



Urban Park Rangers Calendar of Events

Fall 2017



NYC Parks



Urban Park Ranger Facilities

Please call specific locations for hours.

BRONX

Pelham Bay Ranger Station // (718) 319-7258
Pelham Bay Park // Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Orchard Beach Nature Center // (718) 885-3466
Pelham Bay Park // Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Van Cortlandt Nature Center // (718) 548-0912
Van Cortlandt Park // West 246th Street and Broadway

BROOKLYN

Salt Marsh Nature Center // (718) 421-2021
Marine Park // East 33rd Street and Avenue U

MANHATTAN

Belvedere Castle // (212) 628-2345
Central Park // Enter at 79th Street

QUEENS

Alley Pond Park Adventure Center // (718) 217-6034 // (718) 217-4685
Alley Pond Park // Enter at Winchester Boulevard, under the Grand Central Parkway.

Forest Park Ranger Station // (718) 846-2731
Forest Park // Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Fort Totten Visitors Center // (718) 352-1769
Fort Totten Park // Enter the park at fort entrance, north of intersection of 212th Street and Cross Island Parkway and follow signs.

STATEN ISLAND

Blue Heron Nature Center // (718) 967-3542
Blue Heron Park // 222 Poillon Ave., between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard



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Urban Park Ranger Outdoor Adventure Programs

For a complete listing of programs or to register, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

NYC Parks produces a variety of large festivals and special events that provide unique experiences for thousands of New Yorkers year-round. This fall, the Urban Park Rangers celebrate history, wildlife, the cosmos, and the holidays through an array of fun-filled, family-friendly special events. We'll see you in the park!

Saturday, Oct. 14 // Open House NY: Prison Ship Martyrs Monument

Fort Greene Park // 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, park entrance at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. This memorial was built in the center of Fort Greene Park in 1908 as a tribute to the 11,000 men, women, and children who died on British prison ships during the Revolutionary War. Step inside this historic monument and learn about Fort Greene Park history, the Revolutionary War and the stories of those who perished.

Sunday, Oct. 15 // Open House NY: Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse

Fort Washington Park // 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Enter the park from the pedestrian bridge at 181st Street and Riverside Drive. As part of Open House NY, join the Urban Park Rangers on guided tours of Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse. Erected in 1880 and moved to its current site in 1921, it has become widely known as the children's literary landmark "The Little Red Lighthouse." Rediscover the history of this unique landmark.

Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28 // Haunted Lantern Tours

Fort Totten Park // 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center and Historic Battery. Leave your fear at home as the Urban Park Rangers lead your family through the haunted Fort Totten Water Battery. Participants must arrive no later than 8:00 p.m. for guaranteed admittance. Please call the Fort Totten Visitor Center at (718) 352-1769 for more information.

Monday, Oct. 31 // A Haunting We Will Go

Cedar Grove Park // 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
Cedar Grove Avenue and Seafoam Street. Enjoy a frightful time with bugs, snakes, ghosts, goblins, and the Urban Park Rangers. All ages. Costumes and bravery welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 17 // Christmas Bird Count

Central Park // 8:00 a.m.
Meeting location TBA. This annual event began in 1900 as a conservation effort to protect wild birds. To this day it continues throughout the country each year. Join NYC Audubon, Urban Park Rangers, and the Central Park Conservancy as we count birds in every section of the park. Pre-registration is required. Visit nyc.audubon.org to learn about this and additional bird counts scheduled throughout NYC.

RANGER'S CHOICE

Our bright and talented Urban Park Rangers are what make our Weekend Adventure programs so amazing. Each season we feature some of the Rangers' favorite Weekend Adventure experiences. Space is limited on all Ranger's Choice programs and registration is required. Please visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register to register.

