



Winter Edition 2007-2008



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There's no place like a park for the holidays. Christmas tree lightings, menorah lighting ceremonies, toy drives, and inter-faith celebrations are taking place in parks across the City. Season's greetings to all!



ICE CAPADES!

Ice skating season has arrived. Parks and Recreation invites all New Yorkers to come out and embrace the cold weather on any of the City's seven fun and scenic ice rinks. All venues are open to the public and provide a safe place to enjoy the ice. (Please remember to only skate in designated areas and to stay off the ice on lakes and ponds.)

You can ice skate for free at the Pond at Bryant Park, right in front of the annual Holiday Shops. Presented by Citi, the 170' x 100' rink is an ideal destination in the heart of midtown.

Affordable rates can also be found at the other public rinks across New York City. Wollman Rink in Central Park is a timeless venue. Bring your camera to document the experience, and don't forget to get the skyline in your snapshots. If you are situated closer to the northern end of Central Park, there is Lasker Rink, which also offers a variety of ice hockey programs and skating lessons.

At Prospect Park in Brooklyn, you can glide across the ice while admiring the picturesque beauty at Kate Wollman Rink. At Coney Island, you'll find more than beaches and cotton candy. Abe Stark Rink provides ice skating adjacent to the boardwalk.

Sensational skating can also be found in Queens at Flushing Meadows Corona Park's World's Fair Ice Skating Rink. And at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island, the War Memorial Rink is a popular destination.

Details on locations, hours, and rates can be found at www.nyc.gov/parks. Now get on out there and start skating!

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

The temperatures may be dropping, but that is no reason to turn into a fresh-air-phobic couch potato! Despite the cold weather, our parks are open for continued year-round enjoyment.

For example, New Yorkers should rush out to one (or all) of the City's seven skating rinks, and rediscover the joys of gliding across the ice in a scenic setting. From the Wollman and Lasker rinks in Central Park, to the Kate Wollman and Abe Stark rinks in Brooklyn, to the World's Fair Rink in Queens, to the War Memorial Rink in Staten Island, affordable and enjoyable skating can be experienced. Plus, at the Pond in Bryant Park, ice skating is absolutely free thanks to the sponsorship of Citi.

Another winter tradition in our parks is the festive lighting of trees, menorahs, and more. This year, Mayor Bloomberg kicked off the tradition on December 3 at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza. Additional lightings and ceremonies are taking place all across the city at a park near you.

After enjoying our Christmas trees this holiday season, what better way to return them to the earth than by recycling? Our annual MulchFest tradition continues on January 5 and 6. New Yorkers can bring their Christmas trees to parks in all five boroughs so they may be chipped into mulch. The mulch is then used throughout the year to nurture our parks and green spaces. Or you can take some mulch home with you and use it to create a winter blanket for your own gardens.

And although it may be winter, it is never too early to start thinking about next summer. Lifeguard recruitment is underway! Lifeguarding is a great summer job, and I strongly encourage anyone interested in working as a lifeguard to take the first step and sign up for a free swim qualifying test.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our great programs, please call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

See you in the parks!

Adrian Benepe



WELCOME!

ABOUT NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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Daniel E. Magnus

U.S Editor in Chief Jon Auerbach

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Custom Publishing Manager Clare Davis

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Marketing Director Bob Bohn

Marketing Group Lauren Berkemeyer, Michael Gaiser, Denise Goggin

Metro New York

44 Wall St., 8th floor

New York, NY 10005

main: 212-952-1500

sales fax: 212-952-1505

e-mail sales: advertising@metro.us

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Parks gets Real 'Chipper' for This Year's Mulchfest

New Yorkers can trade their Christmas trees for garden fodder at more than 50 Citywide sites at this January's MulchFest 2008.

Parks & Recreation invites residents of all five boroughs to drop off their "used" trees at designated parks on Saturday, January 5, and Sunday, January 6, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At 30 other locations, landscape enthusiasts and green thumbs can pick up free mulch to make their gardens greener than ever for the spring. The remaining recycling woodchips will be used to nourish plantings across the city.

The Department of Sanitation will partner with Parks in helping to transport some trees to their recycling sites. Sanitation will provide curbside tree collection and delivery between January 3 and January 16.

Last year, 11,858 trees were collected and recycled by the City – up from 8,853 at the 2006 MulchFest. New Yorkers are also encouraged to take neighbors' trees to designated sites, to team-up with others to collect and recycle as many trees as possible, and to bring along bags for the wood chips available at specified sites.

All lights, ornaments, and decorations must be removed from the trees before drop-off. Trees should not be placed in plastic bags.

Wood chip mulch moderates soil temperatures, helps retain soil moisture, deters weed growth while slowly adding nutrients to the soil. Wood chips may be used to line street tree pits and flowerbeds in parks. Wood chips may also be used in homes and gardens to enrich soil and control weeds.

Here is a partial list of this year's designated MulchFest sites. Chipper sites are noted with an asterisk (*). For more information and a complete list of sites, please visit www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311.

BRONX:

Brook Park*

Brook Avenue and E. 141st Street

Van Cortlandt Park* (also a drop-off site)

Van Cortlandt Golf Course
Bailey Avenue and VC Park South

Claremont Park

Mount Eden Parkway and Morris Avenue

Pelham Bay Park

Parking Lot
Middletown Road and Stadium Avenue

BROOKLYN:

McCarren Park Field House*

Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street

Prospect Park*

Prospect Park West and 3rd Street

Amazing Garden

Columbia Street and Carroll Street

Paerdegat Park

40th Street and Foster Avenue

MANHATTAN:

Rockefeller Center*

Tompkins Square Park*

East 86th Street and East End Avenue

Central Park*

106th Street and Fifth Avenue

81st Street and Central Park West (*Inside the bridle path*)
63rd Street and Central Park West

Marcus Garvey Park

122nd Street and Madison Avenue

Highbridge Park

West 173th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

QUEENS:

Forest Park Bandshell*

Forest Park Drive, West of Woodhaven Boulevard

Astoria Park*

19th Street and Hoyt Avenue

Rockaway Beach

Shore Front Parkway and Beach 94th Street

Kissena Park (Saturday Only)

Velodrome Parking Lot
Booth Memorial Avenue, between Kissena and Parson boulevards

STATEN ISLAND:

Midland Beach*

Parking Lot
Father Capodanno and Graham boulevards

The Greenbelt Recreation Center*

501 Brielle Avenue

Willowbrook Park

Richmond Avenue and Eton Place

Wolfe's Pond Park

Cornelia Avenue and Hylan Boulevard



Metro Presents Parks & Recreation Q & A Prospect Park Alliance President Tupper Thomas

What is the Prospect Park Alliance?

The Prospect Park Alliance is a public-private partnership that has for more than 20 years successfully supported Prospect Park in partnership with the City of New York. The Alliance cares for the Park's natural environment, preserving its historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs.

