



# Beyond the Capital

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

Winter/Spring 2012-2013

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



Mary McLeod Bethune speaking at the Council on African Affairs on June 6, 1946 in Madison Square Garden, New York City, N.Y. Credit: Rapid News Photo, Dummett, photographer.



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 Superintendent

Dear Visitor,

Welcome to the winter edition of *Beyond the Capital*. As we head into the winter months, it's often too easy to hibernate and vegetate during the cold with comforting foods and allow our waist bands to get slightly tighter. The weather can be discouraging and make exercising daunting. But, it doesn't have to! The way I look at it, you can always dress in warm layers to go out into the cold, but it's sometimes difficult dressing to stay cool when it's hot outside. So take advantage of the winter to begin your exercise regime.

Before engaging in a new exercise routine, always check with the doctor to make sure that you are physically ready for the challenge. We all know that a good exercise program and diet can reduce cholesterol, help blood pressure, strengthen the heart, improve circulation and release endorphins which can help you lose weight. National Capital Parks-East has a variety of outdoor options to keep you active and fit during the winter months. The Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, the 7-mile hiker-biker trail including a fitness area in Fort Mahan and the winding trails at Greenbelt Park and Fort Washington are just a few areas where you can come out and enjoy a nice brisk walk, run or bike ride. When engaging in physical activity, make sure you have the right footwear for hiking or walking a trail and wear layers of clothing that you can remove and try not to wear clothing that absorbs the sweat or be prepared to have something to wear to cover yourself once you stop your exercising for the day.

We are also proud to announce the TRACK Trails program. National Capital Parks-East is one of many parks in the National Capital Region that has allocated funds in creating thirteen TRACK Trails in national parks across the Greater Washington Area. TRACK Trails are part of the Kids in Parks program, an initiative of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Blue Ridge Parkway—a unit of the national park system, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. TRACK Trails is a nationally-recognized program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics that focuses on developing age-appropriate, self-guided activities for youth and families to make it make it fun to be active outside in nature. And, because so many of us have grown up without developing a comfort level with being in nature, these trails makes a great first walk in the woods which can lead to further adventures on other trails in all the great local, state and national parks in the Greater Washington Area. It's a perfect example of what parks offer—nature, history, a place to explore and an experience to remember.

So grab your jacket, comfortable shoes and make your New Year's resolution today!

Take a hike and tell me how you enjoyed it!

Thank you,

Alexy Romero  
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 almost 400 national parks 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.



Youth volunteer helping with cleanup. 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)



The Director of the National Park Service Jon Jarvis commemorates the 136th birthday of Dr. Carter G. Woodson at the celebration in 2011. More information about this year's celebration can be found on page 10. 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

Annett Gantt (Executive Director)  
agantt@ecc1.org, or  
Kellie Bolinder  
kbolinder@ecc1.org  
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

## Sewall-Belmont House and Museum

The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum is the site where suffrage leader Alice Paul and the women of the National Woman's Party led the fight for equal rights for women in the United States and throughout the world. The National Woman's Party was instrumental in gaining the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Alice Paul, the author of the Equal Rights Amendment, lived and worked in the house for many years. The library, which contains an unparalleled collection of suffrage and equal rights artifacts and documents, is dedicated to the history of the party and the history of the suffrage and equal rights movements. Please call for tour availability.

### Contact Information

Elisabeth Crum  
Public Programs & Outreach Manager  
144 Constitution Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
elisabeth.crum@sewallbelmont.org  
202-546-1210  
www.sewallbelmont.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

Deirdre Fitzgerald  
Media Relations  
1800 North Kent Street,  
Suite 102  
Arlington, VA 22209  
dfitzgerald@thesca.org  
703-524-2441  
www.thesca.org

## Fort Dupont Park Hosts Healthy Parks Healthy People & TRACK Trail Dedication

By Peter Lonsway

On Saturday September 22, 2012, at Fort Dupont Park, the National Park Service (NPS) and its partners celebrated the inauguration of the DC Park Prescriptions and Kids In Park's TRACK Trail program. A loop trail in Fort Dupont Park was officially designated a TRACK Trail during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The DC Park Prescriptions and Kids In Park's TRACK Trail program is designed to connect health care providers and their patients with parks and public lands which will expand and strengthen the fight against obesity and reconnect youth and families with their natural environment. TRACK Trails, a program of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, offer outdoor activities for youth and present families with easily accessible ways to get outside for nature education and physical activity.

