



Beyond the Capital

The official newspaper of
National Capital Parks-East
Washington, D.C. and Maryland

Winter-Spring 2014

A Visitor's Guide to National Capital Parks-East



Winter Wonderland in Fort Washington
Park. NPS Photo.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks-East

Acting Superintendent

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Please tell us what you think.

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Message from the Office of the Superintendent

Greetings!

Welcome to National Capital Parks-East (NACE)! Here at NACE we offer many opportunities to explore over 8,000 acres of natural, cultural, and recreational lands. During this season, we take time to reflect and celebrate African-American History Month in February beginning with observance of the birthdays of Carter G. Woodson on December 19, 1875 and Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15, 1929. We will recognize the winners of the Frederick Douglass National Historical Site's oratorical contest at his birthday celebration held on February 8, and President's Day on February 17.

In March, the focus shifts to commemorating Women's History Month as we highlight the many contributions of the first president of the National Council of Negro Women, Mary McLeod Bethune. Finally, in April we will celebrate National Park Week, April 19-27, Earth Day on April 22, and Junior Ranger Day on April 26.

In addition to the programs focusing on our national heritage, we offer a variety of opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy a variety of natural and recreational resources of the parks. Park rangers at Fort Washington Park, Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Cove Farm, and Greenbelt Park will challenge you to enjoy the cold temperatures (and maybe even some snow!) as they lead you on a winter walk, a tour of the site, or chores at the farm. As we thaw out with spring's approach, other sites offer learning experiences such as invasive plant removal. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens even extends a welcome to those wishing to participate in monitoring local frog populations. The Potomac Watershed cleanup and trail cleaning projects are always rewarding opportunities for those interested in volunteering service to help maintain and protect resources for future generations.

Whatever your preferences and no matter your age or ability, if it's hiking at Piscataway Park, or simply watching a sunset at Anacostia Park or Fort Dupont Park you are sure to find something of interest to you, your family and friends at your national park sites of NACE. We invite you to expand your knowledge and encounter the diversity. As always, of course, please have a safe and enjoyable visit!

Gopaul Noojibail
Acting Superintendent



Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent. NPS Photo.

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 more than 400 National Park Service sites found all across America?

Become a Volunteer!

Do you want to give back to the park that gives you so much? Have you ever thought of volunteering your time and talents to the National Park Service (NPS)? Become a steward of the park by joining the VIP (**V**olunteers-**I**n-**P**arks) program at National Capital Parks-East (NACE).



Volunteers contribute not just to the mission of the NPS, but to the communities they serve. NACE VIP job opportunities are as diverse as the parks. VIPs welcome visitors to the parks, conduct guided tours, assist with special events, maintain trails, serve as campground hosts, work with computers, and much more.

NACE offers a wide array of historic, cultural, and recreational areas that are part of Washington, D.C., and its eastern environs. The park is comprised of over 8,000 acres of federal land ranging from community parks and national historic sites to unique wetland ecosystems, meadows, and mature hardwood forests.

Contact the park at 202-690-5185 to find a coordinator near you or visit us at www.nps.gov/nace and click on the volunteer link.



Volunteers glean produce and harvest pak choi at the Ecosystem Farm at Piscataway Park. Courtesy of the Accokeek Foundation.

Special Services

NACE 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, NACE strives to create inclusive opportunities for all people. For detailed information on special services, visitors should contact the park's Accessibility Coordinator at 202-690-5188.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
U.S. Park Police Dispatch	202-610-7500
Park Headquarters	202-690-5185
Frederick Douglass NHS Tours	877-444-6777 www.recreation.gov
Metro Rail/Bus	202-637-7000 www.wmata.com

For Your Information

Hiking and Camping

As you take in the park's beautiful scenery, think ahead, be prepared and stay safe.

- Check the weather forecast before heading outdoors for a hike. It is not safe to hike when thunderstorms or heavy snowfall is expected. Immediately seek shelter if hazardous weather approaches.
- Carry drinking water. Don't drink from streams, springs, or lakes without first properly treating the water.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Don't try to get too close to wild animals.
- Stay on the trail—if you leave it, you may get lost.
- To help prevent food poisoning keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Don't store perishable foods in a hot car.
- Clean all surfaces and utensils that come into contact with raw meat or meat juices before reusing them.
- Wash hands frequently when preparing food, and before serving and eating.
- Keep children away from grills and lighter fluid, and keep grills away from flammable materials.
- Be aware of tiny deer ticks that carry Lyme disease and know which symptoms to watch out for. When in a potentially infested area, apply insect repellent, wear light colored long sleeved-shirts, pants, and socks.
- Only build a fire in designated grills or fire rings.
- When extinguishing a campfire, let it die down then break-up the coals or logs, spread the pieces, and soak them with water.

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 areas of National Capital Parks-East (NACE), 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 NACE lands is unlawful.
- Please dispose of your garbage and other refuse in trash 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.

Parks of National Capital Parks-East

Anacostia Park

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 the largest and most important parks in Washington, D.C., 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 dawn until dusk, except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

Contact Information

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

Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens

Kenilworth Park & 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.

Park will open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The park is closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

Kenilworth Marsh is a 77-acre freshwater tidal marsh that borders the Kenilworth Park & 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.

Contact Information

1550 Anacostia Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20019
202-426-6905
www.nps.gov/keaq

Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Enjoy our scenic gateway into the Nation's Capital! Opened in 1954, the parkway is a 29-mile scenic park highway that connects Baltimore, Maryland to Washington, D.C. The "parkway concept" involves preserving a wide, scenic, mostly natural corridor along a limited-access divided roadway, following the "lay of the land" allowing the visitor to experience the local topography and natural scenery, undistracted by billboards, traffic signals, and adjacent dense development.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is one of four parkways that provide scenic access between major points in the National Capital Region. The National Park Service manages this parkway from Fort Meade south to the Nation's Capital.

Contact Information

Baltimore Washington Parkway
c/o Greenbelt Park
6565 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
202-619-7105: U.S. Park Police
301-344-3948: Parkway Maintenance
www.nps.gov/bawa

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS

Nestled in the heart of the Logan Circle Historic District in Washington, D.C., is the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site. 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, has 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 am to 5 pm. The park is closed January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

Contact Information

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

Capitol Hill Parks

When Pierre Charles 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.

Contact Information

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

Oxon Cove Park/ Oxon Hill Farm

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, education 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

Carter G. Woodson Home NHS

Imagine a world in which people like you have no written history, or that which has been written is incomplete or distorted. Before Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950) began his work, there was very little information, and much of that stereotypical misinformation, about the lives and history of Americans of African descent.

The Carter G. Woodson Home at 1538 9th Street NW, in Washington, D.C., was Dr. Woodson's home from 1922 until 1950. From there, he directed the operations of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and pursued his own studies of African American history.

The home was acquired by the National Park Service in 2005. The planning process is underway to restore the home and renovate the adjacent buildings into a visitor and research center. The site is closed to the public.

Contact Information

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

Piscataway Park

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.

Contact Information

13511 Fort Washington Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-763-4600
www.nps.gov/pisc

Parks of National Capital Parks-East

Civil War Defenses of Washington

To protect the District of Columbia from Confederate assault during the Civil War, a complex system of field fortifications was built on ridges and terraces encircling the outer edges of the Federal city. The section of the Fort Circle Parks now under the jurisdiction of National Capital Parks-East extends southward from Bladensburg Road in Northeast Washington, through the segment of the city which lies east of the Anacostia River, and to Fort Foote in Prince George's County, Maryland. It includes Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis, Stanton, Carroll, Greble, and Foote, Battery Ricketts, and various land parcels, including Shepherd Parkway, which connect these sites.

Contact Information

1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-690-5185
www.nps.gov/cwdw

Shepherd Parkway

Shepherd Parkway is actually not a roadway, but a "corridor park" encompassing a forested ridge line overlooking the Potomac River in southeast Washington, D.C. It forms the forested backdrop along the eastern side of Interstate 295, and also contains multiple historical Civil War defenses sites within its predominantly wooded, natural scenery. It contributes greatly to the "greenness" of our Capital City, as well as to our oxygen supply!

Shepherd Parkway is managed as a natural area by National Capital Parks-East.

Contact Information

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

Fort Washington Park

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

Suitland Parkway

Suitland Parkway extends from Joint Base Andrews in Camp Springs, Maryland to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge (South Capitol Street) in Washington, D.C. It is the scenic "gateway" that countless visiting dignitaries, royalty, world leaders, and Presidents have traveled on their route into the Nation's Capital.

Originally built as a wartime access road to Andrews Air Force Base, the parkway was redeveloped in the 1950s into the scenic, forested park roadway that it is today. It is one of four scenic parkways in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, providing an aesthetic access to important destination points. The portion within Maryland is managed by the National Park Service.

Today, the parkway is extensively used by thousands of visitors to the Nation's Capital arriving from the east. Notably, the parkway is often the first image that foreign heads of state get of the United States.

Contact Information

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

Frederick Douglass NHS

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site houses an impressive collection of original furnishing and artifacts from Frederick Douglass.

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.

The site is open to the public daily, except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

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

Greenbelt Park

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.

Contact Information

6565 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-344-3948
www.nps.gov/gree



24-pound Cannon from Fort Washington's 1861 armament. NPS Photo.

Park Partners & Cooperating Associations

Accokeek Foundation

The Accokeek Foundation operates the National Colonial Farm, located in Piscataway Park. The farm was established by the foundation in 1958 to educate people about farm life. It is a recreation of a middle class farm dating back to 1775. Demonstrations depict the life of a typical family during colonial times. Visitors will find a circa 1780 farm dwelling, an 18th-century tobacco farm, a smokehouse, a public fishing pier and a riverside path with a beautiful view of Mount Vernon, the former home of President George Washington. The Ecosystem Farm offers educational opportunities through the Center for Land-Based Training.

Contact Information

Anjela Barnes
Communications Manager
Accokeek Foundation
3400 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, MD 20607
outreach@accokeek.org
301-283-2113
www.accokeek.org

Alice Ferguson Foundation

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is a key environmental educational organization on the Potomac River in Piscataway Park. As a leader of watershed stewardship, it models innovative practices, outreach, partnerships, programs, and events that are replicated globally. Through its award-winning program for school children at Hard Bargain Farm and the Bridging the Watershed program, students are guided to conduct investigations of the local environment, including wetlands, farmlands and meadows while expanding their personal connection to the natural world.

Each year, more than 10,000 students from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area come to Hard Bargain Farm for day or overnight education field trips, the Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup and the Annual Spring Farm Festival.

Contact Information

Alena Rosen
Communications Manager
2001 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, MD 20607
arosen@fergusonfoundation.org
301-292-5665
www.fergusonfoundation.org

Aquatic Resources Education Center

The Aquatic Resources Education Center (AREC) is located in Anacostia Park adjacent to the Anacostia Skating Pavilion. The Center is cooperative partnership between the District of Columbia's Fisheries and Wildlife Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Visitors and students learn about the ecology, conservation and biology of local aquatic and fisheries resources through workshops, presentations, and interactive displays. These activities and programs also serve to educate the local community on the need for awareness and protection of these fragile resources.

Contact Information

Bryan King
Associate Director Fishers and Wildlife
1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, DC 20020
bryan.king@dc.gov
202-535-2260
www.doh.dc.gov/doh/cwp

Earth Conservation Corps

The Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) is a non-profit youth development and environmental service organization located on the Anacostia River. ECC provides underprivileged young people with hands-on life skills, education, career, and environmental training with an overall goal to facilitate the restoration of the Anacostia River and its surrounding communities.

Since 1992, ECC has recruited and trained over 18,000 young people in an effort to reclaim the Anacostia River. In 2002, ECC was awarded a grant to construct the first three demonstration sites of the Riverwalk Trail: Henson Park, the Old Capital Pump House, and a trail beneath the 11th Street Bridge. ECC is a valuable partner to the National Park Service, assisting in the clean up, beautification, and restoration of several park sites.

Contact Information

First Street & Potomac Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-554-1960
www.ecc1.org

Eastern National

Eastern National is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit "cooperating association," that supports National Capital Parks-East and other National Park Service sites. Eastern National assists the educational and interpretive mission of the National Park Service primarily by procuring, distributing, and selling educational material in retail outlets located in national parks. Eastern National also assists by providing supplemental funding for land and artifact acquisitions, special events, educational and interpretive programs, and research grants. Since its incorporation in 1948, Eastern National has donated over \$100 million to the National Park Service, in the form of direct donations and grants.

Eastern National bookstores can be found in National Capital Parks-East at Frederick Douglass NHS, Fort Washington Park, Oxon Cove Park, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS.

Contact Information

470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-283-6900
www.easternnational.org
www.eparks.com

Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region

Living Classrooms Foundation strengthens communities and inspires young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education and job training, using urban, natural, and maritime resources as "living classrooms."

Living Classrooms Foundation is a Baltimore-Washington based non-profit educational organization, founded in 1985 in Baltimore, and serving the National Capital Region since 2001.

Our maritime heritage programs create opportunities for employment training. Our education programs use our environmental and maritime resources as living learning laboratories. Our employability programs create stronger communities that are better prepared to exercise environmental stewardship.

Contact Information

515 M Street SE, Suite 222
Washington, DC 20003
202-488-0627
www.livingclassroomsdc.org

Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provides high school students, college students, and others with meaningful conservation service internships and volunteer opportunities in our national parks. Students enjoy adventure, gain experience, and make a difference. SCA has made an invaluable contribution to the beautification and conservation of the parks in National Capital Parks-East.

Contact Information

www.thesca.org

Articles

NACE Promotes Educational Outreach

By Stephanie Marrone & Melissa Green

On Friday, November 15, 2013, National Capital Parks-East continued its third year of partnering with the Smithsonian Institute at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. at Teachers' Night, a free annual education expo. Over 4,000 educators from 25 states, Canada and Mexico were gathered in one location and we were there!

Stephanie Marrone, Park Guide at Oxon Cove Park said, "It's a great way to reach thousands of teachers at the same time and place. I remember looking forward to this event every year when I was a teacher and now it is fun being on the other side of the table." This year, Stephanie was joined by Park Guide Tony DeYoung, Park Ranger Adam Gresek, and Central District Manager Joy Kinard. The NPS staff distributed thousands of brochures delivered to the venue by Fort Dupont Maintenance staff, Rosslyn Sasser and Alvin Porter. Hundreds of enthusiastic educators were introduced to the various resources available to them for their students. It was an evening of non-stop outreach that will possibly bring many new visitors to the diverse sites of National Capital Parks-East.

In addition, Melissa Green, a Fairfax County Teacher-Ranger-Teacher who completed her assignment at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site this past summer, delivered a presentation about her experience and later joined the team answering questions from dozens of interested educators. "I learned so much from the various vendors, businesses and entities represented. The fact of the matter is, Teacher's Night was exceptionally great! In essence, my Teacher-Ranger-Teacher experience was profoundly influential and life changing", Melissa stated.



Park Guide Stephanie Marrone and Park Ranger Adam Gresek converse with Teachers at Teacher's Night 2013. NPS Photo.

2014 Summer Youth Program

By Madelyn Yates

National Capital Parks-East (NACE) is extremely excited about its upcoming summer Youth Programs for 2014. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in two programs; the DC Summer Youth Employment Program (DC SYEP) and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

NACE will continue to partner with Mayor Vincent Gray's One City Summer Youth Employment Program with the District of Columbia to provide youth a meaningful work experience this summer. This program will give the youth and young adults, ages 14 through 21, the opportunity to develop constructive work habits, positive attitudes, and valuable job skills necessary to enter the workforce prepared and qualified to be productive employees. Interested applicants can obtain more information at www.summerjobs.dc.gov.

The YCC is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program for young men and women, 14 through 18 years of age, that develops an understanding and appreciation of the nation's environment and heritage through working on projects including building trails, maintaining fences, improving wildlife habitat, planting, and mulching. The YCC program is designed to encourage youth engagement with the National Park Service while offering gainful employment to youth for approximately eight weeks, in a healthful outdoor atmosphere. Through a competitive application process, students are selected to serve as corps members at NACE. Those interested may visit our website at www.nps.gov/nace to apply through April 15, 2014.

Through the SYEP and YCC programs, we strive to provide area youth and young adults the opportunity to gain a meaningful work experience, learn and develop the skills and commitment necessary to succeed in today's world of work. They earn money, gain exposure to various exciting career options, and interact with dynamic working professionals in a positive work environment.



DC Summer Youth (DCSYEPs) mulching trees in Anacostia Park NPS Photo.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCCs) members making a difference today for a better tomorrow. NPS Photo.



Events

Recurring Programs

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE TOURS

Daily
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
202-673-2402

Visitors can tour the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House. Please contact the site for tour details.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOME TOURS

Daily
202-426-5961

Ranger-led tours are the only way to see the inside of the Frederick Douglass house. Tours are ticketed and there are a limited number of tickets available for each tour. Tour tickets are available by reservation or on a first-come, first-served, walk-in basis. Visitors are strongly encouraged to make a reservation to guarantee their place on the tour. Tours last approximately 30 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 20 minutes early to pick up tickets at the visitor center and use restrooms.

FORT WASHINGTON TOUR

Fort Washington Park Historic Fort
Saturdays and Sundays
2:00 p.m.
301-763-4600
All Ages
Free of charge

Join a park ranger inside the historic fort to learn about the 136 years Fort Washington helped defend our nation and its capital.

Discover what life was like for the soldiers who served there from the War of 1812 through World War II.

WINTER INTO SPRING BIRD WALKS

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens—Visitor Center
Saturdays: March 1, April 5 and April 19
8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
202-426-6905
All Ages
Free

Join a National Park Service ranger as we explore Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Marsh to try to see how many species of birds we can identify. Binoculars and bird guides provided.

RANGER FIT CHALLENGE

Anacostia Park—Skating Pavilion
Thursdays, beginning April 3
6:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.
202-472-3884
All Ages
Free

Challenge fitness course along the river trail with Rangers available to advise, encourage, and promote healthy lifestyles.

KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDEN POND TOURS

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens—Visitor Center
Saturdays and Sundays, beginning April 26
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
202-426-6905
All Ages
Free

Come and enjoy a stroll around the beautiful Aquatic Gardens of Kenilworth. We will look at all aspects of pond life including varieties of plants, turtles, frogs, dragonflies, and birds.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ACCOKEEK FOUNDATION AT PISCATAWAY PARK

The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park offers unique opportunities for volunteers who want to be a part of preserving the cultural history, natural resources, and agriculture of Southern Maryland. With the support of more than 200 volunteers each year, the Foundation offers engaging and educational programs to the community. Volunteers work alongside staff members to help steward and maintain Piscataway Park, provide event and program support, and engage the community. Whether you just want to volunteer for the day, or are looking for a regular volunteer position, there are opportunities to fit all interests and skill levels. To learn more about becoming a volunteer with your park, join the Accokeek Foundation the first Saturday or third Thursday, monthly for a volunteer orientation and service project. Visit www.accokeekfoundation.org or e-mail volunteers@accokeek.org for more information.

FORT WASHINGTON GUARD TOURS

Fort Washington Park—Old Fort
Sunday, February 2 & Sunday, March 2
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
301-763-4600
All Ages

Members of the Fort Washington Guard will be on hand to answer questions and provide guided tours of the fort. Weather permitting, musket drills will be available.

STITCH N TIME TEXTILE CLUB

Monthly, 2nd Saturday
Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park
3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
301-283-2113
All ages
Free—Volunteer

From washing and dyeing to spinning and knitting, learn about the cultivation of fleece using wool harvested from the Accokeek Foundation's heritage sheep flock. This volunteer-based club meets monthly on the second Saturday and is open to both novice and expert spinners and knitters, as well as those handy with a sewing needle! For more information call 301-283-2113 or e-mail volunteers@accokeek.org.

March

MARYLAND WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR

Fort Washington Park—Enlisted Men's Barracks
Saturdays: March 1, March 15, and March 29
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
301-763-4600
All ages

From Clara Barton to the women who dressed as men and fought at Antietam, Maryland's Civil War women were unique. Come hear their stories in their own words.

Events

TOURS BY THE FORT WASHINGTON GUARD

Fort Washington Park—Old Fort Sunday, March 2

11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

301-763-4600

All ages

Free of charge

Members of the Fort Washington Guard will be on hand to answer questions and provide guided tours of the fort.

RARE DOUGLASS PAINTING: A STORY

Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center

Thursday, March 6

6:00 p.m.

202-526-5961

Ages 16 and above

The long and tangled story of Sarah Eddy's rare painting of Frederick Douglass.

BIRDING ALONG THE ANACOSTIA

Anacostia Park—Skating Pavilion Saturday, March 8

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

202-426-6905

All Ages

Free

Come enjoy birding for beginners along the Anacostia River with a National Park Service ranger. Binoculars and bird guides provided.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM AND EXHIBITION UNVEILING

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS

Saturday, March 8

3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

202-673-2402

All Ages

Free

Join a ranger-led program featuring guest lecturers Janice Ferebee, the niece of the second National President of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Dr. Dorothy Ferebee, and Teacher Ranger Teacher Melissa Green, followed by a living history performance from Eleanor Roosevelt by Kate Campbell Stevenson. An exhibit unveiling titled "Women United! The Glue that was Mary McLeod Bethune" will be featured along with an open house.

WOMEN OF OXON HILL FARM

Oxon Cove Park—Mount Welby Saturday, March 8

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

301-839-1176

All ages

Free of charge

Come celebrate Women's History month with us and learn about the roles and responsibilities women had here at Oxon Hill Farm. Call the park to reserve your spot today!

"PASSED AWAY," A CENTURY EXTINCT: THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station

Saturday, March 15

11:00 a.m.

301-344-3948

Free

All Ages

Once seen in massive flocks of millions of birds, the Passenger Pigeon vanished from America in 1914, a century ago. Visit scenic Greenbelt Park in the bird's former habitat to learn about this extinct species and the reasons for its sad demise. Contact Park Ranger John Reid for additional information.

THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM—WOMEN AND THEIR LEAD ROLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Oxon Cove Park—Mount Welby Farmhouse

Sunday, March 16

2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

301-839-1176

Ages 7 to adult

Free of charge

Often neglected in the history books, wives and mothers, sisters and daughters were at home tirelessly taking care of the essential needs of the family; making it possible for the men to find success outside the home. Come to the Mount Welby farmhouse to discuss and discover how these American women patriots contributed to America's story without glory or notoriety.

READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: WEE TALES TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn

Monday, March 17

9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

301-839-1176

Ages 0 to 5, and accompanying adults

Free of charge

Did you know about 2/3 of Ireland is farmland? Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month put on something green, and come listen to farm stories from the Emerald Isle. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn.

SHARPSHOOTERS AND SKIRMISHERS

Fort Washington Park—Old Fort Saturday, March 22

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

301-763-4600

All ages

Sharpshooters and skirmishers will be learning tools of the trade needed to provide support to the main force of the army. Drills and demonstrations are throughout the day. Volunteers will be on hand to discuss activities and answer questions.

LANTERN TOUR

Fort Washington Park—Visitor Center

Saturday, March 22

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

301-763-4600

All ages

Join us for an evening in the Civil War. Volunteers from the North and South, as well as civilians, will be roaming the fort and talking about what has happened in the last three years of the war. Tours will begin at the visitor center every thirty minutes with the last one leaving at 8:30 p.m.

CROW MANIA

Fort Washington Park—Visitor Center

Sunday, March 23

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

301-763-4600

All ages

Caw along with Park Guide Bambi Sears. Crows are the subject of this talk and walk. Come join the fun as we celebrate one of nature's most common and intelligent birds.

Events

TAKE THE WORLD WATER MONITORING CHALLENGE!

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn
Sunday, March 30
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
301-839-1176
Ages 8 to 17, and accompanying adults
Free of Charge

Take a wagon ride down to Oxon Cove and test the water for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Enter the data online to see how the Potomac River compares to other World Water Monitoring sites. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

April

ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION'S 26TH ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEAN-UP

Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot
Saturday, April 5
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
301-839-1176
All ages (Children under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult)

Do your part to help clean up the Potomac River Watershed by picking up trash down at Oxon Cove. Earn service hours needed for your organization! Wear old clothes and shoes/boots that you don't mind getting wet and muddy. For more information, go to www.fergusonfoundation.org.

PARK DAY

Fort Washington Park—Old Fort
Saturday, April 5
9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon
301-763-4600
All ages

Join us for spring cleaning at

the Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day. Help us spruce up the fort for spring. We will be removing vegetation from the demi-bastions. So grab your gloves and come out to support the park. The park has a limited supply of hand tools.

ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATION

Fort Washington Park—Old Fort
Sunday, April 6
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
301-763-4600
All ages
Free

Ever wonder how Civil War cannons were fired? The Fort Washington Guard dressed in period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American Artillery. The park has two artillery pieces, a 6-pound field gun and a 12-pound mountain howitzer. This is the annual training day. Firings will be at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

26TH ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER CLEAN-UP

Accokeek Foundation at
Piscataway Park
Saturday, April 5
9:00 a.m.–12 noon
301-283-2113
All ages
Free

Pitch in and help us to keep our nation's river clean! The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park will host as a cleanup site for the 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup—a perfect volunteer opportunity for groups, families, and students. For more information, call 301-283-2113 or e-mail volunteers@accokeek.org.

DC EMANCIPATION DAY, SOLOMON NORTHUP'S WASHINGTON

Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center
Saturday, April 12
Time: To be announced
202-526-5961
Ages 16 and above

A celebration of Emancipation in DC. Historian C. R. Gibbs will reveal Solomon Northup's (author of *Twelve Years a Slave*) Washington. For additional information, please contact the site.

IT'S ALIVE!

Piscataway Park—Accokeek Creek Boardwalk
Saturday, April 12
10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
301-763-4600

Do you know what the term living shoreline means? Let our ranger take you on a walk while teaching you what makes Piscataway Park's shoreline come alive!

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RUNNING CLUB 8K SPRINGBURST RUN

Greenbelt Park—Sweetgum Picnic Area
Saturday, April 19
8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
301-337-7472
Ages 16 to adult
Pre-registration and fees @ www.pgrc.org.
Contact President Lydia Shell
Join us for our annual 8k Starburst Run through Greenbelt Park.

"THE DIRTIEST JOB IN AMERICA": CHARCOAL BURNING

Greenbelt Park—Campfire Circle, Camping Loop B
Saturday, April 19
11:00 a.m.
301-344-3948
Free
All Ages

Learn about the historic manufacture of charcoal, the fuel of braziers for heat and forges to smelt iron, an essential chemical in black gunpowder. Timber felled for charcoal manufacture once deforested the woods that later, regrown, became Greenbelt Park. While warmed by a wood fire burning to make charcoal, hear about the work of colliers or charcoal burners, who had the dirtiest job of any.

AMERICA'S BEST IDEA: LET'S TAKE A WALK TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARK WEEK

Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot
Sunday, April 20
2:00 p.m.–3:00 pm
All ages

Setting aside land to be used by everyone has often been referred to as "America's Best Idea." Join us for moderate paced 1.5-mile walk through Oxon Cove Park and discover why this site opened its gates to all and became a national park in 1967. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be available after the walk to answer questions on how you can help to protect and preserve the park for the enjoyment of future generations. Meet at the parking lot. Reservations recommended. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes for walking.

Events

READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: GET DOWN-TO-EARTH AND CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn
Monday, April 21
9:30 a.-10:30 a.m.
301-839-1176
Ages 0 to 5, and accompanying adults

Earth Day commemorates our beautiful world and its land, seas, and skies. Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, learn some ways that we can all help care for our home planet. After all, it is a home we share with billions of other people, as well as countless plants and animals. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn.

TWILIGHT TOUR

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort
Thursday, April 24
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
301-763-4600
All ages

Ranger Trey will lead you through the 19th century fort on a tour with flashlights in hand. He will guide you through the history and uses of the first masonry fort to protect Washington, D.C. from naval attack.

EARTHFEST

Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park
Saturday, April 26
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
301-283-2113
All ages
Free

Join the Accokeek Foundation as we celebrate and honor the

Earth during the 2nd annual EarthFest. This fun-filled day will include volunteering and family-friendly activities that will help you to reconnect with the Earth. Pack your picnic lunches and bring the kids for a beautiful day in Piscataway Park! Call 301-283-2113 or e-mail info@accokeek.org for more information.

HUG A TREE...AND OTHER WAYS TO SHOW TREES YOU LOVE THEM!

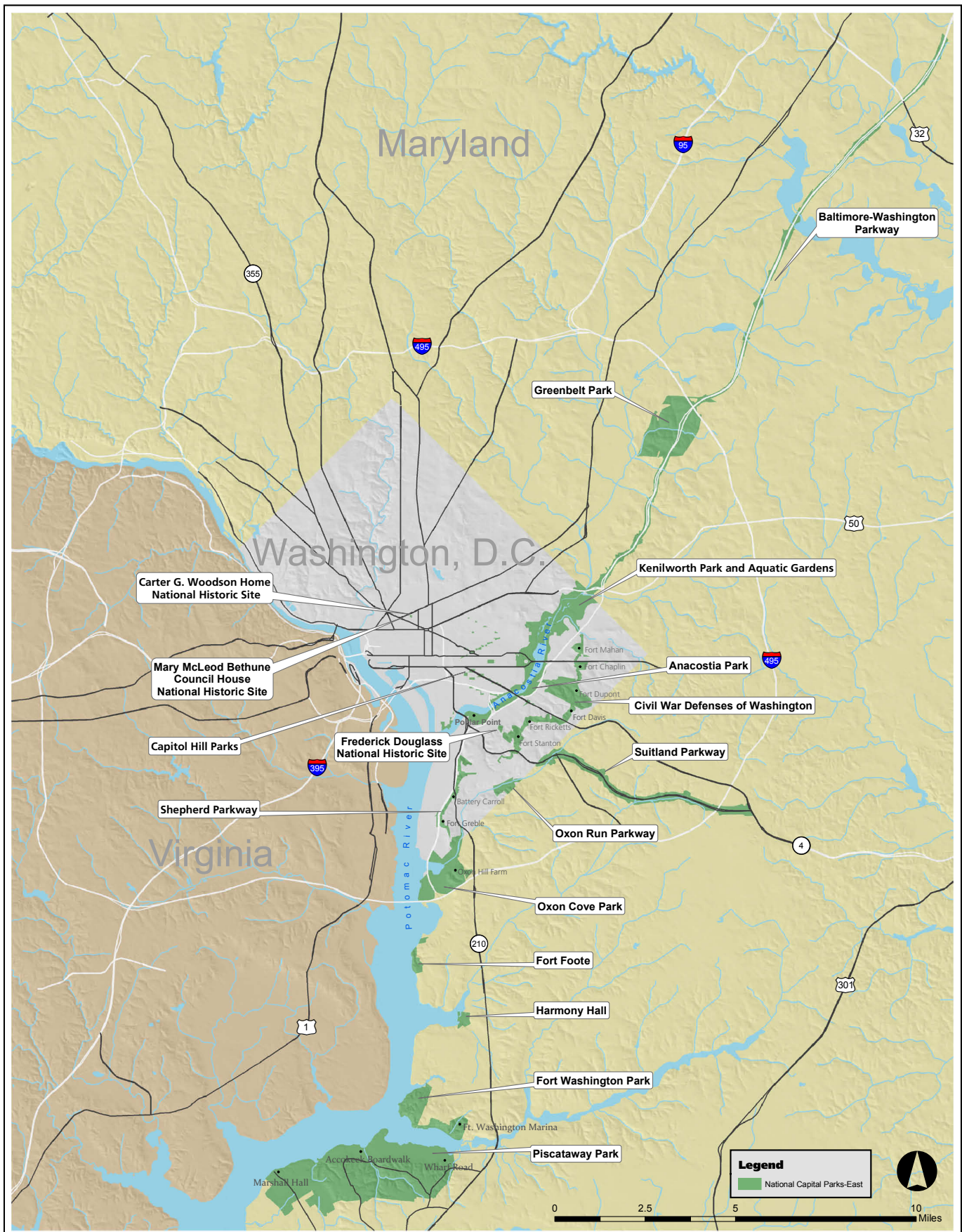
Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn
Sunday, April 27
2:00 p.-3:00 p.m.
301-839-1176
For children ages 5—12, and accompanying adults

Celebrate Arbor Day! Enjoy games and activities which will help you find out what trees need to grow, and what we can do to show trees we love them! Take a short, ranger-led hike and see how many trees you can identify. Meet in the Visitor Barn.



Winter's Eve carolers at the National Colonial Farm. Courtesy of the Accokeek Foundation.

Map





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks-East
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Anacostia Park	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	
Fort Dupont Park	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		
Fort Washington Park	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Frederick Douglass NHS		●		●			●	●	●		●
Greenbelt Park	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens		●		●	●		●	●	●		●
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS				●					●		●
Oxon Cove Park	●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●
Piscataway Park	●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●