What is the Prospect Park Alliance's relationship with the Parks Department?

The partnership between the Prospect Park Alliance and the Parks Department is a seamless one that allows for the coordination of resources to best benefit the Parks and its users. The Alliance raises private and public funds for park maintenance, landscape restoration, capital projects, and community programming, as well as to pay for staffers to implement these objectives. The Alliance also supervises public educational programming and community outreach efforts on behalf of Parks.

What kinds of changes has Prospect Park undergone during your tenure?

We've really worked to bring the Park back to the people. Since the Alliance's founding we've been working to restore and care for the Park's landscape, especially its woodlands and watercourse, with the hopes that we could revive the ecosystem and keep it healthy and growing. We've also introduced a wide range of education and family-fun programs at our Audubon Center and the Lefferts Historic House. Working with the com-

munity, we've set up a Youth Council for teen leadership with their own resource center at the Park. The Alliance is also a founding partner, along with the Department of Education and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, of a dynamic local high school: the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment.

What are some exciting Prospect Park developments for the future?

We're moving ahead with plans for an amazing year-round facility, the Lakeside Center, to replace the old Wollman Rink. There will be two new ice rinks, warm weather activities, classrooms, a café, and a new visitors' center. We continue to make improvements to the athletic fields of the Parade Ground, which we completely rebuilt in 2004, and the new Tennis Center we opened there in 2006. Plus, we continue to look for ways to enhance each visitor's overall Park experience, such as improved food options.

How can I get involved with the Prospect Park Alliance?

Becoming a member of the Prospect Park Alliance is easy and has many benefits, such as an annual pass for Carousel rides, and special event seating at Park performances by the NY Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. People can also volunteer, which is a great way to make new friends and feel a real sense of accomplishment. Plus we have many benefit events, like our Junior Committee's skating party and Summer Soiree, which are a lot of fun.

For more information on Prospect Park, visit www.prospect-park.org or call 311.



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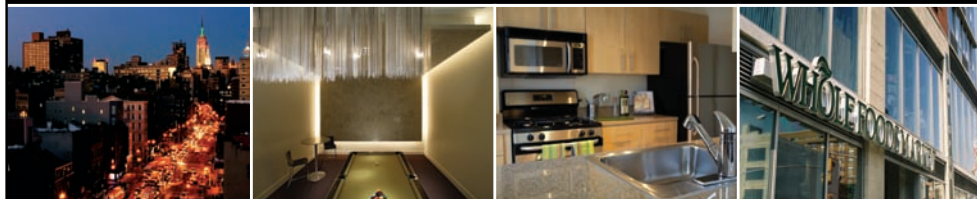
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NYC Parks Recruiting Summer 2008 Lifeguards. Are You Whistle Worthy?

Looking for a cool summer job? Deserve more than the minimum wage?

Forget flipping burgers, being a barista, or pushing papers in a windowless cubicle. This summer, starting at \$12.55 an hour, get paid to spend the day at the beach or pool. The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation is currently recruiting summer lifeguards to patrol the City's 14 miles of beaches and 52 outdoor pools. All qualified swimmers are welcome to apply.

Tired of watching Baywatch reruns? Want to work on that coppery tan?

The process to become a New York City lifeguard is simple. It begins with a free qualifying test, which Parks will offer from January 2008 through mid-April. As part of the qualifying test, successful candidates must:

1. Be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds or less with proper form.
2. Have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other—without corrective lenses. Glasses and contact lenses are not permitted during the eye exam.
3. Be at least 16 years of age by the start of employment.

Qualifying tests will be held at the Parks Lifeguard School at 533 West 59th Street and at various other locations throughout the five boroughs. No appointment is necessary.

Interested in meeting new people and making new friends? Looking to stay in top physical condition without having to join a gym?

Candidates who pass the test may enroll in Parks' free Municipal Lifeguard Training Program, which is the only certification accepted for employment as a New York City Lifeguard. The training program consists of 40 hours of instruction in swimming and rescue techniques, first aid, and CPR, and includes a final swim test and a written exam. Candidates who begin working as a lifeguard will be paid for their time spent in training. First-year lifeguards will earn at least \$12.55 an hour and work 48 hours (6 days) a week. If you become a lifeguard, you will be guaranteed a job for the summer at one of the City's seven beaches or 52 outdoor pools.

Want to make a difference and save lives? New York City's lifeguards are whistle worthy. Find out if you are too. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311. Dial (212) NEW-YORK if you are calling from outside the City. Parks & Recreation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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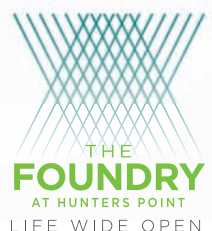
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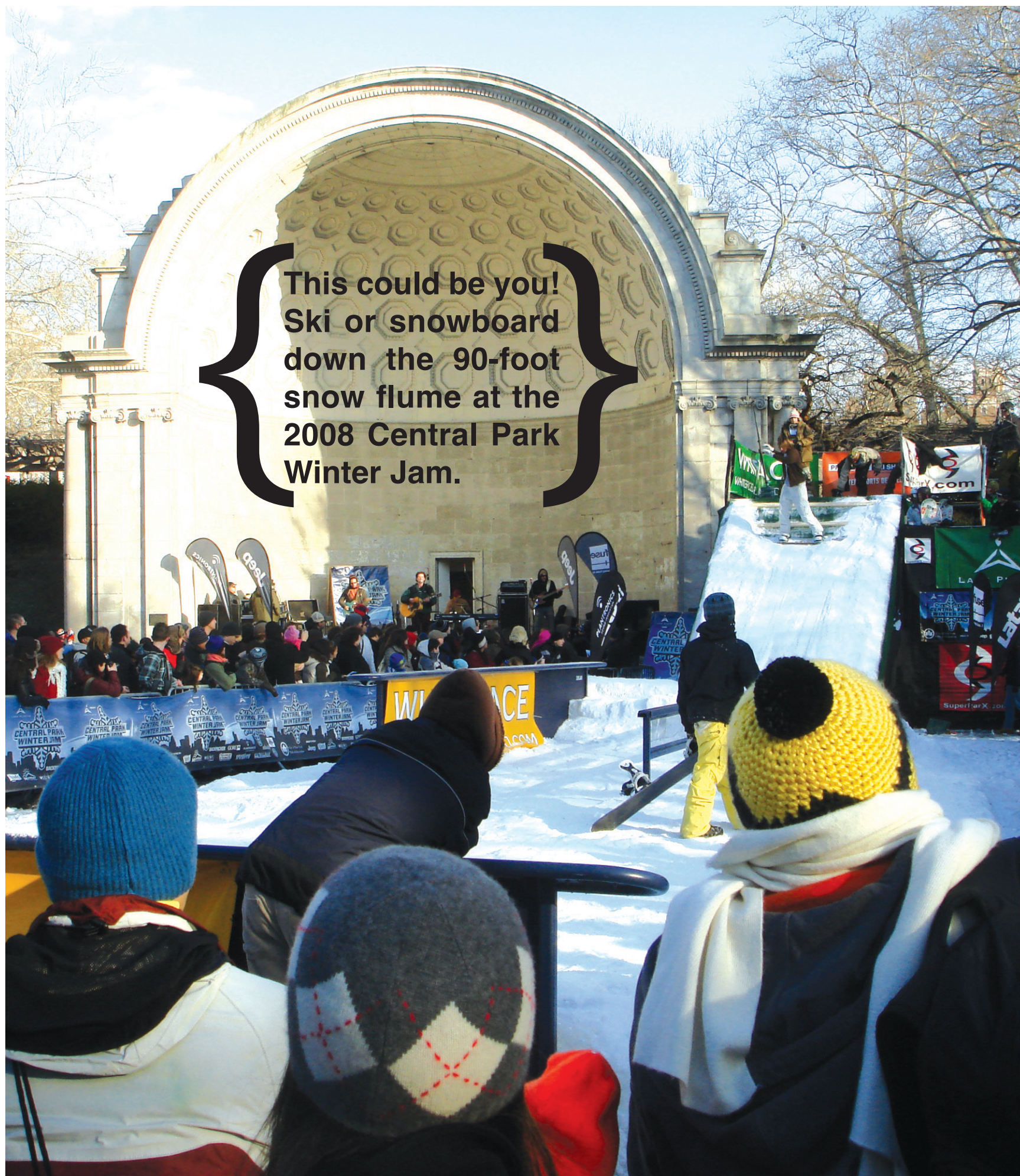
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Skiing and Snowboarding – Coming Soon to Manhattan

