Prospect Park
Wildlife Care
Written and illustrated by Delia Pelli in collaboration with the Prospect Park Alliance, facilitated by NYU Tandon.
What other animals can you spot on your walk home?

Birds might build nests on building rooftops or in scaffolding.

Fish and marine animals live in the Hudson and East rivers.
Parks create natural environments for New York’s wildlife, which is essential to the city. Trees clean our air by trapping CO2 and pollutants, and even cool down the air around them.

Parks also let us enjoy the outdoors and learn about natural environments, even in a big city.
Because so many people, plants, and animals call the parks home, it’s important to take care of them like we would our own turf.

Pick up all your trash, and any trash you see around you. Plastic can hurt the ecosystem, and animals can get sick if they eat any garbage.

There are trash cans all around the park, so save any waste till you see one!

Bring a bag with you when you visit the park so you can pick up any litter you see and help keep your local park clean.
Respect all your animal neighbors. Park wildlife is still wild, so it's important to keep your distance - even if the animal seems interested in you. Getting too close to animals can stress them out, or cause them to hurt you or themselves. It's healthy for an animal to be scared of you!

Don't feed the animals - human food can hurt their stomachs and make them sick. When animals eat the wrong food too often, they fill up on junk food instead of healthy dinners of insects, berries and plentiful prey.

It's best to let them find their own breakfast, even if they want yours.
Dogs can be scary to lots of creatures in the park! Keep them on their leash at all times so they don't scare the wildlife, or hurt themselves.

For off-leash hours and locations please visit prospectpark.org/dogs
Respect plant wildlife just like you do animals. Climbing on trees and picking flowers can hurt a growing plant or tree, so try appreciating nature through your critter cam and draw what you see, or stretch like a downward dog and then a growing tree.

Sometimes certain areas of the park need a little extra love and care. It’s important to pay attention to any sign or fence that marks an area as closed so that we don't disturb vulnerable plants.
How do parks take care of their wildlife?

The Landscape Management team takes care of Prospect Park. They make sure that the seeds are sown and the animals have healthy habitats to live in year after year.

They plant thousands of native plants and repair damage to the environment.

Next time you see a member of the Landscape Management team, ask them what they’re doing!
They all rely on us to keep the parks safe and habitable.

Our city parks alone are home to thousands of plant and animal species. Some of these you might have seen, like a Black Cherry Tree or a squirrel, and some you might not like a chipmunk or hawk.