

FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK, INC.

JOIN US AT THE BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER FOR PROGRAMS, NATURE WALKS, BIRDING AND MORE.

BULLETIN... AUTUMN 2021

BLUE HERON IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you have been able to enjoy our Park during these difficult times. Nature is always available to relieve stress. While walking our trails we can take the time to reflect on what is good and push the bad away for a time. That is why it is so important to preserve our Park – not only for us but for future generations.

We had hoped that the Scarecrow Festival would return this September. Unfortunately, with the increase in COVID cases and the new Delta Variant that will not be possible. While this is an outdoor event too many of the activities such as face painting, crafts and pumpkin painting prevent keeping a safe distance. We are anxious to bring this family friendly event back in 2022. Meanwhile, we will continue offering our weekly Wednesday walks, naturalist led walks and Zoom programs.

One of the important things that your membership helps is the continuing maintenance of the trails. This is an on-going project. By re-blazing the trails, we make it safe for you to find your way around.

In addition to "Walks over our trails" by leading naturalists, we also have a weekly Wednesday afternoon stroll with Ellen Overby who lives near the park. We hope these additions will encourage you to enjoy our park during this pandemic and beyond.

The Nature Center is open for a few hours on Saturday and Sunday so that you can enjoy the sights and animals in the inner lobby. No decision has been made as to when the Nature Center will be available for programs and meetings.

In the bulletin, the calendar for September, October, November, December will tell you about programs that can take place outdoors, via Zoom, or the Nature Center should it open. We hope you will be able to participate in these free events.

More than anything, the safety of our members and neighbors are most important. We will never suggest any event that would endanger you.

Please stay safe.

Elaine Croteau

President, Friends of Blue Heron Park

FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK BOARD

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INSIDE...

Things to do at BHP...
Naturalist Guided Walks
Birding with FBHP
Article - Welcome New Members
Urban Park Ranger Corner
Programs...
September, October,
November, December
Membership
Sponsors
Future Events
Featured Photos

FBHP...

WEBSITE:
friendsofblueheronpark.org

EMAIL:
friendsofblueheronpark@gmail.com

FACEBOOK:
friends of blue heron park @friendbhp

ADDRESS:
PO Box 131653, Staten Island, NY
10313

PHONE:
718-698-6056

THE PARK...

WEBSITE:
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/blue-heron-park>

PHONE: 718-967-3542 PARK POLICE: 1-800-201-PARK

ADDRESS: 222 Poillon Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10312

PARK HOURS: 6am - dusk

NATURE CENTER HOURS: Lobby and restrooms available:
10am - 12noon and 1pm - 4pm



A FEW THINGS TO DO AT BHP

WALK THE TRAILS

Blue Heron has numerous, well-marked trails for you to explore on your own or with a trail guide.

Look for guided walks in the calendar listings.

BIRDING WITH FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON

Staten Island has unique natural sites that attract a diversity of birds throughout the seasons.

Join Howie Fischer for birding walks through our local parks to observe and identify some of the many species that migrate through the borough.

THE NATURE LIBRARY AT BHP

A collection of nature guidebooks, books, and magazines for all ages is located in the Nature Center Building.

The Nature Center is temporarily closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. We will let you know as soon as it opens back up.

BLUE HERON PARK
222 POILLON AVE.
STATEN ISLAND, NY
10312

Welcome New Members

It is a pleasure to welcome so many new members to our family. Your membership helps us to provide free programs to children, young people, adults and seniors.

Due to the COVID pandemic, we are providing outdoor programs and Zoom programs only. When the Nature Center reopens, we will switch from Zoom to on-site programs. The pandemic hasn't closed us down completely, it just made us look for other venues to provide you with events. We are hopeful that by 2022 we will be able to return to normal.

In the meantime, you have our heartfelt thanks for supporting Friends of Blue Heron Park, your neighborhood park.

Elaine Croteau

Sylvia Clark
Elaine Cohen
Doris & John Cubellas
Maureen Curran & Michael Stein
Kathleen Darelany
Mary Jane DeSantis
Jonathan Dos Santos
Frances Edwards
Lisa Espesito & Family
Laurel E Fay
Megan & Salvatore Fazio
Patricia A Festa & Family
Mary Gay
Joseph & Barbara Goldie
Nancy & Tim Hally
John & Heidi Harmon
Jeanne & Bill Hogan
Lori & Kevin Keating
Michael Manna

Marianne McFarland
Susan Misko
Ken Mulholland
Ellen Looft
Patricia Ribeiro
Israel Rodriguez
Tony Rose
Susan Santiago
James Scarcella
Gloria Shaw
Katie Suter & Chris Cogswell
Elizabeth Suter & Luis Medina
Nancy Tanchajja
Thom Taylor
Patricia VanWagoner
John Vokral
Jeffrey & Kathleen Wachtel
Gloria Weiss



American Goldfinch. Photo: Maya Shikhman.



*Ere, in the northern gale,
The summer tresses of the trees are gone,
The woods of Autumn, all around our vale,
Have put their glory on.*

- William Cullen Bryant, *Autumn Woods*



AUTUMN PROGRAMS



SEPTEMBER · OCTOBER · NOVEMBER · DECEMBER



Grasshopper. Photo: Maya Shikhman.

INDOOR PROGRAMS

Indoor programs are not available at this time. The Parks Department governs the rules for indoor programming. We look forward to offering you indoor nature programs when the building once more becomes available.

Please contact your Program Provider or the Park Rangers at Blue Heron Park (718-967-3542) for updates and cancellations.

TRAIL WALKS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor programs include FBHP Birding Walks, Wednesday Walks, Trail Walks, classes conducted on outdoor benches and specialty events like Owl Prowls. Outdoor activities are conducted at BHP, unless otherwise indicated in description.

Protocols for outdoor programs follow CDC guidelines.

ZOOM PROGRAMS

View Zoom programs on personal computers, tablets, or phones. Contact the program provider to sign up for Zoom programs.

FACEBOOK LIVE

Access Facebook Live events through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsbhp>.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

Some outdoor programs take place at locations other than Blue Heron Park. Locations are indicated in program descriptions.

SEPTEMBER

TRAIL WALKS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP

WALKING THE TRAILS
WEDNESDAY
WALKS
With Ellen Overby

MEET IN
BHP PARKING LOT
Wednesdays
2:00 pm
September 1
September 8
September 15
September 22
September 29

KIDS N KRITTERS **POND HIKE**

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, September 18
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Join me for a last exploration of Spring Pond. Who will we see? Recommended for children accompanied by caregiver.

Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

ZOOM & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

ZOOM PROGRAM **YOGA**

With Terry Seaman
Thursday, September 16
Thursday, September 30
10:15 - 11:45 am

Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman via Zoom for some relaxing yoga.

Call Terry at 718-356-0106 to receive the Zoom link.

KRAFTY KIDS - ZOOM PROGRAM **DRAGONFLY CRAFT**

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, September 18 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Free craft supplies will be given out at the end of the Kids n Kritters hikes. There will be a Zoom meeting to assemble the craft and a story. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Register at the hike to receive the zoom link, then join in at 4:00 pm. If you did not get the craft bag, you are still invited to the Zoom workshop. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS **FBHP BIRDING**

Led by Howie Fisher

Sunday, September 19
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Clove Lakes Park

Meet at 9 am on Royal Oak Road near Rice Avenue.

We hope to find a variety of fall migrants. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and local woodpeckers will be expected.

Sunday, September 26
9:00 - 11:00 am

Conference House Park -

Tottenville. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot near the Visitors Center. This park is excellent for autumn birds and we expect a variety of warblers among other migrants.

Rain cancels any walk. All walks require binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Call or text Howie Fischer at 347-279-2819 for either of these programs.

OFF-SITE PROGRAM **A FALL MEADOW WALK**

Led by Maya Shikhman Sunday, September 19 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Meet at Mt. Loretto Unique Area parking lot on Hylan Boulevard. (Overflow parking available across Hylan in CYO parking lot.)

Join Maya for an early fall walk in the blooming fields of Mt. Loretto. We will explore butterflies and other pollinators on asters, and look for migrating birds; please bring binoculars. Rain day, September 26. Information and registration: Maya Shikhman at maya.shikhman@gmail.com.

AUTUMN PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Spotted salamander. Photo: Maya Shikhman.

*A tangerine and russet cascade
Of kaleidoscopic leaves
Creates a tapestry of autumn magic
Upon the emerald carpet of fading summer.
- Judith A. Lindberg, *Shades of Autumn**

OCTOBER

BHP TRAIL WALKS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

WALKING THE TRAILS WEDNESDAY WALKS

With Ellen Overby
MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT 2:00 pm
Wednesday, October 6
Wednesday, October 13
Wednesday, October 20
Wednesday, October 27

OUTDOOR PROGRAM CORNHUSK DOLLS

With Skye Suter
Saturday, October 23 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Outdoor activity at Blue Heron Nature Center. Create a boy or girl cornhusk doll. Suitable for adults or family activity; children need adult supervision. Materials provided. Alternate arrangements will be made in case of inclement weather. CDC recommendations observed.