Love winter sports? Join Parks for two events that bring winter fun and snowboarding to Union Square and Central Park.

On Thursday, February 7, watch professional snowboarders compete in the city's second annual Union Square

Street Sessions. Union Square will be transformed into a ski resort, equipped with snow and ramps. The event begins at 3:00 p.m. and wraps up at 7:00 p.m.

After watching the pros, hit the slopes yourself at the Central Park Winter Jam on Saturday, February 9 between noon

and 4:00 p.m. at a three-story snow flume set up at the Bandshell. Bring your skis or snowboard and have a try on the 90-foot long sledding ramp. Check out other winter festivities at Dead Road, including opportunities to try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing,

sledding and tubing on manmade snow generated just days before the event.

All your favorite ski and snowboarding vendors will be on site along with music, hot cocoa and food. The event is free and weather-permitting.

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Parks Celebrates Two Major Renovations At St. James Park

St. James Park is undergoing a complete renaissance, and it's not unlike what's happening in parks throughout the Bronx. The City is committed to upgrading parks throughout the borough—and improving the quality of life for its citizens—with more trees, enhanced recreational facilities, and safe places for communities to come together. This past Halloween, Bronx residents were treated to another piece of the City's five-year, \$560 million plan designed to renovate old parks and build new ones throughout the borough.

On October 31, Commissioner Adrian Benepe joined Council Member Joel Rivera and sixth graders from P.S. 246 to cut the ribbon on the newly-renovated District Headquarters and comfort station, as well as to celebrate groundbreaking on the final phase of a Croton-funded reconstruction upgrade.

The completed \$1.7 million District Headquarters and comfort station was funded by Mayor Bloomberg, Council Member Rivera, and federal funds secured through the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Rehabilitation Grant.

The St. James reconstruction project is funded by \$4.5 million—part of the \$220 million investment in Bronx Parks from mitigation funds for the construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant—and \$400,000 in Parks' requirements contract. This major renovation project will improve the drainage system, path network, staircases, perimeter fencing, and gates throughout the park. It will also replace deteriorated pavement and install new play equipment and a spray shower.



Council Member Joel Rivera and Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe cut the ribbon on the new \$1.7 million Parks Department District Headquarters and comfort station building in St. James Park.

Parks Breaks Ground On New Ballfield At West Bronx Recreation Center

With approximately \$560 million allocated to revitalize public spaces in the Bronx over the next five years, the Parks Department is dedicated to maximizing the potential of every neighborhood, as well as to promote healthy living, and offer more state-of-the-art recreational amenities. All of these aims converge with the construction of a new ballfield on an empty dirt lot adjacent to the West Bronx Recreation Center.

On November 15, Commissioner Adrian Benepe was joined by Council Member Helen Diane Foster and students from C.S. 199 and the Seventh Day Adventist School to break ground on a new ballfield at the West Bronx Recreation Center, located in the Highbridge section of the Bronx. The \$2.9 million ballfield is being funded by the City as part of the Yankee Stadium Redevelopment Project, a plan to bring new jobs, alternate transportation opportunities, and new parkland to the South Bronx. The ballfield is one component of the City's commitment to redevelop parkland and create new recreational facilities surrounding Yankee Stadium.

When completed, the West Bronx Recreation Center ballfield will feature a permanent, multi-use synthetic turf for soccer, softball, and little league baseball. The site will also feature new bleachers, a water fountain, a misting station, trees, shrubs, walkways, fencing, storage, and a roadway turnaround. The project is expected to be completed next spring and is being executed by Stantec Consulting on design, The LiRo Group on supervision, and the NorthBrook Contracting Corporation.



Breaking ground on the new \$2.9 million ballfield at the West Bronx Recreation Center.

Fraser Square Is Transformed

What was once a barren traffic circle, populated by weeds, is now a garden oasis in an urban retreat. Fraser Square, located on Kings Highway between East 34th Street and East 35th Street in Brooklyn, is enjoying a new life.

Thanks to funding allocations of \$363,000 from Council Member Lew Fidler, \$190,000 from Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, and \$187,000 from Mayor Bloomberg, Fraser Square has been transformed from a roadside eyesore into a lush, peaceful setting.

Parks Landscape Architect Wim DeRonde worked with the community to design a space for repose and small gatherings. Improved sidewalks and pathways lead to a circular plaza area with decorative pavers and a flagpole. New benches, lighting, and a drinking fountain have been added, along with a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees.

Fraser Square was acquired by the City of New York in 1922. It was transferred to the Parks Department in 1938. Three years later, it was named after John Justin Fraser—a World War I veteran, New York City police officer, and Marine Park resident—who was killed in 1934. Officer Fraser was the victim of gunshots during the robbery of a millinery shop on Flatbush Avenue. Although wounded, Officer Fraser subdued the bandits, who were apprehended and charged with murder. The square was named after Officer Fraser by a resolution of the City Council.

The Kings County American Legion and New York Police Department were well represented at the event, a fitting tribute to Officer Fraser's diverse accomplishments.



Birthday Boy Gets His Monument Restored

Happy birthday to the Marquis de Lafayette! The 250th anniversary of his birth, the occasion was celebrated by giving new life to his likeness.

