

FAIRMOUNT PARK

CONSERVANCY

PRESS CONTACT:

Cari Feiler Bender, Relief Communications
610-416-1216, cari@reliefcomm.com

EXPLORE SUMMER FUN IN FDR PARK

Fairmount Park Conservancy Encourages Exploration at FDR Park with Salsa Dancing, Tasting Tours, and More

July 19, 2021, PHILADELPHIA, PA – Fairmount Park Conservancy is encouraging the exploration of the 348-acre FDR Park in South Philadelphia this summer. The non-profit champion for Philadelphia parks is offering a variety of ways to discover the Park, from a scavenger hunt to salsa classes to a food tasting tour.

In addition, the Conservancy has created a **new digital guide**, highlighting historic landmarks, natural areas, and more in FDR Park. The FDR Park Digital Guide, launching in August, will allow users to navigate the Park and find less-traveled gems within the space on their own. Find the guide at myphillypark.org.



“There has never been a more exciting time to enjoy and explore FDR Park. As Fairmount Park Conservancy works with our partners and the community to bring the FDR Park Master Plan to life, we hope park-goers can discover all that this beautiful oasis in South Philadelphia has to offer,” said **Maura McCarthy, Ph.D., Executive Director of Fairmount Park Conservancy**. “We encourage everyone to experience the Park in a new way, whether it’s by joining us for a bird walk, a night of dancing at the FDR Park Boathouse, or pulling up our digital guide to navigate the Park on their own.”

STARTING POINTS

Park Hubs: To enhance the visitor experience in FDR Park, “Park Hubs” will be installed in August throughout the Park for the summer and fall. Three 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.

At FDR Park, visitors can start or end their exploration of natural areas, recreational fields, and historic structures at these three locations:

- Soccer Fields
- Asian Market
- Playground

Park-goers can also consult the new **FDR Park Digital Guide** for maps of the Park Hubs, must-see sights, and more information on exploring the Park. Find the guide at myphillypark.org.

FAMILY FUN

Digital Scavenger Hunt: After the success of last year's Fairmount Park Scavenger Hunt, FDR Park now has its first-ever digital scavenger hunt, created by the staff of Fairmount Park Conservancy. The FDR Park Scavenger Hunt encourages participants to discover the lesser-known spots in the 348-acre popular South Philadelphia park. 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 through August 16 and includes prizes such as gift certificates to South Philadelphia businesses and restaurants. More info: <https://myphillypark.org/fdrpark-scavengerhunt/>

Tree Tour and Hike: On August 21, join arborist Robert Heiskell for a tour of the Park's biggest assets: its trees. Participants will learn to identify trees usually found in Philadelphia's urban forest from the leaves and the bark. The tour will also include tree trivia related to history, culture, economy, and uses. More info: <https://fairmountpark.ticketleap.com/tree-tour-nature-hike-various-locations/>

Birdwatching Walks: Join avid birder and community activist Jason Hall for birdwatching walks to discover why FDR Park is considered one of the best birding spots in Philadelphia, according to Audubon Society of Pennsylvania. These walks are kid-friendly for families with children ages six and up. <https://fairmountpark.ticketleap.com/west-park-birdwatching-walk-with-jason/>

The Future of Play in FDR Park: Park users can have a say in the future playspace coming to FDR Park as the Gateway Phase of the Master Plan to upgrade the Park gets underway. Children and caregivers are encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts all summer long. To participate, visit <https://myphillypark.org/pattisonplayground-engagement/>. The Master Plan is being led by Fairmount Park Conservancy in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Friends of FDR Park to create a long-term vision for this important public space.

CULTURE IN THE PARK

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 Edgewood 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 with Philly Outdoor Bachata & Salsa and the Friends of FDR Park. Tickets are "pay what you can." More info:



<https://fairmountpark.ticketleap.com/bailar-en-fdr-salsa-class--social-dance/>

Flavors of FDR Tasting Tour: On August 14, an expert guide will take participants on a tasting tour of the Asian Market at FDR Park. South Philly is home to a vibrant Southeast Asian community, with many Khmer, Lao, Vietnamese, and Thai residents who have enjoyed FDR Park for decades. During the warmer months, vendors set up outdoor stalls selling street food, bubble teas and iced coffees, clothing, and produce. More info: <https://fairmountpark.ticketleap.com/flavors-of-fdr-food-market-tasting-tour>

View all upcoming events here: <https://myphillypark.org/events-calendar/list/>. Events are open to all, registration is available on a sliding pay scale and members get to register first.

HEALTHY FUN

Free Walking Group: We Walk PHL is a free walking group program by Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia's Department of Public Health, and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, that takes place in parks across Philadelphia. At FDR Park, all are welcome to take a walk in the Park together on Wednesdays at 8am for the rest of the summer. Walks are 45 minutes to 1 hour. Join the We WalkGroup PHL Facebook for more information and inspiration: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wewalkPHL>

A Day of Healing: On Saturday, July 31, Friends of FDR Park and Vare Rec Center will host A Pledge to Heal, a free, family-friendly event that will bring yoga, nutrition lessons, kids' games, reflection and journaling, Zumba, and more healthy fun to FDR Park for the day. The activities are from 10:30am-1:30pm to be held at the FDR Park Boathouse and on the lawn in front of the American Swedish Historical Museum. This event is sponsored by Fairmount Park Conservancy, the Knight Foundation, and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. <https://myphillypark.org/event/pledgetoheal-fdr/>

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/>

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 @myphillypark on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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, 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 in partnership with 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 @myphillypark on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

Photos courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy.