

YOUR MONTHLY MILE | February 2017

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 the Central Park Conservancy's mission to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.



1 Alexander Hamilton

Don't miss this granite monument to one of the nation's Founding Fathers. The larger-than-life-size statue was donated to Central Park in 1880 by the eminent statesman's son, John C. Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton was one of the distinguished residents of the neighborhood now known as Hamilton Heights. After being fatally wounded in a duel with political rival Aaron Burr in 1804, he was buried in Lower Manhattan's Trinity Church cemetery.



2 Delacorte Theater

Though closed in winter, the Delacorte Theater is the summer home of New York City's Public Theater. Their motto, "Culture belongs to everyone," has been in practice every year – for more than 45 years – when they offer free tickets to anyone willing to wait in line for their *Shakespeare in the Park* series. In the quieter winter months, there's still something to see: the Theater's entrance features two life-sized sculptures of iconic characters from Shakespeare's plays: *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest*.



3 Winterdale Arch

Easily recognizable to anyone who has waited in line for the aforementioned free tickets, this granite and sandstone arch has the largest span of all of the Park's stone-and-brick arches. The arch had deteriorated significantly over time, and its ornamental cast-iron railings were destroyed by multiple traffic accidents. In 1993, the Conservancy restored Winterdale Arch and reconstructed the railings that had been missing for 50 years.



4 Diana Ross Playground

In 1983, Diana Ross held two concerts on the Great Lawn that are remembered as the stuff of legends. She pledged a portion of the proceeds for a new playground in the Park, but after a storm necessitated rescheduling the concert for the next night, she insisted she would donate the playground anyway. Ross called creating the playground at Central Park West and 81st Street "one of the most fulfilling aspects of [her] life and career."



5 Summit Rock

At 141.8 feet, Summit Rock is the highest natural elevation in Central Park. This massive bedrock outcrop was intended to provide a view across the Hudson River to the New Jersey Palisades. Over the years this view has been reduced to a sliver along West 83rd Street, but thanks to restorations undertaken by the Conservancy in 1997, it's still a worthwhile vista to take in from one of the landscape's stone benches.



6 Seneca Village

Prior to the Park's construction, the landscape from West 83rd to 88th Streets was the site of Seneca Village, the largest community of free African-American property owners in antebellum New York. Half of the residents owned their land, which was important in an era when property ownership was required for citizens to vote. When construction of Central Park began in 1856, Seneca Village residents were among the 1,600 people forced to relocate.