

Outdoors

in New York City

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013



INCLUDES
CALENDAR OF
URBAN PARK RANGER
FREE WEEKEND
ADVENTURES

Message From

Adena Long
Staten Island
Borough Commissioner



©Photo by Michael P. Schnall | NYC Parks

As the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy approaches, Staten Island and our city have been changed forever. Over the last year, we were forced to confront and rethink where we live, how we use our land, and what steps we can take to make our city more sustainable for the future.

Staten Islanders have always been passionate about their parks, beaches and natural areas, and that has never been more true than now, since Superstorm Sandy threatened to take many of them away from us. In Staten Island, we sustained almost \$200 million in damages to our 7,200 acres of parkland. With the tremendous work, spirit and dedication of NYC Parks staff, help from volunteers from every corner of the world, and temporary staff funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, we have dug out, reclaimed and begun to rebuild. Every day, we continue to make our shorelines and other park spaces better, stronger and more prepared for future weather incidents.

As we head into the fall season, be sure to take some time to enjoy all that Staten Island has to offer, and especially the amenities we have restored and made better in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy: run, walk or ride the Midland Beach Promenade or East Shore Greenway;

test your angling skills at the Midland Beach fishing pier; relax on a bench on the fully-restored boardwalk at South Beach; let your dog run leash-free at our renovated dog run; or swing your tennis racket at our refurbished tennis courts at Wolfe’s Pond Park.

This autumn, I encourage you to get outside and enjoy Staten Island parks with an Urban Park Ranger as your guide. Each weekend the Urban Park Rangers offer exciting “Weekend Adventures” in a park near you. These programs enable adults and families to experience the natural world in new and unexpected ways. The variety of these activities is as vast as the parks themselves. Urban Park Ranger program topics include astronomy, hiking, history, wildlife viewing, and nature art, as well as special programs for kids and families. With an Urban Park Ranger as your guide you will discover all that New York City’s parks have to offer.

I invite you to discover for yourself why Staten Island is affectionately known as the “Borough of Parks.”

Urban Park Ranger Nature and Visitor Centers

- BRONX**
Crotona Nature Center:
Crotona Park. Enter the park at Charlotte St. and 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. and Wilkinson Ave. 718.319.7258
- Van Cortlandt Nature Center:**
Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at West 246th St. & Broadway. 718.548.0912

- BROOKLYN**
Salt Marsh Nature Center:
Marine Park. East 33rd St. and 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 West 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. and 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 and 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

Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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Jamaica Bay Science & Resilience Institute Announced

This past August, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan announced the selection of a consortium led by the City University of New York to lead a new Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. This builds on the partnership between NYC Parks and the National Park Service that was announced in July of 2012 to cooperatively manage the 10,000 acres of federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay.

The Institute will be a top-tier research center, integrating cutting-edge research efforts from across the natural and social sciences; drawing upon climate science, engineering, sustainability and resilience studies to create a comprehensive program of research, monitoring and education; as well as outreach. It will host visiting scientists, provide lab facilities for students and researchers, and convene events to share research findings.

Even as the City and NPS look to the future, the benefits of the partnership can already be seen. This year NYC Parks and the National Park Service are together fielding

nearly 300 restoration corps members by combining resources and taking advantage of each agency's hiring practices. The combined restoration corps work throughout City and Federal park properties helping the region recover from the effects of Hurricane Sandy by restoring natural areas, planting Spartina grasses and removing debris.

The Mayor and Secretaries also announced plans for a beach dune grass nursery at Floyd Bennett Field and details of a public-private partnership that has been established to raise funds for the planning and development of the Jamaica Bay-area parklands and waters.



Mayor Bloomberg and NYC Parks Commissioner White with members of the Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks Restoration Corps.
©Photo by Edward Reed/NYC Mayor's Office

The Jamaica Bay–Rockaway Parks Conservancy is chaired by longtime National Park Service philanthropist Tom Secunda, and its initial Board includes representatives from many of the City's most respected not-for-profit organizations and institutions.

The beach grass pilot program, with philanthropic support raised by the Jamaica Bay–Rockaway Parks Conservancy, will collect native seeds from Jamaica Bay and Rockaway and create a nursery to grow beach dune grass. The grass production would support efforts for coastline restoration in the region and citywide.

Ranger in the Spotlight

Rob Mastrianni

Urban Park Ranger



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

What do you enjoy most about being a Ranger?

My favorite part of the job is helping patrons discover something new and unique in the parks. I really enjoy connecting New Yorkers to the biodiversity and wildlife that they didn't realize was right here in our city. It's especially fun for me to experience the enthusiasm of patrons that get to see a bald eagle, a hawk or an owl for their first time.

What are your favorite programs?

I love teaching the *Urban Raptors* program because I have a passion and fascination with birds of prey. I helped create the *Raptors* curriculum for the Urban Park Rangers' Natural Classroom programs, and also started the Winter Eagle Watch at Inwood Hill Park.

What should New Yorkers know about birds of prey?

We are very lucky to have a healthy population of raptors in all five boroughs. These include American Kestrels, Great-horned Owls, Eastern Screech Owls, Peregrine Falcons and the most commonly seen Red-tailed Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks can be found perching, soaring or hunting in most large city parks.

What are the best places and times of year to see birds of prey?

Spring is great for watching the resident

Red-tailed Hawks during nesting season. In Central Park, the famous Pale Male nest is an exciting place to watch the hawks raising young. The best view is from the Conservatory Waters. During summer, you'll find many fledgling Red-tailed Hawks leaving their nests and exploring the parks for their first time. Washington Square Park is a great place to witness the fledglings in action. In the fall, raptors migrate from the north to various large parks, including Pelham Bay, Forest Park, Central Park, Blue Heron Park, and Prospect Park. Some of the migrants that arrive in the fall include the Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Osprey. Winter is perfect for finding migrating owls. It is common to find Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, Long Eared Owls, Snowy Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls in Central Park, Pelham Bay Park, Inwood Hill Park, Prospect Park, and Alley Pond Park. It is very important to enjoy owls from a distance with a spotting scope or binoculars, and not to disturb the owls with loud noise or flash photography.

Anything else you would like to share?

You don't have to travel to Alaska to observe bald eagles. This winter, make some time to visit Inwood Hill Park for our Winter Eagle Watch program. Watching a bald eagle soar over the Hudson River is an absolutely unforgettable experience!

Astronomy and Night Sky Programs

The wonders of the universe are ready to be discovered and New York City parks are the perfect place to stargaze and explore the night sky. Our Urban Park Rangers will be your guides to the solar system, discussing the science, history and folklore of the universe. Learn about the effects of light pollution and discover the best places in NYC for amazing views of the sky. Fall and winter are the best times to observe meteor showers, the phases of the moon, and many planets of the Milky Way.

Astronomy programs feature the use of telescopes and binoculars to observe specific astronomical events. Many programs feature astronomy experts and all equipments is provided. Night Sky

programs highlight the history and folklore of the solar system, using the naked eye to locate stars and planets. Programs are best enjoyed on clear nights, so please call ahead if weather conditions are not clear.



©Photo by Marc Sanchez | NYC Parks

- BRONX**
Saturday, October 26
Astronomy / Van Cortlandt Park 7 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, November 10
The Night Sky / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / Meet near the dog run at Middletown Road and Stadium Place

Saturday, December 14
Astronomy / Van Cortlandt Park 6 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway
- BROOKLYN**
Saturday, November 2
Astronomy / Brooklyn Bridge Park 7 p.m. / Pier 1, Furman St. and Old Fulton

- BROOKLYN continued**
Saturday, December 7
Astronomy / Marine Park 6 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Saturday, December 14
The Night Sky / Prospect Park 6 p.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive
- MANHATTAN**
Saturday, October 5, 2013
Astronomy / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / Park entrance at Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

Saturday, November 9
Urban Starfest with the Amateur Astronomers / Central Park 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. / Sheep Meadow, 67th Street and West Drive

- MANHATTAN continued**
Saturday, December 21
Night Sky: Winter Solstice / Central Park 5 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and mid-park
- QUEENS**
Saturday, October 12
Astronomy / Fort Totten 7 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Saturday, November 23
The Night Sky / Fort Totten 6 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Saturday, December 28
Astronomy / Fort Totten 6 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

- STATEN ISLAND**
Saturday, October 19
Astronomy / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue

Saturday, November 9
Astronomy / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue

Saturday, November 30
The Night Sky / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

Nature Art and Photography

It has been said that art takes nature as its model. The beauty of nature has inspired many great Americans to create artistic masterpieces. From the wildlife portraits of John James Audubon to the stunning black and white photography of Ansel Adams, nature has been a muse to artists for centuries. Our Urban Park Ranger nature art and photography programs allow you to interpret the natural world through artistic expression, while learning about nature and the environment.

Art programs may include drawing, painting, journaling and nature art projects. All supplies are provided unless otherwise indicated. All art programs are family friendly, but may be challenging for younger children. All photography programs are for digital cameras and you must provide your own camera, DSLR preferred, but all cameras are welcome.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Park

BRONX

Sunday, October 20

Nature Photography: Fall Foliage / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday, November 24

Nature Photography / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday, December 22

Winter Photography: Black & White / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Sunday, October 27

Nature Photography / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

Sunday, November 10

Nature Drawing: Fall Foliage / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / Fort Greene Visitor’s Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

Sunday, December 15

Nature Journaling / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Sunday, October 6

Nature Photography / Fort Tryon Park 1 p.m. / South entrance to the Heather Garden at Margaret Corbin Circle

Saturday, November 2

Nature Photography: Fall Foliage / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street between Lenox and 5th Ave.

Sunday, December 8

Nature Drawing / Fort Washington Park 11 a.m. / Pedestrian bridge at 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette

QUEENS

Saturday, October 5

Nature Photography: Fall Foliage / Flushing Meadows-Corona Park 1 p.m. / Meet inside the park, at the Unisphere

Sunday, November 17

Beginner Impression Painting / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Sunday, December 1

Nature Photography: Winter Landscapes / Rockaway Beach 11 a.m. / Beach 67 Street on Boardwalk

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, November 3

Nature Photography: Fall Foliage / Bloomingdale Park 1 p.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue

Saturday, November 23

Nature Drawing / Von Briesen Park 11 a.m. / Bay St. & School Rd. parking lot

Sunday, December 29

Nature Photography / Bloomingdale Park 1 p.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue



©Photo by Richard Simon | NYC Park

Wilderness Survival and Emergency Preparedness

What would you do if you found yourself lost in the woods? Do you know how to build your own shelter, or start a fire without matches? What would you eat and where would you find water? Do you have what it takes to survive in the wild? Our Urban Park Rangers are skilled in the techniques of wilderness survival and emergency preparedness. On these fun, family friendly programs you will learn tips and tricks that will enhance your knowledge of the natural world, and might just save your life. Whether you are preparing for an extended journey through the woods or just want to be more prepared for any situation, a wilderness survival program is perfect for you.

Wilderness Survival programs take place in the fall and winter. All programs are family friendly, but are recommended for ages 8 years and older. Wilderness survival

programs feature hands-on activities in an outdoor setting. Please dress appropriately for cold weather.



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BRONX
Sunday, November 17
Emergency Preparedness: Knot Tying and Fire / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, December 1
Wilderness Survival / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Saturday, December 28
Wilderness Survival / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN
Sunday, October 20
Wilderness Survival / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued
Saturday, November 9
Emergency Preparedness: Knot Tying and Map Reading / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln

Sunday, December 29
Wilderness Survival / McCarren Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Lorimer Street and Berry Street

MANHATTAN
Saturday, October 19
Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / meet at Park entrance at Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

Sunday, November 10
Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / meet at Park entrance at Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

MANHATTAN continued
Saturday, November 23
Emergency Preparedness / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street B/W Lenox and 5th Ave

QUEENS
Saturday, November 2
Wilderness Survival / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Saturday December 21
Wilderness Survival / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

STATEN ISLAND
Saturday, October 5
Wilderness Survival / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, November 16
Emergency Preparedness: Knot Tying / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Sunday, December 8
Emergency Preparedness: Knot Tying / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Hiking

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 may 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** allow participants to see parks in a different light, and are great for families. **Fitness Hikes** feature less talking and more walking, for those who don’t mind a vigorous two hour hike. Hiking programs feature intensity levels

ranging from *light* (a leisurely stroll on mostly paved paths), to *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.



