

# Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2008

## *in New York City*

### INSIDE...

- 4** ALLEY POND PARK  
ADVENTURE COURSE &  
FAMILY CAMPING
- 5** CENTRAL PARK ZOO  
EDUCATION
- 6** COOL TO COMPOST
- 13** THE LIVING LOG
- 14** JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE  
REFUGE

Includes  
**PULLOUT CALENDAR OF  
URBAN PARK RANGER  
FREE PROGRAMS**



Message from: *Sarah Aucoin, Director, Urban Park Rangers*



It's summer time in the City. School's out, and for many, this is the perfect time to plan a get-away. From overnight camping trips to day trips to the beach, everyone enjoys an opportunity to escape the City's summer heat and spend some quality time outdoors. When I was a child, my family would leave the city and spend a week camping and exploring the local beaches in coastal New England. I had friends who went to sleep away camp and came home with tales of canoeing lakes, exploring creeks, and roasting marshmallows. I am sure many of you have similar memories, or are looking

Traveling home to the Bronx the other day, my five year old son looked out at the Meadowlands and said "that looks like a beautiful place to swim, doesn't it Momma?" While he might not be able to swim there (yet), he knows what many of us should spend this summer learning: although we live in one of the largest and most dense metropolitan areas in the country we can still expect, and find, great outdoor adventures right outside our doorsteps.



for an opportunity to create similar memories with your family today.

What if I told you that it was possible to create these memories right here in New York City? That it was possible to canoe lakes, explore creeks, and roast marshmallows without ever actually leaving the City? There are many good reasons to take a more local approach to your outdoor adventures this summer. With skyrocketing transportation costs, staying here in the City can save you and your family a bundle. And you don't have to sacrifice on adventure: you can sleep under the stars in Central Park; reach the top of a 45 foot climbing wall in Queens at Alley Pond Park; canoe to an offshore island in Brooklyn at Marine Park; use a map and compass to hike the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail in the Bronx at Van Cortlandt Park; catch frogs in Staten Island at Blue Heron Park. There's fun for everyone and every age; from Junior Ranger Summer Day Camps to sand castle building contests, there are numerous ways to create a lifetime of outdoor summer memories without roaming beyond the City limits.

# Outdoor News

## HUNDREDS OF NEW YORKERS NAVIGATE THE WATERS AT THE 9TH ANNUAL AMAZING BRONX RIVER FLOTILLA

### Five-Mile Canoe Procession Kicks Off Paddling Season, Celebrates Revitalization of Bronx River

On May 10th, Commissioner Adrian Benepe, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis, Council Member Oliver Koppell, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chair of the Bronx River Alliance Joan Byron, Bronx River Administrator/Executive Director of the Bronx River Alliance Linda Cox, and over 200 paddlers navigated five miles down the New York City portion of the Bronx River in the 9th Annual Amazing Bronx River Flotilla. The flotilla symbolized the official start to paddling season along the Bronx River and celebrated the ongoing renewal of the river's ecological health.

With \$70 million in park and greenway construction and natural area restoration in progress, the Bronx River will soon be a major recreational and ecological resource for city residents.

The flotilla of nearly 80 canoes and kayaks launched on Bronx River from Shoelace Park at 219th Street in Olinville, floated past the newly renovated \$1.4 million River Park and Concrete Plant Park which is under

a \$10 million renovation, and finished three hours later down river at Hunts Point Riverside Park, where an afternoon picnic celebration was underway and enthusiastic crowds greeted the paddlers.

The Bronx River is believed to be a pre-glacial stream whose course has been reshaped and modified over time. Historically, the river has suffered from flooding, erosion, and habitat loss. Since the 1990's the river has been restored back to ecological health and today, the Bronx River Corridor is home to more than 250 thriving species of native flora such as pin oak, river birch, and white snakeroot, and native fauna, including the mallard, muskrat, and beaver. The Bronx River is also a popular paddling site. Parks and the Bronx River Alliance offer free, seasonal canoe programs open to the public.

In an effort to "green" the river and its surrounding areas, Parks is in the midst of creating the Bronx River Greenway, an eight-mile long bike and pedestrian pathway that will increase public access to the river and provide enhanced waterfront recreational opportunities in the Bronx.

The Bronx River Alliance stewards the river and was awarded a 2007 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Award for their efforts and accomplishments in the river's restoration. The Alliance offers public canoeing trips down the Bronx River. For more information, visit [www.bronxriver.org](http://www.bronxriver.org).



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 . . . MESSAGE FROM: SARAH AUCOIN, DIRECTOR, URBAN PARK RANGERS
- 2 . . . OUTDOOR NEWS: 9TH ANNUAL BRONX RIVER FLOTILLA
- 3 . . . RANGER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
- 3 . . . KIDS' KORNER: BEES
- 4 . . . FREE PARK "ED-VENTURES" THIS SUMMER
- 4 . . . HERP CORNER: RED-BACKED SALAMANDER
- 5 . . . CENTRAL PARK ZOO EDUCATION
- 6 . . . COMPOSTING & SUSTAINABILITY
- 13 . . . THE LIVING LOG
- 13 . . . MAN'S BEST FRIEND
- 14 . . . JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

PULLOUT SECTION:  
7-12 URBAN PARK RANGER  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Outdoors

in New York City

Planning	Sarah Aucoin, Director
Editorial	Matt Symons, Deputy Director
Operations	Richard Simon, Captain
Programs	Marta Arroyo, Program Manager
Graphic Design	Elizabeth Green, Graphic Artist
Research	Shalini Beath

Urban Park Rangers • 1234 Fifth Avenue • New York City 10029



# RANGER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**AN INTERVIEW WITH QUEENS URBAN PARK RANGER, ANDREW DiSALVO.**

**Where were you born? Where have you lived?**

I was born in North Tarrytown, NY, which oddly enough doesn't exist today, so maybe I'm just a figment of your imagination. Actually, North Tarrytown is currently Sleepy Hollow. I've lived in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY; Rochester, NY; Chestnut Hill, MA; St. Thomas, USVI; and Brooklyn, NY.

**When did you start working with the Urban Park Rangers?**

My first day on the job was at Central Communications on February 5, 2007. I worked there for two days, then bounced to Central Park for four days, then bounced to Salt Marsh Nature Center for five. After getting the sense that no one liked me, I began attending the training academy on Randall's Island. Following the training academy, I was assigned to Forest Park. I've been at Forest Park for over a year, so chances are the people here enjoy my company.

**Why did you become an Urban Park Ranger?**

For starters, sitting in an office is not for me. I tried it one summer and I was very uncomfortable. So, upon returning from a teaching stint in the Caribbean, I looked for jobs in the outdoors and came upon this one. My background in education and science make this job a very good fit. Nothing beats patrolling through a park on a nice spring day.

**What are your responsibilities as a Park Ranger?**

The primary responsibility is education. I educate the public not only on weekend programs and during weekly school programs, but also if I am on routine patrol through a park. It's rewarding to share my knowledge with others and know that they'll likely pass it on to friends and family. Education gives people a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world. I also conduct law enforcement patrols, making sure all the animals and people in the park are safe. Lastly, I occasionally rescue animals. Those include everything from your typical dogs to red-tailed hawks!

**What is the most interesting thing that you have encountered or experienced as a Ranger?**

Recently someone decided to release his or her pet ferret in Forest Park. Of course the ferret had no idea where to go or what to do because it was a domestic animal, so it decided to crawl into a sewer by the golf course. I, of course, had to rescue it. You don't get calls for ferrets too often, so it was a tricky but rewarding rescue because ferrets are pretty awesome animals. Just a note to New York City residents: releasing an

unwanted pet in the park is not only illegal, but cruel to the animal. The survival instinct of a domestic animal is pretty much non-existent when compared to wild animals, so it will usually die or be killed by a predator fairly quickly. Just drop your pet off at Animal Care & Control or the ASPCA if you don't want it. You'll save not only the animal's life, but a Ranger's time as well.

**What is your favorite park activity?**

I'm big into photography, so I try to carry my camera with me wherever I go. I also like canoeing. You really feel detached from the city when you are out on the water. It's a nice perspective.

**What is your favorite park? Why?**

It's no contest; Alley Pond Park. It's heavily wooded and is home to a variety of animals, including great horned owls, raccoons, and a rare species of human that lacks the opposable thumb to successfully hold on to dog leashes. Hiking through Alley Pond Park is a very nice escape from the busy and loud city life, and it's never very crowded which makes it all the better.

**As a Park Ranger, what is your message to the people of NYC?**

Treat the city parks as if they were your own backyard. Keep the parks clean, be respectful of other people, and enjoy yourself. In general, I don't think enough people in the city utilize city parks, so get out here already!

**Anything else you would like us to know about you?**


I haven't done it in a few years, but I really enjoy SCUBA diving, especially exploring wrecks. The water is too cold up here and the visibility is bad, but I'm going to get back to the Caribbean eventually. I have a twin sister named Katie. I've also broken 13 bones in my life. In college, I tried out for Jeopardy! When I was four I ate corn on the cob for the first time and I ate everything, not knowing that you were supposed to throw out the cob. In my free time I look for American bullfrogs at Strack Pond in Forest Park. Need I go on?

## KIDS' KORNER!

**By Bonnie McGuire, Urban Park Ranger Sergeant**

Take a look at some flowers this summer and chances are you will see some bees, wasps, and flies. Do they all look the same? The wasps are the ones that are long and slender, like a hot dog. Bees and flies are usually more round, like a hamburger. Many flies have the same black/ yellow colors of bees, but flies only have 2 wings and their antenna are hard to see. Bees have four wings and have antennae that are elbowed like a boomerang. There are many types of bees, almost 200 different species, in the New York City area. Most of these are very small and are solitary, meaning they live alone. They can't sting, which is what bees are typically known for. Instead these solitary bees collect pollen, nectar to feed their your larvae (baby bees). Solitary bees are important pollinators. They fly into a flower looking for nectar and get covered with pollen. As they fly from flower to flower, they move the pollen around, enabling the flowers to create seeds and make more flowers.

One of the most well known bees is the European honey bee. It's a medium sized bee, about as big as a kidney bean and is orange / brown in color. Honey bees make honey, which is a combination of nectar, water, and bee spit. These bees are social, they live together



in big family units with a queen (mom), and 30,00-45,000 worker bees (sisters) all in the same hive (house). Each bee has her own job to do in the hive. Some bees take care of the larvae, making sure they have enough to eat and are clean. Other bees spend their day cleaning out the hive. Some bees have to guard the door against invaders and other bees are responsible for collecting food and water. There are even some bees who just take care of the queen bee.

Sometimes if it gets a little crowded a group of bees leave the hive to look for a new home. This is called swarming. Don't be afraid though, swarming bees don't have a home to protect, so they're not likely to sting. Honey bees only sting to defend themselves or their family or hive. And when bees sting, they die. We all know the bees can't talk. So how do they tell each other where the food is? They dance! That's right, they shake their...abdomens. If it's a really good food with lots of nectar and pollen, there is a really fast dance called a waggle dance. For food that's not so good, it's a slow waaaaggggglllllee.

So tomorrow, dance around really fast if you're about to have a good lunch!

## THE BOUNTY OF FREE IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC FRUGALITY

**By Denyse McAlpin**

Great, the title of this article has drawn your attention. Now I can take the time to highlight FREE offerings the Urban Park Rangers have for you.

More than ever before, you can take advantage of our free programs. For starters, we have a number of Ranger led Explorer events offered in all five boroughs. They cover all the areas you've wished and hoped to explore within 29,000 acres of New York City parkland. Entertain your adventurous side with canoeing, high and low adventure course offerings, hiking trails, biking, family camping, learning orienteering, and identifying species

of living plants and animals in your urban environs. With capacity enrollment in our Junior Ranger Day Camp 2008, we have seen interest and participation in our program offerings increase with the decrease in consumer discretionary funds. We warmly invite you to join us! Educators and home schoolers of levels K through 8: inquire at your local Nature Center in order to book an offering from our award winning The Natural Classroom series; a fun, hands on learning experience taught by Rangers in the classroom or park setting.



Alley Pond Park Adventure & Family Camping

In Northeastern Queens



www.nyc.gov/parks





Night Hikes



Cookout



Camping



Adventure Course



Canoeing

Families! Free, Free, Free

Overnight camping Fridays and Saturdays in July and August.

SUNDAY SPECIAL! Experience the adventure course on Sundays from May to November.

Visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers) for more information.

Program Date	Reservation Date
To camp on July 4 or 5	Call on Mon. June 30
To camp on July 11 or 12	Call on Mon. July 7
To camp on July 18 or 19	Call on Mon. July 14
To camp on July 25 or 26	Call on Mon. July 21
To camp on August 1 or 2	Call on Mon. July 28
To camp on August 8 or 9	Call on Mon. August 4
To camp on August 15 or 16	Call on Mon. August 11

Call after 9 a.m on reservation day.

School / Youth Groups!

Low-cost adventure program with various elements. Choose from the following:

- High / low ropes adventure course
- Canoeing / fishing / orienteering
- Campouts

If you are interested in booking an Alley Pond Park Adventure Program, or to register for family camping please call 718.217.6034.



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation  
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation  
Urban Park Rangers

Free Park “Ed-ventures” this Summer!

In addition to all the wonderful activities listed in the Urban Park Ranger events calendar, this summer the Rangers are offering MORE! Weekdays in the summer, bring the kids to parks around the city for drop-in programs. Kids love earning their Nature Detective badge as they explore the “wild” side of parks with the Rangers. Scavenger hunts, micro-safaris, “tree-mendous” hikes, and other wildlife experiences await!

BRONX

Crotona Park: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, locations vary

Orchard Beach: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, Pelican Bay Playground (section 2)

Van Cortlandt Park: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, Southwest Playground (Van Cortlandt Park South and Broadway)

BROOKLYN

Fort Greene Park: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 3pm, locations vary

Marine Park: Thursday, programs at 11am and 3pm; Wednesday and Friday, programs at 3pm, locations vary

Owl’s Head Park: Wednesday and Friday, programs at 3pm, locations vary

Prospect Park: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 3pm, locations vary

MANHATTAN

Central Park: Monday - Friday, programs at 11am and 3pm, locations vary

Inwood Hill Park: Monday - Friday, programs at 11am and 3pm, locations vary

Riverside Park: Wednesday, programs at 11am and 3pm, locations vary

QUEENS

Forest Park: Wednesday - Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, locations vary

Fort Totten: Wednesday, programs at 11am, Meet at entrance to Fort Totten, north of intersection of 212 St. & Cross Island Pkwy. (July only)

Kissena Park: Wednesday through Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, Meet behind Kissena Playschool, near 164th Street and Oak Ave.

Rockaway Beach: Wednesday through Friday, programs at 11am and 2pm, Meet at B. 59th Street and the Boardwalk

For more information, visit [nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://nyc.gov/parks/rangers).

THE HERPCORNER- THE RED-BACKED SALAMANDER

By Mara Pendergrass,  
Urban Park Ranger Sergeant

Warm sun, blue sky, furnace-blast breezes coming off the streets- ah, summer in New York City! It’s the perfect time to get away from all the concrete and glass and escape into the trees in search of leaf litter and cool, damp soil, and all the little creepy-crawlies that inhabit it. In amongst the ants, beetles, worms, centipedes, and roly-polies, you stand a good chance of finding one of their main predators, an odd little lungless, light-phobic amphibian known as the red-backed salamander.

Yes, you read it right – I said *lungless*. The red-backed salamander belongs to the family *Plethodontidae*, the largest of the salamander families found in the U.S., grouped so because none of them has lungs. All the air they need gets absorbed through their skin. Consequently, none of this family get very big; the northern red- backed salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, tops out at 5 inches, and as an adult can be as small as 2 1/2 inches. They are long, slender creatures with stubby legs and smooth, slimy, dark gray - to dark brown-colored skin with a black and white, salt-and-pepper type mottling on the belly. There are two dorsal color varieties, the red-backed phase and the lead-backed phase; the red-backed variety has a dorsal stripe that is usually red, but can be yellow, pink, orange, or gray; the lead-backed variety lacks the stripe. Both varieties can be found in New York City parks. The species as a whole is common and widespread, and can be found in cool, moist coniferous, mixed, and

Red-backed salamander

photos by VanDevender

Adult



hardwood forests from the Carolinas to Nova Scotia, and as far west as eastern Minnesota.

Being lungless isn’t the only thing that makes this salamander unique; it is in fact completely terrestrial, including the egg and larval stages. Every two years a female will find a male and go through an elaborate mating ceremony during which the male will deposit a little sac of sperm that the female retrieves and uses to fertilize her eggs internally. She then lays a cluster of 6-12 eggs in June or July in a cavity under a stone or inside a rotting log, and coils around to tend them until they hatch about two months later -- a level of care unusual in the amphibian world. To top it off, the little salamanders, unlike most amphibians, come out looking like little salamanders and not tadpoles! They mature in two years, ready to start this most unusual of amphibian cycles again.

Because they breathe exclusively through their skins, they have to keep themselves moist; the only time they will venture out from

their logs or leaf litter is on damp or rainy nights when they roam far and wide in search of insects. The best bet for anyone hoping to find these little creatures, will be after a good rain when they will still be near the surface hiding under rocks, logs, boards, and whatever else is convenient. Rooting gently through the leaf litter will also bring results. Possibly one of the most amazing things about the red-backed salamander is how easy it is to find them in New York City; they are present in all five boroughs, sometimes in the most unexpected places. Wherever there is a patch of undisturbed, moist vegetation you stand a good chance of finding them. I once found a colony alongside the Jerome Park Reservoir across from the Bronx High School of Science! And for those who are really interested, or who are uncertain about turning over logs looking for salamanders and possibly coming face to face with a brown or garter snake- there are ongoing research projects run by the Department of Parks & Recreation’s Natural Resources Group, that track salamanders in several parks throughout the city.

Just remember that these salamanders are fragile creatures and must be handled with extreme care. Do not hold them for long periods of time, and return them where you found them as soon as possible. If you have bug spray or sunscreen on your hands don’t touch them at all; they are very sensitive to chemicals.

Take only pictures; leave only footprints; and leave your parks better than you found them!



# Central Park Zoo Education

By Alison Saltz, Theater Outreach Coordinator and  
Bonnie Bromberg, Elementary Education Instructor  
Central Park Zoo Education Department

THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO OFFERS A VARIETY OF  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNGSTERS  
OF ALL AGES WITH OUR  
ONSITE ZOO SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OUR  
TRAVELING OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Summer season is here which for many New York City children means activities such as hitting the pool, enjoying ice cream, and going to camp. The Central Park Zoo hosts many camp visitors over the summer months, however what many camp directors don't realize is that the Central Park Zoo offers educational opportunities that travel directly to the camp's front door.

Wildlife Theater is the Wildlife Conservation Society's outreach program. They travel to all 5 boroughs plus communities north of the city, and parts of Long Island and New Jersey. If a camp group is planning to visit the Central Park Zoo a Wildlife Theater experience can enhance the "pre- or post-zoo" experience. Or if traveling is not an option for the campers a Wildlife Theater experience can be a fun treat.

The audience participatory, 30-45 minute, auditorium or classroom-sized shows, cover a diverse range of topics including the animals and ecosystems of the rain forest and the polar regions as well as insects and other basic animal concepts. The programs utilize a combination of drama, puppetry, and music to make summer learning fun. It's geared for children in grades pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Stephanie Katzman, Nursery School Camp Director, at Rhinelander Mini-Camp booked her third Wildlife Theater camp visit in three years. Every camp week is a different theme so Wildlife Theater visits during Animal Week. She says, "Because of the Animal Adventures Medley program we actually tied in the theme of the week based on what Wildlife Theater performed. We have what they do as a performance and then we tie it in with our art projects, readings, and activities. It's interactive and with music and the kids get up and participate so they are not watching a video or just sitting. It's interactive learning and it's a great way to start a given theme. And then we tie it in to a Central Park Zoo visit."

Some of the more popular programs with camp directors are from the Wildlife Theater classroom series. Directors can add a touch of the tropics to the camp day with a visit from the Youcan the Toucan puppet and experience a unique introduction to the rain forest using the five senses in the ***Sense of the Rain Forest Adventure***. In ***Petunia Penguin Goes to School*** campers are transformed into a team of Antarctic scientists and a giant, talking penguin demonstrates the adaptations that help these birds survive the harsh polar habitat. Another camp option is learning basic animal concepts such as animal shapes, sounds, locomotion, and metamorphosis in the puppet-filled ***Animal Adventures Medley***.

For more information on the Wildlife Theater camp-friendly programming check out [www.wcs.org/wildlifetheater](http://www.wcs.org/wildlifetheater), email [asaltz@wcs.org](mailto:asaltz@wcs.org), or call 212.439.6540.

Also, if a parent is looking for a fun family program, check out about the Central Park Zoo's General Audience Programs. The fall/winter session of programs will be listed on their website in September at [www.nyzoosandaquarium.com/czeducation](http://www.nyzoosandaquarium.com/czeducation). Exciting School Programs with live animals are also available for preschool and elementary classes. You can watch the two videos on their website to find out more information.



Above Photo: © Julie Larsen Maher / Wildlife Conservation Society



Above Photo: ©Suzanne Bolduc / Wildlife Conservation Society



Above Photo: ©Suzanne Bolduc / Wildlife Conservation Society



# Cool to Compost

By Bonnie McGuire, Urban Park Ranger Sergeant

Out of all the garbage that New Yorkers throw away, approximately 27% of it is food waste, yard trimmings, and compostable paper. On a city scale, only the yard trimmings can be collected and composted cost-effectively. However, everyone can do their part to reduce the amount of garbage they create. Consider a compost bin, a small container that can be kept in a community garden or backyard. A lot of different items can be put into a compost bin, but there is a delicate balance to make the compost develop best. There are “greens” that have a considerable amount of water and “browns” that are relatively dry. Balancing the two will keep your decomposers happy and prevent the formation of mold. The following is a short list of do’s and don’ts (a complete list can be found at the NYC Compost Project website at [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org)):

The following is a short list of these items.  
The list in its entirety can be found at the NYC Compost Project website at [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org)

<b>DO NOT PUT IN THE BIN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cat litter and dog waste</li><li>• Dairy products</li><li>• Fish and meat scraps</li><li>• Fats, oils, and grease</li><li>• Invasive weeds</li><li>• Weeds with seeds</li><li>• Diseased plants</li><li>• Dead animals</li><li>• Sand</li><li>• Glossy or colored paper</li><li>• Large branches</li><li>• Coal and charcoal ash</li></ul>	<b>PUT IN THE BIN</b> <table><tr><td><b>Greens</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit and vegetable scraps</li><li>• Coffee grounds</li><li>• Tea bags</li><li>• Dry grains</li><li>• Fresh leaves and green plants</li><li>• Grass clippings</li><li>• Flower bouquets</li></ul></td><td><b>Browns</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dry leaves</li><li>• Nut shells</li><li>• Corn stalks</li><li>• Straw and hay</li><li>• Newspaper</li><li>• Shredded paper</li><li>• Egg shells</li><li>• Old potting soils</li></ul></td></tr></table>	<b>Greens</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit and vegetable scraps</li><li>• Coffee grounds</li><li>• Tea bags</li><li>• Dry grains</li><li>• Fresh leaves and green plants</li><li>• Grass clippings</li><li>• Flower bouquets</li></ul>	<b>Browns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dry leaves</li><li>• Nut shells</li><li>• Corn stalks</li><li>• Straw and hay</li><li>• Newspaper</li><li>• Shredded paper</li><li>• Egg shells</li><li>• Old potting soils</li></ul>
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So, why compost? For starters, it produces a wonderful, nutrient rich soil that you can use in gardens and houseplants. It also reduces the amount of waste that is produced and needs to be shipped to other states’ landfills, thus reducing the amount the city is paying to do this. And if you’re into it, you can find a whole variety of decomposers such as beetles, millipedes, centipedes, sow bugs, and many others. A compost bin opens up a whole new world for discovery.

Should you not have a place for a compost bin, or are unwilling to haul your food waste to a community garden, don’t worry, you can start a worm bin! Worms are wonderful little creatures that will eat 1/3 of their weight in food scraps every day. Worm bins can be easily kept in a small apartment as they don’t take up a lot of space. Simply add some water, don’t let them get too hot or cold, and keep feeding them fruit and vegetable scraps. After a little while, you will have worm castings to add to your potted plants or garden.

Oh, and don’t worry, neither the compost bin nor the worm bin smell bad. They are both easy to keep, and reduce the amount of waste we throw away.

Check out the website at [www.nyccompost.org](http://www.nyccompost.org) or visit the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation website at [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) to view opportunities to learn more about composting and recycling.



Join the Urban Park Rangers to learn more about **composting**. See the calendar for details.

Staten Island	July 6	Blue Heron Park
Staten Island	September 7	Blue Heron Park

© Photo: [www.joalmorris.com](http://www.joalmorris.com)

## Sustainability

By David Hurd, Director of the Office of Recycling Outreach and Education for Council on the Environment of NYC

In July 2006, the City Council passed Mayor Bloomberg’s landmark Solid Waste Management Plan to improve the way the City manages solid waste after the closing of the Fresh Kills Landfill in 2001. The plan’s benefits include reducing the environmental impacts associated with shipping solid waste by truck, the adoption and enforcement of borough self-sufficiency in the handling of waste, and a renewed emphasis on recycling and waste reduction.

The Office of Recycling Outreach and Education (OROE), a program of the Council on the Environment

of New York City (CENYC), was created as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan in order to implement a grassroots, community district approach to recycling education. OROE provides “hands-on” outreach to promote reuse, waste prevention, composting, and recycling with the goal of increasing public awareness of, and participation in, New York City’s residential recycling program. The Office of Recycling Outreach and Education is also expanding opportunities to recycle materials that are not currently designated in the City’s residential recycling program.

Each day in New York City twelve thousand tons of waste is collected from residents, delivered to transfer stations, loaded on to long haul trucks or rail cars for disposal in incinerators or landfills in other states. New Yorkers only recycle half of the bottles, cans, paper, and other items that are acceptable in the city’s residential recycling program.

Diverting materials from landfills and incinerators reduces greenhouse gasses that cause global warming.

Recycling conserves both natural and economic resources. For each piece of paper, metal can, glass jar, and plastic bottle that is recycled, an equivalent natural resource is preserved. The demand for recycled commodities is rising. Paper, cardboard, metal, and plastic are commanding record prices as feedstock for new products.

The Office of Recycling Outreach and Education offers free services to New York City residents to assist them in creating an environmentally sustainable city. Services include presentations that show how to create effective recycling programs in residential buildings. Visit the Council on the Environment on the web at [www.cenyc.org](http://www.cenyc.org).



# Urban Park Rangers

## EXPLORER PROGRAMS

City of New York

Parks & Recreation

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Adrian Benepe, Commissioner



### Active Conservation

Help us improve hiking trails, remove invasive plants, monitor animal populations, or plant native wildflowers. Bring water, a snack, and wear work clothes.



### Artistic Expression

Amateur and experienced artists and craftspeople encouraged to attend. Craft, sketching, and writing materials provided, but bring your own camera for photography programs.



### Birding

The Urban Park Rangers will teach you everything you need to know to get started and try out your new skills on the trails. Each program highlights different bird types and special park areas for bird. Look for seasonal hi-lites.



### Camping

Bring a flashlight; a tent (some are available to borrow); bedding; and dinner. Some programs require RESERVATIONS. This is noted in the listing, along with instructions. Space is limited!



### Canoeing

Get wet with the Urban Park Rangers and learn to canoe. In no time, you'll be paddling like a pro and ready for adventure. First-come, first-served, unless otherwise noted. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8 and up. Be prepared to get wet/dirty.



### Exhibits, Lectures and Films

Enjoy art, movies and lectures highlighting local talent, natural science and history. Learn from the experts in their fields.



### Kids Activities

Join the Urban Park Rangers for a variety of children-centered activities. Nature crafts, sing-a-longs, play dates, storytime and more!



### History

Come hear the fantastic stories our parks have to tell.



### Hiking

Come on a program. Adventure and leisure hikes, nature and historic walks and tours, orienteering and more in every borough.



### Fishing

Bring your own pole (some are available to borrow). **Freshwater:** bait provided; catch-and-release fishing only. **Saltwater:** bait provided.



### Nature Exploration

Learn about flowers and birds, wildlife, or stars in the sky. Bring binoculars if you have them; a flashlight for evening walks.



### Night Programs

Explore the parks at night. Camp, hike, bird, star-gaze, and more.



### Orienteering

Learn to use a map and compass. Wear sturdy shoes; bring a snack, water, and binoculars if you have them.



### Performing Arts, Live!

See, hear and participate in poetry, dance, acting, readings, open microphone nights in our beautiful parks and nature centers.



### Special Events

Our Special Events celebrate nature and are great fun for all ages! For information, call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers, or visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers).

## RANGER STATIONS & NATURE CENTERS

### BRONX

**Crotona Nature Center, seasonal (CNC):** Crotona Park. Enter the park at Charlotte St. & Crotona Park East. 718.885.3466  
**Orchard Beach Nature Center, seasonal (OBNC):** Pelham Bay Park. Section 2 of Orchard Beach. 718.885.3466  
**Pelham Bay Ranger Station (PBRS):** Pelham Bay Park. Bruckner Blvd. & Wilkinson Ave. 718.885.3467  
**Van Cortlandt Nature Center (VCNC):** Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at W. 246th St. & Broadway. 718.548.0912

### BROOKLYN

**Salt Marsh Nature Center (SMNC):** Marine Park. East 33rd St. & Avenue U. 718.421.2021  
**Fort Greene Visitor Center (FGVC):** Fort Greene Park. Enter the park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. 718.722.3218

### MANHATTAN

**Belvedere Castle (BC):** Central Park. 79th St., mid-park. 212.628.2345  
**Dana Discovery Center (DDC):** Central Park. 110th St. & Lenox Ave. 212.860.1376  
**Inwood Hill Nature Center (IHNC):** Inwood Hill Park. Enter park at W. 218th St. & Indian Road. 212.304.2365

### QUEENS

**Alley Pond Park Adventure Center (APPAC):** Alley Pond Park. Enter at Winchester Blvd., under the Grand Central Parkway. 718.217.6034  
**Forest Park Visitor Center (FPVC):** Forest Park. Woodhaven Blvd. & Forest Park Drive. 718.846.2731  
**Fort Totten Visitor Center (FTVC):** Fort Totten Park. Enter park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212 St. & Cross Island Pkwy. and follow signs to Old Fort Totten/Visitor Center. 718.352.1769

### STATEN ISLAND

**Blue Heron Nature Center (BHNC):** Blue Heron Park. 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road & Hylan Boulevard. 718.967.3542  
**High Rock Ranger Station (HRRS):** High Rock Park. Park in the lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Ave., and follow signs.

#### WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND FRIDAYS

**Nature's Playground / Riverside Park 11 a.m.–3 p.m. / River Run Playground, enter the park at 83rd Street**

The Urban Park Rangers invite you to attend weekly nature-themed programs geared towards youngsters and children of all ages. Come fly with the birds, or make your own bug. Each day will be filled with different fantastic activities.

#### WEDNESDAYS IN JULY - AUGUST

**Fishing Factoids / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside the Dana Discovery Center**

Would you like to learn how to fish in the Meer? Let the Urban Park Rangers and Central Park Conservancy show you the proper methods and techniques, as we explore/learn about the ecology of the Meer and some fantastic solutions set in place to protect it.

#### FRIDAYS IN JULY - AUGUST

**Nature's Playground / Riverside Park 3 p.m. /Morningside Playground (enter 120th Street)**

The Urban Park Rangers invite you to attend weekly nature-themed programs geared towards youngsters and children of all ages. Come fly with the birds, or make your own bug. Each day will be set with different fantastic activities.

### Friday, July 4

#### Manhattan



**Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center** Celebrate your independence by canoeing freely on the marsh. Great for the whole family, children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Queens



**Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Enjoy views of the bay, Throgs Neck Bridge, and the old fort, all from the water, as you learn the basics of canoeing skills and safety. Ages 8 and up. To register, please call 718.352.1769 on the Monday prior to the program.

### Saturday, July 5

#### Bronx



**Birding Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC** Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Bring your own binoculars.



**AMERICAN REVOLUTION WEEKEND: Washington's Troops on the Hill / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** As part of our tribute to our nation, join the Rangers for an exploration of the park, as we discuss the Bronx' role in the Revolution.



**AMERICAN REVOLUTION WEEKEND: Hike To Glover's Rock / Orchard Beach 1 p.m. / OBNC** See listing above.

### Saturday, July 5 cont'd



**The Reel Deal / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC** Come on by for fishing in newly restored Indian Lake, while learning all about our underwater neighbors.

#### Brooklyn



**Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**



**Living Log / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.)** Find out how much life there is in that "dead" log on the side of the trail on this discovery hike with the Rangers.



**History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Celebrate Independence Day with a guided tour of historic Fort Greene Park and discover the role this park played in the American Revolution.



**Ponderous Ponds / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the Audubon Center** What animals and organisms live in the ponds of Prospect Park? Join us as we explore with nets and magnifiers to find out.



**Urban Beekeeping / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Find out what the buzzzz is about. Discover what it takes to maintain beehives in NYC, taste some NYC honey, and make a beeswax craft.



**Birding for Kids / Fort Greene Park 3 p.m. / FGVC** Bring the kids to the park for a day of birding by sight and song watching. Children 12 and under. Limited number of children's binoculars available.

#### Manhattan



**Lights, Camera, Central Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at park entrance north side of 60th street, just west of Fifth Ave.** Summer blockbuster season is in full swing. Test your movie trivia knowledge as we walk through the park's best-known movie locations.



**Nightlife Highlights / Fort Tryon Park 8:30 p.m. / Meet at Margaret Corbin Circle (just north of 190 St. and Fort Washington Ave.)** Explore the park in search of fireflies and other denizens of the dark. Bring a flashlight and your sense of adventure.

#### Queens



**Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.



**SOARING SERIES: Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves.** Enjoy birds of prey crafts, owl pellet dissection, and talon painting



**SOARING SERIES: Forest Park 12 p.m. / FPVC** Come search for and learn about birds of prey with the Urban Park Rangers!



**SOARING SERIES: Rockaway Beach 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Come learn about shorebirds, including the endangered piping plover, then build a bird for yourself!

### Saturday, July 5 cont'd



**History Club / Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC** July's topic will be the role of artillery during the Battle of Gettysburg, which was fought from July 1st through July 3rd, 1863.

#### Staten Island



**Moses Mountain Hike / High Rock Park 10 a.m. / HRRS** Explore streams, forests, and geology as we scale this artificial mountain.



**Beautiful Bees / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Buzzzzzz around the park to experience the wide variety of winged wonders. You'll see honey bees, bumble bees, and even metallic green bees. Learn how they help us every day, and check out their homes.



**Forest Ecology / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.** View a variety of birds, insects, mammals, and more, while exploring what may be the biggest stand of huckleberry in the city.

### Sunday, July 6

#### Bronx



**American Revolution Weekend: Valentine-Varian House / Varian Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Van Cortlandt Ave. and Bainbridge Ave.** See July 5 listing.



**Patriot Games / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC** The children of the Revolution played games too - just different ones! Find out what they were, and how to make your own toys.



