

Outdoors

in New York City

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2012



INCLUDES
CALENDAR OF
URBAN PARK RANGER
FREE WEEKEND
ADVENTURES

Message From:

Richard Simon
Deputy Director
Urban Park Rangers



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

What does a real New York City adventure mean to you? For many, it means strolling through Times Square, necks craned upward to drink in the lights and sounds of Broadway. For others, it's a day spent cheering for their favorite team at Yankee Stadium or Citi Field. Yet for some, true adventure can be found exploring the verdant parkland and natural areas of our city. For over thirty years, New York City's Urban Park Rangers have served as the ambassadors to our emerald empire, providing outdoor adventure programs that promote physical fitness, cultural awareness, and the exploration of nature.

It's our mission to connect New Yorkers to the natural world. Each weekend the Urban Park Rangers offer exciting "Weekend Adventures" in a park near you. These programs enable adults and families to experience the natural world in new and unexpected ways. They include canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, archery, camping, wildlife viewing, and astronomy, as well as special programs for kids and families. On a Weekend Adventure program you can immerse yourself in the tranquility of nature, discover our city's diverse culture, and delve into our rich history, all for free.

But that's not all. From May-November, the Urban Park Rangers operate a world-class Adventure Course located in Alley

Pond Park. This unique opportunity for team-building and individual fun includes a zip line, a climbing wall, balance platforms, and a series of low- and high-ropes courses. As the first challenge course in New York City, it fosters necessary life skills like problem solving, overcoming personal fears, while promoting leadership and group interaction. At the Alley Pond Park Adventure Course, you can literally climb to new heights of adventure.

Heading to the beach this summer? Then join us for some of our special Weekend Adventures taking place throughout the Jamaica Bay area of Queens and eastern Brooklyn, which are listed in this edition of Outdoors in New York City. From the Bronx to Staten Island, there is a different Urban Park Ranger Adventure offered each weekend. This summer I encourage you to join the Urban Park Rangers for a truly unique adventure in New York City. On an Urban Park Ranger program adventure, discovery, and the natural world are just a few blocks away.

To find out more about all of the Urban Park Rangers have to offer, visit us on the web at www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers.

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. (under renovation)

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

BROOKLYN continued

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

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.

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Urban Park Rangers
1234 Fifth Avenue
New York City 10029

Director
Sarah Aucoin

Deputy Director
Richard Simon

Deputy Director
Bonnie McGuire

Graphic Designer
Elizabeth Green



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

NYC Parks Movies Under the Stars Summer Outdoor Movie Series

Pack a picnic grab a blanket and come enjoy a movie in a neighborhood park! From July to September NYC Parks will host 35 family-friendly movie showings throughout the five boroughs.

For locations and more information, visit nyc.gov/parks or call 311.



Ranger in the Spotlight:

John McCoy

Urban Park Ranger Captain,
Manager of the Alley Pond
Park Adventure Course.



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

How long have you worked for NYC Parks?

I joined NYC Parks as an Urban Park Ranger in June, 2000, shortly after graduating from Southampton College. My first assignment was working in parks throughout Queens. I was promoted to Ranger Sergeant in 2004 and then to Captain in 2009.

You run our Adventure Course in Alley Pond Park, Queens. Please tell us about the Adventure Course experience.

The Alley Pond Park Adventure Course opened in 2007. It is the only outdoor challenge course of its kind in New York City. Our team of highly trained facilitators provide team-building activities by combining group challenges, climbing walls, high and low ropes elements, and even a zip-line. People should leave the course feeling they were challenged physically and mentally. It's a safe place to do crazy, unusual things.

What do you like best about working at the Adventure Course?

I really enjoy seeing people challenge themselves. Many people leave the Course believing that they have overcome a fear or feeling closer to their friends or co-workers. The bonding experience is really cool to observe. There is a perceived risk of danger, but everyone is securely held in a harness and wears a helmet, so people are completely safe at all times.

Do you have a favorite high or low element?

My favorite element is the Swingshot, one of the high elements. A participant is suspended from a cable in the very center of the element while a haul team hoists the person up toward one of the poles. The participant pulls a rip-cord and swings down like a human slingshot. It's amazing because you really feel the g-forces at work.

What is your favorite Park?

I spend a lot of time in Alley Pond Park, and it certainly is one of the most beautiful parks in the city. However, I would say Central Park is my favorite park because of its' history and design, and because there is so much to see and do. It's the crown jewel in our park system.

Where can we learn more about visiting the Adventure Course?

