



Prospect  
Park  
Alliance

# Prospect Park Wildlife Care

Written and illustrated by Delia Pelli in  
collaboration with the Prospect Park  
Alliance, facilitated by NYU Tandon.

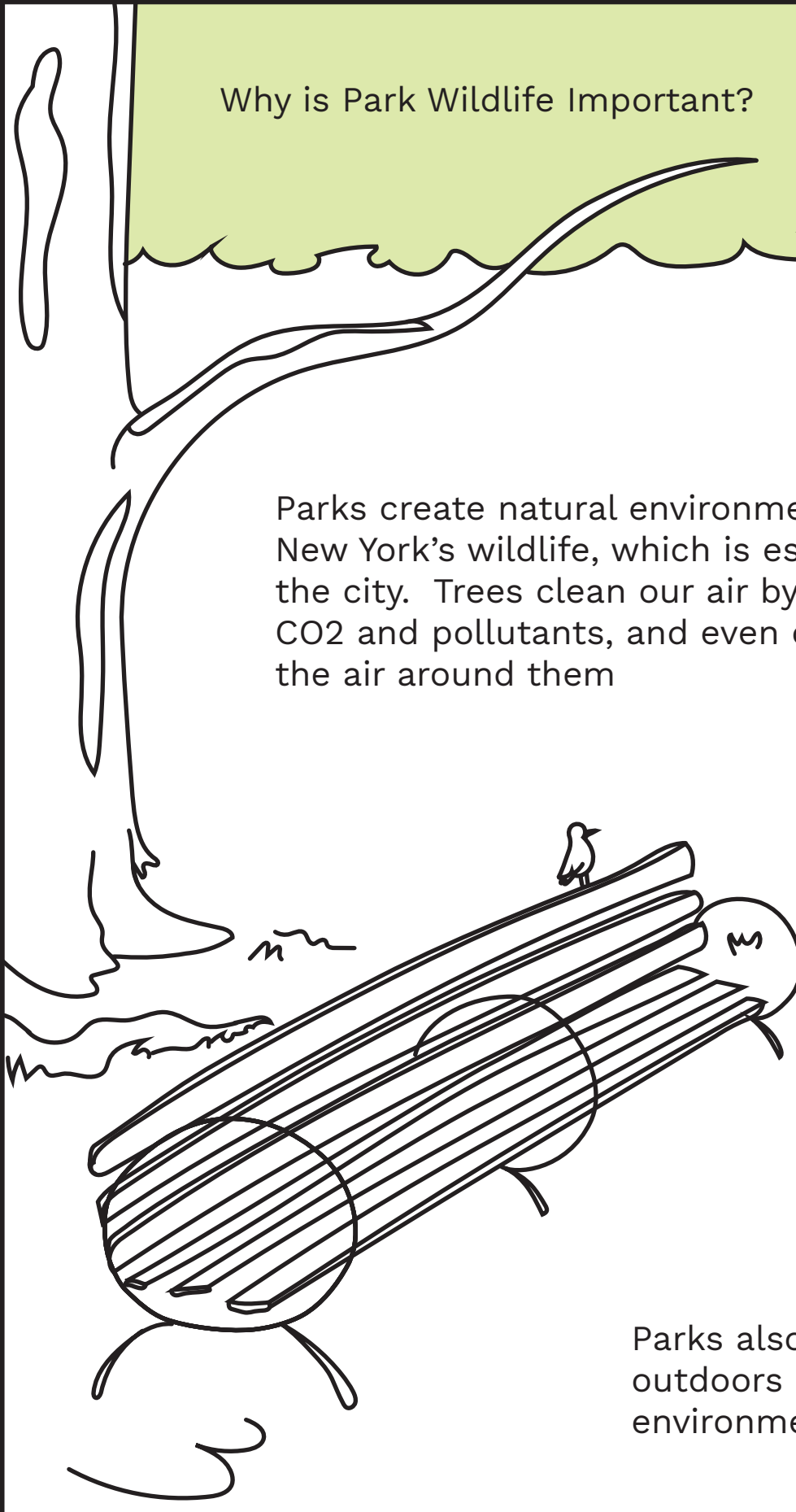


What other animals can you spot on your walk home?

Birds might build nests on building rooftops or in scaffolding

Fish and marine animals live in the Hudson and East rivers

## Why is Park Wildlife Important?

A line drawing of a tree trunk on the left side of the page. A large, light green leafy canopy is at the top. A thick log lies diagonally across the lower half of the page. A small bird is perched on top of the log. The ground is indicated by simple wavy lines.

Parks create natural environments for New York's wildlife, which is essential to the city. Trees clean our air by trapping CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

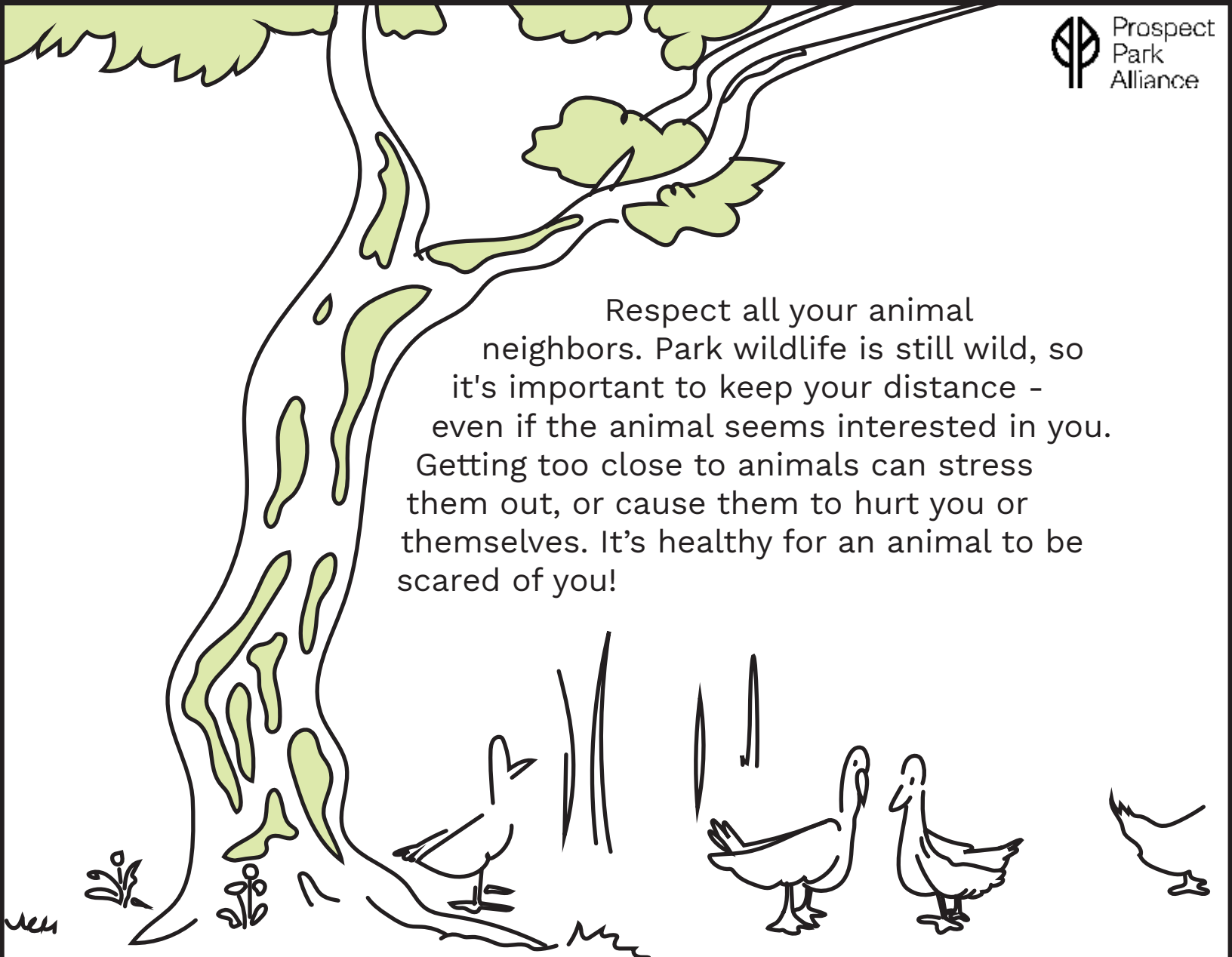
Because so many people, plants, and animals call the parks home, it's important to take care of them like we would our own turf.

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



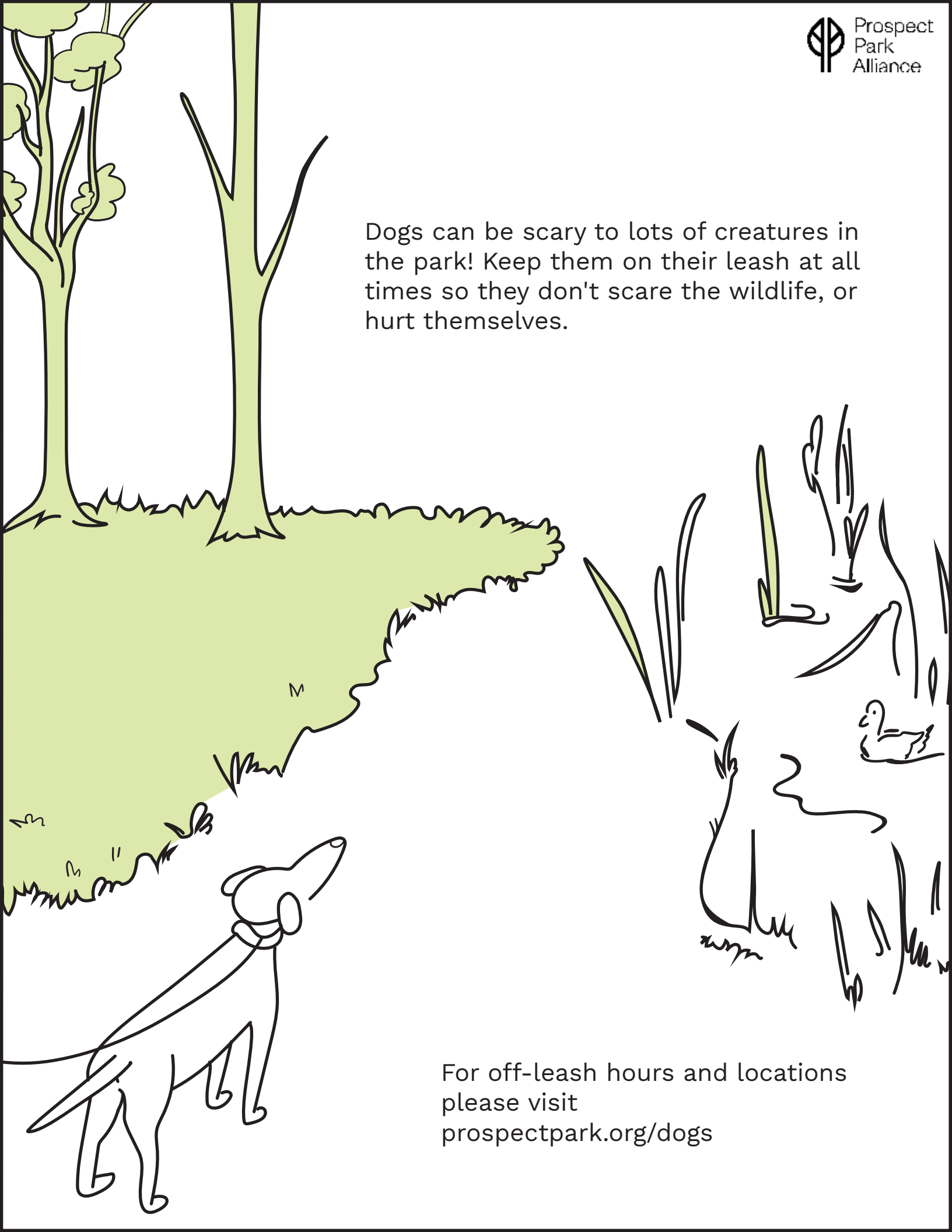
Respect all your animal neighbors. Park wildlife is still wild, so it's important to keep your distance - even if the animal seems interested in you. Getting too close to animals can stress them out, or cause them to hurt you or themselves. It's healthy for an animal to be scared of you!



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.



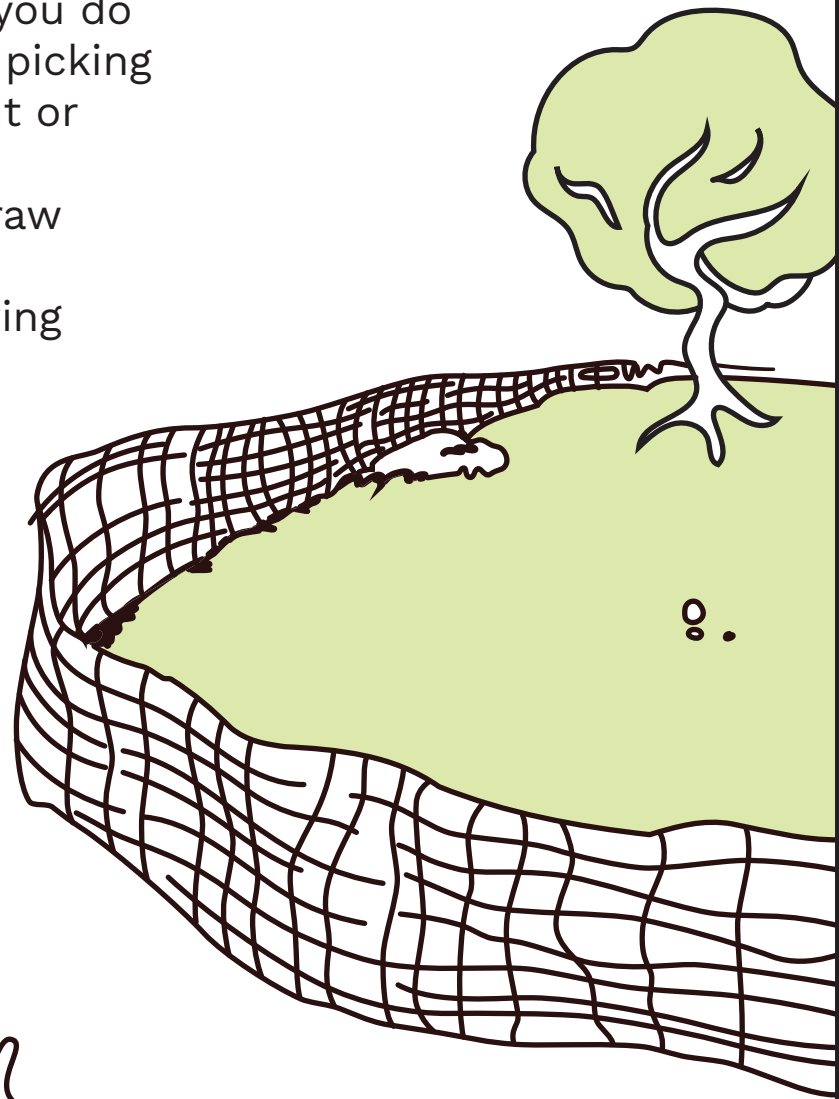
It's best to let them find their own breakfast, even if they want yours.

A line drawing of a dog on a leash, looking towards a pond. The dog is on the left, and the pond is on the right. The pond has reeds and a duck. There are trees in the background.