The ceremony included remarks from National Capital Parks-East Superintendent, Alex Romero, Dr. Sophia Smith a local physician with Children's National Medical Center, and program partners, the National Environmental Education Foundation, DC Primary Care Association, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

Following the ribbon cutting, Dr. Smith wrote park prescriptions to children participating in the event. All were invited to hike along the TRACK Trail with a ranger.

The TRACK trail in Fort Dupont Park begins and ends near the Activity Center. The 1.3 mile trail allows users to go for a healthy hike and experience the natural beauty of the park. To learn more visit [www.nps.gov/fodu](http://www.nps.gov/fodu) or call 202-426-7723.



NACE Superintendent Alex Romero looks on as Dr. Sophia Smith signs a prescription for outdoor activity. NPS photo.

## Preserving a Treasure of the Civil Rights Movement

By Joy Kinard, Manager, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site

At the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, a unit of National Capital Parks-East (NACE), restoration of the front facade of the home occurred during the summer of 2012. In the years since the site served as the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, the historic main entry doors had been lost and replaced with iron gates. This allowed weather and environmental elements to penetrate the foyer causing extensive damage to the original fabric of the 1875 interior doors made of mahogany wood.

Restoration began in May 2011 with an assessment of the doors by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) staff and NACE cultural resource staff, facility managers, and park managers. The restoration was split into three phases. Phase one consisted of fabricating the main replica doors to replace the iron gates. The replica doors were designed from original photos found in the National Archives for Black Women's History. Phase two included the installation of the outer replica doors and abatement of lead paint in the foyer by paint experts. Phase three included removing the original interior foyer doors, transporting them to the National Park Service's HPTC woodcraft shop in Frederick, Maryland, complete restoration, and then reinstallation. The crew of craftsmen who worked on this project has restored historic sites all over the country. They have a national reputation for preserving America's treasures throughout the National Park System. Visitors can now enjoy the original entry way that Mrs. Bethune used when she purchased the home for the NCNW in 1943.



Preservation carpenters restore the entryway to the Bethune House. NPS photo.

## National Capital Parks-East connects with educators at Smithsonian's Teachers' Night Event

By Lori M. Spillman

National Capital Parks-East (NACE) represented the National Park Service as presenters at the Smithsonian's Teachers' Night 20th Anniversary annual event held on Friday, September 29, 2012. The event was held in the courtyard at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture located at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. More than 3,000 teachers participated.

Rangers, representing the diverse sites of NACE, interacted with scores of teachers from the metropolitan area and beyond. The first 1,500 educators who connected with rangers received a wristlet containing the 2012–2013 NACE Educator's Guide, park newsletter "Beyond the Capital," and contact information for park managers. The wristlets were one of the highlights of the evening. The rangers mingled with teachers passing out the wristlets, brochures and speaking one-on-one with the teachers about distance learning, park diversity, and partnerships with schools. Teachers also had the opportunity to view a display that included park brochures and digital photos. All were welcomed to share their contact information for future connections.

Special thanks to all who assisted in any manner with this park-wide effort to promote NACE. Extra special thanks to our outstanding maintenance staff for their logistical assistance.



Rangers from National Capital Parks-East interact with teachers at the 20th Anniversary Smithsonian Teachers' Night. NPS photo.

## New Playground Installed at Randle Circle

By Frank Young

Make Kids Smile Inc. (MKS), a non-profit organization, builds playgrounds for under privileged children in the Washington Metropolitan area and offered to partner with the NPS to replace the playground equipment at Fort Dupont Park as they had done on numerous occasions for the D.C. Housing Authority, D.C. Parks and Recreation, and National Capital Parks-East at Shepherd Parkway. As a result, during the summer of 2012, MKS entered into an agreement with National Capital Parks-East to procure the playground equipment, mobilize volunteers, and provide a certified installer to be present during the installation of the playground at Fort Dupont Park and Randle Circle SE. The playground installation was completed on October 24, 2012 and a ribbon cutting ceremony held November 16, 2012 to commemorate its opening.

