

# The Park Slope

## Quick Guide to the Neighborhood



## Welcome to the Neighborhood!

We're glad to have you as neighbors. We hope that you have a great move and are finding everything you need. We've put together some resources that might help you find your way around.



[Return to top](#)



## Things to do once you unpack:

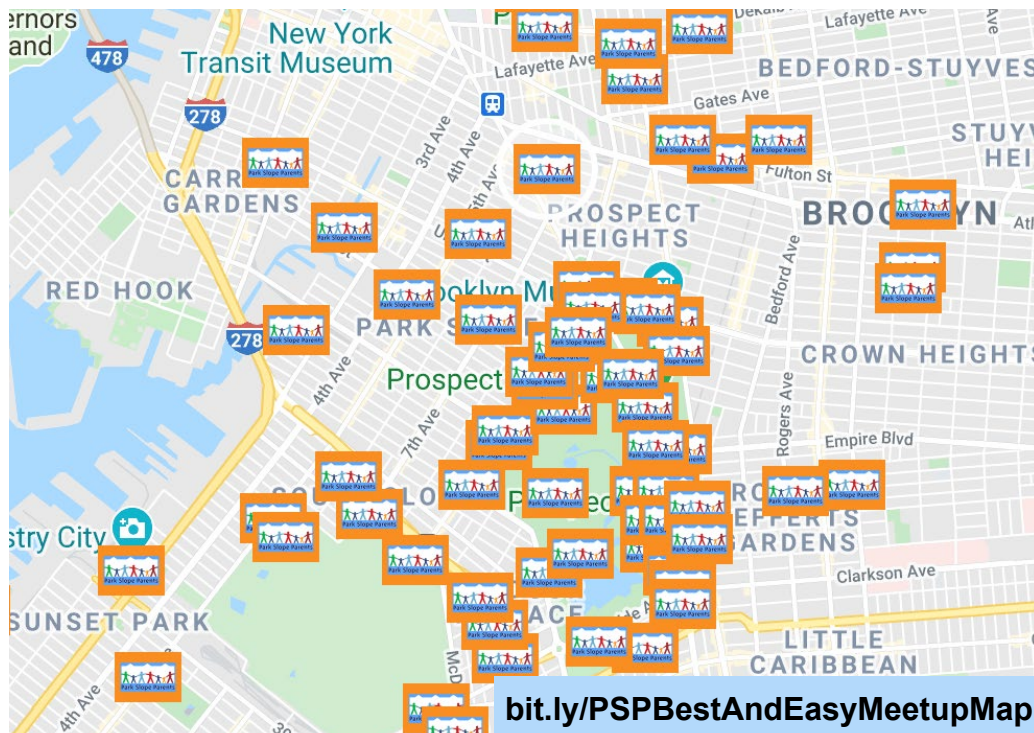
- Get a free [IDNYC Card](#) if you don't already have one (free memberships to 40 different places, including local museums, zoos, and botanic gardens.) [Here's a link](#) where all New Yorkers can apply online.
- Start working on your Family Outing Bucket List. Here are some ideas in the Park Slope area to get you started!



[Zucker Exploration Area](#)  
[Green-Wood Cemetery](#)  
[Prospect Park Zoo](#)  
[3rd Street Playground](#)  
[Imagination Playground](#)  
[Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#) (become a member!)  
[Harmony Playground](#)  
[Fort Greene Park](#)  
[JJ Byrne Playground](#)  
[Vanderbilt Playground](#)

[Prospect Park Lullwater](#)  
[Grand Army Plaza Fountain](#) (bring lunch and watch folks come to take wedding photos and hold Sweet Sixteen parties in front of the fountain on Saturdays)  
[Free Boats at Prospect Park](#)  
[Splash Pad](#)  
[Brooklyn Museum](#)  
[Brooklyn Boulders](#) in Gowanus for rock climbing

- Check out the [Park Slope Parents Best and Easy Meet-Up Map](#) (below), featuring crowdsourced recs for parks, playgrounds, and cafes all across Brooklyn!

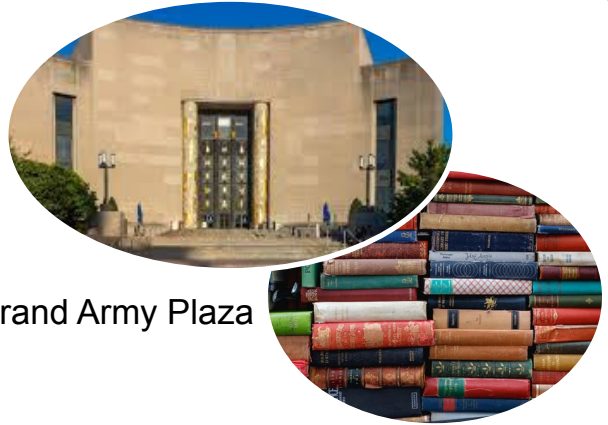


[Return to top](#)

## Local Resources

### Libraries

- [Park Slope Library](#) (431 6th Ave @ 9th St)
- [Pacific Branch Library](#) (25 4th Ave @ Pacific)
- [Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch](#) (10 Grand Army Plaza @ Flatbush and Eastern Parkway)
- [Sunset Park Library](#) (4th Ave & 43rd)



### Local politicians & organizations (Sign up for their newsletters!)

- [Brad Lander](#), City Councilmember (456 5th Ave btw 9th & 10th Sts)
- [Robert Carroll](#), Assembly Member (416 7th Ave btw 13th & 14th Sts)
- [Community Board 6](#), for block party permits and all matters affecting the good and welfare of the area, including building permit questions, renaming a street, damaged signs, etc.
- [NYPD 78th Precinct](#) (65 6th Ave @ Dean)
- [NYPD 72nd Precinct](#) (830 4th Ave @ 29th)
- Call 3-1-1 for most questions related to functions overseen by the city government (e.g., sanitation, tree pruning, clogged catch basins, noise complaints).

### Hospitals & medical centers

- [NewYork-Presbyterian Methodist Hospital](#) (506 6th St @ 7th Ave)
- [CityMD Park Slope Urgent Care](#) (418 5th Ave btw 7th & 8th Sts)



### Local parks & playgrounds

- [Ennis Playground](#) (11th Street btw 2nd & 3rd Aves)
- [Slope Park Playground](#) (6th Ave btw 18th & 19th Streets)
- [Old Stone House & Washington Park](#) (5th Ave between 3rd & 4th Streets)
- [Park Slope Playground](#) (Lincoln btw 5th & 6th Aves)
- [Prospect Park](#) (Prospect Park West btw Flatbush and Prospect Park Southwest)



[Return to top](#)



## Public schools in the area

### Elementary

- PS 10 Magnet School of Math, Science, and Design Technology (K-5)
- PS 39 Henry Bristow (PK-5)
- PS 107 John W. Kimball (K-5)
- PS 118 Maurice Sendak School (PK-3)
- PS 124 Silas B. Dutcher (PK-5)
- PS 133 William A. Butler (PK-5)
- PS 154 The Windsor Terrace School (PK-5)
- PS 172 Beacon School of Excellence (PK-5)
- PS/MS 282 The Park Slope School (PK-8)
- PS 295 (PK - 5)
- PS 321 William Penn (PK-5)



### Middle

- MS 51 William Alexander (6-8)
- MS 88 Park Slope Educational Complex (6-8)
- New Voices School of Academic and Creative Arts (6-8)

### High

- Millennium Brooklyn High School (9-12)
- Park Slope Collegiate (6-8-12)
- Secondary School for Journalism (9-12)
- Secondary School for Law (9-12)

## Help with Local Childcare, Education, and Pediatricians

Park Slope Parents maintains a “homegrown Yelp” [recommendations section](#) with hundreds of reviews from local parents on everything from dance classes to dog walkers. Here are a few sections to help you get your start in the neighborhood:

- Reviews for [Pediatricians](#) (also check out our article on [Choosing a Pediatrician/Doctor for your Child](#))
- Reviews for [Daycare Providers](#) and [Daycare for Under 1s](#)
- Reviews for [Preschools](#)
- Reviews for Summer Camps ([Day](#) and [Sleep Away](#))



**In the market for a nanny?** We’ve got you covered with the [PSP Guide to Hiring a Nanny](#), an amalgamation of best-practices, insights and honest expressions culled from years of experience by a diverse group of parents who have all been where you are now.

[Return to top](#)

## Idiosyncrasies of Urban Life: Things to Know for Life in NYC/Brooklyn

Read on for must-know tips and life hacks from your new neighbors. And even if you're a seasoned New Yorker, you might just learn something new!



### Transportation

- Get the [New York Subway MTA Map app](#).
- Red vs. Green Subway Stations (green balls outside a subway station means it's open 24 hours!)
- How to know which way the subway is going
- The difference between an express and local train (Google Maps will tell you that the local is just as fast as the express, but don't believe it!)
- If a subway car is empty during rush hour it usually means something is up (a mess, a stink, a fight, etc.).
- After a while, you'll start being able to understand the subway announcements.
- Look before you open the cab door!



