

FAIRMOUNT PARK

CONSERVANCY

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Choose Your Own Adventure in Philly Parks This Summer

Fairmount Park Conservancy Encourages Healthy Fun in Philly Parks with Free Events, Movie Nights, and More

May 20, 2021, PHILADELPHIA, PA – Fairmount Park Conservancy is encouraging the exploration of spots both known and unknown in Philadelphia’s parks this summer. The non-profit champion for Philadelphia parks is offering a variety of ways to encourage exploration of Fairmount Park and FDR Park, from scavenger hunts to guided hikes and kayak tours to free movie nights.



“Philly parks have always been there for us, offering space to seek solace or enjoy each other’s company,” said **Maura McCarthy, Ph.D., Executive Director of Fairmount Park Conservancy**. “This summer,

Fairmount Park Conservancy wants to encourage Philadelphians to choose their own adventure in their park, whether it’s by exploring Fairmount Park with the family on a scavenger hunt, or by appreciating art in the park at the Hatfield House.”

HEALTHY ADVENTURES

Park Hubs in Fairmount Park and FDR Park: To enhance the visitor experience this summer, “Park Hubs” will return to Fairmount Park in June. Six spots throughout the park will include wayfinding signage, portable restrooms, and hand-sanitizing stations that serve as helpful jumping off points for exploring the park. Park Hubs will also be installed throughout FDR Park in late June.

In Fairmount Park, park-goers can start or end their exploration of various trails, natural areas, and historic structures at one of these six locations:

- **Lemon Hill Mansion:** 1 Lemon Hill Drive
- **Mount Pleasant Mansion:** 3800 Mount Pleasant Drive
- **Woodford Mansion:** 2300 North 33rd Street
- **Concourse Lake:** South Concourse Drive and Belmont Avenue
- **Centennial District:** 41st and S. Concourse Drive
- **Chamounix Drive:** Chamounix Drive and South Chamounix Drive

Park-goers can also consult the [Fairmount Park Digital Guide](#) for trail maps, must-see sights, and more information on exploring the park.

Kayak tours, moonlit walks, hikes, and more: The Conservancy is offering a new lineup of in-person events this summer, in addition to its popular guided hikes and yoga classes. New events include Bodyrock Bootcamp, birdwatching walks, Boxers’ Trail Bootcamp, Sound Meditation, and more:

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- **Kayak Tours:** Explore the Schuylkill River by kayak on these guided tours. Participants will be able to learn and see Fairmount Park from a new perspective on these tours led by Hidden River Outfitters.
- **Moonlit Walks in Fairmount Park:** This new hiking series uses the moonlight to guide hikers through the woods and meadows of Fairmount Park. Participants will learn what wildlife lurks in the park after dark and discuss lunar cycles.
- **Salsa Classes at the FDR Park:** A new dance class series ¡BAILAR en FDR! takes place every first and third Friday from July through October at the historic FDR Boathouse overlooking Meadow Lake. Meet new people and discover a fun and enjoyable way to keep yourself fit by learning to dance salsa and bachata. Presented in partnership Philly Outdoor Bachata & Salsa and the Friends of FDR Park.

View all upcoming events here: <https://myphillypark.org/events-calendar/list/>. Events are open to all, with reduced fees for Conservancy members.

Fairmount Park Conservancy's **Membership Program** helps ensure that Philadelphia's parks are enhanced for generations to come and offers events like guided hikes, trail runs, yoga classes, and bike rides as well as great discounts throughout the park. Learn more about the Conservancy's membership program here: <https://myphillypark.org/support/become-a-member/>

We Walk PHL: Walk your way to a healthy lifestyle with We Walk PHL, a free walking program that takes place in 14 Philly parks. The official spring-summer season runs until June 30 and includes free walking groups in Awbury Arboretum, Clark Park, Cobbs Creek, East Fairmount Park (Kelly Drive and Mander Playground), Hunting Park, Lanier Playground, Malcolm X Park, Penn Treaty Park, Pennypack on the Delaware, Rose Playground, Tacony Creek Park, Vernon Park, and West Fairmount Park.

We Walk PHL is a program of Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and the Philadelphia Health Department and is designed to help people achieve their fitness goals while meeting their neighbors. Learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wewalkPHL>

Black Men's Conference Family Day: From June 18-20, join Centennial Parkside CDC for a day highlighting health and wellness among men of color in Parkside and West Fairmount Park. The weekend will feature a series of health programs, including talks, music, performances, and more. Learn more at <https://www.parksidecdcprograms.com/>.

FAMILY FUN

Digital scavenger hunts: After the success of last year's first-ever Fairmount Park Scavenger Hunt, the free virtual game returns this summer with a "Greatest Hits" edition. Discover the fascinating facts and stories behind the historic houses, natural areas, and public art of Fairmount Park beginning June 4. Scavenger hunters can participate by downloading the free [GooseChase app](#) to their smartphone and completing each mission at their own pace throughout the summer (search for "**Fairmount Park Scavenger Hunt Greatest Hits**").

FDR Park will also feature it's first-ever virtual scavenger hunt this summer, encouraging participants to discover the lesser-known spots in the 350-acre popular South Philadelphia park.