Saturday, Oct. 14 // Ranger's Choice: Archery

Willowbrook Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meeting location TBA. A beginner's guide to archery. All supplies are included. Ages 8 and up. Participants chosen by lottery. Registration begins on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Sunday, Oct. 15 // Ranger's Choice: Primitive Survival Skills

Van Cortlandt Park // 1:00 p.m.
Meeting location TBA. If you were dropped into the wilderness with nothing but the clothes on your back, could you make a fire, build a shelter, or gather clean drinking water? Registration begins on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Sunday, Oct. 15 // Ranger's Choice: Green-Wood Cemetery History Tour

Green-Wood Cemetery // 11:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Green-Wood Cemetery was established in the mid-19th century and is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in New York City. Registration begins on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Sunday, Oct. 22 // Ranger's Choice: Nature Art Kissena Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Registration required. Register on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Saturday, Nov. 4 // Ranger's Choice: The Van Cortlandt Super Hike (Vigorous)

Van Cortlandt Park // 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. This challenging 8-mile hike winds its way through most of the park's many diverse forests and ecosystems. Registration begins on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Saturday, Nov. 11 // Ranger's Choice: Lenape Harvest Inwood Hill Park // Noon

Meeting location TBA. Inwood Hill Park continues to have a vivid connection to the native people of this country. Learn about daily customs and sample forest-sourced food items, which were the staples of a Lenape diet. Registration begins on Oct. 25.

Saturday, Nov. 18 // Ranger's Choice: Advanced Fire Making

Marine Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Learn to use creativity and ingenuity to start a fire and keep it going. Registration begins on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

Sunday, Nov. 26 // Ranger's Choice: The World's Fair Adventure Quest

Flushing Meadows Corona Park // 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. This challenge leads teams through the park on a part-savenger hunt, part-walking tour combining easy physical challenges, photo clues and searches while testing your knowledge of local history. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday Nov. 15.

Saturday, Dec. 23 // Ranger's Choice: Birding Van Tour: Owls

Pelham Bay Park // 11:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Winter is the best time of year to spot owls—the leaves are gone, making it harder for them to hide, and the days are shorter, which is perfect for our nocturnal residents. Registration begins on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

ASTRONOMY AND NIGHT SKY

Our Urban Park Rangers will be your guides to the solar system, discussing the science, history, and folklore of the universe. Astronomy programs feature the use of telescopes and binoculars to observe specific astronomical events. Night Sky programs highlight the history and folklore of the solar system, using the naked eye to locate stars and planets.

Saturday, Oct. 14 // Astronomy: Phases of the Moon Inwood Hill Park // 7:00 p.m.

Pat's Lawn, West 218th Street and Indian Road

Sunday, Oct. 15 // Astronomy Alley Pond Park // 7:00 p.m.

Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

Sunday, Oct. 15 // Astronomy: Constellations Conference House Park // 7:00 p.m.

Conference House Visitor's Center, Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, Oct. 21 // The Night Sky Pelham Bay Park // 6:00 p.m.

Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday, Oct. 22 // Astronomy: Orionids Meteor Shower Owl's Head Park // 8:00 p.m.

Meet at the Park House, Colonial Road and 68th Street. The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak.

Sunday, Nov. 5 // Astronomy Pelham Bay Park // 6:00 p.m.

Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Saturday, Nov. 11 // Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter Lemon Creek Pier // 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the parking lot at Sharrott Avenue and Hylan Boulevard.

Saturday, Nov. 18 // The Night Sky Rockaway Beach // 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the boardwalk and B. 116th Street.

Saturday, Dec. 2 // Our Solar System Fort Greene Park // 1:00 p.m.

Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park

Sunday, Dec. 3 // Astronomy: Super Moon Van Cortlandt Park // 5:00 p.m.

Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway. Using a reflecting telescope, the Rangers will show you where the six Apollo missions that landed on the moon actually touched down. Explore the Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility) of Apollo 11 and the Apennine Mountains of Apollo 15, among others.

Sunday, Dec. 10 // Astronomy Fort Totten Park // 6:00 p.m.

Enter park at Totten Road and Cross Island Parkway, follow signs to Visitor Center and Historic Battery.

Friday, Dec. 15 // Geminids Meteor Shower Marine Park // 7:00 p.m.