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BRONX
Saturday, November 9
Hiking: John Muir Trail (vigorous) / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Mosholu Ave and Broadway

Saturday, November 30
Hiking: Putnam Trail (moderate) / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, December 8
Nature Exploration: Hunter Island (moderate) / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

BROOKLYN
Saturday, October 5
Nature Exploration (moderate) / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

Sunday, November 17
Nature Exploration (light) / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Sunday, December 1
Nature Exploration (light) / Canarsie Park 11 a.m. / Remsen Avenue and Seaview Ave

MANHATTAN
Sunday, November 24
Nature Exploration (vigorous) Inwood to Fort Washington / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Park entrance at Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

MANHATTAN continued
Saturday, December 14
Nature Exploration (moderate) / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / 72nd Street and Riverside Drive

Sunday, December 22
Nature Exploration (light) / Central Park 11 a.m. / Doris Friedman Plaza 5th Avenue at 60th Street

QUEENS
Sunday, October 6
Nature Exploration Hike (light) / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Rose Avenue and Oak Avenue entrance

Saturday, November 16
Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 196th Street

QUEENS continued
Saturday, November 30
Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

STATEN ISLAND
Saturday, October 26
Fitness Hike (moderate) / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Sunday, November 10
Nature Exploration (light) / Bloomingdale Park 1 p.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue

Sunday, December 15
Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Park Drive and Clove Road



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History

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 may require registration.



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BRONX

Sunday, October 27

Historic New York: Split Rock / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion (Shore Rd)

Saturday, November 16

Historic New York: Estates of Pelham / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Saturday, November 23

Historic New York: Native Americans / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, October 12

Open House New York: Prison Ship Martyrs Monument / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, Park entrance at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, November 24

Historic New York: Bay Ridge / John Paul Jones Park 11 a.m. / The Monument at 101st Street and 4th Avenue

Sunday, December 22

Historic New York: Prospect Heights / Grand Army Plaza 11 a.m. / The Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch

MANHATTAN

Saturday, October 12

Little Red Lighthouse Festival / Fort Washington Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Enter the park at 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette

Saturday, October 12

Open House New York: The Arsenal / Central Park 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. / 64th Street and 5th Avenue

QUEENS

Sunday, November 3

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

To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, October 23rd.

Saturday, December 7

Historic New York: Astoria Park Highlights / Astoria Park 1 p.m. / Parking lot on Hoyt Ave. and 19th St.

Sunday, December 8

Historic New York: Native Americans / Rockaway Beach 11 a.m. / Beach 67 and Boardwalk Far Rockaway

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, October 20

Historic New York: Sylvan Grove Cemetery / Independence Park 1 p.m. / Victory Blvd and Alberta Avenue

Saturday, November 2

Historic New York: Native Americans / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, December 7

NYC Heroes of World War II / Wolfe's Pond Park 1 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue



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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.



©Photo by Dan Chan | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, October 6

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

Sunday, November 3

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

Sunday, December 15

Holiday Nature Crafts / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

MANHATTAN continued

Saturday, November 30

Storytelling Walk / Central Park 11 a.m. / Delacorte Clock, enter at 64th Street and 5th Avenue

QUEENS

Friday, October 25

Haunted Lantern Tours / Fort Totten 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

QUEENS continued

Saturday, October 26

Haunted Lantern Tours / Fort Totten 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Sunday, November 24

Kids Scavenger Hunt / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Rose Avenue and Oak Avenue entrance

Sunday, December 29

Family Nature Crafts / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

BROOKLYN

Saturday, October 26

Creepy, Crawling Halloween Nature Crafts / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / Fort Greene Visitor’s Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

Sunday, December 8

Colonial Games / McCarren Park 11 a.m. / Lorimer Street and Berry Street

Saturday, December 28

Recycle and Reuse: Wearable Art and Masks / Marine Park 6 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Sunday, October 27

Creepy, Crawling Halloween Nature Crafts / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / River Run Playground at 83rd Street and Riverside Drive



©Photo by Sarah Aucoin | NYC Parks

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, October 6

Kids Scavenger Hunt / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Park Drive and Clove Road

Sunday, October 27

Creepy Crawly Insect Hike / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, December 1

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

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.



