



CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY FALL GUIDE

Fall is here! It's time to enjoy the crisp air, colorful foliage, and abundance of fun activities and events in Central Park. It's the perfect time of year to linger outdoors and explore New York City's backyard. Plan ahead with our Fall Guide and make the most of this new season in the Park.

The mission of the Central Park Conservancy is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public. The Central Park Conservancy raises the Park's nearly \$80 million annual operating budget and is responsible for all of the essential work that keeps Central Park beautiful.

**CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**
central to the park



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WHERE TO FIND FALL FOLIAGE IN CENTRAL PARK

Each fall, many of Central Park's roughly 20,000 trees transform into golden shades of yellow, orange, red, and more. It's one of the Park's most photogenic times of year.

Looking for a self-guided adventure to find the Park's most amazing autumn colors? We suggest the following landscapes.



Reservoir

1. NORTH WOODS

It's hard to miss the reds, oranges, and yellows in the North Woods this time of year. As one of the Park's three woodlands, it offers people and wildlife an oasis of nature in the middle of New York City. You can take in amazing views of the North Woods' watercourse, the Loch (Scottish for "lake"), and its many rustic features against a backdrop of fall colors.

2. CONSERVATORY GARDEN

You may associate Conservatory Garden's crabapple allées with springtime, but these trees also turn reddish-orange in the fall. Combined with the Garden's glorious chrysanthemum display that is in full bloom in the North Garden around the time of peak fall foliage, this part of the Park makes for a must-see destination each autumn.

3. THE POOL

The Pool serves as a stunning spot to admire the foliage turn of trees like the red maple, hickory, tupelo, bald cypress, and sugar maple. It also doubles as a great spot to see turtles, birds, fish, and other wildlife. Be sure to look for the rustic bridge and waterfall just east of the Pool — continuing east from here, you'll enter the North Woods.

4. NORTH MEADOW AND THE RESERVOIR

Amid the soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and touch football games at the North Meadow each fall are the colorful leaves of the hickory, sugar maple, and flowering dogwood. From here, it's a short walk to the Reservoir. On the Reservoir's west side, you'll find the Kwanzan cherry, which turns bronze and red in the fall. On the east side, you'll see the yoshino cherry, which becomes yellow and features sharply contrasting bark. Take a walk on the bridle path surrounding the Reservoir to catch all the colors.

Central Park is home to more than 170 species of trees — visit our [Tree Guide](#) to learn more about some of your favorites. Our Tree Guide features photos, fun facts, and details about where to spot several species in the Park.

WHERE TO FIND FALL FOLIAGE IN CENTRAL PARK

continued



The Lake and the Ramble

5. THE RAMBLE

Make your way to the Ramble for a dense explosion of color. Some of the woodland's most colorful species include the red oak, sweetgum, red maple, pin oak, sassafras, and black cherry. One of Central Park's most iconic spots for fall foliage, Tupelo Meadow, is in the Ramble. Find it just north of Azalea Pond. Here you'll see a magnificent three-trunked black tupelo offering a colorful fall foliage display, along with many serviceberry, London plane, and American elm trees.

6. THE MALL

Featuring a beautiful collection of American elms, the Mall is home to one of the largest and last remaining stands of these trees in North America. Did you know the Mall is also the Park's only intentional straight line? American elms form a cathedral-like canopy above this wide pedestrian pathway, and this time of year, that canopy will be bright yellow!

7. HALLETT NATURE SANCTUARY AND THE POND

Look for the colors of the black cherry, sawtooth oak, gray birch, pin oak, and tupelo at the Pond and the Hallett Nature Sanctuary. From inside the Hallett — a peaceful haven just feet away from some of Central Park's busiest paths — you can admire views of the Pond from several scenic overlooks, which feature unique rustic railings and benches.

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR IN THE FALL?

Each fall, trees shut down their food-making process, called photosynthesis, and begin to store energy for the season ahead. Once a tree's trunk has filled with the necessary moisture and sugar to survive the winter, chlorophyll — a bright green chemical — starts to break down. Leaves turn various shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple as the colors of other always-present chemicals come to the forefront.

While temperature and moisture play a big role in when this process happens, so does light. Trees detect the upcoming winter not only from colder temperatures, but by the angle at which the sun hits its leaves. Because Central Park's trees are often obscured by shadows of surrounding buildings, they can have a distorted sense of the seasons. This often results in a later — though no less beautiful — foliage turn than other parts of New York.



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. Enjoy a year-round signature offering or take one of our special seasonal tours below. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours to purchase tickets and see our full schedule of tours.



ICONIC VIEWS OF CENTRAL PARK TOUR

Now available in Español and Français!

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop (Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets)

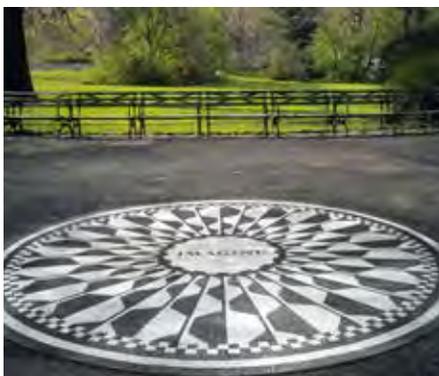
Learn how rocky, swampy land was built into the living work of art that is Central Park today. You'll discover the original family-focused purpose of the Dairy, see impressive skyline views from Sheep Meadow, walk under the stunning Minton tile ceiling at Bethesda Terrace, and see the gorgeous American elms that line the Mall.



HEART OF THE PARK TOUR | Free

Meet at the Samuel F. B. Morse statue (72nd Street and Fifth Avenue)

Walk straight through the heart of Central Park on this east-to-west tour and enjoy a variety of the scenic, sculptural, and architectural elements the Park has to offer. Highlights of this tour include Conservatory Water, Loeb Boathouse, Bethesda Terrace, Bow Bridge, Cherry Hill, the Lake, and Strawberry Fields.



STROLL TO STRAWBERRY FIELDS

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Meet at the Columbus Circle Information Kiosk (59th Street and Central Park West)

Explore the southwest area of Central Park and see it like never before. From a planned military parade ground to the site commemorating a famous activist for peace, some of the most-visited spots in the Park have secrets to share with even the most seasoned Park-goer.

Members receive discounted tickets on all Official Central Park Tours. Not a member?

[Join Today](#)

SEASONAL TOURS



FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Wednesday, November 7 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Saturday, November 10 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Meet inside the Park at Central Park West and 100th Street

Admire Central Park's most colorful fall foliage on this walk from the Pool to the Ravine in the North Woods. Learn easy tips for identifying trees and discover more about these peaceful landscapes.



MEMORIAL WALK TOUR | Free

Sunday, November 11 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet at the Maine Monument (Central Park West and 59th Street)

Discover how generations of New Yorkers have used Central Park as a place to remember and honor our veterans. Highlights of this tour include Maine Monument, Heckscher Ballfields, 7th Regiment Memorial, the Arsenal, and more.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

continued



MY DOG LOVES CENTRAL PARK FAIR | Free
Saturday, October 20 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Naumburg Bandshell (Mid-Park at 72nd Street)

Come, sit, stay, and celebrate Central Park and its dog community! This fun event for people and canines includes contests, training tips, games, and more. Open to all ages. The Fair is an on-leash event. Visit centralparknyc.org/dogfair for more details.

The Central Park Conservancy's My Dog Loves Central Park Fair is sponsored by:

AMC | Animal Medical Center
Usdan Institute for
Animal Health Education
SINCE 1910



HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN FLOTILLA | Free
Sunday, October 28 | 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street
between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)

Bring the whole family and celebrate Halloween in Central Park. At the Conservancy's signature Pumpkin Flotilla, you'll have the chance to send your homemade jack-o'-lanterns onto the Harlem Meer at twilight. Visit centralparknyc.org/halloween for more details.



CENTRAL PARK HOLIDAY LIGHTING | Free
Thursday, November 29 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street
between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)

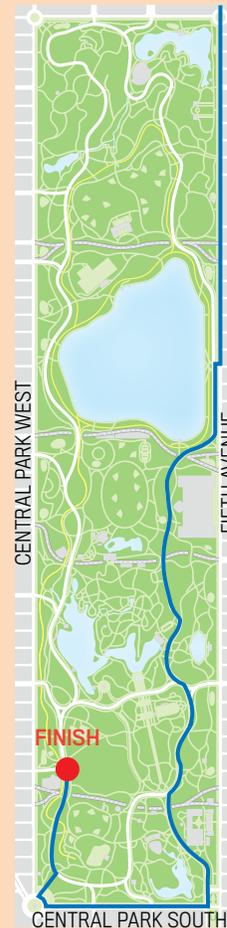
Celebrate the season at our Holiday Lighting in Central Park. Meet Santa and friends, sing carols on the Plaza, and warm up with hot cocoa and cookies. The event concludes with the lighting of a flotilla of trees on the Harlem Meer. Visit centralparknyc.org/holidaylighting for more details closer to the event.

The Central Park Conservancy Holiday Lighting is made possible by our founding sponsor:

conEdison | EVERYTHING MATTERS

NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

On Sunday, November 4, roughly 50,000 runners will reach the New York City Marathon's finish line in Central Park. Experience the excitement of race day by spectating from the Park — and be sure to take note of various Park closures.



WHERE TO WATCH

Get into the marathon spirit by watching the race at one of our suggested viewing areas:

- Fifth Avenue from 90th to 110th Street
- East Drive from 59th to 90th Street
- West Drive from 59th to 66th Street
- 59th Street from Fifth Avenue to Central Park West
- Columbus Circle

CLOSURES

Large portions of the Park will be closed to all visitors on race day:

- Central Park West perimeter sidewalk from 59th to 85th Street
- West Drive from 59th to 85th Street
- East Drive from 59th to 90th Street
- All of Center Drive beginning at the 6th Avenue and 59th Street entrance

Visit centralparknyc.org/alerts for a full list of Central Park alerts and closures.

