

Outdoors

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2010

in New York City



Includes
CALENDAR OF
URBAN PARK RANGER
FREE PROGRAMS

©Mural production by Susan Crabtree | Archaic Period Scene | Collection of the Staten Island Museum

Message from: John Haworth, director of the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, the George Gustav Heye Center



Home to more Native Americans than any other U.S. city, New York is strengthened by the rich cultures of hundreds of indigenous nations—from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. Native peoples are a vital part of the city's vibrancy, expression, and diversity. I am delighted that the New York City Urban Park Rangers are celebrating Native American cultures this season.

As director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New

York, I am also very proud to invite everyone to our new permanent exhibit, **"Infinity of Nations,"** opening October 23. With some 700 dazzling objects from prehistory to the present day, this exhibition will give all New Yorkers a chance to learn about the rich cultures of Native people throughout North, Central, and South America. The exhibition will be a terrific educational resource for the city, providing an expansive overview of Native America for visitors, tourists, and school groups. Everyone will be able to experience the diversity of indigenous nations through some of the most historically significant and greatest artistic masterpieces of the collection.

Opening with a stunning display of headdresses from ten different regions throughout the Americas, "Infinity of Nations" will also include clothing associated with such great Native leaders as Osceola (Seminole) and Crazy Horse (Oglala Lakota); 2,000-year-old duck decoys found in a Nevada cave; a detailed Mayan relief depicting a ballplayer; and a rare, complete Anishinaabe man's outfit.

The exhibition also marks a new season of public programming at the museum under the banner **"Celebrating Latin America!"** Special, free events include our annual **Day of the Dead** celebration (October 30); the **Cultural Survival Bazaar** (November 13); and a special performance by the **Quechua Scissor Dance of Peru** (November 20).

And remember, the National Museum of the American Indian is open every day and it's free! Located in the beautiful Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, the museum can be found at One Bowling Green, near Battery Park, and easily accessible by transit.

I look forward to welcoming everyone to this landmark exhibition and our exciting performances and family events. I also encourage you and your families to participate in some of the free Native American programs offered this fall by the Urban Park Rangers. Discover our collective heritage, right here in New York City.

For more information about the museum, please visit www.AmericanIndian.si.edu.

Outdoor News

NEW YORK CITY YOUTH STRETCH THEIR IMAGINATIONS AT IMAGINATION PLAYGROUND AT BURLING SLIP

On July 27, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and architect David Rockwell opened **Imagination Playground** at Burling Slip, an innovative play space conceived and designed pro-bono by Mr. Rockwell to encourage child-directed, unstructured free play. With a focus on loose parts, **Imagination Playground** offers a changing array of elements that allows children to constantly reconfigure their environment and to design their own course of play. The Mayor and Mr. Rockwell were joined by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Borough President Scott Stringer, Council Member Margaret Chin, Community Board 1 Chair Julie Menin, and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe.

Imagination Playground provides a flexible environment for many types of play, rather than prescribed activities, through three key components: an open multi-level space with large sand and water features; a huge array of loose parts, essentially a variety of toys and tools; and trained staff on-site who maintain and manage the site. These elements enable children to play in an intuitive way: build something, tear it down, and start all over again. In addition to giving the playground design to New York City, Rockwell Group is raising, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, an endowment fund to ensure that **Imagination Playground** is properly maintained for decades to come.

The project was made possible by a \$4.5 million grant from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), which is funded through Community Development Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also provided \$3 million for the relocation of two water mains and a sewer line into the adjacent street. The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) played an instrumental role in coordinating this project, including giving up its parking lot as the site for the playground.

Rockwell Group's design and efforts have resulted in a playground that captures Burling Slip and South Street Seaport's rich maritime and commercial history, with elements such as a



© Photo: Daniel Avila / NYC Parks & Recreation

cascading water channel, a climbing rope, masts and pulleys, and a lookout ramp with telescopes. The built landscape also incorporates amphitheater seating and a "crow's nest" that has a double function as a storage unit for the playground's loose parts.

For more information about Imagination Playground, visit www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311.

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Outdoors

in New York City

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RANGER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

New York City's Urban Park Rangers are as unique and diverse as the city they serve. Such is the case with Ranger Alberto Correa, who works in Ft. Totten, Queens. He is a Native American and the Rangers' resident expert on Native American history and customs. We spent a few minutes getting to know Ranger Correa, this issue's **Ranger in the Spotlight**:



How long have you been an Urban Park Ranger?

I've worked with the Urban Park Rangers since May 23, 2005. I started out as a Fellowship Ranger working at the Orchard Beach Nature Center in Pelham Bay Park. After that summer I was hired as a full-time Urban Park Ranger and stationed at Fort Greene Park. I have since been

stationed in four of the five boroughs and continue to learn about New York City's parks, natural environments, and hidden treasures every day.

What do you enjoy most about being a Ranger?

As an Urban Park Ranger I can come as close to living a traditional Native American lifestyle as anyone can hope to in an urban environment. Being a park ranger allows me to act as a steward of our environment, interact with wildlife on a daily basis, and explore natural areas within our parks. These activities allow park rangers to gain intimate knowledge of the flora and fauna found within NYC, which we then pass on to the public through our educational programs.



What is your relationship to the Native American community?

I am Taino and descended from the indigenous people of the western hemisphere. The Tainos are the Native American groups who in historic times encountered Christopher Columbus in the Caribbean. I also lived for three years with family and friends on the Oneida Indian Territory, a reservation in Central New York. The Oneida belong to the Iroquois Confederacy, which also includes the Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.



What are some of the ways you celebrate your Native heritage?

I celebrate my native heritage by participating in dancing and singing at Native American gatherings such as powwows and Arietos in the United States and abroad. Some Native American gatherings are organized to celebrate social occasions (e.g., birthdays, marriages), while others may be ceremonial in nature and held in observance of seasonal and celestial events (e.g., equinoxes, plantings, harvestings, hunting).

In what ways have you been able to incorporate Native American history/culture into your educational programs?

I've incorporated Native American elements into my programs through storytelling, music, dance, arts, crafts, and the interpretation of artifacts and cultural items. One of my favorite stories to tell is the flute story while accompanied by the flute music of Ranger Rob Mastrianni. Also, I have worn my grass dance regalia (ceremonial clothing) and have performed for the public on many occasions. Many of these activities were used by Native Americans as a way of passing on cultural norms and values while teaching their audience about the importance of the plants and animals that appear in these stories. I am fortunate to be able to say that I continue this long-held oral tradition as an Urban Park Ranger.

What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?

In my spare time I spend time with my family and travel the powwow trail, visit historic sites, and camp. I also assist the Red Storm Drum and Dance Troupe and the New York branch of the Concilio Taino Guatuma-Cu A Boriken in the development of cultural events, activities, and workshops. In the past I have served as a cultural director for the Red Hawk Native American Arts Council and contributed articles to United Confederation of Taino Peoples Publications. Some of my hobbies include outdoor pursuits such as skateboarding and hiking. I also spend time working with the Lambda Iota Upsilon Fraternity—a fraternity I helped establish at SUNY Delhi College.

What is your favorite New York City park and why?

Pelham Bay Park is my favorite park for so many reasons. Not only is it NYC's largest park, it is practically my backyard since I was raised in the Eastchester section of the Bronx. Its natural beauty retains much of the area's original character, which dates back to the time the Wiechquesquack, a Lenape subgroup who spoke an eastern Algonquin dialect, inhabited the area. Pelham Bay Park is situated in the Bronx, which is the only one of the five boroughs attached to the continental United States, and is home to deer, coyotes, turkeys, eastern cottontail rabbits, raccoons, and so much more. History buffs can explore a Revolutionary War site or visit the old Bartow-Pell estate. There is so much to discover in Pelham Bay Park.



ABOVE: National Museum of the American Indian in New York

Urban Park Rangers EXPLORER PROGRAMS

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

Arts and Culture



See, hear, and participate in crafts, poetry, writing, dance, acting, readings, photography, and open microphone nights in our beautiful parks and nature centers.

Birding



Learn everything you need to know about birds. Programs highlight different bird types, special park areas, and seasonal highlights.

Camping



Enjoy a night sleeping under the stars in New York City. Space is limited! Programs require RESERVATIONS. Visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/reservations for more information.

Canoeing



Learn to canoe and explore New York City's waterways. First-come, first-served, unless otherwise noted. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen, and a snack. Ages 8 and up. Be prepared to get wet.

Fishing



Catch a fish! Freshwater and saltwater fishing available. Equipment provided, catch and release only. The NYSDEC requires a fishing license for everyone 16 years of age and older. To find out more information on how to obtain a fishing license visit dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html.

Hiking & Biking



Adventure and leisure hikes and bike rides. Nature walks, historic tours, and greenbelt rides.

History



Learn about the important role of our parkland in New York City history and hear the fantastic stories the Urban Park Rangers have to tell.

Kids' Activities



Join us for a variety of children-centered activities. Nature crafts, sing-a-longs, play dates, storytime, and more! Check for special out-of-school and vacation programs. Visit our PARKIDS NYC website at www.nyc.gov/parks/kids/ to find fun online kids' activities.

Nature Exploration



Learn about plants, wildlife, or stars in the sky. Bring binoculars if you have them, and a flashlight for evening programs.

Special Events



Our Special Events celebrate nature and are great fun for all ages!

Survival & Orienteering



Learn to survive in the wild. From using a map and compass to knot-tying and shelter-building, the Rangers have workshops to help you safely enjoy your outdoor experiences.

MillionTreesNYC



A citywide initiative to plant and care for one million new trees in New York City by 2017.

Adventure Course



The Alley Pond Park Adventure Course features ropes course activities that promote team-building and problem-solving skills. Free public programs on Sundays through November. Visit nyc.gov/adventurecourse for more information.



RANGER STATIONS & NATURE CENTERS



BRONX

Crotona Nature Center, seasonal (CNC): Crotona Park. Enter the park at Charlotte St. & Crotona Park East. 718.378.2061

Orchard Beach Nature Center, seasonal (OBNC): Pelham Bay Park. Section 2 of Orchard Beach. 718.885.3466

Pelham Bay Ranger Station (PBRs): Pelham Bay Park. Bruckner Blvd. & Wilkinson Ave. 718.885.3467

Van Cortlandt Nature Center (VCNC): Van Cortlandt Park. Enter the park at W. 246th St. & Broadway. 718.548.0912



BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center (SMNC): Marine Park. East 33rd St. & Avenue U. 718.421.2021

Fort Greene Visitor Center (FGVC): Fort Greene Park. Enter the park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. 718.722.3218

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle (BC): Central Park. 79th St., mid-park. 212.628.2345

Dana Discovery Center (DDC): Central Park. 110th St. & Lenox Ave. 212.860.1376

Inwood Hill Nature Center (IHNC): Inwood Hill Park. Enter park at W. 218th St. & Indian Road. 212.304.2365 or 212.304.3401

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center (APPAC): Alley Pond Park. Enter at Winchester Blvd., under the Grand Central Parkway. 718.217.6034 or 718.217.4685

Forest Park Visitor Center (FPVC): Forest Park. Woodhaven Blvd. & Forest Park Drive. 718.846.2731

Fort Totten Visitors Center (FTVC): Fort Totten Park. Enter park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212th St. & Cross Island Pkwy. and follow signs. 718.352.1769

STATEN ISLAND



Blue Heron Nature Center (BHNC): Blue Heron Park. 222 Poillon Avenue, between Amboy Road & Hylan Boulevard. 718.967.3542

High Rock Ranger Station (HRRS): High Rock Park. Park in the lot at the end of Nevada Avenue, off Rockland Ave., and follow signs. 718.667.6042



Bronx

From the splendors of fall foliage to the thrills of the outdoors at night, the Bronx Rangers will introduce you to all that the borough has to offer.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



Van Cortlandt Birding Club: Air Traffic / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / VCNC The avian flyway spans the Atlantic coast this time of year.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3



Hawk Migration on the Landfill / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRs This special bird walk will feature the hawk migration as they stop to "fuel up" in Pelham Bay Park on the way back to their warm winter homes. Bring your own binoculars if you have them.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9



Urban Sustainability Series: Adventure Gardening! / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC This kick-off program of our new series focuses on food gardening in tight city spaces and using everyday items to do so.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10



Canoe the Lagoon / Pelham Bay 12 p.m. / Canoe and Kayak Launch (northwest corner of Orchard Beach parking lot) Paddle through the sparkling blue waters and green marsh grass of the Pelham Bay Lagoon. Ages 8 and older. First-come, first-served.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16



Native American Medicine / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Did the Lenape Indians have medicine? What plants did they use from the pharmacy Nature created?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17



Native Americans and Settlers of Pelham Bay Park / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion, 895 Shore Road Trace the history of Pelham Bay Park from the Native Americans to the colonial settlers and former landowners. We'll examine the cultures and lifestyles of these past inhabitants.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23



MillionTrees NYC Fall Planting Day / 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Locations Citywide Help make NYC greener by volunteering to plant trees citywide! Planting projects will be held in parks in all five boroughs. Visit milliontreesnyc.org if you are interested in volunteering.



Fall Colors / Seton Falls Park 1 p.m. / 233rd Street and Baychester Avenue In the second of our autumn leaf walks, we'll hike the newly restored Seton Falls Park and see what colors it has to offer.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24



Fall Bike Tour / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRs The Bronx parks system is as diverse as the borough itself. Beginning at Pelham Bay Park, we'll bike the Greenways to Van Cortlandt Park on this one-way trip. Pack a lunch and water.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30



Fall Scavenger Hunt / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC Search for and identify items found in nature. Prizes awarded. Ages 12 and under.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31



Halloween Eco-Crafts / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC There's spooky stuff out there! Get creepy and creative with natural objects. Bring the kids!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6



Van Cortlandt Birding Club: The Woodpeckers / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / VCNC Try to find all three kinds in the park—downy, hairy, and red-bellied woodpeckers.



Hike the John Muir Trail / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / Broadway and Mosholu Avenue Celebrate the Scotsman who is "the father of conservation in America." As we lead you from the west to the east side of the park on the John Muir trail, Scottish bagpipes will help us keep a leisurely pace.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13



Urban Sustainability Series: Green Roofing / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC It's all about the soil! Green roofs have great benefits in the urban jungle; we'll discuss what they are, how they work, and how to decide whether it's right for your building.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14



The Hudson River: Past, Present, and Future / Riverdale 11 a.m. / 232nd Street on south-bound service road of Henry Hudson Parkway The Indians called it the "river that flows both ways." European settlers wondered at its beauty, used its abundant resources, and forever altered the formerly pristine landscape. Find out what makes each of the 315 miles of the Hudson River so special.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20



Native American Harvest / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Autumn was a time for the Lenape to harvest and prepare for the cold months.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21



Walk Like an Animal / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC Can you jump as far as a coyote or run as fast as a mouse? Learn about the adaptations of native animals by playing fun games. Ages 12 and under.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27



Post-Turkey Day Super Hike / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Tortoise & Hare Statue on Broadway Work off those extra helpings of stuffing and potatoes on this long hike.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28



Winter Waterfowl / Pelham Bay Park 12 p.m. / OBNC Explore the salt marsh at Orchard Beach as we search for ducks and other waterfowl of the Bronx. Bring your own binoculars if you have them.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4



Van Cortlandt Birding Club: Bird Feeders / Van Cortlandt Park 8 a.m. / VCNC Learn the best ways to help birds out during harsh winter months!




Siwanoy Trail Adventure: Anne Hutchinson and the Native Americans / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / Bartow-Pell Mansion Learn about the first peace treaty between the Siwanoy people and the European colonists on a walk through woodlands and wetlands of the former Bartow-Pell estate.




Bronx


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

-  **Urban Sustainability Series: Indoor Herbs / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** Extend the growing season in your room, apartment, or house.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

-  **Seal Shore Safari / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / OBNC** Discover the many different creatures that live close to the shore—including seals! Dress warmly.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

-  **Native American Pathways / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC** For thousands of years before European settlers arrived, the New York City region was home to the indigenous Lenape people.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

-  **How Animals Survive the Winter / Crotona Park 2 p.m. / CNC** Migration and hibernation are two methods used by some animals to survive periods of cold weather. Learn about the physical and behavioral adaptations native wildlife have evolved to survive the winters.
-  **Solstice Party with Jody Kruskal's Band / Van Cortlandt Park 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. / Golf House, enter park at Bailey Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South** Dance away the cold while listening to lakeside concertina music. Then take a night walk on the old Putnam railroad tracks. Last year's walk featured a serenade by a flock of honking waterfowl!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

-  **Whoooo Said That? / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC** Winter is the best time to see wild owls in New York City so don't miss this opportunity. Bring your own binoculars if you have them.

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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



Austin Cultural Forum



Prett Institute



This fall, take a walk back in time to experience the American Revolution, architectural marvels, and more. The Brooklyn Rangers will be your guides as you explore Kings County.

Brooklyn



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

Discover Tour: The Living Log / Prospect Park 3 p.m. / Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road Let the Urban Park Rangers show you how much life there is inside that "dead" log. Co-sponsored by the Prospect Park Audubon Center.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

Who, Who, Who...Did I Eat? / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Discover what owls eat as we dissect owl pellets.

Scavenger Hunt / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Follow the clues to victory as you wander all around the park. All ages welcomed.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

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

Open House New York: Prison Ship Martyrs Monument / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / FGVC Get an up-close view of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, commemorating the deaths of over 10,000 patriots of the American Revolutionary War.

Animal Tracks / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Come discover how to tell who's been visiting our park by making your own animal track field guide.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10



Open House New York: Prison Ship Martyrs Monument / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / FGVC See October 9 listing.

Learn Your Little Brown Birds! / Marine Park 12 p.m. / SMNC Explore the differences between song sparrows, swamp sparrows, and all the other little brown birds.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

Thursday Night Lecture Series: Symbols in Stone / Marine Park 7 p.m. / SMNC Discover the meanings of the symbols and iconography reflected in the thousands of grave markers and monuments of historic Greenwood Cemetery.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

Halloween Festival / Marine Park 12 p.m. / SMNC Enjoy a day of costumes, games, and pumpkins. It's time for the Marine Park Civic Association's annual Halloween event.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Raptor Rap / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC We're talking all about hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons. Dissect owl pellets, make bird crafts, then go for a nature walk and try to spot Olmsted, Fort Greene's resident red-tailed hawk.