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BRONX
Saturday, October 5
Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, November 2
Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, December 7
Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, December 29
Seal Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 2 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

BROOKLYN
Sunday, October 6
Birding / Marine Park 9 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Sunday, November 3
Birding: Raptor Migrants / Spring Creek 2 p.m. / Enter the park at Erskine Street and Seaview Avenue

Saturday, November 16
Birding: Raptor Migrants / Fresh Creek Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Seaview Avenue and Louisiana Avenue

BROOKLYN continued
Saturday, November 30
Birding / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

MANHATTAN
Sunday, October 20
Nocturnal Wildlife Exploration / Central Park 7 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and mid-park

Sunday, November 17
Birding: Fall Migrants / Central Park 9 a.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and mid-park

Sunday, December 1
Birding / Riverside Park 10 a.m. / 116th Street and Riverside Drive

Saturday, December 7
Urban Hawks and Wildlife Exploration / Washington Square Park 1 p.m. / The Arch, 5th Avenue and Washington Square Park North



©Photo by Rob Mastrianni | NYC Parks

QUEENS
Sunday, October 27
Birding / Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

Saturday, November 9
Birding: Shore Birds / Rockaway Beach 11 a.m. / Beach 67 and Boardwalk Far Rockaway

Saturday, December 14
Birding: Waterfowl / Baisley Pond Park 1 p.m. / Parking lot on Baisley Boulevard and 155th Street

Sunday, December 15
Urban Wildlife Exploration / Forest Park 11 a.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

STATEN ISLAND
Saturday, October 12
Birding: Raptor Migrants / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs

Saturday, December 21
Winter Birding / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Sunday, December 22
Animal Tracking / Wolfe's Pond Park 1 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue

Ranger's Choice

Our bright and talented Urban Park Rangers are what make our Weekend Adventure programs so amazing. This fall 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. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register to register.



©Photo by Richard Simon | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, December 21

Owls / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Orchard Beach's Hunter Island is home to many different species of nesting Owls. Come with the Rangers on this special program as we walk the trails of Hunter Island to get a close look at the nesting pairs of Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, Long-Eared Owls, and Saw-Whet Owls. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, December 11th.

QUEENS

Sunday, November 10

Willow Lake / Flushing Meadows-Corona Park 11 a.m. / Mauro Playground at Park Drive East and 73 Terrace

Hike the newly restored Pat Dolan Willow Lake Preserve trail at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park for a "behind the scenes" wildlife viewing experience. Willow Lake Preserve is home to various species of waterfowl and mammals. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, October 30th.

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, November 24

Turkey and Waterfowl Watching / Midland Beach 1 p.m. / Midland Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard

Scores of wild turkeys roam freely around Staten Island's Midland Beach. Spend an afternoon with the Rangers learning all about this unique New York City site. Later, learn how to identify migrating waterfowl using binoculars and field guides. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, November 13th.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, November 23

Forensic Flora & Fauna / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Bugs, plants and animals have all helped solve crimes. Discover just how sharp Mother Nature's detective skills are. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, November 13th.

MANHATTAN

Saturday, November 16

Belvedere Castle by Candlelight / Central Park / 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and mid-park

Historic Belvedere Castle is nestled in the heart of Central Park, offering beautiful views from its tall spires. Join the Rangers for a rare evening exploring this hidden gem. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, November 6th.



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



NYC Parks



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Raptor Fest

Sunday, October 13
Prospect Park Peninsula
Noon - 3 p.m.

Experience the thrill of viewing New York's premier predators, live and up close with the Urban Park Rangers and the Prospect Park Audubon Center.

Enter the park at Prospect Park Southwest and Vanderbilt Street and follow Wellhouse Drive.



NYC Parks