**Into the Depths / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Learn about and net the aquatic creatures that make Indian Lake their home.

#### Brooklyn



**NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR SERIES: Boreum Hill and Cobble Hill 10 a.m. / Meet at Pacific St. and 4 Ave.** The area around Atlantic Avenue is undergoing a renaissance, but there are still some hidden historic gems tucked away throughout the neighborhood. Join us as we uncover them and explore the area.



**Canoeing the Creek / Marine Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 2 p.m. / Meet at Burnett St. And Avenue U** Enjoy a day of canoeing on beautiful Gerritsen Creek. Enjoy creekside views of wading birds and basking terrapins. Ages 8 years and older. Arrive early: first-come, first served.



**Grand Army Plaza Monument Walk / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet under the Arch** Discover the history and significance of Grand Army Plaza, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, as well as the fountain and surrounding statues of JFK Plaza.



**Explore the Ravine / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.)** Take a nature hike and explore the last remaining forest in Brooklyn on this guided tour of one of Prospect Park's most secluded & rustic areas.


#### Manhattan



**Woodblock Printing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Create your own wood block print. All materials provided, just bring your imagination.





## Sunday, July 6 cont'd

 **Memorials Bike Tour / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Dana Discovery Center.** Celebrate Independence Day weekend as we take a bike tour of the north forts of Central Park and on to the memorials of Riverside Park. Bring your bike and helmet.


 **Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center** See July 4 listing.


### Queens

 **SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES: Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** What do scat, tracks, nests, and shells all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Explore the nineteenth century fortress that helped protect New York City's harbor from possible naval attack and learn about the history of Willet's Point.


 **SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES: Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC** What do scat, tracks, nests, and cocoons all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!


 **SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES: Kissena Park 2 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves.** What do scat, tracks, nests, and galls all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!

 **Lantern Tour / Fort Totten 7:30 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Explore the dark caverns of Fort Totten for a history tour by lantern.

 **DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES: Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / Join us for some riveting adventures on film!** Special features will include segments of the Planet Earth series, Winged Migration, and more! Call 718.846.2731 during the week prior for more information.


### Staten Island

 **Composting 101 / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC** Reduce your garbage and create wonderful soil at the same time. View several different working compost bins, as well as an active worm bin.


 **Maps 'n' More / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Never get lost again! Learn the basics of maps and compasses, then take your turn on a course.

## Friday, July 11

### Queens


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


### Staten Island


 **Family Camping / Willowbrook Park 7 p.m. / Location TBA** You'll pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal residents of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. To register, call 718-967-3542 after 9 a.m. on July 7.


## Saturday, July 12


### Bronx

 **Creating with Nature / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Get the creative juices flowing as we look to nature to inspire!

 **Botany: From Beach to Forest/ Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC** The varied habitats of Orchard Beach are a perfect place to explore the diversity of NYC's plant life.

 **Geology Rocks! / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** We'll explore the rolling hills of Crotona Park to learn how the terrain was formed and what the Wisconsin glacier left behind.


 **Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** Summer wildflowers are in full effect, so join us for an exploration.


 **Ranger Puppet Theater / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC** Folktales come alive through the Ranger puppet theater. Fun for the whole family!

### Brooklyn

 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**


 **Tree-mendous Hike / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center** Join the Urban Park Rangers for a guided tree walk, as we learn to identify different types of trees, view some of NYC's great trees, and discover the important role trees play in our environment.


 **Canoeing Coney Island Creek / Kaiser Park 12 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** Explore Coney Island Creek by canoe as we go in search of wading shore birds, the remains of NYC's shipping history, and float by the wreck of a real submarine. Paddling experience required. To register, please call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on July 7.

 **The Redcoats are Coming (and Hessians too)! / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 12 listing.

 **Orienteering 101 / Prospect Park 2 p.m. / Meet behind Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.)** Learn the basics of navigating using a map and compass as we explore Prospect Park.


### Manhattan


 **Where the Wild Things Are / Central Park 1 p.m. / DDC** Take the trail less traveled and explore the deep North Woods of Central Park. Designated a Forever Wild site, this 55-acre gem holds secrets unseen by most park visitors. Rock formations, waterfalls, and wildflowers are just a few of the spectacular surprises that await.


 **Rangers in the Night / Inwood Hill Park 8:30 p.m. / IHNC** Join the Rangers as we explore the park after dark. Walk ends at Dyckman Street.

## Saturday, July 12 cont'd


### Queens

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


 **CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES: Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet behind Kissena Playschool, off 164 St.** Come learn how to get good nature pictures without bringing a camera! We'll do leaf rubbings and nature prints.


 **CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES: Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC** Come learn how to get good nature pictures without bringing a camera! We'll do leaf rubbings and nature prints.


 **Canoeing / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. / Meeting Location TBA** Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Call 718.846.2731 on Wednesday, July 9th to register.

 **CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES: Rockaway Beach 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Bring the family for some serious seashell crafts!

### Staten Island


 **Forever Wild! William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge / WTDWR 10 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at Richmond and Travis Aves.** Pay tribute to one of Staten Island's most famous naturalists by bringing your binoculars to get a view of blue herons, egrets, kingfishers, and much more.


 **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** Come witness the dramatic transformation, as well as the turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, and ring-necked pheasants. You won't believe your eyes! Visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) to register.

 **Insect Insanity / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Sneak a peek at these six-legged wonders that are vital to our everyday survival. Discover what they do for us and how we can help them!

## Sunday, July 13


### Bronx


 **Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / Orchard Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch** Ready for more of a challenge? Test your skills on the water of the Pelham lagoon! To register, call 718.548.0912 on July 7 and leave a message.

 **Tree-mendous Hike / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** London plane, sweetgum, tulip, and willow are just some of the leafy giants found in this park. Can you point them out?


**Documentary Day: Planet Earth / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** No commercials! Just an airing of two episodes of the Planet Earth series uncut and straight through.


### Brooklyn


 **What Lurks Below? / Marine Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Burnett St. and Avenue U** Discover what animals call Gerritsen Creek home. Pull on some hip-waders (supplied) and use seining nets to find out who's living below the surface of the water.

 **Insect Insanity / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. / FGVC** Bug out with the Rangers and learn all about the creepy crawlers living in Fort Greene Park and make your own buggy craft. Children 12 and under.


**Nature Hide and Seek / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center** Discover the secrets of camouflage on this Ranger-led discovery hike.


 **Nuts about Squirrels / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Learn everything you ever wanted to know about everyone's favorite furry-tailed park inhabitants.

 **Pirate's Treasure / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Someone's hidden a secret treasure in the park! Learn how to use a map and compass to uncover it. Finders keepers... Children 6 to 12.


 **Summer Night Broadway Musical / Marine Park 6 p.m. / SMNC** Gilbert Weiss is back to sing popular Broadway show tunes. Join us on the lawn in the backyard. Bring a lawn chair or blank and relax.

### Manhattan


 **Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer near Lasker Pool.** Join the Rangers for a day of canoeing in the middle of Manhattan. First-come, first-served. All equipment and instruction provided. Ages 8 and up.


 **Highbridge Water Tower / Highbridge Park 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Meet at Tower, inside the park at 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave.** Why is this tower here? Who built it, and is still used? These, and other burning questions, will be answered today.


### Queens


 **Creatures of the Tidal Zone / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Come take a walk at low tide on the rocky shore around Fort Totten, and discover the special creatures equipped to thrive between sea and land.


 **Nature Photography / Cunningham Park 12 p.m. / Meet at parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197 St.**

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **It's History! / Rockaway Beach 1 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Come for a historical hike along the Rockaway coast. Learn about the endangered piping plover and why your hometown is important to them!

 **Fungus Among Us / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC** Your local Ranger isn't the only "fun guy" in town. Join us for an exploration of some of the best fungi Queens has to offer.


 **Orienteering 101 / Kissena Park 2 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves.** Can't navigate your way out of a parking lot? Come learn the basics of orienteering with the Urban Park Rangers!

 **DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES: Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC** See July 6 listing.

## Sunday, July 13 cont'd


### Staten Island

**Canoeing Basics / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Release your stress with a peaceful ride on the water. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first served.

 **Radical Rocks / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)** Explore the wide variety of rocks on the shores of Conference House Park.


## Friday, July 18

### Queens


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

## Saturday, July 19

### Bronx

 **Entrancing Ethnobotany / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. / VCNC** From comestibles to herbology to the deadliest of poisons, what people can do with plants is amazing.


 **Seashore Safari / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC** Not all safaris happen in exotic places. We'll go looking along the shore for some coastal critters.

 **Backyard Birding / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Come join the Urban Park Rangers for an introduction to common New York City birds. Bring binoculars. All ages welcome.


### Brooklyn


 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**

 **Explore the Park: Owl's Head Park / Owl's Head Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the park house at Colonial Rd.** Built on the site of the Bliss Estate, Owl's Head Park contains legacy trees, rolling hills, and sweeping vistas of New York Harbor. Discover it all on this Ranger-led tour of the park.


 **History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 5 listing.


### Manhattan


 **Little Red Light House / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Light House** Join the Rangers as we explore the inspiration for the children's book, The Little Red Light House and the Great Gray Bridge.

 **Moon Struck / Central Park 8 p.m. / Meet at Sheep Meadow, across from Tavern on the Green (enter park at W. 67 St.)** It's a full moon, so come on out and join the Rangers for some moon-gazing and fun facts about everyone's favorite satellite.


### Queens


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


 **HAPPY TRAILS! SERIES: Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Come take a hike along the beautiful Rockaway coast, the summer home of the endangered piping plover!

 **Basic Canoeing / Kissena Park 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at Kissena Lake, near Rose and Oak Aves. entrance** First come, first served. Bring water and sunscreen.

### Staten Island


 **Canoe Adventure / Lemon Creek Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Location TBA** Enjoy this wonderful route through the tidal waters of Lemon Creek. You'll see egrets, great blue herons, kingfishers, and much more. To register, call 718.967.3542 on July 14 for reservations. Space is limited.


 **Rockin' Ravine / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS** Get up close and personal with Richmond Creek. Explore the geology of the creek and meet its inhabitants. Discover the role it plays in the surrounding ecosystem, and the path it takes to the Arthur Kill.


 **Native American Pathways / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.)** Explore the forest and the beach in search of the different plants and animals the Native Americans used for food and shelter.

## Sunday, July 20


### Bronx


 **Creating with Nature / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / OBNC** Get the creative juices flowing as we look to nature to inspire!

 **Nature Bingo for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / VCNC** Bring your little ones for a fun learning experience and some games. Prizes!

 **Message in a Bottle / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Plastic bottles are a hazard to our environment if not properly discarded after use. We'll explore ways to reuse plastic bottles for nature's benefit. Please bring your own bottles. Ages 6 and up.

### Brooklyn


 **History Club: City Hall Park and the Brooklyn Bridge / City Hall Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Fountain (inside the park at Broadway and Park Row)** Come out and help us celebrate the 125th birthday of this historic bridge on this Ranger-led walking tour, starting in Manhattan at recently restored City Hall Park and continuing over the Brooklyn Bridge (tour ends in Brooklyn).

 **Bottle Biology / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Help recycle as we create soda bottle terrariums. Bring an empty clean 2-liter soda bottle and all other materials will be provided.

 **Nature's Recyclers / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** People aren't the only ones who recycle. Discover how nature breaks down different materials.





Sunday, July 20 cont'd  
Manhattan


 **Photography/ Inwood Hill Park/ 10 a.m. / IHNC** Join the Urban Park Rangers on a wildlife hike from Inwood Hill through Fort Tryon Park. What better way for you to save a memory than taking it home on film.


 **BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES: History Club: City Hall Park and the Brooklyn Bridge / City Hall Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Fountain (inside the park at Broadway and Park Row)** See today's Brooklyn listing.


Queens


 **Family Fun / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / FTVC** Bring the family out for some fun! Join the rangers for craft projects, games, and storytelling.

