WANDERING THE NORTH WOODS

Discover the peaceful, wild woodland that's little-known to most visitors.





1 The Pool

With its grassy banks, weeping willows, and rushing waterfall, the Pool is one of the most idyllic spots in the Park and features many species of birds, fish, and amphibians. A naturalistic boulder grotto at the southwest of the Pool is a well-concealed reminder that Central Park is entirely man-made. Behind the boulder, a 48-inch pipe feeds the Pool fresh water from the Reservoir just half a mile south.



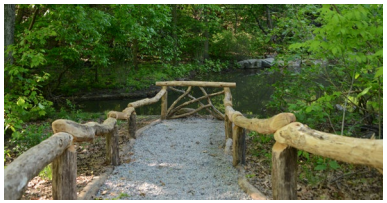
2 Glen Span Arch

Glen Span Arch is one of two rustic arches that form the boundaries of the Ravine, the stream valley of the North Woods (which you'll explore even further later on this walk). Glen Span arches over the stream, called the Loch, at its south end, with Huddlestone Arch at its north end. Both stone structures are sunken into the Park's landscape. The structure carries the West Drive above, while a narrow footpath runs under it along the water.



3 Huddlestone Arch

A marvel of engineering and construction, Huddlestone Arch is considered by many to be the most surprising of Central Park's arches. Built entirely of huge, uncut boulders, this arch contains no mortar or other binding material. Only gravity and pressure keep the massive boulders in place. As you retrace your steps to make your way further into the North Woods, admire the Ravine's paths, landscapes, and rustic features.



4 The North Woods

Make your way further into the thickly forested North Woods. This woodland evokes the naturalistic spirit of the Adirondack Mountains—fallen trees, or snags, are left where they land (unless hazardous or obscuring paths), providing nutrients to surrounding plants, homes to wildlife, and a natural look to the landscape. The North Woods is a favorite spot of birdwatchers, runners, and hikers.



5 The Blockhouse

Built in 1814, the Blockhouse is the only remaining fortification that was built to defend against the British during the War of 1812. It has the distinction of being Central Park's longest-standing structure. This rugged stone structure once had a sunken wooden roof and mobile cannon that could be deployed quickly.



6 The Great Hill

Located at one of the Park's highest points, the Great Hill is an open hilltop meadow with picnic tables, a quarter-mile soft surface oval path, and a ring of stately trees. It offers spectacular views of the north end of the Park and the Manhattan skyline. This area is popular for picnics, lawn games, and running or race walking on the oval track.

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

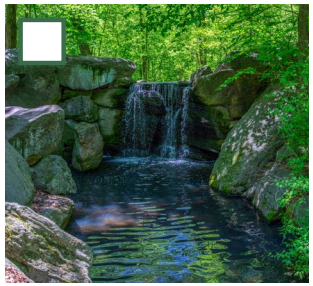
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Your North Woods Scavenger Hunt

As you explore the North Woods, take your time and use your senses to discover all the magical details of the landscape. Check off the items that you find and experience along the scenic route. Happy exploring!



☐ The massive boulder on the western side of Huddlestone Arch



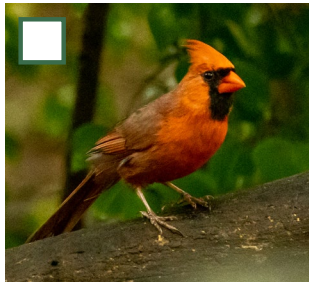
☐ A waterfall



☐ A chipmunk



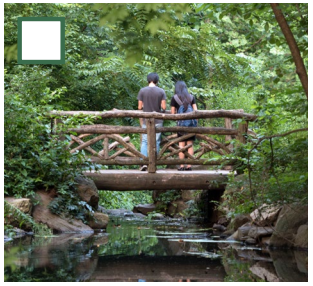
☐ A sweetgum ball



☐ A cardinal



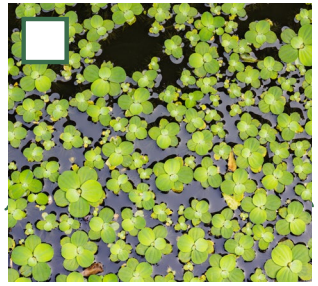
☐ Fungi (mushrooms) growing on a log



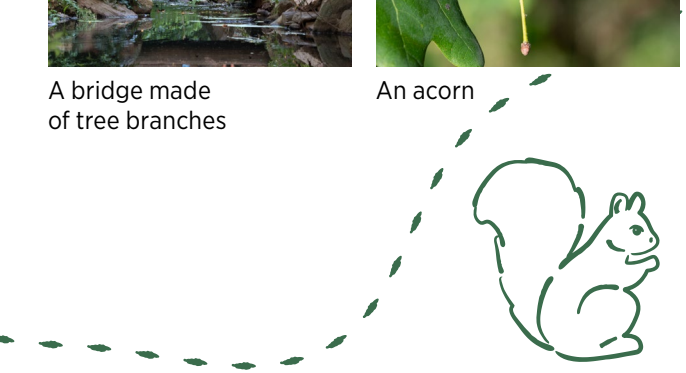
☐ A bridge made of tree branches



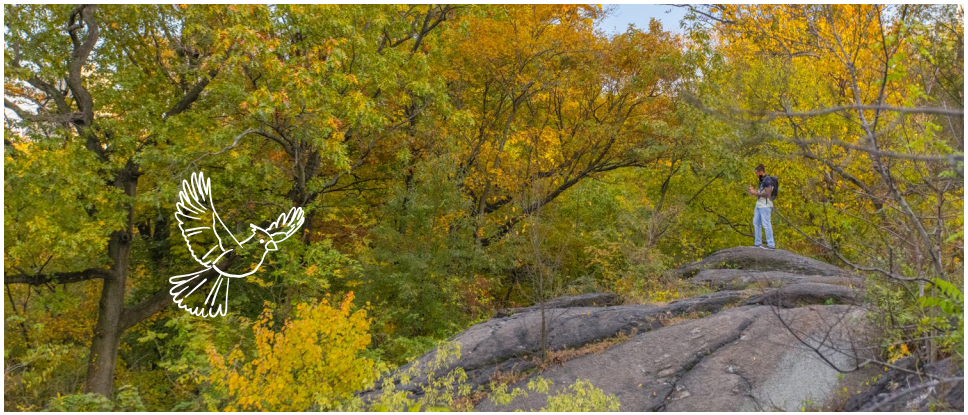
☐ An acorn



☐ Duckweed



Experience the North Woods



- ✓ Take a selfie with a friendly raccoon, cardinal or bluejay.
- ✓ Listen to the sounds: rushing waterfalls, crunching leaves, and singing birds.
- ✓ Ask Central Park Conservancy staff a question about the North Woods.
- ✓ Observe fallen branches and leaves—providing habitat to wildlife and protecting the woodland soil.
- ✓ Share your favorite thing you saw in the woods today with a friend.

ABOUT CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

The mission of the Conservancy is to preserve and celebrate Central Park as a sanctuary from the pace and pressures of city life, enhancing the enjoyment and wellbeing of all.

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