Email skyesuter@gmail.com to pre-register for this class.

KIDS N KRITTERS COLORS OF AUTUMN HIKE

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, October 23 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
What makes the colors of Autumn? Join me as we unlock the mysteries of color. For children and accompanying caregiver.

Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

WALKING THE TRAILS TRAIL WALK

Led by Don Recklies
Saturday, October 30
1:00 - 2:30 pm

On this easy walk we follow the Blue Trail to Butterfly Pond and then loop back to the Nature Center. Life in the woods is preparing for a winter siege: birds migrate, insects lay eggs to preserve their future, herbaceous plants seed, and deciduous trees begin the process of recovering some of the energy they have expended producing leaves and wood through the summer. Unless inclement weather cancels this walk, we'll get a peek at fall beginning to impact the woodland.

CDC recommendations will be followed. Meet in front of the Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue. For information call Don Recklies at 718-768-9036.

ZOOM & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

ZOOM PRESENTATION HERBAL FLOWERS II

With Gert Coleman
Wednesday, October 13
1:00 - 2:300 pm
Flowers for scent, medicine, beauty, and more! Get to know more herbal flowers with herbalist Gert Coleman.

Pre-register at gert.coleman@verizon.net to receive the zoom invitation.

ZOOM PRESENTATION THE HERB HARVEST

With Skye Suter
Friday, October 22
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Dry, freeze or bottle your herbs. Learn methods of harvesting, and preserving to enjoy your favorite garden herbs all year long.

Registration required for the Zoom link: skyesuter@gmail.com.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS BIRDING WITH FBHP

Led by Howie Fisher
Sunday, October 3 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Clove Lakes Park
Meet at 9 am on Royal Oak Road near Rice Avenue. We should find a variety of migrants in the woods and along the stream.

Sunday, October 10 9:00 -3:00 pm
Big Sit - at Clove Lakes Park
We meet on the lawn close to where the dog running takes place every morning. Look north - we sit on lawn chairs close to crabapple trees with the fire tower in full view. Visitors select any time they prefer to stop by. We scan the sky for hawks and there are always birds in the fruiting trees where we sit. Necessary items: lawn chair and water.

Sunday, October 17 9:00 -11:00 am
Snug Harbor Cultural Center
Meet at 9 am in the parking lot near the Kissel Ave. gate. We'll walk around the property searching for migrants. There are excellent habitats here for birds like sparrows, water birds and raptors.

Rain cancels any walk. All walks require binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Call or text Howie Fischer at 347-279-2819 for either of these programs.

ZOOM PROGRAM YOGA

With Terry Seaman
Thursday, October 14
Thursday, October 28
10:15 - 11:45 am
Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman via Zoom for some relaxing yoga.

Call Terry at 718-356-0106 to receive the Zoom link.

KRAFTY KIDS - ZOOM PROGRAM SPIDER CRAFT

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, October 23 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Free craft supplies will be given out at the end of the Kids n Kritters hikes. There will be a Zoom meeting to assemble the craft, and a story. Program recommended for ages 5 and up.

Register at the hike to receive the zoom link, then join in at 4:00 pm. If you did not get the craft bag, you are still invited to the Zoom workshop. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.



AUTUMN PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Listen ...

With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break free from the trees
And fall.

- Adelaide Crapsey, 1878-1914, *November Night*

NOVEMBER

TRAIL WALKS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP

WALKING THE TRAILS

WEDNESDAY WALKS

With Ellen Overby

MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT at 2:00 pm

Wednesday, November 3

Wednesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 17

Wednesday, November 24

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

CORNHUSK FLOWERS

With Skye Suter

Saturday, November 6 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Outdoor activity at Blue Heron Nature Center. Create flowers for the Thanksgiving table. Family or adult activity - children may need adult supervision. Materials provided. Alternate arrangements will be made in case of inclement weather. CDC recommendations observed.

Email skyesuter@gmail.com to pre-register for this class.

WALKING THE TRAILS

TRAIL WALK

Led by Don Recklies

Sunday, November 14 1:00 - 2:30 pm

In Fall we look to see the trees in flame - not literally, just the leaf color - and hope to do so in this walk to the lesser used trails in the north and east of the park. The slow shift of seasons makes picking the right weekend for fall color more and more of a gamble, so we'll hope the glory of the woods is not past its prime. Inclement weather will cancel this walk.

CDC recommendations will be followed. Meet in front of the Nature Center, 222 Poillon Avenue. For information call Don Recklies at 718-768-9036.

KIDS N KRITTERS

NATIVE AMERICAN HIKE

With Nancy Zawada

Saturday, November 20 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

What animals do you think of in autumn? Bats? Owls? Let's take a look. Recommended for children accompanied by caregiver. Masks are a must. Registration required.

Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

BIRDING WITH FBHP

Led by Howie Fisher

Rain cancels any walk. All walks require binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Call or text Howie at 347-279-2819 for programs.

Sunday, November 14

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Mount Loretto Unique Area

Meet at 9 am in the parking lot. Sometimes the lot becomes full, in that case the CYO lot across Hylan boulevard is an option.

We expect bald eagles and water fowl and sea ducks. Loons should be arriving to winter locally and points south.

Sunday, November 28

9:00 - 11:00 am

Silver Lake Reservoir

Meet at 9 am on Forest Avenue, closer to Havenwood Road.

At this season there should be a variety of ducks and gulls on the reservoir. Songbirds and hawks are possible as well.

ZOOM & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

ZOOM PROGRAM

YOGA

With Terry Seaman

Thursday, November 4

Thursday, November 18

10:15 - 11:45 am

Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman via Zoom for some relaxing yoga.

Call Terry at 718-356-0106 to receive the Zoom invitation.

ZOOM PRESENTATION

HERBAL PERENNIALS

With Gert Coleman

Wednesday, November 10

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Perennial herbs, from echinacea to bee balm to catmint, can beautify your yard and attract pollinators. Join herbalist Gert Coleman to discover a dozen delightful perennial herbs.

Pre-register at gert.coleman@verizon.net to receive the zoom invitation.

KRAFTY KIDS - ZOOM PROGRAM

LEAF CRAFT With Nancy Zawada

Saturday, November 20 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Free craft supplies will be given out at the end of the Kids n Kritters hikes. There will be a Zoom meeting to assemble the craft, and a story. Program recommended for ages 5 and up.

Register at the hike to receive the zoom link, then join in at 4:00 pm. If you did not get the craft bag, you are still invited to the Zoom workshop. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.



AUTUMN PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DECEMBER

All programs, walks, and events are at **Blue Heron Park**
222 Poillon Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10312
unless otherwise indicated in description.

PROGRAMS

Programs are available for adults, youths, and children.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Childrens programs are designed for varying age groups. Young children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

WALKING THE TRAILS

Walk the Trails at Blue Heron Park with guest naturalists. This newly instituted series pairs visiting attendees with experienced naturalists, conservationists, and environmentalists to discover the wonders of our fantastic Neighborhood Park. See program listings for availability.

WEDNESDAY WALKS

Come for a trail walk with Ellen Overby on Wednesday afternoons to explore Blue Heron Park!

Meet on Wednesday's at 2:00 pm in the Blue Heron parking lot.

A bird in the hand is a certainty,
but a bird in the bush may sing.
- Bret Harte



TRAIL WALKS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AT BHP

WEDNESDAY WALKS

With Ellen Overby
MEET IN BHP PARKING LOT
at 2:00 pm
Wednesday, December 1
Wednesday, December 8
Wednesday, December 15
Wednesday, December 22
Wednesday, December 29

KIDS N KRITTERS

WINTER HIKE

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, December 4 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Join me for a winter hike as we look for clues of animal activity. Recommended for children accompanied by caregiver.

Masks are a must. Registration required. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

ZOOM & OFF SITE PROGRAMS

ZOOM PROGRAM

YOGA

Thursday, December 2
Thursday, December 16
10:15 - 11:45 am
Lift your spirits, calm your mind, and serenely flex your muscles. Join Terry Seaman via Zoom for some relaxing yoga.

Call Terry at 718-356-0106 to receive the Zoom link.

ZOOM PRESENTATION

HERBS FOR HEALTH

With Gert Coleman
Wednesday, December 8 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Herbs can diversify your garden, enchant your nose, and improve your health.

Join herbalist Gert Coleman to find out how herbs can spice up your dishes as well as your health this winter.

Pre-register at gert.coleman@verizon.net to receive the zoom invitation.

ZOOM PROGRAM

PINE, FIR & SPRUCE

With Skye Suter
Saturday, December 11 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Did you know that you can eat pine needles? Learn about the many ways we use Pine, Fir and Spruce, and learn how to tell the difference between the different conifers. Make a gentle and refreshing exfoliating evergreen scrub for yourself or a holiday present.

Email skyesuter@gmail.com for required registration. Upon registration, materials, directions and the Zoom link will be distributed.

KRAFTY KIDS - ZOOM PROGRAM

HOLIDAY NATURAL CRAFT

With Nancy Zawada
Saturday, December 4 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Free craft supplies will be given out at the end of the Kids n Kritters hikes. There will be a Zoom meeting to assemble the craft, and a story. Program recommended for ages 5 and up.

Register at the hike to receive the zoom link, then join in at 4:00 pm. If you did not get the craft bag, you are still invited to the Zoom workshop. Email Nancy Zawada at dapplegrey41@yahoo.com.

Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.

- Elizabeth Lawrence



AUTUMN AT THE PARK



MEMBERSHIP BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Window dots installed on the windows of the Nature Center.

URBAN PARK RANGER CORNER...

The changing leaves of the autumn season at Blue Heron Park means the fall migration period for birds has begun. It is common to find large groups of egrets gathering near our waterways just before they take off to fly south. Raptor species such as the great horned owl and merlin fly to the park looking for a place to stay during the coming winter, or they just stop by for a quick meal on their southern voyage. As the temperature starts to cool, many warblers such as the black and white warbler, pine warbler and ovenbird visit our natural areas as they head southbound.

Did you notice white dots on the windows of the Blue Heron Nature Center? These dots were recently installed by the Parks Department to prevent these migrating birds from colliding into our windows. Rangers have noticed that mortality from window collisions increases during the migration periods, so this method should help our feathered friends to make a safe stopover at Blue Heron Park as they make their way down south.

- Urban Park Rangers



Let's see your favorite nature photos in the bulletin. Submit nature photos that relate to the park - and we will see about placing it in a future bulletin. Submit photos to skyesuter@gmail.com.

I support environmental education at Blue Heron Park.
Please enroll me as a member, so I can receive advance notice of programs and events.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$5 ___ Senior Citizen
- \$5 ___ Student
- \$10 ___ Individual
- \$15 ___ Family
- \$25 ___ Contributor
- \$50 ___ Organization (Spring Pond Society)
- \$100 ___ Sponsor (Turks Cap Lily Society)
- \$200 ___ Donation (Blue Heron Society)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Date _____

I wish to make a special donation in honor of

_____ \$ _____

or I wish to make a donation \$ _____

Membership checks, made out to Friends of Blue Heron Park, should be mailed to:
Friends of Blue Heron Park, PO Box 131653
Staten Island, NY, 10313

SPECIAL THANKS TO FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK SPONSORS



THE HONORABLE
JOSEPH BORELLI
COUNCIL MEMBER





FRIENDS OF BLUE HERON PARK, INC.
 PO BOX 131653
 STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10313

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT 405
 S.I. N.Y. 10304



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

COME VISIT BHP TO WALK THE TRAILS AND SEE THE WONDERS OF NATURE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD. COME UPON PONDS, GLIMPSE A BIRD OR TURTLE, OR HEAR BIRDS AND OTHER CREATURES OF THE WOODS.

TO MAKE IT EASIER TO WALK THE TRAILS, FBHP HAS REFRESHED ALL THE TRAILS WITH NEWLY STENCILED SIGNAGE.

- EAST POND TRAIL = YELLOW
- MEADOW LOOP TRAIL = RED
- NORTH PONDS TRAIL GROUP/ BUTTERFLY POND = BLUE
- SPRING POND LOOP TRAIL = GREEN
- ARBUTUS WOODS TRAIL = ORANGE
- ● RAVINE/ SEGUINE POND TRAIL = RED & BLUE
- ● HOLDRIDGE WOODS TRAIL = GREEN & YELLOW

TRAIL MAPS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FIRST LOBBY OF THE NATURE CENTER BUILDING.



WEDNESDAY WALKS

COME FOR A TRAIL WALK AT BLUE HERON PARK TO EXPLORE ONE OF THE HIDDEN GEMS ON STATEN ISLAND. FUN FOR ALL AGES. KIDS, PARENTS, AND GRANDPARENTS WELCOME.

MEET ELLEN OVERBY IN THE PARKING LOT ON ANY GIVEN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT 2 PM FOR A GUIDED TREK THROUGH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK!

222 POILLON AVE.
 STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

BLUE HERON IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK