

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY INSTITUTE FOR URBAN PARKS





Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks

is the educational arm of Central Park Conservancy. The Institute teaches park users and managers to care for urban parks everywhere.



Healthy cities need healthy parks. That's one of the guiding principles behind the Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks. As our educational arm, we want the Institute to be a resource, a classroom, and a model for people and communities who want their urban parks to be the best they can be.

For more than three decades Central Park Conservancy has been committed to restoring and maintaining Central Park. Innovations in management and operations have brought an end to the cycles of decline that plagued the Park throughout its more than 150-year history. Partnerships with city government and communities enabled us to restore the Park to its intended purpose as a respite from city life.

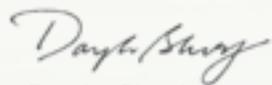
Central Park now welcomes more than 42 million visitors a year, just one of the many tangible results of our effort to make the Park beautiful and inviting. We have also seen a steep rise in our funding support, which is a testament to the public confidence in our work.

The Conservancy has overseen the longest period of sustained health in the Park's history. We are proud of our track record of success and to be recognized worldwide as the leader in urban park management. We want to share what we have learned.

It is a privilege for us as the caretakers of Central Park to share our history and expertise with urban park managers, educators, students, and visitors to help shape the future of parks. The Institute aims to advance our model of public stewardship for urban parks everywhere.

We invite you to join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Douglas Blonsky

President & CEO, Central Park Conservancy
and Central Park Administrator



Ira M. Millstein

Chairman, Institute for Urban Parks

Founding Advisory Board Members

Judith Carson · Judith-Ann Corrente · Alice Gottesman
Michael Grobstein · Elizabeth W. Smith · Stephen Zammarchi

URBAN PARKS

cultural and environmental
treasures that have extraordinary
and endless capacity to
educate, enrich, and inspire



Cities need parks and parks need management.

Central Park Conservancy has a proven track record of success in Central Park and is recognized as the world's foremost urban park manager. **Helping other parks** has always been a natural extension of the Conservancy's mission and work. The Institute for Urban Parks shares the Conservancy's experience to teach people about managing and making good use of urban parks.

Institute programs are divided into two Centers: the **Center for Urban Park Discovery** and the **Center for Urban Park Management**.

Center for Urban Park Discovery

The Center for Urban Park Discovery teaches park visitors, families, adults, students, and educators how to use urban parks responsibly and how to get involved in their ongoing care.

Understanding Central Park and its care

- Exhibits
- Lectures
- Tours



Environmental Discovery

- Environmental Education Programs
- Educator Resources



Service-Learning

- Volunteerism



Understanding Central Park and Its Care

Central Park is an 843-acre masterpiece of landscape architecture and one of New York City's greatest treasures. Through lectures and discussions, educational tours, and exhibits, the Institute for Urban Parks provides an insider's view of Central Park's rich history, cultural and ecological significance, art and design, and restoration and management, with the goal of inspiring visitors to become engaged stewards of Central Park and all urban parks.



“ We learned so much about why the Park was built and how it is cared for today. ”
– Official Central Park Tour participant

“ I ask my friends to help
keep the Park healthy. ”

– Discovery Club participant



Environmental Discovery

The Institute for Urban Parks provides a range of educational activities designed to enhance how children experience the city’s greatest outdoor classroom. Programs and resources for educators, students, and families cover topics related to Central Park’s natural environments and provide experiences that facilitate discovery of its ecosystems. Programs highlight the importance of parks in urban settings so participants learn how to join in protecting these invaluable green spaces. These programs invite participants to explore and discover nature and, in the process, become dedicated stewards of urban parks.



Service-Learning

One of the most effective ways to teach park users what goes into maintaining urban parks is providing them with opportunities to contribute, firsthand, to their care. Service-learning programs provide groups of students and families with volunteer opportunities to keep Central Park green and clean. These programs impart an understanding of the fragile environments that make up Central Park and create a sense of respect, ownership, and investment in the well-being of parks everywhere.

“Yesterday, my son stopped to examine the roots of a street tree.”

– Parent of Keeping it Green participant

Center for Urban Park Management

The Center for Urban Park Management shares the Conservancy's expertise with current and aspiring park professionals to elevate the urban park management profession.

The Next Generation of Park Managers

- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- Fellowships



Sharing Expertise

- Assistance & Advice
- Management Resources
- Training Programs
- On-Site Support



Growing the Conservancy

- Professional Development



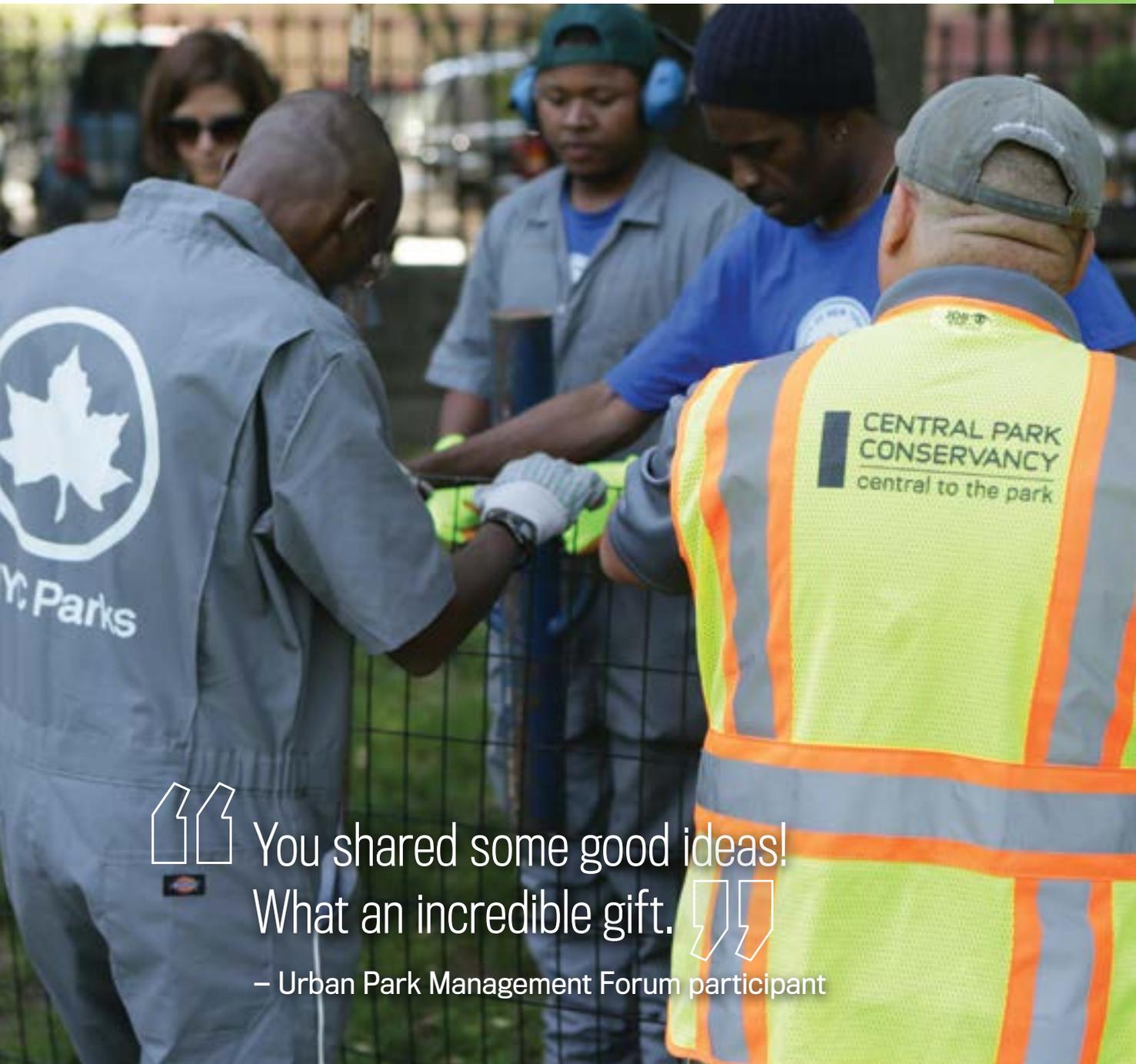
“ This opened my eyes to how many careers there are in parks. ”

– Green Careers Lab participant



The Next Generation of Park Managers

Since its inception the Conservancy has provided young people with valuable internship experiences that are educational and fun. This type of experiential learning establishes an ethic of environmental stewardship in the next generation and supports growth of the urban park management profession. Internships provide a formative first step in a young person's career development and encourage participants to explore where a career in urban park management can take them.



Sharing Expertise

The Conservancy has informally supported other park groups in a variety of ways for more than three decades. The Institute for Urban Parks provides direct assistance and advice, informal talks and seminars, formal training, on-site teaching and support, and best practice resources to share the Conservancy's world-class urban park management practices with parks in New York City and around the world.

“ You shared some good ideas!
What an incredible gift. ”
– Urban Park Management Forum participant

“ By sharing our challenges and successes we strengthen and refine our own practices. ”

– Central Park Conservancy
Chief of Operations

Growing the Conservancy

Key to the Conservancy's leadership in urban park management is its excellent staff. Institute programs involve Conservancy staff as educators and mentors. By teaching and learning, the Conservancy stays on the cutting edge, expanding its own professional growth and knowledge.





Long-term sustainability of the Conservancy's work

in Central Park, throughout New York City, and around the world requires activities and resources that engage park audiences in the care of urban parks. Teaching managers and the public what the Conservancy does to care for Central Park benefits both current and future generations of urban park stewards.

The **Institute for Urban Parks** provides countless opportunities for people of all ages to better understand, experience, and enjoy urban parks. Institute programs underscore the role urban parks play as cultural and environmental treasures that have extraordinary and endless capacity to educate, enrich, and inspire people in the development of healthy, vibrant urban communities.

Learn more:
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Follow us:
 [@CPCInstitute](https://twitter.com/CPCInstitute)

Central Park Conservancy Mission Statement

The mission of Central Park Conservancy is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park, in partnership with the public.

Central Park Conservancy aspires to build a great organization that sets the standard for and spreads the principles of world-class park management – emphasizing environmental excellence – to improve the quality of open space for the enjoyment of all.

Central Park Conservancy is committed to sustaining this operating model to provide a legacy for future generations of park users.



