

Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2008

in New York City



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

Message from: *Nancy Barthold, Assistant Commissioner for Recreation & Programming*



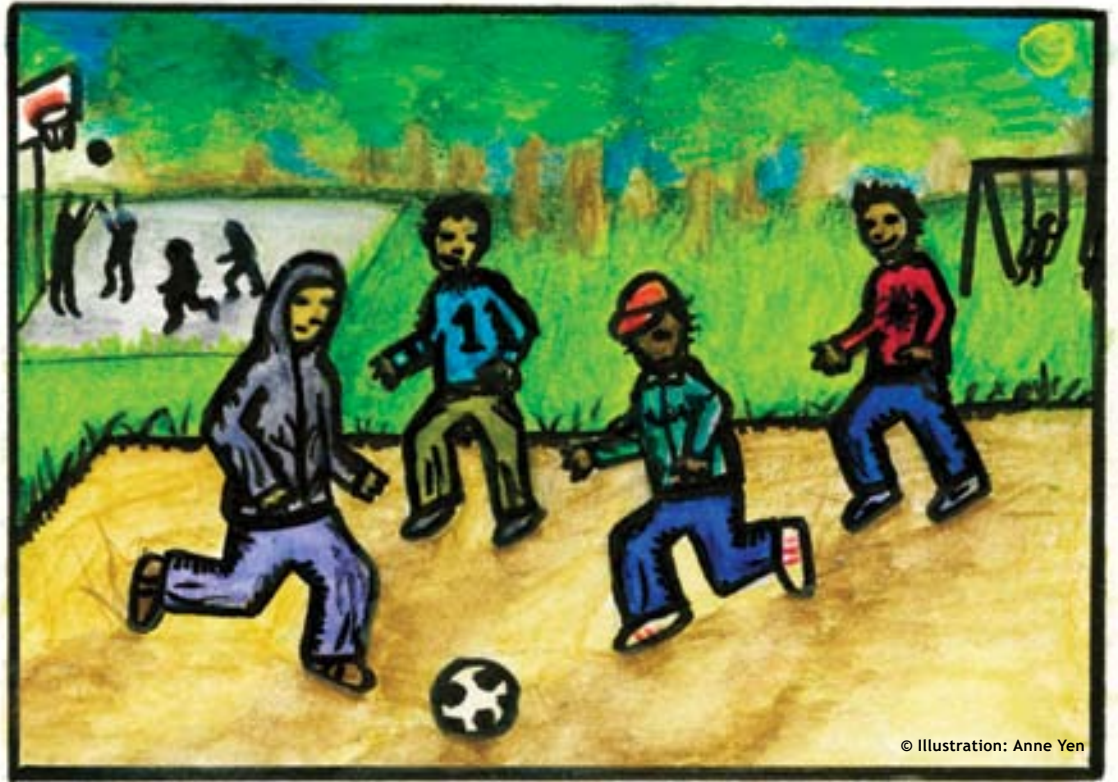
Spring is such an exciting time. We emerge from hibernation with a seemingly new lease on life. The natural world bursts into color and we are eager to experience it fully with all of our senses. Everything around us seems filled with promise and opportunity. Our deep-seated desire to play and be outdoors is awakened.

While NYC has almost 1,000 formal playgrounds—the city’s open spaces and natural world can offer great opportunities for

play. For many of today’s children, play opportunities have turned into a world full of electronic games, plastic toys and structured sports activities. They seem to have forgotten, or never had the chance to experience, the fun of building a fort using rocks and sticks or pretending to be an explorer while trekking through the woods. Get reacquainted with games such as hide-and-seek and scavenger hunts. All one really needs is a vivid imagination. Batteries not included.

This spring, our Recreation Division and the Urban Park Rangers will collaborate to bring you new and exciting play opportunities. Playworkers and Rangers will refocus how children look at nature – to see it as a world full of “loose parts.”

So shed your winter coat and come on out to one of the many great play spaces that NYC Parks has to offer and let your imagination go wild!



© Illustration: Anne Yen

Outdoor News

APRIL IS NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH

Spring has arrived and the five boroughs are bursting with colorful plantings, thanks to our community partners who have worked to make our parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and Greenstreets come alive. April is National Garden Month and New Yorkers, from experienced gardeners to novices, are celebrating the greening of New York City. Time to put on your gardening gloves and get involved! Keep an eye out for events, lectures, and festivals around the city to celebrate Garden Month including:

Saturday, April 12, 2008: New York Cares “Hands On New York”

Pitch in with Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC campaign to plant one million trees citywide by 2017. Join over 5,000 citizen volunteers to plant over 10,000 trees and spruce up natural areas in 80 locations in public parks and gardens throughout the city. This volunteer event is sponsored by HSBC. **For more information, contact New York Cares at 212.228.5000.**

Wednesday, April 16, 2008: Central Park Uncommon Ground Lecture – “Gardening and its Relationship to Poetry” at the Arsenal in Central Park

Join novice and seasoned green thumbs at the historic Arsenal building in Central Park for an evening lecture and discussion starting at 6pm. **RSVP required. For more information, contact 212.360.1338.**

Sunday, April 27, 2008: NYC Grows Gardening Festival in Union Square Park

Parks & Recreation, in partnership with National Gardening Association (NGA), presents the second annual NYC GROWS, an all-day, interactive garden festival in Union Square Park. NYC GROWS is a free event and will feature gardening exhibits and demonstrations, healthy cooking presentations by celebrity chefs, explorations of art in nature by renowned local artists, gardening tips and advice from garden writers, plants for purchase, giveaways, and so much more! NYC GROWS is the culmination of a month of garden-related activities to be held citywide to celebrate National Garden Month. NYC GROWS Garden Festival is hosted by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the National Gardening Association and presented by Target.

For more information, contact 212.360.1311.



Blue Heron Nature Center in Staten Island.

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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
Graphic Design	Elizabeth Green, Graphic Artist
Graphics	Elaine Chang, Intern
Research	Shalini Beath

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

RANGER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRONX URBAN PARK RANGER, KATHY VAZQUEZ.

Where were you born?

I was born in Albert Einstein hospital in the Bronx. I grew up in Co-op City which actually overlooks Pelham Bay Park, so it was predestined for me to work for the parks.

Where have you lived?

I lived in the Bronx before I went to school upstate New York at SUNY Plattsburgh. After I graduated, I stayed in Plattsburgh for two more years working on research projects. I majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

When did you start working with the Urban Park Rangers?

I started working with the Rangers two years ago, in May 2006. I started with the Urban Park Rangers fellowship program and I was stationed at Orchard Beach, which is part of Pelham Bay Park. Mid-way through the summer, they started asking for applications for full time rangers. I applied and I got the job.

When did you decide to become a ranger?

I decided to apply for the fellowship program after I moved back to NYC to be close to my family. While upstate, I did a lot of environmental education as an adjunct instructor. I did a lot of outdoor projects with kids all the time so I wanted to do something similar, but in NYC. I knew that in order for me to really enjoy living here I would have to do something that would require me to be outdoors all the time and this was the job for me. I actually read up on the Urban Park Rangers before I applied; I didn't know they existed at all. Growing up, I never saw a Park Ranger at Pelham Bay Park or any of the other parks.

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

I think I just get overwhelmed by two aspects: the amount of wildlife there is in NYC; I think people underestimate it. For example, I have seen deer and different types of owls, seals, and a whole bunch of different types of birds. Also, the educator part of it. I've seen kids not want to get their Pumas or Nikes dirty, and then by the end of the program everyone wants to be in the water and everyone wants to catch a fish. Those are a few things that I enjoy and find interesting.

What is your favorite park? Why?

My favorite park, that's a good one. In terms of landscaped parks, I like Central Park, because it's beautiful, there are mountains and there's lakes and there's the wild parts, where you can hang out. But in terms of just getting lost in a park, I like Van Cortlandt, because there are a lot of trails and backwoods. It's very natural and really well taken care of.

Anything else you would like us to know about you?

I am a mean knitter. I am currently making a sweater right now. If anyone needs pot holders, I make some really cool pot holders.

Any words of advice to would-be park rangers?

Some advice that I would give people who are applying for the fellowship program is, it does take time to get accustomed to being an educator, give it time, it takes a while before you are good at it. I won't even say that I am good at teaching now after two years. It's just a matter of experience and learning from other people that have been at the job for a while.



KIDS' KORNER!

By Sergeant Bonnie McGuire

Can you run 40 feet in 1 second? Or jump over a 3-story building? Can you fly or chew through wood? Can you walk on water? How about lift a motorcycle over your head? Believe it or not, there is an insect that can do each of these things. Cockroaches can run the equivalent of 5 feet per second, fleas can jump about 18 inches high, waterstriders can walk on water, and ants can lift about 5 times their body weight! There are over 90,000 types of insects in North America, north of the Mexico border. Not impressed? Well, there are only 10,000 types of birds in the whole world!

Insects have 6 legs, 2 antennae, and a hard shell called an exoskeleton, which means their bones are on the outside. Humans have an endoskeleton, which means our bones are on the inside. Insects are closely related to spiders, which have 8 legs and no antennae. Insects live in every environment on earth except the deep ocean. There are insects that live in and on snow and glaciers. They live in ponds, streams, forests, trees, soil, deserts, on other animals, and even in dung! There are insects that can produce their own light (fireflies or lightning bugs), make their own food (honey bees), have four eyes (whirligig beetles have a pair of eyes above and a pair of eyes below the water), suck blood (mosquitoes, fleas, lice), and bleed when they get hurt (ladybugs). Insects can smell with their antennae and taste with their feet (monarch butterfly), and some use a kind of Morse code to tap out messages to other insects on the same plant (plant hoppers). A termite queen can lay about 40,000 eggs per day and lives for 5-7 years. There are insects that look like twigs (walking sticks), leaves (katydids), owls (polyphemus moth), hummingbirds (clearwing moth), and bird poop (Viceroy butterfly caterpillar).

The biggest insect is a beetle about the size of a baseball, while the smallest is a fly that can pass through the eye of a needle!

Insects are very good for you too. They are high in protein and many people in the world eat them for lunch and dinner! You shouldn't try this, though, because some insects are very poisonous!

“THEY MAY BE SMALL, BUT THEY HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD! REMEMBER, THEY CAN LIVE WITHOUT US, BUT WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM.”

Join Bee Watchers 2008!

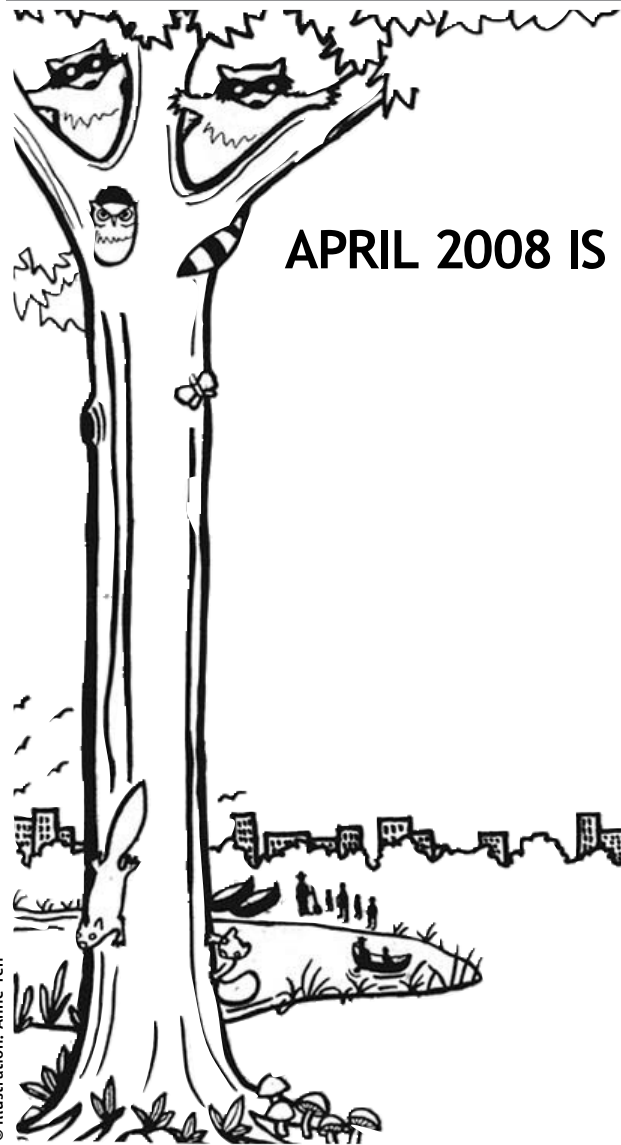
Did you know that over 200 species of native bees are found in New York City? Want to become a citizen scientist and help Parks and the American Museum of Natural History monitor and conserve our bee populations? Become a Bee Watcher. Orientations will be in early May at nature centers in each borough. For information contact Ed Toth at edward.toth@parks.nyc.gov or Liz Johnson at ejohnson@amnh.org.

