

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY WINTER GUIDE

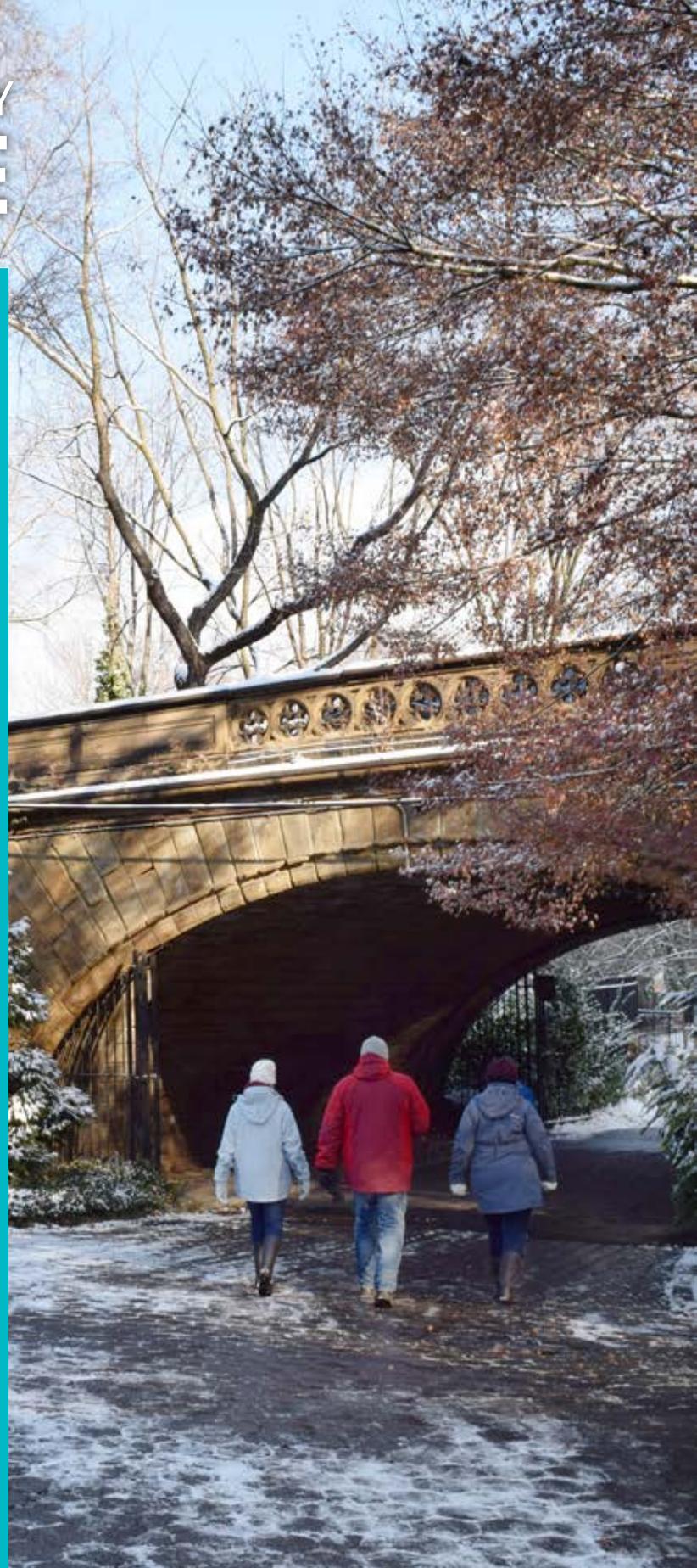
With the cold temperatures, bare trees, and picturesque snow, winter is a peaceful time of year to explore New York City's backyard. Our Winter Guide has all you need to know about spending this season in Central Park.

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 75% of the Park's annual budget from private sources and is responsible for all of the essential work that keeps Central Park beautiful.

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WINTER ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL PARK

Don't let the cold keep you from Central Park this winter! With fun, year-round destinations like Chess & Checkers House and the Carousel — and snowy activities like sledding and ice-skating — there is so much to see and do this season.

1. Visit our *Landforms* exhibit

Learn how natural features in Central Park's north end played an important role in our country's history by browsing this free exhibit in the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center.

Location: Inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

2. Go ice-skating

Take in the surrounding views while you skate on one of the Park's ice rinks: Wollman Rink or Lasker Rink. Both offer skate and locker rentals. When conditions permit and the ice is consistently at least six inches thick, Conservatory Water also opens for free ice-skating — just bring your own skates!

Locations: Lasker Rink: Mid-Park between 106th and 108th Streets

Conservatory Water: East Side from 72nd to 75th Street

Wollman Rink: East Side between 62nd and 63rd Streets

3. Explore the Arthur Ross Pinetum

In their design of Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux included a "Winter Drive" of pines, spruces, and firs from 72nd to 102nd Street. By the late 1800s, when these trees needed replacement, deciduous ones took their place. In the 1970s, philanthropist Arthur Ross set out to return pine trees to Central Park (and hide the buildings along the 86th Street Transverse Road from sight). The Pinetum now features 17 different species of pine trees.

Location: Mid-Park between 84th and 86th Streets



Arthur Ross Pinetum

WINTER ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL PARK (CONTINUED)



Cedar Hill

4. Go sledding

Cedar Hill is open for sledding when there is at least six inches of snow cover on the ground and conditions permit. For another popular sledding destination in the Park, visit Pilgrim Hill.

Locations: Cedar Hill: East Side from 76th to 79th Street
Pilgrim Hill: East Side at 72nd Street

5. Admire the Bethesda Terrace Arcade

Watch the falling snow from this magnificent space between the Mall and Bethesda Fountain. Did you know that this is the only place in the world to find a Minton tile ceiling?

Location: Mid-Park at 72nd Street

6. Ride the Carousel

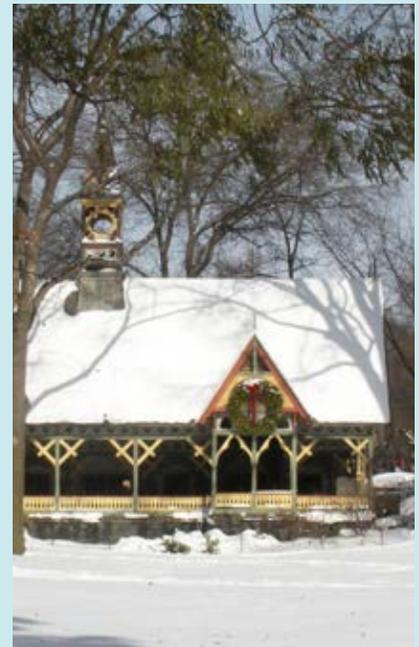
Central Park's famed Carousel features calliope music and 57 horses. NYC Parks discovered the current vintage carousel abandoned in an old trolley terminal on Coney Island before bringing it to its current location. It is the fourth carousel to stand in the Park since it opened in 1871 and remains one of the largest carousels in the U.S. The Carousel operates on a limited schedule in the winter, weather permitting. Call 212.439.6900 (ext. 4) for hours, admission fees, and more information.

Location: Mid-Park at 65th Street

7. Go shopping

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

Location: Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets



VISITOR CENTERS

Central Park's visitor centers are a great place to start any winter adventure! Grab a free map and learn about the Park from our friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

Inside Central Park at 110th Street
between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

Belvedere Castle

Mid-Park at 79th Street

Note: Belvedere Castle will close for renovations beginning Winter 2018.

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

WINTER ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL PARK (CONTINUED)



Delacorte Clock

8. Play board games

Chess & Checkers House features outdoor chess and checkers tables. Visitors are welcome to borrow chess and checkers pieces from Conservancy staff, or bring their own. A variety of other games, including Scrabble and Jenga, are also available to play inside.

Location: Mid-Park at 64th Street

9. Listen to tunes at the Delacorte Clock

This popular clock near the Zoo rings seasonal chimes and nursery rhymes every half hour from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The clock sits atop a three-tiered tower and features a band of animals including monkeys, a penguin, a hippo, and a kangaroo. The animals circle the tower to 44 tunes that change seasonally.

Location: Inside the Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue

10. Visit the Central Park Zoo

Managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Zoo is open year-round. Its residents include sea lions, penguins, seals, and snow leopards. Families with children can continue north to the Tisch Children's Zoo, home to potbellied pigs, sheep, and the only cow in Manhattan.

Location: East Side between 63rd and 66th Streets

Take a tour

From corner to corner, Central Park is filled with fascinating destinations and secrets. The best way to learn about the Park's rich history is to take a tour. Browse our various offerings at centralparknyc.org/tours to find the ones that interest you most.

Location: Throughout the Park

DON'T FORGET

Enjoy Central Park safely this winter with these important tips.



Before coming to Central Park during a snowstorm or blizzard, check our Twitter at twitter.com/centralparknyc or our alerts and closures page at centralparknyc.org/alerts for updates on the Park's status.



Never go out on the ice of any Central Park water body, and don't let your dog go out either! Falling into frigid water can cause life-threatening hypothermia within minutes. If you see someone in danger on, in, or near a Central Park water body, call 911.



Some Central Park restrooms are closed during the winter season — see our official map on page 8 for locations. Many restrooms are maintained by other organizations, and may be closed due to snowfall without notice. These include the facilities at the Arsenal, Le Pain Quotidien (Mineral Springs), Tavern on the Green, the Kerbs Boathouse at Conservatory Water, the Loeb Boathouse, and the Tennis House.

WINTER ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL PARK (CONTINUED)



Build a snowman

This classic snow day activity is easy with so much space in New York City's backyard! Looking to build on a large lawn? Though many lawns are closed in the winter to let them rest, we open them when there is more than six inches of snow cover on the ground (and conditions permit) because that's enough snow to protect the lawns and still let them rest.

Location: Throughout the Park

Borrow a Discovery Kit

Stop by a visitor center (see our list on page 3) and borrow a Discovery Kit for an in-Park adventure! Discovery Kit backpacks are filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, a hand lens, colored pencils, and sketch paper.

Location: Throughout the Park

Go cross country skiing or snowshoeing

Visitors can cross country ski or snowshoe through Central Park's wide-open meadows or along the bridle path, which we leave snow-covered in the winter to protect its soft surface.

Location: Throughout the Park

Take a self-guided walk

There are countless scenic routes to take through the Park. From north to south, the Park's landscapes invite you to wander. Why not do it at your own pace? If you're curious where to start (or where to end), visit centralparknyc.org/walks for some of our suggestions.

Location: Throughout the Park



CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH FLOWERS IN CENTRAL PARK

Flowers have always been a classic go-to gift for anyone looking to spark some romance. For a small donation, the Conservancy will plant daffodils, tulips, or mums in Central Park in honor of a special person.

[Buy Now](#)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS



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

Before Central Park was created, the landscape along the Park's perimeter from West 82nd to West 89th Street was home to Seneca Village, the largest community of free African-American property owners in antebellum New York. This community existed from 1825 to 1857 and was home to more than 250 African-American, German, and Irish residents. Learn about the history of the village, its property owners, and what New York City was like at that time.

Monday, January 15

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Inside the Park at 85th Street
and Central Park West

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Thursday, February 1 &

Sunday, February 18

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Inside the Park at 85th Street
and Central Park West

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

THE SECRETS OF SENECA VILLAGE

In an ongoing effort to learn more about life in Seneca Village, Columbia University and The City University of New York professors conducted a 2011 archeological dig of the site. They recovered artifacts such as an iron tea kettle, a roasting pan, a stoneware beer bottle, fragments of Chinese export porcelain, and a small shoe with a leather sole and fabric upper. These helped form our understanding of what life was like in Seneca Village. Despite its short history of only 32 years, Seneca Village is remembered as a strong community that served as a stabilizing and empowering force in uncertain times.



Northern Forts Tour

Central Park's north end played an important role in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The area's high ground and expansive views made it an important strategic outlook, while its rocky and swampy terrain made it difficult to infiltrate. This area is now known as the Fort Landscape, where forts have been integrated into the Park's designs as overlooks. Celebrate President's Day with this tour of several fort sites and the Harlem Meer.

Monday, February 19

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

(Inside the Park at 110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)

Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Discovery Walk for Families: Time Travelers

Looking for a kid-friendly exploration of the Park's north end? This President's Day, bring the whole family for a guided exploration of the Park's historic Fort Landscape, that features hands-on fun with Discovery Kits — rugged backpacks filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, and hand lenses. Families with children ages 5+ only; no groups, please.

Monday, February 19

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

(Inside the Park at 110th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues)

FREE

Discovery Programs are generously supported by The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation.

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

Join Today

STUDENT PROGRAMS



ROOTS

The ROOTS (Restoration of the Outdoors Organized by Teen Students) program gives high school students the opportunity to volunteer for a semester-long ecological restoration and management project 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.

Saturdays, March 3 – May 26

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Application Deadline: January 26

Visit programapps.centralparknyc.org to apply.



Green Careers Panel Series

Interested in the environment and urban sustainability? Considering this field as a career? High school and early college students are invited to learn how their environmental interests can translate to careers in the urban realm. Our Green Careers Panel Series features interactive panels that explore careers in landscape management, ecology, urban planning, data/asset management, fundraising, social science, education, sustainability, public/community engagement, landscape architecture, and policy.

Wednesdays, January 17 – February 14

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Visit centralparknyc.org/greencareers to learn more and register.

Youth Education & Service Programs are generously supported by The Barker Welfare Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, Abraham Perلمان Foundation, and William E. Weiss Foundation, Inc./Daryl Brown Uber.



RUN THE 2018 UNITED AIRLINES NYC HALF WITH TEAM CENTRAL PARK!

Runners, now is your chance to make your miles matter and run for Central Park! Join Team Central Park and receive guaranteed entry into the 2018 United Airlines NYC Half. Runners can pledge to donate or fundraise a minimum of \$1,000 for the Conservancy in exchange for receiving guaranteed entry into the race and other team benefits.

Limited spots are available.

[Register Now](#)

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 & Gift Shop

Central Park West at 59th Street

Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Mid-Park at 65th Street

Points of Interest

 WEST

- W 59 Maine Monument
- W 65 Carousel
- W 66 Tavern on the Green
- W 69 Mineral Springs
- W 74 Bow Bridge
- W 75 Ladies Pavilion
- W 79 Shakespeare Garden / Marionette Theatre at the Swedish Cottage
- W 80 Delacorte Theater
- W 95 Tennis Courts
- W 109 Blockhouse

 EAST

- E 60 Grand Army Plaza
- E 62 Gapstow Bridge
- E 62 Wollman Rink
- E 63 Central Park Zoo
- 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 74 Alice in Wonderland
- E 81 Obelisk
- E 105 Conservatory Garden
- E 106 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

