



Urban Park Rangers Calendar of Events

Spring/Summer 2017



NYC Parks



Urban Park Ranger Facilities

Please call specific locations for hours.

BRONX

Pelham Bay Ranger Station // (718) 319-7258

Pelham Bay Park // Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Orchard Beach Nature Center // (718) 885-3466

Pelham Bay Park // Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Van Cortlandt Nature Center // (718) 548-0912

Van Cortlandt Park // West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center // (718) 421-2021

Marine Park // East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle // (212) 628-2345

Central Park // Enter at 79th Street

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center

(718) 217-6034 // (718) 217-4685

Alley Pond Park // Enter at Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

Forest Park Ranger Station // (718) 846-2731

Forest Park // Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Fort Totten Visitors Center // (718) 352-1769

Fort Totten Park // Enter the park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway and follow signs

STATEN ISLAND

Blue Heron Nature Center // (718) 967-3542

Blue Heron Park // 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard



Urban Park Ranger Outdoor Adventure Programs

For a complete listing of programs or to register, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers.

CANOEING

Few experiences compare with being on the open water in New York City. Our trained Urban Park Rangers will lead you on canoe adventures that range from the gentle waters of protected lakes to the challenging open waters of rivers and bays.

SKILL LEVELS

Basic: Great for all skill levels, including children 8 years and older.

Intermediate: Some experience preferred.

Advanced: Experience required.

Participation in a mandatory safety review led by a trained Ranger is required. Recommended for children 8 years and older.

Sunday, May 21 // Basic Canoeing

Central Park // 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Harlem Meer, 110th Street and Lenox Avenue

Sunday, June 4 // Basic Canoeing

Van Cortlandt Park // 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Enter the park at Van Cortlandt Park South and the Major Deegan, Meet near the golf house

Sunday, June 11 // Basic Canoeing

Prospect Park // 11:00 a.m.

Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Saturday, June 24 // Intermediate Canoeing

Bayswater Park // Noon

B35th Street and Beach Channel Drive

Saturday, July 8 // Paddling 101 (Basic)

Van Cortlandt Park // 11:00 a.m.

Enter the park at Van Cortlandt Park South and the Major Deegan, meet near the golf house

Sunday, July 9 // Canoeing Willow Lake (Intermediate)

Flushing Meadows Corona Park // 11:00 a.m.

Meet inside the park, Meadow Lake Drive and Jewel Avenue, near ballfield 13

Saturday, July 15 // White Island Birding Excursion

Marine Park // 10:00 a.m.

A birding-by-canoe expedition! Explore the waters of Gerritsen Creek and paddle by this special island where only wildflowers and wild birds reside. Participants chosen by lottery. Lottery registration begins on Wednesday, July 5.

Saturday, July 15 // Basic Canoeing

Inwood Hill Park // 1:00 p.m.

Enter at 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, July 23 // Orchard Beach Lagoon Birding

Excursion (Intermediate)

Pelham Bay Park // Noon

Explore the Orchard Beach Lagoon, including Bartow Creek as we look for the birds that live in this estuarine habitat of the Long Island Sound. Registration begins on Wednesday, July 12.

Sunday July 30 // Intermediate Canoeing

Paedergat Basin // 11:00 a.m.

Paedergat Avenue North and Paedergat 11th Street

Sunday, Aug. 6 // Intermediate Canoeing

Marine Park // 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Burnett Street and Avenue U

Saturday, Aug. 12 // Basic Canoeing

Crotona Park // 11:00a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Sunday, Aug. 13 // Intermediate Canoeing

Bayswater Park // Noon

B35th Street and Beach Channel Drive

Sunday, Aug. 13 // Basic Canoeing

Clove Lakes Park // 11:00 a.m.