Autumn Splendor Fall Foliage Walk / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Picnic House, West Drive and Third Street Explore the colors that autumn brings to this park.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

MillionTrees NYC Fall Planting Day / 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Locations Citywide Help make NYC greener by volunteering to plant trees citywide! Planting projects will be held in parks in all five boroughs. Visit milliontreesnyc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Creatures of the Night Hike / Prospect Park 6:30 p.m. / Picnic House, West Drive and Third Street Explore Prospect Park after dark as we go in search of the wildlife that comes out when the sun goes down.



It's My Park Day / Fort Greene Park 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. / FGVC Get your hands dirty as you help to keep Fort Greene one of the most beautiful parks in the city. To RSVP and learn more about Fort Greene Park Volunteers call the Visitor Center at 718.722.3218.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

History Club: Gravesend Cemetery Tour / Gravesend Cemetery 11 a.m. / Meet outside the Cemetery east of McDonald Avenue on Gravesend Neck Road Visit the rarely opened Gravesend Cemetery, one of Brooklyn's oldest. Search for the familiar names of the families who established Brooklyn.

Journey through Time: Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC This edition of our popular walking tour will showcase the park and the surrounding neighborhood. We'll be taking a peek inside the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 cont'd

Halloween Festival / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Dekalb Lawn, Dekalb Avenue and Washington Park Street Explore the world of creepy creatures at the Ranger table and partake in the rest of Fort Greene's Halloween Festival. Rain Date: Sunday, October 31.



Nature Journaling: Salt Marsh in Autumn / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Experience the marsh in autumn and document your discoveries in this tour of the newly restored Salt Marsh Nature Trail.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Creepy Crawly Creatures / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. / Dekalb Lawn, Dekalb Avenue and Washington Park Street Learn the myths and facts about creepy crawly creatures.

Park Ranger Costume Contest and Pumpkin Carving / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Is your costume as cool as our uniform? Wear your best Park Ranger costume and then stay for an afternoon of pumpkin carving. Prizes awarded for best costumes. Ages 12 and under.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

Hike the Midwood / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road Discover the beauty of the Midwood section of Prospect Park and learn about its wildlife as we stroll along the newly constructed nature trails. Wear comfortable shoes and dress weather appropriately.



Colonial Games / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / FGVC Our founding fathers were once children, too! Learn the true meaning of playing "old school" games.




SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Lenape Lives Along the Creek / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Explore the world of the Lenape people who first called the area of Marine Park home. Discover how they lived and survived in the pristine ecosystem prior to the arrival of the first Dutch settlers.

Brooklyn





SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13


-  **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **Gobble, Gobble Turkey Talk / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Come in for an afternoon discussion about this unique bird and create your own turkey craft. Ages 12 and under.
-  **Star Gazing / Fort Greene Park 5 p.m. / FGVC** Observe heavenly bodies with the Amateur Astronomy Association of New York. Weather permitting.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14





-  **Bridge and Arch Tour / Prospect Park 11 a.m. / Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road** Take a stroll and look at the architecture put in place by park designers Olmstead and Vaux to give the park a more spacious feel. Wear comfortable shoes and dress weather appropriately.
-  **Journey through Time: Bay Ridge / John Paul Jones Park 11 a.m. / Meet at the Monument at 101st Street and 4th Avenue** Discover a hidden cemetery, a gingerbread house, two girls' schools with shady pasts, and a few other secrets.


SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20

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




-  **Children's Hour / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Bring the kids for an afternoon of nature-inspired arts and crafts.
-  **Journey through Time: McCarren to McGolrick / McCarren Park 1 p.m. / Bedford and North 12th Street** Traverse through time and space on a walk from McCarren Park to McGolrick Park and discover their past, present, and future.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

-  **Giving Thanks / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC** Native Americans have given us far more than we realize. Explore NYC as it was before the arrival of European settlers and learn about the contributions Native Americans have made.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 cont'd

-  **History Club: Brooklyn Movie Theaters / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** This month's focus is on Brooklyn's past and present movie theaters. Join us for a discussion and slide show presentation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

-  **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **New York City's Wildlife / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC** New York City might be known for its wild nightlife, but that would be news to the wildlife that call our city home. Lecture followed by a walk around the park.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

-  **Journey through Time: Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC** See October 24 listing.
-  **Discover Tour: Winter Survival / Prospect Park 3 p.m. / Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road** Come exploring with us on a nature hike that will focus on the winter adaptations used by resident animals to survive the winter. Co-sponsored by the Prospect Park Audubon Center.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

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




-  **Colonial Living / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. / FGVC** Learn about the foods, clothing, games, and weapons of our Founding Fathers.
-  **Forever Evergreen / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Wollman Rink, Parking Lot and East Drive** Find out why some trees stay green all year.


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

-  **Children's Hour: Nature Scrapbooking / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Bring the kids for an afternoon of creating nature-themed scrapbooks. All materials provided. Ages 12 and under.
-  **History of Playgrounds / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Play equipment has come a long way. From the first ball fields to today's high-tech developments, learn the history and evolution of our playgrounds.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

-  **Santa at the Marsh / Marine Park 11 a.m. / SMNC** Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa is back for his annual visit to the Salt Marsh. Join him for an afternoon of holiday cheer. Children can pose for a free photo with Santa and tell him if they've been naughty or nice. Co-sponsored by the Marine Park Civic Association.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 cont'd

-  **Winter Games / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Get your body ready for holiday dinners or work out your shopping frustrations by participating in the Fort Greene Park Winter Games. Events include sack and three-legged races, team flying-disc golf, an ice cube hunt, and sled racing (weather permitting). All ages welcomed.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

-  **Winter Waterfowl / Marine Park 11 a.m. / SMNC** Discover which birds make Marine Park their home during the winter. This is a great chance to see ducks, geese, and other waterfowl.
-  **Forensic Flora & Fauna / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Bugs, plants, and animals have all helped solve crimes. Discover just how sharp Mother Nature's detective skills are.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18


-  **Early Birding / Marine Park 8 a.m. / SMNC**
-  **Origami Ornaments / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC** Create holiday decorations using the ancient art of Japanese paper folding.
-  **Winter Nature Crafts for Kids / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Make your own holiday gifts for someone special to you. Ages 4-12.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19





-  **Christmas Bird Count / Fort Greene Park 8 a.m. / FGVC** Calling all bird enthusiasts! Whether it's your first time or you're an avid birder, come log which birds can be seen in the park.
-  **Winter Raptor Watch / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Picnic House West Drive and Third Street** Search for Prospect Park's top predators. This is your chance to see hawks, eagles, and falcons.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

-  **Journey through Time: Fort Greene / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC** See October 24 listing.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

-  **Lenape Legends / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC** Listen to the folktales and traditional stories that the Native Americans in our region passed down from generation to generation. Native American storytelling followed by crafts for children ages 3-12.
-  **Discover Tour: Winter Tree I.D. / Prospect Park 3 p.m. / Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road** Venture into the Ravine and learn to identify trees without the benefit of using their leaves as field marks. Co-sponsored by the Prospect Park Audubon Center.

We kick off the fall season with our annual flight of fancy, the Raptor Fest in Central Park. There will be flight demonstrations, educational activities, and more. Come check it out!

Manhattan



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



Raptor Fest / Central Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Great Hill, enter on W 106th Street and Central Park West Learn all about birds of prey at our annual flight of fancy. Hawks, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey will be on hand for flight demonstrations and more!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

Harvest Day / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC Corn, beans, and squash...oh my! Learn about the stories and tastes of traditional Native American agriculture. A flavorful day awaits you!



Budding Writers: Nature-Inspired Part I / Central Park 1 p.m. / Hallett Nature Sanctuary, meet at Gapstow Bridge at 59th Street Pond In the first of this 2-part series, we will lead you through writing exercises inspired by nature in multiple park locations. Experiment with stream of consciousness writing, creative writing, and more.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9



Open House New York: Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument / Riverside Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. / W 89th Street and Riverside Drive Visit this temple-like monument that commemorates Union Army soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War. The monument will be open all afternoon but please join us for guided tours of the plaza at 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 cont'd



Unlocking the Little Red Lighthouse / Fort Washington Park 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Enter at W 181st Street and Plaza Lafayette The story of that brave lighthouse and the great gray bridge lives on. Explore this landmark and climb to the top for a scenic view!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Open House New York: The Arsenal / Central Park 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Arsenal, inside the park at E 64th Street and Fifth Avenue Presently the headquarters for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, among the Arsenal's treasures are WPA lobby murals, original drawings of Central Park, and roof gardens with spectacular views. Guided tours will be given throughout the day.



Natural History Walk / Highbridge Park 1 p.m. / W 174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue Journey through this remarkable park and learn all about its natural history.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Astronomy Lecture Series I / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC Come join NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Jason Kendall on a monthly exploration of the cosmos. Each presentation will discuss current topics in astronomy, featuring news from the latest NASA missions. Suitable for adults and kids 12 and up, the lecture-presentations will be kicked off with a song from Donna Stearns and the Big Bangers.

Starfest 2010 / Central Park 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. / Sheep Meadow, enter at W 67th Street and Central Park West Join the Amateur Astronomers Association for an evening of stargazing in Central Park's Sheep Meadow, free from the glare of local city lighting. Telescopes and viewing equipment will be provided. Cloud Date: Sunday, October 17.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Native American Ethnobotany / Central Park 3 p.m. / Hallett Nature Sanctuary, meet at Gapstow Bridge at the 59th Street Pond The forests of Manhattan provided the Lenape people with many natural resources vital to their survival. Learn about the surprising medicinal and cultural uses of common plants by Native American peoples.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

MillionTrees NYC Fall Planting Day / 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Locations Citywide Help make NYC greener by volunteering to plant trees citywide! Planting projects will be held in parks in all five boroughs. Visit milliontreesnyc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31



Haunted House on the Hill / Inwood Hill Park 6 – 10 p.m. / IHNC Come celebrate Halloween Ranger-style...if you dare! The Nature Center gets overtaken by haunted creatures and surprises around each corner. Feel free to wear your costume to celebrate this magical night.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Kids' Movie Matinee / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Bring the family and enjoy a movie matinee. To register, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on October 27.



Fairy House Walk / Central Park 1 p.m. / BC Take a magical walk through the Ramble woods and explore some of the smaller forms of life in the park, from lichens and mushrooms to snails. At the end of the journey participants can create their own nature-inspired fairy dwellings.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Veterans' Day at Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument / Riverside Park 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / W 89th Street and Riverside Drive Visit this temple-like monument commemorating Union Army soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War. The monument will be open all afternoon for visitors to enjoy.

Manhattan



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13



Migration Bingo / Central Park 10 a.m. / BC Add species to your "year and life" lists while also working to mark off a row of migrants on your bingo card. All ages welcome and prizes awarded for the first Bingo!!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14



Fall Foliage Hike / Fort Tryon Park 11 a.m. / Margaret Corbin Circle, northernmost end of Fort Washington Avenue Why travel upstate when you have colorful views of fall foliage right in your own backyard? Put on your hiking boots for a fast-paced trek through this scenic and historic park. Bring a camera to take in the views at our pit-stops around the park.



Blind Nature Walk / Central Park 1 p.m. / DDC Sense the natural world as you never have before.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20



Astronomy Lecture Series II / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC See October 16 listing.



Fun with Fungus / Central Park 11 a.m. / Wild West Playground, W 96th Street and Central Park West Learn the basics of mycology as we search for mushrooms around the park and have some fun with fungus.



Native American History / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC Long before the Europeans arrived, Manhattan was home to the Lenape people. Inwood Hill Park is one of NYC's best sites for interpreting their history.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21



Compost Workshop / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC Meet at the Community Compost Center to learn how you can be "green" and compost your kitchen scraps! Bring your food waste to add to our bins and learn about the wonderful process of decomposition.



Beginner Nature Drawing / Riverside Park 1 p.m. / W 116th Street and Riverside Drive Disconnect from the noise and distractions of busy city life, pick up a pencil and paper, and discover the park through drawing. Previous experience not necessary; materials provided.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27



Tracking Wildlife / Highbridge Park 12 p.m. / W 158th Street and Edgemcombe Avenue Animals leave distinctive tracks and other traces as they travel through our parks. Learn the Native American tracking skills and then use them to discover what critters are around us.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28



Budding Writers: Nature-Inspired Part II / Washington Square Park 1 p.m. / Fifth Avenue and Washington Square North See October 3 listing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4



Native American Ethnobotany / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC The forest of Inwood Hill Park provided the Lenape tribe with many natural resources vital to their survival. Learn about the vibrant Native American history and the ethnobotany of this unique park.



