

# CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY SPRING GUIDE

Spring has officially arrived in New York City, bringing warmer weather, seasonal blooms, and plenty of activity to Central Park. Whether you are looking to attend a free event, take up a new sport, or go for a quiet stroll, the Spring Guide has all you need to know about this season's happenings in the Park.

The Conservancy's mission is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public. We raise 75% of the Park's annual budget from private resources and are responsible for all of the essential work that keeps Central Park beautiful.

## IN THIS GUIDE

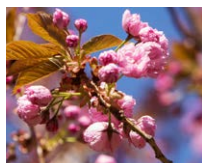
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## SPRING BLOOMS IN CENTRAL PARK

Every spring the blooms of Central Park bring bursts of color to the concrete jungle of New York City. With hundreds of different flower varieties throughout the Park, it's hard to pick a favorite, but here are a few that keep visitors coming back year after year:



### Kwanzan Cherry

**Botanical Name:** *Prunus serrulata*

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Typical Bloom Time:** April to May

**Where to see:** Reservoir West

The Kwanzan cherry first arrived in America in 1912. Today, more than 150 of these popular cherry trees can be found in Central Park. For visitors, walking the paths beneath a canopy of their bright pink blooms can be a spiritual experience.



### Saucer Magnolia

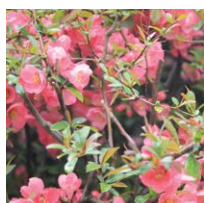
**Botanical Name:** *Magnolia x soulangeana*

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Typical Bloom Time:** March to April

**Where to see it:** Conservatory Garden, Obelisk, Great Lawn, Maine Monument, Metropolitan Landscapes

The saucer magnolia features large flowers that bloom in various shades of white, pink, and maroon, emerging dramatically on the bare branches of the tree in early spring. Its leaves are shiny, dark-green, and oval-shaped.



### Crabapple

**Botanical Name:** *Malus spp.*

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Typical Bloom Time:** Mid-April to Mid-May

**Where to see it:** Conservatory Garden, Great Lawn East

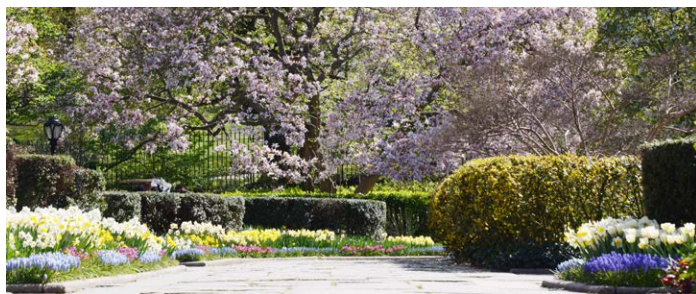
With bright spring blossoms, a wonderful fragrance, and summer crabapples (which are eaten by the Park's wildlife), these trees are a springtime staple in Conservatory Garden, where they are the main feature in the two allées that border the central garden.

Visit our Bloom Guide at [centralparknyc.org/bloomguide](http://centralparknyc.org/bloomguide) to learn more about Central Park's spring flowers.

We'll be tracking the spring blooms on social media all season long. Share your spring photos with us at @centralparknyc for a chance to be featured!



**CENTRAL PARK  
CONSERVANCY**  
central to the park



## CONSERVATORY GARDEN

Central Park's formal six-acre garden is divided into three smaller gardens, each with a distinct style: the northern, French-style garden; the center, Italianate garden; and the southern, English-style garden.

**What to expect this season:** More than 45,000 bulbs were planted last fall in preparation for spring, with the earliest blooms expected to show in late March, and mid- and late bloomers continuing through May. Ten thousand daffodils and an equal number of tulips will bloom in the north garden alone. Conservatory Garden is open daily and is a designated quiet zone. Visit [centralparknyc.org/conservatorygarden](http://centralparknyc.org/conservatorygarden) to learn more.



## SHAKESPEARE GARDEN

Dedicated to the memory of William Shakespeare in 1916, Shakespeare Garden is designed to resemble the Bard's native English countryside. The flowerbeds showcase a diverse array of plants, along with plaques featuring quotes that reference the flowers from Shakespeare's writings.

