



CELEBRATING WILDLIFE IN PARKS



One of the greatest resources for park users is the Urban Park Rangers. Through environmental and historical education and active conservation, they foster an ecologically healthy and safe park system. Using New York City's 28,000 acres of parkland as outdoor classrooms, they teach tens of thousands of school children about the natural world each year. Their fun and educational weekend tours and

special events are popular with people of all ages. High school students, summer youth interns, AmeriCorps volunteers and others work with the Rangers in ecological restoration and endangered species protection projects. The Rangers are a valuable information resource for park users, and, as uniformed peace officers, they enforce the park rules and regulations, maintaining a safe environment for people, plants and animals.

The Rangers offer a myriad of ways to learn about wildlife in city parks. You can learn more about nature by visiting Ranger nature centers throughout the city:

Bronx: Van Cortlandt Park: Urban Forest Ecology Center; Pelham Bay Park Nature Center; Pelham Bay Park Orchard Beach Nature Center

Manhattan: Inwood Hill Park Urban Ecology Center

Queens: Upper Alley Pond Information Center

Staten Island: High Rock Park Visitor Center; Blue Heron Pond Park Nature Center

If you are interested in volunteering in a nature center call the Urban Park Rangers Special Projects Division for an application: (212) 360-2792

There are many animals in our city parks that park visitors may not even notice. For example: Red-backed Salamanders in Alley Pond Park in Queens, Horned Owls in Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, and even Chipmunks in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. To learn more about animals you may find in city parks, call the Urban Park Rangers - **Bronx: 718-548-0912; Brooklyn: 718-438-0100; Manhattan: 212-304-2365 or 212-628-2345; Queens: 718-846-2731; Staten Island: 718-667-6042 or 718-967-3542** - or participate in free animal-related tours offered by the Rangers. For a complete calendar of Spring tours call the Rangers. A sampling of April's tours includes:

Sunday, April 4 in Staten Island: Springtime Serenade - "Concert" given by spring peepers and vocal animals that gather in ponds. Meet at the High Rock Visitor's Center.

Saturday, April 10 in Queens: Forest Night Hike - Bring your flashlight and for an adventurous hike through the forest at night. Meet at the Forest Park Ranger Station.

Saturday, April 17 in Queens: Animal Tracks - Search for tracks or other evidence of forest animals. Meet at the southeast corner of Francis Lewis Blvd. and Union Turnpike.

While we encourage you to enjoy the wildlife in parks, always remember the motto, "If you care, leave it there." All animals in our parks are protected by federal, state, and city laws; it is against federal law to have a wild animal in your possession. If you see an injured animal don't take matters into your own hands, call the Rangers at 800-201-PARK.

Special thanks to Ranger Elisabeth Carrozza and AmeriCorps intern Kimberlyn Acevedo for their help with this article.

IT'S MY PARK AND OTHER EVENTS

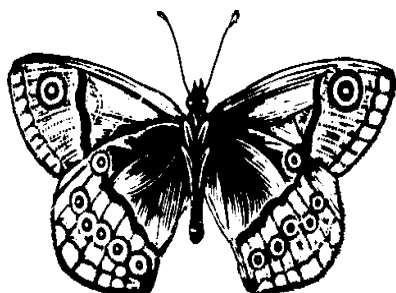
Spring into Spring! There are many chances to help clean, green, and celebrate New York City's parks this spring so mark your calendars now.

Nickelodeon's "The Big Help" will be held Saturday, **April 24**. This kid-friendly event will feature children across the city helping out in parks in all five boroughs. Call 212-360-1357 for more information.

Help out the city's largest parks by participating in cleaning and greening projects on **New York Cares Spring Clean-Up Day** on Saturday, **May 8**. Call New York Cares, a citywide volunteer organization at 212-228-5000 for information on registering.

Join the City of New York/Parks & Recreation, *Partnerships for Parks*, and the thousands of New Yorkers that volunteer to clean and green their neighborhood parks on **"It's My Park!" Day** on Saturday, **May 22**. Participating sites must be registered by Thursday, **April 15** -- call your Outreach Coordinator for more information.

Come celebrate the city's parks at **You gotta have Park!**, which takes place at selected sites across the city on the weekend of **May 22-23**. Call 212-360-1357 for more information.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund recently awarded *Partnerships for Parks* a \$900,000 matching-grant for its work in revitalizing neighborhood parks in New York City in partnership with residents, community groups and businesses. Half of these funds will go towards intensive efforts in five neighborhood parks - Crotona and St. James in the Bronx, Fort Greene in Brooklyn, Marcus Garvey in Harlem and Baisley Pond in Queens - the grant will enable *Partnerships* to test the ways in which neighborhood parks can be transformed through a combination of public, private, and community involvement. Tim Tompkins, Director of *Partnerships*, explains "This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop a real blueprint for turning neighborhood parks around. We want to demonstrate how, even in the most challenging contexts, neighborhood parks can be revitalized and sustained. It's been done in Central Park; our job is to show that in different ways, with different techniques, it can be done in other parks."

FREE WORKSHOPS

Members of community groups who want to learn about successful techniques practiced by other community leaders should check out the excellent workshops organized by the **Citizens Committee's Neighborhood Leadership Institute**. A sampling of workshop topics includes: **Take Back the Park, Lead Poisoning, Grassroots Fund-raising Techniques, Incorporation and Tax-Exemption, and Grassroots Media Action**. To register for a workshop or for more information call 212-989-0909.

JANUARY PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

Brooklyn: Barbara Silverman's students from **Brooklyn School for Career Development** are organizing an array of activities for **Ft. Greene Park** including: environmental activities, chess and basketball tournaments, historical presentations, and a "help the elderly" day.

Bronx: Founder and President Emeritus of the **Bronx Council for Environmental Quality** and the **City Island Garden Club**, Helen "Sanctuary" Reel has worked to prevent the Pelham Bay landfill expansion in **Pelham Bay Park**.

Manhattan: Jeff "Tanager" Nulle supervised hundreds of volunteers in the restoration of **Riverside Park's Bird Sanctuary** and has led bird-walks, slide lectures and written articles for the Riverside Park Fund's newsletter.

Queens: In her first year volunteering in **Forest Park**, Jasmine "Jazzy" Galarza has already helped organized Clean-up Day 98, a Halloween festival, a volunteer brunch, a Christmas concert, and fund-raising events.

Staten Island: Eleven year-old Jonathan "Hamster" Russell sets an example for children and adults alike. At age nine, he founded **Children Against Litter Bugs**, which brings kids out to clean up parks such as **Alice Austen Beach**.

GreenThumb: Teacher Rosemarie "Myotis" Cursio and her students have worked hard to nurture the GreenThumb garden in the **PS 134 Playground**. Today more than half the classes use it as a teaching tool and it is a green oasis for students, faculty and local community alike.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Partnerships for Parks 212-360-1310
To volunteer or to join your local parks group: 212-360-1357
For recorded information about special events: 888-NY-PARKS
To report graffiti, vandalism, or crime: 800-201-PARK

Parks on the Web: www.nycparks.org

Partnerships for Parks believes that parks are essential to the life of New York City, and that community involvement is essential to the life of a park. We work to start, strengthen, and support neighborhood park groups; to link them together so that they can learn from each other and be stronger collectively; and to promote parks in general so that people will be more likely to join in efforts to restore and preserve them.

Tim (Sailfish) Tompkins, Director

This issue of the Leaflet was written by Dana (Violet) Litvack.



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor
Henry J. Stern, Commissioner

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Positions as Parks & Recreation Playground Associates and Mobile Recreation Staff

Parks is hiring over 200 Playground Associates to work in neighborhood parks and playgrounds and plan events and programs for neighborhood youth. Mobile Recreation is looking for over 40 recreation supervisors who will drive the vans stocked with recreation equipment and organize activities for children at community block parties, playgrounds, and special events. Candidates for both positions must be at least 18 years old and have at least six months work experience in recreational programs. For more information call Elizabeth Shaw at 212-360-8214.

Lifeguard Training

Free training for great summer Lifeguard jobs at NYC beaches and pools. To register, applicants need to be confident swimmers and pass a vision test. By date of hire, candidates must be at least 16 years old. If under 18 will need working papers. Call 212-830-7880 for more information.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

March 5, 1999: Green Step Environmental Grant and Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your School Grant Program. Youth Unlimited awards up to \$1,000 grants to youth groups to create and implement a youth-run-project or continue a project that is already in progress. For more information or applications call 212-989-0909.

March 5, 1999: Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. Grants for projects that address problems of pollution, raise awareness of environmental issues, and find solutions to these problems in low-income communities. 212-637-3639

March 15, 1999: Hudson River Foundation Fund. Grants for projects that enhance the public use and enjoyment of the Hudson River and its shores. 212-924-8290

March 31, 1999: Chase Volunteer Greening Awards. Small grants for active volunteers who need money for tools, equipment, plants and materials necessary for greening projects in City parks. For an application or more information call 212-360-8186.

April 1, 1999: City Parks Foundation Quarterly Grants Program. Supports projects developed by community groups for parks and playgrounds. Grants, up to \$5,000, are made in four areas: Playground Safety and Improvement, Recreation, Operations and Mechanization, and Horticulture and the Environment. 212-360-8181



The bluebird carries the
sky on its back.

— Henry David Thoreau, 1854

ATTENTION: FOR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS CALL 212-360-1357.

Address Service Requested

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CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



Partnerships for Parks