Salt Marsh Nature Center, East 33rd Street and Avenue U. One of the best meteor showers in the sky, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak.

Saturday, Dec. 23 // Ursids Meteor Shower Wolfe's Pond Park // 6:00 p.m.

Comfort Station west of Cornelia Avenue. Originating near the constellation Ursa Minor, or the "Little Dipper," this meteor shower is active during the period spanning Dec. 17–25.

OUTDOORS SKILLS

Our Urban Park Rangers are well-versed in outdoor lore. Learn tips and tricks that will enhance your knowledge of the natural world, and might just save your life. All programs are family-friendly, but are recommended for ages 8 years and older.

Saturday, Oct. 21 // Outdoor Skills: Fire Making Alley Pond Park // 1:00 p.m.

Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

Saturday, Nov. 4 // Outdoor Skills: Backpacking Blue Heron Park // 11:00 a.m.

Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave., between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, Nov. 18 // Outdoor Skills: Fire Making Inwood Hill Park // 1:00 p.m.

Isham Street and Seaman Avenue

Sunday, Nov. 19 // Outdoor Skills: Food Sources Alley Pond Park // 1:00 p.m.

Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

Sunday, Nov. 26 // Modern Survival Skills Pelham Bay Park // 1:00 p.m.

Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Sunday, Dec. 3 // Outdoor Skills: Orienteering and Compasses

Canarsie Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Park House at 88th Street and Seaview Avenue.

Saturday Dec. 16 // Outdoor Skills: Fire Making Blue Heron Park // 11:00 a.m.

Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave., between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard.

HIKING

Our Urban Park Ranger hiking guides will introduce you to the hidden gems of New York City. Hiking programs feature intensity levels ranging from light (a leisurely stroll on mostly paved paths), to moderate (longer, faster paced hikes on rugged terrain), to vigorous (long distance, with hills and rugged terrain).

Sunday, Nov. 5 // Mount Moses Hike (Vigorous) High Rock Park // 11:00 a.m.

Nevada Ave Parking Lot. Park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue.

Saturday, Nov. 11 // Nature Exploration Hike (Moderate)

Highland Park // 11:00 a.m.

Vermont Place and Highland Boulevard parking lot

Sunday, Nov. 19 // Northern Manhattan Parks (Vigorous)

Morningside Park // 11:00 a.m.

110th Street and Morningside Drive. Meander through parks in northern Manhattan on this one-way hike from Morningside Park to Jackie Robinson Park.

Sunday, Dec. 3 // Winter Tree ID Hike (Light) Forest Park // 1:00 p.m.

Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive

Saturday, Dec. 9 // Nature Exploration Hike: John Muir Trail (Vigorous)

Van Cortlandt Park // 11:00 a.m.

Mosholu Avenue and Broadway

Saturday, Dec. 16 // Photography Scavenger Hunt (Light)

Herbert Von King Park // 1:00 p.m.

Clifton Place and Marcy Avenue. Bring your own digital camera or smartphone.

Sunday, Dec. 17 // Winter Solstice Candle Light Walk (Light)

Van Cortlandt Park // 5:00 p.m.

Enter the park at Bailey Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South. Meet at the golf house.

HISTORY

Urban Park Rangers specialize in interpretation of historic turning points, both natural and man-made, in our city's long history. "Revolutionary New York" programs focus on the history of New York during the pre and post-Colonial Period. "Historic New York" programs highlight the history and architecture of selected neighborhoods or parks. Native American culture is celebrated in special programs throughout the five boroughs.

Saturday, Oct. 21 // Central Park: Olmsted's Vision Central Park // 11:00 a.m.

72nd Street and Central Park West

Sunday, Oct. 22 // Historic New York: High Bridge High Bridge Park // 11:00 a.m.

University Avenue and West 170th Street

Saturday, Oct. 28 // Ghosts of Conference House Conference House Park // 7:00 p.m.

