

Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014



Message From

Mitchell Silver, FAICP
Commissioner,
NYC Parks & Recreation



Credit: Malcolm Pinckney | NYC Parks

As the weather starts to cool down and the crisp air of fall trickles in, New York City once again shows us another side of its unique character. With children just getting over the back to school jitters and the leaves changing to their vibrant autumn hues, the city has a rejuvenated energy fueled by the excitement of a new season. And the best place to experience this special time is in our parks.

Parks are such an important part of the New York City community. As a native Brooklynite finally returning to the city this year, I have been reminded once again of why New York City parks are so special. In a city that is always on the move, parks are a vital way to take a break from the hustle and bustle of it all, just a few short minutes away. They invite all people, regardless of background or interests, to come together and enjoy the day outdoors.

Few people embody the spirit of NYC Parks better than our Urban Park Rangers. For over 30 years, the Urban Park Rangers have offered a variety of programs to ensure that park-goers enjoy the outdoors to the fullest. With their strong commitment to the environment and community engagement, Urban Park Rangers are true leaders of the NYC community. This fall, make sure to take

advantage of the opportunities our Urban Park Rangers have to offer. Celebrate Manhattan's only remaining lighthouse at the 22nd Little Red Lighthouse Festival. Take a Haunted Lantern tour at Fort Totten in Queens. Or, join a Ranger-led hike at many of our parks. Regardless of what you want from your outdoors experience, the Urban Park Rangers have an activity for you. Check out nyc.gov/parks for information on all of our programs.

So, grab a cozy sweater, get outdoors, and enjoy the fall! Wander through the park paths and watch the leaves change colors. Soak in the blue autumn sky and get a bite to eat at one of our food carts. And of course, make sure to enjoy a day with an Urban Park Ranger.

Urban Park Ranger Nature and Visitor Centers

BRONX

Pelham Bay Ranger Station:

Pelham Bay Park. Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue. 718.319.7258

Van Cortlandt Nature Center:

Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at West 246th Street and Broadway. 718.548.0912

BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center:

Marine Park. East 33rd Street and Avenue U. 718.421.2021

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle:

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

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center:

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

Forest Park Visitor Center:

Forest Park. Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive. 718.846.2731

Fort Totten Visitors Center:

Fort Totten Park. Enter the park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway and follow signs. 718.352.1769

STATEN ISLAND

Blue Heron Nature Center:

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

For Nature and Visitor Center hours, call the specific location.

Outdoors

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Ranger in the Spotlight

The Urban Park Rangers connect New Yorkers to the natural world through environmental education, outdoor recreation, wildlife management and active conservation. For over 30 years the Urban Park Rangers have helped New Yorkers of all ages discover the great outdoors, uncovering the natural wonders that exist right here in their own backyard.

Michael Vincent Urban Park Ranger



Credit: Dominique Partin | NYC Parks

What do you enjoy most about being a Ranger?

As an outdoor enthusiast, I can honestly say I think I have the best job in all of New York City. Whether it's taking people camping and canoeing in the summer, hiking in the fall, or leading an wildlife viewing program in the winter, I get to enjoy all the things I'd be doing in my free time anyway! On top of that, it's incredibly rewarding to know that introducing children and young people to the exciting side of nature is helping to inspire the next generation of conservationists who will be protecting our natural areas in the future.

What are your favorite programs?

For me, it doesn't get much better than

overnight Family Camping programs. Getting to spend the night camping out in an urban park is such a rare treat, and the families who show up are always in a great mood. I grew up in Maine camping all the time, but for many New Yorkers who attend these programs it might be their first time sleeping in a tent, roasting s'mores, or sitting around a campfire. Having the opportunity to provide these new experiences for people and see them grow a passion for the outdoors makes me feel very proud.

The other great thing about Family Camping is that it's really a bunch of fun programs wrapped into one. Instead of just spending an hour or two on one topic we get to teach camping skills, demonstrate fire making and other survival skills, lead night hikes, tell ghost stories and Native American legends, and go stargazing — all in one evening. I get to share a lot of the things I love about the outdoors, and there's more time to connect with the participants than on shorter programs.

Have you ever created a program?

