX and Discover credit cards are accepted in person.
- 3. Once payment has been made for a camp/program, registration is final. No changes will be accepted on registration day, March 7, 2015.
- 4. Program spaces are non-exchangeable and non-transferable.

Cancellation Policies

- Refunds will be given from March 9 to May 31 with a non-refundable registration fee of \$35 charged for each pre-first grade program, each half-day session of camp and each family enrolled in the over-night Family Campout for beginners.
- No refunds will be given after May 31 for any summer camp program. Credits will not be given at any time for summer camp programs. No exceptions.
- 3. Credits or refunds will not be given at *any* time for Friday Family, Tuesday Evening or Family Campfires.
- 4. Trailside credits will only be issued for evening and family programs cancelled by Trailside. Credits are valid for one year from the date of issue and can be used toward any Trailside program.

General Policies

- 1. In developing programs, Trailside keeps in mind the abilities of different aged children. When registering for camp and family programs, please pay attention to age guidelines.
- Trailside cannot allow inappropriately (younger or older than age specifications for each camp/program) aged children to attend camps or family programs. If an inappropriately aged child attends a program, the child will be removed and no credit or refund will be issued.
- Please call Trailside if your child/family cannot attend a camp/family program. Trailside will call names from the waitlist until the space is filled.



An entertaining family event to celebrate the Earth. Learn ways to become eco-friendly & increase your awareness of wildlife conservation.

> Sunday, April 26, 2015 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Rain or Shine - Trailside Visitor Center

Admission: \$4/person, ages 6 & under FREE (includes admission to *Touch a Truck* event)

Live Animal Demonstrations* Educational Displays * Children's Crafts * Music Eco Art * Free Face Painting * Recycling Olympics Family Fun For All Ages!

Environmental Hero Awards and Wildlife Photography Contest Winners Announced.

For more information on how to participate in these contests, please call Trailside at 908-789-3670.

Ch A Thruce

Youngsters are invited to climb aboard dump trucks, bulldozers, police cars, HAZMAT response units and "The Bear" used by the Union County SWAT team in serious emergencies.



Sunday, April 26, 2015 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Rain or Shine - Lower Loop Park-

Get Your Green On!

Admission: \$4/person, ages 6 &

(includes admission to Wild Earth

Angel G. Estrada

Fest event)

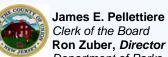
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Mohamed S. Jalloh, Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman

Linda Carter Sergio Granados Christopher Hudak Sergio Granadoo Bette Jane Kowalski Ai Vernell Wright Alexander Mirabella



Alfred J. Faella County Manager William Reyes Jr. Deputy County Manager



Department of Parks & Recreation