The original playground at Randle Circle was located in the reserved picnic area and was removed because of neighbors complaining about the noise and disruption the equipment users brought to the community. As a result, the new playground was installed on the non-reserved side of the park, isolated from nearby houses and in an area that is more inclusive of visitors to the park. It has already received positive feedback from the community and is yet another example of how successful partnering can improve our parks and visitor's experience.



Volunteers and future users at the opening of the new playground at Fort Dupont Park and Randle Circle SE, Washington, D.C. NPS photo.

# Events

## Recurring Programs

### MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE TOURS

Monday–Saturday  
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.

### WILDLIFE NATURE WALKS

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens  
Daily upon request  
9:00 a.m.  
202-426-6905  
Ages 5 and up with an adult

Enjoy the pleasure of the company of birds, mink, and squirrels this winter. While the turtles and snakes hibernate, many of our aquatic wildlife tough it out eating fish, nuts, berries and tree buds. Come keep them

company, but please don't feed them human food (their tummies get upset). Please call in advance to schedule and check on weather conditions.

### RANGER FIT CHALLENGE

Anacostia Park—Pavilion  
Every Thursday  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
202-472-3884  
All ages (children under 18, parental consent is required)  
RSVP Required

Come out and get moving with Anacostia Park rangers and get Ranger Fit! Exercise along the Anacostia River Walk Trail with agility ladders, hurdles, jump ropes, steps and much more! Contact Ranger Wayne Philips to RSVP.

### BIRDING ALONG THE ANACOSTIA

Anacostia Park  
Every Sunday  
9:00 a.m.  
202-472-3884  
All ages  
RSVP Required

Have all the birds flown south for the winter? Come see the shore birds that reside in D.C. year round. Ducks, great blue herons, geese and cormorants don't mind the cold. Come learn about shore birds habits and environment. If you have binoculars, bring them for a close up view. The park has a few pairs, also, for your use. Contact Ranger Charles Taylor to RSVP.

### THE DRAMATIC PERCUSSION OF MOVING ICE

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Anacostia Park  
Saturdays & Sundays—December through February

10:00 a.m.  
202-426-6905  
Ages 5 and up with an adult

Does the Anacostia freeze? Yes, sometimes it does and when the tide changes it sounds like the Earth is breaking up. When it doesn't freeze, there are waterfowl bobbing on the surface looking complacent in their well oiled feathers. They're enjoying the river. Bundle up, bring a thermos of hot soup, and discover the tranquility of winter rivers. Call for more information.

### INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Greenbelt Park—Meet at Sweetgum Picnic Area  
1st Saturday of each month:  
December 1; January 5; February 2; March 2; April 6  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 8 to adult  
RSVP Required

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

### THE DEFENSES OF FORT WASHINGTON FROM NAVAL ATTACKS

Fort Washington Park—Visitor Center  
2nd Sunday of each month:  
December 9; January 13;  
February 10; March 10; April 14  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 pm  
301-763-4600  
All ages

Come see how Fort Washington was adapted throughout the years to protect the City of Washington, D.C., from naval attack. Take a walk through history as we explore the different

structures and defenses around the fort.

### DISCOVERING ARLINGTON HOUSE

Fort Dupont Park—Civil War Defenses of Washington  
Every other Wednesday:  
December 5, 19; January 2, 16, 30; February 13, 27; March 13, 27; April 10, 24  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above

Join rangers from Fort Dupont Park, one of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, as they present talks at the Arlington House located in Arlington, Virginia. These talks will explain the strategic importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. For additional information, contact the park.

### DISCOVERING EARTHWORKS IN WASHINGTON DC

Fort Dupont Park—Fort Dupont Activity Center  
Saturdays: December 8; January 5; February 2; March 2, 16; April 13  
10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
202-426-7723  
Age 5 and above  
RSVP Required

Join this ranger-led 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.

# Events

## DESIGNING THE DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fort Mahan—Civil War Defenses of Washington  
Saturdays: December 22; January 12, 19; March 23; April 6, 20  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
RSVP Required

Join a ranger 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.