Conference House Visitor's Center, Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard. Is this Staten Island's most haunted park? Find out on a nighttime hike through an ancient burial ground and into the Conference House. Participants chosen by lottery. Registration begins on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Sunday, Nov. 5 // Historic New York: Native Americans Alley Pond Park // 11:00 a.m.

Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

Sunday, Nov. 12 // Fort Totten Tunnel Tour

Fort Totten Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Participants chosen by lottery. Registration begins on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Saturday, Nov. 18 // Historic New York: Native Americans

Conference House Park // 1:00 p.m.

Conference House Visitor's Center, Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, Nov. 25 // History of Van Cortlandt Park

Van Cortlandt Park // 11:00 a.m.

Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Saturday, Nov. 25 // Historic New York: Colonial Cooking

Fort Greene Park // 1:00 p.m.

Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park

Saturday, Dec. 9 // Historic New York: Monuments of Prospect Park

Prospect Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch at Grand Army Plaza.

Saturday, Dec. 9 // Historic New York: Square Parks Madison Square Park // 11:00 a.m.

Meeting location TBA. Tour NYC's mighty but tiny historic parks.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

New York City is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife. Our Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in the urban jungle. We offer birding programs throughout the year and our Exploration Series focuses on unique wildlife viewing opportunities during particular seasons. Birding programs are appropriate for all skill levels and beginners are welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 1 // Birding: Fall Migration

Van Cortlandt Park // 10:00 a.m.

Van Cortlandt Nature Center, West 246th Street and Broadway

Sunday, Oct. 8 // Deer Exploration Hike

High Rock Park // 11:00 a.m.

Nevada Avenue Parking Lot. Park in lot at the end of Nevada Avenue.

Saturday, Oct. 14 // Birding: Hawk Watch

Flushing Meadows Corona Park // 10:00 a.m.

Meet inside the park at The Unisphere.

Sunday, Oct. 29 // Birding: Raptor Migration

Spring Creek Park // 11:00 a.m.

Gateway Drive and Erskine Street

Saturday, Nov. 4 // Nocturnal Wildlife

Cunningham Park // 6:00 p.m.

Meet in the parking lot at Union Turnpike and 197th Street.

Saturday, Nov. 11 // Birding: Winter Birding

Bush Terminal Park // 1:00 p.m.

43rd Street and First Avenue

Sunday, Nov. 12 // Birding

Morningside Park // 10:00 a.m.

110th Street and Morningside Drive

Sunday, Nov. 19 // Birding: Owls

Pelham Bay Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meeting location TBA. Registration begins on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

Saturday, Nov. 25 // Deer Exploration Hike

Blue Heron Park // 1:00 p.m.

Blue Heron Nature Center, 222 Poillon Ave., between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard. Through an Urban Park Ranger-led hike, you will learn about the impacts and signs of deer on Staten Island, and maybe even see these majestic animals.

Sunday, Nov. 26 // Nocturnal Wildlife

Central Park // 5:00 p.m.

West 100th Street and Central Park West

Saturday, Dec. 2 // Living with Urban Coyotes

Pelham Bay Park // 1:00 p.m.

Pelham Bay Nature Center, Bruckner Boulevard and Wilkinson Avenue

Saturday, Dec. 2 // Birding: Owls

Inwood Hill Park // 5:00 p.m.

Isham Street and Seaman Avenue. Registration required. Registration begins on Wednesday Nov. 22.

Saturday, Dec. 9 // Winter Wildlife Viewing

Flushing Meadows Corona Park // 9:00 a.m.

Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd Terrace

Sunday, Dec. 10 // Seal Exploration

Pelham Bay Park // 11:00 a.m.

Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

Sunday, Dec. 10 // Deer Exploration Hike

Conference House Park // 1:00 p.m.

Conference House Visitor's Center, Satterlee Street and Hylan Boulevard

Saturday, Dec. 16 // Birding: Waterfowl

Baisley Pond Park // 11:00 a.m.

Meet in the parking lot at 155th Street and Baisley Boulevard.

Saturday, Dec. 23 // Birding: Jamaica Bay

Bayswater Park // 1:00 p.m.

