

# Westfield, County Offers Array Of Parks Recreational Facilities

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for This Is Westfield



Brightwood Park David B. Corbin for This Is Westfield



Concerts in the Park at Echo Lake Park Courtesy of Union County

From Tamaques Park's 206 acres of picnic areas and fireplaces and ball fields to the natural setting of Brightwood Park's 44 acres, Westfield offers an array of both parks for the town's various sports leagues as well as open green space that beautifies Westfield.

Residents can jog at Tamaques, take a stroll along the pond in Mindowaskin and watch the geese or play ball at Gumbert and Memorial Parks.

In total, the town has 10 parks. These are:

- Tamaques Park – 18 picnic areas, two basketball courts, eight lighted tennis courts, six shuffleboard courts, four softball fields which are also used for soccer, football and lacrosse; two baseball courts, two children's play areas, two handball courts, pond and 8/10-mile jogging oval. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. from May 1 to September 30.
- Brightwood Park – pond with dam, picnic areas and nature trails. Open

dawn to dusk.

- Memorial Park and Pool Complex (19.1 acres) – four softball/soccer fields, six tennis courts, two handball courts as well as 50-meter-pool, training and kiddie pools. Park open 8 a.m. to dusk.



Oak Ridge Golf Course Courtesy of Union County

- Mindowaskin Park (12.6 acres): children's play area, pond, gazebo and landscaped gardens. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., May 1 to September 30.
- Clark Park (9.5 acres) – memorial trees and gardens and jogging path. Open 8 a.m. to dusk.
- Gumbert Park (8.3 acres) – three baseball fields, four lighted gardens and jogging path. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., May 1 to September 30.



Tamaques Park David B. Corbin for This Is Westfield

5,574.3 acres of both woodlands and open space as part of its park system, the largest being the Watchung Reservation, featuring 2,000 acres of diverse habitats, a large variety of wildlife as well as 13 miles of marked hiking trails.

The reservation is home to both the Watchung Stables, featuring 30 miles of bridle paths; Feltville Deserted Village, a historic town dating back to 1845; the man-made Surprise Lake, offering fishing and boating; Seeley's Pond and Green Brook, which are stocked with trout annually and feature cross county skiing.

The Stables, owned and operated by the county since 1933, include 99 horses.

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The reservation is also features a Trailside And Science Center. The museum opened in 1941 followed by the planetarium in 1969 and the Visitor Center five years later.

The county is also home to the 616.2-acre Ash Brook Reservation in Scotch Plains.

The reservation includes a cross country ski course, pitch and putt courses and 18-hole golf course. Closer to home is Echo Lake Park featuring boating, fitness trail and picnic areas. The park is also the venue for the Union County Concerts in the Park annual summertime festival featuring everything from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra to the Party Dolls.



Westfield Memorial Pool Gretchen Bowman for This Is Westfield

ber. Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield has been named the host to a new Blues Festival to be held in July.

Located in the Cranford section of Lenape Park along the Rahway River since 1927, Union County has also operated one of the oldest Trap and Skeet shooting ranges in the state.

Other county parks in the area include:

- Warinanco Park, Elizabeth/Roselle – (204 acres), athletic fields, bicycle path, boating, fitness trail, skating center (home to Westfield High School ice hockey team), tennis courts and running track.



Nomahegan Park, Arts and Crafts Event Courtesy of Union County

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## Golfing in Union County

Union County is home to a number of public and private golf courses. A listing follows below:

Public courses:  
Ash Brook Golf Course Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, 18 holes, (908) 756-0414; Pitch & Putt, (908) 756-0550.  
Galloping Hill Golf Course, Boulevard, Kenilworth, 27 holes (908) 686-1556; Pitch & Putt, (908) 687-1990.

Oak Ridge Golf Course, Oak Ridge Road, Clark, 18 holes, (732) 574-0139.

Scotch Hills Golf Course, Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains, 9 holes, (908) 232-9748.

Private Courses:  
Echo Lake Country Club, Springfield Avenue, Westfield, (908) 232-9079.

Shackamaxon Country Club, Shackamaxon Drive, 18 holes, (908) 232-1300.

Plainfield Country Club, Woodland Avenue, 18-hole course, (908) 757-1800; 9-hole course, (908) 769-3672.

Canoe Brook Country Club, Route 108 and Morris Turnpike, Summit, 2 18-hole courses, (908) 277-2683.

Baltusrol Country Club, Shunpike Road, Springfield, (908) 376-1900.

Suburban Golf Club, Morris Avenue, Union, (908) 686-3377.

Mindowaskin Park David B. Corbin for This Is Westfield



Galloping Hill Golf Course Courtesy of Union County

- Lanape Park, situated in Cranford, Kenilworth, Springfield, Union and Westfield, (387.1 acres) – model railroad building, Trap & Skeet Range, fishing and bicycle path.

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