

# Beyond the Capital

## Calendar of Events

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fall Issue  
September to December 2009



As we celebrate “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” National Capital Parks-East is pleased to offer visitors an opportunity to experience our programs and events for the fall season. Programs are geared towards the entire family where you can experience, explore, and discover the natural and cultural resources available to you. Many of our programs are geared to our youth who can become a Junior Ranger at Oxon Cove Park or join in a sing-a-long and get great camping tips at Greenbelt Park. We encourage you to get out and enjoy your national parks beyond the Capitol!

### September Events

#### Building Bridges for the Challenged Activities

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*  
11:30 am to 12:30 pm, Every Sunday,  
September 2009 to May 2010  
301-839-1176

All Ages

Building Bridges for the Challenged is a pilot program at Oxon Cove Park, which brings new light to the need to serve Americans with disabilities regardless of their age.

We invite you to come participate in programs that relate to the natural and cultural resources here in the park.

Each week we will focus on a new topic. Through your active participation you will be assisting

Oxon Cove Park in its mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the

National Park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

#### A Fall Art Display

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*  
8 am to 4 pm, September 1 to September 30  
301-839-1176

All ages

Come join us at the Visitor Barn and see a great display of our farm in the fall through the eyes of our artistic visitors.

#### Public Lands Volunteer Day – America’s Best Idea

*Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area*  
8:45 am to 12 noon, Saturday, September 26  
All Ages

Come and help make a difference in the park. Volunteer opportunities include projects such as trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and the Still Creek watershed cleanup. A children’s nature walk will begin at 11am.

#### America’s Best Idea

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*  
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Sunday, September 27  
301-839-1176

All Ages

Setting aside land to be used by everyone has often been referred to as “America’s Best Idea.” Join us for a moderate paced 1.5 mile walk through Oxon Cove Park and discover why this site became a national park in 1967. We will conclude the walk with a viewing of a 5 minute clip from Ken Burn’s documentary, “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” Our Volunteer Coordinator will be available to answer questions on how you can help us protect and preserve the park for the enjoyment of future generations. Reservations recommended.



Youth explore the health of Still Creek in Greenbelt Park during an environmental education program.



## October Events

### Be a Junior Ranger . . . Explore, Learn, Protect

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

October 1 to May 31, 2010

9 am to 4 pm

301-839-1176

Ages 9 to 13

Pick-up the activity book, **Be a Junior Ranger . . . Explore, Learn, Protect**, at the park visitor center and begin your journey in becoming a junior ranger. The activities you complete will help you understand the importance of the park's resources and will encourage you to develop a life-long interest in the National Park Service. Complete the activities and you will earn a certificate, badge, and patch. This program is geared towards children ages 9 to 13.

### Morning Chores

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

8:30 am, Saturday, October 3

301-839-1176

All Ages

Join a park ranger bright and early to help feed and water our livestock. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes that are comfortable and can get dirty. We will begin our day in in the feed room. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Civil War Field Artillery Demonstration

Fort Washington Park – Adjacent to Visitor Center

12 pm, Sunday, October 4

301-763-4600

All Ages

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 artillery piece that will be demonstrated is a 6-pounder field gun. Firings will take place at 1 pm and 2 pm. Come early to view the musket demonstration at 12 noon.

For Gold, God, and Glory European Slavery Comes To the Americas”

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

1 pm to 2 pm, Sunday, October 4

301-839-1176

All Ages

Come out to the park and learn about the European exploration of the Americas. We will discuss the Imperial Powers quests for gold, their desire to spread Christianity to the Native tribes of the Americas, and their own desires for fame and glory in their home countries. We will examine the cause and effect relationships that their goals or the 3 G's would have on the Native Americans and learn how it would eventually lead to the expansion of European slavery in the Americas.

### Morning Wagon Rides

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

9:30 am, Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28

301-839-1176

All Ages

Take a scenic ride through the park and enjoy the cool mornings.

### Fire Safety for Kids

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station

11 am, Sunday, October 4

301-344-3944

Ages 5 to 12

Fire Safety for Kids will help kids identify fire hazards. Come and get important tips on how you can stay safe from fire in the home as well as when you're out on a camping trip.

### Friends of Still Creek Meeting

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station

7 pm to 9 pm, Monday, October 5

Contact: Bill Duncan

301-345-6515

Ages 16 to Adult

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

### Woodlot Trail Reopening

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

2:30 pm, Saturday, October 10

301-839-1176

All Ages

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along the newly restored Woodlot Trail. Explore some of the structures found throughout the trail and discover what they were historically used for. The trail is 0.6 miles in length with moderate slopes and hills. Please wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothes for the weather. Meet the park ranger in the visitor center.

### America's Best Idea Preview

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station

1pm, Sunday, October 11

301-344-3944

Ages 16 to Adult

Discover some of the untold stories of the PBS special on the national parks. We will feature Bridging the Watershed and the opportunities for high school students to use the park as a classroom.

### Junior Ranger Sing-A-Long & Camping Survival Program Greenbelt Park Ranger Station & Campground

1 pm, Saturday, October 17

301-344-3944

Ages 8 to 12

Come out and sing camp songs and get camping survival techniques as we explore the great outdoors with a park ranger.

### Historical Farm Equipment

Oxon Cove Park - Visitor Barn

1 pm to 2 pm, Sunday, October 18

301-839-1176

All Ages

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

### American Girl Book Club Discussion

Oxon Cove Park - Visitor Barn

10 am to 1 pm, Wednesday, October 21

301-839-1176

Ages 9 to 14

Through discussion, song, storytelling, and costumed character presentations, we will discover what life was like for American Girl, Addy, who fled from the chains of slavery using the Underground Railroad in search of freedom. The program will wrap up with a discussion of the book "Meet Addy." The book is part of the American Girl Addy series. Reservations are required.

### The First Americans

Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn

1 pm to 2:30 pm, Sunday, October 25

301-839-1176

All Ages

Come discover how the Eastern Woodland Tribes hunted, fished, and gathered food on the Potomac Valley floors. Hear how they utilized the river basins for thousands of years before the arrival of John Smith's and John Ralph's men from Jamestown.

### History of Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station

1 pm, Saturday, October 31

301-344-3944

All Ages

The community of Greenbelt, Maryland, has a rich cultural story. Come join a park ranger to discover its unique story and how it is connected to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

## November Events

### Thanksgiving & Native American Displays

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*8 am to 4 pm, November 1 to November 30*

*301-839-1176*

*All Ages*

Come and view our exhibits featuring two cultures and their mores during the month of November.

### Friends of Still Creek Meeting

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*

*7 pm to 9 pm Monday, November 2*

*Bill Duncan*

*301-345-6515*

*Ages 16 to Adult*

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

### Morning Wagon Rides

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*9:30 am, Wednesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25,*

*301-839-1176*

*All Ages*

Take a scenic ride through the park and enjoy the cool mornings.

### Invasive Plant Removal

*Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area*

*11 am, Saturday, November 7*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 8 to Adult*

Help us make a difference in preserving nature. Join us in a hands-on activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and work gloves.

### Oh Deer!

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*

*2 pm, Saturday, November 7*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 5 to Adult*

Please join us at the ranger station to explore the role of deer in the suburban ecosystem. We will describe the life cycle of a deer, identify essential habitat components, and discuss factors that control the size, growth and circulation of the species.

### Post Revolutionary War Slavery in the Maryland Tidewater

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*1 pm to 2:30 pm, Sunday, November 8*

*301-839-1176*

*Adults*

Come out to the park and discover this chapter in American slavery history. The park ranger will discuss and compare the Artisan slavery found in the cities with the Agricultural slavery found on plantations.

### Tree Identification Walk

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*2:30 pm, Saturday, November 14*

*301-839-1176*

*All Ages*

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along the Woodlot Trail where we will identify some of the trees found along the trail. Enjoy the fall colors of changing leaves and learn about the trees they come from. The hike will begin at the visitor center. Please wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothes for the weather.