[Return to top](#)



## Important Reminders About Alt Side Parking

- Don't double park unless there is room for people to go around you. Some people will forget to move, and parking opposite them will make for a very tight squeeze.
- Be sure to pull in as tight as you can, and make sure there's enough clearance for emergency vehicles and larger service vehicles to get through.
- If you can, pull in your side view mirrors.
- Leave a note with your cell number on your dashboard so you can be reached if you are blocking someone who wishes to get out.
- Advise your guests, workers, etc. about alternate side and the need to move their vehicles.
- Different streets have different parking cultures. On some streets everyone sits in their car, while on other streets they move back to the "safe" side very early, so getting a spot is more difficult.
- Double parking during alternate side is technically not legal. If you double park next to a car that doesn't get to move, you are illegally double parked and can get a ticket.



*Bad parking could risk a life.  
Be sure you allow room for  
emergency vehicles to get by.*

[Learn more](#) on the NYC DoT website, and check out PSP's article on the [do's and don'ts of double parking!](#)

## In the Home

- Broker fees for renting an apartment are expensive! Sometimes up to 15% of the yearly rent (I was flabbergasted)!
- When buying an apartment, an accepted offer doesn't mean as much as a signed contract.
- A duplex is a unit that has two floors, rather than a building that has two units.
- Gel bait rather than spray for getting rid of cockroaches. (Wish I never had to learn that one...)
- Mice can fit into the tiniest holes...steel wool and spray foam work wonders to patch them up.

## Education

- You have to apply to both middle school and high school rather than just going to your zoned school.
- Don't get emotionally invested in winning any lotteries: affordable housing, school, or otherwise.

[Return to top](#)



## Food

- You can get fresh basil pretty much 24 hours a day.
- Bagels are better here than anywhere else (it's the water).
- Join the Co-op. Get on a waiting list for your preferred shift. It, like the DMV, is Kafkaesque.
- Always carry a snack when you commute around the city...either you'll need it when the subway is delayed or you'll see someone in need.

- Never order Dominos, McDonalds, KFC, etc. There is amazing food all around you! This is NYC!

## Businesses & Services

- The city is still full of tailor shops, shoe repair shops, places that will take in your laundry to wash, and other old-line personal services businesses that long ago disappeared in less dense parts of the country. Take advantage of them!
- When in doubt whether you should offer a service person a tip, yes, you should.

## Navigating the City

- Stay out of the middle of the sidewalk if you stop. Move to the side of a building.
- The Staten Island Ferry is a great and cheap way to see the Statue of Liberty.
- You'll burn calories walking.
- Beware the broken glass scam: Someone bumps into you on the street and drops something, blames you, then tries to guilt you into paying for it.
- Odd building number means it's on the north side of the street; even = south.  
It's NOW and SEE:  
North - odd - West  
South - even - East  
With a few exceptions.
- In the city, 5th Avenue divides east and west. Be aware of how that impacts building numbering.
- Often it is faster to get somewhere by walking or taking the subway, especially in Midtown during rush hour.
- Make sure you have a great "carry all" or work bag that you love and will take with



[Return to top](#)



you everyday. Have an extra one or two empty canvas bags folded up in the bottom for whenever the need strikes. This will help you avoid disposable bags when grocery shopping, and it will come in handy if you're picking up that perfect item from someone's stoop.

- In Manhattan, those weird tall striped pylons in the street with steam coming out are venting excess steam from the antique steam heating system that runs under much of the island. Don't worry, they rarely explode! (Of course I moved to Manhattan a month before a steam pipe exploded two blocks away from me and killed two people, but the infrastructure was in worse shape 30 years ago. And I started noticing steaming pylons again this winter.)
- One thing that's kind of hard to convey is that "the city" is relative. While the outer boroughs are part of the actual city, you can say you're "going into the city" to refer to Manhattan. Yet, if you're outside the five boroughs, you can say you're "going into the city" to mean you're going into one of the boroughs. But I'm not sure if SI ever counts as "going into the city."
- I always look up [this Business Insider article](#) when I want to help a newbie understand NYC. The gifs are funny, true, and helpful!
- **Go to Green-Wood Cemetery.** It's one of the most beautiful outdoor sculpture gardens in the city. It is NOT your typical cemetery, has beautiful views of the city, and was the site of the Battle of Brooklyn.
- Keep an eye out for the [Wedding Watchers](#) at Grand Army Plaza!
- Sit on the left side of the Q train facing Manhattan to see the awesome hidden subway art just after the DeKalb station.



[Return to top](#)



*Thanks for reading—and just let us know if there's anything we can do to help you feel at home!*

[Return to top](#)