

Outdoors

in New York City

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2013



INCLUDES
CALENDAR OF
URBAN PARK RANGER
FREE WEEKEND
ADVENTURES

Message From:

Jill Weber
Rockaway
Administrator



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

It's been six months since Hurricane Sandy changed the coastal communities of New York and New Jersey forever. Coming on the heels of Hurricane Irene and following one of our warmest and busiest summers ever, the Parks Department operation in the Rockaways has been challenged in ways we never anticipated. We have spent the winter removing sand and debris from our beach and bayside properties — working tirelessly with the help of thousands of volunteers, community partners, and staff from other city agencies.

We also planned a major rebuilding initiative and instituted a restoration which allowed for the opening of the seven miles of Rockaway beach in time for the Memorial Day weekend. It doesn't look like the same beach we knew and loved before the storm, but we are rebuilding in a far more sustainable way and have some exciting new facilities to look forward to.

As the old saying goes, we have been down, but we most certainly aren't out. We are reopening damaged sections of boardwalk, playgrounds, ballfields and natural areas every day. We expect to have a great summer season on the peninsula, and welcome everyone to come out and participate in a variety of programs and activities — with weekly Zumba, yoga and spin classes on the beach, as

well as movie nights, concerts and surf contests. We're also looking forward to another wonderful series of Urban Park Ranger-led programs, including canoeing, fishing and birding.

Many New Yorkers don't know that Rockaway is one of the few places in the city which boasts that it is home to an endangered species. Every spring, an endangered shore bird, the piping plover, returns to our beach to nest. They are joined by other protected migratory birds, the oyster catcher and the least tern. The Urban Park Rangers are tasked with monitoring the birds and their habitat, protecting the nests and educating the public about these very special birds. Be on the lookout for information about birding programs, including our popular plover days, as well as all the other terrific Ranger programs in Rockaway.

Like the Ramones sang in their famous "Rockaway" anthem, "It's not hard, not far to reach. We can hitch a ride to Rockaway Beach." Come on out and experience the wonders of Rockaway for yourself!

Urban Park Ranger Nature and Visitor Centers

BRONX

Crotona Nature Center:

Crotona Park. Enter the park at Charlotte St. & Crotona Park East. 718.378.2061

Orchard Beach Nature Center:

Pelham Bay Park. Section 2 of Orchard Beach. 718.885.3466

Pelham Bay Ranger Station:

Pelham Bay Park. Bruckner Blvd. & Wilkinson Ave. 718.319.7258

Van Cortlandt Nature Center:

Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at W. 246th St. & Broadway. 718.548.0912

BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center:

Marine Park. East 33rd St. & Avenue U. 718.421.2021

BROOKLYN continued

Fort Greene Visitor Center:

Fort Greene Park. Enter the park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. 718.722.3218

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle:

Central Park. 79th St., mid-park. 212.628.2345

Inwood Hill Nature Center:

Inwood Hill Park. Enter park at W. 218th St. & Indian Road. **Under Renovation due to Super-Storm Sandy**

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center:

Alley Pond Park. Enter at Winchester Blvd., under the Grand Central Parkway. 718.217.6034 or 718.217.4685

Forest Park Visitor Center:

Forest Park. Woodhaven Blvd. & Forest Park Drive. 718.846.2731

Fort Totten Visitors Center:

Fort Totten Park. Enter park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. and follow signs. 718.352.1769

STATEN ISLAND

Blue Heron Nature Center:

Blue Heron Park. 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road & Hylan Boulevard. 718.967.3542

High Rock Ranger Station:


High Rock Park. Park in the lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Ave., and follow signs.

For hours, call the specific location.

in New York City

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Coming Soon To A Concrete Triangle Near You

On the night of October 29th, 2012, on a dark corner in Cambria Heights, Queens, a pint-sized ecosystem in the middle of the street — redwood, serviceberry, and common rush grass planted by NYC Parks — did exactly what it was meant to do. When Hurricane Sandy struck, this Greenstreet, as it is called, absorbed 100% of the rain that fell on it. It is only a small indication of how our 21st-century city parks and green spaces must now function.

