Opened in 1976, by the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, the Meadowlands Racetrack, in East Rutherford, NJ, has been a staple in North American harness racing.

On Opening Day a crowd of 42,133 streamed in as harness racing on a mile track made its debut in the metropolitan area. Rambling Willie took the opening night feature and this would be the first of many great racehorses who would leave their “hoof prints” on the East Rutherford oval.

In 1977 the inaugural Meadowlands Pace was won by Escort and in 1981 the most hallowed trotting event in the world - the Hambletonian - moved to the Meadowlands. While a national television audience watched, Ray Remmen guided an obscurely-bred gelding named Shiaway St. Pat to victory.

The Meadowlands continues the tradition of harness racing's events such as Hambletonian Day, Meadowlands Pace and the Breeders' Crown which have all produced some of the most thrilling moments in racing. Each year these epic sporting events offer something for everyone in the family including all-day racing, outdoor concerts, carnival rides and games, and giveaways.

Harness Racing equine greats that have raced around the oval include: Niatross, Rambling Willie, Nihilator, Cam Fella, Mack Lobell, Moni Maker, Continentalvictory, Beach Towel, Mr. Muscleman, Buck I St Pat, Gallo Blue Chip, Muscle Hill, Foiled Again, Manchego, Wiggle It Jiggleit, Always B Miki, Atlanta among many more.

Just some of the driver and trainer greats that have raced at the Meadowlands: John Campbell, Ray/Larry Remmen, Ron Pierce, Ben Webster, Stanley Dancer, Mike Lachance, Jimmy Takter, Ron Burke, Chuck Sylvester, Ron Gurfein, Brian Sears, Tim Tetrick, and Yannick Gingras.

In 2011 the NJSEA ratified the lease of the Meadowlands Racetrack to Jeff Gural (New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC).

On November 23rd, 2013 the newly constructed Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment opened its doors to over 15,000 people. This state of the art complex is a collaborative production by managing partner Jeffrey Gural and Hard Rock It boasts a rooftop terrace with New York City views and a Backyard entertainment space that can accommodate 10,000 guests.

Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment is open year round and racing enthusiasts can watch and wager on live harness racing and simulcast races from around the world. Free WiFi access allows fans to wager from their phones and the walk-about tellers allow diners to bet directly from their tables.
The FanDuel Sportsbook at Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment opened its doors on Saturday, July 13, 2018. The FanDuel Sportsbook continues to maintain the position as the #1 Sportsbook in New Jersey. It is the top retail location in North America and takes in more than half of the retail bets in the state.

In 2021, the Meadowlands hosted the $6.8 Breeders Crown and has now hosted 103 Breeders Crown Finals, more than any other racetrack.

The racetrack also hosts yearly beer, wine and food truck festivals, cooking competitions, prize drawings and trip giveaways. Upcoming racing, dining and event information can be found at PlayMeadowlands.com