

Englewood Environmental History Trail

Developed by Dr. Michael J. Passow, Englewood Environmental Commission
with support from ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions),
the City of Englewood, and the Englewood Historical Society

Englewood has an interesting environmental history that goes back over 200 million years to when the ancient continent of Pangaea began to break up. Our environment has been shaped by erosion of mountains once as tall as the Rockies, deposition of sands and muds in long-vanished lakes where dinosaurs walked, the advance and retreat of glaciers some 3000 feet thick, a lake that formed as the glaciers melted, and changes in ecosystems from something similar to today's tundra through pine forests to modern trees and animals.

We created 15 historical marker signs placed around the City to share this fascinating history. Through the links below we provide additional information.

The Englewood Environmental Commission received a \$1,500 Open Space Stewardship Grant to begin this project. This competitive award came from ANJEC, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, with support from the Sandy Batty Grant Fund. The Englewood Environmental Commission provided a matching \$1,500. The City Manager's Office and Department of Public Works cooperated with Dr. Passow on this project. Construction of the signs was done by Kunath Signs, Teaneck, NJ.

Dr. Michael J. Passow, a long-time Englewood resident and a Science Educator for over 48 years, spearheaded the project. He combined information from geology reference sources and site visits to relevant locations around the City with facts from books about Englewood's social history (see Bibliography below) to create the text included on the signs and in the more extended descriptions on this website. Additional information was provided by members of the Englewood Historical Society, especially Dr. Will Lee. Photos taken by Dr. Passow and images from online sources enhance the explanations about each location.

[Click on these links to learn more about each theme](#)

Englewood's Physical and Natural Environment:

["Bedrocks of the Newark Basin"](#)

["The Seven Sisters"](#) (geology of the Palisades intrusion)

["Glacial Lake Hackensack"](#)

["Glacial Erratics and Fieldstones"](#)

[“Flat Rock Brook”](#)

[“Native Vegetation”](#)

Using Local Resources:

[“Brownstone Buildings”](#)

[“Traprock Quarry”](#)

[“Water Supply System”](#)

[“Wastewater Treatment Systems”](#)

Historical Englewood and the Environment:

[“The Ice Pond in downtown Englewood”](#)

[“The Englewood Canal”](#)

[“The Northern Railroad”](#)

[“The Mackay Park Gatehouse”](#) (last structure from William W. Phelps' 4000-acre estate)

Englewood's Geography:

[“Geographical Facts”](#) (latitude, longitude, elevations, and area)

[Locations and images of the signs](#)

Selected Bibliography of Main Resources

Griffin, D. “*The History of the Flat Rock Brook Watershed*”

[\(https://flatrockbrook.org/images/watershed-history.pdf\)](https://flatrockbrook.org/images/watershed-history.pdf)

Humphreys, J.A. (1899) *Englewood, Its Annals and Reminiscences*.

Lattimer, J. K. (1990) *This Was Early Englewood*. Englewood, Historical Society.

Sterling, A. (1922) *The Book of Englewood*. Cornell University Library.

<http://archive.org/stream/cu31924028828858#page/n3/mode/2up>

[Note: Additional resources are credited in each section. More signs and descriptions may be added in the future.]