Much of NYC Parks' 152 miles of shoreline and interior greenspace are already "high-functioning" urban landscape. New York City is the most sustainable city in the country. In fact, teams of New York City Parks scientists, landscape architects and urban planners have been remediating, greening and re-inventing our city for decades in tandem with many City agencies. This owes a debt to the Bloomberg's Administration's commitment to our parkland and to the latest technology, as well as its wide array of world-class specialists.

Citywide, 2,500 Greenstreets have now replaced the painted stripes and concrete

triangles once so ubiquitous on our roadways. This second tier of urban green space is likely to increase — from tens of thousands of square feet to hundreds of thousands of square feet — as real estate developers and condo owners visit and learn from laboratories such as the one atop the 5-Boro NYC Parks office building on Randall's Island. In addition, tree beds in every borough have been enlarged and re-designed as bioswales to capture enormous amounts of storm water and prevent flooding. An average Greenstreet or bioswale can handle 80% of all annual rainfall that falls on it or is directed to it.



©NYC Parks

Hurricane Sandy was a game changer in the public's perception of the environmental challenges of our city. While the city's parks have long been a public resource for recreation and beauty, where eight city beaches and 1,800 parks and playgrounds are the backyards and summer vacations for millions of people, we have never been more aware of how much more they can and must do.

And some of the protections parkland can provide, like Cambria Heights' resilient real-life giving trees, are already here.

Ranger in the Spotlight:

Jeff Billak

Urban Park Ranger
Plover Sergeant



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

How long have you been a Ranger?

I have been a Ranger since May 2006. During my seven years I've worked mostly in Queens. Currently, I am the Ranger Sergeant who oversees the endangered Piping Plovers at the RBESNA.

What is RBESNA?

RBESNA is the Rockaway Beach Endangered Species Nesting Area. It is not the most poetic of acronyms, but it is a very important mile of beach in Rockaway Beach that the Urban Park Rangers oversee. This mile of seasonally-closed beach becomes a breeding ground for the endangered Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Least Tern, Common Tern, and Black Skimmer. It also hosts many other birds during migration season in the fall and spring, and acts as a landing and resting ground for hundreds of birds traveling north and south.

What is unique about a piping plover?

The most unique thing about the piping plover is that for such a small bird, it can endure both nor'easters and hurricanes and lives on the most exposed place on the planet: beach ecosystems. It is also a very special bird because of its ability to camouflage itself both on urban beaches, like Rockaway Beach, and rural beaches, like the Bahamas' Joulter Cays.

What do the Rangers do to protect the Plovers?

The Urban Park Rangers lead trainings about the RBESNA, conduct active conservation, build enclosures, lead environmental educational programs, attend trainings and meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and perform outreach. We also have Plover Days twice a year (July 6th and August 3rd) which are free, public events to celebrate one of New York City's endangered species and educate the public about our conservation efforts.

What do you enjoy most about being a Ranger?

As a Ranger, I feel like I am doing a very positive thing by educating the public, protecting endangered species, and working in my favorite part of New York City — Rockaway Beach. I also enjoy knowing that as a Park Ranger, no two days are the same. Some days, I am leading environmental education programs, while others I am patrolling miles of city parks or beaches, while yet others I am kayaking with the public or rescuing a peregrine falcon.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I hope everyone joins us for Plover Day or for one of our other educational programs at Rockaway Beach. You can see conservation in action, right here in New York City.

Canoeing

Few experiences compare with being on the open water in New York City. The rhythm of the waves, the sun on your face, and the exhilaration of slicing through the water, all add up to an experience you'll never forget. Our trained Urban Park Rangers will lead you on canoe adventures that range from the gentle waters of protected lakes, to the challenging open waters of rivers and bays. On an Urban Park Ranger canoe program, you can progress from a novice to an expert in just one summer!

