

EVENT IDEAS

Having trouble thinking of events to host? The following events have all been held successfully by community groups in New York City parks.

Keep your park, your community, and the ability of your group in mind when planning events. Not all events are appropriate in all parks—an ecologically sensitive parks should be treated differently than a concrete baseball diamond.

EVENTS SCHEDULED ON SPECIFIC DATES

Event	Date	Activities
Easter	March/April	Egg hunt, egg decorating, visit from Easter Bunny
Earth Day	April 23	Trail restoration, invasive species removal, bird watching tours, natural cosmetics-making, information and petition tables set up by environmental groups
Arbor Day	Last Friday in April	Tree plantings
Spring It's My Park! Day	3 rd Saturday in May	Citywide celebration of parks—publicity provided by Partnerships for Parks
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May	Spruce up a war memorial or a park named for a veteran
National Trails Day	1 st Saturday in June	Trail clearing & maintenance, hiking
Independence Day	July 4	Games, performances, barbecues in permitted areas
National Night Out Against Crime	1 st Tuesday in August	March/rally to take back the park and surrounding streets
Coastal Clean-Up Day	3 rd Saturday in September	Clean up coastlines, shores, and lakefronts
Fall It's My Park! Day	3 rd Saturday in October	Citywide celebration of parks—publicity provided by Partnerships for Parks
Halloween	October 31	Costume contests, ghost stories, candy, bobbing for apples, pumpkin carving/painting
Holiday event	December	Caroling, ornament making, tree- or menorah-lighting, Santa Claus, Kwanzaa ceremony

EVENTS YOU CAN SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

Event	Activities
Regular clean-ups and plantings	Hold these monthly, weekly, however often your group can manage—you'll raise your profile and achieve results
Concerts	Rock and roll, classical, jazz, salsa, country line dancing, swing—whatever will appeal to your park's neighbors
Theatrical performances	Plays, puppet shows, storytelling, poetry reading, film series
Sports tournaments	Bocce, basketball, softball, cricket, handball, roller hockey, martial arts, chess
Family day/Carnival	Children's activities, games, performances, food, pony rides, cotton candy, clowns, face painting, rented jumping castle
Multi-cultural festival	Traditional arts and crafts, music, storytelling, food, games, sports
Waterfront/river/lake festival	Boating, catch-and-release fishing, environmental education, musical performances, art contests
Environmental education activities	Ecological walking tours, tree & plant identification, water & soil quality testing, bird population censuses
Dog run events	Health and grooming information, dress-up-your dog contest, owner look-a-like contest, obedience training/competition, frisbee
Health fair	free screenings for high blood pressure from a local hospital or clinic, fitness advice & training from a coach
Safety/police fair	presentations about safety in the park, at home, and around the neighborhood, tours of police and emergency vehicles
Volunteer/donor thank you party	speeches, certificates of appreciation, gifts, food
Food-centered event	picnic, ice cream social, shad bake, cook-off, cakewalk
Historical celebration	Celebrate your park's birthday or the people or events commemorated by your park's name or a monument in the park; historical re-enactments
Walk-a-thon/road race/bike-a-thon	Raise awareness and funds