 **GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES: Powell's Cove Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 11 Ave and 138 Pl.** More than half of Powell's Cove Park is literally submerged under the waters of Flushing Bay, but you won't have to get wet to learn about the various plants and animals that inhabit this ecosystem. From cordgrass to crabs, this cove's got it all.

 **Living Rocks / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Think rocks aren't important? Think again. Come find out who makes them their home!


 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **Living Logs / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves.** Where do trees go when they die? Do they stay there? Come learn about nature's recyclers!

 **Living Logs / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC** Where do trees go when they die? Do they stay there? Come learn about nature's recyclers!


 **DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES: Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC** See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

 **Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC** Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.


 **Living Log / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** We'll explore several logs in the park in search of snakes, worms, insects, and more..


Friday, July 25


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

Saturday, July 26

Bronx

 **John Muir Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.** Stretch your legs and get some air as we traverse the park's only east-west trail. Hike ends on the east side of the park.


 **What's the "Bug" Idea? / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. / OBNC** Are all bugs insects? Are all insects bugs? Learn the answer and much more as we go looking into a bug's life!


 **Ranger Puppet Theater / Crotona Park 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. / CNC** See July 12 listing.

Brooklyn


 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**


 **Canoeing the Creek / Marine Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 2 p.m. / Meet at Burnett St. And Avenue U** See July 6 listing.

 **Dragons and Damsels / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center** Dragonflies and damselflies, that is. Join us as we go in search of these bejeweled insect beauties.


 **Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Join the Rangers for a look at the fortifications for each of the three conflicts in which it was involved.

Manhattan

 **Fairy Tale Statues / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Delacorte Musical Clock (at 65 St. near Zoo)** Imaginative minds of all ages will be enchanted by this tour of the Park's most fanciful statues including Balto, Mother Goose, Alice in Wonderland, and Hans Christian Anderson. Includes a fun stop for kids at the charming Billy Johnson Playground and its nearby Rustic Shelter.


 **Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC** Join the rangers as we teach about the fundamentals of camping. You will learn basic survival skills and how to pitch a tent. What better way to spend the evening then camping out under the stars? **To register, please call 212.304.2365 on July 14.**

Queens

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


 **Nature Knowledge / Highland Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St.** Explore this gem of a park that sits on the border of Queens and Brooklyn. It doesn't matter which borough you're from—come on down.


Staten Island

 **PARK TO PARK: High Rock to Reed's Basket Willow Swamp / High Rock Park 10 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station** Hike the Yellow Trail to this beautiful swamp to see the purple willows once used to make baskets, along with dusky and northern red salamanders.

 **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA** See July 12 listing.


Saturday, July 26 cont'd


 **Great Swamp / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Willowbrook was once known as the "Great Swamp." Join the Rangers for this historical and natural look at Willowbrook Park. Wear hiking boots and bring water and a snack.


 **Bat Bonanza / Blue Heron Park 8 p.m. / BHNC** See the bats in the wild east! Pay tribute to one of the more beneficial animals in our area. If you don't like mosquitoes, you'll love these animals.


Sunday, July 27

Bronx


 **Early Birding / Pelham Bay Park 9 a.m. / OBNC**


 **Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First come, first served. Bring water and sun screen. Ages 8 and up


 **Orienteering Scavenger Hunt / Crotona Park 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center** Learn the basics of orienteering while learning about the park's hidden gems.


 **Park-itecture / Pelham Bay Park 2 p.m. / OBNC** From Orchard Beach's early days as a WPA project to the large-scale construction of today, parks are always changing. Join us for a guided tour of some of the building techniques employed.


Brooklyn

 **Duck, Duck,...Goose! / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Vanderbilt Playground (enter at Vanderbilt Ave. and Prospect Park Southwest)** Bring your young ones to Prospect Park for their first birding outing on this bird tour designed for young children.


 **Who, Who, Who...Did I Eat? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** What do owls eat? How do they find their food? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we dissect owl pellets.


 **Criminals, Cops, and Capers / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Learn about some of the most infamous crimes in NYC history and the science investigators used to solve the mysteries.

 **The Giving Tree / Prospect Park 2 p.m. / Meet at the Picnic House (enter at Prospect Park West at 3 St.)** Join us for a reading of this beloved children's book, followed by a tree walk through the Ravine.


 **Creatures of the Night Hike / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC** Enjoy a night hike as we go in search of bats, raccoons, opossums, and night herons.


Manhattan


 **Go Fish! / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC** Join the Rangers as we teach you the basics of fishing. Rods and bait provided.


 **Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer.** See July 13 listing.

Queens


 **Nature Scavenger Hunt / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Birds, insects, and trees...Fort Totten is the place to be! Join us on a hunt to uncover Mother Nature's hidden treasures.


 **13th Annual Rockaway Sandcastle Contest / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 117 St. and Boardwalk** Test your architectural skills by building a sand structure at the beach. It doesn't have to be a castle, but it does have to be creative. Prizes. Bring your own tools.

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **Living Ponds / Forest Park 1 p.m. / FPVC** Join the Rangers for a pond ecology lesson and look for fresh water insects and other critters!


Staten Island

 **History Club: Names of Staten Island / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC** What's in a name? Learn the origins of the many different names of streets, parks, and beaches of Staten Island, from Abbey Road to Zwicky Street.

 **Dynamic Decomposers / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)** We'd be up to our eyeballs in dead things if it weren't for dynamic decomposers—join us as we explore their world.

Thursday, July 31


Brooklyn


 **Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC** Featured movie will be "The Birds." Call 718.421.2021 for more information.

August

Friday, August 1


Queens


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


 **AMAZIN' DAY AT SHEA: A Commemorative Tour / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Shea Stadium Diamond Club (between Gates C & D)** Come sports fans! Join the Urban Park Rangers for an on-field historical tour of Shea Stadium in its last year as home to the New York Mets! Pre-registration is required; space is limited. **Please call 718.846.2731 on Wednesday, July 16th between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to reserve. Maximum of 4 people per party.**

Saturday, August 2

Bronx

 **Birding Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC** Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Bring your own binoculars.


 **Best of Both Worlds / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Come learn about Crotona Park's native and invasive species and how they have become an important part of the park's ecology.


 **Orienteering Scavenger Hunt / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** See July 27 listing.


 **Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Orchard Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch** See July 13 listing.

Brooklyn

 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**


 **Canoe the Lullwater / Prospect Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 2 p.m. / Meet at the ramp near the Audubon Center** Enjoy a day of canoeing on beautiful Lullwater to the Lake and back. Enjoy views of wading birds and basking turtles. Ages 8 years and older. Arrive early: first-come, first served.

 **Colonial Living / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / FGVC** Discover what life was like in America in the years just before the Revolution. Try your hand at colonial era games, butter churning, and watch a colonial open pit cooking demonstration.

 **Park Clean up / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Meet in front of SMNC** Come help spruce up the Salt Marsh Nature Trail.


 **Family Fishing / Prospect Park 3 p.m. / Meet outside the Audubon Center** Enjoy a day of fishing with the family in beautiful Prospect Park. Poles and bait provided.

Manhattan

 **Early Birding/ Inwood Hill Park 8 a.m. / IHNC**

 **LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES: Battery Park and Governors Island / Bowling Green 9 a.m. / Meet at Bowling Green Park (Broadway and Beaver St.)** The Urban Park Rangers and National Park Service invite you to explore these fantastic parks, spending the day learning about the intricate social, political, and economic history of New York City.


Queens

 **Early Birding / Fort Totten 9:30 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy** History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

 **Plover Day / Rockaway Beach 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at B. 59 St. and Boardwalk** Learn about these endangered birds that live in your backyard. Crafts, face painting, and refreshments are part of the fun.


Staten Island

 **Living Log / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Ramona and Lenevar Aves.** See July 20 listing.

 **Insect Insanity / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)** See July 12 listing.

Sunday, August 3


Bronx


 **Fishing for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / VCNC** Family fun at the lake! We'll teach all the basics, and provide poles and bait.


 **Arts and Crafts for Kids /Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / ONBC**

 **The Reel Deal / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC** See July 5 listing.


Brooklyn


 **Park Slope Neighborhood Walk Part I / Park Slope 10 a.m. / Meet at the corner of Bergen St. and Flatbush Ave.** Part I of our most popular neighborhood walking tour. We'll see the "Princess of Prospect Place," Queen Anne-style mansions, and gorgeous brownstones. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.

 **Birding / Owl's Head Park 12 p.m. / Meet at the Parkhouse at Colonial Rd.**

 **Amazing Arches / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside the Audubon Center** Explore the beauty of Prospect Park's unique arches, while learning the history of these features that played a large role in Olmsted and Vaux's design.


Manhattan

 **North by Southwest / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC** A journey from the forests of Inwood Hill Park, to the creative design of Fort Tryon Park, ending on the banks of the Hudson at Fort Washington Park. Along the way, we'll cover the history and natural aspects of these greenspaces.

 **Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center** Ages 8 and up. First-come, first-served.


 **LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES: Lower East Side Community Garden and Neighborhood Tour / Tompkins Square Park 1 p.m. / Meet at St. Mark's Pl. and Ave. A.** Bring your walking shoes and explore some of these secret oases, as we make our way to the East River.

Queens


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.



**Sunday, August 3 cont'd**

 **Canoeing / Bayswater Park 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at B. 35 St and Beach Channel Dr.** Canoe along Norton Basin with the Urban Park Rangers. Children ages 8 and older can participate with a parent. Canoes, lifejackets, and instruction provided. Pre-registration is required. Call 718.318.4000. Space is limited. Reservation date?


**Staten Island**

 **Ponderous Ponds / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** See July 5 listing.


 **Fabulous Frogs / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station (1150 Clove Rd.)** Jump into the park and explore the wonderful world of the hoppers! Discover their role in the food chain.

**Wednesday, August 6**

**Queens**


 **Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)** Learn about the different species of fish found in the waters around New York City, as we see what we can catch. All ages welcome; limited poles and bait provided.


**Friday, August 8**


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

**Saturday, August 9**

**Bronx**


 **Geology of Orchard Beach / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC** Explore this Marine Zoology and Geology Sanctuary with the Rangers.

 **Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / VCNC** See July 12 listing.

 **Open Mic / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Musicians, actors, poets, and storytellers are welcome to perform. Who knows? Maybe even your favorite Ranger has a hidden talent...

**Brooklyn**

 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**


 **Butterfly Bonanza / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Join us as we go in search of these beautiful insects and learn how they get around, eat, and why they have such pretty patterns.


 **Birding / Calvert Vaux Park 1 p.m. / Meet at parking lot entrance on Shore Pkwy. bet. Bay 44 and Bay 49 Sts.** You'll be surprised at the bird diversity at this often-overlooked Brooklyn birding hot spot.

 **History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 5 listing.


 **Vale of Cashmere Hike / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Grand Army Plaza entrance to park** Explore this beautiful, secluded section of historic Prospect Park.


**Manhattan**

 **'Round the Reservoir / Central Park 1 p.m. / E. 90 St. and East Drive A** leisurely 1.6 mile stroll along the jogging and bridle path that surrounds this ecologically significant body of water. Learn about the history and controversial future of a piece of the park that is heavily used by residents and visitors of the human and wildlife variety.

 **Battle of the Heights / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC** Learn the history of a not-so-well-known Revolutionary battle. We'll explore the role the Native Americans played, and how they helped General Washington hold off the British.


**Queens**


 **Creatures of the Tidal Zone / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 13 listing.


 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **Family Fun Day / Highland Park 6 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St.** Bring your family and enjoy all the fun-filled activities, followed by an outdoor movie screening.

**Staten Island**


 **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** See July 12 listing.

 **Damsels and Dragons / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** See July 26 listing.


 **Family Camping / High Rock Park 7 p.m. / High Rock Ranger Station** You'll pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal residents of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. To register, call 718.967.3542 after 9 a.m. on August 4.

**Sunday, August 10**


**Bronx**

 **Beginner Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First-come, first-served. Bring water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8+.


 **Island Hopping I / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC** The waters surrounding Pelham Bay Park are dotted with tiny islands, each with a unique story. Bring your binoculars for a land lubbers' exploration.


 **Are you Smarter than a Park Ranger? / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC** Join the Urban Park Rangers as we test your knowledge of nature and parks. Based on the popular television game show.


**Brooklyn**

 **Living Log / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.)** Find out how much life there is in that "dead" log on the side of the trail on this discovery hike with the Rangers.


**Sunday, August 10 cont'd**


 **Tree-mendous Walk / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC** There are 40 different types of trees in Fort Greene Park from all over the world. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the park and find out all about them.

 **Canoeing Coney Island Creek / Kaiser Park 12 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** See July 12 listing. To register, call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on August 4.


 **Brooklyn Trivia / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Think you know a thing or two about Kings County? Show off "dem" smarts and win prizes.


**Manhattan**


 **Harlem Parks and Neighborhood Tour / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Duke Ellington Circle, 110 St. and 5 Ave.)** Harlem has a rich history of art, music, food, and culture. Come learn about this ever-changing community, as we walk from northern Central Park, through picturesque Morningside Park, all the way to brownstone-lined Marcus Garvey Park.


 **Highbridge Water Tower / Highbridge Park 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Meet at Tower, inside the park at W. 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave.** See July 13 listing.


**Queens**

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

 **CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES: Something's Fishy! / Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves.** Join the Rangers for a pond ecology lesson and look for fresh water fish and more!


 **CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES: Something's Fishy! / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk** Come seining with the Rangers and learn about the creepy crawlers of the Atlantic Ocean.


 **Tree-mendous Hike / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / APPAC** See July 12 listing.


 **CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES: Bug Eyes! / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC** Learn how insects see, then join the Rangers on a hike to look for them!

 **DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES: Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC** See July 6 listing

**Staten Island**

 **Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC** Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.

 **Scavenger Hunt / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)** Try your hand at our hunt, one of the toughest on the south shore, in search of clues that will lead you to a natural conclusion.

 **Forensic Fun / Blue Heron Park / 3 p.m. / BHNC** Become a detective for the day, as we analyze fingerprints, fibers, and hair to solve the mystery.

**Wednesday, August 13**

**Queens**


 **Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)** See August 6 listing.

**Staten Island**


 **Astronomy: Perseid Meteor Shower / Wolfe's Pond Park 8 p.m. / Meet in the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Ave. off Hylan Blvd.** Join the Urban Park Rangers for this annual spectacular, weather permitting. Bring binoculars if you wish.

**Friday, August 15**

**Bronx**

 **Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / OBNC** To register, call 718.548.0912 on August 4 and leave a message.

**Queens**


 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

**Saturday, August 16**

**Bronx**


 **Cass Gallagher Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.** Explore the lush greenery of the secluded northwest forest on this hike.

 **Hiders and Seekers / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC** An exploration of camouflage and other adaptations.

 **Nature's Remedies / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / CNC** Explore the park with the Rangers, as we focus on medicinal plants.


**Brooklyn**

 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**

 **Urban Park Rangers Eco-Challenge / Marine Park 9 a.m. / SMNC** Register your 2 or 3 person team to compete in a cross-country run, canoe paddle around White Island and up Gerritsen Creek, and an orienteering course. Prizes. To register, call 718.421.2021 on August 4 after 9 a.m.


**Manhattan**


 **Hawk Walk / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / IHNC** Join the Rangers as we explore the park in search of our resident red-tailed hawks and their babies!

 **Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer next to Lasker Pool** See July 13 listing.

**Saturday, August 16 cont'd**

**Queens**


 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **History Club/ Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC** August's topic will be the design and construction of the Endicott Batteries located behind the Water Battery, and how the idea of individual gun emplacements returned to the forefront of coastal defense.

 **Family Fun Day / Highland Park 6 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St.** Bring your family and enjoy all the fun-filled activities, followed by an outdoor movie screening.


**Staten Island**


 **Park to Park: High Rock to the Overlook / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / High Rock Ranger Station** This hike features scenic vistas of Raritan Bay and New Jersey's Atlantic Highlands.


 **Nuts about Squirrels / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)** Do squirrels find all the nuts they bury? How do they climb down trees headfirst? Learn these answers and more in a trek through the park with the Urban Park Rangers.

**Sunday, August 17**


**Bronx**


 **Living Log / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Ever wonder why we leave fallen logs on the forest floor? We'll turn over a few and find out!

 **Seining / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC** The summer waters are filled with marine life. Join us for an exploration of the deep with our seining net.

 **Picture This! Past, Present, and Future / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / CNC** Join the Rangers as we explore Crotona Park's history through photographs. Bring some of your photos of Crotona Park past, shoot some photos of Crotona Park present, and get a glimpse of the future.


**Brooklyn**

 **"Barefoot" in the Park / Marine Park 9 a.m. – 4:30 / SMNC** The NY Transit Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating summer by setting up an amateur radio station at the park. "Barefoot" is a term that refers to radio operators using regular amplified signals to reach out and speak to radio operators throughout the world. Come learn about the club and participate too.


 **Park Slope Neighborhood Walk Part II / Park Slope 10 a.m. / Meet under the Arch at Grand Army Plaza** Part II of our most popular neighborhood walking tour. We'll start with the secrets hidden within the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and finish with a look at the grand mansions that line Prospect Park West. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.


**Manhattan**

 **Birding on the Hudson / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the south end of the 101 St. soccer fields** We'll make our way to the Riverside Bird Sanctuary and see what birds call the Hudson estuary their home.


 **Environmental Poetry Night/ Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC** Join us for an evening of open-mic poetry, as we express our thoughts and feelings on the environment.

**Queens**

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

 **Animal Tracking / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Meet at parking lot on Union Tpke. and 197 St.** Animals leave behind different signs of their whereabouts. With the Rangers, you'll learn to keep "track" of them all.

**Staten Island**

 **Fabulous Frogs / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** See August 3 listing.


**Wednesday, August 20**

**Queens**

 **Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)** See August 6 listing.


**Friday, August 22**

**Queens**

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


**Saturday, August 23**

**Bronx**

 **Bike the Greenway / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS** Bring your bike and enjoy a ride across the Bronx from Pelham Bay to Van Cortlandt! Ride ends at the Van Cortlandt Nature Center.


**Brooklyn**

 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**

 **Nature-Inspired Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. / SMNC** Take a stroll through the nature center and view nature-inspired artwork created by local artists. Sponsored by the Salt Marsh Alliance.


 **Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 26 listing.

**Manhattan**


 **Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Join us for our classic survival workshop. Compass skills, fire-starting, and shelter-building are among our topics.





Saturday, August 23 cont'd

 **BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES:**  
Randall's Island to Astoria / Triborough Bridge 12 p.m. / Meet at E. 103 St and FDR Drive Join the Rangers as we cross the East River via footbridge onto Randall's Island and explore Randall's and Ward's Islands. Then, it's on to the Triborough Bridge and Astoria Park in Queens. Tour ends in Queens.


Queens


 **Community Family Day / Roy Wilkins Park 1 p.m. / Meet inside the park, near the Merrick and Foch Boulevards entrance** This day of festivities, hosted by the Friends of Roy Wilkins Park, is fun for the whole family. It will include various musical performances, a health fair, face painting, nature walks by the Urban Park Rangers and much, much more.

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Observe heavenly bodies through our high-powered Dobsonian telescope and learn how to use the stars to find your way if lost in the wilderness.


Staten Island

 **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** See July 12 listing.


 **Birding / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Join us for a late summer exploration of the park's birdlife.

Sunday, August 24

Bronx


 **Twin Island Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC** From the rocky shore to the forest, this secluded island has it all. Join us for a walk through one of the last vestiges of old Pelham Bay.


Brooklyn

 **Nature-Inspired Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. / SMNC** See August 23 listing.


 **Creating with Nature / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Bring the kids to the park for an afternoon of creating nature-themed crafts. Materials provided, children 12 and under.


Manhattan

 **CENTRAL PARK UNLOCKED! SERIES:**  
Hallett Nature Sanctuary / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet on Gapstow Bridge at the Pond (at 62 St., west of East Drive). Millions of people visit the park every year, but very few ever see this part. Join us for rocky promontories, pond views, and great wildlife sightings.


 **Nature Crafts / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Join the Rangers as we use natural materials to make crafts.

Queens

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

 **GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES:**  
Udalls Park Preserve 12 p.m. / Meet at Little Neck Pkwy & 34th Ave Designated a "Forever Wild Site," Udalls is both a freshwater wetland, with Aurora Pond in the middle of the preserve, and a salt marsh, with brackish Gabbler's Creek flowing into Little Neck Bay. At Udalls, you all will wanna explore the fauna.

Staten Island


 **HISTORY CLUB:**  
Tribute to South Beach / South Beach Park 1 p.m. / Meet in parking lot at Sand Ln. and Father Capodanno Blvd. Discover the "second Coney Island" and explore where the first Staten Islanders settled.

Wednesday, August 27


 **Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)** See August 6 listing.

Thursday, August 28

Brooklyn


 **Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC** Featured movie will be "National Treasure I." Call 718.421.2021 for more information

Friday, August 29

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.


Saturday, August 30


Bronx

 **Nature Bingo for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Bring your little ones for a fun learning experience and some games. Prizes!

Brooklyn


 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**


 **...And Howe / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Richard and William Howe commanded the naval and land forces of the Crown during the New York campaign of the Revolution. This tour will shed light on their story.

 **Birding By Ear / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Sometimes it takes more than your eyes to have a successful day bird watching. Learn how to identify some common birds by their call and song.


Saturday, August 30 cont'd


Manhattan

 **CENTRAL PARK UNLOCKED! SERIES:**  
Blockhouse #1 / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center Millions of people visit the park every year, but very few see this part. On this exploration of the historically significant north end, you'll have a rare opportunity to enter the Blockhouse, built during the war of 1812.


 **Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC** See July 26 listing. To register, please call 212.304.2365 on August 18.

Queens

 **Knot for Nothing / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / FTVC** Ever been in a 'bind,' not knowing which knot to use or how to tie something down, up, or together? Come learn and practice some of the most basic & practical knots. Avoid knotty situations in the future, and you'll thank yourself for knot-knowing.


 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

Staten Island


 **Canoeing Basics / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet on Martling Ave. at the pond** Release your stress with a peaceful ride on the water. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first-served.


Sunday, August 31

Bronx

 **Buggin' Out / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC** Join us for a micro-safari, in search of some of our six-legged neighbors.


Brooklyn

 **Women of the Revolution and Beyond / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. / FGVC** Today, we're recognizing the contributions of great women in American history.


 **Orienteering / Owl's Head Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the park house at Colonial Rd.** Learn to use a compass as you navigate your way around this lovely neighborhood park.

Manhattan

 **Summer Trees / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC** Do you know which tree was used to flavor gum? Did you know that we have an orange tree in the park? Join us as we show you some unique trees and share their history.

 **Urban Park Ranger Biathlon / Inwood Hill Park / Meeting location TBA** Join the Rangers in the surf and on the turf! Bring your bikes and helmets to Inwood, where we will canoe to Fort Washington Park. Your bikes will meet you there to take on the winding paths of Fort Washington and Riverside Parks. Bring water and save up your energy. To register, please call 212.304.2365 beginning August 25.

Queens

 **Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 4 listing.

Staten Island

 **Freshwater Fishing / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. -3 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.** Poles, bait, and instruction provided.

September


Monday, September 1

Staten Island

 **Canoeing Basics / Wolfe's Pond Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet in the Parking lot at the end of Cornelia off Hylan Blvd.** See August 30 listing.

Saturday, September 6

Bronx


 **Birding Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC** Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Bring your own binoculars.

 **Papermaking / Van Cortlandt Park 2 p.m. / VCNC** Come join New York's Greenest for this recycling activity!


Brooklyn


 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**

 **Hike the Midwood / Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet behind the Audubon Center** Join us for a guided nature hike through one of Brooklyn's most natural areas.


 **Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** The remains of over 8,000 souls are interred in Fort Greene Park. Find out who they are and how they got there.


Manhattan

 **Heather Garden and Beyond! / Fort Tryon Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Margaret Corbin Circle (just north of 190 St. and Fort Washington Ave.)** Join us for a stroll through the park in search of herbs, plants, and bushes. We'll focus on uncommon uses of common plants.

 **Wildflower Walk / Central Park 1 p.m. / Belvedere Castle.** Learn to recognize native and non-native plant species that thrive in the Ramble woodland. We'll also take a stroll through lovely Shakespeare Garden, which holds many herbs and flowers mentioned in his writing.


Queens


 **35 Annual Park Fair / Forest Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Buddy Monument, at the intersection of Myrtle Ave. and Park Lane South Raffles.** Games. Nature walks by the Urban Park Rangers. It's fun for the whole family. Hill Block Association.


 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

Saturday, September 6 cont'd

Staten Island


 **Birding / High Rock Park 9 a.m. / HRRS** Take a look at the winged wonders of the Greenbelt. Explore the forest and several ponds for egrets, herons, red-winged blackbirds and much more.

 **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** See July 12 listing.


 **New York State Symbols / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Do you know what our state bird is? How about the state insect? Join the Urban Park Rangers to discover these and more. See how many you can find in the park.


Sunday, September 7

Bronx


 **Great Trees of the Bronx / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS** They're all around us, but a few are truly special. We'll take you on a tour of the ancient and mighty.


Brooklyn

 **NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR SERIES:**  
Coney Island 10 a.m. / Meet on the Boardwalk in front of the Parachute Jump This could be the final season for the famous and infamous Coney Island, as we know it. Join us for a look at the "Nickel Empire," when 5 cents took you to a whole new world. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.


 **Grandparents Day Nature Walk / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Bring grandma and grandpa for a leisurely stroll on the nature trail led by an Urban Park Ranger.


Manhattan


 **Basic Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** First-come, first-served.

 **Starry, Starry Night / Central Park 8 p.m. / Meet at Sheep Meadow, across from Tavern on the Green (enter park at W. 67 St.)** Check out the stars of Central Park, but not of the tabloid variety. We'll look for stars, constellations, planets, and more.

Queens


 **Fishing / Kissena Park 12 p.m. / Meet behind Kissena Playschool, inside the park, near Oak Ave. and 164 St.** Limited equipment provided.

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

 **Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See August 23 listing.


Staten Island

 **Birding / Lemon Creek Park 9 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at Sharrott Ave. off Hylan Blvd.**

 **Wiggly Worms / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center** Discover how keeping a worm bin reduces your garbage and provides wonderful compost for your flowers and gardens.


Saturday, September 13

Bronx

 **Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** Discover late summer flowers on the last of our seasonal flower walks.

Brooklyn


 **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**

 **The Redcoats are Coming (and Hessians too)! / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 12 listing.

 **Children's Hour / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** An afternoon of creative nature crafts. Materials provided. Children 12 and under.


Manhattan

 **Little Red Light House / Fort Washington Park 1-4 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Light House** See July 19 listing.


 **THE LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES:**  
Four Squares! / Madison Square Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the corner of W. 26 St. and 5 Ave. Join us on a walk from one square to the next as we wind our way from Madison Square to Union Square to Stuyvesant Square to Tompkins Square, and everything in between. Square comfortable shoes and bring water.

Queens

 **Early Birding / Fort Totten 9:30 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.**

 **History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.


Staten Island

 **Early Birding / Clove Lakes Park 9 a.m. / Meet at comfort station (1150 Clove Rd.)**

 **ADULTS ONLY Camping / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** Take this opportunity to get away from the kids, pets, roommates, or whatever. This will be a quiet opportunity to pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal occupants of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. To register, call 718.967.3542 on September 8 after 9 a.m.

Sunday, September 14

Bronx

 **Advanced Canoeing on the Hutchinson River / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS** Not for the inexperienced! If you're good with a paddle and enjoy birding, it's the perfect opportunity to go where few others do. To register, call 718.548.0912 on September 8 and leave a message.



**Sunday, September 14 cont'd****Brooklyn**

**Mysteries of NYC History / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Throughout NYC history, big plans were laid out that would have changed everything. Find out all about the city that never was, from the highways that never got built, to the parks that were never developed.



**History Club: History of the NYPD / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Join the History club for a round table discussion of the proud history of New York's Finest.

**Manhattan****BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES:**

**High Bridge / Highbridge Park 1 - 4 p.m. / Meet at the Tower (inside the park at 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave** Climb the water tower and learn about the role it played in New York City history, while taking in views of the oldest bridge in New York City.

**Queens**

**Park to Park and Back! / Cunningham Park & Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 209 St. and Motor Parkway** What's better than spending a day in one of our beautiful parks? Spending a day in two of our beautiful parks, of course. Cunningham and Alley are connected by historic Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, which is now a bicycle and pedestrian path. Approximately 2 miles round-trip. Bring water and comfortable shoes.



**History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.



**Nocturnal Hike / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Join us as we explore the after-hours world of bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

**Staten Island**

**Journey to the South Pole / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.)** Visit the "South Pole," the designated southernmost point of New York City and New York State. You won't see any penguins here, but the wildlife is just as special.

**Monday September 15****Brooklyn****MONDAY NIGHT LECTURE:**

**Nutrition and Health: What does the Label Mean? / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC** Join our guest speaker for a discussion of the relationship between nutrition and health and how to decipher the labels on the foods we buy.

**Wednesday, September 17**

**Astronomy / Blue Heron Park 7 p.m. / BHNC** Weather permitting, join us for a look up at the heavens, in search of stars, constellations, planets, and more. Bring binoculars, if you wish.

**Saturday, September 20****Bronx**

**Beginner Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC** Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First-come, first-served. Bring water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8+.

**Brooklyn**

**Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**



**History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Join the Rangers for a guided tour of historic Fort Greene Park and discover the role this park played in the American Revolution.



**See 'Ya in the Funny Pages / Fort Greene Park 4 p.m. / FGVC** We'll explore NYC's history in comic books, both in terms of characters, stories, and creative talents that crafted them.



**Early Evening Birding / Marine Park 5 p.m. / SMNC** The early bird gets the worm, but did you know that early evening can be a great time to see birds too?



**Saturday Night Live: Fall Harvest Hoe Down / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC** Hee Haw! Join Dancin' with Bob B. and Vivian for a night of fun and entertainment, line dancing, two-stepping, and country bumpkin fun. Come kiss summer goodbye and welcome in fall.

**Queens****History Triple Play**

**Native American History / Alley Pond Park 10:30 a.m. / APPAC** Learn the history of the Matinecock, who originally settled the land that is now Alley Pond Park. You'll learn about their hunting, gathering, farming, and survival techniques. Can't get enough Queens history? After this program, head on over to nearby Fort Totten for more.

**History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

**History Club / Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC** September's topics will include recruiting methods and training of troops, and what life was probably like at 'Camp Morgan' during the Civil War.

**Staten Island**

**Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA** See July 12 listing.

**Saturday, September 20 cont'd****HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. / BHNC** Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Blue Heron Nature Center. Enjoy games, crafts, nature hikes, and a variety of animals throughout the day.

**Sunday, September 21****Bronx**

**Island Hopping II- Advanced Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park / Meeting location & time TBA** On this first-of-its-kind canoe trip, join the Rangers as we explore the islands around Orchard Beach from the water, and learn their histories. Not for the inexperienced! To register, call 718.548.0912 on September 15 and leave a message.

**Brooklyn**

**Neighborhood Walking Tour Series / Clinton Hill 10 a.m. / Meet at the corner of Lafayette Ave. and Claremont Ave.** A brand new addition to our popular neighborhood walking tours: Clinton Hill and its historic district. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Tour will last about 2 hours.



**Fall Harvest Dance / Marine Park 3 p.m. / SMNC** Join the Brooklyn Dance Center Dancers for an outdoor performance expressing the shade & colors of the harvest season.

**Manhattan**

**"The Works" North / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle** Put on your walking shoes as we hike the northern half of Central Park. We'll zigzag from east to west, discovering everything from streams and waterfalls to flowers and trees.

**Queens**

**The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: Native and Exotic Plants / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** Find out how exotic plants take root away from their home, what makes them succeed, and why their success often comes at the expense of wildlife diversity.

**GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES:**

**Dubos Point Park 11 a.m. / Meet at B. 65 St. and Bayfield Ave.** Named in honor of environmentalists Dr. Rene and Jean Dubos, this 33-acre sanctuary is the largest salt marsh on the north shore of Rockaway Peninsula east of Rockaway Point. Considered a stop along the Atlantic Flyway, Dubos is an excellent place to see migratory birds.



**History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

**Staten Island**

**Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BBNC** Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.



**Staten Island Bigfoot / Arden Woods 1 p.m. / Meet at Arden Ave. and Forest Green** Do you have the courage to investigate the park with the most "Bigfoot" sightings? Hike through the woods in search of this, and other wildlife.

**Thursday, September 25**

**Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC** Featured movie will be "Field of Dreams." Call 718.421.2021 for more information.

**Saturday, September 27****Bronx**

**Early Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.**

**Brooklyn**

**Brooklyn-Manhattan Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 9 a.m. / Meeting location TBA** Pack a lunch, bring your binoculars, and get ready for a daylong birding marathon in the best birding spots in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Transportation provided. To register, call 718.421.2021.

**Saturday, September 27 cont'd**

**Leaf Printing / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Arts and crafts for kids under 12.



**Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See July 26 listing.

**Manhattan**

**Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC** See July 26 listing. To register, please call 212.304.2365 on Sept. 15.



**Brooklyn-Manhattan Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 9 a.m. / Meeting location TBA** See Brooklyn listing above.

**Queens**

**Fall Migration Weekend / Highland Park 9 a.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St.** Many birds fly south every autumn in preparation for the upcoming winter. The Rangers will conduct a bird census, so we're "counting" on you to come.



**History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

**Staten Island**

**Early Birding / Lemon Creek Park 9 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at end of Seguire Ave.**



**PARK TO PARK: Red Trail / Greenbelt 11 a.m. / Meet at Richmond Rd. and St. Patrick's Pl.** Visit historic Richmond Town before the trek over Heyerdahl Hill and through Buck's Hollow, as we explore ravines, forests, and meadows.

**Sunday, September 28****Bronx**

**Hawk-Watch / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / PBRs** Pelham Bay is a hot spot for viewing migrating raptors. Come check it out with the Rangers.

**Brooklyn**

**Spanning Time / Brooklyn Bridge 10 a.m. / Meet at Brooklyn Borough Hall (Cadman Plaza W. and Joralemon St.)** Stroll the historic Brooklyn Bridge, enjoy the view, and learn all about the beginnings of greater New York City. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Tour will last approximately 2 hours & end in Manhattan's City Hall Park.



**Explore the Ravine / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the Picnic House** Visit the last standing forest in Brooklyn on this guided tour of one of Prospect Park's most secluded and rustic areas.

**Manhattan**

**Ranger Theater Presents / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Join the Ranger puppeteers for an afternoon of fun.



**Trees on the River's Side / Riverside Park 12 p.m. / Meet at the south end of the 101 St. soccer fields** Put on your walking shoes and enjoy a tree identification walk.

**Queens**

**Fall Migration Weekend / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Mauro Playground (Park Dr. East and 73 Terr.)** See September 27 listing.



**History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.** See July 6 listing.

**Staten Island**

**HISTORY CLUB: Alice Austen House / Alice Austen Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Hylan Blvd. and Edgewater St.** Come visit the residence of the famous Staten Island photographer.

**Join the Urban Park Rangers!**

Looking for hiking in your borough?  
Need motivation? The Urban Park Rangers offer adventure & leisure hikes, nature & historic walks and tours, and orienteering events.



VISIT TODAY for more information at  
[www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers)  
or call 866.692.4295

**BIRD**

Looking for birding walks in your borough? Want to meet other birders? The Urban Park Rangers offer bird walks and talks.

**FREE!**

Looking for canoeing in your borough? Want to meet other canoeists? The Urban Park Rangers offer basic canoeing programs and canoe expeditions.

**CANOE**



# The Living Log

By Anne-Marie Vaduva, Urban Park Ranger

New York City is crazy about trees! Through the MillionTreesNYC initiative we are on our way to planting one million of them by the year 2017.

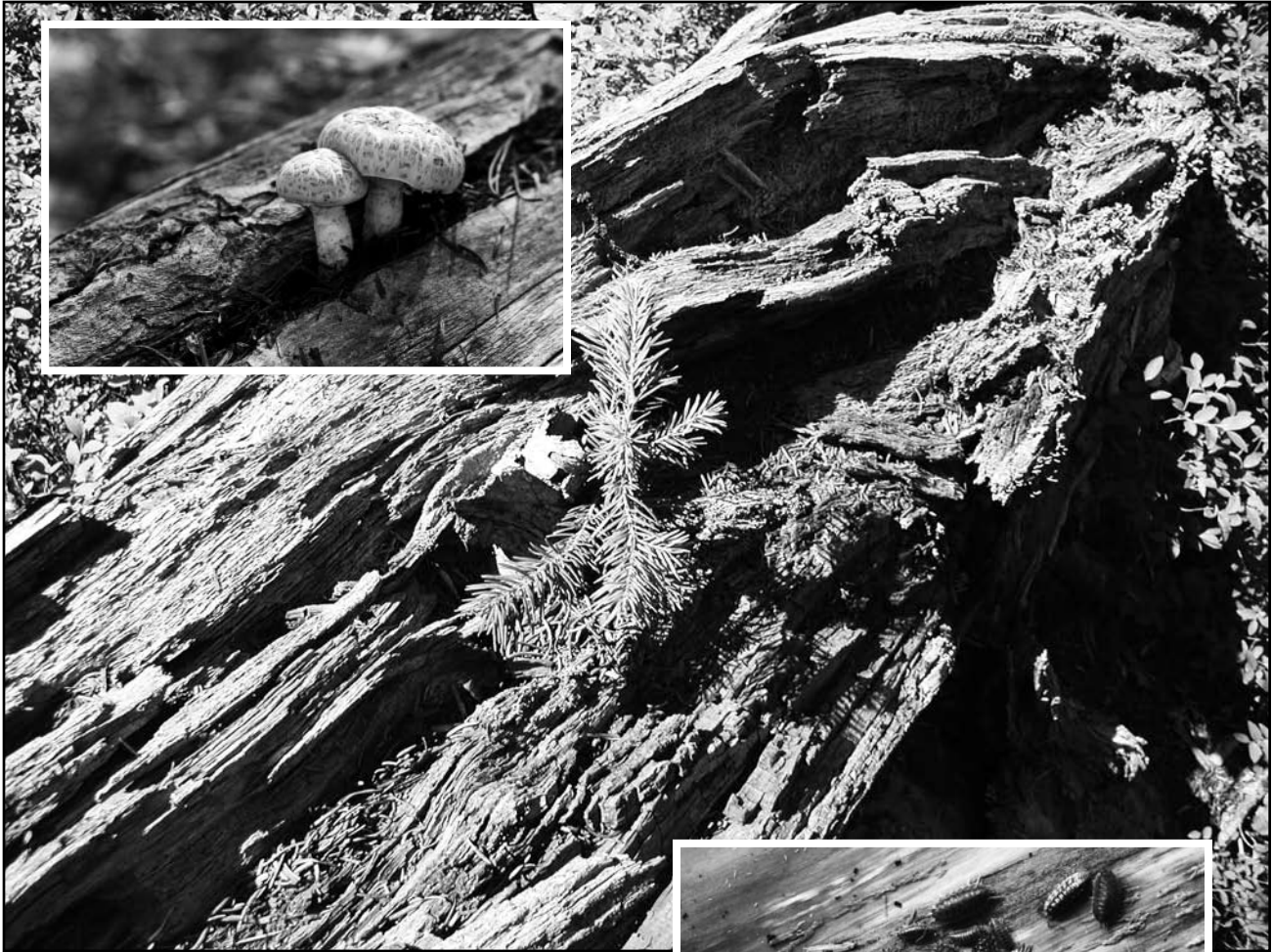
The benefits of living trees to people and to the environment are many and varied. A single mature tree can release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings. And while it's at it, that tree will also absorb approximately 48 pounds per year of that pesky global warming gas, carbon dioxide. Living trees make and clean our air, their leafy canopies lower temperatures by shading buildings and concrete streets, help reduce asthma rates, beautify our neighborhoods, and just make us feel happy.

All of these benefits would not be possible if not for the trees and plants of yesteryear that died and decomposed to form humus, the organic component of soil that is vital to growth.

The decomposition and recycling of a mature tree can take up to 200 years, and during that time it becomes an ecosystem in itself — home and cafeteria for wild creatures that feed off the dead wood, as well as each other.

The first creatures to make their way inside the solid wood must eat their way through. Primary consumers such as engraver and click beetles as well as termites eat the wood, but others such as carpenter ants and wood-boring mites cut tunnels through the wood to make sheltered homes that protect them from the elements. Wood is mostly made up of cellulose, which most organisms on earth cannot digest, which is why beetles have special chemicals in their digestive systems to break it down, and termites actually carry around protozoa in their digestive tract that breaks down the cellulose. The termites eat the protozoa's byproducts.

The first wave of wood invaders bring with them bacteria and fungi that once inside also begin to break down and eat the wood. They transform nitrogen, a nutrient vital to plant and animal life, from an unusable form in the wood into a usable form released in the soil.




All of this eating and home-making over many years changes the wood from hard and solid to soft and spongy. Water starts to permeate inside the decaying log, and it becomes even softer. A spongy log full of water provides a cool, damp retreat on hot summer days for salamanders and other creatures, and acts as a nursery, holding tens of thousands of eggs for the insects that call the log their home.

Plant seeds blown by the wind into the log start sending their roots into the soft insides, leading to the further break down of the wood. More wood-boring insects gain access and move in. Secondary consumers such as spiders and centipedes arrive and start feeding off of the insects that are eating the wood, while decomposers such as pill bugs, earthworms, and millipedes break down plant and insect remains.



In its last stages of decomposition, the rotting log transforms into a carpet of mosses and lichens, and earthworms, fungi, and bacteria complete the cycle of turning wood into soil. A new tree seedling may begin its life on the site of an old log, and this natural cycle has come full circle.



The Urban Park Rangers have **9 Living Log programs** this summer. See the calendar for details.

## MAN'S BEST FRIEND

### Dog Day Afternoon

*Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun*  
Indian Proverb

New York is a dog-friendly city. Just walk around in the residential areas. Dogs, with their people sit on stoops, in laps at sidewalk restaurant tables, on lines at neighborhood bodegas, in purses, baby strollers, and even snugglies.



Is a dog your constant companion? Do you take her with you into the city parks to jog, play tennis, go for a hike, play Frisbee, picnic, or just hang out? As the weather heats up, both in temperature and humidity, here are the precautions to take to keep your dog healthy:

- Groom your dog. Dogs only sweat through their noses, pads of their feet, and mouths (panting). Fur helps insulate your dog from the heat of the sun, so a "summer cut" can do more harm than good. What is important is that her fur be mat-, shed-, and tangle-free to allow the heat in her body to pass out.
- Use sun block. Protect your dog's nose and ears, especially if the skin is pink. If you have a "hairless" dog, protect all her exposed skin. If you choose to shave your dog, take extra precautions to keep her from direct sun exposure.
- Protect your dog's feet! Pavement heats up enough to damage your dog's feet. Watch for cracks, dry skin and swelling on pads, and restrict the amount of time you walk her on hot surfaces.
- Use flea and tick preventatives. There is little worse than finding fleas or ticks on your pet or in your home. Ask your vet or your pet care supplier for a long-lasting liquid or oral preventative. There is protection from mosquitoes available now, as well.
- Keep you dog's health care up to date. Hookworm infestation is prevalent from July to September.
- Watch what your dog eats! Dogs love to 'snarf' up food they find. This is especially a problem in summer. A deadly mold, tremorgenic mycotoxins, can grow on food left in heat. Fertilizers, insecticides, and some plants (foxglove, a summer garden favorite) are also highly toxic. If you are picnicking, skip the corn on the cob.

- Dogs love to eat the husks, but can't digest them; vets often have to remove the husks using surgery.
- Keep your dog hydrated. Just like humans, dogs dehydrate easily in heat and humidity. They need to replenish the water they lose through panting. But, do not let your dog drink from fountains (except special dog fountains) or park ponds; the water may contain algae or chemicals that are harmful. Carry water, and encourage your dog to drink regularly. Offer extra water to running dogs
  - Seek shade. It is best to go out with your dog before 10am or after 4pm when the day is a bit cooler and shade easier to find. Never leave your dog in a parked car in the sun. It only takes a few minutes for the car interior to heat up to lethal levels. Never leave your dog unattended, tied, even in the shade. The sun moves, and so does its shadow! Older dogs, puppies, dark-furred, and short-nosed dogs are all at much greater risk for heatstroke.
  - Know the signs of heat stroke. Watch for rapid breathing and heart rate, dull-gray or pink gums instead of red-pink gums, unusual disoriented or disobedient behavior, or panicked expression. If any of these symptoms occur, seek shade, ventilation, and water immediately. Wet down your dog to the skin, but do not submerge in ice water. Focus on wetting the paw pads and thin-furred belly area. Seek professional care as soon as possible. Heat stroke may progress rapidly and can be fatal.



# Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**By Mindi Rambo, National Park Service**

*"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will only love what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."*

—Baba Dioum, Senegalese Poet

Without conservation, many places of cultural, historical and natural importance can be lost to future generations. This is why conservation is one of the touchstones of all the National Parks of New York Harbor parks.

Take Gateway National Recreation Area's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for example. Through the careful management of the refuge, the National Park Service hopes to preserve the greatest possible number of plant and animal species for the enjoyment and education of generations to come.

Visitors to Jamaica Bay can take part in programs that explore and explain conservation issues at the site. There are bird walks that touch on some of the more than 300 migratory birds that use the wildlife refuge as a stopping point. There are even nighttime programs that allow visitors to witness the mating tumult of the horseshoe crabs and learn more about why these animals are important to the ecosystem. If flowers and plants are more your speed, the refuge offers plenty to look at and talk about.

Gateway National Recreation Area is a 26,000 acre national park that consistently ranks among the Top 10 visited in the nation. Gateway offers programs that speak to the park service's conservation mission by allowing visitors to not only learn more about on-going efforts but to become stewards of the park.

To learn more about stewardship and volunteer opportunities, please call Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 718.318.4340.

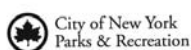


## The 61st Annual Macy's Fishing Contest in Prospect Park

at the Prospect Park Audubon Center  
at the Boathouse, July 16 to 20  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Macy's Fishing Contest has been a Brooklyn tradition since 1947, giving thousands of kids the opportunity to learn about fishing and aquatic ecology. The free contest is open to kids 15 and under, with equipment and instruction provided. Come out to win prizes daily! Individuals may sign-up at the contest, but groups must pre-register at (718) 287-3400 x114. Volunteers welcome, call (718) 965-8960.

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For a full schedule and map, visit:  
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Greenmarket is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Program of the Council on the Environment of New York City. Since 1976, our staff, volunteers and farmers have been working together promoting regional agriculture to preserve farmland and ensure a continuing supply of fresh, local produce for New Yorkers.

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Falcons Extravaganza

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East Meadow, Central Park  
(Enter park at 99th Street and 5th Avenue)



# Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2008

*in New York City*



**OUTDOORS in New York City** is a publication of the Urban Park Rangers, a division of the City of New York Parks & Recreation. Visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers)



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