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Scavenger hunters can participate by downloading the free [GooseChase app](#) to their smartphone and completing each mission at their own pace (search for “**FDR Park Scavenger Hunt**”). The FDR Park Scavenger Hunt will run from June 21 until August 16.

Free movie nights: Thanks to grants from Fairmount Park Conservancy, neighborhood parks around the city will offer free movies on the big screen on summer nights. Movies are BYOB (Bring Your Own Blanket) and begin at dusk. Schedule and locations will be announced at a later date.

ART IN THE PARKS

Hatfield House: The Hatfield House is a historic house and community cultural hub in East Fairmount Park owned by the City of Philadelphia and managed by Fairmount Park Conservancy. This summer it will be home to various art exhibits and free events open to the public:

- **Juneteenth Celebration, June 18th:** Strawberry Mansion residents and neighbors are invited to celebrate Juneteenth at the Hatfield House with an outdoor barbecue and block party featuring live performances, music, food, and the art site's expansive lawn.
- **Hatfield House Portrait Series, June-July:** Philadelphia photographer Ken McFarlane will produce a vibrant work of portraits of longtime Strawberry Mansion residents that will line the fence at the Hatfield House. The large-scale portraits of community members aim to announce, amplify, and honor neighborhood voices and narratives while announcing to all who witness it that the Hatfield House is a community space for all.
- **Black Quantum Futurism and Past Present Projects, August-September:** Black Quantum Futurism (Camae Ayewa and Rasheedah Phillips) will create an art installation in the Hatfield House featuring a film directed and produced by Black Quantum Futurism with filmmaker Bob Sweeney. Visitors will be invited to experience the film as they walk through the house via a self-guided tour.

Philadelphia Flower Show: Visit Fairmount Park Conservancy's exhibit at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's (PHS) Philadelphia Flower Show at FDR Park from June 5-13. On hand will be handmade birdhouses and information on the future vision for FDR Park. The Conservancy's exhibit, designed by local design firm PORT Urbanism, features handmade birdhouses modeled after historic houses and iconic structures in FDR Park and Fairmount Park. Visitors can also learn more about the FDR Park Master Plan, a long-range plan developed by Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. The FDR Park Master Plan is already underway and will enhance FDR Park as Philadelphia's centerpiece of recreation, art, ecology, and design.

West Park Arts Fest: The West Park Arts Fest will return to West Fairmount Park in a reimagined way. The free arts festival will take place from June 9-12 and feature both in-person and virtual events, vendors, and live performances by artists including Ballet X, Badd Kitty, Young Flames, and more. Learn more at: <https://westparkcultural.org/west-park-arts-fest/>

VOLUNTEER IN PHILLY PARKS

Love Your Park Solo Cleanups: Love Your Park Solo Cleanups encourage park users to clean up trash and litter as they enjoy Philly parks this summer on their own time. Volunteers can go the extra mile by pledging to track their work online. Volunteers who have their own cleanup supplies can opt to make a donation to the Love Your Park program to cover the cost of a free cleanup kit for

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others. A \$35 donation covers the cost of a cleanup kit, which includes trash bags, a Fairmount Park Conservancy bandana, and gloves (while supplies last). A \$75 donation will cover the cost of a cleanup kit plus a \$50-level membership to the Conservancy. Donate here:

<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/2lysolcle>.

Visit loveyourpark.org for more volunteer opportunities in Philly parks this summer.

Love Your Park is a collaborative program managed by Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

Event updates and schedules will be shared via the Conservancy's [calendar](#), weekly e-newsletter at <https://myphillypark.org/newsletter> and on social media at facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy and @myphillypark on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Fairmount Park

Spanning 2,050 acres, Fairmount Park is the largest park in Philadelphia. In the late 19th century, the City of Philadelphia began to purchase land and properties around the Schuylkill River to create Fairmount Park in order to protect the City's water supply and provide the residents of Philadelphia with a place for outdoor activities. Today, Fairmount Park sandwiches the Schuylkill River and includes West Fairmount Park (1,400 acres) and East Fairmount Park (650 acres) with plenty to explore, including more than 50 miles of designated trails, 16 creeks, 18 historic buildings, and 43 sculptures.

Fairmount Park is owned by the City of Philadelphia and managed by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. Fairmount Park Conservancy champions Fairmount Park and all of Philadelphia's parks in partnership with PPR all year long.

About FDR Park

FDR Park is a 348-acre park located in South Philadelphia. FDR Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and opened in 1921 as League Island Park. The park is a designated Historic District by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and is home to a series of lakes and lagoons, a golf course, the American Swedish Historical Museum, and a range of recreation facilities including tennis courts, ball fields, and a skate park. It is currently undergoing implementation of a master plan led by Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and Friends of FDR Park. Learn more at <https://myphillypark.org/fdr-park>.

Download high-resolution images here: <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>.

Fairmount Park Conservancy is the non-profit champion of Philadelphia's parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 100 neighborhood parks around the city. For more information, please visit myphillypark.org, join us at facebook.com/myphillypark, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

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Photos courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy.