

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I FOUND AN INJURED/ORPHANED ANIMAL, CAN I BRING THEM TO THE PARK?

Upper Schuylkill Valley Park is not a licensed rehabilitation center. Animals at the Park are here because they are non-releasable for a variety of reasons. Injured/orphaned wildlife should be taken to a licensed rehabilitation center where they will hopefully be restored to good health and released. We cannot take them. If an animal has been through a rehabilitation center and is deemed non-releasable, we are permitted to take that animal at that time if space allows. NOTE: It may appear some wildlife is orphaned/abandoned when indeed they are not. Sometimes waiting for mom to come back is a better option than taking the animal away if it is not in immediate danger. ALWAYS remember that some animals can carry rabies. Injured animals may bite out of fear. Exercise caution!

WE HAVE A FAMILY PET THAT HAS GROWN TOO LARGE/IS NO LONGER WANTED/CANNOT BE TAKEN WHEN WE MOVE, WILL YOU TAKE THEM?

Most of the time, we cannot. We have limited space and focus on particular animals/reptiles. Turtles especially can be a lifetime commitment and grow very large. We do not have the space to take a large amount of turtles. If you would like to discuss your particular circumstance, we would be happy to talk with you, but we cannot guarantee anything. We will help you with resources as best as possible. Please do not release non-native species, like turtles, into the local waters.

CAN I HAVE A CHILDREN 'S BIRTHDAY PARTY OR SPECIAL TOUR FOR MY GROUP AT UPPER SCHUYLKILL VALLEY PARK?

Arrangements can be made in advance for the Upper Schuylkill Valley Park staff to host a **special group tour** for a birthday, school or organization. Dates for such activities are based upon staff availability, so please call to make sure someone can assist you. Tours can only be during open hours when staff is available, which is prior to 3 pm most days. A donation of \$2.00 per person is suggested for the tour. Children must be accompanied by enough adults to keep control of the group.

WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD VISIT AT THE PARK? CAN I FEED/PET THE ANIMALS?

As always, please help us to ensure the health and safety of the animals, reptiles and birds by following a few simple guidelines:

*Do NOT feed the animals, reptiles or birds anything—they receive special diets which must be maintained to keep them happy and healthy. We do not have “treats” for sale to feed to the animals.

*Please do not run, jump or climb on any of the fences or enclosures...this is for your safety and the safety of the animals.

*Some loud noises may scare the animals, which may cause them to hide from you. To ensure a good visit, please use a lowered voice.

*Upper Schuylkill Valley Park is not a petting zoo. There are no areas where visitors can be inside a corral/enclosure with the animals.

CAN I RESERVE A PAVILION OR INDOOR SPACE AT THE PARK?

Upper Schuylkill Valley Park does **NOT** have a designated indoor space or shelter available for group use at this time. Picnic tables by the Schuylkill River are not able to be reserved, but are available on a first come, first served basis. Visitors are allowed to host their own small gatherings at the picnic area during the park's open hours, but should be respectful of other groups using the same area.

Please note the following stipulations for use of the picnic area:

*Limited decorations are permitted. However, no tacks, screws, duct tape, staples, nails, double sided tape or product that causes a hole or mars/leaves a residue on any surface may be used. We recommend painters tape, tying things with natural twine or regular cellophane tape. **BALLOONS ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Confetti, glitter, Mylar die-cuts, and plastic curling ribbon are **NOT PERMITTED** on the grounds. These items are difficult to clean up and when they remain, endanger local wildlife as they attract nesting birds and can wash into our local waterways. We suggest paper or fabric decorations, honey comb decorations, natural materials like flowers, paper streamers, etc. All decorations must be removed and disposed of properly. **Piñatas** can be used if they are made of paper/organic materials and ALL materials are cleaned up thoroughly.

*Tables must be returned if moved. We will not move/rearrange/add tables for groups. Tables must be left in the condition found—no paint, spray paint, dyeing materials, stickers or glue can be left on the tables. Tables are cleaned regularly, however, we suggest wiping off the tables/covering before use as they are outdoors and exposed to natural elements.

*Trash must be bagged and left in the cans provided or if larger than the can, removed and taken with you.

*Please be respectful of other groups in the Park—no loud music, air horns, inappropriate behavior, etc. No amplification is allowed. Any group notified by a Park Ranger/site staff that the volume of their activity is disturbing to others in the Park, must comply with the request to lower the volume or they will be asked to leave.

*The picnic area has a number of charcoal grills. Users must bring their own charcoal and lighting device. Please do not put leaves in the grill as this only leads to smoke. Visitors may bring their own smoker, charcoal or gas grills. They must remain with their smoker/grill at all times. The Park is not responsible for these items. Please be fire conscious and keep any cooking device away from low hanging plant life. **FRYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED.** Any grease/charcoal, etc. is the responsibility of the renter to clean up/dispose of. Grease attracts wildlife and insects to public areas. **GREASE CANNOT BE Poured DOWN ANY DRAINS, LEFT ON THE GRASS/GROUNDS, OR DUMPED AT THE RIVER...pour it into a closed container and take it with you.** No fires are permitted outside of the grills. We cannot allow bonfires or open burning per township ordinance.

***Groups must vacate the area ½ hour before the park closes. Park hours are sunrise to sunset.**

*Vehicles may not be driven on the grass or pedestrian paths. Vehicles must be unloaded from the parking areas. Parking spaces cannot be reserved. No one may block/park on the roadway with their vehicle. This is a safety hazard should an ambulance or emergency vehicle need access.

*Moon bounces, dunk tanks, climbing walls and most inflatables are not permitted. Bringing in items such as outside petting zoos or pony rides are not permitted.

*One small 10 x 10 tent can be used for your group. It is solely the responsibility of the group and must not allow for any damage of the grounds.

*Park users assume all responsibility for children and personal items left in vehicles. Children must be accompanied by an adult in the wildlife area.

*As with any activity in Upper Schuylkill Valley Park, Montgomery County Rules and Regulations must be followed within the Park grounds. There is no smoking in the Park. Alcohol is not permitted. **FOR THIS SITE—PETS AND HORSES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE WILDLIFE AREA** with the exception of official service animals.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE ANIMALS ? I WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH THE WOLVES

We do accept a limited number of volunteers at the site to work with the animals. However, we do not allow any volunteers to work with the larger wild animals. Volunteer work with the animals does not involve petting/playing with the animals. Usually work is related to cleaning up enclosures. We have multiple volunteer projects at the site that are not directly related to the animals, such as weeding, program assistance, and maintenance. Please contact the site for more details.