Restoration work on the Lafayette Memorial in Brooklyn's Prospect Park was undertaken by the staff of the Parks Department's Citywide Monuments Conservation Program with the assistance of the Prospect Park Alliance. It involved cleaning the entire monument, including its granite, applying protective coating on the bronze, repainting the sword, and redoing the mortar joints. The flower beds near the monument were also spruced up.

This memorial was initially conserved in 1988 through Adopt-a-Monument, a joint venture of the Art Commission, the Parks Department, and the Municipal Art Society, which has continued to fund annual care for the monument. Its most recent restoration was possible thanks to the generous support of French-American donors. They raised over \$21,000 to preserve the Lafayette Monument, which honors the great friendship between America and France.

The Marquis de Lafayette was a French-born general who fought on behalf of American rebels during the American Revolution. Sympathetic to the rebels' cause, he aided the colonists by providing aid, comfort, and experienced military leadership. The Frenchman quickly became a favorite of General George Washington, who appointed him Major General in the Continental Army during 1777.

The Lafayette Memorial, located at the 9th Street entrance to Prospect Park, was dedicated on May 10, 1917. It was designed by Henry Bacon and sculpted by Daniel Chester French.

Among the attendees at the re-dedication were French Consul General to New York, Francois Delattre, and children from the International School of Brooklyn who sang the American and French national anthems.





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Reconstructed Pavilion Opens At Columbus Park

Residents of Chinatown and the surrounding Lower Manhattan neighborhoods now have a brand-new community center to enjoy. In October, the Columbus Park Pavilion offi-

cially re-opened in historic Columbus Park after years of being closed to the public. Commissioner Adrian Benepe joined City Council Member Alan Gerson, Executive Director of the

Chinatown Partnership Wellington Chen, children from the Church of Transfiguration School, as well as members of the LaGuardia Senior Center, Chinatown Senior Center, Project Open Door, and Master Yip's Martial Arts School to cut the ribbon on the \$4.14 million restoration of the historic pavilion.

The project was made possible thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), a \$1 million grant from the National Park Service's Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR), \$720,000 from Council Member Gerson, \$640,000 from the Office of the Mayor, and \$250,000 from the Borough President.

The restoration of the Pavilion provides increased accessibility to the building with new ramps, stairs, and mechanical lifts. An interior redesign of the Pavilion—which encourages multi-use activity—added public toilets, flooring, and storage space. The exterior of the structure has been enhanced with stonework

and new paint, along with windows and doors. The area surrounding the Pavilion has been newly landscaped with plants, trees, lighting, and fencing.

In 2003, Parks & Recreation and the LMDC began a comprehensive restoration of Columbus Park. The renovation included a new sports field, play equipment, basketball courts, and picnic tables. In addition to Columbus Park, the LMDC has funded the creation or improvements to 20 parks in Lower Manhattan.

Located adjacent to the infamous "Five Points" district of the 19th century, Columbus Park stands at the crossroads of New York City's residential, cultural, and industrial history. It is also one of the City's first major urban parks. Originally named Mulberry Bend Park, it was designed by Calvert Vaux in the 1880s. The purpose of the park was to provide much-needed green space to an overcrowded section of the city.



New Improvements On The 70th Anniversary Of Riverside Park's Expansion

In honor of the 70th anniversary of its historic expansion, Parks and Recreation recently celebrated three important projects in Riverside Park. On October 13, Commissioner Adrian Benepe joined City Council Member Gale Brewer and Riverside Park Fund President James Dowell to break ground on the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Plaza, and to cut the ribbon on the newly-reconstructed Serpentine Promenade. Later in the week, on October 17, Commissioner Benepe joined Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Borough President Scott Stringer, Council Member Brewer, State Senator Eric Schneiderman, and Riverside Park Fund President Dowell to put shovels in the earth for the construction of a new greenway connection in the park.

Each project recalls the 1937 addition of 132 acres and amenities such as playgrounds and the 79th Street Boat Basin—spearheaded by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and Parks Commissioner Robert Moses—while heralding another era of great park improvements.

In 1875, Frederick Law Olmsted completed a schematic design for Riverside Park, and the first sections of the park opened five years later. In 1935, Landscape Architect Gilmore Clarke designed the area of Riverside Park to the west of the New York Central Railroad line and the newly constructed Henry Hudson Parkway. His design, completed under the supervision of Commissioner Moses, created an area of landfill beyond the park's Olmsted-era footprint. This extension provided an active recreation area extending from West 72nd Street to 155th Street along the Hudson River. In 1937, a waterfront esplanade was created from West 72nd Street to 83rd Street.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument Plaza reconstruction will add curbs, fencing, lighting, plantings, and pavement to the area. The new plaza will feature hex block pavement, granite block tree pits, and bluestone curbs. In addition, a steel panel fence will be installed along the eastern perimeter of the plaza, and new wood and metal "hoof" park benches will line the site. The \$1 million project is made possible thanks to \$710,000 allocated by Council Member Brewer and \$378,000 in Mayoral funds.

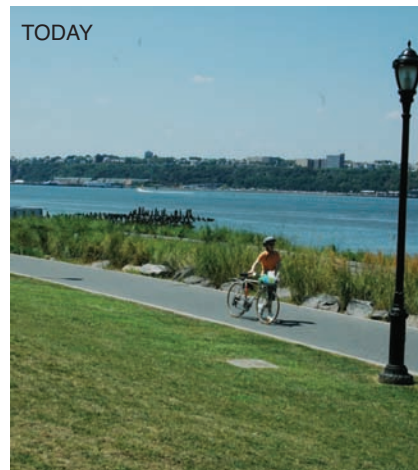
The \$1.68 million reconstruction of Riverside Park's Serpentine Promenade removed the deteriorated concrete pavement and replaced it with bluestone and asphalt hex block pavement. New benches, curbs, and fencing were also installed. The project has been funded by allocations of \$1.5 million from Council Member Brewer and \$180,000 from the Mayor.

Construction of a \$13.3 million over-water path, or Riverwalk, will connect the Hudson River Esplanade from West 83rd to West 91st Streets, creating unbroken waterfront access from 59th Street to 133rd Street. The Mayor allocated more than \$13 million towards the project, with the remainder contributed through the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

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'Tis the Season at the Queens County Farm Museum

Dreaming of a home for the holidays? All decked out (and in)? Visit the Queens County Farm Museum in Floral Park for some wholesome holiday cheer, and maybe find the tree, wreath, or plant of your dreams. From December 1st through the 24th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the historic farm will host their annual Christmas Tree & Poinsettia Sale. A large variety of Christmas trees, large and small evergreen wreaths, and potted red, white and pink poinsettia plants in two sizes will be for sale. Popular tree varieties such as Douglas fir, Fraser fir, and Balsam fir will be available in heights from four to seven feet tall, and generally cost between \$30 and \$80. Sales benefit the Queens County Farm Museum.

