A Calendar of Events for National Capital Parks-East

Winter 2008

Charting the Future While Preserving the Past
www.nps.gov/nace
Hello visitors and welcome to National Capital Parks-East!

I am a student at Montgomery College majoring in graphic arts. This summer the National Park Service gave me the opportunity to utilize my skills as a graphic artist by serving as the designer for the winter issue of Beyond the Capital.

I hope you enjoy your visit to our parks and the programs we offer this winter season.

Ivan DeGraff
Visitor Use Assistant
National Capital Parks-East

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and the 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?

WHAT’S INSIDE:

Safety in Your National Parks 3
For Your Information 3
Greenbelt Park 4
Oxon Cove Park 7
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 10
Frederick Douglass NHS 12
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS 14
Fort Washington Park 16
Points of Interest 18
Park Map 20
For Your Information

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 hook-ups and camping is limited to 14 days. Overnight fees are dependent 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.

SAFETY TIPS

PARK SAFETY TIPS
Buckle Up! Seat belts are required by law. Slow down at dawn and dusk. Watch carefully at all times for pedestrians, other motorists, and animals on the roadways.

ON THE ROAD
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way.
- Follow park speed limits.
- Be aware that traffic in parks can be heavy so be patient.
- Yield to emergency vehicles.
- Watch for bicyclists at all times while driving.

FORTIFICATIONS
Climbing any part of fortifications or the batteries around them is unsafe. Many historic areas are uneven, slippery, and damp, especially in the rain or snow. Please stay off of parapets, and WATCH YOUR CHILDREN!

ALWAYS PUT OUT CAMPFIRES!
They are dangerous when left unattended and may cause forest fires. Always put campfires out completely with water before leaving.

HIKING PRECAUTIONS
- NEVER HIKE OFF TRAILS!
- Choose trails suitable for your physical condition.
- If hiking solo, give your intended route and return time to a park ranger.
- Wear proper clothing and sturdy boots with good traction that are broken in.
- Bring bottled water.

* PLEASE DON’T LITTER *
Greenbelt Park
Invasive Plant Removal

Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 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.

Friends of Still Creek

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday, October 6
Contact Bill Duncan at 301-345-6515
Ages 16 to Adult

Are you a creek lover? The Friends of Still Creek invite you to explore the Still Creek Watershed found in Greenbelt Park. Meet at the ranger station.

Home Sweet Home

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 31
301-344-3944
All Ages

Want to become a puppeteer? Home Sweet Home is a play that helps children discover animal life in Greenbelt Park. Come and be a part of this play as Park Ranger Joy Kinard demonstrates animal life found in the park using puppets.

Invasive Plant Removal

Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area
11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 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.

Fire Safety for Kids

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, October 5
Ages 5-12

Matches, smoke, fire…Oh My!! Fire is one of the leading causes of homelessness in America. Bring the kids so they can learn how to prevent fire hazards in the home as well as when they’re out camping.

The Story of Smokey Bear

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, October 19
301-344-3944
All Ages

It’s Smokey the Bear!! Help us celebrate Fire Prevention Month by exploring how Smokey gives us great tips on how to prevent forest fires. Special appearance by Smokey!

Friends of Still Creek

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, November 3
Contact Bill Duncan at 301-345-6515
Ages 16 to Adult

Are you a creek lover? The Friends of Still Creek invite you to explore the Still Creek Watershed found in Greenbelt Park. Meet at the ranger station.
Changing Leaves, When Fall Comes

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 9
301-344-3948
Ages 5 to 12

The signs of fall are approaching fast. Have you ever wondered how and why leaves change? Join a park ranger as we discover the changing of the leaves on hardwood trees. Explore how the leaves turn from green to extraordinary yellows, coppers, and browns. Enjoy finding out more about this unique season and its mystery.

Who Gives a Hoot about Owls?

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 16
301-344-3944
Ages 5 to Adult

The owl is one of the most interesting animals in the park. Join a park ranger as we explore the owl, what they eat, and their characteristics.

December Events:

Hare or Rabbit! What’s the Difference?

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 7
301-344-3944
All Ages

Join a park ranger to explore the similarities between the hare and the rabbit. We will explore what they eat, where they live, and how they socialize with other animals.

Meet the Beaver

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, December 14
301-344-3944
Ages 5 to Adult

Beavers are builders. Join a park ranger and discover the habitat of beavers that live in the Greenbelt Park. Explore how we have learned from the beaver through the years.

History of Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 19
301-344-3944
All Ages

The community of Greenbelt, Maryland has a rich cultural history. Come join a park ranger to discover the unique story of Greenbelt’s connection to Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

All About the Water Cycle

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 16
301-344-3948
Ages 5 to 12

Join a park ranger to discover the origins of water. Explore what human life, plant life and animal life would do without it. What is its purpose?

Going Green!

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station
1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 28
301-344-3944

Join a park ranger to explore how you can adopt strategies to become more environmentally conscious in your home and community.

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 forest 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, and wildlife viewing.

The park is open daily from dawn till 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.

Contact Information
6565 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-344-3948
www.nps.gov/gree
Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm
October Events:

Morning Wagon Rides

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
9:30 a.m., Wednesdays and Sundays
301-839-1176
All Ages

Take a scenic ride through Oxon Cove Park and enjoy the cool mornings while listening to interesting stories about the park.

Historical Farm Equipment

Oxon Cove Park – Windmill
11:30 a.m., Sunday, October 5
301-839-1176
All Ages

Did you ever wonder what a strange piece of farm equipment was used for? Take a walking tour and explore how technology has changed from horse power to machine power. Meet the park ranger at the windmill.

Plantation Slavery vs. Urban Slavery

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
1:00 p.m., Sunday, October 12
301-839-1176
All Ages

Come out and join a park ranger to explore the differences between plantation slavery on the Mount Welby Plantation opposed to slavery practiced just down the Potomac River in Georgetown, in the 1800’s.

Earth Day is Every Day!

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, October 4
301-839-1176
All Ages- Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult

Come out and discover how you can help preserve and conserve your park. Join park rangers as they clean up along the river shores in Oxon Cove. Dress for the occasion, wear sturdy boots, long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Pumpkins, the Special Squash

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, October 11
Ages 6 to Adult

Every wonder why pumpkins are symbols of the holiday season? Through songs, stories, and poems, we will discover the importance of pumpkins and their place in the American landscape.

November Events:

Secessionists, Smugglers and Spies, the Civil War in Southern Maryland

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn
1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Sunday, November 2
301-839-1176
All Ages

What was it like to live on a farm in southern Maryland in 1863? Of course, it would depend on who you were... and your place in society. Step back into the 1800’s as we introduce you to characters whose lives were changed by the Civil War. Through dramatic vignettes you will meet a runaway slave, a landowner and his family, a spy, a smuggler, and a squad of uniformed and armed African American Union troops. For times and further information on this program, visit www.nps.gov/oxhi.
Located in the District of Columbia and Prince George’s County, Maryland, OXON COVE PARK features the 63-acre OXON HILL FARM, 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 farm 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, educational offerings, and popular activities such as milking cows, gathering eggs, and wagon rides.

Contact Information
6411 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
301-839-1176
www.nps.gov/oxhi
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS is the only National Park Service site devoted to the cultivation of flowering aquatic plants. It is a 12-acre sanctuary that features serene ponds, flowering water lilies and lotus, as well as many species of birds and wildlife. The Aquatic Gardens’ Annual Waterlily and Asian Cultural Festival in July, the peak of the blooming season, attracts thousands of visitors. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 provides visitors access to various marsh zones and the Anacostia River.

Contact Information
1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019
202-426-6905
www.nps.gov/keaq
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE houses an impressive collection of original furnishing and artifacts from Frederick Douglass.

The site is open to the public daily, except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Visitors learn about the life of Frederick Douglass through exhibits, a film in the park’s visitor center, and ranger-led tours of the home. Reservations are required for groups of more than 10, maximum of 60 persons per group. Groups of 10 or less are strongly encouraged to make reservations. Tickets are available on-site the day of the tour on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information, please call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov. Tours are free; however, reservations require a service charge of $1.50 per person. School groups pay a flat service fee of $5.00 per reservation.

Contact Information
1411 W Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-426-5961
www.nps.gov/frdo
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site
November Events:


The National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 13
202-673-2402

The National Archives for Black Women’s History and the National Park Service commemorates the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through a program to examine the impact of gender and race on the lives of African American women in 1968 and today. A question to be answered is: Does the “Double Burden” remain a reality for two generations of women?

Mary McLeod Bethune
1875-1955
An educator and civil rights leader

Nestled in the heart of Logan Circle Historic District in Washington, D.C. is the MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. Bethune founded National Council of Negro Women and the site served as its national headquarters from 1943 to 1966.

The National Archives for Black Womens History, housed at the site, has materials pertaining to black women and their organizations and contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia related to the National Council of Negro Women.

This site is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

Contact Information
1318 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20005
www.nps.gov/mamc
Fort Washington
Park

National Park Service

Image of a lighthouse and a group of people firing a cannon.
October Events:

Civil War Weapons Demonstrations

Fort Washington Park – Old Fort
12:00 noon – Musket Demonstrations
1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Artillery Demonstrations
Sunday, October 5
301-763-4600
All Ages

Want to learn how to fire a Civil War musket and cannon? Join the Fort Washington Guard as they demonstrate how to load a musket at 12:00 noon. Also, visitors can learn how to load and fire the park’s field cannons at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Come out and join the guard for this end of fall demonstration.

An Evening at Fort Washington

Fort Washington Park – Visitor Center
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, October 25
301-763-4600
All Ages

Take a step back in time and join the Fort Washington Guard for an evening lantern light tour of historic Fort Washington. Tours begin every 30 minutes.

December Events:

Tours of Fort Washington

Fort Washington Park – Visitor Center
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 7
301-763-4600
All Ages

Join a tour of the historic fort guided by a member of the Fort Washington Guard dressed in period uniforms dating back to 1861. Tours will begin each hour.

FORT WASHINGTON PARK 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.

Contact Information
1355 Fort Washington Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-763-4600
www.nps.gov/fowa
ANACOSTIA PARK

1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-472-3884
www.nps.gov/anac

ANACOSTIA PARK presently 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 it 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 January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

CAPITOL HILL PARKS

Contact Information
1318 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-673-2402
www.nps.gov/cahi

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 McMillan Commission. The Capitol Hill Parks, located between 2nd Streets NE and SE and the Anacostia River, provide elegant and open green space 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.

FORT DUPONT

1411 W Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-426-5961
www.nps.gov/fodu

Fort Dupont 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, the park is a heavily wooded, 400-acre site that protects an important 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, frolicking 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.
POINTS OF INTEREST

PISCATAWAY PARK

Contact Information
13551 Fort Washington Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-763-4600
www.nps.gov/pisc

Situated along the Potomac River in Maryland, Piscataway Park 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. National Colonial Farm, 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 dawn to dusk.

SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE and MUSEUM

144 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-546-1210
www.sewallbelmont.org

The Sewall-belmont House and Museum 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.

LANGSTON GOLF COURSE

26th & Benning Road, NE
Washington, DC 20019
202-397-8638
www.golfdc.com

Named for John Mercer Langston, an African American elected to Congress in 1888, Langston Golf Course offers an 18-hole course, driving range, and clubhouse. 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.
Beyond the Capital, A Calendar of Events for National Capital Parks-East is a publication of the National Park Service.

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