The Adventure Course is open seven days a week, from April-November. Schools and private groups can book programs throughout the week. Sunday's are free days open to the public. You can learn more about the Adventure Course and all Urban Park Ranger programs by visiting the NYC Parks website, www.nyc.gov/parks

Biking

Are you staycationing in New York City this summer? A cycling tour of one of New York City's premier parks is the perfect way to get more from your vacation at home. See more in less time while burning calories! Our Urban Park Ranger cycling guides will introduce you to some of the most famous parks in the world. Enjoy breathtaking views, public artwork, landscape design and an abundance of wildlife.

Biking programs are suitable for all ages and generally proceed at a leisurely pace. You must supply your own bicycle and helmets are required. We recommend bringing plenty of water and a light snack.



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BRONX

Sunday, July 1

Biking / Van Cortlandt Park to Orchard Beach 11 a.m. / Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway. Program ends at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park.

Sunday, August 19

Biking / Soundview Park to Orchard Beach 11 a.m. / Enter park Lafayette Ave. and Morrison Ave. Program ends at Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, July 7

Biking / Plum Beach 11 a.m. / Meet in parking lot off of Belt Parkway eastbound between exits 9 & 11

Saturday, August 19

Biking / Owl's Head Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Park House, Colonial Road and 68th Street

MANHATTAN

Saturday, July 14

Biking / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue

Sunday, August 19

Biking / Riverside Park 10 a.m. / Meet outside of 79th Street Boat Basin, 79th Street and the Hudson River

QUEENS

Sunday, July 22

Biking / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at Front Gate, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway

Sunday, August 26

Biking / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street. This program ends at Ft. Totten Park

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 8

Biking / La Tourette Park 11 a.m. / Field of Dreams, Richmond Avenue and Forest Hill Road

Saturday, August 4

Biking / South Beach 11 a.m. / Father Capodanno Boulevard and Sand Lane



©Photo by Malcolm Pinckney | NYC Parks

Canoeing

Few experiences compare with being on the open water in New York City. The rhythm of the waves, the sun on your face, and the exhilaration of slicing through the water, all add up to an experience you'll never forget. Our trained Urban Park Rangers will lead you on canoe adventures that range from the gentle waters of protected lakes, to the challenging open waters of rivers and bays. On an Urban Park Ranger canoe program, you can progress from a novice to an expert in just one summer!

Most canoe programs are first-come, first-served, but a few require registration due to the level of difficulty. Advanced canoeing programs are for experienced canoers only. Children 8 years old and up

are welcome. For registration programs, participants are chosen by lottery. To enter your name in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on the dates listed below.

1

Basic Level:
All skill levels, including children 8 years and older.

2

Intermediate Level:
Some experience preferred.

3

Advanced Level:
Experience required.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Saturday, July 14

Basic Canoeing / Soundview
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Enter park Lafayette Ave. and Morrison Avenue

Saturday, July 28

Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Blvd and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday, August 5

Basic Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Enter the park at Van Cortlandt South and Major Deegan, meet near the golf house.

Saturday, August 25

Basic Canoeing / Crotona Park
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 8

Intermediate Canoeing / Marine Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Burnett Street and Avenue U

Saturday, July 21

Basic Canoeing / Prospect Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Saturday, August 4

Basic Canoeing / Fresh Creek Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at Seaview Avenue and East 108th Street

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, August 12

Basic Canoeing / Prospect Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 15

Basic Canoeing / Central Park
12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Avenue

Saturday, July 28

Basic Canoeing / Central Park
12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Avenue

Sunday, August 12

Basic Canoeing / Central Park
12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Harlem Meer, 110th Street & Lenox Avenue.

Saturday, August 25

Basic Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park
3 p.m. – 5 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

QUEENS

Sunday, July 1

Intermediate Canoeing / Fort Totten
11 a.m. / Meet at Front Gate, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway

Saturday, July 21

Intermediate Canoeing / Bayswater Park
1 p.m. / Meet at B 32nd Street and Beach Channel Drive

QUEENS continued

Saturday August 4

Advanced Canoeing / Idlewild Park
11 a.m. / TBA

To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Wednesday July 25.

Sunday August 19

Basic Canoeing / Flushing Meadows
Corona Park 11 a.m. / Meet on the southeast side of Meadow Lake, across the small bridge, just west of the Van Wyck Expressway

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 7

Basic Canoeing / Clove Lakes Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Martling Ave. and Brooks Pond Pl

Sunday, July 22

Basic Canoeing / Willowbrook Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Sunday, August 5

Basic Canoeing / Clove Lakes Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Martling Ave. and Brooks Pond Place

Saturday, August 18

Basic Canoeing / Willowbrook Park
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Family Camping

We camp to create lasting memories, connect with the natural world, and bond with our families. Camping affords us the opportunity to unplug from the diversions of everyday life and to laugh and play with our families. The Urban Park Rangers celebrate the tradition of camping throughout the spring and summer, and we look forward to welcoming your family.

Free Family Camping programs take place in all five boroughs, but space is limited and families are chosen by lottery.

To enter your family in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on the dates listed below.



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BRONX

Friday, July 6

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, June 27.

Saturday, July 21

Family Camping / Van Cortlandt Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 11.

Friday, August 3

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 25.

Saturday, August 18

Family Camping / Van Cortlandt Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 8.

Saturday, September 15

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, September 5.

BROOKLYN

Saturday, July 14

Family Camping / Prospect Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 4.

Friday, July 27

Family Camping / Fort Greene Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, July 18

Friday, August 10

Family Camping / Marine Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 1.

Saturday, August 25

Family Camping / Prospect Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 15.

BROOKLYN continued

Friday, August 31

Family Camping / Marine Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Wednesday, August 22.

MANHATTAN

Saturday, July 7

Family Camping / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, June 26.

Friday, July 20

Family Camping / Central Park 6 p.m. / TBA Visit Register on Tuesday, July 10.

Saturday, August 4

Family Camping / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, July 24.

Friday, August 17

Family Camping / Central Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, August 7.

Saturday, September 1

Family Camping / Central Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Tuesday, August 21.

QUEENS

Saturday, July 14

Family Camping / Cunningham Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Thursday, July 5.

Friday, July 27

Family Camping / Fort Totten Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Thursday, July 19.

Saturday August 11

Family Camping / Cunningham Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Thursday, August 2.

QUEENS continued

Friday August 24

Family Camping / Alley Pond Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Thursday, August 16.

Saturday September 8

Family Camping / Fort Totten Park 6 p.m. / TBA Register on Thursday, August 30.

STATEN ISLAND

Friday, July 13

Family Camping / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue Register on Monday, July 2.

Saturday, July 28

Family Camping / Blue Heron Park 6 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard Register on Monday, July 16.

Friday, August 10

Family Camping / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue Register on Monday, July 30.

Saturday, August 25

Family Camping / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue Register on Monday, August 13.

Saturday, September 22

Family Camping / Wolfe's Pond Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue Register on Monday, September 10.

Fishing and Archery

Fishing and Archery programs help foster patience while connecting you with nature. Our experienced Rangers teach the ethics of fishing and the ecology of our waterways on every fishing program. Whether you chose to grab a simple bamboo pole at a quiet lake, or join more advanced salt water or fly fishing programs, the Rangers have a program that fits your skill level. Our trained Rangers will demonstrate the safe and proper way to draw a bow and shoot an arrow.

Families and children ages 8 years and older are welcome to participate in our fishing and archery programs. Participation in a mandatory safety review led by a trained Ranger is required. All equipment is

provided. All fishing programs are catch and release only and most fishing programs are first-come, first-served. Seining programs, which use nets to catch creatures close to shore, are great for kids of all ages.



©Photo by Daniel Avila | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 15

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

Sunday, August 12

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

Saturday, September 1

Seining / Pelham Bay Park 12 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Sunday, September 16

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

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 29

Freshwater Fishing / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

Saturday, August 18

Archery / Marine Park 2 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

Saturday, September 8

Archery / Marine Park 2 p.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued

Saturday, September 22

Saltwater Fishing / Coney Island 1 p.m. / Steeplechase Fishing Pier, Reigleman Boardwalk and West 19th Street

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 22

Fishing / Riverside Park 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. / West Harlem Piers at 125th Street and the Hudson River

Saturday, August 11

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

Sunday, September 9

Fishing / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Saturday, September 22

Archery / Fort Tryon Park 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Dongan Lawn, enter at Dongan Place and Broadway

QUEENS

Saturday, July 29

Saltwater Fishing / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. / World's Fair Marina, Pier 1 (north of Citi Field, between 126 St. and Grand Central Parkway)

Saturday, September 1

Archery / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

QUEENS continued

Saturday, September 15

Saltwater Fishing / Bayswater Park 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at Bay 32nd Street and Beach Channel Drive

Sunday, September 23

Archery / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 15

Archery / Willowbrook Park Archery Range 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Sunday, August 19

Fishing / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Parking area west of Park Drive and Clove Road

Sunday, September 2

Saltwater Fishing / South Beach 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. / Ocean Breeze Pier, Seaview Avenue and Father Capadonno Boulevard

Saturday, September 15

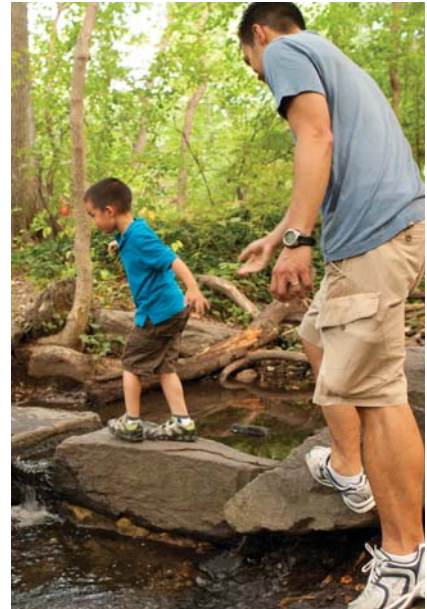
Archery / Willowbrook Park Archery Range 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Eton Place and Richmond Avenue

Hiking and 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 Marley White | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 29

Nature Exploration (light) / Seton Falls
11 a.m. / Meet at 233rd St & Baychester Ave

Saturday, August 11

Nature Exploration: Medicinal Plants
(light) / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Van
Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street
and Broadway

Sunday, September 2

Hike the John Muir Trail (vigorous) / Van
Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Van Cortlandt
Nature Center, West 246th Street and
Broadway

Saturday, September 8

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Riverdale
Park 1 p.m. / Meet at 232nd St and Henry
Hudson South

Saturday, September 22

Night Hike / Van Cortlandt Park 7 p.m. /
Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th
Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 1

Nature Exploration (light) / Prospect Park
11 a.m. / Meet under the Arch at Grand
Army Plaza

Saturday, August 11

Early Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Marine Park
9 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East
33rd Street and Avenue U

BROOKLYN continued

Sunday, September 9

Early Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Prospect
Park 10 a.m. / Picnic House, Fifth Street
and West Drive

Saturday, September 29

Orienteering (light) / Prospect Park 11 a.m.
/ Picnic House, Fifth Street and West Drive

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 29

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

Sunday, August 26

Orienteering (light) / Central Park 1 p.m. /
Belvedere Castle, 79th Street Mid-Park

Saturday, September 15

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

Sunday, September 23

Central Park North to South (vigorous) /
Central Park 11 a.m. / Dana Discovery
Center, 110th street Mid-Park

QUEENS

Saturday, July 7

Orienteering (light) / Forest Park 1 p.m. /
Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven
Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Sunday, August 5

Fitness Hike (vigorous) / Forest Park 1 p.m.
/ Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven
Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

QUEENS continued

Sunday, September 2

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Flushing
Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. / Mauro
Playground, Park Drive East and 73 Terrace

Saturday, September 22

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

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 29

Orienteering (light) / Blue Heron Park
1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center,
222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road
and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, September 1

Fitness Hike (vigorous) / 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

Sunday, September 16

Nature Exploration (moderate) / Clove
Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Martling Ave. and
Brooks Pond Pl

Saturday, September 29

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

History and 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. On any of our history and culture programs you'll learn the stories behind your favorite parks from their past to their future.

Certain popular programs have limited space and require registration.



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 8

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

Sunday, September 9

Historic New York Walking Tour: Estates of Pelham/ Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion (Shore Road)

Saturday, September 29

Colonial New York Walking Tour: Split Rock / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion (Shore Road)

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 22

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

Sunday, August 26

Revolutionary New York: Brooklyn Van Tour / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. / TBA Participants are chosen by lottery. To enter your name in the lottery, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on Friday, August 17.

Sunday, September 23

Historic New York Walking Tour: Brooklyn Heights / Brooklyn Borough Hall 1 p.m. / Meet at Court Street and Joralemon Street

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 8

Historic New York Walking Tour: Battlefield Central Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center, 110th street and Lenox Avenue

Saturday, July 14; August 11; September 8

Historic New York Lecture: Little Red Lighthouse/ Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Enter the park at 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette

Sunday, September 16

Historic New York Walking Tour: High Bridge / Highbridge Park 11 a.m. / 172nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Saturday, September 29

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



©Photo by Elizabeth Green | NYC Parks

QUEENS

Sunday July 8

Historic New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Saturday, August 18

Historic New York Walking Tour: Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Fort Totten Visitor Center, Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway. Follow signs to Visitor Center

Sunday, September 16

Historic New York: The World's Fair/ Flushing Meadows Corona Park 1 p.m. / Meet inside the park, at the Unisphere

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 21

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 1 p.m. / Eltingville Transit Center, Richmond Avenue and Arthur Kill Road. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register.

