

WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND FRIDAYS

Nature's Playground / Riverside Park 11 a.m.–3 p.m. / River Run Playground, enter the park at 83rd Street

The Urban Park Rangers invite you to attend weekly nature-themed programs geared towards youngsters and children of all ages. Come fly with the birds, or make your own bug. Each day will be filled with different fantastic activities.

WEDNESDAYS IN JULY - AUGUST

Fishing Factoids / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside the Dana Discovery Center

Would you like to learn how to fish in the Meer? Let the Urban Park Rangers and Central Park Conservancy show you the proper methods and techniques, as we explore/learn about the ecology of the Meer and some fantastic solutions set in place to protect it.

FRIDAYS IN JULY - AUGUST

Nature's Playground / Riverside Park 3 p.m. / Morningside Playground (enter 120th Street)

The Urban Park Rangers invite you to attend weekly nature-themed programs geared towards youngsters and children of all ages. Come fly with the birds, or make your own bug. Each day will be set with different fantastic activities.

July

Friday, July 4

Manhattan

Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center Celebrate your independence by canoeing freely on the marsh. Great for the whole family, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Enjoy views of the bay, Throgs Neck Bridge, and the old fort, all from the water, as you learn the basics of canoeing skills and safety. Ages 8 and up. To register, please call 718.352.1769 on the Monday prior to the program.

Saturday, July 5

Bronx

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

AMERICAN REVOLUTION WEEKEND:

Washington's Troops on the Hill / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC As part of our tribute to our nation, join the Rangers for an exploration of the park, as we discuss the Bronx' role in the Revolution.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION WEEKEND:

Hike To Glover's Rock / Orchard Beach 1 p.m. / OBNC See listing above.

Saturday, July 5 cont'd

The Reel Deal / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC Come on by for fishing in newly restored Indian Lake, while learning all about our underwater neighbors.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Living Log / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.) Find out how much life there is in that "dead" log on the side of the trail on this discovery hike with the Rangers.

History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Celebrate Independence Day with a guided tour of historic Fort Greene Park and discover the role this park played in the American Revolution.

Ponderous Ponds / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the Audubon Center What animals and organisms live in the ponds of Prospect Park? Join us as we explore with nets and magnifiers to find out.

Urban Beekeeping / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Find out what the buzzzz is about. Discover what it takes to maintain beehives in NYC, taste some NYC honey, and make a beeswax craft.

Birding for Kids / Fort Greene Park 3 p.m. / FGVC Bring the kids to the park for a day of birding by sight and song watching. Children 12 and under. Limited number of children's binoculars available.

Manhattan

Lights, Camera, Central Park / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at park entrance north side of 60th street, just west of Fifth Ave. Summer blockbuster season is in full swing. Test your movie trivia knowledge as we walk through the park's best-known movie locations.

Nightlife Highlights / Fort Tryon Park 8:30 p.m. / Meet at Margaret Corbin Circle (just north of 190 St. and Fort Washington Ave.) Explore the park in search of fireflies and other denizens of the dark. Bring a flashlight and your sense of adventure.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.
See July 4 listing.

SOARING SERIES:

Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves. Enjoy birds of prey crafts, owl pellet dissection, and talon painting

SOARING SERIES:

Forest Park 12 p.m. / FPVC Come search for and learn about birds of prey with the Urban Park Rangers!

SOARING SERIES:

Rockaway Beach 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Come learn about shorebirds, including the endangered piping plover, then build a bird for yourself!

Saturday, July 5 cont'd

History Club / Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC July's topic will be the role of artillery during the Battle of Gettysburg, which was fought from July 1st through July 3rd, 1863.

Staten Island

Moses Mountain Hike / High Rock Park 10 a.m. / HRRS Explore streams, forests, and geology as we scale this artificial mountain.

Beautiful Bees / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Buzzzzz around the park to experience the wide variety of winged wonders. You'll see honey bees, bumble bees, and even metallic green bees. Learn how they help us every day, and check out their homes.

Forest Ecology / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St. View a variety of birds, insects, mammals, and more, while exploring what may be the biggest stand of huckleberry in the city.

Sunday, July 6

Bronx

American Revolution Weekend: Valentine-Varian House / Varian Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Van Cortlandt Ave. and Bainbridge Ave. See July 5 listing.

Patriot Games / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC The children of the Revolution played games too - just different ones! Find out what they were, and how to make your own toys.

Into the Depths / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Learn about and net the aquatic creatures that make Indian Lake their home.

Brooklyn

NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR SERIES:

Boreum Hill and Cobble Hill 10 a.m. / Meet at Pacific St. and 4 Ave. The area around Atlantic Avenue is undergoing a renaissance, but there are still some hidden historic gems tucked away throughout the neighborhood. Join us as we uncover them and explore the area.

Canoeing the Creek / Marine Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 2 p.m. / Meet at Burnett St. and Avenue U Enjoy a day of canoeing on beautiful Gerritsen Creek. Enjoy creekside views of wading birds and basking terrapins. Ages 8 years and older. Arrive early: first-come, first served.

Grand Army Plaza Monument Walk / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet under the Arch Discover the history and significance of Grand Army Plaza, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, as well as the fountain and surrounding statues of JFK Plaza.

Explore the Ravine / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.) Take a nature hike and explore the last remaining forest in Brooklyn on this guided tour of one of Prospect Park's most secluded & rustic areas.

Manhattan

Woodblock Printing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Create your own wood block print. All materials provided, just bring your imagination.

Sunday, July 6 cont'd

Memorials Bike Tour / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Dana Discovery Center. Celebrate Independence Day weekend as we take a bike tour of the north forts of Central Park and on to the memorials of Riverside Park. Bring your bike and helmet.

Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center See July 4 listing.

Queens

SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES:

Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk What do scat, tracks, nests, and shells all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Explore the nineteenth century fortress that helped protect New York City's harbor from possible naval attack and learn about the history of Willet's Point.

SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES:

Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC What do scat, tracks, nests, and cocoons all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!

SIGNS OF LIFE SERIES:

Kissena Park 2 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves. What do scat, tracks, nests, and galls all have in common? Join the Rangers to find out!

Lantern Tour / Fort Totten 7:30 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Explore the dark caverns of Fort Totten for a history tour by lantern.

DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES:

Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / Join us for some riveting adventures on film! Special features will include segments of the Planet Earth series, Winged Migration, and more! Call 718.846.2731 during the week prior for more information.

Staten Island

Composting 101 / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC Reduce your garbage and create wonderful soil at the same time. View several different working compost bins, as well as an active worm bin.

