There are endless paths to travel in Central Park, and even lifelong New Yorkers can discover something new in its 843 acres. Check out this month’s featured landmarks to learn more about their history and about the Central Park Conservancy’s mission to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.

1. The Arsenal
The Arsenal was built between 1847 and 1851 as a weapons supply depot for New York State's National Guard. Over the years, it's had a number of uses, including a police precinct, a weather bureau, and the first Museum of Natural History. Today, it's home to the headquarters of NYC Parks and the Central Park Zoo. The third floor houses the Arsenal Gallery, which features fine arts and photography exhibitions mostly focused on the natural environment, urban issues, and parks history.

2. The Dene Slope
The Dene Slope is a 1.25 acre wildflower meadow located at the southwest corner of the Dene landscape (which stretches from 66th Street to 72nd Street on the east side). The Conservancy restored the area, adding a meadow, trail, and rustic seating to what was once an eroded hillside. Native meadows support a broader diversity of wildlife and are a practical, sustainable treatment for steeply sloped sites.

3. Olmsted Flower Bed
The flowerbed at the southern end of the Mall was created in 1972 to commemorate the 150th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, co-designer of Central Park. It’s appropriately placed just south of Literary Walk, with its magnificent stand of American elms, Olmsted’s favorite tree. With its plantings of beautiful annuals and perennials, the landscape offers the year-round color of tulips, pansies, phlox, and other blooms.

4. Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop
This charming Victorian cottage was originally conceived as a quiet retreat for children and their caregivers. In the 19th century, the Dairy was a source of fresh milk and snacks, and families came to relax under the loggia and enjoy milk and pastries. It is now one of the Conservancy’s five visitor centers, and offers maps, guides, and gifts.

Members: Don’t forget to use your exclusive discount by presenting your member card at check out.

5. Hallett Nature Sanctuary
At just four acres, the Hallett Nature Sanctuary is the smallest of the Park’s three woodland landscapes (which also include the Ramble and North Woods) and features sweeping views of the southern end of the Park. Closed to the public in 1934, the Hallet remained mostly untouched until 2001, when the Conservancy began its restoration. Now, it’s open daily for visitors to explore its rustic trails and view native plantings that attract birds and other wildlife.

6. The Pond
Rest your feet at the end of your mile-long adventure and take in this iconic view of Gapstow Bridge and the Pond, one of the Park’s seven naturalistic water bodies. Mere steps from Fifth Avenue, the Pond provides a sense of solitude and serene escape. Birds, ducks, turtles, and other wildlife call the Pond home.

Want even more of the inside scoop? Join us for an Official Central Park Tour. Click here for the full schedule.