

Outdoors

in New York City

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012



INCLUDES
CALENDAR OF
URBAN PARK RANGER
FREE PROGRAMS

Message From:

Stuart Gaffin, Center for Climate Systems Research
Columbia University



©Photo by Angelica Pasqualini

Urban ‘green infrastructure’ is all the rage right now. Green infrastructure refers to new systems and development methods that are more sustainable and environmentally sound than the traditional practices used to build and maintain cities. The old practices are now being called “gray infrastructure.”

The finest example of urban green infrastructure is our park system, even though we don’t generally think of it in that context. We are increasingly appreciating that, as Joni Mitchell sang, to ‘...pave paradise and put up a parking lot’ is not a sustainable urban practice anymore. Those pavements and black rooftops are generating near-boiling temperature heat—one of the rooftops I monitor reached 176°F during last summer’s July 22 heat wave: a day when the city’s electric power load was at an all-time high and the temperature in Central Park broke the all-time record for that day—104°F. The soil beneath that pavement should not be viewed derisively as “dirt.” When exposed, it performs an astounding variety of essential services like cleansing and cooling air and water, supporting precious vegetation and biodiversity and absorbing rainfall that typical gets sent to a wastewater treatment facility unnecessarily, or generates a sewage overflow into our rivers and harbor.

A lot of green infrastructure seeks to mimic and restore the properties of natural ecosystems, such as the soil system I just described. And our city’s Department of Parks and Recreation is leading the way in installing and testing many of these new systems. The new practices include urban forestry, green streets, green roofs, permeable pavement, bio-swales, rain gardens and even the humble rain barrel, among other emerging technologies. Unlike gray infrastructure, which is often put in place to resolve a single problem, green technologies can solve the same problem while also bringing multiple benefits. For example, although building storage tanks will help to alleviate stormwater runoff pollution, green roofs will do so more effectively, while also helping to cool and clean the air.

As climate change unfolds, generating more heat waves, extreme events and sea level rise we are going to need these smart solutions more and more. Through such practices, I envision cities might eventually become key restoration havens for endangered ecosystems, turning our traditional notion of cities—as a place you need to ‘escape to find nature’—on its head. So get out and enjoy the original green infrastructure that can be found in the 29,000 acres of City park land, either on your own or through one of the Urban Park Ranger-led tours highlighted here.

Urban Park Ranger Nature and Visitor Centers

BRONX

Crotona Nature Center:

Crotona Park. Enter the park at Charlotte St. & Crotona Park East. 718.378.2061

Orchard Beach Nature Center:

Pelham Bay Park. Section 2 of Orchard Beach. 718.885.3466

Pelham Bay Ranger Station:

Pelham Bay Park. Bruckner Blvd. & Wilkinson Ave. 718.319.7258

Van Cortlandt Nature Center:

Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at W. 246th St. & Broadway. 718.548.0912

BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center:

Marine Park. East 33rd St. & Avenue U. 718.421.2021

Fort Greene Visitor Center:

Fort Greene Park. Enter the park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. 718.722.3218

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle:

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

Dana Discovery Center:

Central Park. 110th St. & Lenox Ave. 212.860.1376

Inwood Hill Nature Center:

Inwood Hill Park. Enter park at W. 218th St. & Indian Road. 212.304.2365 or 212.304.3401

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center:

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

Forest Park Visitor Center:

Forest Park. Woodhaven Blvd. & Forest Park Drive. 718.846.2731

Fort Totten Visitors Center:

Fort Totten Park. Enter park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. and follow signs. 718.352.1769

STATEN ISLAND

Blue Heron Nature Center:

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

High Rock Ranger Station:

High Rock Park. Park in the lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Ave., and follow signs. 718.667.6042.

Outdoors in New York City

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A Plan for Sustainable Practices

Earlier this year, NYC Parks released *A Plan for Sustainable Practices within NYC Parks*, the agency's first document highlighting its many sustainability-related projects. This first version of the Plan will serve as a guide as the department designs and constructs parks, offers park programming, and conserves natural areas. While Parks already embodies many sustainable practices, this Plan focuses on four main areas including education and outreach, public recycling, leaf composting, and park design and construction.

"The Parks Department's Sustainability Plan brings together the many divisions within the agency to create a cohesive framework to share best practices and measure the fruits of our green efforts from stormwater capture on Greenstreets to emissions reduction to battery recycling," said Commissioner Benepe. "We have already accomplished so much, from establishing the greenest municipal vehicle fleet in the nation to collecting more than 500 pledges to 'go green' in the workplace. We like to think of our agency as 'New York City's Greenest,' and our sustainability initiative is a call to action

for all employees, one that we believe will carry over to patrons and the public at large who depend on our parks."