BUGGY WORD SCRAMBLE

1. ELAF _____
2. TOHM _____
3. SQITOOMU _____
4. FRYGLADON _____
5. TRICECK _____
6. LETEBE _____
7. RESPID _____
8. MEETTIR _____
9. DEPLILEIM _____
10. LEBEBEMUB _____
11. RECIPATRALL _____
12. YAMFLY _____
13. ALURNATAT _____

12. Mayfly 13. Tarantula
9. Millipede 10. Bumblebee 11. Caterpillar
5. Cricket 6. Beetle 7. Spider 8. Termite
1. Flea 2. Moth 3. Mosquito 4. Dragonfly

Answers to scramble:



APRIL 2008 IS MILLION TREES NYC MONTH!

Presented by BNP Paribas

Join the Urban Park Rangers, MillionTreesNYC, and our community partners this April, MillionTreesNYC month, when we celebrate Arbor Day every day! This year, "think globally, plant locally" by joining in a volunteer tree planting, learning about tree care, and participating in MillionTreesNYC events across the city.

April 1-April 5: Trees and Our Planet

Learn how trees benefit our community and our planet! Attend a workshop on urban ecology and trees and speak with your local Urban Park Rangers about the global impact of tree planting.

April 6-April 12: Trees and New York City

Take a walk in the woods. Van Cortlandt Park, the Staten Island Greenbelt, and Alley Pond are among the many New York City parks that provide spectacular forest experiences without leaving the five boroughs. And along the way, don't forget to notice all of the trees along our City's streets, in front yards, business districts and in our community gardens and playgrounds – they are also a part of New York City's urban forest!

April 13-April 19: Trees and Our Neighborhoods

Join a local organization, community garden group or block association and help care for newly planted trees and older trees alike. Having an active corps of tree stewards is critical to each tree's survival.

April 20-May 3: Trees and Me

Commit to planting a tree in your own backyard, request a tree for your street, or organize a tree planting or tree care outing in a schoolyard, playground or housing development. And remember to register your newly planted tree online!

Find events in your neck of the woods and dig-in! Check out the MillionTreesNYC community calendar at www.milliontreesnyc.org



On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!!!

So you think you know all there is to know about Central Park?!

Well, then the Urban Park Rangers invite you to participate in our park-wide scavenger hunt. This isn't kids' stuff—park history, landmarks, remote regions and hidden gems are all fair game. Get a team together, of the smartest, most energetic, and enthusiastic people you know, and spend Saturday, May 24th in a race to the finish!

Visit our website at www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers to register your team and get all the details for this event.



Ride a bike!



By Nancy Barthold,
Assistant Commissioner for Recreation &
Programming

Looking for a fun and easy way for your child to learn how to ride a bicycle? Join Parks and Bike New York for "Teach Your Child to Ride a Bike" events happening around the city. More than 250 children have already learned how to ride a two-wheeler using the tried and true "no pedal" method. It is an innovative approach to learning how to ride that focuses on removing the bike's pedals and teaching the child how to balance. Once your child feels confident balancing the bike, the pedals are put back on and your child will be taught how to stop, start and steer. Your child could be riding solo before the day is through!

This program is best suited for children age 5 and over. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian along with a helmet and bike that fits. Trained staff and volunteers will ensure that the helmet fits properly, the seat is at the proper height, and tires are properly inflated. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, download the application from the Bike New York website at www.bikenewyork.org. DOT's safety program will provide helmets for children who do not have one; supplies are limited.

DATES AND LOCATIONS:

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

- George Cromwell Recreation Center, Staten Island (Pier 6 at Murray Hulbert Avenue, near Bay & Hannah Streets)

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- North Rochdale Playground, Queens (Baisley Boulevard and Bedell Street)
- St. Nicholas Park, Manhattan (135th Street & St. Nicholas Avenue)
- McCarren Park, Brooklyn (Nassau Avenue, Bayard, Leonard and North 12 Streets)
- Midland Beach, Staten Island (parking lot at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard)

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Bayswater Park, Queens (Beach Channel Drive, 32nd Street, Dwight & Norton Avenues)

• J. J. Byrne Park, Brooklyn (Fourth Street & Fifth Avenue)

- Midland Beach, Staten Island (parking lot at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard)

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Admiral Park, Queens (Little Neck Parkway & 42nd Avenue)

- Madison Square Park, Manhattan (23rd Street between Madison & Fifth Avenues, near the fountain at the south end of the park)

- Crispus Attucks Park, Brooklyn (Fulton Street & Classon Avenue)

- Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx (Broadway between West 242nd Street and Putnam Trail)

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Highland Park, Queens (Jamaica Avenue & Elton Street)

- Columbus Park, Manhattan (Mulberry & Baxter Streets, near the Pavilion at Bayard Street)

- Carroll Park, Brooklyn (Court & Smith Streets)

- Crotona Park/Boxcar Playground, Bronx (Suburban & Charlotte Streets, adjacent to Crotona Park Lake)

SATURDAY, MAY 31 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Inwood Hill Nature Center, Manhattan (218th Street and Indian Road)



© Photo: Julie Larsen Maher ©Wildlife Conservation

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.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS - Feel like sending your students to the rain forest? Wish a life-size puppet could teach in your classroom? Bring Wildlife Theater to your school!

Our interactive 30-45 minute Auditorium Series allows up to 300 Kindergarten – 4th grade students to enjoy a visit from Wildlife Theater using drama, puppetry, and music. Students will enjoy learning about conservation and the rain forest in *Cool Rain Forest Connections*, the importance of wetlands in *Migration Sensation*, why bugs aren't just gross, they are great in *Butterfly Boogie*, and the habitats of polar bears and penguins in *Polar Opposites*. One performance is \$500, two performances are \$750.

Bring Wildlife Theater right into your pre-K – 1st grade class with our 45-minute shows for up to 25 students. Add a touch of the tropics to your classroom in our *Youcan Toucan's Sense of the Rain Forest Adventure*. A giant, talking penguin demonstrates polar adaptations in *Petunia Penguin Goes to School*. Students learn basic animal concepts such as animal shapes, sounds, and metamorphoses in our puppet-

filled *Animal Adventures Medley*. One performance is \$250 and two performances are \$450.

To book **Wildlife Theater** call 212.439.6540; visit www.wcs.org/wildlifetheater, or email asaltz@wcs.org.

ONSITE PROGRAMS

Movement, interactive lessons and live animal demonstrations incorporate hands-on discovery and make learning fun at one of our exciting educational programs at the Central Park Zoo.

School Programs

PLAN A FIELD TRIP TO THE ZOO!

Register for one of our exciting school programs in Zoo School. Preschoolers will enjoy porpoising like penguins in *Penguin Pals*, learning about creature coloration in *Colorful Creatures*, or bantering like farm animals in *Barnyard Bonanza*. Older students will love *Trekking the Tropics*, exploring the poles in *Polar Expedition*, or comparing habitats in *Habitat Adventure*. Enhance your reptile unit with *Hooray for Herpetology!* or get an up-close look at some furry friends in *Marvelous Mammals*.

School Program Fee: \$130 per class (includes zoo admission)

Class size: 25 children & 5 adults for preschool groups
32 students & 5 adults for grades 1-12

Family Workshops

LOOKING FOR A FUN OUTING WITH YOUR KIDS?

The Spring/Summer 2008 Zoo School session includes the *Toddler Time Series*, *Saturday Animal Sing-Along*

and *Eggcellent Animals*. There is also a three-part *Reading Celebration* program highlighting famed children's authors. All of these programs include live animal demonstrations, fun activities and movement. Older adventurers can ring in spring with *Butterfly Boogie*. Wildlife Theater will perform an exciting and educational show, followed by a chance to touch real live creepy, crawly critters.

Zoo Tours

Engaging tours are available for school groups and private groups. Experienced wildlife guides can cater tours to your interests.

Advanced registration and fees are required for all programs.

Call 212.439.6583 and press #4 for more information.



New York's Spring Skies

By Richard Rosenberg, Amateur Astronomers Association

The stars and constellations of spring are not as bright as those of winter. Nevertheless, they have their charms. In addition, Mars and Saturn are easily spotted in the evening sky, slowly approaching each other towards a dramatic meeting in July.

We begin our spring tour with the Big Dipper, now high in the north. The Dipper actually belongs to the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The Bear was low during winter but its hibernation has ended.

Once you spot the Big Dipper, follow the arc of stars in its handle to reach Arcturus, spring's brightest star (figure 1). Arcturus belongs to the constellation Boötes the Herdsman, which is more easily recognized as a kite or an ice cream cone. Moving further along the arc takes us to Spica in the constellation Virgo the Virgin. Virgo is large and rather shapeless.

Returning to the Big Dipper, find the two stars of the bowl farthest from the handle. These are the famous "pointers" to Polaris, the North Star. Following them in the opposite direction leads to Leo the Lion, looking remarkably like a resting lion in profile. Two bright objects close together dominate Leo. The brighter one is the visiting planet Saturn (figure 1 below). To its right is Regulus, Leo's brightest star.

You can tell planets from stars since planets change their position over time. If you study Saturn and Regulus during April, you will notice Saturn slowly approaches Regulus. Planets normally move from west to east with respect to the stars, but Saturn is going in the wrong direction! This retrograde motion, as it is called, is due to Earth passing Saturn as the two orbit the Sun, creating the illusion that Saturn is moving backwards. In May Saturn reverses course and retreats from Regulus.

An interesting minor constellation is nearby. From Denebola, the fairly bright star marking the tail of the Lion, go a short distance up and left. You should see a large cluster of stars (binoculars help) making up Coma Berenices, Berenice's Hair.

To Leo's right you should notice a bright reddish "star" which in reality is the planet Mars. Mars is no slowpoke like Saturn. Its position changes rapidly – in April it is in Gemini the Twins, in May the faint constellation Cancer the Crab and is in Leo in June. On figure 1 Mars is shown for mid-May.

Cancer is rather faint and uninteresting, with the exception of a beautiful star cluster called the Beehive. Try finding it with binoculars. If you're having difficulty, wait for May 22, when Mars passes right through the cluster (figure 2)!

In June Mars enters Leo and takes dead aim at Regulus and Saturn. On June 30, Mars passes just above Regulus. Ten days later, it is just below Mars. The views will be spectacular in a telescope.

One more planet makes an appearance in the evening sky — the innermost planet, Mercury. Mercury stays close to the Sun and most of the time is lost in the Sun's glare, but it is not difficult to find the first half of May. Look about 8 PM EDT, 10 degrees (the width of your fist) above the western horizon.

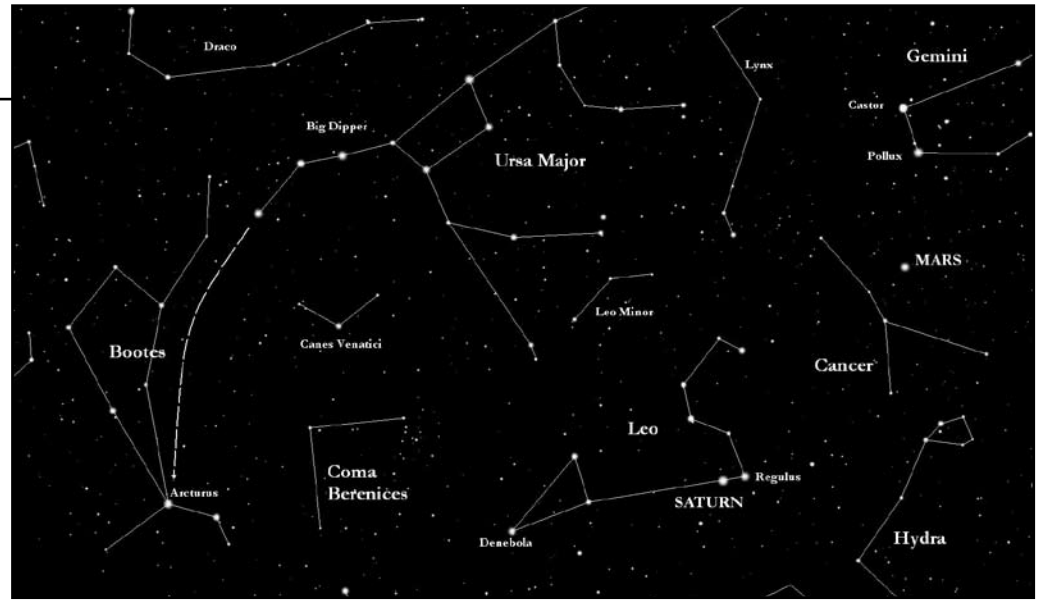
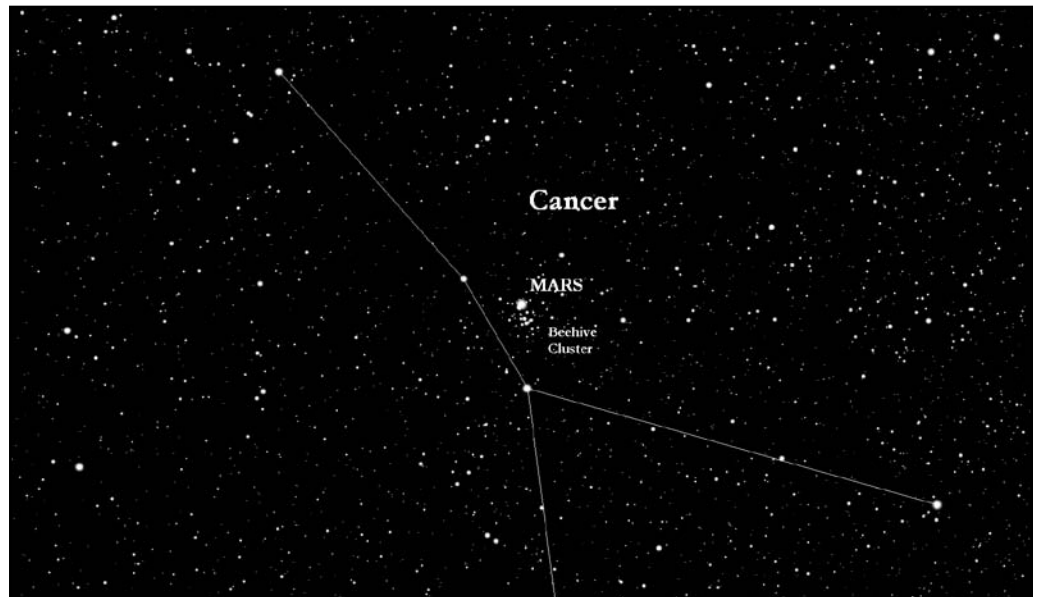


Figure 1 (above): Some of the prominent constellations of spring, including Boötes, Leo, Coma Berenices and Cancer. Saturn in Leo and Mars in Cancer are shown for May 15.

Figure 2 (below): A close-up of the constellation Cancer the Crab on May 22. The planet Mars is passing through the Beehive star cluster.



The Amateur Astronomers Association will hold special observing sessions to observe some of these events, in addition to its regularly-scheduled sessions. To find out what we're doing, check our website at www.aaa.org, or give us a call at 718.522.5014.



The Urban Park Rangers have several **Astronomy** programs this spring. See the calendar for details.

Queens	April 26	Fort Totten
Brooklyn	April 27	Marine Park
Queens	May 25	Fort Totten
Queens	June 22	Fort Totten

TAKING REFUGE IN RESEARCH - THE PARKS' LIBRARY REOPENS!



By Kaitilin Griffin, Research Associate,
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

The Parks' Library, one of the few remaining agency libraries in the City, has a select collection of books and archives documenting urban parks. It is a research and lending library located in the Arsenal, and provides historical resources for divisions within the agency as well as for researchers from the general public. Next month, the library will host a visit from the School of Library Sciences at Pratt Institute. Library science

is showing a renewed interest in 'special interest' collections, of which the Parks' Library is a prime example.

As part of the task of building the collection, we welcome relevant donations. One of our aims is to serve as a secure and accessible repository for all major publications issued by or about the agency, and we remind division leaders to submit copies of studies, management reports and the like which they feel contribute to the history of our parks' system. Interested divisions are also encouraged to submit requests for titles that would assist in their work. Recently, we received from the Garden Resources library at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden a donation of some sixty volumes on horticulture – a gift worth more than \$1,000; this enormous contribution will help to fill an important niche in our collection, that of landscape design, challenges in urban park design, and plant knowledge.

Some thirty researchers have used the library since it reopened for business this past November – among them faculty from Pratt, Parsons and Harvard; graduate students from programs in planning, art history, journalism at Columbia, Yale, NYU, and Pratt; a biographer, a novelist, a smattering of ambitious undergraduates – and two irreplaceable Urban Park Rangers. The topics of research range widely and

often reveal the treasures — and the gaps, in our collection; topics range from Corlears Hook, the 'WPA pools,' the career of Jacob Ray Mould (one of Olmsted's colleagues), the private versus public debate regarding management of parklands — even a search for evidence of a certain tree planted by a Shakespearean actress circa 1900 at Tompkins Square Park. These queries in themselves point to the little treasures that are housed here in our collection, if you can find them. When they come in waves, researchers sometimes seem like barometers (birds of a feather?), revealing patterns of common interest – landscape design for instance, or core concerns - even anxieties about our municipality – like water. The Parks' library is in a perfect position to witness and assist in these collective interests as we build our collection.

Urban Park Rangers are similarly attuned to current patterns of interest as they gather and distribute information out in the field. Some rangers have been helpful to the library with their own hard-won knowledge of information resources in the city. The library hopes to assist them in turn, as they explore issues new and old relating to their parks.

Take refuge in research and contact the Parks' Library for more information or to make an appointment. Email Library@parks.nyc.gov or call us at (212) 360-8240.

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.

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 Ranger Station (FTRS):** Fort Totten Park. Enter park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. 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.

April


Friday, April 4

Brooklyn




-  **Things that go Bump in the Night / Marine Park 7 p.m.** / SMNC Enjoy a night hike as we go in search of bats, raccoons, opossums, and night herons.

Saturday, April 5




Bronx

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



Brooklyn

-  **Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m.** / SMNC
-  **Springtime Scavenger Hunt / Marine Park 1 p.m.** / SMNC The salt marsh is teeming with life—from crabs to shorebirds to marsh grass. Join the Rangers on a "hunt" for all things natural. Prizes will be awarded.
-  **Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m.** / FGVC The remains of over 8,000 Revolutionary War patriots are interred in the crypt beneath the park. Join the Urban Park Rangers to uncover the facts.

Manhattan

-  **Birding for Beginners / Inwood Hill Park 9 a.m.** / IHNC
-  **Hawk Nest Watch / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m.** / IHNC Spring is nesting season! Come check out our resident red-tailed hawk nest, while learning all about raptors. Please bring binoculars.
-  **On A Wing Festival / Central Park 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** / Belvedere Castle Music, dance, puppetry, and art in honor of spring migration.

Queens

-  **From Slumber to Spring / Alley Pond Park 10 a.m.** / APPAC Many organisms are awakening from a long winter's sleep, so be sure to set your alarm clock for this program.
-  **History Detectives: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m.** / FTRS Explore one of the last Civil War masonry forts ever constructed as we try to solve the riddle of why this massive structure was never completed.

Staten Island



-  **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.** / Meeting place TBA Witness the dramatic transformation from landfill to bird-filled: turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, ring-necked pheasants and other field-loving birds. Registration required. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks and type "Fresh Kills sign-up form" in the search field to register.
-  **Animal Adoption / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.** / BHNC Need a new fuzzy friend? You can adopt from the variety of dogs and cats from P.L.U.T.O. Animal Rescue right here on Staten Island. Join guest speaker Lisa Rooney for a trap/neuter/release lecture starting at 12 p.m.


Sunday, April 6

Bronx



-  **Forever Wild! Hunter Island Hike / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m.** / OBNC Hunter Island is a remote wildlife paradise, filled with early spring bloomers.

Brooklyn



-  **Explore the Park Series: Owl's Head Park / Owl's Head Park 1 p.m.** / Meet at the park house, Colonial St. entrance Built on the remains of the old Bliss Estate, Owl's Head Park delivers sweeping views of New York Harbor and is home to beautiful legacy trees.
-  **History Club: History of the Brooklyn Camera Club / Marine Park 1 p.m.** / SMNC Join the Brooklyn Camera Club and History Club members for a discussion of Brooklyn through old time photographs.

-  **Urban Ecology / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m.** / FGVC What do trees, squirrels, and hawks all have in common? Find out with the Rangers, as we explore the park.




Manhattan

-  **Birding / Fort Tryon Park 10 a.m.** / Meet at 191 St. and Fort Washington Ave.
-  **New Beginnings: Blossoms, Buds, and Birds / Central Park 10 a.m.** / Belvedere Castle entrance The woodlands are alive with colors and sounds.

Queens


-  **Gems of Queens Series / Hermon MacNeil Park 1 p.m.** / Meet at College Pl. & Poppenhusen Ave. In this monthly series, explore some of the lesser-known parks of Queens. Named for a nationally renowned sculptor, Hermon MacNeil Park offers dramatic views of Manhattan and Flushing Bay.
-  **Tunnel Tour / Fort Totten 1 p.m.** / FTRS Explore the forgotten tunnels and hidden chambers of old Fort Totten.

Staten Island

-  **Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m.** / BHNC
-  **Forensic Fun / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m.** / BHNC Try your hand at being a detective. Analyze fingerprints, fibers, and hair to see if you can solve our mystery.
-  **Tree-mendous Tree / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m.** / Meet at comfort station, 1150 Clove Rd. Take a walk through Clove Lakes Park to the former site of the tallest tree in New York City. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes.


Monday, April 7

Brooklyn

-  **Monday Night Lecture: History of Diners / Marine Park 7 p.m.** / SMNC A fascinating presentation on an American Institution and something distinctly part of American culture.



Saturday, April 12

Bronx



-  **Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m.** / VCNC Starting this spring, on the second Saturday of each month, join us in search of spring beauties.

Saturday, April 12 continued


Brooklyn

-  **Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m.** / SMNC
-  **And...Howe / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m.** / FGVC Discover the roles played by British Commanders Richard and William Howe in the Battle of Brooklyn and how their decisions affected the outcome the Revolution.

Manhattan

-  **Hawk Nest Watch / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m.** / IHNC See April 5 listing.
-  **Kids' Garden I / Riverside Park 1 p.m.** / River Run Playground at W. 85 St. Explore plant biology and create your own crafty gardens. All ages welcome. Please bring one CLEAR 2-liter plastic bottle.
-  **Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** / Meet at the Little Red Lighthouse This tiny lighthouse perched under the George Washington Bridge was saved from destruction by the children who fell in love with her through The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge by Hildegard Swift. Come see why she is so very special.

Queens


-  **History Club: The Battle of Fort Sumter / Fort Totten 1 p.m.** / FTRS This month's topic deals with the anniversary of the Battle of Fort Sumter, which inaugurated the Civil War on April 12, 1861.

Staten Island


-  **Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m.** / BHNC


Sunday, April 13

Bronx


-  **Hike to Split Rock / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m.** / Meet at Split Rock Golf House (on Shore Road, near Bartow-Pell Mansion) Come on a scenic hike to Split Rock while learning about Anne Hutchinson and indigenous people of the area.

Brooklyn






-  **Neighborhood Walking Series: Brooklyn Heights / Brooklyn Esplanade 11 a.m.** / Meet at Rensselaer St. and Esplanade entrance Discover the history and architecture on a walking tour of one of Brooklyn's most secluded neighborhoods. Learn about the historic churches that were stopovers for the Underground Railroad and about the development of an area that was once called Manhattan's "closest country retreat." Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Tour will end with free tour of the "lost" Atlantic Avenue Train Tunnel, as featured in Cities of the Underworld.

-  **Hide and Seek / Prospect Park 2 p.m.** / Meet at Audubon Center entrance Learn why some animals advertise themselves and why other animals like to hide on this Ranger-led nature hike.

Manhattan

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

Sunday, April 13 continued

-  **Kids Garden II / Central Park 1 p.m. / King Jagiello Statue (inside the park at 79 St. and East Drive)** Learn how plants grow and create window sill greenhouses. Great for all ages. Bring two 2-liter bottles.
-  **On A Wing Series / Central Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Belvedere Castle** "Central Park, Naturally: Photos & Writings of late beloved Central Park Naturalist Charles Kennedy," presented by his nephew, Steve Kennedy. **To register, call 212.628.2345.**
- Queens**
-  **Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run (Park Lane South & 85 St.)** Bring your dog and join the Rangers for a walk in the woods. No pooch? No problem. Come anyway.
-  **Vanderbilt Motor Parkway / Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center** Travel the city's last existing portion of what was once an exclusive roadway for Long Island's Rich and Famous.
- Staten Island**
-  **Saltwater Fishing / Conference House 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet by the pavilion, Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.** Floppin' Flounders! See what you can catch with the Urban Park Rangers. Instructions, equipment and bait provided.

Saturday, April 19

- Bronx**
-  **Snappers Away! / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** Remember the baby snapping turtles we rescued over the winter? Well, the time has come for them to go home! Join us for the release.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **Battle Prattle / Fort Greene 1 p.m. / FGVC** Names like Putnam, DeKalb and Lafayette dot our city. Take a step back to their lives and times.
-  **Bloomin' Hike / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet in front of Wollman Rink** Spring is in the air and it's a perfect time to take a stroll in Prospect Park to discover what's in bloom.
- Manhattan**
-  **Hawk Nest Watch / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC** See April 5 listing.
-  **Earth Day Composting / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at 106 St. and 5 Ave.** Celebrate Earth Day everyday as we learn about the wonders of composting as well as how you can enjoy composting at home.
-  **Open Mic / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / IHNC** Let your creative juices flow! Join us for an evening of music, poetry, dance... perform or just watch. Refreshments provided!
- Queens**
-  **Spring Migration Weekend / Forest Park 11 a.m. / FPVC** Along with the temperatures, migration season is heating up! Join us as we welcome back our fine, feathered friends.
-  **Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS** See April 5 listing.
- Staten Island**
-  **S.I. Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA** See April 5 listing.







Sunday, April 20

- Bronx**
-  **Bloomin' Hike / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / PBRs** A guided walk through the meadows to spot wildflowers and even wilder songbirds.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Earth Day Celebration / Marine Park 12 p.m. / SMNC** Full day of activities including crafts, tree plantings, pet microchipping, the Pet Adoption Mobile, and an afternoon of dance/song with the Brooklyn Dance Center Repertory Company (starting at 3 p.m.).
-  **Orienteering 101 / Sunset Park 1 p.m. / Meet at recreation center entrance, 7 Ave. bet. 41 and 42 Sts.** Learn to navigate by using a compass as you explore Sunset Park.
-  **Micro-safari / Fort Greene 1 p.m. / FGVC** Join the Rangers as we explore the amazing diversity of insect life in the park.
- Manhattan**
-  **Bottle Biology / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Get creative as we create habitats for predatory bugs and their prey. Bring your own clean and CLEAR plastic 2-liter bottle. **To register, please call 212.304.2365 on April 7.**
-  **Earth Day Festival / Central Park / Rumsey Playfield 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.** Visit the Ranger table and learn about how parks are a habitat for wildlife.
- Queens**
-  **Spring Migration / Fort Totten 10:30 a.m. / FTRS** Every spring, a wide variety of birds stop to "fuel up" on their way to their warm weather breeding grounds. Join the Rangers in welcoming back our fine, feathered, fair-weather friends.
-  **Spring Migration Weekend / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Mauro Playground (Park Drive East and 73 Terr.)** See April 19 listing.
-  **Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 7:30 p.m. / FTRS** Join us for this monthly gathering of star gazers, as we explore the heavens with our Dobsonian telescope. All ages welcome.
- Staten Island**
-  **Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC**
-  **Park Pick-up / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC** Help the Rangers give the park a pick-me-up by removing items that don't belong. Wear boots. Gloves and bags provided.
-  **Park to Park: High Rock to Bloodroot Valley / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS** Staten Island's only home of the bloodroot plant is also home to a variety of other wildflowers & plants as well as kettle ponds, steep hills and large boulders, proof of the Wisconsin Glacier 50,000 years ago.


Monday, April 21

- Bronx**
-  **Tree's Company / Van Cortlandt Park 2 p.m. / VCNC** Come join the Urban Park Rangers as we investigate the importance of the trees in our neighborhood. Learn different ways to identify these neighborhood giants.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Arts and Crafts of Flight / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Discover how animals fly & create your own animal of flight.
- Staten Island**
-  **Insect Insanity / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Discover how we rely on so many of these creatures and meet our resident "creepy crawlies."

Wednesday, April 23

- Bronx**
-  **The Giving Tree / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / PBRs** Trees, who needs them?...EVERYBODY!! Bring your kids to learn about all the different things that we get from trees and learn how dependent on them we really are.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Who, Who, Who...Did I Eat? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Dissect an owl pellet and see what it had for lunch. Supplies provided.
- Queens**
-  **How tall is it? / 2 p.m. / Fort Totten / FTVC** Have you ever wondered how tall a tree can grow? The Rangers can teach you fun ways of figuring it out. Equipment provided.
- Staten Island**
-  **Pond Ecology / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Do you know what lives in your pond? Explore Spring Pond's diversity of life.
-  **Plant a Seed / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Get a head start on the blooming season. Learn about wildflowers and take home seeds to plant in your very own little garden.
-  **Rubbing Elbows and Knees with Trees / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle** Take a walk and learn the importance of the quiet giants of the park. Sketch books will be distributed to make leaf and bark rubbings. If it rains, we'll be inside.


Thursday, April 24

- Bronx**
-  **Living Trees / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. / VCNC** Parents! Do your children rave about what they've learned in science class? Bring your kids and learn the fascinating facts about how trees live & how their structures work from the inside!
- Brooklyn**
-  **Animal Tracks / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Learn how to decipher clues left behind by the park's wildlife.
- Staten Island**
-  **Animal Tracks / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Learn how to decipher clues left behind by the park's wildlife.




Friday, April 25

- Brooklyn**
-  **Like Herbs? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** We'll talk about herbs as you plant your own window sill herb garden. Materials provided. Ages 12 and under.
- Queens**
-  **Ho, Ho, Ho, Green Giant / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / APPAC** In celebration of Arbor Day, learn about the "Alley Giant," the largest tulip tree on Long Island.
- Staten Island**
-  **Nature on Stage / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** A performance about nature and animal myths. What animal will you choose to be when you get your chance to perform? All ages welcome.
-  **Living Log / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Take a look at what trees provide for the forest after they are dead.










Saturday, April 26

- Bronx**
-  **Riverdale Hike / Riverdale Park 11 a.m. / H. Hudson Pkwy. southbound service road and W. 232 St.** A hike in search of wildflowers and wildlife. Bring your own binoculars.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **Digital Derivations Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. / SMNC** Photo exhibit of Jessica Shulman's "digital," but natural, creations.
-  **The Redcoats are Coming... and Hessians Too! / Fort Greene 1 p.m. / FGVC** Take a step back in time as we retrace the history of the Continental Army & the Battle of Brooklyn.
- Manhattan**
-  **Hawk Nest Watch / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC** See April 5 listing.
-  **Ecology of Central Park / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle entrance** What do trees, squirrels, and hawks all have in common? Find out with the Rangers, as we explore the Ramble woodlands. Includes fun craft project!
-  **Spring Tree I.D. / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC** Join us for a tree walk, as we use bark, buds, and blossoms to identify our green giants.
- Queens**
-  **Spring Migration / Idlewild Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 223 St. & 148 Ave.** See April 19 listing.
-  **Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS** See April 5 listing.
- Staten Island**
- **Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC**





Saturday, April 26 continued

-  **Tree-mendous Trees / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** See April 6 listing.
- Sunday, April 27**
- Bronx**
-  **Spring Migration / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / PBRs** See April 19 listing.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Stargazing / Marine Park 8 p.m. / SMNC** Join us for a look at the full Moon and our gas giant neighbors.
-  **Digital Derivations Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. / SMNC** See April 26 listing.
-  **Poetry in the Park: Walt Whitman's Gift / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Bring your favorite Whitman poem for a reading or just come listen to the poetry of one of the founding fathers of the park.
- Manhattan**
-  **Birding with J.J. Audubon / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC** On this bird walk, Rangers will share the history of one of the most famous birders, John James Audubon.
-  **Cherry on Top / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at E. 92 St. and 5 Ave.** Enjoy a peaceful Sunday stroll learning about the ever-elegant cherry trees of Central Park.
- Queens**
-  **Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run** See April 13 listing.
-  **Spring Tree I.D. / Crocheron Park 11 a.m. / Meet at easternmost end of 35 Ave. (near Cross Island Pkwy.)** See April 26 listing.
-  **Spring Migration / Highland Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave & Elton St.** See April 19 listing.
- Staten Island**
-  **History Club: Staten Island Naturalists / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Pay tribute to some of our most famous naturalists. We'll explore the areas they fought to save.

Saturday, May 3

- Bronx**
-  **Bird Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC** Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Bring binoculars.
-  **Birdland! / Van Cortlandt Park 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Southwest Playground, VC Park South and Broadway** It's a day to celebrate birds- walks, games, live birds, etc.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **Explore the Ravine / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center** A guided tour of old-growth woodlands, streams, rustic shelters and local wildlife.
-  **Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** See April 5 listing.
- Manhattan**
-  **Speed Hike / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC** Come for a vigorous uphill (both ways!) hike, as we take in the sights and sounds of nature.
-  **6th Annual Drums Along the Hudson: A Native American Festival & Shad Fest / Inwood Hill Park 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. / Gaelic Field (enter park at W. 218 St. and Indian Rd.)** Join this celebration of Native American heritage, culture, and art with the diversity of New York City itself. The event includes ShadFest, with shad planking demonstrations and free tastings. The Rangers will have nature-themed games and activities for the whole family. **For more information, call Lotus Music & Dance at 212.627.1076 ext. 18.**
- Queens**
-  **Earth Day Rockaway / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Meet at B. 29 St. & Boardwalk** Celebrate Earth Day with awesome activities about the environment. Education and entertainment for all. **Rain date, Sunday, May 4.**
- Staten Island**
-  **Carousel Opening / Willowbrook 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. / Eton Pl. off Hylan Blvd.** Enjoy the carousel, games, crafts, and some fishing. Poles provided.

