

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY WINTER GUIDE

Even when the weather outside is frightful, Central Park is still delightful! With free ice skating, sledding, and endless adventures that pair well with a hot cocoa to go, the Park is full of wonderful reasons to bundle up and head outside. Plan ahead with our Winter Guide and find the best spots for all of your winter fun.

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.

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THE BEST WAY TO SPEND A SNOW DAY IN CENTRAL PARK



Sledding

Pilgrim Hill and Cedar Hill, the two popular sledding destinations in the Park, are open for sledding when conditions permit and there is at least six inches of snow cover on the ground.



Ice Skating

Conservatory Water is open for free ice skating when conditions permit and the ice is consistently at least six inches thick. For those who need to rent skates, check out Wollman Rink and Lasker Rink.



Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Visitors can cross country ski or snowshoe through Central Park's wide-open meadows or along the bridle path, which the Conservancy leaves snow-covered in order to protect its soft surface. We open large landscapes when conditions permit and when there is at least six inches of snow cover on the ground.



Exhibit: *Landforms: A History of Central Park's Fort Landscape*

Step out of the cold and into the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center to learn more about the history of Central Park's Fort Landscape.



Shopping

Stop by the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop to browse a wide selection of apparel, books, and accessories – including sweatshirts and blankets for extra warmth!



Official Central Park Tours

Stay warm with a walk through the Park on one of our Official Central Park Tours. The Conservancy's expert guides provide an inside perspective on the sites, landscapes, and stories that make Central Park an iconic urban retreat. Stop by select visitor centers or go online at centralparknyc.org/tours for tickets and tour schedules.

Running and Walking

Park drives and pedestrian paths are regularly plowed, but the bridle path and Reservoir Running Track are left snow-covered in order to protect their soft surfaces.

-  Park Drive
-  Transverse Roads
-  Pedestrian Paths
-  Bridle Paths (for cross country skiing and snowshoeing)

HOW THE CONSERVANCY PREPARES FOR WINTER



Ever wonder what goes into keeping Central Park accessible during the coldest months of the year? Here at the Conservancy, preparing the Park for winter begins after Labor Day and continues through November. In addition to ongoing lawn maintenance and structural repairs, Conservancy staff focuses on three main areas to prepare for the snowy season.

Winterizing the Park's Underground Irrigation Systems

Central Park has multiple irrigation systems that help keep the grass green and flowers in bloom. These systems – which are made up of underground piping, electrical components, and valves – are not below the frost line, so each fall, they are drained of water before the ground freezes. With miles of underground pipe, ten irrigation systems, and eight individual pumping stations, it takes eight people about six to eight weeks to drain water throughout the entire Park.

Leaf Cleanup

About 630 of the Park's 843 acres need to be cleared of leaves before the winter's first snow. Most of the leaves are mowed into mulch and left on the ground, while others are raked, picked up by hand, composted, and recycled back into the Park. The Conservancy composts 2,000 to 3,000 cubic yards of leaves every year.

Preparing for Snowfall

Central Park has 58 miles of pedestrian paths that need to be cleared of snow. Conservancy staff must prepare snow equipment so it's ready for action at a moment's notice. The Conservancy maintains 20 plow trucks used to clear major paths, 24 snow throwers, and 13 brooms, which are used on the Park's more sensitive surfaces.

Visit centralparknyc.org/winter for more information on how the Conservancy keeps the Park safe and accessible for winter visitors. For more information on how we prepare the Park for winter, [check out our latest article in Untapped Cities](#).



CONTINUING OUR WORK THROUGH THE WINTER

Along with all the work that happens in preparation for the winter, Conservancy staff must also continue with the daily tasks that keep Central Park clean and accessible year round. With more than 2,000 tons of trash and 58 tons of recycling removed from the Park each year, clearing trash is a huge undertaking that happens regardless of snow, sleet, or ice. *The New York Times* recently spoke with Nick Marotta, the Operations Coordinator for Night Operations, to discuss the 35-year evolution of the Conservancy's trash management program, which has resulted in cleaner landscapes, safer walkways, and returning wildlife. [Read the full article in *The New York Times*](#).

STUDENT PROGRAMS



ROOTS

The ROOTS (Restoration of the Outdoors Organized by Teen Students) program gives high school students the opportunity to volunteer for semester-long ecological restoration and management projects in Central Park's woodlands. Projects include maintaining rustic trails, removing invasive plants, and cultivating new plantings. Acceptance is through a competitive application process. Grades 9 - 12.

March - May

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Application Deadline: January 31

April - May

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Application Deadline: February 28

Visit programapps.centralparknyc.org to apply.



VEAP

In the 12-week VEAP (Visitor Experience Apprentice Program) apprenticeship, high school students volunteer with the Conservancy's Visitor Experience staff to improve public speaking and interpersonal skills by interacting with Park visitors and assisting with public programs. Acceptance is through a competitive application process. Ages 16 - 18.

March - June

Saturdays, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Application Deadline: February 15

Visit programapps.centralparknyc.org to apply.

FOR FAMILIES



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/discovery for more information about our Discovery Programs.

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.

Balto's Winter Wonderland

Which Central Park Secrets are revealed in the winter? With Central Park's most famous canine resident leading the way, we'll explore the Park's wintry landscape to discover the answers!

Monday, January 16

Monday, February 20

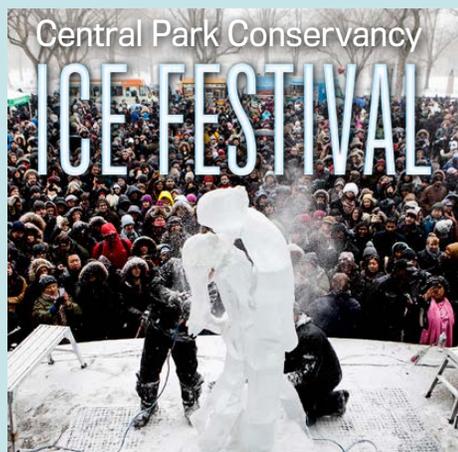
11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop

FREE

Visit centralparknyc.org/discoverywalks to register.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Celebrate your love of Central Park's sculptures at our sixth annual Ice Festival. Witness ice-carving artists from Okamoto Studio use electric chain saws, chisels, and picks to transform more than 6,000 pounds of ice into a glistening replica of one of the Park's most beloved statues. As night falls, revel among colorful lights, as the Mall becomes a vibrant silent disco with live DJs. Visit centralparknyc.org/icefestival for more event information.

Saturday, February 11
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Naumburg Bandshell
FREE



Make Central Park Your Gym

Looking for the best excuse to break a wintertime sweat? Make Central Park Your Gym! Our free fitness event series is curated by renowned sports medicine physician, Dr. Jordan Metz. Each month features a different boutique fitness partner. Visit centralparknyc.org/fitness for more information.

Saturday, February 25
Saturday, March 18
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Naumburg Bandshell
FREE



Official Central Park Tours

Sign up for an Official Central Park Tour to learn more about the history, design, and ecology of Central Park. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours to purchase tickets or to see a full list of tours and schedules.

Seneca Village Tour

Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Black History Month with a guided tour of Seneca Village, the largest community of free African-American property owners in antebellum New York. Learn about the lives of residents in the 1800s and the community's place in pre-Park New York City.

Monday, January 16
11:00 am
2:00 pm

Sunday, February 12
Thursday, February 26
11:00 am

Inside the Park at 85th Street and Central Park West
Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Don't forget! Members receive discounted tickets on all Official Central Park Tours. Not a member?

[Join Today](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

Show your support for Central Park with a Conservancy membership. Now more than ever we rely on the support of our members to keep the Park accessible and safe during the snowy winter months. Members receive insider access to members-only events, discounts at participating in-Park vendors, and reduced ticket prices for Official Central Park Tours. Visit centralparknyc.org/members to join today.

Food and Drink

Le Pain Quotidien, Sheep Meadow at 69th Street: **10%** discount, excludes alcohol

Kerbs Boathouse Cafe, Conservatory Water at 74th Street: **15%** discount

In-Park Amusement

Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, West 79th Street: **10%** discount in gift shop

Victorian Gardens (Seasonal), inside Wollman Rink between 62nd and 63rd Streets: **2 for 1 admission**, Monday to Thursday

Official Central Park Tours

Members receive **\$5 off** all Official Central Park Tours. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours

Official Central Park Gear: 10% discount

Dairy Visitor Center and Gift Shop, Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

Central Park Conservancy Online Store. Shop now at centralparknyc.org/shop

MEMBER EVENTS



Annual Skating Party

Bundle up and join the celebration! Our Annual Skating Party offers Conservancy members an exclusive invitation to take a spin around Wollman Rink in celebration of this cheerful season!

Tuesday, January 31

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Wollman Rink

(General Members \$250+)



Greensward Circle's Volunteer Day

Our young professionals group knows the best way to stay warm this winter: take part in a volunteer day and help keep the Park beautiful for seasons to come! Visit centralparknyc.org/greensward to learn more.

Saturday, March 18

Saturday, April 15

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

(Greensward Circle Members)

Visit centralparknyc.org/mp to stay updated on our members-only events throughout the year. 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

 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

W 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

E 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