One of the many hobbies I enjoy is photography, and New York City parks provide so many rich subjects for the camera. One day I suggested that the Rangers offer free photography programs to our visitors, and the idea seemed to take off. Before I knew it, I was leading photography trainings for my fellow Rangers and we began leading a host of different photography programs in all five boroughs.

I've also used my time as a Ranger to practice and hone my wilderness survival skills and have trained my fellow Rangers in that topic, so we can offer high quality free programs. Having the freedom to immerse yourself in your passions and interests and then share them with others is definitely one of the best perks of being an Urban Park Ranger.

What is your favorite park and why?

I can only choose one? Impossible! The first

park I worked in was Inwood Hill Park, and to this day it still owns a special place in my heart. There's just something about walking through the old growth forest of Inwood that transports you back in time, and you can feel the spirits of the many generations of people who have called that place their home. It's a deep, enchanted feeling that has to be experienced first hand, and should be on every single New Yorker's bucket list. There's real magic in those hills!

What are you most proud of as a Ranger?

I've been honored with awards several times for my work as a Ranger, and it's always a wonderful and humbling feeling to be recognized in that way by your supervisors, but truthfully it's the little things that happen which let me know I'm making a difference. It might be a thank you letter written in crayon by a third grader after I took her class on a nature hike, or a beaming father telling me how much his family enjoyed the campout last night, or a former Ranger Conservation Corps student emailing to tell me she was accepted to college and will be studying a natural science. Those are the things that really keep a smile on my face.

What would you tell someone who wants to be a Ranger?

Start out as a Seasonal Ranger in the summer, and completely throw yourself into the work. The more you put in to the job, the more you'll get out of it. Want to know more about native medicinal plants? Take a field guide and walk the trails to learn more. Have a passion for insects? Create a fun entomology program and go teach the children at the playground all the cool stuff you learned. Being a Ranger allows you to dive deeply in to whatever you're interested in, and when you develop that passion and share it with park visitors, great things happen. Also, you'll be working alongside some of the greatest people in the world, so try to soak up all that your fellow Rangers can teach you.

Ranger's Choice

Our bright and talented Urban Park Rangers are what make our Weekend Adventure programs so amazing. This fall we are featuring some of the Rangers' favorite Weekend Adventure experiences. From stunning wildlife viewing to behind the scenes access, these programs are not to be missed. Space is limited on all Ranger's Choice programs and registration is required. Please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register to register.

BRONX

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Ranger's Choice: Hunter Island Night Hike / Pelham Bay Park 5 p.m. / TBA

Owls, deer, coyotes, and raccoons are among the many animals that call Pelham Bay Park home. Join the Rangers for this rare winter night hike. To enter your name in the lottery, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, December 10th.

BROOKLYN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Ranger's Choice: Green-Wood Cemetery Bird Walk and History Tour / Green-Wood Cemetery / TBA

