



# Beyond the Capital

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

Fall 2013

## A Visitor's Guide to National Capital Parks-East



Bridge at Piscataway Park. NPS Photo.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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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

Welcome to National Capital Parks-East. As we prepare for fall and winter, we offer a variety of events and programs presented by our volunteers, partners and NPS staff that you may find of interest. Take a tour at one of our natural areas such as Piscataway Park, Fort Dupont or Greenbelt Park to view the many hues of autumn's beauty. Step back in time at one of the National Historic Sites at Frederick Douglass or Mary McLeod Bethune managed by National Capital Parks-East. While visiting in your national parks, you may also venture into the cultural aspects of the parks, i.e. Anacostia and Fort Washington. Learn more about all we have to offer beginning on pages 9 through 14 for people of all ages, from the toddlers to the grandparents.



**Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent. NPS Photo.**

Junior Ranger programs are offered at most NPS sites, as well as on our web pages. Here you can *Explore, Learn and Protect* your national parks. If you would like more information pertaining to any of the National Capital Parks-East sites, additional and contact information is located on pages 4 and 5. Please feel free to ask questions, make suggestions and comments that will enhance our mission of *Charting the Future while Preserving the Past*.

Maybe you are interested in sharing your gifts and talents with us as a Volunteer in the Park (VIP). Please inquire at any of our sites as to how you become a volunteer. Your volunteer service is always welcomed.

We thank you for your interest in your National Park Service. It is our hope that you will share this information with your families and friends and come out and visit the national parks of National Capital Parks-East.

Thank you,

Gopaul Noojibail  
Acting Superintendent

# 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](http://www.nps.gov/nace) and click on the volunteer link.



**A volunteer at a community clean up in Greenbelt Park. NPS Photo.**

## 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 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>
Metro Rail/Bus	202-637-7000 <a href="http://www.wmata.com">www.wmata.com</a>

## 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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

### Contact Information

1900 Anacostia Drive SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
202-472-3884  
[www.nps.gov/anac/](http://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. starting Labor Day. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/gree)



Canoeing on the Anacostia River. 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

## Festival and Flowers Draw Thousands of Visitors.

By Michelle Clark

Dragonflies, butterflies, and bumble bees are not the only interesting creatures buzzing around Washington's quaintest backyard paradise these days. The lotus and water lily season hit its peak precisely as the annual Lotus and Lily Festival was kicking off on July 13th. Over 2200 visitors enjoyed the event this year, tripling the count from two years ago and doubling the numbers from last year.

This year's theme was "Beyond Borders; Showcasing Lotus and Water Lilies as Cultural Icons from Asia and Africa," and it was complemented by traditional Asian dance, lotus tea making, artistic craft-making, contemporary African fashion and music, and several displays presented by the site's diverse partners. Most of the site's aquatic flowers originally hail from these two featured continents and the opportunities to celebrate both the relevant natural beauty and cultural significance are almost limitless.

Because of the newly enhanced programming, increased outreach efforts in the local community and better relationship building with partners, it is likely the event will continue to develop in size and scope. The staff also plans to bring the third and final continent, South America, into the fold in coming years.

During the weeks since the festival, visitors have opportunity to view the blooms and many DC folks have urgently come out to catch glimpses of the pink and white summer spectacle. On Saturday, August 3rd, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and about thirty of her staff were in that number. She was also accompanied by Director Jon Jarvis and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel Ashe. The group toured the historic ponds, greenhouse, and tidal marsh with Park Guide Leland Showa and Chief of Resource Management, Stephen Syphax, hiked part of the developing Anacostia River Trail project, and chatted with some of the park's neighbors.

Despite the recent uptick in attention this summer, the 12-acre garden, part of Anacostia Park/National Capital Parks-East, still retains its secret garden mystique—the same appeal it had for thousands of Washingtonians such as US President Calvin Coolidge, and international lily aficionados at the turn of the century.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in 1938, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens was acquired by Congress and placed under the management of Anacostia Park. The gardens, originally called "Shaw Gardens," were developed between 1882 and 1921 by a Civil War wounded warrior, Walter B. Shaw.

Shaw, who lost his right arm as a soldier, dammed his farmland to create a series of hand-dug ponds and a pleasure garden. In the 1930's, when an Army Corps project on the Anacostia River threatens the gardens and the surrounding tidal marsh, the people of Washington DC and Congress moved to save it, including Shaw's daughter Helen.

Today, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is the only national park site devoted to cultivated water-loving plants. This unique habitat, featuring exotic water lilies and lotus, is an oasis for nature lovers, a haven for walkers, hikers, photographers and birdwatchers and a living laboratory for students of all ages.



2013 Lotus and Lily Festival. NPS Photos.

# Articles

## National Capital Parks-East Washington, D.C. Sites Celebrate National Night Out

By Julie Kutruff,

Annually across the country, communities celebrate National Night Out (NNO) with law enforcement as a way to promote community safety. For 3 years, US Park Police from the Anacostia Operations Facility have teamed up with park rangers from National Capital Parks-East to host NNO events in park sites that are centered in communities in Wards 7 & 8 in the District of Columbia. This year the event was held on Tuesday, August 13th at River Terrace along the banks of the Anacostia River to promote trail safety on the Park's Anacostia River Trail. In May 2013, a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the CSX Railroad tracks opened and connected River Terrace to Anacostia Park. This new connection now allows bikers, runners and others to do a 12-mile circuit on both sides of the Anacostia River. Eventually, the Anacostia River Trail will continue all the way to Bladensburg, Maryland and it will be approximately 20-miles in total length.

Connecting the urban national park sites of National Capital Parks-East to the community is a goal of Acting Superintendent, Gopaul Noojibail. This event is just one the way that the park partners with local communities to create awareness around resources. "Getting more people on the trail promotes community health and NPS wants the community to be safe and smart trail users. So, this National Night Out event was a great way to both make connections and promote safety," Noojibail stated.

Partners for this event included "Gearin' Up Bikes," who performed bike checks and minor bike repairs on site, Washington Area Bicycle Association brought their trail ambassador team to promote trail safety messages, and the local civic association at River Terrace provided food and drinks for the event. Metropolitan Police Department bicycle officers teamed up with USPP bike units for a bike ride with kids from River Terrace to Anacostia Park and back. In addition, USPP horse mounted patrols, motorcycle units, K-9, and an armored vehicle used by the SWAT team special units were on hand for the event. NPS tents highlighted local wildlife, the history of nearby Civil War Defenses sites and showcased the Anacostia River Trail.



Children meet a police horse at NNO. NPS Photo.

## Awesome Anacostia Ambassadors + Urban Tree House = Environmental Ed Success

By Sarah Catchot, UTH Program Coordinator, 2013

The seasonal, high school "Anacostia Ambassadors", a Student Conservation Association (SCA) community service crew hired by National Capital Parks-East, were tasked again this summer with spreading the word to local youth about the Anacostia Park and watershed—and its importance to the community and to wildlife.

This year operated differently than in past years because the Anacostia Ambassador Crew joined forces with the Urban Tree House (UTH), a SCA-funded, decade-old, successful environmental education (EE) summer program run out of Anacostia Park. Together, the two programs efficiently tackled their common goals of: providing free and memorable EE programming for hundreds of DC urban youth (K-12) to have enjoyable experiences in nature, increase the youth's awareness of their relationship to the environment, and have the youth participate in hands-on conservation projects.

For most of the "Awesome Anacostia Ambassadors," (a.k.a. "AAA," as they often referred to themselves), this opportunity was either their first job educating youth about the environment or their first job ever. The crew members quickly came to realize that educating DC inner-city kids—many with little to no knowledge or experience in the outdoors—about the environment was no easy task. However, by the end of the summer, every one of the crew members felt empowered by the job for having led over 770 urban youth to become our future stewards of their ecological community.

Continued on Page 14.



Urban Tree House interns and Awesome Anacostia Ambassadors warm up their day with some team-building limbo to get their blood flowing before a large group of middle schoolers arrive! 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.

### GREENBELT PARK—A-LOOP IS FOR SCOUT CAMPING

There is a six-person limit to each campsite. All scout troops are required to call 301-344-3948 and reserve space in the campground. Scouts must have a tour permit and proof of insurance. Reservations are taken over the phone. All campground rules are in effect for the A-Loop.

### NO FOOD, NO ARMY

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort  
Sundays: September 1, October 6, and November 10  
11:00 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Experience the Civil War through the belly. Join Ranger Trey and Civil War volunteers as they demonstrate how the soldiers of Fort Washington prepared their food and what they ate during the time of the deadliest war in American history.

### ARLINGTON VA. IS IT NORTH OR SOUTH? CONFEDERATE OR UNION?

Arlington House: the Robert E. Lee Memorial  
Every Thursday through October 31  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge

Join Park Guide Jermain Robinson on a journey about one the Civil War Defenses of Washington as he present talks at the Arlington House located in Arlington, Virginia. These talks will explain the strategic importance of the Arlington Virginia during the Civil War.

### FORT WASHINGTON TOUR

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort  
Mondays: September 2 and October 14  
2:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Join a park ranger inside Fort Washington and discover Civil

War history. Find out what life was like for the soldiers who lived at Fort Washington.

### INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Greenbelt Park—Sweetgum Picnic Area  
Saturdays: September 7, October 5, and November 2  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 8 and above, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Join a hands-on nature preservation activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations.

### DISCOVERING EARTHWORKS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center  
Saturdays: September 7, October 12, November 9, and December 14  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join Park Ranger Kevin F. Barry on a nature hike from the Fort Dupont Activity Center to the Civil War Defenses of Washington Earthworks. Exercise your body hiking (wear walking shoes) while discovering the significance of the most eastern fortifications used for the Civil War.

### ZOMBIE FORTIFICATION

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort  
Sundays: September 8 and 29;  
Saturdays: October 19 and 26  
3:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
Ages 12 and up, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

The time has come when the dead walk the earth. What will you do to survive? Come and explore the 19th century fort that defended Washington, DC, and see how to survive within its walls.

### TWILIGHT TOUR

Fort Washington—Historic Fort  
Fridays: September 13, October 11 and 28  
8:00 p.m. or Dusk  
301-763-4600  
Ages 18 and older  
Free of charge  
Please provide your own flashlight.

While night creeps up on this Historic fort, what lies in the shadows? Ranger Trey will lead you through the 19th century fort on a haunting tour of non-ghostly proportions. With flashlights in hand, he will guide you through the history and uses of the first mason fort to protect DC from naval attack. Flashlights not included.

### DESIGNING THE DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, DC

Fort Mahan—Civil War Defenses of Washington  
Saturdays: September 14 and October 5  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

# Events

Join Park Guide Jermain Robinson at the site to learn about the men behind the design and location of the Civil War forts. Discover the drive behind the laborers who did the physical work to protect the city.

## MARSHALL HALL: A GRAVE TALK

*Piscataway Park—Marshall Hall*  
Sundays: September 15 and October 20  
11:00 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
Ages 10 and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Explore the history of Marshall Hall through the Marshall's who still reside there. The grave talk will dig deep into the Marshall family history and the multiple uses of the land from tobacco fields to the amusement park that once was the grand attraction of the area in its day.

## LOCAL CIVIL WAR FACTS

*Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center*  
Saturdays: September 21 and December 7  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Come celebrate the 149th anniversary of the Civil War with Ranger Kenya J. Finley. Ranger Finley will discuss the roles of minorities in the Civil War and future wars in the United States Military.

## JOURNEY BACK TO WASHINGTON, DC, DURING THE CIVIL WAR BIKE TOUR

*Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center*  
Saturdays: September 27, October 26, November 23, and December 28  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join Park Ranger Kevin F. Barry on a journey back to Washington, DC, during the time of the Civil War on a bike tour. This mountain bike tour will journey along the Civil War Defenses of Washington Hiker-Biker Trail at Fort Dupont.

## PROTECTING THE BRIDGE

*Fort Marcy—Civil War Defenses of Washington*  
Saturday: November 9 and December 7  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join Park Guide Jermain Robinson in a nature hike at the site of Fort Marcy, one of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Discuss the role of this Civil War era fort protecting the Chain Bridge and the strategies used to keep the bridge safe during the war.

# September

## ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATION

*Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort*  
Sunday, September 1  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

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. Firings will be at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m.

## DOG DAZE OF SUMMER

*Fort Washington Park—Visitor Center*  
Saturday, September 7  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Paws for the cause, its tail wagging time to greet Fort Washington Park's dog visitors! Walk with Park Guide Bambi Sears as you learn the history of Fort Washington. Organic Doggy snacks will be provided. Remember to bring water and waste bags for your pet. Dogs are required to be leashed at all times in the park.

## READING RANGER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, September 8  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to 12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join Ranger Kevin to read "The Raft" and explore a young child's journey into nature.

## AN ODE TO SUMMER

*Piscataway Park—Parking Lot*  
Saturday, September 14  
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Summer is slipping away! Kids are back in school. As the days grow shorter, the wildlife at Piscataway Park begins to prepare for cold months ahead. Discover the many ways that wildlife along the shores of the Potomac prepares for winter.

## CAPTURE THE MOMENT

*Harmony Hall Mansion*  
Sunday, September 15  
3:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
Ages 18 and above  
Free of charge  
Reservations Required

Take a step back in time to a property that had it all! Tobacco, canals, ports, industry, and a thriving social status. Walk the grounds and see why Harmony Hall had so much appeal!

# Events

## LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE

*Oxon Cove Park—Barnyard Area*

*Sunday, September 15*

*1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

*301-839-1176*

*All Ages*

*Free of charge*

September is a great month to get the kids outside for some exercise and to expose them to the natural world around them. We will take a wagon ride to Oxon Cove and then take an “unstructured” walk along one of the natural areas of the park. The walk will be about a quarter of a mile. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. This program will be limited to 20 participants.

## READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: LOOK UP! LOOK DOWN! LOOK ALL AROUND!

*Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn*

*Monday, September 16*

*9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*

*301-839-1176*

*Ages 0 to 5, and accompanying adults*

*Free of charge*

Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month join Ranger Steph as she explores the creatures in the ground below us and in the sky above us at Oxon Cove Park. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

## FILMS IN THE FORT

*Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort*

*Friday, September 20*

*8:00 p.m.*

*301-763-4600*

*Ages: Appropriate for film*

*Free of charge*

Come enjoy the atmosphere of our old historic fort placed strategically along the Potomac River. A great site for movie night! The fort will be opened at 7 p.m. for those of you who want to grab a good spot and enjoy a picnic on the parade grounds. This summer we will be showing films depicting the War of 1812 and Civil War eras. Please check our website for film listings at <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>.

## MARYLAND LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

*Fort Washington Park—Lighthouse*

*Saturday & Sunday, September 21 and 22*

*8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

*301-763-4600*

*All Ages*

*Free of charge*

Are you up to the challenge? Ten Maryland land-based lighthouses are open for the challenge. The challenge: get all ten lighthouses in twenty hours. The Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society organizes the challenge. Visit the website at [www.cheslights.org](http://www.cheslights.org).

## HARVEST FESTIVAL: THE WAY OF FOOD

*Accokeek Foundation—National Colonial Farm*

*Saturday, September 21*

*10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*301-283-2113*

*Free General Admission*

From how it is grown to the historical and cultural significance to why it is grown, from region to region, food is a central part of everyone’s lives. Come and celebrate the way of food in this free public gathering that will not only entertain, but also educate you about our

agricultural past, present, and future. The National Colonial and Ecosystem Farm manager will delight visitors with a lively demonstration integrating heirloom and colonial foodways with modern sustainably grown farm delights, tour the farms and enjoy ongoing activities throughout the day. General admission is free. For more information, contact [info@accokeek.org](mailto:info@accokeek.org) or visit [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org).

## SCARECROW RANGER

*Fort Washington Park—PX Parade Grounds*

*Sunday, September 22*

*12:00 p.m.*

*301-763-4600*

*Ages 5 to 12 with accompanying adult*

*Free of charge*

This is a great opportunity to let your imagination run wild. We’ll provide the stuffing, you provide the creativity. This is a scarecrow ranger building contest where everyone is a winner. All scarecrow rangers made that day will be displayed with in the park for the month of October. For additional information, go to our website at <http://www.nps.gov/fowa/>.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY—RIVER CLEANUP

*Fort Washington Park—Lighthouse*

*Saturday, September 28*

*10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*301-763-4600*

*All Ages*

*Free of charge*

Volunteers wanted to help clean up the park. Grab your gloves and join in the fun for the Potomac River Cleanup. The park has a limited supply of gloves and trash pickers.

## FIRST FALL COLORS

*Piscataway Park—Accokeek Creek Boardwalk*

*Saturday, September 28*

*10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*301-763-4600*

*All Ages*

*Free of charge*

Experience the first colors of autumn as the trees get ready for winter. This exploration along the boardwalk will identify what the animals and plants are doing to prepare for the cold winter that will soon be here.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

*Greenbelt Park—Sweetgum Picnic Area*

*Saturday, September 28*

*8:30 a.m. to 12 noon*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 10 and above, with accompanying adults*

*Free of charge*

Let’s give back to our parks as we help with clean-ups and maintain trails throughout the park. Pre-registration required at [www.nps.gov/gree/](http://www.nps.gov/gree/). Get out, experience and enjoy your National Parks.

## MEET THE BEAVER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*

*Saturday, September 28*

*11:00 a.m.*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 8 to 12, and accompanying adults*

*Free of charge*

Join Park Ranger Debbie to learn about beaver characteristics and their habitats.

# Events

## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY CLEAN-UP

Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot  
Saturday, September 28  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 18 and up (Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult)  
Free of charge

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 that you don't mind getting wet and muddy. Bring work gloves and rakes, if you have them. Meet in the parking lot. For more information, go to [www.publiclands-day.org](http://www.publiclands-day.org).

## MEET THE MISTRESS OF MOUNT WELBY

Oxon Cove Park—Mount Welby  
Sunday, September 29  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Stop by the Mount Welby home and meet Mrs. Mary DeButts, the early 19th century mistress of Mount Welby. Mrs. DeButts will be more than happy to chat and show you her home. Don't forget your 19th century manners!

## October

### ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATION

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort  
Sunday, October 6  
1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Ever wonder how Civil War cannons were fired? The Fort Washington Guard 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. Firings will be at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

### FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Sunday, October 6  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 and above, with accompanying adults  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

October 6—12 is Fire Prevention Week. Join Ranger Robin and learn about fire hazards and how to stay safe from fire in our homes, and while camping.

### HARVEST TIME ON THE FARM

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn  
Saturday, October 12  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Harvesting is a very important time of year for all cultures. Come learn about this time of year and how harvest times throughout the decades have impacted Oxon Hill Farm.

### READING RANGER

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Sunday, October 13  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to 12, with accompanying adults  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join Ranger Kevin to read "The Story of Smokey Bear" and celebrate National Fire Prevention Month.

### FORT WASHINGTON TOUR

Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort  
Monday, October 14  
2:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Join a park ranger inside Fort Washington and discover Civil War history. Find out what life was like for the soldiers who lived at Fort Washington.

### HISTORIC STRUCTURES TOUR

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn  
Saturday, October 19  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All Ages  
Free of charge  
RSVP Required

Join a park ranger for a walking tour of Oxon Cove Park's historic structures. Call the park today to reserve your spot!

### FEET IN THE STREET

Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center  
Saturday, October 19  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
All Ages  
Free of charge

It was a perfect autumn day for Feet in the Street last year. The sun was out and the breeze cooled everyone down from all the running around. The rock climbers and cherry pickers probably felt the warmest, since they were closer to the sun. However, it wasn't so bad for the

runners, the hikers, or the bikers. Kids got their face painted and parents got their arms tattooed (airbrushed). Passerbyes saw the Farmer's Market and partook in some locally grown veggies, fruits and honey! Visitors learned about bike safety and organic gardening. Feet in the Street had a lot going on last year. If you did not make it out, come by this year's Feet in the Street on October 19.

### WAYSIDE WALKING TOUR

Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot  
Sunday, October 20  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 7 to adult  
Free of charge

Put on your walking shoes and take a short walk through the park to learn some interesting local history. We will stop for a few minutes at each outdoor wayside for a quick discussion. The walk is about a quarter of a mile. Please bring water and don't forget those comfy walking shoes.

### READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: FALL ON THE FARM

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

Feel that chill in the air? As the days get shorter, the farm bustles with activity. Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, find out what happens on the farm during the busy autumn months. Meet Ranger Steph in

# Events

the Visitor Barn.

## BIRDING WITH BAMBI

*Piscataway Park—Accokeek Creek Boardwalk*  
Saturday, October 26  
10:00 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
Ages 10 to adult  
Free of charge

Life under and around the boardwalk is fascinating. We'll look for resident wildlife preparing for winter and listen to their songs.

## WHAT'S THAT HABITAT?

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Saturday, October 26  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3948  
Ages 6 to 8, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Meet Ranger Debbie to learn and identify the basic needs for food, water, and shelter for the wildlife in the park.

## PUMPKINS: THE SPECIAL SQUASH

*Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn*  
Sunday, October 27  
9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 5 to 12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge  
Reservations Required

Ever wonder why pumpkins are a prominent symbol of fall and the holiday season? Through songs, stories, and poems we will discover the cultural importance of pumpkins and their place in the American landscape. This program is for kids, ages 5–12, but all are welcome.

## NO BONES ABOUT IT!

*Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn*  
Sunday, October 27  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 5–12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Skeletons are not scary! Bones are brilliantly white, stronger than steel, and extremely long lasting. The structure of an animal's bones tells us a lot about the animal. So don't worry about the skeletons in your closet! Come learn about bones at Oxon Cove Park. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

# November

## INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

*Piscataway Park—Accokeek Creek Boardwalk*  
Saturday & Sunday, November 2 and 3  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
Ages 16 and older  
Free of Charges  
RSVP Required

What's an invasive species? Come down to Piscataway Park and find out what that means and help us remove them from this natural setting. Please check out our website for more information at <http://www.nps.gov/pisc/>.

## OXON HILL HISTORY TALK

*Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn*  
Saturday, November 9  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All Ages  
RSVP Required

Join a park ranger for a presentation on the rich history of the city of Oxon Hill, Maryland. Call the park today to reserve your spot!

## FIELD ARTILLERY BIRTHDAY

*Fort Washington Park—Historic Fort*  
Sunday, November 10  
1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Join the Fort Washington Guard as they pay tribute to the Field Artillery Birthday. The guard 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. Firings will be at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

## MEET THE BEAVER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, November 10  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 8 to 12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Join Park Ranger Kevin to learn about beaver characteristics and their habitats.

## WHAT'S THE FUSS WITH SQUIRRELS?

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, November 12  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to 12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge  
RSVP required

Join Ranger Robin and learn how and why squirrels build

warm nest, use trees for shelter and a food source, and how they communicate.

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS ORATORICAL CONTEST REGISTRATION

*Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center*  
Tuesday, November 12  
Time: To be announced  
202-426-5960  
Grades 1 to 12  
Free

Students interested in participating in the Annual Frederick Douglass NHS Oratorical Contest must register by Tuesday, November 12. Students memorize portions of the speeches of Mr. Douglass and recite them before a panel of judges on stage at his home of Cedar Hill. This year's performances are scheduled for Thursday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14. Prizes are awarded to the winners at a later date to be announced. Contact the site for additional information.

## CHILDREN'S STORIES

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Saturday, November 16  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3948  
Ages 6 to 8, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Join Park Ranger Debbie reading nature stories introducing life cycles of animals and their habitats.

## GIVING 19TH CENTURY THANKS

*Oxon Cove Park—Mount Welby*  
Sundays: November 17 and 24  
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
All Ages  
Free of charge

# Events/Articles

Stop by the Mount Welby and see how our 19th century fore-fathers and fore-mothers gave thanks for the fall harvest bounty.

## READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: "DEER" ME!

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn  
Monday, November 18  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 0 to 5, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Shhh! In November, if you are quiet in the woods of Oxon Cove Park, you are almost certain to observe a deer or two. Every third Monday of the month,

come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, learn about does, bucks, and fawns. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn.

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

Fort Washington Park—Light House  
Saturday, November 23  
11:00 a.m.  
301-763-4600  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Return with Ranger Trey to August 24, 1814, and experience that tragic day that our Nation's Capital burned. Engage in a lively discussion along the shores of the Potomac and discover the activities that lead up to August

24th and what happened days later. What would you have done differently if you were president? Dress for cold weather in winter attire.

## IT'S AMERICAN INDIAN HARVEST TIME!

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn  
Saturday, November 23  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All Ages  
Free of charge

Join us at Oxon Hill Farm for music, crafts, and stories to celebrate the harvest traditions of American Indians. We will learn how native people celebrated this bountiful time of year by giving thanks to all of the

living things that make a successful harvest season and provide nourishment for the winter.

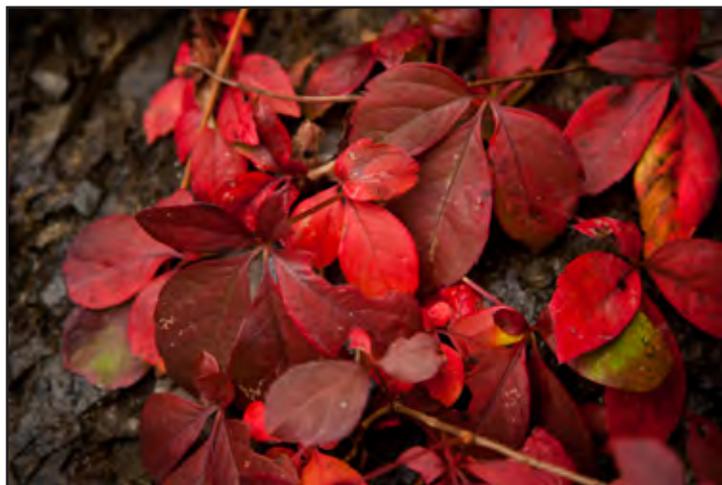
## FARM BINGO!

Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn  
Sunday, November 24, 2013  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 5 to 12, and accompanying adults  
Free of charge

Five in a row...BINGO! Take a ranger-led walk around Oxon Hill Farm and use your observation skills to help you fill in a bingo card. Meet in the Visitor Barn.



Left: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington participate in an Urban Tree House game of "bat and moth," which teaches youth about animal adaptations and using the senses to gain awareness of their surrounding world. NPS Photo.



Virginia Creeper at Greenbelt Park. NPS Photo.

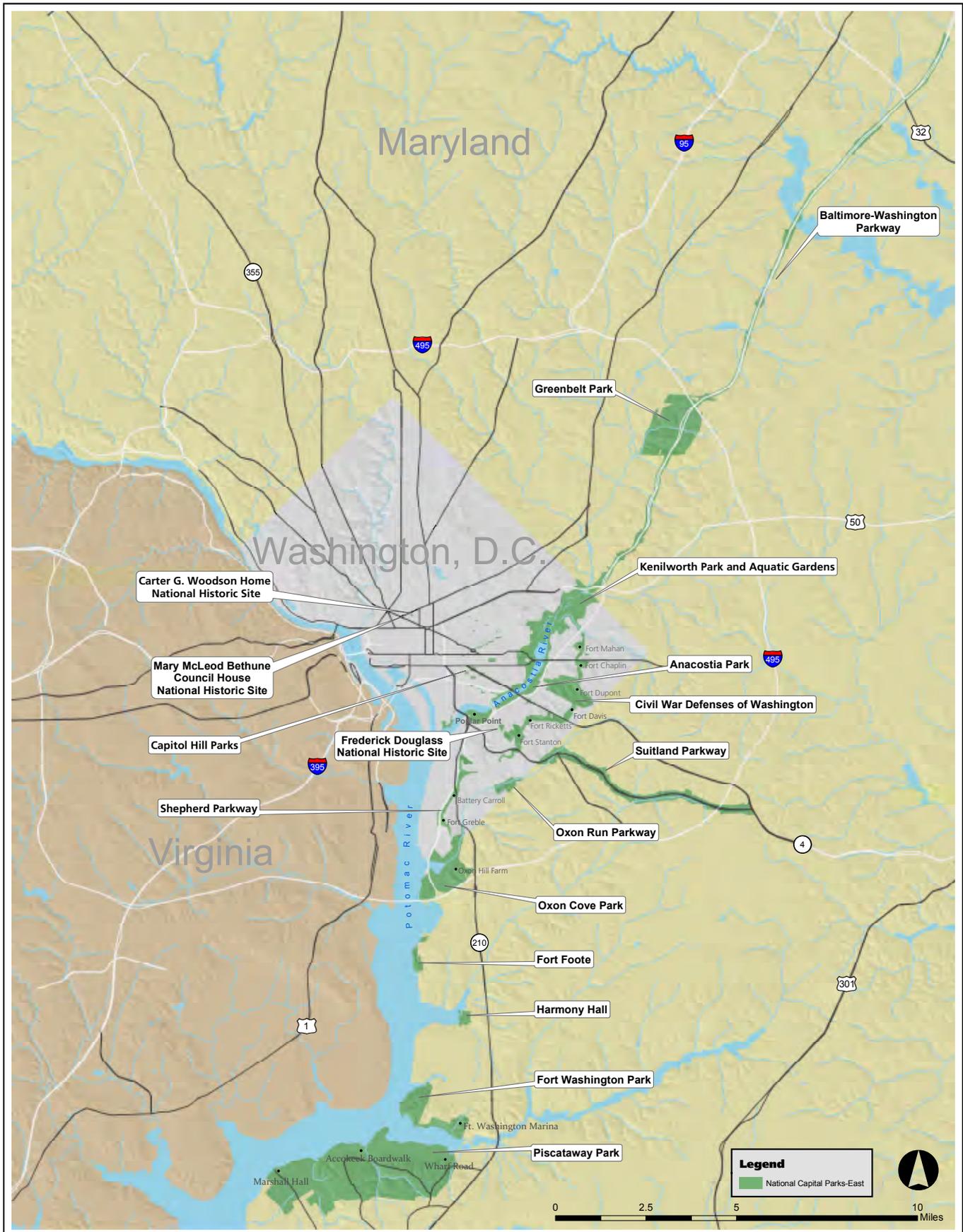
Continued from Page 8.

AAA Crew Leader, Lisa Weber, describes how rewarding the experience was for everyone: "Our outdoor Urban Tree House campus at Anacostia taught me so much. We touched the lives of hundreds of area youth and our teen Anacostia Ambassador Team members are forever changed. One of the greatest lessons I will take away from my summer experience: I can make a difference. Hundreds of young people are closer to their natural world and more aware of issues facing their environment. A generation of children will someday work to preserve and respect our precious green spaces." That is UTH and AAA's intent, anyway.

UTH looks forward to working with another SCA Anacostia Ambassador crew next year. "As a result of combining the Anacostia crew with the UTH staff, we were able to increase our teacher-to-student ratio, combine more creative minds, rotate office and educator work, and maximize our individual strengths, where needed. Therefore, the integration was an overall success and enhanced the quality of our programs," concludes UTH Program Coordinator Sarah Catchot. UTH programs currently run from June through August, however participant youth organizations have expressed a need for more to be available year-round.

For more photos, updates, and information, please "like" our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DCUrbanTreeHouse/>.

# Map





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks-East  
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## Activities at your fingertips

	Biking	Birding	Camping	Education Programs	Hiking	Live Music	On-Site Parking	Picnicking	Ranger-led Programs	Sports Fields	Visitor Center
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	●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●