



**Big Apple Greeter**  
New York City

# A GUIDE TO PARK SLOPE

As you stroll through Park Slope, you may think you're in Victorian London. But this is Brooklyn's largest landmark district, with block after block of stately row houses, shady trees and interesting shops and restaurants. The area's name derives from Prospect Park, the 526-acre greensward designed by Olmstead and Vaux (who also created Central Park), and the long westward slope down to the Gowanus Canal.

## Where is Park Slope?

Park Slope is in south Brooklyn, bounded by Flatbush Avenue to the north, Prospect Avenue to the south, Prospect Park to the east and 4th Avenue to the west.

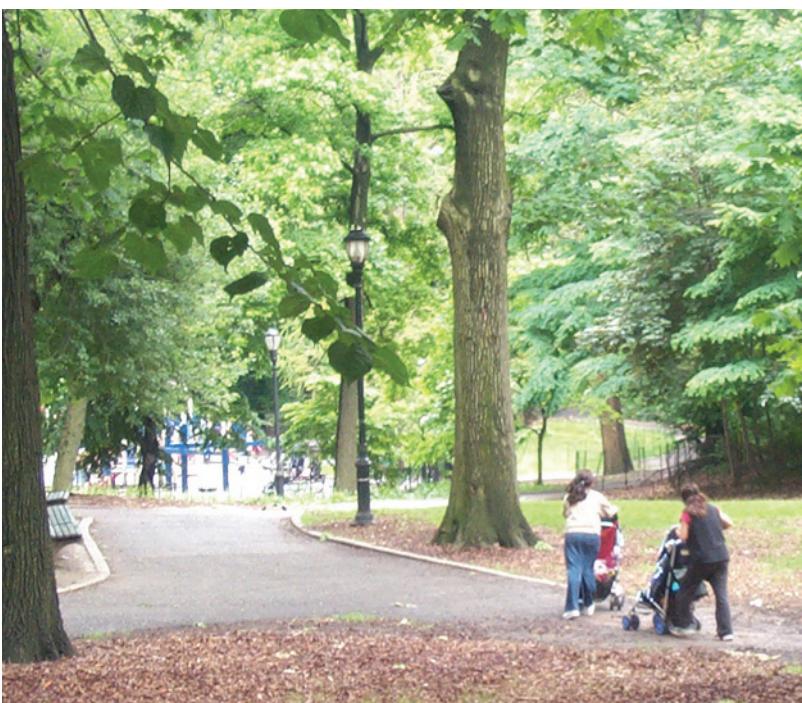


## It's Easy to Get to Park Slope

Take either the #2 or #3 train from Manhattan's west side to Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn. From the east side, take the #4 or #5 train to Nevins Street in Brooklyn; cross the platform to the #2 or #3 to Grand Army Plaza. Or take the Q train to the 7th Avenue stop in Brooklyn. If you end your visit on 5th Avenue, don't hike back to Grand Army Plaza. Instead, walk north to Bergen Street, turn right and go up one block. Cross Flatbush Avenue to the Bergen Street station next to the Yummy Taco restaurant and catch the #2 or #3 train to Manhattan.

## About Park Slope

Park Slope is one of several neighborhoods including Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill and Fort Greene — collectively known as "Brownstone Brooklyn." Its history dates back to the nation's birth. A critical Revolutionary War battle — the Battle of Brooklyn — was fought in what is now Prospect Park on August 27, 1776. The Americans retreated down present-day 1st Street to a farmhouse (see "Things to See and Do") where the Maryland Volunteers made a last stand against the British. Although the regiment was defeated, it bought enough time for Gen. George Washington to float his troops across the East River that night, preventing an early end to the dream of independence. Like many urban areas, Park Slope declined during the depression and in later years as residents moved to the suburbs. A revival began



in the late 1960s, with the restoration of the then low-cost, often dilapidated brownstones by young people priced out of Manhattan. Gentrification continues today.

## Things to See and Do in Park Slope

- 1 The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch in the center of Grand Army Plaza was built in 1892 and stands 80 feet high. This official New York City Landmark celebrates the Union Army's victory in the Civil War. Arrayed around Grand Army Plaza are several of Brooklyn's leading cultural institutions: 2 Prospect Park, 3 the Brooklyn Public Library, 4 the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and 5 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The latter two are a short walk down Eastern Parkway, past the left side of the library (or go to the Eastern Parkway stop on the #2 or #3 train). Here are a few Park Slope places worth a special look:



members. (The club is still private, but membership is increasingly diverse.)

- 7 Montgomery Place, a one-block street between Carroll and Garfield Streets that runs from Prospect Park West to 8th Avenue, is a rarity: it was developed as a single, unified real estate venture. In 1887-1892 the developer commissioned renowned 19th-century architect C.P.H. Gilbert to design 20 of the block's 46 houses to create a harmonious streetscape.



Parks Department's administration building for Brooklyn.

- 9 The Squad 1 Firehouse at 786 Union Street is an elite New York Fire Department unit which lost 12 men at the World Trade Center on September 11. A wooden statue memorializes them as well as all of the 343 firefighters who died that day.



**10** The Park Slope Food Co-op at 782 Union Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues), which started in 1973, is one of the oldest and largest (10,000-plus members) such co-operative in the country. You may visit the store (ask at the front for someone to show you around) — but only members may shop!

*Greeter's Secret: Just beyond the Co-op is The Gingko Leaf (788A Union Street), a lovely Japanese shop and restaurant set in a peaceful indoor garden. Across the street is the Tea Lounge (837 Union Street), a large, comfortable place serving more than 80 kinds of tea! Coffee is also served.*



**11** The huge 19th century Ansonia Clock Factory, located on 7th Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, in what is now called the South Slope, exemplifies the area's ongoing gentrification. After shutting down in 1930, the complex deteriorated for decades. In 1982 developers began converting it into co-operative and condominium apartments, a transformation completed only a few years ago. *Greeter's Secret: Across the street from the Ansonia is the Bagel Hole, at 400 7th Avenue. The bagels here are authentic — hard, chewy and delicious — not the puffy, bread-like versions pretending to be bagels now found almost everywhere.*



**12** The Old Stone House, a Dutch farmhouse built in 1699, is the site of the patriots' defeat during the Battle of Brooklyn. One of the few remaining vestiges of New York's revolutionary past, it's in a playground at 3rd Street between



4th and 5th Avenues and contains some fascinating exhibits.

## Shopping

Park Slope is famous locally for its "stoop sales," the city equivalent of yard sales, every weekend when the weather is good, as well as a large flea market in front of P.S. 321 on 7th Avenue between 1st and 2nd Streets.



Browsers will love Park Slope Books, at 200 7th Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets, and

7th Avenue Books, at 300 7th Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets. Both are well stocked with used books.

The Clay Pot, at 162 7th Avenue between Garfield and 1st Streets, is known for its handcrafted pottery and wedding rings.

For attractive vintage clothing there is Beacon's Closet, 220 5th Avenue between Union and President Streets.

For top-quality, few-of-a-kind items, try Castor & Pollux 67½ 6th Avenue between Flatbush Avenue and Bergen Street), near the Bergen Street subway stop.

Patrias, at 167 5th Avenue between St. John's Place and Lincoln Place, is a small shop bursting with colorful Latin American folk art, jewelry and ceramics.



## When It's Time to Eat

Park Slope boasts many restaurants, most on the revitalizing, très hip “restaurant row” on 5th Avenue. A new place seems to open almost every week, so read the menus and take your pick! Here are a few possibilities:

- For great Peruvian food—including succulent bargain-priced roast chicken—try Coco Roco (392 5th Avenue, between 6th and 7th Streets).
- A new, highly praised Italian restaurant, with excellent pizzas, is La Villa (261 5th Avenue, between 1st and 2nd Streets.) For lighter fare, enjoy a pressed panini sandwich on crisp focaccia bread at Press 195 (195 5th Avenue between Berkeley and Union Streets).
- Moutarde (239 5th Avenue at Carroll Street) is a popular French bistro featuring, as its name suggests, many varieties of mustard.
- For succulent Thai food try Mango Thai at 52 7th Avenue, between St. John’s Place and Lincoln Place, or the Second Street Café (189 7th Avenue at 2nd Street) for homey American food.



again and again. As a non-profit voluntary organization, Big Apple Greeter offers its services to visitors free of charge. Greeters do not accept tips.

## Who is a Big Apple Greeter?

Nearly 400 adults of all ages, from the five boroughs of New York City have volunteered to become Greeters. Each is eager to portray a personalized view of New York City. More than 20 foreign languages are spoken.

## What does a Greeter actually do?

Greeters share with visitors what life in New York is really like by walking in their own or a familiar neighborhood, not just to see the well known sights of New York, but to highlight the little things that distinguish one New York neighborhood from another. Greeters share with visitors the wonders of New York's mass transit system using Metro Cards generously donated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

## How do visitors learn about Big Apple Greeter?

To learn more about Big Apple Greeter log on to our multi-lingual Web site, [www.bigapplegreeter.org](http://www.bigapplegreeter.org). “Word-of-mouth,” as well as extensive national and international newspaper, magazine and radio coverage, travel agents, guide books and other pertinent information sources also help to spread the word about Big Apple Greeter.

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