**Spring/Summer 2019 Calendar**

**May**
- **Saturday, May 5, Noon – 2 pm**
  Grown produce will be available at Friends of VCP's Bed at Broadway & Mosholu Avenue.
- **Saturday, May 11, 10 am – 1 pm**
  Compost & Garden Site.
- **Saturday, May 12, 11 am – 1 pm**
  Love Twelve Miles Long
  Join a fun family visit of the beautiful children's book about a young Frederick Douglass and his mother's visits.
- **Saturday, May 19, 10 am – 1 pm**
  Canopy Gaps & Garden Site.
  Join the family fun at the Van Cortlandt Golf House. Enter the park at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue South.
- **Saturday, May 26, 11 am – 1 pm**
  Memorial Weekend Jazz Concert
  Concert Featuring the D.C. Jazz Kids Orchestra incl. Mary Ann McRae, Erik Soderstrom, and the Rodney Julian School Choir.
- **Saturday, June 1, 10 am**
  Bird Walks
  Focus on wildlife and birding.
- **Saturday, June 1, 10 am – 1 pm**
  Canine Court Dog Run.
  Exercising for fitness and good health. Focus on the forest
- **Saturday, June 2, 10 am**
  Free Swim Times
  7 – 8:30 am & 7 – 8:30 pm

**June**
- **Saturday, June 1, 10 am**
  National Trails Day Hike
  Meet the Rangers at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue.
- **Saturday, June 2, 10 am**
  Bird Walks - New York Philharmonic
  Learn to swim, ages 6 - 17
- **Saturday, June 2, 10 am**
  Picnic in the Park
  Enjoy oldies, pop, and R&B favorites.
- **Saturday, June 9, 7 pm**
  Jazz Concert
  Memorable Weekend Jazz Concert.
- **Saturday, June 9, 7 pm**
  Bronx Arts Ensemble Concert
  Celebrate Independence Day with an American Songbook program.
- **Saturday, June 15, 11 am**
  Basic Canoeing
  For ages 8 & up.
- **Saturday, June 22, 10 am**
  Great American Picnic!
  Join a fun family visit of the beautiful children's book about a young Frederick Douglass and his mother's visits.

**July**
- **Saturday, July 6, 11 am**
  Paddling 101
  Basic Canoeing

**August**
- **Thursday, August 1, 6:30 pm**
  Bardinet Dancin'!
  Barefoot Dancing (Bachata & Merengue)
- **Sunday, August 5, 1 pm**
  Living with Urban Coyotes
  Meet the Rangers near the golf house.
- **Saturday, August 10, 10 am**
  Freshwater Fishing
  Meet the park on foot at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue.
- **Sunday, August 18, 2 pm**
  Shakespeare in the Park
  Meet the Rangers at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue.

Van Cortlandt KIDS

**Family Camping**
- **Friday, May 24, 7:45 pm**
  Meet in the parking lot of Van Cortlandt Park at Broadway & 246 St.
- **Saturday, May 25, 10 am**
  Star Gazing Adventure
  With the Rangers.
- **Saturday, May 25, 1 pm**
  Canoeing 101
  Meet the Rangers near the golf house.

**Besse's Big Shot**
- **Tuesday, June 11, 1 pm**
  Outdoor activities focusing on the history of those who lived and worked here during the Revolutionary War era.
- **Tuesday, June 18, 1 pm**
  Fun activities focusing on the history of those who lived and worked here during the Revolutionary War era.
- **Tuesday, June 25, 1 pm**
  Fun activities focusing on the history of those who lived and worked here during the Revolutionary War era.

**Weekend Starters**
- **FRIDAYS, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**
  Rowboating
  Broadway at Mosholand Avenue.
- **SATURDAYS, 9 am – 4 pm**
  Volunteer Days
  Volunteer to work on park projects.

**Van Cortlandt Track Club**
- **Mon. & Wed.**
  Training runs
- **Mon. & Wed.**
  Racing runs

**Garden Crew**
- **Tuesdays, 10 am – 1 pm**
  Meet at the Van Cortlandt Golf House. Enter the park at Bailey Ave. & Van Cortland Park South.

**Puppet Mobile**
- **Thursdays, 10 am – 11 am**
  Meet at the Friends of Van Cortlandt Golf House. Enter the park at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue South.

**Learn to Play**
- **Thursday, July 11, 6 pm**
  Meet the Rangers near the golf house.

**Campus Cycles**
- **Monday, June 24, 7 pm**
  Meet the Rangers near the golf house.

**Cycling**
- **Sunday, July 21, 10 am – 11 am**
  Meet the Rangers near the golf house.

**Bike NY Summer Program**
- **Monday, June 10, 10 am – 1 pm**
  Free Bike Safety Classes open to the public.
- **Saturday, June 15, 11 am**
  Intro to Mountain Biking
  Meet at Broadway & Mosholand Avenue.