Most canoe programs are first-come, first-served, but a few require registration due to the level of difficulty. Advanced canoeing programs are for experienced canoers only. Children 8 years old and up

are welcome. For registration programs, participants are chosen by lottery. To enter your name in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on the dates listed below.

1

Basic Level:
All skill levels, including children 8 years and older.

2

Intermediate Level:
Some experience preferred.

3

Advanced Level:
Experience required.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, July 13

Basic Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Enter the park at Van Cortlandt South and Major Deegan, meet near the golf house.

Sunday, July 28

Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Blvd and Wilkinson Ave.

Saturday, August 17

Basic Canoeing / Crotona Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Sunday, August 25

Basic Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Enter the park at Van Cortlandt South and Major Deegan, meet near the golf house.

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 7

Intermediate Canoeing / Marine Park
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Burnett Street and Avenue U

Saturday, July 20

Basic Canoeing / Prospect Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Sunday, August 4

Intermediate Canoeing / Fresh Creek Park
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Seaview Avenue and East 108th St

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, August 24

Intermediate Canoeing / Marine Park
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Burnett Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Saturday, July 6

Basic Canoeing / Central Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Ave.

Saturday, July 27

Basic Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Enter the park at 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, August 11

Basic Canoeing / Central Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Ave.

Saturday, August 31

Basic Canoeing / Central Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Ave

QUEENS

Sunday, July 14

Intermediate Canoeing / Bayswater Park
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at B35 Street and Beach Channel Drive

Saturday, August 3

Intermediate Canoeing / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet on the southeast side of Meadow Lake, across the small bridge, just west of the Van Wyck Expressway

QUEENS continued

Sunday, August 18

Intermediate Canoeing / Frank Charles Memorial Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at entrance of park at 165th Street and 99th Avenue

Saturday, September 21

Basic Canoeing / Oakland Lake 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at entrance of the park on Cloverdale Boulevard and 46 Ave.

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 6

Basic Canoeing / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Martling Ave. and Brooks Pond Pl

Sunday, July 21

Advanced Canoeing / Freshkills Park
12 p.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at parking area north of Exit 5 West Shore Expressway

Saturday, August 10

Basic Canoeing / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Parking area west of Park Drive and Clove Road

Sunday, September 1

Basic Canoeing / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Family Camping

We camp to create lasting memories, connect with the natural world, and bond with our families. Camping affords us the opportunity to unplug from the diversions of everyday life and to laugh and play with our families. The Urban Park Rangers celebrate the tradition of camping throughout the spring and summer, and we look forward to welcoming your family.

Free Family Camping programs take place in all five boroughs, but space is limited and families are chosen by lottery.

To enter your family in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on the dates listed below.



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BRONX

Saturday, July 6

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, June 26.

Friday, July 19

Family Camping / Van Cortlandt Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 10.

Saturday, August 10

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 31.

Friday, August 23

Family Camping / Van Cortlandt Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 14.

Saturday, September 14

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, September 4.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, July 13

Family Camping / Marine Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 3rd.

Friday, July 26

Family Camping / Marine Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 16th.

Saturday, August 17

Family Camping / Owl's Head Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 7th.

Friday, August 30

Family Camping / Marine Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, August 20th.

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, September 21

Family Camping / Prospect Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, September 11th.

MANHATTAN

Friday, June 28

Family Camping / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, June 18th.

Saturday, July 20

Family Camping / Central Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 10th.

Friday, August 2

Family Camping / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 23rd.

Saturday, August 24

Family Camping / Central Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 14th.

Friday, September 6

Family Camping / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 28th.

QUEENS

Friday, July 5

Family Camping / Fort Totten 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, June 25th.

Saturday, July 27

Family Camping / Alley Pond Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 17th.

