

Dining In

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Suzy Allman for The New York Times

In State Parks, Friendly Animals Take to the Range

Barbecue grills were once ubiquitous in state parks in the Hudson Valley. But over the years they fell prey to neglect and vandalism. Now, in time for Memorial Day, they are back, but with a difference. Five designs of animal-shape cast-iron grills by Pae White, a Los Angeles artist, have been installed in Bear Mountain State Park, south of West Point, and in Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park in Yorktown Heights. There's an owl, a turtle, a rabbit, a fox and a frog, most with hinged covers.

The grills, which were commissioned by Minetta Brook, a nonprofit organization that sponsors art in public places, will be introduced on Saturday with a party at Hessian Lake in Bear Mountain State Park. Chefs, including Gray Kunz, Katy Sparks, Michael Romano, Dan Barber and Jean-Georges Vongerichten, have prepared a menu of food that will be grilled, using Hudson Valley purveyors. The party, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., is open to the public. There is no charge.