## JOURNEY BACK TO WASHINGTON, D.C., DURING THE CIVIL WAR BIKE TOUR

Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center  
Saturdays: December 29; January 26; February 23; March 30; April 27  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
RSVP Required

Journey back to Washington, D.C., 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.

## PROTECTING THE BRIDGE

Fort Marcy—Civil War Defenses of Washington  
Saturdays: February 9 & March 9  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
202-426-7723  
Ages 5 and above  
RSVP Required

Take a ranger led 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. Please call the park to RSVP.

## SPRINGING ALONG

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Anacostia Park  
Saturdays & Sundays—February through April  
10:00 a.m.  
202-426-6905  
Ages 5 and up with an adult

On a sunny day in February through April, the wild flowers in the grass have started blooming. The bright blue of speedwell and white stars of chickweed provide a lift to the spirit if you're feeling a little winter weary. Call the park to confirm.

# December

## MULTICULTURAL WINTER FESTIVAL

Oxon Cove Park  
Saturday, December 1  
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
301-829-1176  
All ages

Many cultures around the world have traditions that bring in the arrival of winter. We invite you to come out to Oxon Hill Farm to explore how the “season of lights” was celebrated by the African Americans, the American Indians, and the Europeans. These three cultures have contributed to the deep and diverse history of Oxon Hill Farm. The day's festivities will include crafts, music, storytelling, horse-drawn wagon rides, and much more. Light refreshments will be served.

## ORATORICAL CONTEST

Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center  
Thursday, December 6 through Saturday, December 8  
Time to be announced  
202-526-5961  
Grades 1 to 12

Students that previously registered to participate in the Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest take to the stage to present portions of Douglass speeches at his home. Winners of the contest will receive prizes.

## WINTER'S EVE AT THE NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM

Saturday, December 8  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
301-283-2113  
For all ages: \$2.00 admission or canned food donation

Kick off winter with a special evening tour of the seasonally-decorated National Colonial Farm as 18th century lanterns light the way! This popular community event features caroling by the fire, an entertaining reading and performance of “A Colonial Christmas Carol,” and warm treats. Come and experience the holidays—1775 style! This year's event will feature a Silent Art Auction showcasing the craftsmanship of the farm's Stitch 'n Time textile artists and works by local artists. Proceeds from the auction go to support the educational programs of the National Colonial Farm.

## “TALK IN TRASH WITH SASHA THE SPIDER”

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Saturday, December 15  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3948 or 44  
Ages 7 to 12  
RSVP Required

Want to become a puppeteer? “Talk in Trash” is a play which helps children learn about the animals that live in Greenbelt Park and how they have easily adapted to an urban lifestyle. Come and join us as a puppeteer to educate those interested in learning about the park.

## READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: BACKYARD BIRDS

Oxon Cove Park  
Monday, December 17  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 0 to 5 and accompanying adults

Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, join Ranger Steph in a close-up look at our feathered friends. Make an easy bird feeder to take home. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

## 137TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Wednesday, December 19  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
202-673-2402  
All ages  
RSVP by December 16

The National Park Service, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the African American Experience Fund, and Shiloh Baptist Church will jointly sponsor the 137th birthday celebration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. This event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Shiloh Baptist Church, located at 1500 9th Street NW, Washington, D.C., one block

# Events

away from the home of Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

## January

### GREENBELT CAMPGROUND SCOUT LOOP RESERVATIONS OPEN

*Greenbelt Park—Headquarters*  
Thursday, January 3  
301-344-3948

All Scout Troops are required to call to reserve space in the campground. Certificate of liability insurance and tour permit are needed. All campground rules are in effect for Scout Loops.

### GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER CELEBRATION

*Oxon Cove Park*  
Saturday, January 5  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages

Seventy years ago to the day, this world lost the great George Washington Carver. Join us here at Oxon Cove Park as we gather to celebrate his life and contributions to the world of agriculture.

### ANIMALS IN WINTER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, January 6  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to 12  
RSVP Required

Join a ranger as we learn how some animals survive in the cold and harsh conditions of winter.

### BOOK SIGNING

*Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS*  
Thursday, January 10  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
202-673-2402  
Program for Adults  
RSVP by January 5

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., we will host a book signing of *In Search of Sisterhood* by Paula Giddings. This book chronicles the creation of the African American Women's Sorority movement. This will be an opportunity for visitors to meet the author and view artifacts in the home given by this sorority to furnish the council house in 1943, along with images on exhibit of Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Irene Height as members of this international group of dynamic sorority women.

### READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: FARM FASHION

*Oxon Cove Park*  
Monday, January 11  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 0 to 5 and accompanying adults

Woolly socks, warm leather jackets, dry winter boots. . . Thanks to our farm animal friends, people throughout the world have clothes to keep them warm, even on the coldest days. Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, learn about the different types of clothes that come from farm animals. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn. Note the new start time for 2013!

### MEET THE BEAVER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, January 27  
2:00 p.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to adult  
RSVP Required

Join a ranger as we learn about beaver characteristics and habitats.

### WINTER CHORES ON THE FARM

*Oxon Cove Park*  
Sunday, January 27  
9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages  
RSVP Required

The farmer is busy feeding the animals, fixing the fences, and cleaning the building during the cold winter months. Come out to the farm and learn how winter chores compare and contrast to the chores of the hot, steamy summer. We will help the farmer feed the animals. Afterward, we will warm up inside and read and listen to a story about winter chores on the farm. Dress warm and comfortable. Don't forget the boots and gloves! Reservations required.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CIVIL RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL AND LECTURE

*Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center*  
Sunday, January 27 and Monday, January 28  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
202-426-5961  
All ages

Join us for the *Eyes on the Prize* series, a King biography, and a lecture by a local historian.

## February

### LOVE IS IN THE AIR

*Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens*  
Daily upon request in February  
9:00 a.m.  
202-426-6905  
Ages 5 and up with an adult

By February, when people are cuddling inside, the birds have started their courting songs and behaviors. Come any morning to enjoy the bird songs of love and challenges to rivals. Wind pollinated trees also start to bloom in February. Come find natural romance! Call for more information.

### LOCAL BLACK HISTORY TALK

*Oxon Cove Park*  
Saturday, February 2  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages

Come celebrate Black History Month with us and learn about the rich legacy of African Americans in Oxon Hill, MD.

### GREENBELT PARK CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH—SALUTE TO CHARLES YOUNG

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station*  
Sunday, February 3  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
All ages  
RSVP Required

Discover Charles Young, the first African American National Park superintendent and his contributions to the National Park Service.

# Events

## TOURS OF FORT WASHINGTON

*Fort Washington—Historic Fort Sundays: February 3 & March 3 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 301-763-4600 All ages*

The Fort Washington Guard will be providing tours of the historic fort, discussing the features and designs that made it a formidable obstacle to pass for entrance to Alexandria City and Washington, D.C. Weather permitting musket demonstrations will be presented.

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS' 195TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

*Frederick Douglass NHS—Visitor Center Saturday, February 9 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All ages*

Come celebrate the life of Frederick Douglass. This year's theme will be Douglass and the Civil War. This event features music, crafts, and history. It will be a grand birthday bash for Mr. Douglass.

## WHAT'S THAT HABITAT?

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Saturday, February 9 11:00 a.m. 301-344-3948 or 44 Ages 6 to 8 RSVP Required*

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

## ON-LINE JUNIOR RANGER BOOKLET LAUNCH

*Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS Thursday, February 14 All Day 202-673-2402 Ages 7 to 12*

The National Park Service will launch two online junior ranger booklets for youth to learn about Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Carter G. Woodson and their involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. The Bethune booklet will be available at [www.nps.gov/mamc](http://www.nps.gov/mamc) and the Woodson booklet will be available at [www.nps.gov/cawo](http://www.nps.gov/cawo).

## READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: FARM FAMILIES

*Oxon Cove Park Monday, February 18 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. 301-839-1176 Ages 0 to 5 and accompanying adults*

Mares, foals, stallions, ponies, fillies, colts... where do they all belong on the horse family tree? Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, come explore farm family relationships with Ranger Steph. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

## WINTER EVERGREEN WALK

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Sunday, February 18 11:00 a.m. 301-344-3944 Ages 8 to adult RSVP Required*

Meet a ranger at Greenbelt Ranger Station to hike the

blueberry trail and discover various evergreen plants which contribute to the diverse plant life in winter.

## STILL CREEK VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Saturday, February 23 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon 301-344-3944 Ages 12 and up RSVP Required*

Greenbelt Park and the Friends of Still Creek invite you to join this dynamic group to clean the Still Creek watershed.

## BLACK SCIENTISTS & INVENTORS

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Saturday, February 23 1:00 p.m. 301-344-3948 or 44 All ages RSVP Required*

Ranger Debbie will present a video about Black Scientists and Inventors.

## IDENTITY IN THE SHADOW OF THE SLAVE TRADE

*Oxon Cove Park Sunday, February 24 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. 301-839-1176 Ages 7 and above RSVP Required*

Through song, storytelling, discussion, and other activities, we will explore how America's enslaved people practiced African traditions and how the human spirit triumphed over the violent and harsh institution of slavery.

# March

## MAKING PLANS FOR THE SUMMER? HOW ABOUT CAMPING AT GREENBELT?

*Greenbelt Park Reservation period opens Friday, March 1 888-444-6777*

Make plans to stay at Greenbelt Park's campground while visiting Washington, D.C. The Greenbelt campground is known for its affordability, peaceful surroundings, and National Park Service hospitality. The campground is only 10 miles from Washington, D.C.

Reservations can be made for Thursday, May 23 through Tuesday, September 3. Call 1-888-444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.nps.gov](http://www.recreation.nps.gov).

## FRIENDS OF STILL CREEK MEETING

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Monday, March 4 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 301-345-6515 Ages 16 and up RSVP to Friends President, Bill Duncan*

The Friends of Still Creek invites you to discover Greenbelt Park and the Still Creek watershed.

## WILMA RUDOLPH

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station Sunday, March 6 11:00 a.m. 301-344-3944 All ages RSVP Required*

Join a ranger as Greenbelt Park celebrates Women's History Month and discover the inspiring story of Wilma Rudolph.

# Events

## WOMEN OF OXON HILL FARM

Oxon Cove Park  
Saturday, March 9  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages

Celebrate Women's History month with us and learn about the roles and responsibilities women had here at Oxon Hill Farm.

## WHO IS TEMPLE GRANDIN?

Oxon Cove Park  
Sunday, March 10  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Adults and children 6 and up

Celebrate Women's History Month by learning about Temple Grandin, livestock behavior scientist and advocate for individuals with autism. Watch the award-winning full-length video in the Visitor Barn and discover how Professor Grandin broke down the barriers that typically kept women and individuals with disabilities from succeeding in her field.

## CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Saturday, March 16  
11:30 a.m.  
301-344-3948 or 44  
Ages 4 to 8  
RSVP Required

Join Ranger Debbie in the classroom and pick your favorite book to read.

## READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: RABBIT "TAILS"

Oxon Cove Park  
Monday, March 18  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 0 to 5 and accompanying adults

What's up, Doc? Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, hippity-hop right in to enjoy favorite bunny stories and learn how the staff at Oxon Cove Park cares for the park's rabbits. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn.

## JUNIOR RANGER ART PROGRAM

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS  
Saturday, March 23  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
202-673-2402  
Ages 7 to 12  
RSVP by March 14

Come learn more about the world renowned civil rights leader, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, through an interactive advanced art workshop conducted by Gina Marie Lewis. Ms. Lewis holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Howard University and is a specialist in creating watercolors, textiles, and sculptures. A professor at Bowie State University, she will teach an advanced art class for those youth with experience in artistic techniques. She will teach participants ages 7 to 12 how to make hats similar to those Dr. Height wore. After the workshop will be a tour of the home and the National Archives for Black Women's History facilitated by NPS site curatorial staff.

## THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM: WIVES AND MOTHERS AND THEIR LEAD ROLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Oxon Cove Park  
Sunday, March 24  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 7 to adult

During the early years of our country's history, few single men attempted to operate a farm. Farmers clearly understood the need for a hard-working wife and numerous children to handle the many chores. Come out to Oxon Cove Park and experience what life was like for these early American heroines. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves, work hard, and help with the chores.

## LITTER WE KNOW

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Saturday, March 30  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3948 or 44  
All ages  
RSVP Required

Ranger Debbie, along with participants, will collect litter in the park and evaluate the pollution effects.

## RABBIT VS. HARE

Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station  
Sunday, March 31  
11:00 a.m.  
301-344-3944  
Ages 5 to 12  
RSVP Required

Did you know that rabbits and hares are different? Join a ranger to discover some of these furry animal distinctions.

# April

## OXON COVE-POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEANUP

Oxon Cove Park  
Saturday, April 6  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
301-839-1176  
Ages 18 to adult (Children are welcome, if accompanied 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](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org).

## JAM ON THE FARM

Oxon Cove Park  
Saturday, April 6  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages

April is Jazz Appreciation Month. Come jam with us down on the farm to learn how this music was born. Jazz, a mixture of blues and African American folk songs, developed from an oral tradition into a style of music which we now call jazz. We will listen to and learn about some of the pioneers of this great American musical genre.

## FORT WASHINGTON-POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEANUP

Fort Washington Park—Lighthouse Area  
Saturday, April 6  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
301-763-4600  
All Ages

# Events

The largest regional event of its kind, the cleanup provides a transforming experience that engages citizens and community leaders and generates momentum for change. Meet at the lighthouse to help clean up the park's shoreline. Park has a limited supply gloves.

## ARTILLERY TRAINING DAY

*Fort Washington—Historic Fort Sunday, April 7*  
1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
301-763-4600  
All ages  
Free

Join us for a training day for Volunteers in Parks for Living History at Fort Washington Park. Ever wondered 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.

## GREENBELT PARK—POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEANUP

*Greenbelt Park—Meet at Sweetgum Picnic Area Saturday, April 13*  
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
301-344-3944  
Ages 8 to adult  
RSVP Required

Greenbelt Park will participate in the 25th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. There will be hundreds of cleanup sites (both shoreline and land based) throughout the Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia areas. More information is available at Greenbelt

Park website at [www.nps.gov/gree](http://www.nps.gov/gree) and the Potomac Watershed Cleanup website at [www.PotomacCleanup.org](http://www.PotomacCleanup.org).

## WAR OF 1812 WAYSIDE WALKING TOUR

*Oxon Cove Park Saturday, April 14*  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 10 and up

The War of 1812 has begun and it is impacting families all along the Potomac River. Find out how the Debutts family and others coped during this time. Join a ranger for a short walking tour to view our War of 1812 indoor and outdoor exhibits. A discussion will take place at each stop.

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

*Oxon Cove Park Monday, April 15*  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
301-839-1176  
Ages 0 to 5 and accompanying adults

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.

## SPRING WALK

*Greenbelt Park—Dogwood Trail Saturday, April 20*  
10:30 a.m.  
301-344-3948 or 44  
All ages  
RSVP Required

Join Ranger Debbie to discuss the wonders of spring on the trail.

## READING RANGER

*Greenbelt Park—Ranger Station (located near the campground) Sunday, April 21*  
301-344-3944  
11:00 a.m.  
Ages 5 to 12  
RSVP Required

Join a ranger to read *The Raft* and explore a young child's journey into nature.

## EARTH DAY HIKE

*Oxon Cove Park Sunday, April 21*  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages

Grab your hiking shoes and join Ranger Steph on a hike on Oxon Cove Park's Woodlot Trail, while you learn what you can do to care for your Earth Mother. The trail is about a half-mile long and includes some good hill-climbing. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

## BOOK SIGNING

*Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS Thursday, April 25*  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
202-673-2402  
Program for Adults  
RSVP by April 15

We will host a book signing of *Beauty Shop Politics* by Tiffany M. Gill, Ph.D. This book gives a reassessment of the role African American beauty salons have played in the struggle for civil rights and social change. *Beauty Shop Politics* demonstrates the central role African American women have played in the history of American business showing how African American