Martling Avenue and Brooks Pond Place

FAMILY CAMPING

We camp to create lasting memories, connect with the natural world, and bond with our families. The Urban Park Rangers celebrate the tradition of camping and we look forward to welcoming your family. Family Camping programs take place in all five boroughs, but space is limited and families are chosen by lottery. To enter your family in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on the dates listed below. Selected parties will be notified of meeting locations and other details.

Friday May 26 // Family Camping

Van Cortlandt Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, May 17.

Saturday, June 3 // Family Camping

Marine Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, May 24.

Saturday, June 10 // Family Camping

Central Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, May 31.

Saturday, June 17 // Family Camping

Alley Pond Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, June 7.

Friday, June 23 // Family Camping

Inwood Hill Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, June 14.

Saturday, June 24 // Family Camping and Deer Exploration Hike

Blue Heron Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, June 14.

Friday, June 30 // Family Camping

Pelham Bay Park // 6:00 p.m.

To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, June 21.

Friday, July 7 // Family Camping

Willowbrook Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, June 28.

Saturday, July 15 // Family Camping

Blue Heron Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 5.

Sunday, July 16 // Family Camping

Van Cortlandt Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 5.

Saturday, July 22 // Family Camping and

Early Morning Birding

Alley Pond Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 12.

Sunday, July 23 // Family Camping and Orienteering

Marine Park // 5:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 12.

Friday, July 28 // Family Camping and

Early Morning Birding

Inwood Hill Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 19.

Saturday, July 29 // Family Camping

Blue Heron Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 19.

Friday, Aug. 4 // Family Camping

Fort Totten Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 26.

Saturday, Aug. 5 // Family Camping

Pelham Bay Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 26.

Saturday, Aug. 5 // Family Camping

Wolfe's Pond Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, July 26.

Friday, Aug. 11 // Family Camping

Conference House Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, August 2.

Saturday, Aug. 12 // Family Camping

Prospect Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, August 2.

Saturday, Aug. 19 // Family Camping

Van Cortlandt Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, August 9.

Saturday, Aug. 19 // Family Camping

Central Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, August 9.

Saturday, Aug. 26 // Family Camping

Alley Pond Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA To enter your family in the lottery, register on Wednesday, August 16.

RANGER’S CHOICE

Our bright and talented Urban Park Rangers are what make our Weekend Adventure programs so amazing. Each season we feature some of the Rangers’ favorite Weekend Adventure experiences. Space is limited on all Ranger’s Choice programs and registration is required. Please visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register to register.

Sunday, May 14 // Archery

Willowbrook Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. A beginner’s introduction to the sport of archery. Ages 8 and up. Participants chosen by lottery. Lottery registration begins on Wednesday, May 3.

Saturday, May 20 // Calvert Vaux Park Discovery Hike

Calvert Vaux Park // 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Explore the rocky coast of Gravesend Bay. This beautifully restored parkland holds the remnants of sunken barges that have been taken over by nature. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday, May 10.

Saturday, May 20 // Hunter Island Sunset Hike

Pelham Bay Park // 7:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Witness the wonder of sunset with the largest park in New York City as your backdrop. Registration begins on Wednesday, May 10.

Saturday, May 27 // Twilight Canoe Adventure (Advanced)

Central Park // 8:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Enjoy an evening canoeing as the twilight turns into evening. Participants must have prior canoe experience. Participants are chosen by lottery. Lottery registration begins on Wednesday, May 10.

Saturday, June 10 // Alley Pond Park Super Hike

Alley Pond Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location TBA. Hiking and nature enthusiasts are welcome on this lengthy one-way guided hike from Alley Pond Park to Oakland Lake. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday May 31.

Saturday, June 24 // Camping Gear and How to Use It

Fort Greene Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. This hands on workshop will give you a list of essentials to bring on your next camping trip. Registration required. Registration begins Wednesday, June 14.

Saturday July 15 // Island Hopping

Orchard Beach // 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Spend a day exploring the islands that surround Orchard Beach estuary by canoe. Experienced paddlers only. Registration begins on Wednesday, July 5.

Saturday, July 29 // Idlewild Birding by Canoe Excursion (advanced)

Idlewild Park // 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a peaceful paddle in the wetlands of Jamaica Bay and view the incredible birds of this habitat. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday, July 19.

Saturday, Aug. 5 // Little Red Lighthouse Lantern Tour

Fort Washington Park // 8:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. The Jeffrey’s Hook lighthouse has become widely known as the children’s literary landmark “The Little Red Lighthouse.” Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday, July 26.

Sunday, Sept. 24 // Forest Park Super Hike (Vigorous)

Forest Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. This extensive one-way hike highlights Forest Park’s history, flora, and fauna. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Saturday, Sept. 30 // Paddle and Hike Orchard Beach

Pelham Bay Park // 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Join us for a paddle across the lagoon as we explore the saltmarsh and the rich biodiversity found within. We will land on the shores of the Hunter Island Nature Preserve and embark on a moderate nature hike. Registration begins on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

HIKING

Our Urban Park Rangers will introduce you to the hidden gems of New York City. Hiking programs feature intensity levels ranging from light (a leisurely stroll on mostly paved paths), to moderate (longer, faster paced hikes on rugged terrain), to vigorous (long distance, with hills and rugged terrain).

Saturday, May 27 // Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate) Forest Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meet at the Monument on Myrtle Avenue and Park Lane South

Sunday, May 28 // Basic Orienteering Silver Lake Park // 1:00 p.m.
Silver Lake Park Road and Forest Avenue

Sunday, June 18 // Waterfall Hike (Light) Prospect Park // 1:00 p.m.
Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Saturday, July 8 // Nature Exploration Hike Freshkills Park // 11:00 am
Schmul Playground, Wild Avenue and Pearson Street

Sunday, July 23 // Northern Manhattan Parks Hike (Vigorous) Morningside Park // 11:00 a.m.
110th Street and Morningside Drive. Meander through parks in northern Manhattan on this one-way hike from Morningside Park to Jackie Robinson Park.

Saturday Aug. 12 // Inwood Golden Hour Photography Hike Inwood Hill Park // 6:30 p.m.
Isham Avenue and Seaman Avenue. Explore the beauty of Inwood Hill Park as it basks in late summer sun. Bring your own camera or smartphone.

Sunday, Aug. 20 // Mysterious Plants Hike (Light) Prospect Park // 11:00 a.m.
Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road. Hike through the Prospect Park woodlands and discover the curious and dark side of the plant kingdom.

Sunday, Sept. 10 // Thomas Jefferson Park to Randall’s Island (moderate) Thomas Jefferson Park // 11:00 a.m.
112th Street and 1st Avenue

Saturday, Sept. 23 // Night Hike (light) Van Cortlandt Park // 7:00 p.m.
Meet at the Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

OUTDOORS SKILLS

Our Urban Park Rangers are well-versed in outdoor lore. Learn tips and tricks that will enhance your knowledge of the natural world, and might just save your life. All programs are family friendly, but are recommended for ages 8 years and older.

Sunday, May 7 // Wilderness Survival Skills Fort Totten Park // 10:00 a.m.
Fort Totten Visitor’s Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor’s Center.

Saturday, May 13 // Fire Building Van Cortlandt Park // 1:00 p.m.
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway
Fire is mankind’s greatest discovery. Learn primitive and modern methods for making fire safely and responsibly while exploring the great outdoors.

Sunday, July 16 // Shelter Building Inwood Hill Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meet at the park entrance at West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, Sept. 9 // Fire Building Blue Heron Park // 2:00 p.m.
Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave. between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Sunday, Sept. 17 // Fire Building Prospect Park // 11:00 a.m.
Prospect Park Picnic House. Enter the park at the Fifth Street and Prospect Park West entrance.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

New York City is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife. Our Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in the urban jungle.

Saturday, May 6 // Urban Park Ranger Urban Wildlife Festival Highbridge Park // 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
West 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Get up close and personal with NYC’s wild residents. Learn about squirrels, raccoons, skunks, turtles, and more. The Urban Park Rangers will also inform you about the best places to see wildlife in NYC and how to safely interact with them. Learn from New York State licensed rehabilitators and additional wildlife enthusiasts.

Saturday, May 13 // Birding: Ridgewood Reservoir Highland Park // 11:00 a.m.
Vermont Place and Highland Boulevard parking lot

Saturday, May 13 // Birding: Spring Migration Van Cortlandt Park // 9:00 a.m.
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, May 20 // Nocturnal Wildlife Central Park // 8:00 p.m.
Belvedere Castle, 79th Street mid park

Sunday, May 28 // Nocturnal Wildlife Marine Park // 8:00 p.m.
Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Saturday, June 3 // Horseshoe Crabs Pelham Bay Park // 1:00 p.m.
Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Sunday, July 16 // Birding: Hawk Watch Astoria Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meet in parking lot, Hoyt Avenue North and 19th Street

Saturday, July 29 // Birding: Osprey Watch Marine Park // 10:00 a.m.
Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Sunday, July 30 // Living with Urban Coyotes Pelham Bay Park // 11:00 a.m.
Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday Aug. 6 // Living with Urban Coyotes Forest Park // 1:00 p.m.
Forest Park Visitor’s Center, Forest Park Drive and Woodhaven Boulevard

Sunday, Sept. 24 // Birding: Fall Migrants Van Cortlandt Park // 9:00 a.m.
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

FISHING

Catch-and-release fishing is a great way to get outdoors and discover nature just a few blocks from home. Our experienced Rangers teach the ethics of fishing and the ecology of our waterways on every fishing program.

Saturday, May 6 // Freshwater Fishing Kissena Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meet inside the park at Kissena Lake

Sunday, May 7 // Seining Marine Park // 2:00 p.m.
Burnett Street and Avenue U

Sunday, May 21 // Seining Broad Channel American Ballfields // 11:00 am
Enter the park at West 22nd Road and Cross Bay Boulevard

Saturday, June 10 // Saltwater Fishing American Veterans Memorial Pier // 11:00 a.m.
Bay Ridge Avenue and Shore Road

Sunday, June 11 // Freshwater Fishing Clove Lakes Park // 11:00 a.m.
Meet at the parking lot east of Park Drive and Clove Road

Sunday, June 18 // Freshwater Fishing Central Park // 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street and Lenox Avenue

Sunday, June 25 // Freshwater Fishing Van Cortlandt Park // 12:00 p.m.
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, July 8 // Freshwater Fishing Central Park // 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
100th Street Pool, West 100th Street and Central Park West

Saturday, July 22 // Seining Kaiser Park // 11:00 a.m.
Neptune Avenue and Bayview Avenue

Sunday, Aug. 13 // Freshwater Fishing Van Cortlandt Park // 12:00 p.m.
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, Aug. 19 // Seining Fort Totten Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meet At the front gate, Cross Island Parkway and Totten Road

Sunday, Sept. 10 // Seining Lemon Creek Park // 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Bayview Avenue and Johnston Terrace



Happy Anniversary, Alley Pond!

In July 2007, NYC Parks opened the first and only ropes/challenge course in New York City for members of the public to enjoy. Ten years later, the Alley Pond Park Adventure Course is still serving the public through both free Sunday programs and paid group programs, available Monday through Saturday from May to November.

The Adventure Course is an all-outdoor facility located in a beautiful tree-lined section of Alley Pond Park in Queens. The course includes 30 activities intended to challenge and thrill participants of all ages and fitness levels, from the most experienced rock climbers to ropes course newbies.

Come help us celebrate the 10-year anniversary of this one-of-a-kind adventure experience on **Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30!** We'll hold two daily sessions at 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. Participants will be chosen by lottery, and registration runs July 9–15.



NYC Parks



All photos: NYC Parks