Want to map out your own run through the Park? View our [official Central Park running map](#).





VISITOR CENTERS

Central Park contains five visitor centers — find the one nearest to you.

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

110th Street between Fifth and
Lenox Avenues

Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Mid-Park between 64th and
65th Streets

Chess & Checkers House

Mid-Park at 64th Street

Columbus Circle Information Kiosk

West 59th Street at Central Park West

Belvedere Castle

Mid-Park at 79th Street

*Note: Belvedere Castle is closed for
restoration and will reopen in 2019.*

*Please note: visitor centers are
closed on Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.*

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Discovery Walks for Families

Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike. Learn about the architecture, landscapes, and ecosystems of the Park through hands-on exploration using Discovery Kits — rugged backpacks filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, and hand lenses. Visit centralparknyc.org/discoverywalks to register and see our full schedule of Discovery Walks.

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TOWERING TREES | Free

Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)

Take a hike and learn how to tell a maple from an oak! Discover how trees — from seeds to leaves — contribute to the health of an urban woodland community, while admiring the beautiful arches and peaceful waterfalls of the North Woods.

WOODLAND WONDERLAND | Free

Explore how Central Park's carefully planned woodlands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Discover who calls the forest floor, the water bodies, and the treetops their home.

NORTH WOODS

Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)

The largest of the Park's woodlands, the North Woods offers people and wildlife a 40-acre forest retreat in the middle of New York City.

THE RAMBLE

Meet at the entrance to the Loeb Boathouse Express Café (East Drive and 75th Street)

In the words of Central Park co-designer Frederick Law Olmsted, the Ramble is a 36-acre "wild garden." Explore the landscape at the heart of the Park's historic design.

MEMBER PROGRAMS

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



DRAWING CLASS WITH JESSICA DARYL WINER | Free for members
Members will learn how to capture the beauty of the Park on paper in this drawing class, led by *Centennial Trees of Central Park* artist, Jessica Daryl Winer. Attendees should bring a large sketchpad and pencil. No drawing experience is necessary.

THE MALL

Saturday, October 13 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop (Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets)

HARLEM MEER

Saturday, November 17 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)



HOUND HIKE | Free for members
Take one of our signature tours with your favorite furry family member and let our Conservancy guide give you an insider's look at some of the most iconic features of the world's greatest urban park.

ICONIC VIEWS OF CENTRAL PARK TOUR

Sunday, September 30 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop (Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets)

ART OF THE PARK TOUR

Sunday, November 11 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop (Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets)



AUTUMN AMBLE: A TOUR OF CENTRAL PARK'S FOLIAGE AND NORTHERN FORTS
Before it became Central Park, the Park's north end served an important role in the early history of the United States. Discover the rich past of this area while admiring some of the Park's most glorious fall foliage.

Monday, October 22 | 8:00 am - 9:30 am
Coffee and pastries will be served prior to the tour
Donor level: Protector (\$250 and above)

Thursday, October 25 | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Reception to follow the tour
Donor level: Conservator (\$1,000 and above)

Visit centralparknyc.org/mp to register and view our full schedule of member programs.
Not a member?

Join Today

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

i Start your trip at a visitor center. Look for this icon on the map.

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center
110th Street between Fifth & Lenox Avenues

Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop
Mid-Park at 65th Street

Chess & Checkers House
Mid-Park at 64th Street

Columbus Circle Information Kiosk
Central Park West at 59th Street

Belvedere Castle

Mid-Park at 79th Street

Note: Belvedere Castle is closed for restoration and will reopen in 2019.

Points of Interest

- W WEST**
- W 103 The Ravine / The Loch**
- W 101 The Pool**
- W 79 Shakespeare Garden**
- W 74 Bow Bridge**
- W 72 Strawberry Fields / Imagine Mosaic**
- W 72 Cherry Hill**
- E EAST**
- E 107 Harlem Meer**
- E 105 Conservatory Garden**
Open year-round, 8:00 am to dusk.
- E 90 Reservoir**
From 86th to 96th Street
- E 81 Obelisk (Cleopatra's Needle)**
- E 75 Alice in Wonderland**
- E 74 Conservatory Water**
- E 72 Bethesda Terrace / Bethesda Fountain**
- E 68 The Mall (Literary Walk)**
From 66th to 72nd Street
- E 67 Balto**
- E 62 Gapstow Bridge**



Map Key

- i** Visitor Center
- PK** Playground
- IK** Information Kiosk
- FF** Food / Closed in Winter
- RR** Restrooms / Closed in Winter
- WC** Wheelchair Accessible
- Park Drive (shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles)
- Transverse Road (vehicles only)
- Pedestrian Path (pedestrians only)
- Bridle Path (no bicyclists)
- Emergency Call Box or Dial 911