



A Profile of Sussex County

Est. 1753



Sussex County, located in the northwest corner of New Jersey, is well-known as a four-season recreational community. With our mountains and more than 80 lakes and streams, thousands of visitors are attracted here each year to enjoy camping, hiking, picking apples in the fall, swimming, boating and fishing, as well as skiing on our popular slopes for wintertime fun. State parks located within its boundaries also offer campers and other devotees of outdoor life opportunities for year-round recreational fun.

History reveals that the first settlement in the county dates back to 1653, when the Minisink area in Montague Township was settled. It was in this region that the first trade highway, called the Old Mine Road, was established. This followed the Delaware River, traveling through Sandyston, Montague and Walpack townships, and is still an artery of transportation. The County was officially organized in 1753.

Sussex County is New Jersey's fourth largest county in terms of land area and is home to over 38,000 families. The county's diverse recreational amenities include one national wildlife refuge, one national recreation area, nine state wildlife management areas, six state parks, one state forest, two major ski areas, historical villages, a minor league baseball team, one of the world's largest water parks, 20 golf courses, and many other family attractions.

Approximately 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail traverse through the northern section of Sussex County. The western section of the County is located in the Appalachian Zone, known here as the Kittatinny Valley and Mountains, where a great variety of mineral deposits have been discovered. Comprised mainly of granite and gneiss, the eastern third of the County is almost entirely in the Highlands, and forms part of the oldest geological strata in North America.

Rich in folklore and wealthy in history, Sussex County is one of the last of the 21 counties in New Jersey to retain its rural characteristics. Visitors to Sussex County can take a step back in time and view 100-year-old homes and one-room schoolhouses preserved to perfection, or spend a day browsing in the many antique shops located throughout the region.

Planning efforts within the county focus on retaining our rural character, while at the same time moving forward into the next century.