In February 2010, Commissioner Benepe called for the creation of a task force to develop a Sustainability Plan. The task force brings together employees across the agency and is comprised of six working groups: metrics, training and education, public recycling, capital, leaf composting, and communications. Participants work in many divisions including forestry, operations, planning, and the Urban Park Rangers.



©Photo by Malcolm Pinckney | NYC Parks

The Plan documents the creation and evolution of the Sustainability Task Force, and is a starting point for establishing a framework for sustainable practices and articulating our efforts to the public at large. This document is by no means an end in itself, just as sustainable practice is a constantly evolving and adaptive process. In many areas, planning has coincided with active implementation.

To view *A Plan for Sustainable Practices within NYC Parks*, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks, keyword: sustainable parks.

Ranger in the Spotlight:

New York City's Urban Park Rangers love to share their passion for nature with others. Ranger Marisa Miller is no exception.



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

How long have you been an Urban Park Ranger?

I have been a full-time Ranger for about three years. I began as a seasonal Fellowship Ranger in the summer of 2007.

What do you enjoy most about being a Ranger?

Every day I get to talk to people about subjects I love, science and nature. I especially like working with children and teens because they show enthusiasm for everything. Leading programs for young people is so rewarding because they always have questions and sometimes make observations that adults don't see right away.

What is your favorite program to lead?

I love to lead tours in Alley Pond Park, in Queens, to visit the Alley Giant. The Alley Giant is a 425 year old Tulip Tree, which is 133ft tall and 18ft in circumference. It is an amazing sight to see, especially since it is steps from the Long Island Expressway and Cross Island Parkway. This tree was in sight of George Washington when he made his tour of Long Island, and a rock commemorates his path to the south of the Alley Giant trail.

What interesting assignments have you had?

I would say being a Plover Sergeant at Rockaway Beach. As a Plover Sergeant it was my job to set up, monitor, protect, and

manage the Rockaway Beach Endangered Species Nesting Area. The Plover Site is the summer home and nursery to several protected shorebird species including the endangered Piping Plovers and Least Tern, and the protected American Oystercatcher and Common Tern. We love to protect and defend these birds, and as a conservation biologist and bird watcher, it was a dream come true for me to be a part of this project.

What would you tell someone who was interested in becoming a Ranger?

Being a Ranger is the perfect job for someone who loves to be outdoors, teach about nature and history, and likes to talk to people. In order to be a Ranger you have to be passionate about education. For such a small group of people, the Urban Park Rangers are able to cover so much ground. Whether it's hiking, canoeing, organizing volunteers, or protecting animals, each Ranger is doing what they love. We all have learned to appreciate the wild parts of our City and we are always continuing to get people out into the Parks. The most rewarding thing we can do is to connect New Yorkers to the natural world every day.

Astronomy and Night Sky Programs

The wonders of the universe are ready to be discovered and New York City parks are the perfect place to stargaze and explore the night sky. Our Urban Park Rangers will be your guides to the solar system, discussing the science, history and folklore of the universe. Astronomy is consistently rated as a favorite science topic for children and our programs are the perfect gateway for furthering science education. Fall and winter are the best times to observe meteor showers, the phases of the moon, and many planets of the Milky Way.

Astronomy programs feature the use of telescopes and binoculars to observe specific astronomical events. Many programs feature astronomy experts and all equipment is provided. Night Sky programs highlight the history and folklore of the solar system, using the naked eye to locate stars and planets. Programs are best enjoyed on clear nights, so please call ahead if weather conditions are not clear.