Don't want the festivities to end on December 25th? Visit the farm's Holiday Open House on December 26-28, from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Vis-

itors can enjoy free tours of the holiday-decorated farmhouse, featuring craft activities for the children and a glass of mulled cider for every visitor.

The Queens County Farm Museum dates back to 1697. The only working historical farm in the City, its 47-acre parcel remains the longest continuously farmed entity in New York State. The site includes historic farm buildings, a greenhouse complex, livestock, farm vehicles and implements, planting fields, an orchard, and an herb garden.

The Queens County Farm Museum, located at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway in Floral Park, is owned by Parks & Recreation, operated by the Colonial Farmhouse Restoration Society of Bellerose, Inc., and is a member of the Historic House Trust.



Photography Exhibit Celebrates Queens Parks

When Queens was officially named a borough of New York City in 1898, there were many acres of farmland but few public parks. Today, its 7,000 acres of parkland are a proud point of civic pride for all borough residents, eager to share their world-class recreation facilities, cultural institutions, wetlands and beaches. To celebrate these natural and man-made wonders, as seen through the eyes (and lenses) of its citizens, Parks & Recreation—in partnership with The Queens Courier—has invited amateur photographers to take their best shot(s) at capturing their community's unique beauty, flavor, style, and sensibility.

Last February through September, more than 350 digital and print photographs were submitted in three categories—Nature & Landscape, Places & Landmarks, and People & Individuals. A team of judges selected 12 winners from each category along with overall Grand Prize, Second Place, and Third Place winners (see below). The winning entries will be exhibited at the Queens Museum of Art in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park. The photographs reflect the diversity of the people, the neighborhoods, and the parks for which the borough is so proud.

The photographs will also be published in *A Salute to Queens Parks: A Photo Book*.

Queens Museum of Art:

December 2, 2007-February 3, 2008
New York City Building
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Flushing, Queens

Arsenal Gallery, Central Park:

January 9, 2007-January 30, 2008
830 Fifth Avenue at East 64th Street, 3rd floor
Manhattan

Winners

Grand Prize Winner

Name: Spiro Fourniotis
Title: Oakland Lake
Park: Alley Pond Park

Second Place Winner

Name: Xiao Ying Shi
Title: Loves the Night
Park: Unisphere, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Third Place Winner

Name: Brian Walter
Title: Summer in the City
Park: Forest Park



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The Weather Outside Might Be Frightful...

So keep warm and fit at the Greenbelt and George Cromwell recreation centers on Staten Island.

The Greenbelt Recreation Center opened its doors last May after a \$9-million renovation that transformed the existing Brielle Avenue building into a fitness center, computer resource facility, and a special events venue.

At George Cromwell, located on Pier 6 at Murray Hulbert Avenue, Staten Islanders can stay fit with yoga, boxing, and basketball, or step (and stretch) into an aerobics class. For the more artistically inclined, you can be active in classes like those given for ceramics. Computers are also available at this facility.

Membership includes use of the fitness rooms, all free classes, lectures, special events, and admittance to all non-pool New York City Parks & Recreation Centers located throughout the five boroughs. Some classes may require an additional fee.

To join or find out more information, visit www.nyc.gov/parks or dial 311.



2007 Best of Parks Awards

Staff at all levels of the Parks and Recreation Department joined Commissioner Adrian Benepe on October 24th for an afternoon awards luncheon at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island. The objective was to honor agency employees for exceptional work: creating unique public programs; finding new and creative ways to protect our natural world; as well as operating, maintaining, and improving New York City's first-class green spaces.

Recipients of Best of Parks (BOP) awards were nominated by deputy or borough commissioners for being "role models of effort, reliability, and achievement." Categories ranged from Most Improved District to the Most Creative Public Program to Greenest District. Individual parks employees were also cited for going "beyond the call," while some workers

were noted for his or her public service.

Sorrentino Recreation Center in Queens was awarded the City's Best Recreation Center in 2007. Sorrentino concluded a remarkable transformation in '07, a result of a comprehensive \$1.4 million renovation. In an effort to meet the needs of both the center's staff and the community, Chief of Technical Services Artie Rollins worked hard to expand the scope of the original renovation contract. The entire building was redone, from the floors, walls, and windows; while several notable additions—of a game room, a crafts room, two fitness rooms, a computer resource center, office space, ADA-compliant restrooms, and an accessible kitchen—cemented the award for Sorrentino.

Brooklyn earned the award for hosting the Best Special Event: The Mayor's Cup Cricket

Tournament, in which 600 players participated in the single elimination format. The finals were held at Spring Creek Park's Cricket Field, the first Parks-designed and -built cricket field. More than 1,500 spectators joined the festivities of sports, music and food. Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Julius Spiegel spearheaded the development of the tournament and has plans for an even larger program next year.

Staten Island's District 1 earned the Greenest District award, which Parks credited to the help of the Neighborhood Park Initiative (NPI), a joint venture between Parks, the City Parks Foundation, New Yorkers for Parks, and the Central Park Conservancy. This program aims to improve maintenance and horticulture for neighborhood parks citywide, and has provided funds for additional gardeners, materi-

als and support for better training.

Manhattan's District 14 claimed the prize for the city's Cleanest District. Stretching across six miles of Manhattan's West Side, this district covers 400 acres of waterfront, woodlands, playgrounds, and athletic fields, and includes Riverside Park South, Riverside Park, and the busier half of Fort Washington Park. District 14 is also home to Grants' Tomb, The Little Red Lighthouse, Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument, Firemen's Memorial, and about 200,000 neighborhood residents. Despite its heavy use, the district achieved 100 percent cleanliness ratings.

The Best of Parks award ceremony, now in its sixth year, recognizes teams and individuals for outstanding performance.



Alice Austin Park, in Staten Island's District 1, is among those noted for being the greenest.

Park Listings: Winter 2007-2008

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

January 5 & 6

MulchFest
Parks Citywide
Saturday & Sunday,
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Please see page 3 for more information.

BRONX

January 4

First Fridays at the Bartow-Pell Mansion
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum
Friday, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hop on the free City Island's Bronx Seaside Trolley for its first stop at the Mansion. Guided tours and music are free with admission to the museum.

February 9

Victorian Valentine Family Workshop
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Come and make two Victorian Style Valentines to give to your beloved. Sit in the beautiful, romantic L'Orangerie; use traditional Victorian style materials; listen to soothing music; be inspired to spread the love. Light refreshments will be available. Only \$5 for adults; \$8 for children; free for children under 6.

BROOKLYN

December 22 - January 1

Handiwork
Lefferts Historic House,
Prospect Park
Daily, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Keep your hands busy during the long winter days by learning how to use a needle and thread, write with a quill pen, and make silhouettes using a traditional paper-cutting art form.

December 31

New Year's Fireworks
Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park
Monday, 11:00 p.m.
Help ring in the New Year at Brooklyn's biggest party. Best locations for viewing the fireworks include anywhere in Grand Army Plaza, inside the Park on the West Drive, and along Prospect Park West between Grand Army Plaza and 9th Street. The fireworks are sponsored by Borough President Marty Markowitz.