**Swimming**
- **Saturday, June 8, 7 pm**
  Learn to Swim, ages 6 - 17
- **Saturday, June 15, 11 am**
  Parent/tot program, ages 1 - 5
- **Saturday, June 22, 10 am**
  Westwind Swim Teams.
By Nick Dembowski, President of Kingsbridge Historical Society

Walk Into the Park’s Past – with This Guide

Three Worlds Meet: Africans, Europeans, and Native Americans in Van Cortlandt Park’s Early History

The area that is now Van Cortlandt Park was once home to diverse communities. Native Americans lived here for thousands of years before the name Van Cortlandt was lessen in New York. The Van Cortlandt family arrived in the colonial period with an enslaved African workforce to develop the land. Representative of the New York economy as a whole, massive profits were generated here by exporting what was produced by slave labor. The historical interactions of Africans, Native Americans, and Europeans defined the course of the nation’s history but left few visual reminders around today’s park. But the legacy of these early inhabitants remains, either buried beneath the ground or hidden in the park’s unmarked landscapes. Use the map below to understand this hidden early history of Van Cortlandt Park.

1. Poundous Ground - Sections of this flat area were used by the native Lenape people as a planting field. Later Dutch colonists, such as Adriaen Van Der Donck, would use the land for the same purpose. With the labor of an enslaved African workforce, a large and productive provisioning plantation was in operation here throughout the colonial period to the mid-1800s. Generations of enslaved African workers grew crops here and raised livestock. The foodstuffs they produced were sold in local markets or exported. A large and productive provisioning plantation was in operation here throughout the colonial period to the mid-1800s. Generations of enslaved African workers grew crops here and raised livestock. The foodstuffs they produced were sold in local markets or exported.

2. The Van Cortlandt House – The first Van Cortlandt family began acquiring land in this area in the 1690s. The mansion was constructed late in the 17th century and served as the home of Adriaen Van Der Donck. His settlement was known as Colendonck, which featured a planting field (today’s parade ground) and a saw mill (the Saw Mill River survives as its name). Van Der Donck cleared the land with the Dutch West India Company over greater rights for local inhabitants. He protested the company’s cruelty during the war with the Lenape. He also petitioned the Dutch government to intervene on behalf of enslaved Africans whose children remained enslaved even after the parents had won their freedom. He earned the historic title of “Johannes”—meaning young John—sometimes shortened to “Jonn.” This area became known as the “Yonker’s plantation” and later simply as “Yonkers.”

3. Mill Stone - Mill stone taken from the Van Cortlandt grist mill (see 6). This mill was operated by Adriaen Van Der Donck from 1679 to 1710. It was the first of its kind in the colony and the second in New York City. The mill was used to grind grain from local farms and to produce flour for the surrounding community. The mill stone was used to grind grain from local farms and produce flour for the surrounding community.

4. Presumed Van Der Donck Home Site - The first Dutch colonist to live in today’s park was Adriaen Van Der Donck. He was granted the land in 1666, as a reward for negotiating peacefully with the native Lenape people. His settlement was known as Colendonck, which featured a planting field (today’s parade ground) and a saw mill (the Saw Mill River survives as its name). Van Der Donck cleared the land with the Dutch West India Company and argued for greater rights for local inhabitants. He protested the company’s cruelty during the war with the Lenape. He also petitioned the Dutch government to intervene on behalf of enslaved Africans whose children remained enslaved even after the parents had won their freedom. He earned the historic title of “Johannes”—meaning young John—sometimes shortened to “Jonn.” This area became known as the “Yonker’s plantation” and later simply as “Yonkers.”

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6. Mill Site - Two mill buildings stood here from the colonial period to the early 20th century—a sawmill and a gristmill. The mills were owned by the Van Cortlandts, who used them to cut lumber and mill the grain from their plantation and neighboring farms. In the colonial period, an enslaved African named Hero worked here as a milleder on Van Cortlandt plantation with his enslaved wife hele and son Peter.

7. Kingsbridge Burial Ground (a.k.a. Berrian or Tippett Burial Ground) - This family cemetery was laid out in the early 18th century for local European settlers.

8. African Burial Ground – This plot of land was used by the local African community as burial ground in colonial times. The first record of enslaved Africans in this area is the 1706 census. In the late colonial period, about one fifth of the people living in the area were of African descent and nearly all of them were enslaved. During the construction of the railroad bed that would become today’s Putnam Trail, workers unearthed skeletons in this area and identified them as the bodies of enslaved Africans.

9. Mill Pond - Known today as Van Cortlandt Lake, this body of water was created when Tobitt spoke was dammed to power the Van Cortlandt mills. Enslaved workers undoubtedly supplied the labor for this project.

10. Van Cortlandt Family Vault - Beginning with Frederick Van Cortlandt (1699 -1749) generations of the Van Cortlandt Family were buried in this vault, which overlooks the estate’s vital space. The vault features the family crest of the Van Cortlandts (the blades of a windmill flanked by six pointed stars).

11. Stockbridge Indian Memorial - This memorial commemorates the site on which the Van Cortlandt Family planted trees in 1698 in memory of the patriot cause during the American Revolution. It was here, in August of 1778 that a large force of British, German, and Loyalists ambushed them in a decisive and bloody battle that came to be known as the Stockbridge Indian Massacre. According to a British Officer, “Their shot was returned and the Indians were completely surrounded by the British and killed with their horses.” Nevertheless very few of the Stockbridge Indians survived the battle.

For more information on the history of African Americans in this area, visit the Kingsbridge Historical Society’s website: “Discover Kingsbridge Park’s African History.” And follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and check out our educational programs and events. For more about Indian Field, visit nyc.gov/parks.