**What to expect this season:** Every year, visitors come out to Shakespeare Garden before the official arrival of spring in order to catch early blooming flowers (snowdrops and winter aconite are a pre-season favorite). Last fall, Conservancy staff and volunteers planted 14,000 bulbs in preparation for spring, including Rock Garden Iris, Crocus, and more than 50 varieties of tulips. Visit [centralparknyc.org/shakespeare](http://centralparknyc.org/shakespeare) for more information.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS



### NEW! FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY

Join us for a day of discovery in Central Park and learn first-hand about the people, plants and wildlife that thrive in this urban oasis. Parents and children can participate in hands-on activities, meet live animals, and enjoy an afternoon of exploration in the world's greatest outdoor classroom. Visit [centralparknyc.org/discoveryday](http://centralparknyc.org/discoveryday) for more information.

Saturday, May 13 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Arthur Ross Pinetum

Free

### DISCOVERY WALKS

Bring your family for a guided walk and learn about the architecture, landscapes, and ecosystems of the Park through hands-on exploration. Visit [centralparknyc.org/discovery](http://centralparknyc.org/discovery) for more information.

#### Beginning Birders

Why do birds flock to Central Park every spring and fall? We'll find out as we explore Central Park's woodlands, and learn the basics of bird identification along the way!

April 1, 10, 13, 22 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

April 8, 11, 14, 29 & May 20 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Belvedere Castle

April 12, 15 & May 6 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Chess & Checkers House

#### Towering Trees

Take a hike through the North Woods and learn how to tell a maple from an oak! Discover how trees – from seeds and leaves to logs – contribute to the health of an urban park woodland community.

April 1, 10, 13 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

June 3, 24 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

#### Woodland Wonderland

Get “lost” with us in the Ramble! Explore how this carefully planned woodland provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. Discover who calls the forest floor, the Lake shoreline, and the treetops their home.

April 8, 11, 29 & June 10 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Belvedere Castle

#### PARKitecture

Help us to decode the sculpted secrets of Bethesda Terrace, and discover how nature inspires Central Park's art and design.

April 12, 15 & June 17 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

East 72nd Street Kiosk

#### Belvedere's Kingdom

Explore the landscape surrounding Belvedere Castle – the expansive views from Vista Rock, colorful blooms of Shakespeare Garden, and the diverse flora and fauna of Turtle Pond.

April 14, 29 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

June 10 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Belvedere Castle

#### Time Travelers

Journey through time and discover how Manhattan's geography shaped the design and use of the Harlem Meer landscape.

June 3 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

June 24 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

#### Living Laboratory

Venture into the Hallett Nature Sanctuary to discover what plants and animals call this secluded Park woodland their home!

May 6 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

June 17 | 10:00 – 11:30 am

Chess & Checkers House

Discovery Programs are generously supported by The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, and are additionally supported in part by the Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education in The New York Community Trust.



## FAMILY PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)



### KEEPING IT GREEN FOR FAMILIES

Spend quality time with your family by helping to keep Central Park green by spreading mulch or raking leaves. The Conservancy's environmental educators lead stewardship projects throughout the Park during spring and fall.

Families only, maximum of 3 children per parent/guardian; no groups. Ages 5+. Space is limited; advance registration required. Registration begins Monday, May 1. Visit [centralparknyc.org/keepingitgreen](http://centralparknyc.org/keepingitgreen) for updates and more information.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINICS



Young athletes can enhance their basketball skills through small group instruction and competitive games in this high-energy, interactive clinic. Designed to help players of all levels develop both on the court and off, these clinics focus on skill development, team play, and sportsmanship. Ages 5 – 16; open to players of all abilities. Visit [centralparknyc.org/basketballclinic](http://centralparknyc.org/basketballclinic) to register.

**Saturdays, April 1 – October 28**

Ages 5 – 8 (co-ed): 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Ages 9 – 17 (co-ed): 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

North Meadow Recreation Center

FREE

### SUMMER INTERNSHIP: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Our full-time, paid internship offers high school students the opportunity to help care for Central Park while also contributing to New York City's overall health and vibrancy. Interns are paired with mentors in horticulture, visitor services, and public programs for seven weeks over the Park's busiest season, and come together every Friday for group activities or projects at other parks or environmental organizations.

Acceptance is through a competitive application process. Students ages 16+ are eligible to apply (applicants must be at least 16 years old by June 15). Preference is given to students who have participated in the ROOTS or Visitor Experience Apprentice Programs. Interns work five days per week with schedules varying depending on the position (some include weekends). Visit [programapps.centralparknyc.org](http://programapps.centralparknyc.org) to apply.

**July – August**

Application Deadline: April 30

### ROOTS (Restoration of the Outdoors Organized by Teen Students)



The ROOTS program gives high school students the opportunity to complete a semester-long ecological restoration and management project in the woodlands, and then use those skills to contribute to a restoration project outside Central Park. Projects include maintaining rustic trails, removing invasive plants, and cultivating new plantings.

Participants build their network of like-minded teens while contributing to larger urban stewardship efforts. Acceptance is through a competitive application process. Grades 9 – 12. Successful completion of the ROOTS program gives applicants priority status for our summer internship program. Visit [programapps.centralparknyc.org](http://programapps.centralparknyc.org) to apply.

**Saturdays, October – November**  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Application Available: June 9

Application Deadline: September 15

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### OFFICIAL CENTRAL PARK TOURS



Get an insider's perspective on the history, design, and landscapes of Central Park on an official tour. Visit [centralparknyc.org/tours](http://centralparknyc.org/tours) to purchase tickets or see our full schedule of tours.

Presented by **AMES**  
EST. 1774

### North Woods

Join us for a tour of waterfalls, rustic bridges, and picturesque pools that make up the Park's largest woodland area. Tour highlights include: the Harlem Meer, Huddleston Arch, Glen Span Arch, several cascades, the Pool, and the recently restored (and re-opened!) Loch.

### Northern Forts

Join our guides to learn more about the "Fort Landscape" in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, before this area was part of Central Park. Tour highlights include: McGowan's Pass, Fort Clinton, Nutter's Battery, and the Harlem Meer.

### Westside Stories

Discover some of the Central Park sites that West Siders know and love: a lost village, a poetic garden, and a bridge with a spectacular view. Tour highlights include: Winterdale Arch, Delacorte Theater, Shakespeare Garden, the Swedish Cottage, and the Ladies' Pavilion.

### CHESS SIMUL



Learn techniques from some of the best names in chess, and then put your new skills to the test with fellow players at our special chess lecture and simul series. Ages 6+; prior experience required. Attendees must be present for the entire

program to play. Registration begins at 10:00 am.

**Saturday, June 17 | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Chess & Checkers House

FREE

**Can't make it to one of our programs? Take advantage of these free activities all season long:**

### SPORTS AND RECREATION

Start your own pick-up game in Central Park! The North Meadow Recreation Center offers free field day kits, with balls, bats, Frisbees, and jump ropes.

### CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING

Stop by the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center to borrow fishing poles and bait for catch-and-release fishing in the Harlem Meer. Groups of 5 or more require reservations. Available April 1 to November 30.



## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2017 NEW YORK CITY MARATHON!

Runners, now is the time to make your miles matter and run for Central Park. Join Team Central Park and receive guaranteed entry into the 2017 TCS New York City Marathon, complimentary one-year membership, VIP seating at the New York Philharmonic's Central Park performance and other Park events, invitations to team clinics and meet-ups, tickets to marathon events, and more!

**Limited spots are available.**

**Register Now**



## MEMBER PROGRAMS

Show your support for Central Park with a Conservancy membership. Our members help keep Central Park beautiful and blooming throughout the spring season. Benefits include reduced ticket prices, discounts in Central Park, and access to exclusive members-only events and programs. Visit [centralparknyc.org/membership](http://centralparknyc.org/membership) to join today.

### SPRING BLOOMS TOURS



Celebrate the arrival of spring on a blooms tour led by the Conservancy's horticulture experts.

#### Spring Blooms Tour & Reception

Tuesday, April 25 | 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

#### Spring Blooms Tour & Breakfast

Thursday, April 27 | 8:00 am – 9:15 am

### DRAWING CLASS WITH JESSICA DARYL WINER IN SHAKESPEARE GARDEN



Hone your creative skills in this drawing class with an expert Central Park artist.

Saturday, April 29 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meet at Belvedere Castle

### HOUND HIKES



Bring your canine companion on a guided tour of Central Park's most beautiful landscapes.

#### Iconic Views of Central Park

Sunday, April 30 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop

#### Northern Forts Tour

Sunday, June 4 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

Visit [centralparknyc.org/memberprograms](http://centralparknyc.org/memberprograms) to register, or view our full schedule of classes. **Not a member?**

**Join Today**

## BENEFIT EVENTS

Join us for our exclusive benefit events and support the Conservancy's ongoing work to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.

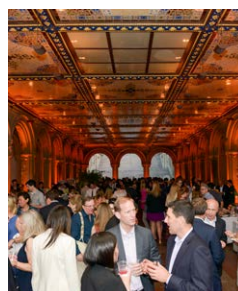
### PLAYGROUND PARTNERS ANNUAL FAMILY PARTY



Bring the whole family for this special, 25th anniversary celebration of Central Park's playgrounds, featuring face painting, arts and crafts, sports and interactive games, delicious snacks, and more! Visit [centralparknyc.org/playgroundparty](http://centralparknyc.org/playgroundparty) to purchase tickets.

Wednesday, May 24 | 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
Heckscher Playground

### TASTE OF SUMMER



This benefit event with culinary flair combines the chance to taste delectable dishes from the City's best restaurants with the unparalleled beauty of a summer evening on Bethesda Terrace. This one-of-a-kind event features cuisine from top NYC restaurants, craft cocktails, a live DJ, and a luxury-filled silent auction.

**This year's Taste Café will be hosted**

by The Plaza. Visit [centralparknyc.org/taste](http://centralparknyc.org/taste) to purchase tickets.

Wednesday, June 7 | 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Bethesda Terrace

Presented by  MACQUARIE

### EVENING IN THE GARDEN



The Greensward Circle, Central Park Conservancy's network of young professionals, presents this annual summer benefit for young New Yorkers to enjoy great food, cocktails, and live music in the Park's six-acre formal garden. Visit [centralparknyc.org/evening](http://centralparknyc.org/evening) to purchase tickets.

Wednesday, June 21 | 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Conservatory Garden



# CENTRAL PARK MAP

## Hours

Central Park opens at 6:00 am and closes at 1:00 am, 365 days a year.

## Visitor Centers and Facilities

 Start your trip at a Visitor Center. Look for this icon on the map.

### Belvedere Castle

Mid-Park at 79th Street

### Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

110th Street between Fifth & Lenox Avenues

### Chess & Checkers House

Mid-Park at 64th Street

### Columbus Circle Information Kiosk

Central Park West at 59th Street

### Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Mid-Park at 65th Street

### North Meadow Recreation Center

Mid-Park at 97th Street

## Points of Interest



### WEST

- W 59 Maine Monument
- W 65 Carousel
- W 66 Tavern on the Green
- W 69 Mineral Springs
- W 73 Bow Bridge
- W 75 Ladies Pavilion
- W 79 Shakespeare Garden / Marionette Theatre at the Swedish Cottage
- W 81 Delacorte Theater
- W 95 Tennis Courts
- W 109 Blockhouse




### EAST

- E 59 Grand Army Plaza
- E 62 Central Park Zoo
- E 63 Wollman Rink
- E 64 Arsenal
- E 65 Tisch Children's Zoo
- E 67 Balto
- E 70 Naumburg Bandshell
- E 72 Bethesda Terrace & Fountain / Minton Tile Ceiling
- E 74 Loeb Boathouse
- E 75 Alice in Wonderland
- E 81 Obelisk
- E 105 Conservatory Garden
- E 107 Lasker Rink & Pool

## Connect with us

   @centralparknyc

## Map Key

-  Visitor Centers
-  Playgrounds
-  Information Kiosk (open seasonally)
-  Food / Closed Winter
-  Restrooms / Closed Winter
-  Wheelchair Accessible
-  Park Drive (shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles)
-  Transverse Roads (for vehicles only)
-  Pedestrian Paths (for pedestrians only)
-  Bridle Paths (no bicyclists)
-  Emergency Call Boxes or Dial 911

**CENTRAL PARK  
CONSERVANCY**  
central to the park