Native American Games / Central Park 2 p.m. / BC Venture into Central Park's Ramble to learn and play some traditional Native American games. All ages welcome to join the fun!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5



Meet the Critters / Inwood Hill Park 11 a.m. / IHNC Are you brave enough to hold a snake? How about an insect? Meet the animals that live at the Nature Center and learn about life in and around the park!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11



Kids' Movie Matinee / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC See November 6 listing. To register, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on December 1.



Castle by Candlelight / Central Park 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. / BC Enjoy a magical evening of exploring Belvedere Castle by candlelight.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12



Hiking / Central Park 11 a.m. / Doris Freedman Plaza, E 60th Street and Fifth Avenue Come out and enjoy a long, beautiful hike through the park with like-minded outdoorsy and nature-loving people.



Festive Fall Crafts / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Find out what you can create with nature's bounty for a holiday centerpiece to take home.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18



Astronomy Lecture Series III / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC See October 16 listing.



Winter Nature Art / Central Park 3 p.m. / BC It's fun for all ages when we recycle and reuse natural pieces to create wonderful and temporary winter art. Program will be outside; dress for the elements.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19



Compost Workshop / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / IHNC See November 21 listing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25



Holiday Nature Crafts / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC Warm up on this festive day by getting your creative juices flowing!



Queens

Queens is full of history. Enjoy tours of Flushing Meadows, Fort Totten Park, and more.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



Nature's Paintbrush / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / FTVC Get creative with all that nature has left behind during this autumn season. Children become artists while learning all about this colorful season.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3



Warbler Watch / Forest Park 9 a.m. / FPVC They may be small, but warblers leave a big impression when you see their brilliant colors. You'll have a front row seat watching warblers head south on their annual migration.

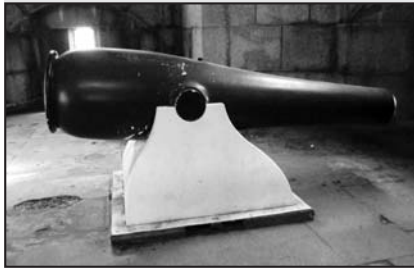


Fall Migration / Oakland Lake Park 10 a.m. / Entrance of the park at 46th Avenue and Cloverdale Boulevard It's that time of year again—many birds are heading south in preparation for the upcoming winter. See if you can spot them in the sky.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9



Open House New York: Trolley Tour / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. / Calvert Circle, just east of the Grand Central Parkway, just south of Roosevelt Avenue Hop aboard a trolley and take a tour of the park that Robert Moses made famous. One-hour tours start at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. To register, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on September 29.



Open House New York: Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate, intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway Tour the historic water battery and grounds of this military base built in 1862 to defend the eastern approach of New York Harbor from attack. Learn about the varied military roles assigned to the fort over the years as well as its uses today.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10



Solid as a Rock: The Old Fort / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC Explore the nineteenth-century fortress that helped protect New York Harbor from possible naval attack and learn about the history of Willet's Point.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16



Astronomy Day / Fort Totten 7 p.m. / FTVC Stargazers of all ages and experience are invited to celebrate this worldwide occasion. Equipment provided. You are welcome to bring your own telescope. Weather permitting.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17



Native American Tribes / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTVC By the year 1643, there were 13 different Native American tribes living in the area now known as Queens and Long Island. Learn all about the customs and culture of our area's earliest inhabitants.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23



MillionTrees NYC Fall Planting Day / 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Locations Citywide Help make NYC greener by volunteering to plant trees citywide! Planting projects will be held in parks in all five boroughs. Visit milliontreesnyc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24



Fall Migration / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. / Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73 Terrace See October 3 listing.



Solid as a Rock: The Old Fort / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC See October 10 listing.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29



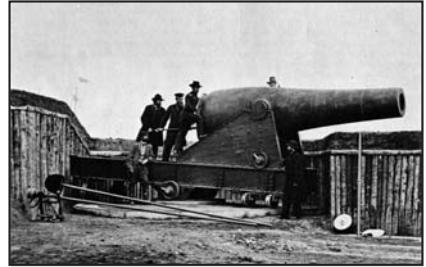
Thriller at the Battery / Fort Totten Park 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / FTVC Every Halloween, a haunted shipwreck brings ghosts and ghouls to the historic Battery. Bring your flashlight, but leave your fear at home.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30



Denizens of the Dark / Cunningham Park 6 p.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street Search for owls, raccoons, and other denizens of the dark on this after-hours visit. Bring your flashlight.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 cont'd



Thriller at the Battery / Fort Totten Park 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / FTVC See October 29 listing.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31



Haunted Hike / Forest Park 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. / FPVC We dare you to join us on this surprise-filled walk in the woods. It'll make you scared of things that go bump in the night.



Fright Flight / Alley Pond Park 4 p.m. / APPAC Ever wonder what it feels like to soar like a ghost? Enjoy an evening with adventure and fright at Alley Pond Park Adventure Course. Open to ages 8 and up. Space is limited. Registration required. To register, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register on October 20.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6



Fall Migration / Idlewild Park 11 a.m. / 223rd Street and 148th Avenue See October 3 listing.



Fall Foliage / Crocheron Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot, intersection of 33rd Avenue and 214 Place Visit this little-known park in search of colorful remainders from fall foliage season. A mix of light and dark shades will paint a lasting picture in your head you won't soon forget.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7



Nature Know-It-All / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / FTVC Are you a nature know-it-all? Come enjoy game show-style trivia. Children will be put to the test in nature and other areas of expertise to see how they size up against their friendly local Park Ranger. Ages 5 and older.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13



Solid as a Rock: The Old Fort / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC See October 10 listing.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14



Fall Foliage / Kissena Park 12 p.m. / Rose and Oak Avenues entrance The color change in leaves has come to symbolize the season of autumn. Experience the color palette in this favorite park.



Solid as a Rock: The Old Fort / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC See October 10 listing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20




Scavenger Hunt / Forest Park 12 p.m. / FPVC Kids of all ages welcome. Prizes awarded!





Queens



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 cont'd

-  **The "Hidden" World of Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC** Explore the Endicott Batteries, a forgotten and mysterious part of Fort Totten where disappearing guns once defended the area.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

-  **Orienteering / Cunningham Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street** Learn navigation with a map and compass. You'll never get lost in the woods! Equipment provided.
-  **The "Hidden" World of Fort Totten / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC** See November 20 listing.


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

-  **Post-Thanksgiving Hike / Alley Pond Park 11 a.m. / APPAC** Take an extended hike on some of the park's longest trails to "burn off" Thanksgiving dinner.
-  **Native American History / Forest Park 1 p.m. / FPVC** Celebrate Thanksgiving by learning about Queens' earliest residents—the Matinecock tribe.


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

-  **Scavenger Hunt / Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Rose and Oak Avenues** See November 20 listing.
-  **Solid as a Rock: The Old Fort / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC** See October 10 listing.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

-  **Healthy Hike / Cunningham Park 10 a.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street** Let your feet do the walking while the Rangers do the talking on this fast-paced outing. If you come on this healthy hike, you'll be "exercising" good judgment.




-  **A Century of Building / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate, intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway** Travel back a century or more and explore examples of Colonial Revival architecture found on this former military base. We might even go snowshoeing, weather permitting.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

-  **Ho, Ho, Ho, Green Giant! / Alley Pond Park 12 p.m. / APPAC** Tulip trees are the tallest trees in NYC. Learn about the "Alley Giant"—the largest tulip tree on Long Island.





-  **Nocturnal Hike / Fort Totten Park 6 p.m. / FTVC** Join us as we explore the wonderful world of wildlife after-hours. Bats, raccoons, and other nocturnal wildlife are sure to make an appearance.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

-  **Scavenger Hunt / Juniper Park 11 a.m. / 80th Street and Juniper Boulevard North** See November 20 listing.
-  **Sleeping Giants / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC, Building 502** Learn the tricks of winter tree identification.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

-  **Native American Pathways / Cunningham Park 12 p.m. / Parking lot on Union Turnpike and 197th Street** Learn about the various techniques used by the Matinecock people to live off the land.
-  **Making Tracks / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC, Building 502** Learn how to identify animal tracks found in and around woodland areas. Make tracks of your own with snowshoes if the weather is right.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

-  **Wilderness Survival / Forest Park 11 a.m. / FPVC** With winter right around the corner, what better time is there to learn how to survive in the woods?
-  **Native American Eco-Crafts / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / FTVC** Children will use items found in their everyday environment to make fun Native American crafts.


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

-  **Duck, Duck, Goose / Flushing Meadows Corona Park 10 a.m. / Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73 Terrace** As the weather gets cold, the birding gets hot. Search for the ducks and geese that think NYC is warm in the winter!
-  **Winter Waterfowl / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / Front Gate, intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway** Winter birds are flying in to take temporary residence in Little Neck Bay. Take a walk through Little Bay Park, Fort Totten, and along Joe Michaels Mile in search of these birds on vacation from their much colder territories.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

-  **Winter Wonderland / Alley Pond Park 10 a.m. / APPAC** Take a leisurely stroll on a festive afternoon in search of winter wildlife. You won't see any reindeer but are guaranteed a memorable experience.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

-  **Duck, Duck, Goose / Baisley Pond Park 11 a.m. / Parking lot on Baisley Boulevard and 155th Street** See December 19 listing.



-  **A Century of Building / Fort Totten Park 1 p.m. / Front Gate, intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway** See December 4 listing.

Fall means a new schedule of Fresh Kills Landfill tours in Richmond County, so sign up for one today.

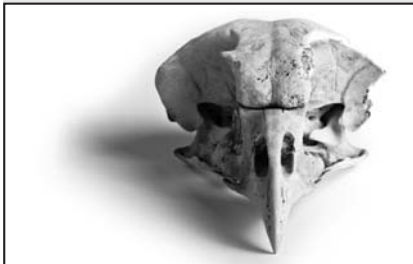
Staten Island



Lenape: The First Staten Islanders

Visit the **Staten Island Museum** to learn about the Lenape Indians—Staten Island's original settlers. The museum's renowned Lenape Collection includes art, tools, documents, and natural history specimens—some dating back 10,000 years! Also, explore the arts, natural science, local history, and more in the New York City's only general interest museum. For more information call 718.727.1135 or visit www.statenislandmuseum.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



Skulls and Bones / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Can you identify our park's night creatures by their skeletons alone?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3



Fresh Kills Park Sneak Peak / Fresh Kills Park 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Enter the site at the corner of Wild Avenue and West Shore Expressway East Service Road Find out about all of the exciting things to come at Fresh Kills Park! Enjoy tours of the site, music, activities for the kids, canoeing with the Urban Park Rangers, and much more! Canoeing is first-come, first-served and you must be at least 8 to participate. This event is sponsored by Fresh Kills Park.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9



Open House New York: Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA Witness the transformation from landfill to park. You won't believe your eyes! Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.



Owl Prowl / High Rock Park 6 p.m. / HRRS Whooo's that calling in the woods? Look, listen, and learn how to identify these nocturnal creatures.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10



Open House New York: Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See October 9 listing. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 cont'd



Mysterious Mushrooms and Treacherous Toadstools / Wolfe's Pond Park 11 a.m. / Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue Trek in search of Witches' Butter, Scaly Tooth, Jack O'Lanterns, Turkey Tails, and the Old Man of the Woods. You're sure to have fun(gi) learning all about mushrooms.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16



Creature Clues / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Learn how to identify and locate creature clues such as animal tracks and scat found in and around woodland areas, then make your own creature creation.



Gone Batty / Bloomingdale Park 6 p.m. / Comfort Station, Lenvar Avenue and Ramona Avenue Identify bats, learn how they search for food in the twilight hours, and observe their other nocturnal behaviors.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17



Mysterious Mushrooms and Treacherous Toadstools / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue See October 10 listing.