Maps 'n' More / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Never get lost again! Learn the basics of maps and compasses, then take your turn on a course.

Friday, July 11

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

Staten Island

Family Camping / Willowbrook Park 7 p.m. / Location TBA You'll pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal residents of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. To register, call 718-967-3542 after 9 a.m. on July 7.

Saturday, July 12

Bronx

Creating with Nature / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Get the creative juices flowing as we look to nature to inspire!

Botany: From Beach to Forest/ Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC The varied habitats of Orchard Beach are a perfect place to explore the diversity of NYC's plant life.

Geology Rocks! / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC We'll explore the rolling hills of Crotona Park to learn how the terrain was formed and what the Wisconsin glacier left behind.

Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC Summer wildflowers are in full effect, so join us for an exploration.

Ranger Puppet Theater / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC Folktales come alive through the Ranger puppet theater. Fun for the whole family!

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Tree-mendous Hike / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center Join the Urban Park Rangers for a guided tree walk, as we learn to identify different types of trees, view some of NYC's great trees, and discover the important role trees play in our environment.

Canoeing Coney Island Creek / Kaiser Park 12 p.m. / Meeting location TBA Explore Coney Island Creek by canoe as we go in search of wading shore birds, the remains of NYC's shipping history, and float by the wreck of a real submarine. Paddling experience required. To register, please call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on July 7.

The Redcoats are Coming (and Hessians too)! / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See July 12 listing.

Orienteering 101 / Prospect Park 2 p.m. / Meet behind Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.) Learn the basics of navigating using a map and compass as we explore Prospect Park.

Manhattan

Where the Wild Things Are / Central Park 1 p.m. / DDC Take the trail less traveled and explore the deep North Woods of Central Park. Designated a Forever Wild site, this 55-acre gem holds secrets unseen by most park visitors. Rock formations, waterfalls, and wildflowers are just a few of the spectacular surprises that await.

Rangers in the Night / Inwood Hill Park 8:30 p.m. / IHNC Join the Rangers as we explore the park after dark. Walk ends at Dyckman Street.

Saturday, July 12 cont'd

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES:

Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet behind Kissena Playschool, off 164 St. Come learn how to get good nature pictures without bringing a camera! We'll do leaf rubbings and nature prints.

CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES:

Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC Come learn how to get good nature pictures without bringing a camera! We'll do leaf rubbings and nature prints.

Canoeing / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. –

12 p.m. / Meeting Location TBA Space is limited. Pre-registration required. **Call 718.846.2731 on Wednesday, July 9th to register.**

CREATING WITH NATURE SERIES:

Rockaway Beach 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Bring the family for some serious seashell crafts!

Staten Island

Forever Wild! William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge / WTDWR 10 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at Richmond and Travis Aves. Pay tribute to one of Staten Island's most famous naturalists by bringing your binoculars to get a view of blue herons, egrets, kingfishers, and much more.

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA Come witness the dramatic transformation, as well as the turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, and ring-necked pheasants. You won't believe your eyes! **Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.**

Insect Insanity / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Sneak a peek at these six-legged wonders that are vital to our everyday survival. Discover what they do for us and how we can help them!

Sunday, July 13

Bronx

Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / Orchard Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch Ready for more of a challenge? Test your skills on the water of the Pelham lagoon! **To register, call 718.548.0912 on July 7 and leave a message.**

Tree-mendous Hike / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC London plane, sweetgum, tulip, and willow are just some of the leafy giants found in this park. Can you point them out?

Documentary Day: Planet Earth / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC No commercials! Just an airing of two episodes of the Planet Earth series uncut and straight through.

Brooklyn

What Lurks Below? / Marine Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Burnett St. and Avenue U Discover what animals call Gerritsen Creek home. Pull on some hip-waders (supplied) and use seining nets to find out who's living below the surface of the water.

Insect Insanity / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. / FGVC Bug out with the Rangers and learn all about the creepy crawlers living in Fort Greene Park and make your own buggy craft. Children 12 and under.

Nature Hide and Seek / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center Discover the secrets of camouflage on this Ranger-led discovery hike.

Nuts about Squirrels / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Learn everything you ever wanted to know about everyone's favorite furry-tailed park inhabitants.

Pirate's Treasure / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Someone's hidden a secret treasure in the park! Learn how to use a map and compass to uncover it. Finders keepers... Children 6 to 12.

Summer Night Broadway Musical / Marine Park 6 p.m. / SMNC Gilbert Weiss is back to sing popular Broadway show tunes. Join us on the lawn in the backyard. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and relax.

Manhattan

Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer near Lasker Pool. Join the Rangers for a day of canoeing in the middle of Manhattan. First-come, first-served. All equipment and instruction provided. Ages 8 and up.

Highbridge Water Tower / Highbridge Park 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Meet at Tower, inside the park at 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave. Why is this tower here? Who built it, and is still used? These, and other burning questions, will be answered today.

Queens

Creatures of the Tidal Zone / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Come take a walk at low tide on the rocky shore around Fort Totten, and discover the special creatures equipped to thrive between sea and land.

Nature Photography / Cunningham Park 12 p.m. / Meet at parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197 St.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

It's History! / Rockaway Beach 1 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Come for a historical hike along the Rockaway coast. Learn about the endangered piping plover and why your hometown is important to them!

Fungus Among Us / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC Your local Ranger isn't the only "fun guy" in town. Join us for an exploration of some of the best fungi Queens has to offer.

Orienteering 101 / Kissena Park 2 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves. Can't navigate your way out of a parking lot? Come learn the basics of orienteering with the Urban Park Rangers!

DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES:

Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC See July 6 listing.

Sunday, July 13 cont'd

Staten Island

Canoeing Basics / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Release your stress with a peaceful ride on the water. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first served.

Radical Rocks / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) Explore the wide variety of rocks on the shores of Conference House Park.

Friday, July 18

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.
See July 4 listing.

Saturday, July 19

Bronx

Entrancing Ethnobotany / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. / VCNC From comestibles to herbology to the deadliest of poisons, what people can do with plants is amazing.

Seashore Safari / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC Not all safaris happen in exotic places. We'll go looking along the shore for some coastal critters.

Backyard Birding / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Come join the Urban Park Rangers for an introduction to common New York City birds. Bring binoculars. All ages welcome.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Explore the Park: Owl's Head Park / Owl's Head Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the park house at Colonial Rd. Built on the site of the Bliss Estate, Owl's Head Park contains legacy trees, rolling hills, and sweeping vistas of New York Harbor. Discover it all on this Ranger-led tour of the park.

History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC

See July 5 listing.

Manhattan

Little Red Light House / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. -

4 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Light House Join the Rangers as we explore the inspiration for the children's book, The Little Red Light House and the Great Gray Bridge.

Moon Struck / Central Park 8 p.m. / Meet at Sheep Meadow, across from Tavern on the Green (enter park at W. 67 St.) It's a full moon, so come on out and join the Rangers for some moon-gazing and fun facts about everyone's favorite satellite.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

HAPPY TRAILS! SERIES:

Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Come take a hike along the beautiful Rockaway coast, the summer home of the endangered piping plover!

Basic Canoeing / Kissena Park 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Meet at Kissena Lake, near Rose and Oak Aves. entrance First come, first served. Bring water and sunscreen.

Staten Island

Canoe Adventure / Lemon Creek Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Location TBA Enjoy this wonderful route through the tidal waters of Lemon Creek. You'll see egrets, great blue herons, kingfishers, and much more. To register, call 718.967.3542 on July 14 for reservations. Space is limited.

Rockin' Ravine / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS Get up close and personal with Richmond Creek. Explore the geology of the creek and meet its inhabitants. Discover the role it plays in the surrounding ecosystem, and the path it takes to the Arthur Kill.

Native American Pathways / Conference House Park

1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.) Explore the forest and the beach in search of the different plants and animals the Native Americans used for food and shelter.

Sunday, July 20

Bronx

Creating with Nature / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / OBNC Get the creative juices flowing as we look to nature to inspire!

Nature Bingo for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / VCNC Bring your little ones for a fun learning experience and some games. Prizes!

Message in a Bottle / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Plastic bottles are a hazard to our environment if not properly discarded after use. We'll explore ways to reuse plastic bottles for nature's benefit. Please bring your own bottles. Ages 6 and up.

Brooklyn

History Club: City Hall Park and the Brooklyn Bridge / City Hall Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Fountain (inside the park at Broadway and Park Row) Come out and help us celebrate the 125th birthday of this historic bridge on this Ranger-led walking tour, starting in Manhattan at recently restored City Hall Park and continuing over the Brooklyn Bridge (tour ends in Brooklyn).

Bottle Biology / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Help recycle

as we create soda bottle terrariums. Bring an empty clean 2-liter soda bottle and all other materials will be provided.

Nature's Recyclers / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC People aren't the only ones who recycle. Discover how nature breaks down different materials.

Sunday, July 20 cont'd

Manhattan

Photography/ Inwood Hill Park/ 10 a.m. / IHNC Join the Urban Park Rangers on a wildlife hike from Inwood Hill through Fort Tryon Park. What better way for you to save a memory than taking it home on film.

BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES:

History Club: City Hall Park and the Brooklyn Bridge / City Hall Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Fountain (inside the park at Broadway and Park Row) See today's Brooklyn listing.

Queens

Family Fun / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / FTVC Bring the family out for some fun! Join the rangers for craft projects, games, and storytelling.

GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES:

Powell's Cove Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 11 Ave and 138 Pl. More than half of Powell's Cove Park is literally submerged under the waters of Flushing Bay, but you won't have to get wet to learn about the various plants and animals that inhabit this ecosystem. From cordgrass to crabs, this cove's got it all.

Living Rocks / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Think rocks aren't important? Think again. Come find out who makes them their home!

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Living Logs / Kissena Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves. Where do trees go when they die? Do they stay there? Come learn about nature's recyclers!

Living Logs / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC Where do trees go when they die? Do they stay there? Come learn about nature's recyclers!

DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES:

Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.

Living Log / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. We'll explore several logs in the park in search of snakes, worms, insects, and more..

Friday, July 25

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

Saturday, July 26

Bronx

John Muir Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave. Stretch your legs and get some air as we traverse the park's only east-west trail. Hike ends on the east side of the park.

What's the "Bug" Idea? / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. / OBNC Are all bugs insects? Are all insects bugs? Learn the answer and much more as we go looking into a bug's life!

Ranger Puppet Theater / Crotona Park 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. / CNC See July 12 listing.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Canoeing the Creek / Marine Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 2 p.m. / Meet at Burnett St. And Avenue U See July 6 listing.

Dragons and Damsels / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside of the Audubon Center Dragonflies and damselflies, that is. Join us as we go in search of these bejeweled insect beauties.

Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Join the Rangers for a look at the fortifications for each of the three conflicts in which it was involved.

Manhattan

Fairy Tale Statues / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Delacorte Musical Clock (at 65 St. near Zoo) Imaginative minds of all ages will be enchanted by this tour of the Park's most fanciful statues including Balto, Mother Goose, Alice in Wonderland, and Hans Christian Anderson. Includes a fun stop for kids at the charming Billy Johnson Playground and its nearby Rustic Shelter.

Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC Join the rangers as we teach about the fundamentals of camping. You will learn basic survival skills and how to pitch a tent. What better way to spend the evening than camping out under the stars? **To register, please call 212.304.2365 on July 14.**

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

Nature Knowledge / Highland Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and 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.

Staten Island

PARK TO PARK:

High Rock to Reed's Basket Willow Swamp / High Rock Park 10 a.m. / High Rock Ranger Station Hike the Yellow Trail to this beautiful swamp to see the purple willows once used to make baskets, along with dusky and northern red salamanders.

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See July 12 listing.

Saturday, July 26 cont'd

Great Swamp / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Willowbrook was once known as the "Great Swamp." Join the Rangers for this historical and natural look at Willowbrook Park. Wear hiking boots and bring water and a snack.

Bat Bonanza / Blue Heron Park 8 p.m. / BHNC See the bats in the wild east! Pay tribute to one of the more beneficial animals in our area. If you don't like mosquitoes, you'll love these animals.

Sunday, July 27

Bronx

Early Birding / Pelham Bay Park 9 a.m. / OBNC

Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First come, first served. Bring water and sun screen. Ages 8 and up

Orienteering Scavenger Hunt / Crotona Park 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. / Crotona Nature Center Learn the basics of orienteering while learning about the park's hidden gems.

Park-itecture / Pelham Bay Park 2 p.m. / OBNC From Orchard Beach's early days as a WPA project to the large-scale construction of today, parks are always changing. Join us for a guided tour of some of the building techniques employed.

Brooklyn

Duck, Duck,...Goose! / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Vanderbilt Playground (enter at Vanderbilt Ave. and Prospect Park Southwest) Bring your young ones to Prospect Park for their first birding outing on this bird tour designed for young children.

Who, Who, Who...Did I Eat? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC What do owls eat? How do they find their food? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we dissect owl pellets.

Criminals, Cops, and Capers / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Learn about some of the most infamous crimes in NYC history and the science investigators used to solve the mysteries.

The Giving Tree / Prospect Park 2 p.m. / Meet at the Picnic House (enter at Prospect Park West at 3 St.) Join us for a reading of this beloved children's book, followed by a tree walk through the Ravine.

Creatures of the Night Hike / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC Enjoy a night hike as we go in search of bats, raccoons, opossums, and night herons.

Manhattan

Go Fish! / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC Join the Rangers as we teach you the basics of fishing. Rods and bait provided.

Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer. See July 13 listing.

Queens

Nature Scavenger Hunt / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Birds, insects, and trees...Fort Totten is the place to be! Join us on a hunt to uncover Mother Nature's hidden treasures.

13th Annual Rockaway Sandcastle Contest / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. / Meet at B. 117 St. and Boardwalk Test your architectural skills by building a sand structure at the beach. It doesn't have to be a castle, but it does have to be creative. Prizes. Bring your own tools.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Living Ponds / Forest Park 1 p.m. / FPVC Join the Rangers for a pond ecology lesson and look for fresh water insects and other critters!

Staten Island

History Club: Names of Staten Island / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC What's in a name? Learn the origins of the many different names of streets, parks, and beaches of Staten Island, from Abbey Road to Zwicky Street.

Dynamic Decomposers / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) We'd be up to our eyeballs in dead things if it weren't for dynamic decomposers—join us as we explore their world.

Thursday, July 31

Brooklyn

Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC Featured movie will be "The Birds." Call 718.421.2021 for more information.

August

Friday, August 1

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

AMAZIN' DAY AT SHEA:

A Commemorative Tour / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Shea Stadium Diamond Club (between Gates C & D) Come sports fans! Join the Urban Park Rangers for an on-field historical tour of Shea Stadium in its last year as home to the New York Mets! Pre-registration is required; space is limited. **Please call 718.846.2731 on Wednesday, July 16th between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to reserve.**

Maximum of 4 people per party.

Saturday, August 2

Bronx

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

Best of Both Worlds / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Come learn about Crotona Park's native and invasive species and how they have become an important part of the park's ecology.

Orienteering Scavenger Hunt / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC See July 27 listing.

Intermediate Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Orchard Beach Canoe and Kayak Launch See July 13 listing.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Canoe the Lullwater / Prospect Park 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 2 p.m. / Meet at the ramp near the Audubon Center Enjoy a day of canoeing on beautiful Lullwater to the Lake and back. Enjoy views of wading birds and basking turtles. Ages 8 years and older. Arrive early: first-come, first served.

Colonial Living / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / FGVC Discover what life was like in America in the years just before the Revolution. Try your hand at colonial era games, butter churning, and watch a colonial open pit cooking demonstration.

Park Clean up / Marine Park 1 p.m. / Meet in front of SMNC Come help spruce up the Salt Marsh Nature Trail.

Family Fishing / Prospect Park 3 p.m. / Meet outside the Audubon Center Enjoy a day of fishing with the family in beautiful Prospect Park. Poles and bait provided.

Manhattan

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

LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES:

Battery Park and Governors Island / Bowling Green 9 a.m. / Meet at Bowling Green Park (Broadway and Beaver St.) The Urban Park Rangers and National Park Service invite you to explore these fantastic parks, spending the day learning about the intricate social, political, and economic history of New York City.

Queens

Early Birding / Fort Totten 9:30 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Plover Day / Rockaway Beach 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at B. 59 St. and Boardwalk Learn about these endangered birds that live in your backyard. Crafts, face painting, and refreshments are part of the fun.

Staten Island

Living Log / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Ramona and Lenevar Aves. See July 20 listing.

Insect Insanity / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) See July 12 listing.

Sunday, August 3

Bronx

Fishing for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / VCNC Family fun at the lake! We'll teach all the basics, and provide poles and bait.

Arts and Crafts for Kids /Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / ONBC

The Reel Deal / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC

See July 5 listing.

Brooklyn

Park Slope Neighborhood Walk Part I / Park Slope 10 a.m. / Meet at the corner of Bergen St. and Flatbush Ave. Part I of our most popular neighborhood walking tour. We'll see the "Princess of Prospect Place," Queen Anne-style mansions, and gorgeous brownstones. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.

Birding / Owl's Head Park 12 p.m. / Meet at the Parkhouse at Colonial Rd.

Amazing Arches / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside the Audubon Center Explore the beauty of Prospect Park's unique arches, while learning the history of these features that played a large role in Olmsted and Vaux's design.

Manhattan

North by Southwest / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC A journey from the forests of Inwood Hill Park, to the creative design of Fort Tryon Park, ending on the banks of the Hudson at Fort Washington Park. Along the way, we'll cover the history and natural aspects of these greenspaces.

Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Meet at boat dock next to nature center Ages 8 and up. First-come, first-served.

LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES:

Lower East Side Community Garden and Neighborhood Tour / Tompkins Square Park 1 p.m. / Meet at St. Mark's Pl. and Ave. A. Bring your walking shoes and explore some of these secret oases, as we make our way to the East River.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Sunday, August 3 cont'd

Canoeing / Bayswater Park 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet at

B. 35 St and Beach Channel Dr. Canoe along Norton Basin with the Urban Park Rangers. Children ages 8 and older can participate with a parent. Canoes, lifejackets, and instruction provided. Pre-registration is required. Call 718.318.4000. Space is limited. Reservation date?

Staten Island

Ponderous Ponds / Willowbrook Park 11 a.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. See July 5 listing.

Fabulous Frogs / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station (1150 Clove Rd.) Jump into the park and explore the wonderful world of the hoppers! Discover their role in the food chain.

Wednesday, August 6

Queens

Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.) Learn about the different species of fish found in the waters around New York City, as we see what we can catch. All ages welcome; limited poles and bait provided.

Friday, August 8

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

Saturday, August 9

Bronx

Geology of Orchard Beach / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / OBNC Explore this Marine Zoology and Geology Sanctuary with the Rangers.

Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. / VCNC See July 12 listing.

Open Mic / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Musicians, actors, poets, and storytellers are welcome to perform. Who knows? Maybe even your favorite Ranger has a hidden talent...

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Butterfly Bonanza / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Join us as we go in search of these beautiful insects and learn how they get around, eat, and why they have such pretty patterns.

Birding / Calvert Vaux Park 1 p.m. / Meet at parking lot entrance on Shore Pkwy. bet. Bay 44 and Bay 49 Sts. You'll be surprised at the bird diversity at this often-overlooked Brooklyn birding hot spot.

History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC
See July 5 listing.

Vale of Cashmere Hike / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Grand Army Plaza entrance to park Explore this beautiful, secluded section of historic Prospect Park.

Manhattan

'Round the Reservoir / Central Park 1 p.m. / E. 90 St. and East Drive A leisurely 1.6 mile stroll along the jogging and bridle path that surrounds this ecologically significant body of water. Learn about the history and controversial future of a piece of the park that is heavily used by residents and visitors of the human and wildlife variety.

Battle of the Heights / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC Learn the history of a not-so-well-known Revolutionary battle. We'll explore the role the Native Americans played, and how they helped General Washington hold off the British.

Queens

Creatures of the Tidal Zone / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 13 listing.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Family Fun Day / Highland Park 6 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St. Bring your family and enjoy all the fun-filled activities, followed by an outdoor movie screening.

Staten Island

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See July 12 listing.

Damsels and Dragons / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. See July 26 listing.

Family Camping / High Rock Park 7 p.m. / High Rock Ranger Station You'll pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal residents of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. To register, call 718.967.3542 after 9 a.m. on August 4.

Sunday, August 10

Bronx

Beginner Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First-come, first-served. Bring water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8+.

Island Hopping I / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC The waters surrounding Pelham Bay Park are dotted with tiny islands, each with a unique story. Bring your binoculars for a land lubbers' exploration.

Are you Smarter than a Park Ranger? / Crotona Park 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. / CNC Join the Urban Park Rangers as we test your knowledge of nature and parks. Based on the popular television game show.

Brooklyn

Living Log / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Picnic House (Prospect Park West at 3 St.) Find out how much life there is in that "dead" log on the side of the trail on this discovery hike with the Rangers.

Sunday, August 10 cont'd

Tree-mendous Walk / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC There are 40 different types of trees in Fort Greene Park from all over the world. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the park and find out all about them.

Canoeing Coney Island Creek / Kaiser Park 12 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See July 12 listing. To register, call 718.421.2021 after 9 a.m. on August 4.

Brooklyn Trivia / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Think you know a thing or two about Kings County? Show off "dem" smarts and win prizes.

Manhattan

Harlem Parks and Neighborhood Tour / Central Park

11 a.m. / Meet at Duke Ellington Circle, 110 St. and 5 Ave.) Harlem has a rich history of art, music, food, and culture. Come learn about this ever-changing community, as we walk from northern Central Park, through picturesque Morningside Park, all the way to brownstone-lined Marcus Garvey Park.

Highbridge Water Tower / Highbridge Park 1 p.m. -

4 p.m. / Meet at Tower, inside the park at W. 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave. See July 13 listing.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES:

Something's Fishy! / Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Aves. Join the Rangers for a pond ecology lesson and look for fresh water fish and more!

CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES:

Something's Fishy! / Rockaway Beach 12 p.m. / Meet at

B. 52 St. and the Boardwalk Come seining with the Rangers and learn about the creepy crawlers of the Atlantic Ocean.

Tree-mendous Hike / Alley Pond Park 1 p.m. / APPAC

See July 12 listing.

CREEPY CRAWLERS SERIES:

Bug Eyes! / Forest Park 2 p.m. / FPVC Learn how insects see, then join the Rangers on a hike to look for them!

DOCUMENTARY AFTER-DINNER SERIES:

Forest Park 7:30 p.m. / FPVC See July 6 listing

Staten Island

Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BHNC Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.

Scavenger Hunt / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) Try your hand at our hunt, one of the toughest on the south shore, in search of clues that will lead you to a natural conclusion.

Forensic Fun / Blue Heron Park / 3 p.m. / BHNC Become a detective for the day, as we analyze fingerprints, fibers, and hair to solve the mystery.

Wednesday, August 13

Queens

Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)

See August 6 listing.

Staten Island

Astronomy: Perseid Meteor Shower / Wolfe's Pond Park

8 p.m. / Meet in the parking lot at the end of Cornelia Ave. off Hylan Blvd. Join the Urban Park Rangers for this annual spectacular, weather permitting. Bring binoculars if you wish.

Friday, August 15

Bronx

Family Camping / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / OBNC To register, call 718.548.0912 on August 4 and leave a message.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Saturday, August 16

Bronx

Cass Gallagher Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave. Explore the lush greenery of the secluded northwest forest on this hike.

Hiders and Seekers / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC

An exploration of camouflage and other adaptations.

Nature's Remedies / Crotona Park 1 p.m. / CNC Explore the park with the Rangers, as we focus on medicinal plants.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Urban Park Rangers Eco-Challenge / Marine Park 9 a.m. / SMNC Register your 2 or 3 person team to compete in a cross-country run, canoe paddle around White Island and up Gerritsen Creek, and an orienteering course. Prizes. **To register, call 718.421.2021 on August 4 after 9 a.m.**

Manhattan

Hawk Walk / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / IHNC Join the Rangers as we explore the park in search of our resident red-tailed hawks and their babies!

Canoeing at the Meer / Central Park 11 a.m. / South side of Harlem Meer next to Lasker Pool See July 13 listing.

Saturday, August 16 cont'd

Queens

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

History Club/ Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC August's topic will be the design and construction of the Endicott Batteries located behind the Water Battery, and how the idea of individual gun emplacements returned to the forefront of coastal defense.

Family Fun Day / Highland Park 6 p.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St. Bring your family and enjoy all the fun-filled activities, followed by an outdoor movie screening.

Staten Island

Park to Park: High Rock to the Overlook / High Rock Park

1 p.m. / High Rock Ranger Station This hike features scenic vistas of Raritan Bay and New Jersey's Atlantic Highlands.

Nuts about Squirrels / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.)

Do squirrels find all the nuts they bury? How do they climb down trees headfirst? Learn these answers and more in a trek through the park with the Urban Park Rangers.

Sunday, August 17

Bronx

Living Log / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC

Ever wonder why we leave fallen logs on the forest floor? We'll turn over a few and find out!

Seining / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC The summer waters are filled with marine life. Join us for an exploration of the deep with our seining net.

Picture This! Past, Present, and Future / Crotona Park

1 p.m. / CNC Join the Rangers as we explore Crotona Park's history through photographs. Bring some of your photos of Crotona Park past, shoot some photos of Crotona Park present, and get a glimpse of the future.

Brooklyn

"Barefoot" in the Park / Marine Park 9 a.m. – 4:30 / SMNC The NY Transit Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating summer by setting up an amateur radio station at the park. "Barefoot" is a term that refers to radio operators using regular amplified signals to reach out and speak to radio operators throughout the world. Come learn about the club and participate too.

Park Slope Neighborhood Walk Part II / Park Slope 10 a.m. / Meet under the Arch at Grand Army Plaza

Part II of our most popular neighborhood walking tour. We'll start with the secrets hidden within the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and finish with a look at the grand mansions that line Prospect Park West. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.

Manhattan

Birding on the Hudson / Riverside Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the south end of the 101 St. soccer fields We'll make our way to the Riverside Bird Sanctuary and see what birds call the Hudson estuary their home.

Environmental Poetry Night/ Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC Join us for an evening of open-mic poetry, as we express our thoughts and feelings on the environment.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Animal Tracking / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Meet at parking lot on Union Tpke. and 197 St. Animals leave behind different signs of their whereabouts. With the Rangers, you'll learn to keep "track" of them all.

Staten Island

Fabulous Frogs / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. See August 3 listing.

Wednesday, August 20

Queens

Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)

See August 6 listing.

Friday, August 22

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Saturday, August 23

Bronx

Bike the Greenway / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS

Bring your bike and enjoy a ride across the Bronx from Pelham Bay to Van Cortlandt! Ride ends at the Van Cortlandt Nature Center.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Nature-Inspired Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. / SMNC Take a stroll through the nature center and view nature-inspired artwork created by local artists. Sponsored by the Salt Marsh Alliance.

Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See July 26 listing.

Manhattan

Wilderness Survival / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC

Join us for our classic survival workshop. Compass skills, fire-starting, and shelter-building are among our topics.

Saturday, August 23 cont'd

BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES:

Randall's Island to Astoria / Triborough Bridge 12 p.m. / Meet at E. 103 St and FDR Drive Join the Rangers as we cross the East River via footbridge onto Randall's Island and explore Randall's and Ward's Islands. Then, it's on to the Triborough Bridge and Astoria Park in Queens. Tour ends in Queens.

Queens

Community Family Day / Roy Wilkins Park 1 p.m. / Meet inside the park, near the Merrick and Foch Boulevards entrance This day of festivities, hosted by the Friends of Roy Wilkins Park, is fun for the whole family. It will include various musical performances, a health fair, face painting, nature walks by the Urban Park Rangers and much, much more.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Observe heavenly bodies through our high-powered Dobsonian telescope and learn how to use the stars to find your way if lost in the wilderness.

Staten Island

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See July 12 listing.

Birding / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Join us for a late summer exploration of the park's birdlife.

Sunday, August 24

Bronx

Twin Island Exploration / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC From the rocky shore to the forest, this secluded island has it all. Join us for a walk through one of the last vestiges of old Pelham Bay.

Brooklyn

Nature-Inspired Art Show / Marine Park 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. / SMNC See August 23 listing.

Creating with Nature / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Bring the kids to the park for an afternoon of creating nature-themed crafts. Materials provided, children 12 and under.

Manhattan

CENTRAL PARK UNLOCKED! SERIES:

Hallett Nature Sanctuary / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet on Gapstow Bridge at the Pond (at 62 St., west of East Drive). Millions of people visit the park every year, but very few ever see this part. Join us for rocky promontories, pond views, and great wildlife sightings.

Nature Crafts / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Join the Rangers as we use natural materials to make crafts.

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 4 listing.

GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES:

Udalls Park Preserve 12 p.m. / Meet at Little Neck Pkwy & 34th Ave Designated a "Forever Wild Site," Udalls is both a freshwater wetland, with Aurora Pond in the middle of the preserve, and a salt marsh, with brackish Gabbler's Creek flowing into Little Neck Bay. At Udalls, you all will wanna explore the fauna.

Staten Island

HISTORY CLUB:

Tribute to South Beach / South Beach Park 1 p.m. / Meet in parking lot at Sand Ln. and Father Capodanno Blvd. Discover the "second Coney Island" and explore where the first Staten Islanders settled.

Wednesday, August 27

Saltwater Fishing / Bayside Marina 11 a.m. / Meet at Marina (alongside Cross Island Pkwy. at 28 Ave.)

See August 6 listing.

Thursday, August 28

Brooklyn

Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC Featured movie will be "National Treasure I." Call 718.421.2021 for more information

Friday, August 29

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Saturday, August 30

Bronx

Nature Bingo for Kids / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Bring your little ones for a fun learning experience and some games. Prizes!

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

...And Howe / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Richard and William Howe commanded the naval and land forces of the Crown during the New York campaign of the Revolution. This tour will shed light on their story.

Birding By Ear / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Sometimes it takes more than your eyes to have a successful day bird watching. Learn how to identify some common birds by their call and song.

Saturday, August 30 cont'd

Manhattan

CENTRAL PARK UNLOCKED! SERIES:

Blockhouse #1 / Central Park 1 p.m. / Dana Discovery Center Millions of people visit the park every year, but very few see this part. On this exploration of the historically significant north end, you'll have a rare opportunity to enter the Blockhouse, built during the war of 1812.

Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC See July 26 listing. **To register, please call 212.304.2365 on August 18.**

Queens

Knot for Nothing / Fort Totten Park 10 a.m. / FTVC Ever been in a 'bind,' not knowing which knot to use or how to tie something down, up, or together? Come learn and practice some of the most basic & practical knots. Avoid knotty situations in the future, and you'll thank yourself for knot-knowing.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

Canoeing Basics / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet on Martling Ave. at the pond Release your stress with a peaceful ride on the water. Instruction and life jackets provided. First-come, first-served.

Sunday, August 31

Bronx

Buggin' Out / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC Join us for a micro-safari, in search of some of our six-legged neighbors.

Brooklyn

Women of the Revolution and Beyond / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. / FGVC Today, we're recognizing the contributions of great women in American history.

Orienteering / Owl's Head Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the park house at Colonial Rd. Learn to use a compass as you navigate your way around this lovely neighborhood park.

Manhattan

Summer Trees / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC Do you know which tree was used to flavor gum? Did you know that we have an orange tree in the park? Join us as we show you some unique trees and share their history.

Urban Park Ranger Biathlon / Inwood Hill Park / Meeting location TBA Join the Rangers in the surf and on the turf! Bring your bikes and helmets to Inwood, where we will canoe to Fort Washington Park. Your bikes will meet you there to take on the winding paths of Fort Washington and Riverside Parks. Bring water and save up your energy. **To register, please call 212.304.2365 beginning August 25.**

Queens

Canoeing / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

See July 4 listing.

Staten Island

Freshwater Fishing / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. -3 p.m. / Meet by comfort station off Eton Pl. Poles, bait, and instruction provided.

September

Monday, September 1

Staten Island

Canoeing Basics / Wolfe's Pond Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. / Meet in the Parking lot at the end of Cornelia off Hylan Blvd. See August 30 listing.

Saturday, September 6

Bronx

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

Papermaking / Van Cortlandt Park 2 p.m. / VCNC Come join New York's Greenest for this recycling activity!

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

Hike the Midwood / Prospect Park 12 p.m. / Meet behind the Audubon Center Join us for a guided nature hike through one of Brooklyn's most natural areas.

Tales from the Crypt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC

The remains of over 8,000 souls are interred in Fort Greene Park. Find out who they are and how they got there.

Manhattan

Heather Garden and Beyond! / Fort Tryon Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Margaret Corbin Circle (just north of 190 St. and Fort Washington Ave.) Join us for a stroll through the park in search of herbs, plants, and bushes. We'll focus on uncommon uses of common plants.

Wildflower Walk / Central Park 1 p.m. / Belvedere Castle. Learn to recognize native and non-native plant species that thrive in the Ramble woodland. We'll also take a stroll through lovely Shakespeare Garden, which holds many herbs and flowers mentioned in his writing.

Queens

35 Annual Park Fair / Forest Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Buddy Monument, at the intersection of Myrtle Ave. and Park Lane South Raffles. Games. Nature walks by the Urban Park Rangers. It's fun for the whole family. Hill Block Association.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Saturday, September 6 cont'd

Staten Island

Birding / High Rock Park 9 a.m. / HRRS Take a look at the winged wonders of the Greenbelt. Explore the forest and several ponds for egrets, herons, red-winged blackbirds and much more.

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See July 12 listing.

New York State Symbols / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Do you know what our state bird is? How about the state insect? Join the Urban Park Rangers to discover these and more. See how many you can find in the park.

Sunday, September 7

Bronx

Great Trees of the Bronx / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRs They're all around us, but a few are truly special. We'll take you on a tour of the ancient and mighty.

Brooklyn

NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR SERIES:

Coney Island 10 a.m. / Meet on the Boardwalk in front of the Parachute Jump This could be the final season for the famous and infamous Coney Island, as we know it. Join us for a look at the "Nickel Empire," when 5 cents took you to a whole new world. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tour will last approximately 2 hours.

Grandparents Day Nature Walk / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Bring grandma and grandpa for a leisurely stroll on the nature trail led by an Urban Park Ranger.

Manhattan

Basic Canoeing / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC
First-come, first-served.

Starry, Starry Night / Central Park 8 p.m. / Meet at Sheep Meadow, across from Tavern on the Green (enter park at W. 67 St.) Check out the stars of Central Park, but not of the tabloid variety. We'll look for stars, constellations, planets, and more.

Queens

Fishing / Kissena Park 12 p.m. / Meet behind Kissena Playschool, inside the park, near Oak Ave. and 164 St. Limited equipment provided.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Astronomy Club / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See August 23 listing.

Staten Island

Birding / Lemon Creek Park 9 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at Sharrott Ave. off Hylan Blvd.

Wiggly Worms / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center Discover how keeping a worm bin reduces your garbage and provides wonderful compost for your flowers and gardens.

Saturday, September 13

Bronx

Wildflower Walk / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC Discover late summer flowers on the last of our seasonal flower walks.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

The Redcoats are Coming (and Hessians too)! / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See July 12 listing.

Children's Hour / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC An afternoon of creative nature crafts. Materials provided. Children 12 and under.

Manhattan

Little Red Light House / Fort Washington Park 1-4 p.m. / Meet at the Little Red Light House See July 19 listing.

THE LOWER MANHATTAN PARKS SERIES:

Four Squares! / Madison Square Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the corner of W. 26 St. and 5 Ave. Join us on a walk from one square to the next as we wind our way from Madison Square to Union Square to Stuyvesant Square to Tompkins Square, and everything in between. Square comfortable shoes and bring water.

Queens

Early Birding / Fort Totten 9:30 a.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

Early Birding / Clove Lakes Park 9 a.m. / Meet at comfort station (1150 Clove Rd.)

ADULTS ONLY Camping / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / Meeting location TBA Take this opportunity to get away from the kids, pets, roommates, or whatever. This will be a quiet opportunity to pitch a tent, build a campfire, and go on a night hike to meet the nocturnal occupants of High Rock Park. Bring a flashlight and sleeping bag. Limited tents provided. **To register, call 718.967.3542 on September 8 after 9 a.m.**

Sunday, September 14

Bronx

Advanced Canoeing on the Hutchinson River / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS Not for the inexperienced! If you're good with a paddle and enjoy birding, it's the perfect opportunity to go where few others do. To register, call 718.548.0912 on September 8 and leave a message.

Sunday, September 14 cont'd

Brooklyn

Mysteries of NYC History / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Throughout NYC history, big plans were laid out that would have changed everything. Find out all about the city that never was, from the highways that never got built, to the parks that were never developed.

History Club: History of the NYPD / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Join the History club for a round table discussion of the proud history of New York's Finest.

Manhattan

BRIDGES OF MANHATTAN SERIES:

High Bridge / Highbridge Park 1 - 4 p.m. / Meet at the Tower (inside the park at 173 St. and Amsterdam Ave) Climb the water tower and learn about the role it played in New York City history, while taking in views of the oldest bridge in New York City.

Queens

Park to Park and Back! / Cunningham Park & Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Meet at 209 St. and Motor Parkway

What's better than spending a day in one of our beautiful parks? Spending a day in two of our beautiful parks, of course. Cunningham and Alley are connected by historic Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, which is now a bicycle and pedestrian path. Approximately 2 miles round-trip. Bring water and comfortable shoes.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Nocturnal Hike / Fort Totten 8 p.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. Join us as we explore the after-hours world of bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Staten Island

Journey to the South Pole / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd and Satterlee St.)

Visit the "South Pole," the designated southernmost point of New York City and New York State. You won't see any penguins here, but the wildlife is just as special.

Monday September 15

Brooklyn

MONDAY NIGHT LECTURE:

Nutrition and Health: What does the Label Mean? / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC Join our guest speaker for a discussion of the relationship between nutrition and health and how to decipher the labels on the foods we buy.

Wednesday, September 17

Astronomy / Blue Heron Park 7 p.m. / BHNC Weather permitting, join us for a look up at the heavens, in search of stars, constellations, planets, and more. Bring binoculars, if you wish.

Saturday, September 20

Bronx

Beginner Canoeing / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Learn the basics, or practice what you know! First-come, first-served. Bring water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8+.

Brooklyn

Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC

History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC

Join the Rangers for a guided tour of historic Fort Greene Park and discover the role this park played in the American Revolution.

See 'Ya in the Funny Pages / Fort Greene Park 4 p.m. / FGVC We'll explore NYC's history in comic books, both in terms of characters, stories, and creative talents that crafted them.

Early Evening Birding / Marine Park 5 p.m. / SMNC

The early bird gets the worm, but did you know that early evening can be a great time to see birds too?

Saturday Night Live: Fall Harvest Hoe Down / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC Hee Haw! Join Dancin' with Bob B. and Vivian for a night of fun and entertainment, line dancing, two-stepping, and country bumpkin fun. Come kiss summer goodbye and welcome in fall.

Queens

History Triple Play

Native American History / Alley Pond Park 10:30 a.m. / APPAC Learn the history of the Matinecock, who originally settled the land that is now Alley Pond Park. You'll learn about their hunting, gathering, farming, and survival techniques. Can't get enough Queens history? After this program, head on over to nearby Fort Totten for more.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

History Club / Fort Totten Park 3 p.m. / FTVC September's topics will include recruiting methods and training of troops, and what life was probably like at 'Camp Morgan' during the Civil War.

Staten Island

Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Landfill 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting location TBA See July 12 listing.

Saturday, September 20 cont'd

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. / BHNC Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Blue Heron Nature Center. Enjoy games, crafts, nature hikes, and a variety of animals throughout the day.

Sunday, September 21

Bronx

Island Hopping II- Advanced Canoeing / Pelham Bay Park / Meeting location & time TBA On this first-of-its-kind canoe trip, join the Rangers as we explore the islands around Orchard Beach from the water, and learn their histories. Not for the inexperienced! **To register, call 718.548.0912 on September 15 and leave a message.**

Brooklyn

Neighborhood Walking Tour Series / Clinton Hill 10 a.m. / Meet at the corner of Lafayette Ave. and Claremont Ave. A brand new addition to our popular neighborhood walking tours: Clinton Hill and its historic district. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Tour will last about 2 hours.

Fall Harvest Dance / Marine Park 3 p.m. / SMNC Join the Brooklyn Dance Center Dancers for an outdoor performance expressing the shade & colors of the harvest season.

Manhattan

"The Works" North / Central Park 11 a.m. / Belvedere Castle Put on your walking shoes as we hike the northern half of Central Park. We'll zigzag from east to west, discovering everything from streams and waterfalls to flowers and trees.

Queens

The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: Native and Exotic Plants / Fort Totten 10 a.m. / Meet at entrance to Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy.

Find out how exotic plants take root away from their home, what makes them succeed, and why their success often comes at the expense of wildlife diversity.

GEMS OF QUEENS SERIES:

Dubos Point Park 11 a.m. / Meet at B. 65 St. and Bayfield Ave. Named in honor of environmentalists Dr. Rene and Jean Dubos, this 33-acre sanctuary is the largest salt marsh on the north shore of Rockaway Peninsula east of Rockaway Point. Considered a stop along the Atlantic Flyway, Dubos is an excellent place to see migratory birds.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

Park Pickup / Blue Heron Park 10 a.m. / BBNC

Give Mother Nature a hand by removing what doesn't belong. Gloves and bags provided. Wear boots.

Staten Island Bigfoot / Arden Woods 1 p.m. / Meet at Arden Ave. and Forest Green Do you have the courage to investigate the park with the most "Bigfoot" sightings? Hike through the woods in search of this, and other wildlife.

Thursday, September 25

Lawn Chair Theater / Marine Park 7:30 p.m. / SMNC Featured movie will be "Field of Dreams." Call 718.421.2021 for more information.

Saturday, September 27

Bronx

Early Birding / Van Cortlandt Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave.

Brooklyn

Brooklyn-Manhattan Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 9 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 Manhattan. Transportation provided. **To register, call 718.421.2021.**

Saturday, September 27 cont'd

Leaf Printing / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Arts and crafts for kids under 12.

Holding Down the Fort / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC See July 26 listing.

Manhattan

Camp Out! / Inwood Hill Park 6 p.m. / IHNC See July 26 listing. **To register, please call 212.304.2365 on Sept. 15.**

Brooklyn-Manhattan Birding Big Day Out / Prospect Park 9 a.m. / Meeting location TBA See Brooklyn listing above.

Queens

Fall Migration Weekend / Highland Park 9 a.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton St. Many birds fly south every autumn in preparation for the upcoming winter. The Rangers will conduct a bird census, so we're "counting" on you to come.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the Fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

Early Birding / Lemon Creek Park 9 a.m. / Meet in parking lot at end of Seguine Ave.

PARK TO PARK:

Red Trail / Greenbelt 11 a.m. / Meet at Richmond Rd. and St. Patrick's Pl. Visit historic Richmond Town before the trek over Heyerdahl Hill and through Buck's Hollow, as we explore ravines, forests, and meadows.

Sunday, September 28

Bronx

Hawk-Watch / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / PBRs Pelham Bay is a hot spot for viewing migrating raptors. Come check it out with the Rangers.

Brooklyn

Spanning Time / Brooklyn Bridge 10 a.m. / Meet at Brooklyn Borough Hall (Cadman Plaza W. and Joralemon St.) Stroll the historic Brooklyn Bridge, enjoy the view, and learn all about the beginnings of greater New York City. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Tour will last approximately 2 hours & end in Manhattan's City Hall Park.

Explore the Ravine / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet at the Picnic House Visit the last standing forest in Brooklyn on this guided tour of one of Prospect Park's most secluded and rustic areas.

Manhattan

Ranger Theater Presents / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Join the Ranger puppeteers for an afternoon of fun.

Trees on the River's Side / Riverside Park 12 p.m. / Meet at the south end of the 101 St. soccer fields Put on your walking shoes and enjoy a tree identification walk.

Queens

Fall Migration Weekend / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Mauro Playground (Park Dr. East and 73 Terr.) See September 27 listing.

History of Fort Totten / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / Meet at entrance to the fort, north of intersection of 212 St. and Cross Island Pkwy. See July 6 listing.

Staten Island

HISTORY CLUB:

Alice Austen House / Alice Austen Park

11 a.m. / Meet at Hylan Blvd. and Edgewater St. Come visit the residence of the famous Staten Island photographer.