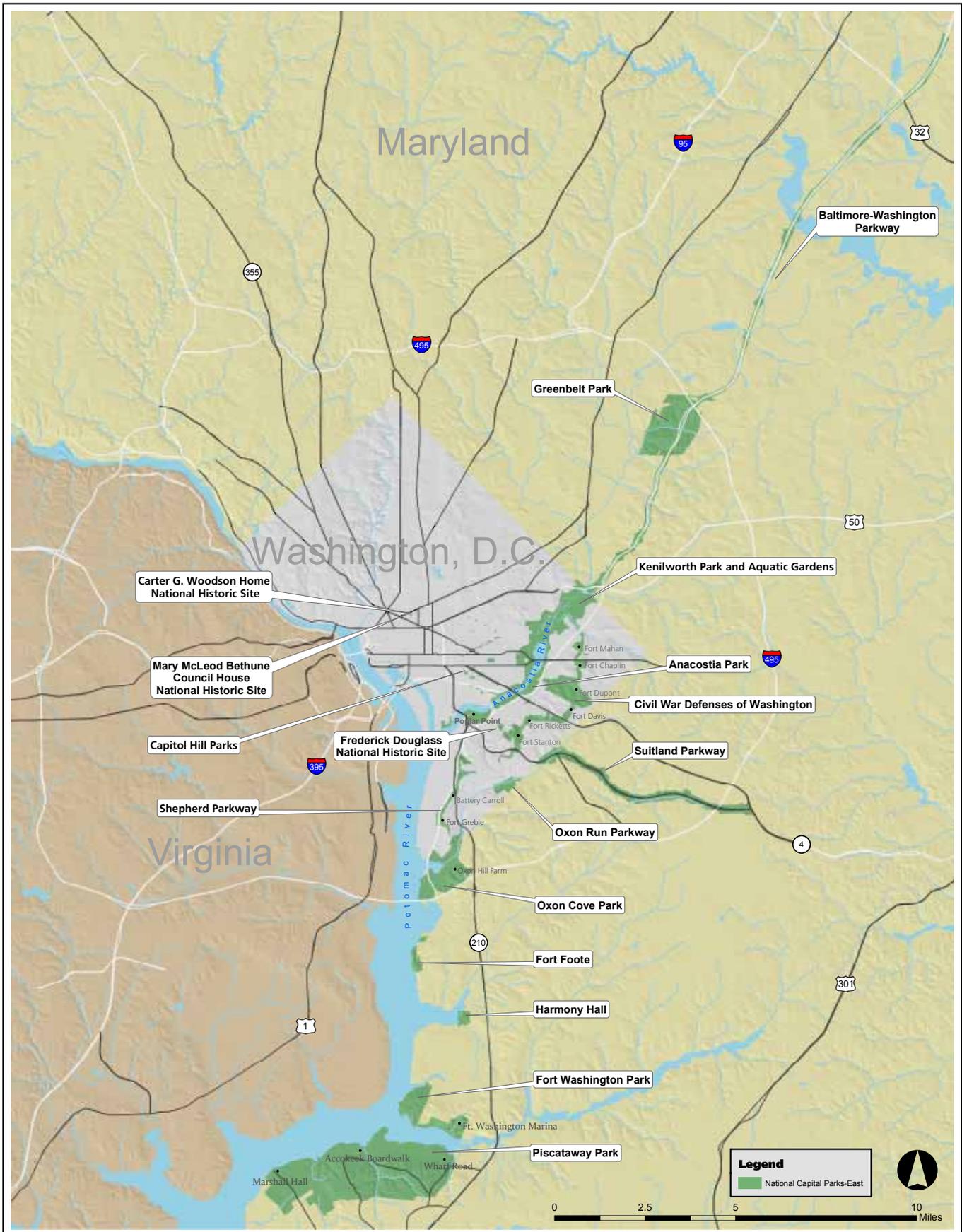
businesswomen challenged the perceptions of male leaders in the worlds of business and politics. This will be an opportunity for visitors to meet the author, and hear about the National Council of Negro Women's role in working with many of these businesswomen throughout the nation.

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

*Oxon Cove Park Sunday, April 28*  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
301-839-1176  
All ages  
RSVP Recommended

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.

# Map





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE  
Washington, DC 20020-6722

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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	●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●