



Van Cortlandt Park: NYC Most Hikeable Park



Van Cortlandt Park, located in the Northwest Bronx with 1,146 acres, is home to the best hiking options in New York City with over 20 miles of trails that pass through over 500 acres of forests, visit more than half of the remaining freshwater wetlands and the largest freshwater lake in the Bronx and have lots of opportunities to spot wild flora and fauna. Van Cortlandt Park is easily accessible by public transportation and has 3 free parking lots. So come to Van Cortlandt Park for a unique urban hiking experience and see why VCP is Where NYC Hikes!



Most Popular Hiking Trails in Van Cortlandt Park:



John Muir Nature Trail (1.5 miles): the park's only east-west path connecting the Riverdale section to the Woodlawn section of the Park. This trail traverses steep terrain at the park's center.

Cass Gallagher Nature Trail (1.4 miles): serves the Northwest Forest. In 1984, it was named in memory of a Bronx environmentalist dedicated to the park's protection.

Putnam Trail (1.5 miles): serves a primary wildlife corridor as it passes through wetlands and divides the Van Cortlandt Golf Course. It is what remains of the New York Central Railroad's Putnam Division. This is the main bike path through the Park.

John Kieran Nature Trail (1.25 miles): is named for the famed naturalist and newspaperman. This loop trail begins and ends near the Van Cortlandt Golf House and journeys through the park's lake area and freshwater wetlands.



Old Croton Aqueduct (1.1 miles): runs through the center of the Croton Woods. This segment is part of the 41 mile long aqueduct that brought water from the Croton Dam to New York City. The large stone building along the route is a weir which maintained the flow of water and controlled air pressure.



Cross Country Running Course (3 & 6 miles): a national renowned cross country course. It begins on the Parade Ground, winds through Vault Hill, and forms a loop through the Northwest Forest. Hikers are encouraged to avoid this trail on weekends during fall due to the large number of runners on the trail.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Bringing Youth, Community and Nature Together!

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP), an independent community based organization, actively promotes the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park, the third largest park in NYC, through environmental education and restoration and enhancement of the Park, its forests and trails. Since FVCP started in 1992, they have grown to become Van Cortlandt Parks' primary educational organization— developing educational and stewardship programs for over 7,000 children and adults each year.



To learn more about hiking in Van Cortlandt Park:

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Join the Friends for an upcoming hike in the Park and see why VCP is Where NYC Hikes!

Upcoming Hiking Events with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Hike-toberfest 2016

Saturday October 1st from 2pm to 7pm

Hike, Eat, Drink & Celebrate with Friends during our new fun fundraiser for the hiking trails of Van Cortlandt Park. Come see why VCP is Where NYC Hikes.

Hikes start at 2pm: Hikers will have the option to go on a 4-5 mile hike throughout the park OR a 2 mile leisurely nature hike. Both hikes will be led by Friends of Van Cortlandt Park Staff and take about 2 hours. All registered participants will receive a VCP Where NYC Hikes t-shirts.

Oktoberfest is from 4-7pm: Attendees will eat German Food by Loreleye Restaurant & Biergarten and enjoy local brews from the Bronx Beer Hall. Yard games will be setup to challenge your friends as you hang out on the Van Cortlandt House Museum Lawn.

*You can join us for just the Hike or the Oktoberfest or the entire Hike-toberfest Event!
Purchase your tickets in advance for a discount by visiting www.vancortlandt.org.*

Hikes will start at and Oktoberfest will be held on the grounds of the Van Cortlandt House Museum- enter the Park at Broadway and W. 246th Street.

Special thank you to our sponsors: Bronx Beer Hall, Food Dynasty, Loreleye Restaurant & Biergarten and the Van Cortlandt House Museum.

Get Active Hiking Series

Each fall and spring the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park offer a FREE hiking series to introduce you to the various hiking opportunities in Van Cortlandt Park. Please wear appropriate shoes and bring plenty of water and a snack for the hike.

September 10th at 10am, Northwest Woods Hike: meet at the FVCP Garden & Compost Site, enter the Park at Broadway & Mosholu Ave.

November 12th at 10am, Family Friendly Hike meet at Woodlawn Playground at Van Cortlandt Park East & Kepler Ave.



To learn more about these events visit www.vancortlandt.org and don't forget to sign up our Monthly Enewsletter to learn about all of our upcoming events.

Press Contact for Friends of Van Cortlandt Park Events:

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