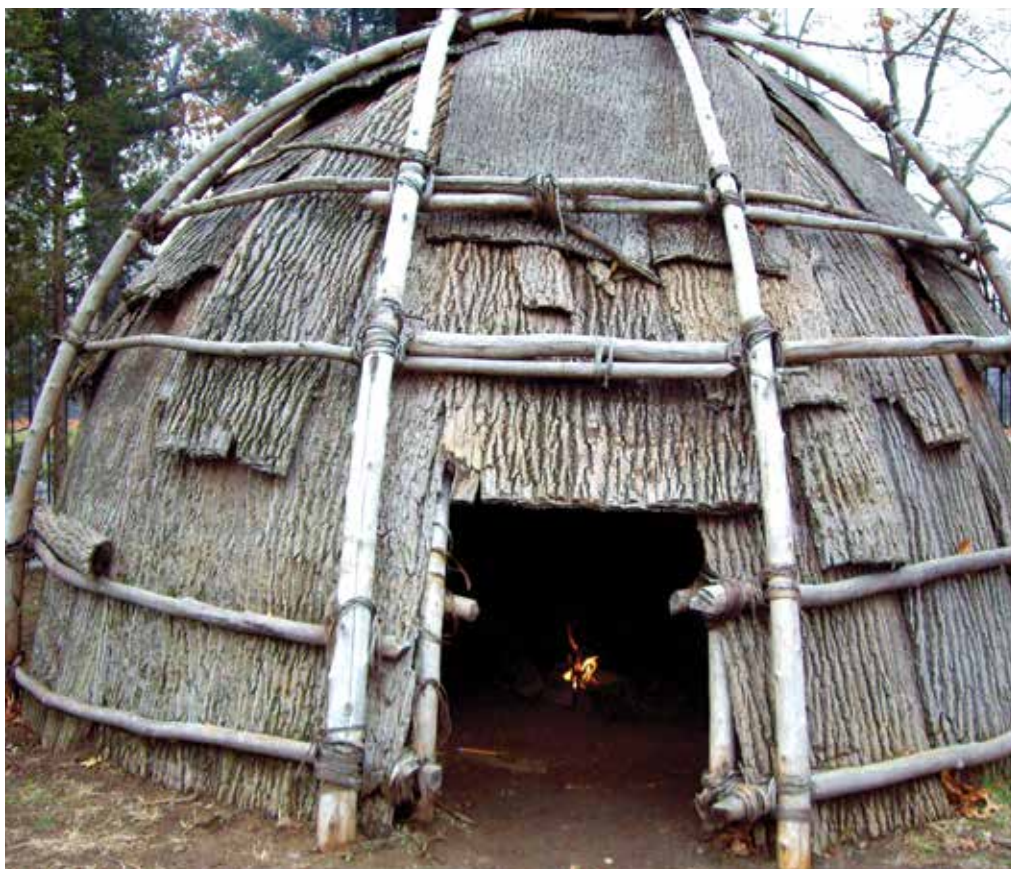
Green-Wood Cemetery was established in the mid-nineteenth century and is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in New York City. Learn about the famous New Yorkers buried here as well as the diverse bird population that thrives in the rolling acres that surround the graves, tombs, and mausoleums of this peaceful place. To enter your name in the lottery, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, November 12th.

MANHATTAN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Ranger's Choice: Lenape Thanksgiving / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / TBA

Inwood Hill Park continues to have a vivid connection to the native people of this country. The Rangers will guide you to historic sites within the park and discuss the culture of the Lenape people. Participants will learn about their daily customs and their knowledge of the forest, and sample forest-sourced food items, which were the staples of a Lenape diet. To enter your name in the lottery, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, November 5th to register.



Credit: NYC Parks

QUEENS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Ranger's Choice: Long Island City Parks / Socrates Sculpture Park 11 a.m. / Meet at entrance of the park on Broadway and Vernon Boulevard

The East River waterfront and Long Island City parks are rich in history, wildlife and scenic views of the city skyline. This one-way, 2.4-mile hike long hike to Hunters Point South highlights little known parks along the way and their features. Pre-registration encouraged. To register, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday October 29th.

STATEN ISLAND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Rangers Choice: Archery / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / TBA

Ages 8 and Up. Participants are chosen by lottery. To enter your name in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, October 8th.

Astronomy and Night Sky Programs

Our Urban Park Rangers will be your guides to the solar system, discussing the science, history and folklore of the universe. Astronomy programs feature the use of telescopes and binoculars to observe specific astronomical events. Many programs feature astronomy experts and all equipment is provided. Night Sky programs highlight the history and folklore of the solar system, using the naked eye to locate stars and planets.

BRONX

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Night Sky / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Astronomy / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Astronomy: The Geminids Meteor Shower / Van Cortlandt Park 7 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

One of the best meteor showers in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak!

BROOKLYN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Astronomy / Owl's Head Park 7 p.m. / Meet at the Park House, Colonial Road and 68th Street

BROOKLYN continued

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Astronomy: The Full Moon / Fort Greene Park 7 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Astronomy: The Geminids Meteor Shower / Marine Park 7 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

One of the best meteor showers in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak!

MANHATTAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Night Sky / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

MANHATTAN continued

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Night Sky: The Moon and Taurid Meteor Shower / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / Pats Lawn, 218th Street and Indian Road

The Taurid Meteor Shower produces 5-10 meteors per hour. In between, we will use telescopes to explore the bright Moon.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Astronomy / Central Park 6 p.m. / North side of the Great Lawn, 85th Street mid-Central Park

QUEENS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Astronomy: Sun Spotting / Rockaway Beach 11 a.m. / Boardwalk at B86 Street

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

Astronomy: New Moon / Fort Totten Park 6 p.m. / Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center and Historic Battery

The Moon will be directly between the Earth and the Sun and will not be visible from Earth. With no moonlight to interfere, this is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

The Night Sky / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 6 p.m. / Meet at Passarelle Ramp near David Dinkins Circle

STATEN ISLAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Astronomy / Conference House Park 6 p.m. / Conference House Visitor's Center, Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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



Credit: Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Special Events

NYC Parks produces a variety of large festivals and special events that provide unique experiences for thousands of New Yorkers year-round. This fall, the Urban Park Rangers celebrate history, wildlife, the cosmos, and the holidays through an array of fun-filled, family-friendly special events. We'll see you in the park!

BRONX

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Winter Solstice Celebration / Van Cortlandt Park 4 p.m. / Enter the park at Bailey Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South. Meet at the golf house

Hearthside stories, hot cider plus a candlelight walk on the Putnam Trail with the Rangers.

BROOKLYN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Open House NY: Prison Ship Martyrs Monument / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. / Park entrance at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

This memorial was built in the center of Fort Greene Park in 1908 as a tribute to the 11,000 men, women and children who died on British Prison Ships during the Revolutionary War. Step inside this historic monument and learn about Fort Greene Park history, the Revolutionary War and the stories of those who perished.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Raptor Fest / Prospect Park 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. / The Peninsula, enter the park on Vanderbilt Street

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

MANHATTAN

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

Little Red Lighthouse Festival / Fort Washington Park 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Enter at 181st Street and Riverside Drive

Celebrate Manhattan's only remaining lighthouse at the 22nd Little Red Lighthouse festival. This fun and free event includes tours of the lighthouse with the Urban Park Rangers, readings of the children's book *The Little Red Lighthouse* and the Great Gray Bridge, fishing clinics with I Fish NY, live entertainment, food vendors, and activities for the whole family. Timed entry tickets will be given for Lighthouse tours at 12 p.m. Tickets may run out before the end of the event. For more information, visit

www.nycgovparks.org/events/2014/10/11/little-red-lighthouse-festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Open House NY: The Arsenal / Central Park 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / 64th Street and 5th Avenue

As part of Open House NY, join the Urban Park Rangers on guided tours of the Historic Arsenal building in Central Park. Today it is the main headquarters for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, as well as offices for Historic House Trust, and Wildlife Conservation Society. Tours will be given continuously throughout the day. Last tour leaves at 3:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Urban Starfest in Central Park / Central Park 6 p.m. / Sheep Meadow, enter at 67th Street and Central Park West

The Urban Park Rangers and Amateur Astronomers Association invite you to enjoy the wonders of the universe at this annual event. New York City parks are the perfect place to stargaze and learn more about the night sky.

MANHATTAN continued

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christmas Bird Count / Central Park 8 a.m. / TBA

This annual event began in 1900 as a conservation effort to protect wild birds. To this day it continues throughout the country each year. Join NYC Audubon, Urban Park Rangers, and the Central Park Conservancy as we count birds in every section of the park. Pre-registration is encouraged to attend the Central Park event. Visit www.nycaudubon.org to learn about additional bird counts scheduled throughout NYC.

QUEENS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Haunted Lantern Tours / Fort Totten Park 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. / Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center and Historic Battery Leave your fear at home as the Urban Park Rangers lead your family through the haunted Fort Totten Water Battery. Participants must arrive on line by 8:15 p.m. for guaranteed admittance. Please call the Fort Totten Visitor Center at (718) 352-1769 for more information.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Haunted Lantern Tours/ Fort Totten Park 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. / Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center and Historic Battery Leave your fear at home as the Urban Park Rangers lead your family through the haunted Fort Totten Water Battery. Participants must arrive on line by 8:15 p.m. for guaranteed admittance. Please call the Fort Totten Visitor Center at (718) 352-1769 for more information.

Fall Foliage

With nearly 30,000 acres of public parkland, New York City is the perfect place for fall leaf-peeping. Let our Urban Park Ranger naturalists explain why leaves change colors and introduce you to the diversity of trees found in our urban forests. Be sure to bring your camera and prepare for the kaleidoscope of colors.

BRONX

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Fall Foliage Walk: Cornucopia of Trees! / Crotona Park 11 a.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Fall Foliage Hike: Cass Gallagher Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Mosholu Avenue and Broadway

BROOKLYN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Fall Foliage Walk: Fort Greene Tree Trail / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park Avenue

BROOKLYN continued

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Fall Foliage Hike: Trees of McGolrick Park / Monsignor McGolrick Park 1 p.m. / Driggs Avenue and North Henry Street

MANHATTAN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Fall Photography Scavenger Hunt / Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center, enter park at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue

Bring your own digital camera or smart phone.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Fall Foliage Hike / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

QUEENS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fall Foliage Walk: Great Trees of Kissena / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Rose Avenue and Oak Avenue

STATEN ISLAND

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Fall Foliage Hike / Bloomingdale Park 1 p.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue



History

Urban Park Rangers specialize in interpretation of historic turning points, both natural and man-made, in our city's long history. Revolutionary New York programs focus on the history of New York during the pre- and post-Colonial Period. Historic New York programs highlight the history and architecture of selected neighborhoods or parks. Native American culture is celebrated in special programs throughout the five boroughs.

BRONX

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Historic New York: Riverdale Bell Tower / Bell Tower Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the corner of Henry Hudson Parkway East and Riverdale Avenue

What do World War I, a Spanish bell, a Mexican monastery, and a general nicknamed "Old Fuss and Feathers" have to do with this quiet corner of the Bronx? Discover the fascinating history of the stately Riverdale Bell Tower on this exclusive Ranger-led tour.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Historic New York: Native Americans / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Historic New York: Brooklyn Bridge / Brooklyn Bridge Park 11 a.m. / Pier 1, Furman Street and Old Fulton Street

Explore the history of the Bridge, from the time when it was first built to its present-day place in our growing city, and its namesake park that spans below it, Brooklyn Bridge Park.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Historic New York: Monuments of Prospect Park / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at The Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch at Grand Army Plaza

Every monument tells a story. This walk through Prospect Park will uncover tales of the historical figures and events that are honored forever in the stone structures along its pathways.

MANHATTAN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Heart of the Park: Central Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / 72nd Street and Central Park West

Enjoy the sights and sounds from the Heart of Central Park. Let the Rangers take you down to Strawberry Fields, visit the Angel of Bethesda Terrace, and experience the tranquility of Conservatory Water.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Four Squares Walk / Madison Square Park 11 a.m. / Meeting location TBA

Tour NYC's mighty, but tiny, historic parks. Be our guest as we stroll through Madison Square Park, Union Square Park, Washington Square Park, and finally Tompkins Square Park. Pre-registration is encouraged. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register registration on Wednesday, December 3rd.

QUEENS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Historic New York: Native Americans / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center

STATEN ISLAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

Dating back to the 18th century, Sylvan Grove Cemetery holds the graves of prominent locals as well as British soldiers from the Revolutionary War.



Credit: Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Hiking

Our Urban Park Ranger hiking guides will introduce you to the hidden gems of New York City. On our hikes, you may explore nature, discover our city's urban forests, or just unplug from the world to clear your head. 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).

BRONX

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Van Cortlandt Super Hike (Vigorous) / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

This challenging eight mile hike winds its way through most of the park's many diverse forests and ecosystems. Pre-registration encouraged. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, October 29th.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Hunter Island Hike (Moderate) / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Nature Exploration Hike: John Muir Trail (Vigorous) / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Mosholu Avenue and Broadway

BROOKLYN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Nature Exploration Hike: Butterflies (Light) / Marine Park 11 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate) / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Vanderbilt Street and Prospect Park Southwest

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Salt Marsh Exploration Hike (Moderate) / Marine Park 11 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fitness Hike (Vigorous) / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Winter Wonderland Hike (Vigorous) / Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center, enter at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue

On this shortest day of the year, join us for one of our longest hikes, as we explore Central Park from top to bottom. Central Park will be decorated for the holidays, so be sure to bring your camera. Pre-registration is encouraged. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday, December 10th.

QUEENS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate) / Highland Park 1 p.m. / Meet at main park entrance across from Vermont Place Parking Lot

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate) / Alley Pond Park 10 a.m. / Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

STATEN ISLAND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate) / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Park Drive and Clove Road

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Fitness Hike (Vigorous) / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / Park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue



Credit: Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Wilderness Survival and Emergency Preparedness

Our Urban Park Rangers are skilled in the techniques of wilderness survival and emergency preparedness. Learn tips and tricks that will enhance your knowledge of the natural world, and might just save your life. Whether you are preparing for an extended journey through the woods or just want to be more prepared for any situation, a wilderness survival program is perfect for you. All programs are family friendly, but are recommended for ages 8 years and older.

BRONX

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

Learn about modern tools and techniques
that could help you survive in the
wilderness.

BRONX continued

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

If you were dropped into the wilderness
with nothing but the clothes on your back,
could you make a fire, build a shelter, or
gather clean drinking water? Discover how
our ancestors mastered these crucial skills.

BROOKLYN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Wilderness Survival / Prospect Park 1 p.m.
/ 10th Avenue and Prospect Park
Southwest

BROOKLYN continued

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Wilderness Survival / Canarsie Park 1 p.m.
/ Remsen Avenue and Seaview Avenue

MANHATTAN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park
1 p.m. / Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Wilderness Survival / Riverside Park 1 p.m.
/ 116th Street and Riverside Drive

QUEENS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

Emergency Preparedness: Extreme Winter
Weather / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / Alley
Pond Adventure Center, Winchester
Boulevard under the Grand Central
Parkway

Learn how to recognize and prepare for
extreme winter weather.

STATEN ISLAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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



Credit: NYC Parks

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. We offer birding programs throughout the year and our Exploration Series focuses on unique wildlife viewing opportunities during particular seasons. Birding programs are appropriate for all skill levels and beginners are welcome.

BRONX

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Birding: Fall Migration / Van Cortlandt Park
10 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center,
West 246th Street and Broadway

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Nocturnal Wildlife / Van Cortlandt Park
6 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West
246th Street and Broadway

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Seal Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m.
/ Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2
of Orchard Beach

BROOKLYN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Tide Pools and Seining / Marine Park
11 a.m. / Burnett Street and Avenue U

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Nocturnal Wildlife / Prospect Park 6 p.m. /
Prospect Park Picnic House / Enter Park at
5th Street and Prospect Park West

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Birding: Waterfowl / Marine Park 10 a.m. /
Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street
and Avenue U



Credit: NYC Parks

MANHATTAN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Birding: Fall Migration / Fort Tryon Park
10 a.m. / Anne Loftus Playground,
Dyckman Street and Broadway

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Birding / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / Payson
Avenue and Dyckman Street

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Nocturnal Wildlife / Central Park 5 p.m. /
100th Street and Central Park West

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Birding: Owls / Inwood Hill Park 5 p.m. /
Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

QUEENS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Birding: Fall Migration / Cunningham Park
10 a.m. / Oceania Street and 67th Avenue

QUEENS continued

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Nocturnal Wildlife / Alley Pond Park 6 p.m. /
Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester
Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Winter Wildlife Viewing / Flushing
Meadows-Corona Park 9 a.m. / Mauro
Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd
Terrace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Birding / Highland Park 9 a.m. / Meet at
main park entrance across from Vermont
Place parking lot

STATEN ISLAND

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Birding: Raptor Migration / High Rock Park
11 a.m. / Meet at the Nevada Avenue
parking lot

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Animal Tracks / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. /
Parking area west of Park Drive and Clove
Road



NYC Parks

in New York City
Outdoors
THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Little Red Lighthouse Festival

**Saturday, October 11
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Fort Washington Park
Enter at 181st Street
and Riverside Drive**

FREE EVENT

For more information, visit
[www.nycgovparks.org/events/2014/10/11/
little-red-lighthouse-festival](http://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2014/10/11/little-red-lighthouse-festival)



NYC Parks