### Celebrate the Field Artillery's 234th Birthday

*Fort Washington Park – Adjacent to the Visitor Center*

*1 pm, Sunday, November 15*

*301-763-4600*

*All Ages*

The United States Field Artillery began in 1775, when Henry Knox was appointed Chief Artillery of the Continental Army. Artillerymen were considered the army's elite during the early years of America. When the Continental army was abolished in 1784, a detachment of 80 men remained to guard government stores. They were known as field artillerymen, making the artillery the only branch of the army with continuous service since the revolution. Join the Fort Washington Guard as they wish the Field Artillery Happy Birthday. The Guard will demonstrate field guns used during the muzzle loading era of American Artillery.

### Watershed Walk

*Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area*

*11 am, Sunday, November 15*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 10 to Adult*

Join a park ranger to discover the Still Creek watershed.

### What's the fuss with Squirrels?

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*

*1 pm, Sunday, November 15*

*301-344-3944*

*Ages 5 to 12*

Come and learn how and why squirrels build warm nests, use trees for shelter and a food source, and how they communicate.

### National Family Volunteer Day

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*10 am to 11:30 am, Saturday, November 21*

*301-839-1176*

*Ages 5 to Adult*

Volunteering is a great way for families to stay connected by helping out in the community. We will partner with the National Children's Museum to offer a volunteer opportunity for families to help maintain our newly rehabilitated Woodlot Trail. Not only will you assist in the upkeep of the trail, but you will discover some fun things about trails, forests, and wildlife. So, if you are up to the challenge, come and join us in this national day of celebration. Wear a long-sleeved work shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Your help will be greatly appreciated. A wagon ride through the park will be offered to all volunteers. Reservations required.

### Mules on the Farm

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*

*1 pm to 2 pm, Sunday, November 22*

*301-839-1176*

*All Ages*

Take a walking tour and learn how mules were used on farms for transporting agricultural products, harvesting crops, and how they are used today by some farmers.

### Environmental Justice

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*

*1 pm, Saturday, November 28*

*(301)344-3944*

*All Ages*

Participants will learn to become aware of historical social action efforts which have shaped the environmental advocacy efforts in the United States.

## December Events

### Invasive Plant Removal

*Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area*  
11 am, Saturday, December 5  
301-344-3944

*Ages 8 to Adult*

Help us make a difference in preserving nature. Join us in a hands-on activity as we pull non-native plants and help preserve Greenbelt Park for future generations. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and work gloves.

### The Sly Fox

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*  
2 pm, Saturday, December 5  
301-344-3944

*Ages 5 to Adult*

Please join us at the ranger station to learn about the Red Fox and their reputations as efficient and cunning hunters.

### Cultural Holiday Festival

*Oxon Cove Park – Visitor Barn*  
12 pm to 3 pm, Sunday, December 6  
301-839-1176

*All Ages*

The holiday season celebrations today differ from celebrations 200 years ago on the Mount Welby Plantation (the historical name of the park property), where European, African and Native American cultural influences were prevalent. Join us as we celebrate a holiday of the past and discover how the 3 cultures celebrated the season. Activities will include apple cider pressing, old fashioned game playing, costumed characters presentations, wool spinning, quilt making, crafts for kids, music, storytelling, and horse-drawn wagon rides. Free light refreshments will be served.

### Winter Walk

*Greenbelt Park – Sweetgum Picnic Area*  
1 pm, Saturday, December 13  
301-344-3944

*All Ages*

Join a park ranger to discover the forest in preparation for winter.

### 134th Birthday Commemoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson

*Location: TBA*

*Saturday, December 19 - Time: TBA*

Join the National Park Service in a holiday reception to commemorate the 134th Birthday of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Please contact the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House for details at 202-673-2402.

### “Talking Trash with Sasha the Spider”

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*  
1pm, Saturday, December 19  
301-344-3944

*All Ages*

Want to become a puppeteer? Talking Trash is a play to help children discover the critters and animals that live in Greenbelt Park and how they easily adapt to an urban lifestyle. Come and join in the fun as we explore life in the forest.

### Animals in Winter

*Greenbelt Park – Ranger Station*  
1 pm, Sunday, December 20  
301-344-3944

*Ages 5 to 12*

Come out and observe animal behavior and survival techniques throughout winter.



Enjoy the fall colors at Piscataway Park.



You might see a red fox while hiking in Greenbelt park.



The marsh at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in winter snow.