Meet inside the park at B. 32nd Street and Beach Channel Drive.

FALL FOLIAGE

With nearly 30,000 acres of public parkland, New York City is the perfect place for fall leaf-peeping. Let our Urban Park Ranger naturalists explain why leaves change colors and introduce you to the diversity of trees found in our urban forests. Be sure to bring your camera and prepare for the kaleidoscope of colors.

Sunday, Oct. 8 // Fall Foliage Walk

Captain Tilly Park // 1:00 p.m.

Highland Avenue and 165th Street

Saturday, Oct. 21 // Fall Foliage Walk:

Trees of Prospect Park

Prospect Park // 11:00 a.m.

Prospect Park Picnic House. Enter the park at Prospect Park West and Fifth Street.

Sunday, Oct. 22 // Fall Foliage Hike

Bloomingdale Park // 1:00 p.m.

Playground at Ramona Avenue and Lenevar Avenue. The changing colors of autumn are in full swing! Come with the Urban Park Rangers and explore the many different tree species of this park.

Sunday, Oct. 22 // Fall Foliage Photography

Scavenger Hunt

Central Park // 11:00 a.m.

Dana Discovery Center. Enter the park at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue. Bring your own digital camera or smartphone to capture evidence of your scavenger clues. Work on your own or as a team in this fun family-friendly program. Registration begins on Oct. 16.

Sunday, Oct. 29 // Fall Foliage Hike:

Cornucopia of Trees

Crotona Park // 11:00 a.m.

Crotona Nature Center, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

Saturday, Nov. 11 // Fall Foliage Hike:

Northeast Forest

Van Cortlandt Park // 11:00 a.m.

Van Cortlandt Park East and East 242nd Street

Sunday, Nov. 12 // Fall Foliage Walk: Trees of

Lincoln Terrace

Lincoln Terrace Park // 1:00 p.m.

Rochester Avenue and President Street

Saturday, Nov. 25 // Fall Foliage Photography Hike

Inwood Hill Park // 3:00 p.m.

Isham Street and Seaman Avenue. Bring your own digital camera or smartphone to capture the beauty of Inwood Hill Park during the golden hour before sunset.



Black Friday Hikes

Take a step away from stress and step onto one of our nature trails with the Urban Park Rangers. Each borough has a hidden gem that will take you to a place of peace and tranquility while connecting you to nature. These hikes are longer than your average nature walk, so comfortable walking shoes are strongly encouraged.

**Friday, Nov. 24 // Black Friday Hike:
Hunter Island Hike (Moderate)**

Pelham Bay Park // 1:00 p.m.

Orchard Beach Nature Center, Section 2 of Orchard Beach

**Friday, Nov. 24 // Black Friday Hike:
The Midwood Trail (Moderate)**

Prospect Park // 1:00 p.m.

Prospect Park Audubon Center, East Drive and Lincoln Road. Step back in time with a walk through Brooklyn's oldest remaining forest. The Midwood, home to some of Prospect Park's largest trees, is a relic of Brooklyn's history and was preserved and incorporated into the park during its original construction.

**Friday, Nov. 24 // Black Friday Hike:
Central Park South to North Hike (Vigorous)**
Central Park // 11:00 a.m.

Doris Freedman Plaza, Fifth Avenue and 60th Street. Get outside and walking shoes ready as the Urban Park Rangers hike you through iconic and natural areas throughout the entire park. The hike will start at the southern end of the park and end at the northern end near the Harlem Meer.

**Friday, Nov. 24 // Black Friday Hike:
The Alley Giant (Moderate)**

Alley Pond Park // 11:00 a.m.

Alley Pond Adventure Center, Winchester Boulevard under the Grand Central Parkway

**Friday, Nov. 24 // Black Friday Hike:
Post-Thanksgiving Super Hike (Vigorous)**
Greenbelt White Trail // 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Willowbrook Park Archery Fields.



NYC Parks



All photos: NYC Parks