Spooky Spiders / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC With eight eyes staring back at you and menacing fangs, spiders can be intimidating, but they are actually very beneficial to the ecosystem. Search for common spiders, including the wolf spider, jumping spider, and crab spider.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23



Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See October 9 listing. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.



MillionTrees NYC Fall Planting Day / 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / Locations Citywide Help make NYC greener by volunteering to plant trees citywide! Planting projects will be held in parks in all five boroughs. Visit milliontreesnyc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24



Creepy Crawly Critters / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC They creep and crawl, have six legs, three body parts, and eat each other. Learn about the insects of our park and their valuable role in the ecosystem.



Fall Foliage Scrapbook / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Bring any old empty photo album, some paper, and a sketch pen to make a beautiful scrapbook using leaves from the forest. We'll help you identify the kinds of leaves you'll find and lead you to some unusual specimens.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30



Native American Story Time / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC Come listen to different Native American creation tales. Afterward, create your own Native American story to share with others.



The Legend of Heyerdahl Hill / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS What creatures lurk on the Greenbelt's Red Trail? Come explore the haunted hill of Heyerdahl and the ruins that were left behind in the early 1800s. Moderate-to-difficult terrain.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31



A History of Halloween / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC From early Celtic religious practices and beliefs to the modern-day rituals of "trick or treat," Halloween has meant different things to different people.



Fall Foliage Photography 101 / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS Bring your digital camera and learn how to record the rich fall colors.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6



Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA See October 9 listing. You won't believe your eyes! Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.





Funky Fashionable Native Americans / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Learn about the meaning and uses of ceremonial Native American clothing and accessories. After, make your own jewelry or headpiece. Supplies provided.





Staten Island

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7



-  **Fall Foliage Scrapbook / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** See October 24 listing.
-  **Composting 101 / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Learn composting techniques from a master composter. Learn how to make your own rich soil while helping to reduce your personal carbon footprint.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13




-  **Fresh Kills Tour / Fresh Kills Park 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Meeting TBA** See October 9 listing. Visit www.nyc.gov/parks to register.
-  **Nature Bingo / High Rock Park 1 p.m. / HRRS** Try your hand at one of America's favorite games and see what you can find along the trail as we hike up Moses Mountain.


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

-  **History Club: The Lenape Over the Centuries / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** Find out how the Lenape lived before, during, and after contact with the first European settlers.
-  **Life in the Leaf Litter / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Rotting leaves and logs are more than they appear to be—they are microhabitats supporting an incredible array of life! Learn all about them and the process of decomposition.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

-  **Thanksgiving Holiday Crafts / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** Use your wild turkey imagination! Give it four heads, six legs, and a trunk during this create-your-own-turkey craft. Supplies provided.





-  **Thanksgiving and the Lenape / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Discover how the Lenape celebrated their end-of-season harvest. Learn their songs and dances as well as what foods made up their diet.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

-  **History Club: The History of Thanksgiving / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** Who were the Pilgrims, and why do we celebrate Thanksgiving? Learn all about this holiday and then you'll really have some food for thought this year.
-  **Turkey Trot / Midland Beach 1 p.m. / Ocean Breeze Pier, Seaview Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard** Ben Franklin suggested that the turkey ought to be our national bird. Find out why turkeys are more than just a Thanksgiving meal.


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

-  **Life in the Leaf Litter / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** See November 14 listing.
-  **Native American Games / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Learn some of the games that Native Americans used to teach their children skills and lessons and then play them.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

-  **Energy Save / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** Winter is right around the corner. Learn about how you can save energy during the winter season, decrease your bills, and help conserve energy for our planet.




-  **Making Tracks / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Learn how to locate and identify animal tracks found in and around woodland areas, then make your own animal track decorations out of paper or clay.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

-  **Winter Tree ID / Clove Lakes Park 11 a.m. / Martling Pond, Martling Avenue entrance, just west of Clove Road** How do you identify a tree when there are no leaves, flowers, or fruit? Let us teach you how to solve this riddle.
-  **Holiday Nature Crafts / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Learn how to use pinecones, evergreens, and other natural materials to make your own holiday crafts and decorations.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5



-  **Slippery Seals and Winty Waterfowl / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Meet by the beach near Joline Avenue and Hylan Boulevard** These marine mammals have been known to show up in the area during their migratory journey. Come see if they have returned and what other creatures are passing through. Bring your own binoculars if you have them.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 cont'd



-  **Native American Contributions / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** From foods like corn, potatoes, and chocolate to representational democracy, learn about the lasting contributions Native Americans have made in America and the world.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11





-  **Winter Birding / Bloomingdale Park 11 a.m. / Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue** Get outside and search for the bird species that call New York home for winter. Bring your own binoculars if you have them.
-  **South Pole Expedition / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Conference House Visitor Center** You won't find any penguins here, but it can get chilly at the southern-most tip of New York City this time of year!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

-  **History Club: History of Holidays / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** Celebrate the winter holidays by learning about their origins. Find out what a little-known Persian religion has in common with Christmas and the Winter Solstice.
-  **Making Tracks / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** See November 28 listing.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

-  **Slippery Seals and Winty Waterfowl / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Meet by the beach near Joline Avenue and Hylan Boulevard** See December 5 listing.
-  **Holiday Nature Crafts / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** See December 4 listing.


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

-  **South Pole Expedition / Conference House Park 11 a.m. / Conference House Visitor Center** See December 11 listing.
-  **Composting 101 / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** See November 7 listing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

-  **Holiday Nature Crafts / Blue Heron Park 11 a.m. / BHNC** See December 4 listing.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

-  **Holiday Health Hike/ Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC** Need to de-stress after all that holiday shopping? Take a brisk stroll with us through the woods.



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For more information about student programs or professional development, call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers or visit us at www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers.



Outdoors

in New York City



The Urban Park Rangers will be participating in a group show highlighting the multitude of programming within the Parks Department. The exhibition, on view during January 2011, will include photography from the Urban Park Rangers' high school mentoring program, Operations and Management Planning inspectors, the Daffodil Project, and the Parks Afterschool Program. For more information visit our website at nyc.gov/parks/art.



OUTDOORS in New York City is a publication of the Urban Park Rangers, a division of the City of New York Parks & Recreation. Visit our website at nyc.gov/parks/rangers

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Outdoors

in New York City



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