QUEENS continued

Friday, August 9

Family Camping / Cunningham Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 30th.

Saturday, August 31

Family Camping / Fort Totten 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 21st.

Friday September 13

Family Camping / Cunningham Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, September 3rd.

STATEN ISLAND

Friday, July 12

Family Camping / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 2nd.

Saturday, August 3

Family Camping / Blue Heron Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 23rd.

Friday, August 16

Family Camping / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, August 6th.

Saturday, September 7

Family Camping / Blue Heron Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 28th.

Friday, September 20

Family Camping / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, September 10th.

Fishing

Catch-and-release fishing is a great way to get outdoors and discover nature, just a few blocks from home. Our experienced Rangers teach the ethics of fishing and the ecology of our waterways on every fishing program. You can try to hook a largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, carp or chain pickerel. Whether you chose to grab a simple bamboo pole at a quiet lake, or join more advanced salt water or fly fishing programs, the Rangers have a program that fits your skill level.

Participation in a mandatory safety review lead by a trained Ranger is required. **All equipment is provided.** All fishing programs are catch and release only and most fishing programs are first-come, first-served.

Seining programs, which use nets to catch creatures close to shore, are great for kids of all ages. Families and children ages 8 years and older are welcome to participate in all other fishing programs.



©Photo by Geoff Martin | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 15

Sunday, July 14

Freshwater Fishing / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Sunday, August 18

Freshwater Fishing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Enter the park at Van Cortlandt South and Major Deegan, meet near the golf house.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, July 6

Saltwater Fishing / American Veterans Memorial Pier 11 a.m. / Bay Ridge Avenue and Shore Road

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, July 28

Freshwater Fishing / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Saturday, September 7

Freshwater Fishing / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

MANHATTAN

Saturday, July 13

Saltwater Fishing / Ft. Washington Park 2 p.m. / South of the tennis courts, enter the park at 181st Street.

Sunday, August 4

Freshwater Fishing / Central Park 2 p.m. / Ladies Pavilion, West 75th street and the West Drive

MANHATTAN continued

Sunday, September 8

Seining / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Enter the park at 218th Street and Indian Road

QUEENS

Sunday, July 7

Saltwater Fishing / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 1 p.m. / World's Fair Marina, Pier 1 (north of Citi Field, between 126 Street and Grand Central Parkway)

Saturday, August 24

Saltwater Fishing / Bayswater Park 12 p.m. / Meet at B35 Street and Beach Channel Drive

Sunday, September 15

Freshwater Fishing / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Meet at 164th Street and Oak Ave

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 20

Freshwater Fishing / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Parking area west of Park Drive and Clove Road

Sunday, August 11

Freshwater Fishing / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Saturday, August 31

Freshwater Fishing / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Parking area west of Park Drive and Clove Road



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Hiking and Orienteering

Hiking is the ultimate way to enjoy the outdoors and reduce stress. Regardless of the intensity level, it is a great way to burn calories and stay fit. Our Urban Park Ranger hiking guides will introduce you to the hidden gems of New York City and places often off limits to the general public. On our hikes, you might explore nature, discover our City's rich history and diverse culture, or just unplug from the world to clear your head.

On **Nature Exploration Hikes** we will discover the plants and animals that inhabit the urban forest. Our **Night Hikes** are great for families! **Fitness Hikes** feature less talking and more walking, for those who don't mind a vigorous two hour hike. Learn how to navigate using a map and compass on our **Orienteering** programs. Special **geo-cache** programs teach you how to use a GPS while searching for hidden prizes.

Hiking and Orienteering programs feature intensity levels ranging from *light* (a leisurely stroll on mostly paved paths), *moderate* (longer, faster paced hikes on rugged terrain), to *vigorous* (long distance, with hills and rugged terrain). For all hiking programs we recommend wearing comfortable shoes or boots, and packing water and a light snack.



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, September 21

Nature Exploration: John Muir Trail (vigorous) / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Mosholu Ave and Broadway

Saturday, September 28

Night Hike (light) / Van Cortlandt Park 7 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 14

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

Sunday, September 1

Nature Exploration: Salt Marsh (light) / Marine Park 10 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 28

Nature Exploration: East River Islands (moderate) / Randall's Island 11 a.m. / Meet at the Manhattan side pedestrian bridge at 102nd and 103rd Street

Sunday, September 15

Nature Exploration: Ethnobotany (light) / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / 103rd Street and Riverside Drive



©Photo by Anthony Prastaro | NYC Park

QUEENS

Saturday, July 20

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Sunday, August 25

Fitness Hike (moderate) / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 7

Nature Exploration (light) / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue

Saturday, September 28

Nature Exploration (vigorous) / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, parking lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs

History and Culture

Ice-age glaciers, Native Americans, Dutch traders, British Redcoats, and the Underground Railroad have all left their mark on New York City. Their stories can be found in the names of our streets, our architecture, and our parks. Urban Park Rangers specialize in interpretation of historic turning points, both natural and man-made, in our city's long history. **Revolutionary New York** programs focus on the history of New York during the pre and post Colonial Period. **Historic New York** programs highlight the history of selected neighborhoods or parks. Architecture and the history of the Hudson River are explained at Manhattan's Little Red Lighthouse and Highbridge Park. Native American culture is celebrated in special programs throughout the five boroughs.

All programs are historic walking tours unless otherwise noted. Certain popular

programs have limited space and require registration.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, September 22

Historic New York: Estates of Pelham/ Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion (Shore Road)

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, September 8

Revolutionary New York: Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

MANHATTAN continued

Saturday, September 14

Little Red Lighthouse/ Fort Washington Park 1 – 4 p.m. / Enter the park at 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette

BROOKLYN

Saturday, August 3

Historic New York: Gravesend Cemetery / Gravesend Cemetery 3 p.m. / Meet at front gate at Gravesend Neck Road and McDonald Avenue

MANHATTAN

Saturday, August 10

Little Red Lighthouse/ Fort Washington Park 1 – 4 p.m. / Enter the park at 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette

QUEENS

Sunday, August 4

Historic New York: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, August 25

Revolutionary New York: La Tourette Park / La Tourette Park 1 p.m. / Field of Dreams, Richmond Avenue and Forest Hill Road

Sunday, September 22

Historic New York: Native Americans / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Kids and Family

We connect children with nature to encourage active exploration of the natural world. Children who spend time outdoors develop strong imaginations and learn to socialize better with others. Urban Park Rangers are role models who encourage children to let their imaginations run wild in a safe, supportive atmosphere.

While nearly all of our programs are family friendly, the programs highlighted here are specifically designed for young children and families. Whether enjoying a family friendly beach exploration, freeing your

imagination playing in nature, or learning about conservation through eco-crafts, a free Ranger program is the perfect addition to your family's weekend. All supplies provided.



© Dave Sanders NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 21

Nature Crafts / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, August 4

Kids Insect Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

BROOKLYN

Sunday, August 11

Scavenger Hunt / Brooklyn Bridge Park 11 a.m. / Pier 1, Furman St. and Old Fulton

BROOKLYN CONTINUED

Sunday, September 15

Scavenger Hunt / McCarren Park 1 p.m. / Lorimer Street between Driggs Avenue and Bayard Street

MANHATTAN

Saturday, September 21

Nature's Music for Kids / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street B/W Lenox and 5th Ave.

Saturday, September 28

Family Nature Hike / Riverside 1 p.m. / 116th Street and Riverside Park

QUEENS

Saturday, August 17

Scavenger Hunt / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Sunday, September 22

Kids Insect Exploration / Bayswater Park 11 a.m./Meet at B35 and Beach Channel Drive

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 28

Family Nature Hike (Light)/ Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Sunday, August 18

Family Nature Hike (Light) / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Wildlife Viewing

New York City is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife. From falcons and salamanders, to deer and seals, wildlife viewing opportunities exist year-round in all of our parks and beaches. Wildlife viewing is a perfect activity for any age. Our Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in New York City.

We offer birding programs throughout the year and our Exploration series focuses on unique wildlife viewing opportunities during particular seasons. Birding programs are

appropriate for all skill levels and beginners are welcome. To enhance your experience we encourage you to bring binoculars and field guides, or ask a Ranger to borrow a pair.



©Photo by Anthony Prastaro | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, July 6, 13, 20, 27

Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway. With NYC Audubon and the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy.

Saturday, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway. With NYC Audubon and the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy.

Saturday, September 7, 14, 21, 28

Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway. With NYC Audubon and the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, August 10

Birding / Prospect Park 10 a.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

Saturday, September 28

Birding: Raptor Migrants / Spring Creek Park 11 a.m. / Gateway Drive and Erskine Street

MANHATTAN

Saturday, August 17

Wildlife of Central Park / Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street B/W Lenox and 5th Ave.

MANHATTAN continued

Sunday, September 1

Nocturnal Wildlife / Central Park 7 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Sunday, July 21

Birding / Alley Pond Park 10 a.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Pkwy

Sunday, September 8

Birding / Broad Channel American Ballfields 1 p.m. / Meet at Cross Bay Boulevard. and 22nd Road

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 27

Birding / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue

Saturday, September 14

Birding / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, parking lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Ranger's Choice

Our bright and talented Urban Park Rangers are what make our Weekend Adventure programs so amazing. This summer we are featuring some of our Ranger's favorite Weekend Adventure experiences. From stunning wildlife viewing to behind the scenes access, these programs are not to be missed.

Space is limited on all Ranger's Choice programs and registration is required. Please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register to register. .



©NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, September 8

Hawk Watch / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / TBA The old Pelham Bay landfill remains closed to the public, making it a great place to watch migrating birds of prey. Join a small group of fellow birders as we go in search of these avian hunters. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Thursday, August 29.

QUEENS

Saturday, September 7

Birding the Ridgewood Reservoir / Highland Park 10 a.m. / TBA This will be a special opportunity to observe the rare birds that visit this once manmade area that nature has since reclaimed over decades of being closed to the public. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday August 28.

QUEENS continued

Saturday, July 13, July 20, and August 17

New York City's Threatened and Endangered Shore Birds / Rockaway Beach 10 a.m. / TBA Did you know that the Urban Park Rangers manage an endangered species nesting area here in NYC? Learn all about our efforts to conserve the Piping Plover and other rare shorebirds. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, July 3, July 10, or August 7.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, September 14

Historic New York: Brooklyn Brews / Bushwick 11 a.m. / TBA Today's Brooklyn breweries are the descendents of a proud tradition of local brewing. Travel back in time with us, as we walk the streets that were once home to NYC's beer empire. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, September 4.

MANHATTAN

Sunday, September 22

Arsenal and Sanctuary / Central Park 11 a.m. / TBA Few people know that Central Park is home to an old New York State Militia Arsenal and a four-acre nature sanctuary. Take a peek behind the scenes where few people go as we explore the Hallet Nature Sanctuary and the rooftop of the Central Park Arsenal. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Thursday, September 12



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STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, September 15

The Hills and Dales of the Greenbelt / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / TBA On this vigorous, long distance hike, we will climb Moses Mountain and Heyerdahl Hill and descend into the valley of Buck's Hollow. Giant trees, migrating birds, and majestic views await to be discovered. Space is limited. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Thursday, September 5.



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For more information, please visit nyc.gov/parks or call 311.



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FREE event for all ages. For more information
call 718-421-2021

Rockaway Beach
B50 and the boardwalk



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To learn more about the Urban Park Rangers,
please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers or
call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers.

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