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](http://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.



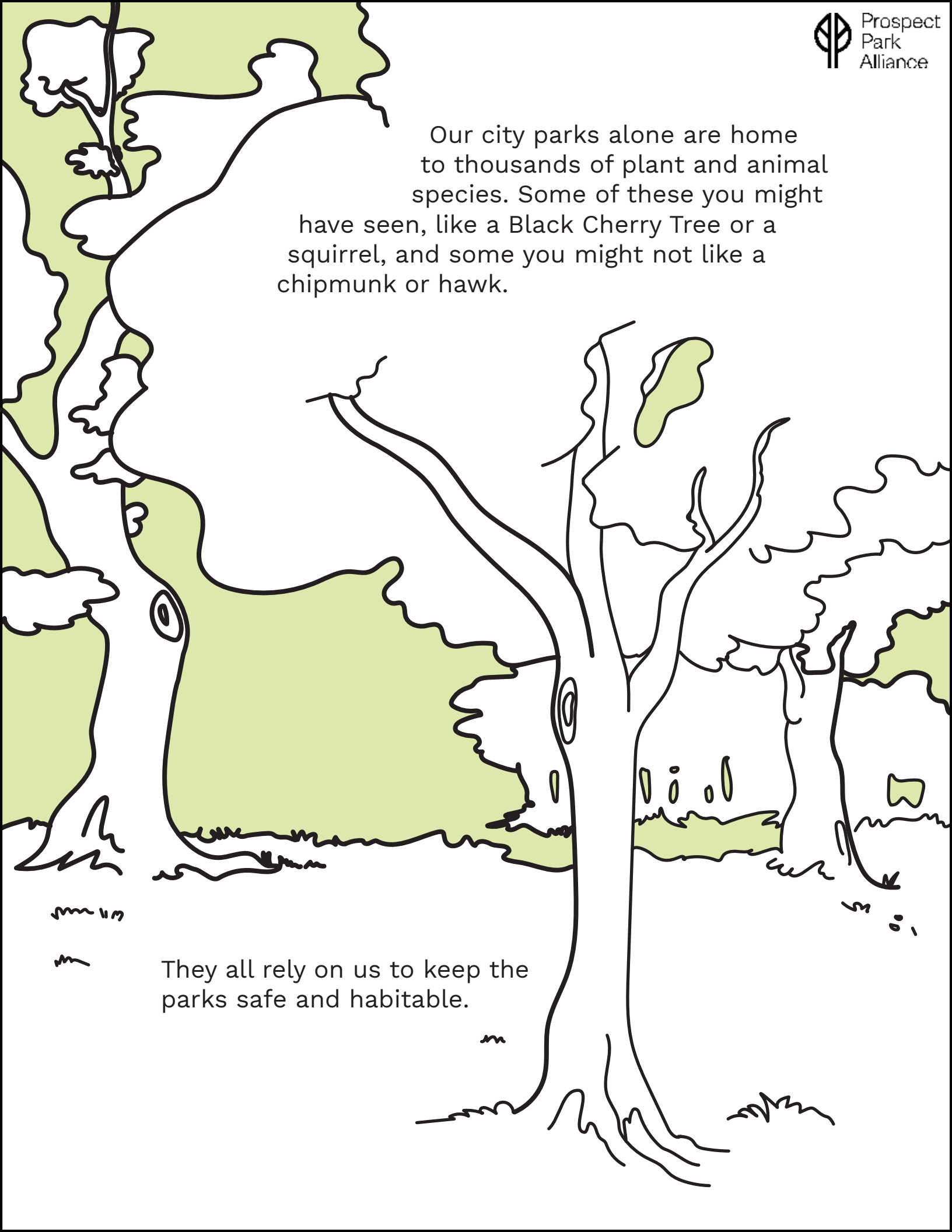
How do parks take care of  
their wildlife?

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!





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.

They all rely on us to keep the  
parks safe and habitable.