MANHATTAN

Ongoing

Pippi
Swedish Cottage, Central Park
Tuesday - Friday, 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Saturday - Sunday, 1:00 p.m.
The City Parks Foundation and the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre are pleased to welcome "Pippi," a fresh retelling of the classic Pippi Longstocking tales, adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright Zakiiyyah Alexander. The production features nearly two dozen all new, hand-made marionettes crafted by puppeteers from the Swedish Cottage under the supervision and expertise of master builder Addis Williams. Tickets are \$6 for adults, and \$5 for children.

Mid-November through Mid-January

Flaubert Frog at Le Carrousel
Bryant Park
Saturdays & Sundays,
2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Come "Sing-along-with Flaubert," play "Flaubert Says," Hop-Potato, Leap-Frog, Freeze-Dance, and listen to the stories filled with holiday cheer, as Flaubert Frog brings Le Carrousel to life on winter weekends.

December 29

Candlelight Tours of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum
Dyckman Farmhouse
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
View the farmhouse by the glow of candlelight and learn more about holiday and winter preparations in an early 19th century Manhattan farmhouse.

December 31

Emerald Nuts Midnight Run
Central Park
Monday, 10:00 p.m.
Usher in 2008 with speed and style (well, at least style). Featuring a costume parade, dancing, and fireworks, this four-miler is more of a party than a race. Count down the minutes 'til midnight and then count down the feet 'til the finish line.

January 6

Story Time Sunday
Dyckman Farmhouse
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Quilts do so much more than just keep you warm. They can tell stories and hold special memories. Be sure to come with some of your own memories in mind, so you can design a special quilt

square to take home. Recommended for ages 5 through 9.

QUEENS

December 1 - December 24

Christmas Tree & Poinsettia Sale
Queens County Farm Museum
Daily, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Popular varieties and sizes of trees, evergreen wreaths, and poinsettias will be for sale with proceeds benefiting the Queens County Farm Museum.

December 15 - January 6

Hands-on-History: Winter Holidays
King Manor Museum
Saturdays & Sundays,
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Enjoy a different seasonal activity on each of these weekends. Make a pomander, a noisemaker, or hear holiday stories. It's free with a museum tour.

December 26 - December 28

Holiday Open House
Queens County Farm Museum
Wednesday - Friday,
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Enjoy tours of the decorated farmhouse, with craft activities for children, and mulled cider for everyone.

STATEN ISLAND

December 28

Doll and Teddy Bear Party
Historic Richmond Town
Friday, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Bring your favorite doll or teddy bear to meet other special friends at our Victorian Christmas Tree. Interactive storytelling with Bobaloo and refreshments add to the fun. \$8 for children, \$4 for adults.

January 19 - April 26

Tavern Concert Series
Historic Richmond Town
Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy a Saturday evening of unplugged music in an intimate, candlelit, 19th century tavern in the heart of Staten Island. Styles include bluegrass, traditional, old-time, sea chanteys, singer-songwriter, jug band, Irish, and more. Sing along and slap your knee to fiddles, guitars, and banjos. Warm yourself by the wood-burning stove. Sip hot cider mulled with spices, served by folk in authentic 19th-century dress. \$15 per person.



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URBAN PARK RANGERS CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**Bronx**

Winter Crafts / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / PBRS Make nature-related crafts to decorate your home for the holidays.

Queens

Winter Tree I.D. / Forest Park 11 a.m. / FPVC With Christmas right around the corner, you can explore Forest Park's famous pine grove and learn about other trees as well. In the spirit of giving, the Rangers will present each participant their very own seed.

Staten Island

Creating with Nature / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Arts and crafts with the Rangers. Children 12 and under, please.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29**Manhattan**

Winter Birding / Inwood Hill Park 9 a.m. / IHNC Explore the park in search of our winter residents. We will look for owls, songbirds, and winter waterfowl.

Queens

Snowshoeing / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS Learn to walk through the snow in style, as we visit the Fort's historic battery. All ages welcome. Weather permitting; if no snow, join us for a hike. Snowshoes provided.

Staten Island

Hoo-hoo-hoo.....What-what-what do they eat? / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / BHNC Learn everything you'd ever want to know about owls and their feeding habits. Dissect an owl pellet.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**Bronx**

More Hoo-hah... Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC Winter is the best time to see wild owls in New York City. Don't miss this opportunity.

Manhattan

Advanced Hike: The Bridle Path / Central Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Columbus Circle (59 St. and Central Park West). Join us for an end-of-year hike on Central Park's bridle path. This charming dirt road winds through some of the park's most beautiful landscapes. You'll have plenty of time to think about the upcoming year; we will hike the entire loop.

Queens

The Year In Review / Forest Park 1 p.m. / FPVC A special visual presentation of a year's worth of wild adventures in New York City's parks. Each picture is worth a thousand words. Cozy up to some hot cocoa and coffee.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**Bronx**

Bird Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC Once a month, every month, come bird with us! Dress warmly!

Brooklyn

Battle Prattle / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Names like Putnam, DeKalb, and Lafayette dot our landscape. Find out who they were and the role they played in the nation's birth.

Manhattan

Winter Eagle Watch / Inwood Hill Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Dyckman ballfields (western-

most end of Dyckman Street). The winter season offers a great opportunity for New Yorkers to catch a glimpse of the majestic bald eagle. When the lakes and rivers of upstate New York, Maine, Vermont, and Canada freeze for the winter, bald eagles leave their northern territories in search of open water to hunt for fish. The Hudson River along northern Manhattan provides plenty of unfrozen areas for these eagle visitors to catch their favorite food. Bring binoculars. Hot cocoa and tea provided.

Queens

Winter Tree I.D. / Kissena Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Rose and Oak Ave. entrance. With the Rangers teaching you how to identify trees without leaves, you'll never "bark up the wrong tree" again.

Staten Island

Nature Knowledge Hike / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet at visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.). Walk through the wild, and witness a wealth of winter wonders. Dress for the weather.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**Bronx**

Siwanoy Trail Adventure / Pelham Bay Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Bartow-Pell Mansion, 895 Shore Road The Siwanoy people used these trails for hunting and gathering. Join us as we walk in their footsteps. "hunting" for wildlife and gathering memories.

Brooklyn

Neighborhood Series / Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights 11 a.m. / Meet in front of Borough Hall This edition of our popular walking tour series showcases two of Brooklyn's oldest neighborhoods. Wear comfortable shoes; dress for the weather. Tour lasts about 2 1/2 hours.

Manhattan

Ramble Adventure / Central Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Boathouse Café. Explore the Park's Ramble in search of wildlife and "cool" plants and trees.

Queens

History: There's a Lot in Fort Totten / Fort Totten 2 p.m. / FTRS Journey back to the last few decades of the nineteenth century, as we tour the historic water battery of Fort Totten, built during the Civil War to protect New York's harbor.

Staten Island

Forest Ecology / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station (1150 Clove Road). The winter woods may look lifeless, but on today's walk we'll see just how much activity actually goes on.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**Bronx**

John Muir Trail Adventure / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Broadway and Mosholu Ave. Join us as we traverse the park on the only east-west trail. Soaring tulip trees and an abundance of wildlife await you. Dress for the weather.

Brooklyn

Winter Animal Tracking / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Was it a raccoon snacking by the waterline? A gull eating the remains of another's meal? An exploration and identification of what wildlife leaves behind.

Manhattan

Arthur Ross Pinetum Tour / Central Park Arthur Ross Pinetum (northwest corner of the Great Lawn) 1 - 3 p.m. / Learn about this special collection of pines from all over the world. If we're lucky, we may see a long-eared or saw-whet owl.

Queens

Denizens of the Dark / Cunningham Park 4:30 p.m. / Meet at parking lot on Union Tpke. and 197 St. Join the Rangers for their first ever after-hours visit to Cunningham Park looking for bats, raccoons, owls, and whatever else lurks in the dark. Bring a flashlight, but leave your fear at home.

Staten Island

FOwl Prowl / Blue Heron Park 6 p.m. / BHNC Learn all about owls, from what they eat to what they sound like, as we go in search of these nocturnal wonders.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**Bronx**

Forever Wild! Winter Waterfowl! / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / OBNC Brants, buffleheads, mergansers, and ruddy ducks abound! We'll search for birds that think NYC in winter is warm and cozy.

Brooklyn

Colonial Cooking / Fort Greene Park 12 p.m. / FGVC Join us for this demonstration and find out what it took to keep colonial families fed, while sampling their traditional meals.

Manhattan

Weather you Like it or Not! / Central Park Belvedere Castle 1 p.m. / Check out the equipment used by the National Weather Service, and observe a couple of cool experiments.

Queens

Tails, Snails, and Scales / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / FTRS Come on down to the new visitor center for a morning of cookies, cocoa, and characters, as the rangers read nature stories to your junior ranger. Children 2 and over.

Staten Island

Groovy Glaciers / High Rock Park Ranger Station 1 p.m. / Explore the remains of what the Wisconsin glacier left behind on Staten Island. Dress for the weather.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19**Bronx**

Bottle Project: Hanging Gardens / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC What can you do with soda bottles? Lots of things! Bring 3 clear 2-liter bottles and prepare to be amazed!

Brooklyn

Winter Waterfowl Walk / Fresh Creek Park 12 p.m. / Louisiana Ave. entrance Discover the ducks and geese that call this creek home over the long winter months.

Manhattan

Castle by Candlelight / Central Park Belvedere Castle 5 p.m. / An evening history tour of Calvert Vaux's enchanting whimsy, including a short walk through the sunken transverse rock tunnel, the Ramble, and nearby Shakespeare Garden.

Queens

Duck, Duck, Goose / Ridgewood Reservoir 11 a.m. / Meet at Jamaica Ave. and Elton Street.

Brants, buffleheads, mergansers, and ruddy ducks abound. We'll search for birds (and the people who watch them) that think NYC is a winter wonderland.

Staten Island

Rip Van Beetle / Clove Lakes Park 1 p.m. / Meet in front of comfort station. Even in the middle of winter, there are bugs alive and well. Discover how they make it through the ice and cold.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**Bronx**

Winter Survival / Pelham Bay Park 11 a.m. / PBRS If you were lost in a winter wilderness, how would you survive? Join us for tips and tricks to get by in the coldest conditions.

Brooklyn

African Americans and the American Revolution / Fort Greene Park 11 a.m. / FGVC In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we'll examine the contributions of African Americans in the fight for America's independence.

Manhattan

Knot-Tying Workshop / Inwood Hill Park Nature Center 12 p.m. / Come get the "knots" out (and tied) with the Rangers, as you learn "the ropes" about basic rope techniques, from packing up gear to sailing.

Queens

Predators & Prey / Rockaway Community Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Beach 58 St. and Beach Channel Drive. Located in a secluded area, this park is ideal for observing interaction between raptors and prey. Even snowy owls and jackrabbits have been seen in the area.

Staten Island

Winter Survival / Blue Heron Park Nature Center 1 p.m. / Learn to build a shelter, find food and water, and stay warm during winter hiking.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**Bronx**

Winter Weeds / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC Discover the stark beauty of the remains of spring, summer, and fall's bounty. Great for photography.

Brooklyn

History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC Explore Fort Greene Park and environs, taking a look at the park's role in American history.

Manhattan

Literary Walk / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at Shakespeare statue (66 Street, mid-park). Join the Rangers for an exploration of the famous, and not-so-famous, resident replicas of Central Park's Literary Walk.

Queens

Snowshoeing: Woodpecker Walk / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS Join us as we go in search for the woodpeckers that live in Fort Totten. Weather permitting; if no snow, join us for a hike. Snowshoes/binoculars provided.

Staten Island

Park to Park: Moses Mountain / High Rock Park Ranger Station 1 p.m. / Climb Moses Mountain, learn its history, and enjoy a spectacular view from the top. Bring your camera and dress for the weather.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Bronx
Winter Tree ID / Pelham Bay Park 2 p.m. / OBNC Test your tree knowledge, as we learn how to identify trees without their leaves.

Brooklyn
Trains and Trolleys / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC We'll "track" the history of Brooklyn transit, from horse-drawn omnibuses to high-tech subways.

Manhattan
Winter Survival: Tricks and Tips / Inwood Hill Park Nature Center 11 a.m.
Cool tricks and tips about camping in the cold wilderness, including basic survival skills.

Queens
Animal Tracking / Cunningham Park 12 p.m. Meet at parking lot on Union Tpke. and 197 St. Animals leave behind different signs of their whereabouts, from scat to footprints. With the Rangers, you'll learn to keep "track" of them all.

Staten Island
Edible Insects / Blue Heron Park Nature Center 1 p.m. / Insects are considered delicacies in some parts of the world. Join us to learn just how delicious they can be.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Bronx
Bird Club / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC See January 5 listing.

Brooklyn
Marsh Hike / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Explore the marsh with the rangers and learn the important role this ecosystem plays in winter.

Manhattan
Leave No Trace / Inwood Hill Park 1 p.m. / IHNC Learn how to go for a hike, make a camp/campfire, and leave no trace behind.

Queens
Denizens of the Dark / Alley Pond Park 4:30 p.m. / APPAC An after-hours look for bats, raccoons, great horned owls, and whatever else lurks in the dark. Bring a flashlight, and leave your fear behind.

Staten Island
Native American Pathways / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet by visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee Street). Explore the park to discover a variety of objects used by the Native Americans to survive the winter.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Bronx
'Hooo' Said That? / Pelham Bay Park 1 p.m. / OBNC Winter is the best time to see wild owls in New York City. Don't miss this opportunity.

Manhattan
Neighborhood Series / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC A walking tour of the Fort Greene neighborhood, covering architecture and history. Tour lasts about two hours; wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Queens
Winter Tree Walk / Central Park Dana Discovery Center 11 a.m. / Come test your tree identification skills on this walk through the woods.

Staten Island
Tribute to Rodents / Blue Heron Park Nature Center 1 p.m. / Meet some of Punxsutawney Phil's cousins as we pay tribute to our local rodents.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Bronx
Winter Waterfowl / Van Cortlandt Park 9 a.m. / VCNC Brants, buffleheads, mergansers, and ruddy ducks abound. Join us in search of those wintering water birds.

Brooklyn
Explore the Lullwater Hike / Prospect Park 1 p.m. / Meet outside the Audubon Center. A winter hike along the Lullwater explores this beautiful area of Prospect Park. Wear comfortable shoes; dress for the weather.

Manhattan
Compost Happens / Central Park 1 p.m. / Meet at E. 106 St and 5 Ave. Learn about large-scale composting as practiced in the park, as well as the basics of home composting.

Queens
Nature and History Photography Hike / Fort Totten 11 a.m. / FTRS Experience the nooks and crannies of the natural and historic areas of Fort Totten that aren't open to the general public. Bring your camera, and take your best shots.

Staten Island
Nuts about Squirrels / Willowbrook Park 1 p.m. / Meet by comfort station. The forest depends on the squirrels, and the squirrels depend on the forest. Find out why.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Bronx
Valentine-Varian House / Williamsbridge Oval Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Bainbridge Ave. and 208 St. This little house in the north Bronx has quite a history. Come inside for a tour.

Brooklyn
History Club: Electrification of Brooklyn and Progress and Power in the NYC Subway / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC It's "current" history at the Marsh. Join us for guest lecturers Joseph Cunningham, Engineering Historian, and Robert W. Lobenstien, General Superintendent of Operations with the MTA, for a lively discussion on the humble beginnings of NYC's electrical power supply.

Manhattan
Story Time / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC It's cold outside, but it's warm at the nature center. Enjoy an afternoon of children's stories.

Queens
Roy & the Red-tails / Roy Wilkins Park 11 a.m. / Meet at Recreation Center at 177 St. and Baisley Blvd. Roy Wilkins Park is home to a nesting pair of red-tailed hawks. Learn how this species has adapted so well to urban environments.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Bronx
Sleeping Giants / Van Cortlandt Park 11 a.m. / VCNC Test your tree knowledge with the Rangers as we hike through the stark winter woodlands.

Brooklyn
History on the Hill / Fort Greene Park 1

p.m. / FGVC Explore the park and its surrounding neighborhood, taking a look at the environ's unique role in American History.

Manhattan
Owls! / Inwood Hill Park 7 p.m. / IHNC Join the Urban Park Rangers for a night hike through in search of screech! owls.

Queens
Owl Prowl / Alley Pond Park 3 p.m. / APPAC Although owls are active at night, signs of their whereabouts can be seen during the day. Hoo-ooo knows what we'll find?

Staten Island
Park to Park: Heyerdahl Hill / High Rock Park Ranger Station 1 p.m. / On the Red Trail, you'll see a variety of winter birds, and check out the ponds as well. Wear hiking boots. Bring a snack and water. Moderate to difficult terrain.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Bronx
Forever Wild! Winter Waterfowl! / Pelham Bay Park Orchard Beach Nature Center 11 a.m. / Brants, buffleheads, mergansers, and ruddy ducks abound. Join us as we track down these wintry City residents.

Brooklyn
Darwin Day / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC We'll discuss evolution and adaptation on this nature hike around the marsh.

Manhattan
Singles Hike / Inwood Hill Park 2 p.m. / IHNC Feeling lonely this Valentine's Day? You might just meet someone new on this special hike.

Queens
Snowshoeing: Woodpecker Walk / Fort Totten 1 p.m. / FTRS Learn to walk through the snow in style. Look for some of the few winter residents of the park. Binoculars are provided. Weather permitting; if no snow; join us for a hike. Snowshoes provided.

Staten Island
Winter Survival / Blue Heron Park 1 p.m. / Blue Heron Nature Center See January 20 listing.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Bronx
Recycled Crafts: Papermaking! / Van Cortlandt Park 1 p.m. / VCNC Reduce, reuse, recycle, and have fun doing it, as we make paper. Bring the kids!

Brooklyn
Nuts about Squirrels / Marine Park 1 p.m. / SMNC Learn everything you wanted to know about our fine, furry friends who make their homes in our parks.

The Redcoats are Coming (and Hessians Too) / Fort Greene Park 1 p.m. / FGVC The Americans were dealt a crushing defeat in the Battle of Brooklyn...find out how.

Manhattan
Native American Songs, Crafts, and Storytelling / Inwood Hill Park 12 p.m. / IHNC The cold winter months were a vital time for people to gather indoors for entertainment and warmth. Join special guest Louis Mofsie, Native American musician, storyteller, and artist, for an afternoon of music, dance, storytelling, and crafts.

Queens
Making Tracks / Fort Totten Park 11 a.m. / FTRS Learn to identify animal tracks found in our parks, then make your own track decorations.

Staten Island
Maps and More / Blue Heron Park Nature Center 1 p.m. / Ever get lost? The Rangers will teach you how to read a map and use a compass. Equipment provided.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Bronx
Astronomy / Pelham Bay Park 6 p.m. / PBRS Gaze at the heavens through our telescope, as we identify constellations, stars, and more. Weather permitting. Please call 718.885.3467 on the day of the program to confirm.

Brooklyn
Brooklyn's Beautiful Brownstones and Buildings / Fort Greene Park 2 p.m. / FGVC Take a virtual tour of the borough's architecturally interesting buildings; from brownstones to churches, to mansions and cottages, Brooklyn has them all.

Manhattan
Good Morning, Morningside! / Morningside Park 10 a.m. / Meet at Morningside Ave. and W. 110 St. Join the Urban Park Rangers for an exploration of Morningside Park, including the trees of Dr. Thomas Kiel Arboretum.

Queens
Duck, Duck, Goose / Flushing Meadows Corona Park Mauro Playground 9 a.m. See January 19 description.

Staten Island
History Club: American Revolution / Conference House Park 1 p.m. / Meet by visitors center (Hylan Blvd. and Satterlee St.) In a last ditch effort for peace, Benjamin Franklin, Edward Rutledge, and John Adams met at the Conference House to negotiate peace, but failed. Join the Rangers delve deep into the American Revolution.

*For those who believe
a path will open,
nothing is impossible.*

~ Ryuhō Okawa

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January 10 & 17
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/FITNESS CENTER**
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6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

JAMES MADISON H.S.
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GROVER CLEVELAND H.S.
21-27 Himrod Street
January 9 & 16
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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