Sunday, May 4

- Bronx**
-  **Canoeing the Lagoon / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Canoe and Kayak Launch (NW corner of Orchard Beach parking lot)** Ages 8 and up. **To register, call 718.548.0912 on April 28 and leave a message.** Spaces will be filled in order calls are received.
- Brooklyn**
-  **Birding for Beginners / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC**
-  **Marsh Makeover Community Clean-up / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Get out and lend a hand in beautifying the Marsh. Prizes! Great for scout troops and high schoolers needing community service hours.
- Manhattan**
-  **Bridges of Southern Central Park / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Columbus Circle (59 St. and Central Park West)** Learn about Central Park's majestic bridges and arches.
-  **Night Hike / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / IHNC** Get a new perspective on Inwood Hill Park on this nocturnal adventure. Bring a flashlight.
- Queens**
-  **Wildflower Walk / Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / APPAC** On this walk, we'll scout out some of the city's most common, and most rare, wildflowers.
-  **Gems of Queens Series / Bowne Park 1 p.m. / Meet at 29 Ave & 155 St.** Our series continues with this park named for former State Senator, and NYC Mayor, Walter Bowne.

May

Sunday, May 4 continued

- Staten Island**
 Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC
 Happy Herp-day! / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC We'll explore the diversity of wildlife in search of these critters.

Monday, May 5

- Brooklyn**
 Monday Night Lecture Series: Brooklyn Celebrates Baseball / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC Our annual celebration of America's favorite pastime and Brooklyn's greatest players.

Saturday, May 10

- Bronx**
 Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Mosholu Ave. and Broadway See April 12 listing.
- Brooklyn**
 Brooklyn-Queens Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 8 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 Queens. Transportation provided. To register, call 718.421.2021.

- Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 5 listing.
- Manhattan**
 Warbler Watch / Central Park 8 a.m. / Riverside Park, meeting at W. 116 St. and Riverside Drive As temperatures begin to rise, let's see who's stopping by and taking a spring break in the park.

- Legends Come to Life! / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC Join us for an afternoon of Native American story telling with the Ranger Puppeteers!

- Queens**
 Brooklyn-Queens Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 8 a.m. / TBA See Brooklyn listing.
 Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

- Staten Island**
 Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See April 5 listing.
 Family Camping / Willowbrook Park 7 p.m. / Meeting location TBA You'll pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the park's nocturnal occupants. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. Call 718.967.3542 after 9 a.m. on May 4 to register.

Sunday, May 11

- Bronx**
 Bike the Greenway / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC Bring your bike and celebrate bike month by biking from one end of the Bronx to the other! Tour will end at the Van Cortlandt Nature Center.

- Brooklyn**
 Brooklyn-Queens Greenway / Asser Levy Park 9 a.m. / Meet at Ocean Pkwy. & Boardwalk See Queens listing.
 Mother's Day Marsh Walk / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Bring the kids for a guided nature walk as we discuss how animal moms take care of their young.
 History of Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC From Revolutionary-era fort to its current renaissance, discover the history of Brooklyn's first park.

- Manhattan**
 Flowers for the Mother You Love / Central Park 2 p.m. / Conservatory Garden at 106 St. and 5 Ave. Pamper your parents with a stroll through the "Secret Garden," learning about its history and beautiful flora.
 Movie Night!!! / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / IHNC Enjoy an entertaining and educational film with the Rangers.

- Queens**
 Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run See April 13 listing.
 Brooklyn-Queens Greenway / Asser Levy Park 9 a.m. / Meet at Ocean Pkwy. & Boardwalk In honor of Bike Month, we'll bike this 40-mile pedestrian and cyclist route stretching from Coney Island to Ft. Totten in Queens. Ride the entire Greenway, or just part of it. Bring your own bike & helmet.

- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.
- Staten Island**
 Mother's Day Crafts / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Be creative and make something special for mom!

Saturday, May 17

- Brooklyn**
 Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
 Raptor Watch / Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet at Wollman Rink Go in search of Prospect Park's top avian predators.
 The Redcoats are Coming... and Hessians Too! / Fort Greene 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 26 listing.

- Manhattan**
 Water You Talking About? / Highbridge Park 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. / Highbridge Water Tower, W. 174 St. and Tower Terrace Climb the Highbridge Water Tower and explore this landmark of NYC's first-class water system.
 Indigenous Music Workshop / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC Join Ranger Rob Mastrianni for a journey around the world of indigenous musical instruments.

- Queens**
 It's My Park! Day / Forest Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Bandshell on Forest Park Drive, west of Woodhaven Blvd. What would parks be without their trees and flowers? Help us plant native species and show support for YOUR park.

Saturday, May 17 continued

- History Club: Memorial Day Memories / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS Celebrate this holiday armed with the knowledge of how it began and why it has stood the test of time.
- Staten Island**
 Park to Park: Tri-Boro Tour / Staten Island Ferry terminal 12:45 p.m. / Meet in lobby Join the Rangers as we celebrate the Brooklyn Bridge's 125 Anniversary with a ferry trip, followed by tours of Battery Park, City Hall Park, and of course, the Bridge. Tour ends in downtown Brooklyn.

Sunday, May 18

- Bronx**
 Orienteering for Kids / Pelham Bay Park 12 p.m. / OBNC Learn basic compass and map reading skills, as we explore the city's largest park.
- Brooklyn**
 History Club: History of NY Movies / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Discussion of New York-themed movies, and movies made in and around New York.
 Spring Tree I.D. / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Meet at FGVC See April 26 listing.

- Manhattan**
 Central Park's Ranger Conservation Corps / Central Park 1 p.m. / Belvedere Castle Experience Central Park's nature through the eyes of the Ranger Conservation Corps, students from area high schools, as they present their work of the past year, then lead a guided walk of the Ramble.
 Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Lighthouse See April 12 listing.

- Queens**
 Spring Tree I.D. / Crocheron Park / 11 a.m. See April 26 listing.
 Animal Tracking / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / APPAC Animals leave behind different signs of their whereabouts, from scat to tracks. On this walk you'll learn to keep "track" of them all.

- Staten Island**
 Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC
 Nuts about Squirrels / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Explore the world of the squirrel, as we discover ways that they help forest and the role they play in the ecosystem.

Friday, May 23

- Staten Island**
 Horseshoe "Hunt" / Conference House Park 7 p.m. / Meet by visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) Witness a ritual that has taken place for millions of years as horseshoe crabs gather on Staten Island's shores.

Saturday, May 24

- Bronx**
 Early Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC
- Brooklyn**
 Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
 And...Howe / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 12 listing.
 Catch the Buzzzzz / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Ever wonder how honeybees make a hive or how they communicate? Find out and taste some "Marsh Madness," actual honey from our on site hives.

- Manhattan**
 Central Park Scavenger Hunt / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle Think you know Central Park? Get your team of four together and test your skills in this race to the finish. Great for friends and families of all ages. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks and search for "Central Park Scavenger Hunt."
 Native American Pathways / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / IHNC Explore Manhattan's only old-growth forest, rock shelters, a wigwam, and more, as we explore the rich history of the Lenape.
 Story Time / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC Enjoy an afternoon of children's stories in the park with the Rangers.

- Queens**
 Micro-safari / Fort Totten 10:30 a.m. / FTRS See April 20 listing.
 Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

- Staten Island**
 Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC
 Basic Canoeing / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet by the comfort station off Eton Pl. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first-served.

Sunday, May 25

- Bronx**
 Bloomin' Hike / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS We'll go lookin' for things in bloom. Come with us!
- Brooklyn**
 Great Trees of NYC: Prospect Park Edition / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center Take A guided tour of these unusual/historically significant trees!
 Spanning Time / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC In honor of the Brooklyn Bridge's 125 birthday, we take a look at some of Brooklyn's famous bridges and their unique stories.

- Manhattan**
 North Forts Tour / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at E. 106 St. and Fifth Ave. We discuss the forts of what is now northern Central Park and the patriotism that swept this area.

Sunday, May 25 continued

- Catch Me if You Can / Fort Washington Park 12 p.m. / 181st Street & Plaza Lafayette Go fishing for fun with the Rangers, as we explore the aquatic life of the Hudson River. Bring a friend, and a bucket!
- Queens**
 Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run See April 13 listing.

- Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 7:30 p.m. / FTRS See April 26 listing.
 Spring Migration / Highland Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave & Elton St. See April 19 listing.
- Staten Island**
 History Club: Women of Staten Island / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Learn about the most influential women of Staten Island's history.

Monday, May 26

- Staten Island**
 Basic Canoeing / Wolfe's Pond Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet by the comfort station off Cornelia Ave. See May 24 listing.

Thursday May 29

- Brooklyn**
 Lawn Chair Theater: Hoot / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC We kick off our monthly summer series of movies under the stars with "Hoot," a wonderful family movie about a boy's plight to save owls from greedy developers. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. If rain, we will move inside with limited seating.

Saturday, May 31

- Bronx**
 Spring Tree I.D. / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC With spring in full swing, we now add leaves to our list of clues to use to identify our green giants.
- Brooklyn**
 Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
 Birding the Lullwater / Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet outside of Wollman Rink
 Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 5 listing.
 Saturday Night Live: Sock Hop / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC Join Dancin' Bob B. and Vivian for a night of fun and entertainment dancing to oldies and other classics.

- Manhattan**
 Creating with Nature / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / IHNC Arts and crafts with the Rangers. Children 12 and under.
 Dusk Hike / Central Park 7:30 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center Come see Central Park in a different light, or maybe no light at all. Hike through the North Woods, as we look for things that go bump in the night. Bring a flashlight.

- Queens**
 Bike by the Bay / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at Little Bay Park at Cryders Lane entrance See May 3 listing.
Staten Island
 Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See April 5 listing.

June

Sunday, June 1

- Bronx**
 Canoeing the Lagoon / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / Canoe and Kayak Launch (NW corner of Orchard Beach parking lot) Ages 8 and up. To register, call 718.885.3467 on May 26 and leave a message. Spaces will be filled in order calls are received.
- Brooklyn**
 Neighborhood Walking Series: Park Slope / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet under the Arch at Grand Army Plaza Explore the architecture and history of one of Brooklyn's trendiest and family-friendly neighborhoods.
 What Lurks Beneath? / Marine Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Ave. U and Burnett St. Using seining nets, discover what animals live beneath the surface of Gerritsen Creek.

- Manhattan**
 Butterfly Bazaar / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at E. 106 St. and Fifth Ave. Central Park is home to numerous species of butterflies and moths. Join us for an exploration of these fascinating insects.
 Camping Basics / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC Before you head out to the woods this summer, join us for a workshop on hiking and camping basics, then hit the trail!

- Queens**
 Strawberry Festival / Highland Park 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet at Children's Garden on Jamaica Ave. and Ashford St. This free event will feature live music, crafts, games, garden activities, face painting, contests, and all things strawberry!
 Explore the Shore / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS Using seining nets, discover what animals live beneath the surface of the Bay. Get set to get wet, and maybe a little dirty.

- Staten Island**
 Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC
 Freshwater Fishing / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl.

Thursday, June 5

- Queens**
 Readathon / Forest Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Bandshell on Forest Park Drive, west of Woodhaven Blvd Celebrate the joy of nature on this day of festivities. Call 718.235.4100 for more information.

Saturday, June 7

Bronx

- Bird Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Bring binoculars.
- Creating with Nature / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC See May 31 listing.

Brooklyn

- Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
- The Redcoats are Coming... And Hessians Too! / Fort Greene 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 26 listing.

Manhattan

- Pirates of Central Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the Hans Christian Andersen statue (E. 74 St. and Fifth Ave.) We'll hear the story of the Pirates of Central Park, then make small boats to set sail.
- Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Lighthouse See April 12 listing.

Queens

- National Trails Day / Cunningham Park 10 a.m. / Meet at parking lot, Union Tpke. and 197 St. Help re-blaze the White Trail as we "hunt" for local flora and fauna.
- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

Staten Island

- Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center
- National Trails Day / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center Explore and restore the park's trails. Wear boots. Gloves and equipment provided.
- Horseshoe "Hunt" / Conference House Park 7 p.m. / Meet by visitors center See May 23 listing.

Sunday, June 8

Bronx

- Fishing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Equipment provided. Bring water and a snack.
- Seashore Safari / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC Join us as we search for coastal critters with our seining net!

Brooklyn

- Nuts about Squirrels / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. / FGVC See May 18 listing.
- Micro-Safari / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC See April 20 listing.

Manhattan

- Forester for a Day/ Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center Explore and examine the trees of Central Park.
- Beginner Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC First-come, first-served.

Queens

- Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run See April 13 listing.
- Micro-safari / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / FTRS See April 20 listing.

Staten Island

- Canoe Challenge / Lemon Creek Park 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA Enjoy this wonderful route through the tidal waters of Lemon Creek. To register, call 718.967.3542 after 9 a.m. on June 1.

Thursday, June 12

Brooklyn

- Independent Film Series / Marine Park 8 p.m. SMNC A night of short, horror/comedy films presented by Cypher Films.

Saturday, June 14

Bronx

- Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC See April 12 listing.
- Adventures NYC: Flutter by, Butterfly / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / PBRS Enjoy the majestic monarch butterflies that live in our park each summer. We'll discuss their ability to migrate incredible distances to locations they've never seen.

Brooklyn

- Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
- Adventures NYC: White Island Expedition / Marine Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Ave. U and Burnett St. An Urban Park Ranger exclusive. Explore Gerritsen Creek and spend an afternoon bird watching on lonely White Island. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks and search "Adventures NYC."
- Neighborhood Walking Series: Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. / FGVC Explore the rich history and architecture of this historic district.

Manhattan

- Hawk Walk / Inwood Hill Park 9 a.m. / IHNC Hike in search of the Inwood red-tailed hawks and other raptors.
- Adventures NYC: Canoeing the Meer / Central Park 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. / DDC First-come, first-served. All equipment provided. Ages 8 and up.
- Salt Marsh Exploration / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC From marsh grass to mummichogs, the marsh is a hard place to survive. Come find out why.

Queens

- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.
- Adventures NYC: Evening Adventures / Forest Park 8 p.m. / FPVC An after-hours adventure looking for bats, raccoons, owls, and whatever else lurks in the dark. Bring a flashlight, but leave your fear at home.

Saturday, June 14 continued

Staten Island

- Adventures NYC: Park to Park: White Trail / Greenbelt 10 a.m. / Meet at first parking lot in Great Kills Park at Buffalo St., off Hylan Blvd. An 8-mile trek through some of the more beautiful areas of the Greenbelt. You'll see ponds, streams, forests, and meadows. Wear hiking boots and bring water and a snack. Hike ends at Willowbrook Park.
- Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See April 5 listing.

Sunday, June 15

Bronx

- Basic Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC First-come, first-served. Bring water, sunblock, and a snack. Ages 8+.
- Orchard Beach History Walk / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC Come learn the history of Orchard Beach and the surrounding islands, from Native American inhabitants to the impact of Robert Moses.

Brooklyn

- Father's Day Fishing / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center Bring Dad out to the park for an afternoon of fishing with the kids. Poles and bait will be provided.
- Fort Greene Trivia / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Join us as we answer some great trivia about your local park. What's the tallest tree in the park? How tall is the Monument? How many people are interred in the Crypt?

Manhattan

- Father's Day Fishing / Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center Equipment provided.
- Northwest we go / Fort Washington Park 11 a.m. / Little Red Lighthouse A serious trek through the three northwest parks of Manhattan. Bring plenty of water, good shoes, and binoculars because you never know what we will see.

Queens

- Father's Day Fishing / Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet behind Kissena Playschool, inside the park, near Oak Ave. & 164 St. Limited equipment provided.
- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

Staten Island

- Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center
- Father's Day Crafts / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center Use your imagination and creativity to make something special for Dad. Supplies provided.

Saturday, June 21

- Camping Under the Stars! Join us for a fun filled night of camping under the stars. There will be stargazing, night hike and s'mores. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks and search "Under the Stars." The sites are: Pelham Bay, Prospect Park, Central Park, Alley Pond Park, and Willowbrook Park.

Bronx

- Bottle Biology / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Please bring 2 CLEAR 2-liter bottles. No reservations required.

Brooklyn

- Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
- Canoe the Lullwater / Prospect Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 2 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center Arrive early; first-come, first-served. Sign up begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Battle Prattle / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See April 19 listing.

Manhattan

- Bridges of Northern Central Park / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Frederick Douglass Circle (Central Park West and Central Park North) Learn about Central Park's majestic bridges and arches as you hike through the park.
- Wildflower Walk / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC See May 4 listing.

Queens

- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

Staten Island

- Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / BHNC

Sunday, June 22

Bronx

- Horseshoe "Hunt" / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / OBNC

Brooklyn

- Explore the Marsh Hike / Marine Park 10 a.m. / SMNC Discover the beauty and rich diversity of this unique ecosystem, as we discuss the importance of protecting the plants and wildlife that call the marsh home.
- Explore the Ravine Hike/ Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center See May 3 listing.
- History of Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See May 11 listing.

Manhattan

- Water You Talking About? / Highbridge Park 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. / Meet at Water Tower (W. 174 St. and Tower Terrace) See May 17 listing.
- Heart of the Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside Belvedere Castle Discover secret places where art and nature meet in Central Park.

Queens

- Bi-weekly Bark Brigade / Forest Park 9 a.m. / Meet at K-9 Korral Dog Run See April 13 listing.
- Be a History Detective: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS See April 5 listing.

Sunday, June 22 continued

- Nature Knowledge / Highland Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave & 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.
- Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 7:30 p.m. / FTRS See April 26 listing.
- Staten Island**
- Basic Canoeing / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet by the comfort station off Eton Pl. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first served.

Thursday, June 26

Brooklyn

- Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 8 p.m. / SMNC Join us for "Jaws." Bring a lawn chair or blanket. If rain, we will move inside with limited seating.

Saturday, June 28

Bronx

- Decomposers Hike / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Find evidence of insects and fungi and learn about their role in the decomposition process.
- Seashore Safari / Pelham Bay Park 3 p.m. / OBNC See June 3 listing.

Brooklyn

- Early Morning Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC
- Creating with Nature / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See May 31 listing.
- Tree-mendous Walk / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center A guided tour of beautiful Prospect Park. Learn how to identify trees by bark & leaves.
- Family Challenge and Campout / Marine Park 2 p.m. / SMNC Bring the family out to compete against other families for prizes in events like canoeing, scavenger hunts, tent building, and campfire scary stories. Tents provided. To register, call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on June 9.

Manhattan

- Family Camping / Central Park / Time and location TBA To register, call 212.628.2345 on June 23 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Hawk Walk / Inwood Hill Park 9 a.m. / IHNC See June 14 listing.

Queens

- Advanced Canoeing / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / FTRS An exciting trip out on Little Neck Bay See Fort Totten from a different angle. Basic canoeing experience required. To register, please call 718.352.1769 on June 16.
- Canoeing / Bayswater Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet at B. 35 St. and Beach Channel Dr. First-come, first-served. Bring water and sunscreen. Pre-registration is required. Call 718.318.4000.
- Plover Awareness Day / B. 59 St 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. An exciting day learning about the endangered piping plover. Participate in tours, be creative with arts & crafts, and experience animals up close with our touch tank.

Staten Island

- Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See April 5 listing.
- Forensic Fun / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC See April 6 listing.

Sunday, June 29

Bronx

- Scavenger Hunt for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC Think you know about nature in your park? Challenge yourself with this scavenger hunt.
- Shore Birding / Pelham Bay Park 2 p.m. / OBNC The rocky coast of Pelham Bay provides habitat for an abundance of shorebirds. Join the Rangers as we look for herons, egrets, ibises, and more.

Brooklyn

- Battle of Brooklyn Trolley Tour / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meeting location TBA Discover Brooklyn's rich Revolutionary history, with stops including the Old Stone House, Ft. Greene Park, the Maryland 400 Monument, and the ferry crossing where Washington's troops narrowly escaped capture. To register, call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on June 21.
- Canoe the Lullwater / Prospect Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. / Meet outside Audubon Center See June 21 listing.
- Who, Who, Who...Did I Eat? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Learn about the web of life and what owls eat by dissecting owl pellets. Discover the varied diet of owls and how they hunt and capture their prey.

Manhattan

- Birding / Fort Tryon Park 9 a.m. / 181 St. and Fort Washington Ave.
- Bike the Hudson / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Basketball Center, Ten Mile River Playground and 145 St. Ride south along the Hudson from 145 St. to 79 St. We'll learn about the Hudson estuary along the way. Great for beginner riders! Ride ends at 79 St. Bring your own bike.

Queens

- Gems of Queens Series / Francis Lewis Park 1 p.m. / Meet at 147 St. and 3 Ave. Our series continues with a park named for after one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.
- Advanced Canoeing / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / FTRS See June 28 listing.

Staten Island

- Early Birding / Blue Heron Park 9 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center
- History Club: Snug Harbor / Snug Harbor 1 p.m. / Meet by gate at Richmond Terr. and Delafield Pl. Enjoy this beautiful cultural center, as we explore the history of the area.

By Sergeant Bonnie McGuire

On Staten Island's west side lies Fresh Kills, sitting like a looming mass, all 2,200 acres of parkland. Once known as the largest garbage dump in the world, it is going through a metamorphosis. Opened in 1948, prior to large-scale development of Staten Island, Fresh Kills received all the household garbage for New York City, up to 29,000 tons per day. It is roughly 2.5 times the size of Central Park, and if laid over lower Manhattan would stretch from the Battery up to 26th St. Only 990 acres is actual landfill, with the remaining 1,210 making up creeks, wetlands and dry lowlands. After being open as a landfill for over 50 years it was finally closed in the spring of 2001.

There are many different agencies working on the project including the New York City Departments of Parks and Recreation, Sanitation, and City Planning, and many other city, state, and federal agencies to ensure that construction of the site is both safe and respectful to the public. These agencies have all worked together to create a draft master plan outlining how the mounds will be landscaped and programmed. A copy of the plan is available at the Department of City Planning and on the website www.nyc.gov/parks/freshkills.

Fresh Kills is divided into 5 distinct areas. There are four mounds, North Park, South Park, East Park, and West Park. The fifth area is the Confluence area, set to be the main hub of the park. The four parks are very similar. Each will be designated as places for low impact passive and active recreational activities such as mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking. It will also have picnic areas, sitting areas, and nature observation areas. Each park will provide a unique view of the city and natural areas including meadows, forested areas, fresh water ponds, and tidal creeks.

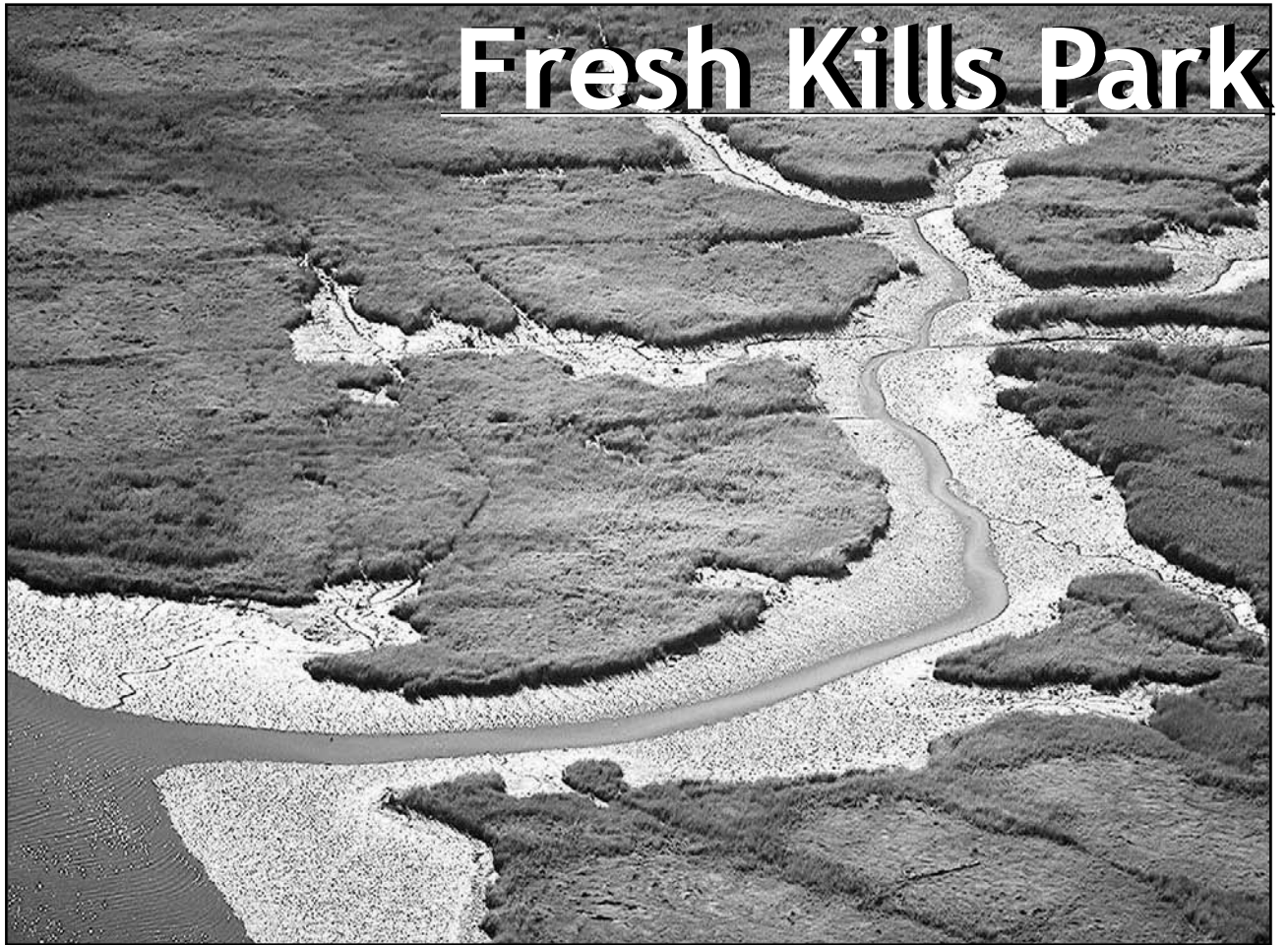
The Confluence area currently contains the most paving and buildings. To minimize the amount of paving to be added, this area will be the hub of the park and remain paved. It will include ample parking areas, waterfront esplanade, restaurants, a visitor center, and large event lawn for gatherings, picnics, and sunbathing, boat rental and launching areas, and much more. Old equipment, including cranes and bulldozers, will remain in an area of the Confluence as a museum.

Garbage from all over the city was taken to Fresh Kills along a complex path. Garbage was picked up from a residence by a truck, then transported to a transfer station in one of the boroughs where it was then transferred to a barge. The barge hauled the garbage through the Upper New York Bay, through the Kill van Kull, and down the Arthur Kill to Richmond Creek. The barge would have to pass through a fenced boom to pass from the Arthur Kill into Richmond Creek. The barge would dock and cranes would transfer the garbage to trucks that would then haul it to be dumped on one of the mounds. Once on the mound, the garbage would be compacted time and time again by large bulldozers. Once the mound was ready to be closed, the garbage would be capped, or covered, with a layer of clean fill to sculpt the mounds and create a rolling landscape.

The cap is composed of several layers of fill, a landfill gas collection system, an impermeable geomembrane, a layer of clean soil topped with planting soil, and finally a number of grasses and sedges for erosion control.

Two byproducts result from the decomposition of household garbage; leachate and landfill gas. Fresh Kills has collection and processing plants for both. Within the layer of clean soil is the landfill gas collection system. The gas is collected and pumped to a landfill gas purification system on site. The methane gas is isolated and eventually used to heat over 10,000 Staten Island homes.

Leachate, or the goo produced by decomposing materials, is also collected as it runs off the mounds. It is pumped to a water purification system on site where the solids are sifted out, packaged, and shipped



to active landfills in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New Jersey. The remaining water, purified and released into the Arthur Kill, is cleaner than what the Arthur Kill currently contains.

The impermeable geomembrane is in place to prevent the escape of landfill gas, and to prevent the introduction of additional water from rain or snow. Rainwater will hit the geomembrane and be channeled into catch ponds. This water has never come into contact with any of the garbage and is held in the catch ponds, creating a wonderful freshwater ecosystem for dragonflies, frogs, muskrats, fish, and a variety of birds. The water is slowly released back into Richmond Creek and other waterways.

Once it is completed, Fresh Kills will nearly double the 2,800-acre Greenbelt on Staten Island. Fresh Kills is bordered on the north by the William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, a salt marsh that provides a rest stop for thousands of migratory birds each year. Nature has already started to overtake the Fresh Kills site, evident by the presence of great egrets, red-tailed hawks, ring-necked pheasants, glossy ibises, turkey vultures, double-crested cormorants, and even killdeer nests. Deer, raccoons, opossums, and muskrats also inhabit the creeks, wetlands, and dry lowlands that make up approximately 55% of Fresh Kills.

The Staten Island Urban Park Rangers give regular bus tours of the Fresh Kills site, April through November.

The public tours start at the Eltingville Transit Center and enter the site at the Muldoon Ave. entrance. The tour then goes through the Confluence area and up the South Park. Once at the top, patrons have a chance to exit the bus and walk around. All four Staten Island bridges can be seen from the south mound, as well as the Staten Island Mall, eastern New Jersey, Arden Woods Park, and lower Manhattan. After a few minutes there, patrons get back on the bus and head back down the mound. On their way to the North Park, patrons can view several catch ponds, which are homes to ducks, egrets, and other migrating water birds. Also visible is the fencing system that was put in Richmond Creek and other waterways to prevent the escape of garbage into the water system. Once on top of the North Park, patrons will be able to see a wonderful view of Lower Manhattan, the William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, and the community of Travis, a once well-known linoleum manufacturing area. On the way out, patrons can catch a glimpse of the landfill gas purification system before being transported back to the Eltingville Transit Center.

If you are interested in joining the Urban Park Rangers for a tour of this amazing facility, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/freshkills for information on upcoming tours, or call the Staten Island Urban Park Rangers at 718.967.3542 for more information.

Tours are free, but require reservations. Also, ask about our private group tours.



Summer Fun!



*Know a great kid... or a great group of kids...
Looking for FUN outdoor activities this summer?*



Look no further than your New York City parks! This summer, the Urban Park Rangers offer a wide variety of programs for your kids.



Urban Park Ranger Kid-Time!

In addition to all the wonderful activities listed in the Urban Park Ranger Calendar of Programs, this summer the Rangers are offering MORE! Mondays through Fridays 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. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers for more information, locations, and times. Look under "Summer Fun Programs."

FREE!

Give Your Kids a Night Out Under the Stars!

Family camp-outs with the Urban Park Rangers. Barbecue dinner and activities including, stargazing, night hikes, and a chance to try the NEW Adventure Course (on Sundays only) – high and low ropes, zip lines, climbing wall and more. Sleep under the stars. Tents and food provided. Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks for more information and enter "Family Camping" in the search field. Or, see the Urban Park Ranger Calendar of Programs for registration dates and phone number. Friday and Saturday nights in July and August. Limited space. Pre-registration required.

FREE!

Including the NEW Adventure Course!

Alley Pond Park Adventure Programs

Looking for the excitement and challenge of "wilderness" adventure but want to stay here in the City? Join the Urban Park Rangers at Alley Pond Park, Queens for canoeing, fishing, orienteering, and now a NEW Adventure Course – high and low ropes, zip lines, climbing wall and more.

Including the NEW Adventure Course!

Day programs and overnight camp-outs available. Great for camp groups, youth groups, community groups, corporate groups. Customize an adventure and team-building program. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks for more information, and enter "Alley Pond Park Adventure" in the search field. Or, call 866.692.4295. Groups of 30, ages 8+ (cost associated). Free programs are available for individuals on a first-come, first-served basis on Sundays from 10am-4pm, July through November (weather permitting). Preregistration is not required.



Put your child in this picture

Junior Ranger Day Camp June 30 - August 15, 2008 Ages 8-11

Your child can paddle a canoe in quiet blue waters edged with bright green grass and explore nature from a whole new perspective.

Junior Rangers participate in fun and educational activities & games, immersed in a natural park setting. A summer full of fun!

Crotona Nature Center, Bronx.
Inwood Hill Nature Center, Manhattan
Salt Marsh Nature Center, Brooklyn
Blue Heron Nature Center*, Staten Island



Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4:30 pm. Extended hours: 8:30 am - 9 am; 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm.
Cost: \$65 week. Reduced-cost scholarships available.

*Camp hours and dates for Blue Heron: No extended hours, no lunch. Reduced-cost scholarships available.
July 5 - Aug. 17, Wed. - Fri., 9 am to 12 pm. Cost \$35/week.

Teamwork Days	Activities, games, and a camp-wide Ranger Relay.
Nature Days	The Natural Classroom explorations.
Adventure Days	Fishing, canoeing, and orienteering.
Conservation Days	Restore trails and build habitats for wildlife.
Jr. Ranger Olympics	Bring the week together with games and prizes.
Campouts	Sleep under the stars. A one-night special option.

Call 311 now and ask for the Urban Park Rangers to request an application, or download the application from our website, www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers



Summer Employment Bulletin Board



LOOKING FOR: CAMP COUNSELORS

Outdoor enthusiasts interested in a fun summer experience working as a **CAMP COUNSELOR** OR **COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING** at Urban Park Ranger summer camps.

- 15-17 years old, Counselor-in-training positions, from June 27 - August 16.
- 18+ years old, Camp Counselor positions, from June 15 - August 16.



The "Fine Print" visit www.nyc.gov/parks. Click on "Jobs at Parks" for more information.

Counselor-in-Training (CIT)

Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 17. CITs receive minimum wage (\$7.15/hour) and work a 35-hour week. Some evenings/weekends. Work locations include Crotona Park (Bronx), Marine Park (Brooklyn), Inwood Hill Park (Manhattan), and Alley Pond Park (Queens).

Camp Counselor

Applicants must be 18 years or older. Camp counselors receive \$10 per hour and work a 40-hour week. Some evenings/weekends. Work locations include Crotona Park (Bronx), Marine Park (Brooklyn), Inwood Hill Park (Manhattan), and Alley Pond Park (Queens).

Seasonal Park Rangers

Applicants must be 21 years or older. Seasonal Park Rangers receive \$16.63/hour and work a 35-hour week. Work locations in all five boroughs.

WHISTLE WORTHY

APPLY TO BE A NYC LIFEGUARD THIS SUMMER
CALL 311 OR VISIT WWW.NYC.GOV/PARKS

Men & women aged 16 & up. Paid training if hired.
Full-time seasonal work at City beaches and pools.

Minimum starting salary \$12.55/hr.

NYC Parks & Recreation is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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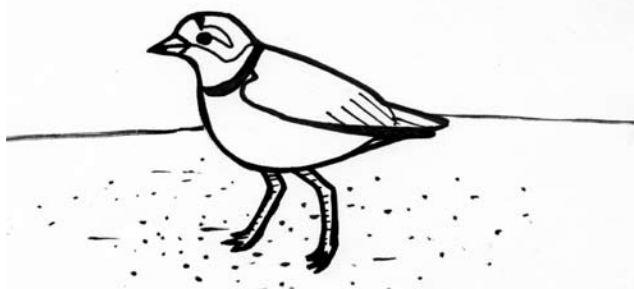
Naturalist Corner: Piping in about Plovers

By Amber Rauch, Urban Park Ranger

If you are planning a trip to the Rockaways this summer to take in the sun and surf on a steamy hot day, you should know the beach access points, because the sand might be closed to the public where you want to lay your towel down. As you can imagine, it certainly is not your stereotypical endangered species setting. Looking south towards the water lies an extraordinarily rare beach community. It includes the federally threatened seabeach amaranth, a plant in the mustard family, the least tern, a beach-nesting bird protected under New York State law, as well as the piping plover.

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a small, stocky shorebird whose plumage helps to camouflage it amongst the sand, shells, and driftwood of their Atlantic beach homes. The plover is currently listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened. Piping plovers nest on the beaches of the Rockaways and typically arrive in mid-March. Upon arrival, male plovers establish territory and begin their courtship rituals of "piping," along with aerial displays. Once a mate has been found, the male creates a nest by scraping a shallow depression in the sand, and decorating it with shell fragments. An average of four eggs is laid per clutch, and the male and female take turns incubating for 27 to 30 days. Plover chicks are precocial; they are mobile and begin foraging within several hours of hatching.

Food sources for the adults and chicks are composed of a variety of invertebrates such as marine worms, flies, butterflies, fly larvae, beetles, crustaceans, and mollusks. Foraging is concentrated mainly between the wrack line (ocean material left by high tide), the inter-tidal zone, and the sparse vegetation on the lower portion of the foredune. So as to not disturb the feeding habits of the



© Illustration: Anne Yen

plovers, the area of the beach where chicks are present is closed off to all foot traffic.

Chances for reproduction seem high with an average of four eggs, but a fledging rate of .47 chicks per pair in 2007 is well below the recovery goal of 1.5 chicks per pair. Unfortunately, piping plovers are extremely vulnerable to habitat loss, due to an increase in residential development and recreational activity on the beach. As the human population continues to grow, so does the number of predators. Rats, crows, and gulls, attracted to areas where humans leave behind trash, prey upon piping plovers and their eggs. Cats and dogs from nearby homes also raid and pillage nesting sites.

Such a vulnerable natural community will not thrive anywhere else along the Atlantic coast, much less in the concrete jungle we all know as New York City, without intensive protection. Each summer, the Urban Park Rangers make protecting the piping plover habitat a priority. Posting signs, setting up symbolic fencing, monitoring, regular patrol, and educating the public are essential to the success of these species. With a combination of onsite protection and public awareness, a valuable contribution to the conservation of rare species is well on its way.

BIRDS, BEASTS & OTHER FRIENDS

Mammals

By John Moylett, Urban Park Ranger

We know them well, we see them in the subways, in the streets and parks, and sometimes in our homes; mice and rats are New York City's most well-known mammal, but what other species does New York City have to offer?

Little brown bats are commonly confused with birds, but in fact are mammals. Colonial animals, they roost in hollow trees or buildings, leaving at dusk to feed on insects and returning just before dawn. Bats help control the insect population, especially mosquitoes. Opossums are the only marsupial--mammals whose young are born premature and finish their development in a fur-lined pouch on the belly of the mother--native to North America. Mainly nocturnal, opossums are omnivores, or animals that eat plants and meat, and live in hollow trees or logs. When cornered, they may "play possum," pretending to be dead in response to danger. Opossums are among the most primitive mammals, with fossils dating back to the upper Cretaceous Period (roughly 75 million years ago).

Raccoons are commonly seen in most parks today. Like the opossum, raccoons are mostly nocturnal and omnivorous, eating whatever food they can get to, including your garbage. The muskrat is a large mammal of the rodent family that spends most of its life in or near water. Muskrats build conical houses made of vegetation in shallow water or burrow directly into the water bank with the entrance usually underwater. Muskrats eat a wide variety of aquatic vegetation, frogs, and clams, if available.

Eastern cottontails are the wild cousin of the domestic rabbit. Active early evening to late morning, cottontails

eat green vegetation in the summer and bark and twigs in the winter. Cottontails make their home in burrows or beneath brush piles.

The Eastern chipmunk is the clown of the forest. When not hanging around picnic tables for a free handout, chipmunks eat seeds, fruits, nuts, and insects. Chipmunks are distinguished by their tan facial stripe, and they run with their bushy tails straight up in the air. Chipmunks do hibernate, but may come above ground in the winter during warmer days. Last, but not least, are our two resident squirrel species. The eastern gray squirrel, the larger species, plays an important role in reforestation. Eastern grays eat a variety of fruits, seeds, and nuts, which they store singly in the ground; many of these are never recovered, and some sprout to grow trees. The red squirrel usually has a favorite feeding stump where shucks from pinecones or nuts accumulate in piles. Both nest in cavities in trees or build leaf nests called drays.

As with any wild animal, it is best never to harass or touch mammals. The Urban Park Rangers offer a variety of programs, including day and night hikes and animal tracking expeditions, giving you the opportunity to see many of these mammals in their natural environment. You can also explore the Forever Wild sites in your borough. Visit www.nycgovparks.org/foreverwild.

See you in the parks!



© Illustration: Anne Yen

WILDLIFE WELL-BEING

What To Do With A Wild Baby Animal



New Yorkers share their parkland with wildlife: hawks, squirrels, rabbits, birds, skunks, and raccoons. Usually, we can just watch and enjoy their activities, but springtime sometimes brings us a little too close to our animal friends; baby animals that appear helpless and alone are often "rescued" by well-meaning people, and taken away from their parents. Fortunately, city parks are staffed by wildlife professionals, the Urban Park Rangers, who are trained to handle injured and abandoned animals. Here are their recommendations for park wildlife encounters.

If you come across a wild baby in the park, generally, you should leave it alone. Wild animals do not simply abandon their offspring, and they are the best possible caregivers for their offspring's ultimate survival. **When a baby is found in harm's way – mainly pedestrian or vehicular traffic – simply placing it behind a nearby bush or other natural protective area is best.** Parents do not reject their young when they have the scent of humans. The greater risk, if you take in the animal, is that it will imprint on you and will not be able to return to the wild even if it survives. With **baby squirrels, and rabbits**, if possible, leave them in an open small box lined with fabric to keep them warm until retrieved by their parents. **Featherless or partially feathered nestling birds** may be found directly below their nest. Unless there has been a windy storm, "Mother Nature" is usually at work; the weakest is pushed out, allowing the stronger siblings a greater chance of survival. **Nestling and fledgling raptors (hawks, owls, and falcons)** should be replaced in nests whenever possible; this **MUST** be handled by a professional. **Young skunks and raccoons** found alone are almost never orphans; their mothers leave them alone when they forage for food. If truly abandoned, these babies make a loud noise to call their parents. In this case, again, a professional should be called. Even tiny babies can inflict painful, disease-transmitting bites and scratches. **All animals**, whether babies or adults, **with signs of obvious injuries** such as a limp or drooping leg or wing, staggered walk, bleeding, shivering, need professional help as well. You should immediately **call 311, and ask for the Urban Park Rangers**. If the animal is not in a park, ask for Animal Care & Control (AC&C). Remember to report the animal's specific location and condition. The Rangers and AC&C both work with licensed wildlife rehabilitators to care for the animals until they can be returned to their parkland habitats.

Remember, wildlife babies are different from domesticated animals; your good intentions may cause them harm. Call the professionals.



The Urban Park Rangers have several **mammal programs** this spring. See the calendar for details.

Staten Island	April 5	Blue Heron Park
Staten Island	May 18	Blue Heron Park
Brooklyn	June 8	Fort Greene Park

Padding from Park to Park in New York City

By Abigail Lootens

Before planes, trains and automobiles, boats carried people from one place to another by way of rivers, lakes and oceans. New York City is surrounded by such bodies of water, yet its shoreline has been largely dominated by commerce and industry for centuries. One of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's highest priorities is to restore access to the City's waterfront and interpret the rich history of its shoreline.

"Throughout the city, parks along the shoreline are being built and renovated to reconnect the public with the water—Baretto Point Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Hudson River Park, Fort Totten Park and Fresh Kills Park to name just a few," said Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "Among the amenities available at these parks, many have or plan to have canoe and kayak launches. To connect these sites and enhance the users' experience and safety, I have asked our Queens Borough Commissioner, Dorothy Lewandowski—a water sports enthusiast and an accomplished kayaker—to spearhead the initiative to create a NYC Water Trail."

"As an avid kayaker, I am delighted that the opportunities for kayaking right in my own backyard are expanding," said Queens Borough Park Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski. "And I am thrilled to be working to create a comprehensive guide that will enable people to safely travel throughout the City via its waterways and to thoroughly enjoy their day at sea."

The NYC Water Trail will provide information on safe and legal access to the waters surrounding all five boroughs of New York City. The project will identify

park and non-park launch sites along the trail. The guide will also provide recreational, educational and scenic opportunities on each leg of the trail.

Last winter, Borough Commissioner Lewandowski began researching other cities and organizations that had developed water trails. After reviewing their materials, she reached out to organizations such as the American Canoe Association, the New York State Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and the Hudson River Trail Association to gain input about developing a NYC Water Trail.

Early last year, she met with Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance Director Carter Craft, Hudson River Trail Association Metropolitan Regional Director Nancy Brous and New York State Hudson River Valley Greenway Trails and Special Projects Coordinator Scott Keller to chart a path for the NYC Water Trail.

Last spring, they organized a meeting with many NYC kayaking clubs and organizations to seek their assistance in surveying the existing kayak locations for specific site details, safety concerns and local information relating to history and wildlife. At the start of the project there were 13 sites listed on the Parks website but over the course of surveying, 13 additional sites were identified and added to the trail. Throughout the summer, volunteers completed surveys of all 26 sites.

Parks is now creating a web-based map and guide of all launch locations, including non-parks, such as those run by the National Park Service and private companies. The interactive map will link to specific site information and photos of each launch. There will also be links to the various kayak organizations



Inwood Hill Park

and institutions that provide nautical, instructional and safety information. Parks was also approached by the New York based organization Going Coastal, which is now working with Parks on developing a printed version of the Water Trail. Both the printed version and the new Parks web page will be "launched" in the spring of 2008.

The NYC Water Trail is an on-going process—there are already 11 more sites in planning and more than 15 identified as potential sites. As waterfront development projects continue and shoreline access increases, the NYC Water Trail will continue to expand. For more information on canoe and kayak launch sites in New York City parks, visit www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311.



Valentino Park



Idlewild Park



Barretto Park



The Urban Park Rangers have **14 canoeing** program this spring. See the calendar for details. Here are a few:

Bronx	May 4	Pelham Bay Park
Staten Island	May 24	Willowbrook Park
Manhattan	June 8	Inwood Hill Park
Manhattan	June 14	Central Park
Bronx	June 15	Van Cortlandt Park
Brooklyn	June 21	Prospect Park
Queens	June 28	Fort Totten



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