BRONX

Saturday, January 21

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

Saturday, March 3

The Night Sky / Pelham Bay Park 7 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

BROOKLYN

Saturday, January 28

Astronomy / Marine Park 6 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, March 10

Night Sky / Marine Park 7 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Sunday, January 22

Astronomy / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, March 4

The Night Sky / Central Park 7 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Sunday, January 29

Astronomy / Fort Totten Park 6 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

Sunday, March 11

Astronomy / Fort Totten Park 7 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

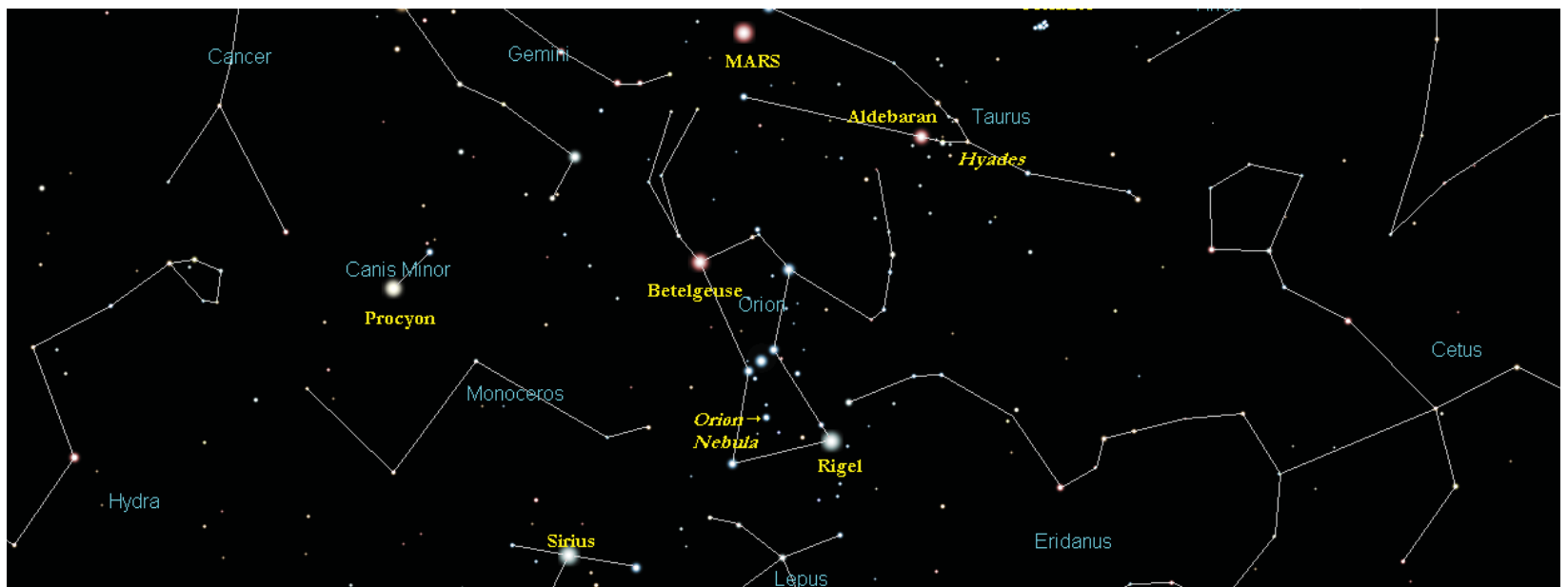
STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, February 4

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

Saturday, March 17

The Night Sky / Wolfe's Pond Park 7 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue



Climate and Weather

Is our unusual weather part of a natural pattern, or are we experiencing a global change? Scientists study climate using weather patterns from around the globe, over a long period of time, to determine warming trends. Understanding our climate helps us prepare our city for a more sustainable future. Our Urban Park Rangers will introduce you to these important scientific concepts that will help you prepare for the future.

Our climate programs explore topics like climate change, global warming and concepts of sustainability. On our weather programs, we will delve deeply into everyday weather events including lightning and thunder, clouds and the water cycle, and hurricanes and extreme storms. All programs are lectures appropriate for all ages, and feature little or no walking.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, January 22

Exploring Our Climate / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, March 18

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

BROOKLYN

Sunday, January 29

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

Sunday, March 25

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

MANHATTAN

Saturday, January 28

Exploring Our Climate / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, March 24

Exploring the Water Cycle / Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street and Lenox Street

QUEENS

Saturday, February 4

Exploring Our Climate / Forest Park 11 a.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

QUEENS continued

Saturday, March 31

Exploring Clouds / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, January 1

Exploring Clouds / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave., between Amboy Road and Hylan Blvd.

Sunday, February 5

Exploring Our Climate / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

Hiking & Orienteering

Hiking is the ultimate way to enjoy the outdoors and reduce stress. Regardless of the intensity level, it is a great way to burn calories and stay fit. Our Urban Park Ranger hiking guides will introduce you to the hidden gems of New York City and places often off limits to the general public. On our hikes, you may explore nature, discover our City's rich history and diverse culture, or just unplug from the world to clear your head.

On Nature Exploration Hikes we will discover the plants and animals that inhabit the urban forest. Our Night Hikes are great for families! Fitness Hikes feature less talking and more walking, for those who don't mind a vigorous two hour hike. Learn how to navigate using a map and compass on our Orienteering programs. Special geo-cache programs teach you how to use a GPS while searching for hidden prizes.

Hiking and Orienteering programs feature intensity levels ranging from light (a leisurely stroll on mostly paved paths), moderate (longer, faster paced hikes on rugged terrain), to vigorous (long distance, with hills and rugged terrain). For all hiking programs we recommend wearing comfortable shoes or boots, and packing water and a light snack.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, January 7

Nature Exploration: Croton Aqueduct Trail (moderate) / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, February 5

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

Saturday, February 25

Nature Exploration: Siwanoy Trail (moderate) / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion (Shore Road)

Sunday, March 4

Orienteering / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

BROOKLYN

Saturday, January 14

Orienteering / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and the West Drive

Sunday, February 12

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street and the West Drive

Saturday, March 3

Geocaching / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday March 11

Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Audubon Center, Lincoln Road and the East Drive

MANHATTAN

Sunday January 8

Nature Exploration (light) / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Saturday, February 11

Orienteering / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Sunday, February 26

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, March 10

Nature Exploration (light) / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / River Run Playground, 83rd Street and Riverside Drive

QUEENS

Sunday, January 15

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Forest Park 11 a.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Saturday, February 18

Night Hike (light) / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 5 p.m. / Mauro Playground Park Drive East & 73 Terrace

QUEEN continued

Sunday, March 4

Orienteering / Cunningham Park 1 p.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street

Saturday, March 17

Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, enter Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, January 21

Nature Exploration (light) / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Hylan Boulevard and Satterlee Street

Sunday, February 19

Nature Exploration (moderate) / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs

Saturday, March 10

Nature Exploration (light) / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Martling Pond, Martling Avenue entrance, just west of Clove Road

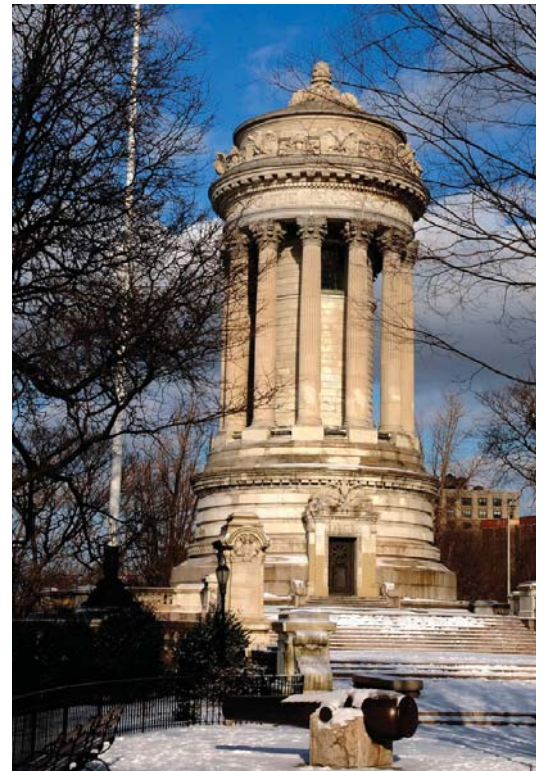
Sunday, March 18

Nature Exploration (light) / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue

History & Culture

Ice-age glaciers, Native Americans, Dutch traders, British Redcoats, and the Underground Railroad have all left their mark on New York City. Their stories can be found in the names of our streets, our architecture, and our parks. Urban Park Rangers specialize in interpretation of historic turning points, both natural and man-made, in our city's long history. Fans of military history can explore our city's role in various conflicts at Brooklyn's Fort Greene Park and Queens' Fort Totten Park. Architecture and the history of the Hudson River are explained at Manhattan's Little Red Lighthouse and Highbridge Park. Native American culture is celebrated in special programs and lectures throughout the five boroughs and park history programs tell the story of your favorite parks from the past to their future.

Certain popular programs have limited space and require registration.



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BRONX

Saturday, January 14

Historic New York: Native Americans / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Sunday, February 19

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, March 11

Historic New York Walking Tour: Estates of Pelham Bay/ Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Saturday, March 24

Historic New York Walking Tour: Native Americans / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Saturday, January 21

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour/ Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park.

Sunday, February 26

Historic New York Lecture: African Americans in New York / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, March 18

Historic New York Lecture: The Irish in NYC / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Saturday, March 31

Historic New York Walking Tour: Park Slope / Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet under the Arch at Grand Army Plaza

MANHATTAN

Sunday, January 15

Historic New York Walking Tour: Strawberry Fields / Central Park 1 p.m. / 72nd St. and Central Park West

Sunday, February 25

Historic New York Walking Tour: Native Americans / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, March 17

Historic New York Walking Tour: The Irish in NYC / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, March 25

Historic New York Walking Tour: Women's History / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / 72nd Street and Riverside Drive

QUEENS

Sunday, January 1

Historic New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate 212 Street and Cross Island Parkway

QUEENS continued

Sunday, January 22

Civil War New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate 212 Street and Cross Island Parkway

Saturday, March 3

Historic New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate 212 Street and Cross Island Parkway

Saturday, March 24

Civil War New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate 212 Street and Cross Island Parkway

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, January 7

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Hylan Boulevard and Satterlee Street

Sunday, January 28

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

Sunday, March 4

Historic New York Lecture: Women's History / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Sunday, March 25

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Hylan Boulevard and Satterlee Street

Kids and Family

We connect children with nature to encourage active exploration of the natural world. Children who spend time outdoors develop strong imaginations and learn to socialize better with others. Urban Park Rangers are role models who encourage children to let their imaginations run wild in a safe, supportive atmosphere.

While most of our programs are family friendly, the programs highlighted here are specifically for young children and families. Whether enjoying a family friendly movie under the stars, freeing your imagination playing in nature, or learning about conservation through eco-crafts, a free Ranger program is the perfect addition to your family's weekend. All supplies provided.



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BRONX

Sunday, January 8

Nature Exploration: Tasting Nature / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, January 29

Scavenger Hunt / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Sunday, February 12

Valentine's Day Eco Crafts / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Saturday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Eco Crafts / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Sunday, January 15

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

Sunday, February 5

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

Sunday, February 19

Valentine's Day Eco Crafts / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, March 24

Nature Crafts for Kids / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park

MANHATTAN

Saturday, January 14

Meet the Nature Center Animals / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, February 4

Nature Crafts for Kids / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, February 18

Storytelling by Candlelight / Central Park 7 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Sunday, March 18th

Scavenger Hunt / Central Park 2 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Saturday, January 21

Nature Crafts for Kids / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

Saturday, February 11

Storytelling / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

QUEENS continued

Saturday, February 25

Nature Crafts for Kids / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Sunday, March 25

Scavenger Hunt / Kissena Park 10 a.m. / Rose and Oak Avenues Entrance

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, January 22

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

Sunday, February 12

Valentine's Day Eco Crafts / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Sunday, February 26

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

Saturday, March 31

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

Nature Art and Photography

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

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



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, February 18

Nature Photography: Winter Landscapes / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Bdwy

Saturday, March 10

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

BROOKLYN

Saturday, February 25

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

Saturday March 17

Nature Photography: Winter Landscapes / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Sunday, February 19

Black & White Winter Art Drawing / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, March 11

Nature Photography: Winter Wildlife / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Sunday, February 26

Photography: Architecture / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

QUEENS continued

Saturday, March 18

Black & White Winter Art Drawing / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Pkwy

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, March 3

Nature Photography: Winter Woods / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona and Lenevar Avenues

STATEN ISLAND continued

Saturday, March 24

Nature Photography: Winter Woods / High Rock Park 11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, parking lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow the signs



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

Wilderness Survival & Emergency Preparedness

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

Wilderness survival programs feature hands-on activities in an outdoor setting. Emergency Preparedness provides families and individuals with helpful information on how to be ready when an emergency situation arises. All programs are family

friendly, but are recommended for ages 8 years and older. Please dress appropriately for cold weather.



BRONX

Saturday, January 15

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

Saturday, February 4

Wilderness Survival / Van Cortlandt Park
11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center,
West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, February 26

Wilderness Survival / Van Cortlandt Park
11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center,
West 246th Street and Broadway

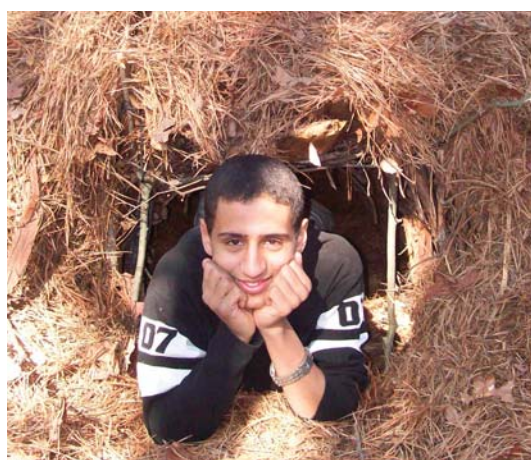
Sunday, March 31

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

BROOKLYN

Saturday, January 7

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



BROOKLYN

Sunday, January 22

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

Saturday, February 11

Wilderness Survival / Prospect Park 1 p.m.
/ Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

Sunday, March 4

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

MANHATTAN

Sunday, January 1

Wilderness Survival / Central Park 12 p.m. /
Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Saturday, January 21

Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park
1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West
218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, February 5

Wilderness Survival / Central Park 12 p.m. /
Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Saturday, March 3

Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park
1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West
218th Street and Indian Road

QUEENS

Sunday, January 8

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

QUEENS

Saturday, January 28

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

Sunday, February 12

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

Saturday, March 10

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

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, January 14

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

Sunday, January 29

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

Saturday, February 18

Wilderness Survival / Bloomingdale Park
11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona and
Lenevar Avenues

Sunday, March 11

Wilderness Survival / High Rock Park
11 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, park in
lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off
Rockland Avenue and follow signs

Wildlife Viewing

New York City is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife. From falcons and salamanders, to deer and seals, wildlife viewing opportunities exist year-round in all of our parks and beaches. Wildlife viewing is a perfect activity for any age. Today wildlife viewing is recognized as one of the nation's fastest growing activities. Our Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in New York City.

We offer birding programs throughout the year and our Exploration series focuses on unique wildlife viewing opportunities during particular seasons. Birding programs are appropriate for all skill levels and beginners are welcome. To enhance your experience we encourage you to bring binoculars and field guides, or ask a Ranger to borrow a pair.



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BRONX

Sunday, January 1

Seal Exploration/ Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 1 of Orchard Beach

Saturday, January 7, 14, 21, 28 Saturday, February 4, 11, 18, 25 Saturday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway / With NYC Audubon and the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy

Saturday, January 28

Seal Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 1 of Orchard Beach

Saturday, February 11

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

Sunday, March 25

Birding: Eagles / Riverdale Park 1 p.m. / Corner of 232nd Street and the Henry Hudson Southbound Access Road

BROOKLYN

Sunday, January 1

Birding: Winter Birds / Marine Park 9 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Sunday, January 8

Seal Exploration / Coney Island 11 a.m. / Meet at Reigleman Boardwalk and W 10th Street.

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, February 4

Birding: Winter Birds / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / Fort Greene Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park

Sunday, February 18

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

MANHATTAN

Saturday January 7

Birding: Eagles / Inwood Hill Park 8 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, January 29

Birding: Eagles / Inwood Hill Park 8 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, February 12

Birding: Owls / Central Park 5 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

Saturday, March 31

Insect Exploration / Central Park 1 p.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Saturday, January 7

Animal Tracks Exploration / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

QUEENS continued

Saturday, January 14

Birding: Winter Birds / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. / Mauro Playground Park Drive East & 73 Terrace

Sunday, February 5

Animal Track Exploration/ Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

Sunday, February 19

Birding: Owls / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / Alley Pond Park Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, January 8

Birding: Winter Waterfowl / Silver Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Parking Lot at Revere Street and Hart Avenues

Sunday, January 15

Animal Track Exploration / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona and Lenevar Avenues

Saturday, February 11

Birding: Winter Birds / Silver Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Parking Lot at Revere Street and Hart Avenues

Saturday, February 25

Birding: Winter Birds / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Martling Pond, Martling Avenue entrance, just west of Clove Road



NYC Parks

Outdoors

in New York City

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Kids Week

School is out! Take the kids to the park to enjoy a variety of nature programs. Get outside and get excited! Visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers

BRONX

February 20-24

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

THURSDAY - FRIDAY / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

February 20-24

KIDS' WEEK / Marine Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

February 20-24

MONDAY - FRIDAY / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

QUEENS

February 20-24

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway

THURSDAY - FRIDAY / Forest Park 1 p.m. / Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

STATEN ISLAND

February 20-24

MONDAY - FRIDAY / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

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