Sunday, August 12

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour: The Battle of Long Island/ Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Hylan Blvd and Satterlee Street

Sunday, September 9

Revolutionary New York Walking Tour: Revolutionary Staten Island / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Hylan Blvd 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.



©Photo by Norman Chan | NYC Parks

BRONX

Sunday, July 22

Seaside Scavenger Hunt/ Pelham Bay Park
1 p.m. / Orchard Beach Nature Center,
Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Sunday, August 26

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

Sunday, September 23

Insect Exploration / Pelham Bay Park
11 a.m. / Pelham Bay Nature Center,
Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

BROOKLYN

Saturday, July 28

Skyline Scavenger Hunt / Brooklyn Bridge
Park 11 a.m. / Pier 1, Furman St. and
Old Fulton

Sunday, September 2

Family Nature Crafts / Brooklyn Bridge
Park 11 a.m. / Pier 1, Furman St. and
Old Fulton

Sunday, September 16

Who lives in the Marsh? / Marine Park
10 a.m. / Salt Marsh Nature Center, East
33rd Street and Avenue U

QUEENS continued

Sunday, August 12

Kids Beach Ecology / Rockaway Beach
1 p.m. / Meet at Beach 59 on Boardwalk

Sunday, September 9

Forest Scavenger Hunt/ Forest Park 1 p.m.
/ Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven
Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

STATEN ISLAND

Sunday, July 1

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

Sunday, August 26

Forest Scavenger Hunt / Blue Heron Park
1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center,
22 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road
and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, September 8

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

MANHATTAN

Sunday, July 1

Who lives in the Marsh? / Inwood Hill Park
1 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West
218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, August 5

Insect Exploration / Central Park 1 p.m. /
Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street and
Lenox Avenue

Saturday, September 8

Family Nature Crafts / Central Park
10 a.m. / Belvedere Castle, 79th Street
and Mid-Park

QUEENS

Sunday, July 15

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



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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. Our Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in New York City.

Our Exploration series focuses on unique wildlife viewing opportunities during particular seasons. Birding programs are offered throughout the year and 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

Saturday, July 7, 14, 21, 28

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, August 4, 11, 18, 25

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, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

BROOKLYN

Sunday, July 15

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

Sunday, August 5

Wildlife Exploration / Plum Beach 1 p.m. / Meet in parking lot off of Belt Parkway eastbound between exits 9 & 11

Saturday, September 15

Birding: Birds of Prey / Owl's Head Park 10 a.m. / Meet at the Park House, Colonial Road and 68th Street

Sunday, September 30

Raptor Fest / Prospect Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road

MANHATTAN

Saturday, July 21

Wildlife Exploration / Highbridge Park 11 a.m. / meet at Highbridge Water Tower, enter at 172nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Saturday, August 18

Nocturnal Wildlife / Inwood Hill Park 7:30 p.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, September 2

Birding / Inwood Hill Park 9 a.m. / Inwood Hill Nature Center, West 218th Street and Indian Road



QUEENS

Saturday July 28

Birding / Forest Park 10 a.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Saturday August 25

Birding / Broad Channel American Ballfields 1 p.m. / Meet at Cross Bay Blvd. & 22nd Road

Saturday, September 29

Birding / Forest Park 10 a.m. / Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Saturday, July 7, August 4

Plover Day / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Boardwalk at B. 60th Street

STATEN ISLAND

Saturday, July 14

Birding / High Rock Park 9 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs

Saturday, August 11

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

Sunday, September 23

Birds of Prey / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / High Rock Ranger Station, parking lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Avenue and follow signs



NYC Parks

in New York City
Outdoors
THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Alley Pond Park Adventure Course

Free Public Sundays, May 6 to November 18

Programs start at 10:00am and 1:30pm. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals and families only, ages 8 and up. Valid photo ID required. Registration begins 1/2 hour prior to each session. Sneaker or closed-toe footwear only.

Alley Pond Park, Queens
718.217.4685 or 718.217.6034

Pre-registration required during July and August.
To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers



NYC Parks



To learn more about the Urban Park Rangers,
please visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers or
call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers.