Beyond the Capital
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

A Visitor’s Guide to National Capital Parks-East

Summer 2007

Charting the Future While Preserving the Past www.nps.gov/nace
Dear Visitor:

Welcome to Greenbelt Park, one of 14 sites within National Capital Parks-East. I am excited to personally invite you to visit a hidden jewel in the metropolitan area. Greenbelt Park is an urban park with a rural feel located 12 miles outside of Washington, D.C. It is comprised of over 1,100 acres of forest, streams, picnic areas, hiking trails, and a vast array of wildlife. You’ll marvel at all of the beautiful flora and fauna in the park.

A variety of programs are offered year-round. The park is an excellent resource for environmental studies, wildlife observation, and bird watching. It provides recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, picnicking, and camping.

Celebrate the Annual Waterlily and Asian Cultural Festival on July 21 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Come view the beautiful ponds of waterlilies and other flowering plants while enjoying a day of fun for all.

So, whether you’re ready to hike, camp, relax, or learn, let the rangers of National Capital Parks-East help you Experience Your America.

Park Ranger, Robin Martin
Greenbelt Park

Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country.

Did you know that National Capital Parks-East is one of almost 400 national parks found all across America?

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Printed on recycled paper.
Camping
The 174-site campground at Greenbelt Park is open all year. Sites are available for tents, recreational vehicles, and trailers up to 30 feet long. Restrooms, showers, picnic tables, water, and fire grates are provided. There are no electric hookups and camping is limited to 14 days. Overnight fees are dependant on the number of campers. For campground reservations, call 1-800-365-CAMP or 301-344-2929.

Special Services
NCP-East makes every effort to provide access to all of our facilities and programs for the broadest possible range of visitors. From children and the elderly to those who are physically challenged, NCP-East strives to create inclusive opportunities for all people. For detailed information on special services, visitors should contact the park Accessibility Coordinator at 202-690-5188.

Park Regulations
To help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone, please follow park rules and posted regulations.
• Pets are welcome in all of NCP-East, except at Oxon Cove Park. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control at all times.
• Discharging firearms anywhere on NCP-East lands is unlawful.
• Please dispose of your garbage and other refuse in park-provided containers or take it with you when you leave.
• For your safety while hiking, stay on the established trails and watch your footing at all times.
• Prevent damage to resources by bicycling on paved roads and designated bike trails only.

Road Construction
Due to ongoing construction at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Indian Head Highway interchange of I-95, visitors to Fort Washington Park and Oxon Cove Park may encounter traffic detours or changes in ramp alignments serving these sites. Please drive carefully. For construction and detour updates, contact park staff at 301-763-4600 for Fort Washington Park or 301-839-1176 for Oxon Cove Park.

Important Phone Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergencies</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.Park Police Communications Center</td>
<td>202-619-7105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Headquarters</td>
<td>202-690-5185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Weather</td>
<td>202-936-1212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Rail and Bus</td>
<td>202-637-7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Douglass NHS Tours</td>
<td>877-444-6777 or visit <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a></td>
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Safety In Your National Parks

On the Road
• Buckle Up! Seat belts are required by law.
• Slow down at dawn and dusk.
• Watch out for pedestrians, other motorists, and animals on roadways.
• Pedestrians have the right-of-way.
• Follow park speed limits.
• Be aware that traffic in parks can be very heavy so be patient.
• Always yield to emergency vehicles.
• Always keep watch for bicyclists, especially when turning, merging, changing lanes, or entering intersections.

Fortifications
Climbing any part of the fortifications is unsafe and can damage them. Many historic surfaces are uneven and some areas can be slippery when wet. Please stay off earthworks and watch your children.

Sun and Heat Protection
• Apply a broad spectrum sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15. Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours when outdoors, even on cloudy days.
• Drink lots of water to avoid dehydration.

Hiking Precautions
• Hiking off trails is unsafe, damages vegetation, causes erosion, and creates unsightly paths.
• Choose hiking trails suitable to your physical condition.
• If you plan to hike solo, give your intended route and length of trip to a park ranger or friend.
• Wear proper clothing. Hiking boots should be sturdy with good traction and ankle support and should be well broken in ahead of time.
• Bring bottled water.

Bites and Stings
Reduce the risk of bites or stings by taking the following steps:
• Avoid peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes.
• To reduce your contact with poison ivy and ticks, stay on trails. Wearing a hat, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt helps considerably.
• Do not leave open drinks uncovered. Stinging insects, attracted by the sweet beverage, may crawl inside.

Always Put Out Your Fires!
Fires left unattended are dangerous. Be sure your fire is put out completely with water before leaving the area.
## Points of Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anacostia Park</th>
<th>Capitol Hill Parks</th>
<th>Fort Dupont Park</th>
<th>Fort Washington Park</th>
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<td><strong>ANACOSTIA PARK</strong> presentely spans over 1,200 acres stretching the length of the Anacostia River from the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge north approximately five miles to the District/Maryland line. It includes Langston Golf Course and River Terrace and is one of Washington, D.C.'s largest and most important parks with diverse recreational opportunities, natural areas, and historic sites. This multi-use recreation park, with shoreline access, skating pavilion, ball fields, basketball, and tennis courts, and picnic areas attracts people from throughout the city and across the nation. The shorelines also provide opportunities for river access, fishing, birding, and just relaxing! The park is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except December 25, January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and September 1.</td>
<td>When L'Enfant submitted his design for the national capital of Washington in 1790, a system of grand avenues, public buildings, and grounds dominated the overall plan. Many of the parks, medians, circles, and squares of Capitol Hill evolved from this plan and its subsequent modification in 1901 by the McMillian Commission. The <strong>CAPITOL HILL PARKS</strong>, located between 2nd Streets NE and SE and the Anacostia River, provide elegant and open greenspace within the city of Washington for relaxation, aesthetic enjoyment, and historic commemoration. Included in this group are: Lincoln, Folger, Stanton, and Marion Parks; Maryland Avenue Triangles; Pennsylvania Avenue Medians, Squares and Triangles, including Seward Square; Potomac Avenue Metro Station; Twining Square, and other inner city green spaces.</td>
<td><strong>FORT DUPONT PARK</strong> is the largest of the Fort Circle Parks. Here you will find earthwork fortifications used in the Civil War in defense of Washington, D.C. Today, Fort Dupont Park is a heavily wooded, 400-acre site that protects an important 30,000-acre sub-watershed of the Anacostia River and contains tennis and basketball courts, softball fields, and a community ice-rink. Its rolling wooded hills are an important visual element of the nation’s capital and provides an attractive setting for community garden plots, picnicking children, and an annual summer concert series. There you will also find picnicking areas and hiking and biking trails. The park is open to the public daily, from dawn to dusk.</td>
<td><strong>FORT WASHINGTON PARK</strong> is a 19th century fortification that was built to defend the nation’s capital from naval attacks. It remained active through 1946. Tours of the fort are available daily. Picnicking areas, river views and access, extensive woodlands, and hiking trails are also available. Fort Washington Park hosts a number of special events annually including Civil War artillery firing demonstrations and living history programs. The fort is closed on Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset and the fort and visitor center are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Labor Day through Memorial Day. An entrance fee is charged from April through October.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS</td>
<td>Oxon Cove Park Oxon Hill Farm</td>
<td>Piscataway Park</td>
<td>Sewall Belmont House and Museum</td>
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<td>Nestled in the heart of the Logan Circle Historic District in Washington, D.C. is the <strong>MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE</strong>. Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women and the site served as its national headquarters from 1943 to 1966. The National Archives for Black Women’s History, housed at the site, contains materials pertaining to black women and their organizations and contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia related to the National Council of Negro Women. The site is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.</td>
<td>Located in the District of Columbia and Prince George’s County, Maryland, <strong>OXON COVE PARK</strong> features the 63-acre <strong>OXON HILL FARM</strong>, a working historic farm. Visitors can explore the early 19th century farm house (Mount Welby) and other historic barns, stables, and outbuildings. Animals, crops, orchards, and gardens are also found on the farm site. The park’s 485 acres provide recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, and picnicking, and are an excellent resource for environmental studies and wildlife observing. The park is open to the public daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Reservations are required for special programs, education offerings, and popular activities such as milking cows, gathering eggs, and wagon rides.</td>
<td>Situated along the Potomac River in Maryland, <strong>PISCATAWAY PARK</strong> was created to preserve the historic views from Mount Vernon, home to President George Washington, to Fort Washington. Piscataway Park is a natural area and is home to bald eagles, beavers, fox, osprey, and many other species. The forested coves and tidal marshes located along the Piscataway Park shoreline are a great place for exploring by canoe. Piscataway Park is a beautiful place for picnicking and fishing. <strong>National Colonial Farm</strong>, located in the park, is an outdoor living history museum founded by the Accokeek Foundation. The park offers a public fishing pier, two boardwalks over freshwater tidal wetlands, and a variety of nature trails. The park is open from dusk to dawn.</td>
<td>The <strong>SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE AND MUSEUM</strong> is the site where suffrage leader Alice Paul and the women of the National Woman’s Party led the fight for equal rights for women in the United States and throughout the world. The National Woman’s Party was instrumental in gaining the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. Alice Paul, the author of the Equal Rights Amendment, lived and worked in the house for many years. The library, which contains an unparalleled collection of suffrage and equal rights artifacts and documents, is dedicated to the history of the party and the history of the suffrage and equal rights movements. Please call for tour availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>1318 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-673-2402 <a href="http://www.nps.gov/mamc">www.nps.gov/mamc</a></td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>6411 Oxon Hill Road Oxon Hill, MD 20745 301-839-1176 <a href="http://www.nps.gov/oxhi">www.nps.gov/oxhi</a></td>
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GREENBELT PARK is a natural oasis situated just 12 miles from Washington, D.C. and 23 miles from Baltimore, Maryland. The park’s 1,100 acres of oak, maple, sweetgum, and old pine are a retreat from the pressures of city life and a forested refuge for native plants and animals. A wide range of recreational opportunities and educational programs are available year-round, including facilities for picnicking, camping, backpacking, biking, bird watching, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

The park is open daily from dawn to dusk. The ranger station is open year-round from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

KENILWORTH MARSH is a 77-acre freshwater tidal marsh that borders the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. The marsh includes 32-acres of marsh restored in the 1990s to provide habitat for a wide array of native wildlife and wetland plants. A boardwalk and trail from the Aquatic Gardens provide visitors access to various marsh zones and the Anacostia River.

The course opened in 1939, as a 9-hole facility when very limited golfing facilities were available to African Americans. Nine additional holes were constructed in the 1950s. Although the layout and landscape has evolved over time,Langston Golf Course was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its efforts to provide equal access during the era of racial segregation. Historically, it was a pioneer in establishing African American golf clubs and professional golfers.

Langston’s Pro Shop and snack bar are open from dawn to dusk year-round. The driving range is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, except December 25.

Contact Information
1411 W Street, SE
Washington, DC  20020
202-426-5961
www.nps.gov/frdo
July Events

Civil War Artillery Demonstrations
Fort Washington Park – Old Fort
12 noon – Musket Demonstrations
1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. – Artillery Demonstrations
Sunday, July 1
301-763-4600
All Ages
Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American arms. Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in a non-firing artillery drill after each demonstration.

Invasive Plant Removal
Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 7
301-344-3944
Ages 8 to Adult
Make a difference and help preserve Greenbelt Park’s native plants. Join in a hands-on nature preservation activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations. Bring insect repellent. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and bring work gloves.

Volunteer Guide Training
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 7
202-426-6905
Adults
Calling all garden lovers! Share your passion and interest for gardening and flowers with park visitors. We provide training.

Mary McLeod Bethune 132nd Birthday Commemoration
Lincoln Park
6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 10
202-673-2402
All Ages
Join the National Park Service and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. to commemorate the 132nd Anniversary of the birth of Mary McLeod Bethune. The program will feature guest speaker, Dr. Trudy Kebbie Reed, President of the Bethune Cookman University. The Franklin P. Nash United Methodist Church Gospel Choir will perform. The festivities will conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony in Lincoln Park. The park is located on East Capital Street between 11th and 13th Streets NE, Washington, D.C.

Junior Ranger Program
Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
June through August
301-839-1176
Ages 9–13
Pick up a free book on the National Park Service at the park’s visitor barn. Complete the activities in the book and receive your Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

Greenbelt Park Junior Rangers
Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday
July 9 – July 11
August 6 – August 8
301-344-3944
Ages 8–12
Become a Greenbelt Park Junior Ranger. Pre-registration and applications are available at the park. Join the park rangers to learn as we explore Greenbelt Park in a three-day environmental education program.

Junior Ranger Day
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens – Visitor Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 1
202-426-6905
Ages 6 to 12 and Adults
Join us for a fun-filled and interactive day as we explore the gardens, learn about our community and understand the important role we each play in the balance of life around us.

www.nps.gov/webrangers
Check out this site and be a webranger today!

Visitors chat at Lincoln Park after the wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the birthday of Mary McLeod Bethune. NPS photo.
Summer Reading Ranger
Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15
301-344-3944
Ages 5 – 10
Join a park ranger to discover the true story of Smokey Bear.

Annual Waterlily and Asian Cultural Festival
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 21
202-426-6905
All Ages
Bring the entire family out to experience this spectacular event with tours of the gardens, Asian cultural dancing and performing, face painting, workshops on gardening, a photo contest, and more.

Tub Gardening for Shade
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens – Visitor Center
1:00 p.m. Sunday July 22
202-426-6905
Ages 10 to Adult
Ease into easy water gardening at this demonstration.

Fort Dupont Summer Theatre Concert Series
Fort Dupont Park
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11, August 18
All Ages
Summer has arrived and music is in the air. We encourage music lovers of all ages to bring blankets to lie on, chairs to sit in, and lots of friends to enjoy great music all summer long. Please note that all shows go on, rain or shine. Performances are subject to change. All shows are free.

July 14
LAKESIDE
Grammy award winner, Gordon Chambers
July 21
BRASS CONSTRUCTION
Shadz of Soul
July 28
ZAPP BAND
Nu-Era
August 4
Salute to WPFW’s 30th Anniversary Celebration
THE LEGENDARY ESCORTS & THE SOUNDS OF THE PHILLY REVIEW
Soul Patrol
August 11
B.T. EXPRESS
Lady Rhythm
August 18
THE BAR-KAYS
Fathers Children

The following items may NOT be brought into Fort Dupont Park: glass containers, alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, and weapons of any kind. Charcoal grills may only be used in designated picnic areas. No tents or lit candles are allowed in the audience area. Vending, cameras, camcorders, and any other recording devices are also prohibited. Please respect our neighbors by not parking to obstruct private driveways.
August Events

Invasive Plant Removal
Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 4
301-344-3944
Ages 8 to Adult
Make a difference and help preserve Greenbelt Park’s native plants. Join in a hands-on nature preservation activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations. Bring insect repellent. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and bring work gloves.

Civil War Artillery Demonstrations
Fort Washington Park – Old Fort
12:00 noon – Musket Demonstrations
1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Artillery Demonstrations
Sunday, August 5
301-763-4600
All Ages
Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American arms. Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in a non-firing artillery drill after each demonstration.

The Paradox of Butterflies
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens – Visitor Center
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 12
202-426-6905
All Ages
Explore how something so fragile looking can survive long distance migrations. Why does a beautiful butterfly only drink from mud puddles? Take the time at the end of this tour to build a paper butterfly one feather at a time and see the amazing paradox of strength through delicate structures.

Power of the Pen
Mary McLeod Bethune
Council House, NHS
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Friday, August 17
202-673-2402
All Ages
Join the National Park Service in a program that features the writings of Mary McLeod Bethune. Interpret the written thoughts of Mrs. Bethune from authentic documents pulled from files of the National Archives of Black Women’s History. Selected speeches and letters will be discussed that have inspired change in American history.

Back to School Reading Ranger
Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 26
301-344-3944
Ages 5 – 10
Join a park ranger and explore the life of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

September Events

Invasive Plant Removal
Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 1
301-344-3944
Ages 8 to Adult
Make a difference and help preserve Greenbelt Park’s native plants. Join in a hands-on nature preservation activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations. Bring insect repellent. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and bring work gloves.

Meet the Beaver
Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2
301-344-3944, RSVP
Ages 5 to Adult
Join a park ranger as we learn about beavers and their habits.

Black Family Reunion
National Mall
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 8
12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 9
202-737-0120
All Ages
Enjoy free concerts, arts and crafts, health screenings, international marketplace, and the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House exhibit hosted by the National Council of Negro Women.

Civil War Artillery Demonstrations
Fort Washington Park – Old Fort
12:00 noon, Musket Demonstrations
1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Artillery Demonstrations
Sunday, September 9
301-763-4600
All Ages
Volunteers in Civil War period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American arms. Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in a non-firing artillery drill after each demonstration.
Maryland Lighthouse Challenge
Fort Washington Park – Lighthouse
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
September 15 - 16
301-763-4600
All Ages
The Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society invites you to join the challenge by visiting Maryland’s land-based light houses. This is the only weekend that the Fort Washington lighthouse is open to the public. For additional information on the challenge, go to www.cheslights.org.

Watershed Walk
Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m. Sunday, September 23
301-344-3944, RSVP
Ages 10 to Adult
Join a park ranger to discover the Still Creek watershed in Greenbelt Park.

National Public Lands Day
Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 29
301-344-3944, RSVP
Ages 16 to Adult
Join a park ranger to help us clean-up the Still Creek watershed that runs through Greenbelt Park. Clean-up tools and bottled water will be provided.

National Public Lands Day
Fort Washington Park – Old Fort
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Saturday, September 29
301-763-4600
All Ages
The fort has undergone a 3-year renovation and the work is complete. Now we need your help to put on the finishing touches. Join us to help clean-up the historic fort, remove vegetation from the brick work, paint historic cannons, and perform general cleaning of the area. Clean-up tools and supplies will be provided.

Weekend Garden Tours
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens – Visitor Center
Memorial Day through Labor Day
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Saturdays and Sundays
202-426-6905
All Ages
Join a park ranger for the inside story of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on an easy stroll of the grounds.

Meet the Dairy Cow
Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
July through September
11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:30 a.m. Wednesdays
10 a.m. Sundays
301-839-1176
All Ages
See a cow milking demonstration, learn fun cow facts and proper milking techniques, and more.

Chicken Program
Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
July through September
11 a.m. Sundays
301-839-1176
All Ages
Do you know the difference between brown and white eggs? How are chickens important to a farm’s economy? Learn the answer to these and other fascinating facts about chickens.

Wagon Ride
Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
July through September
1:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday
301-839-1176
All Ages
Take a scenic ride through the park and learn about the environment and stories of the park.

History of the Farm
Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
July through September
1:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
301-839-1176
All Ages
Join a ranger for a walk to discuss the history of Oxon Hill Farm
For camping reservations call 1-800-365-CAMP or 301-344-2929.
Join the National Park Service on July 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens for the Annual Waterlily and Asian Cultural Festival.