



CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY WINTER GUIDE

It might be cold outside, but don't let that stop you — winter is one of the best seasons to spend in Central Park! There's an array of indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy, from cozy marionette shows in the Swedish Cottage to exhilarating snowy-weather fun like sledding.

Browse our Winter Guide then resist the urge to hibernate and come explore everything the Park has to offer.

The Central Park Conservancy's mission is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public.

**CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**
central to the park



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MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK



Whether you're the outdoorsy type who loves to bound through the snow or you'd rather cozy up indoors, there are plenty of activities for you to enjoy in Central Park.

1. EXPLORE OUR LANDFORMS EXHIBIT

Warm up your mind (and body) inside the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, where you can view our free exhibit on the history of the Park's Fort Landscape, shaped by both geology and America's military history.

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

2. STRAP ON SOME SKATES

What says "winter in New York City" more than ice skating under the skyline? Situated at each end of the Park, Wollman and Lasker Rinks are wonderful locations to spend some time gliding across the ice. Each rink offers skate and locker rentals; hours and ticket prices vary. And when conditions permit, bring your own skates to Conservatory Water, which opens for free ice skating when the ice is consistently at least six inches thick.

Locations: Wollman Rink: East Side between 62nd and 63rd Streets; Lasker Rink: Mid-Park between 106th and 108th Streets; Conservatory Water: East Side from 72nd to 75th Street

3. WANDER THROUGH THE ARTHUR ROSS PINETUM

Need a little green? Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux included a "Winter Drive" of pines, spruces, and firs from 72nd to 102nd Street in their design of the Park. The pines had lived their lifespans and were replaced by deciduous varieties in the late 1800s. In the 1970s, philanthropist Arthur Ross set out to restore the area to its original glory — and today it features 17 different species of pines.

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

4. ENJOY A LEAF-FREE VIEW OF THE OBELISK, THEN WARM UP AT THE MET

Winter is the best time to get a clear view of the Park's oldest man-made object: the Obelisk (or Cleopatra's Needle), hailing from ancient Egypt and dating to about 1450 B.C. Shoot some fabulous photos, then head over to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to bask in the glow of some of the world's greatest masterpieces.

Location: The Obelisk: East Side at 81st Street; Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street



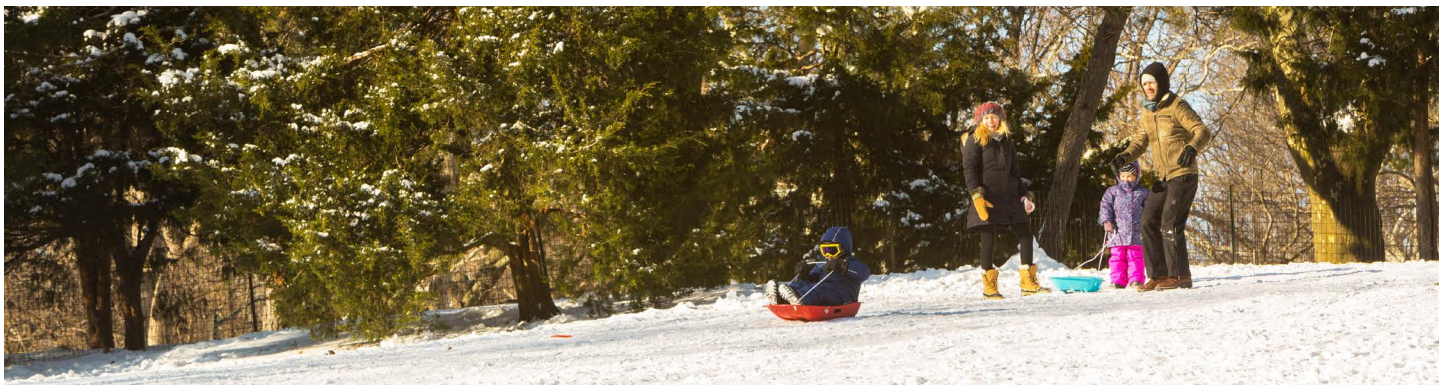
The Obelisk

Explore the scenery at your own speed

Winter in Central Park is the most dramatic time to enjoy its many spectacular areas. There's an array of scenic routes that are perfect for meandering — why not enjoy all of that glorious beauty at your own pace? If you're interested in some tips on where to start, visit [our website](#) for a few suggestions.

MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK

continued



Cedar Hill

5. CATCH A SHOW AT THE SWEDISH COTTAGE MARIONETTE THEATRE

Providing the perfect winter atmosphere, the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre offers delightful, family-friendly performances. Under the direction of the City Parks Foundation, the beautiful rustic building is home to one of the last public marionette companies in the country — and you can see its popular original production, *Yeti, Set, Snow!*, now through February. You can even participate in a puppet building workshop after select performances. Prices vary and tickets are [available on the City Parks Foundation's website](#).

Location: West Side at 79th Street

6. GRAB YOUR SLED

Take a thrill ride on Central Park's slopes! We recommend enjoying the fresh snow on Pilgrim Hill and Cedar Hill, which open for sledding when there is at least six inches of snow cover on the ground and conditions permit. Bring your sled and let gravity do the rest!

Locations: Pilgrim Hill: East Side at 72nd Street; Cedar Hill: East Side between 76th and 79th Streets

7. ENJOY THE BETHESDA TERRACE ARCADE

Winter is the perfect time to admire one of Central Park's most architecturally stunning features. If there's a snowstorm, there's no better place to take shelter and enjoy the seasonal show than under the Arcade. While you're hanging out, take a closer look at the exquisite Minton tile ceiling, which dates to the 1860s.

Location: Mid-Park at 72nd Street

8. TAKE A CAROUSEL RIDE

A tradition since 1871, this is the site's fourth carousel — a true gem built in 1908 that was discovered abandoned in an old Coney Island trolley terminal. Hop on one of its hand-carved and painted horses, or cuddle up in one of the two chariots and enjoy the ride, accompanied by the old-timey sounds of vintage calliope music. Tickets are \$3.25 each; winter hours are 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, weather permitting.

Location: Mid-Park at 65th Street

Warm up with food or a beverage

Craving a quick snack or hungry for a full meal? There are plenty of places in the Park that serve food and drinks.

LOEB BOATHOUSE

Grab a bite at the Boathouse Express Cafe, or enjoy a more formal meal at the Lakeside Restaurant, which offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as a full bar and weekend brunch.

Location: East Side between 74th and 75th Streets

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN AT KERBS BOATHOUSE

On the east side of Conservatory Water near 73rd Street, Le Pain Quotidien serves breakfast, sandwiches, and drinks.

Location: East Side at 74th Street

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN AT MINERAL SPRINGS

Just north of Sheep Meadow, Le Pain Quotidien offers sandwiches, handmade breads, healthy salads, bakery fare, and beverages.

Location: Mid-Park at 69th Street

TAVERN ON THE GREEN

Originally built in 1870 as a sheepfold for the sheep who grazed on nearby Sheep Meadow, it was converted into a restaurant in 1934, and offers lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch.

Location: West Side between 66th and 67th Streets

DANCING CRANE CAFE AT THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO

Just south of the Zoo, this cafe features a variety of full meals, snacks, and beverages.

Location: Inside the Central Park Zoo at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue

Hours vary. Concession carts selling snacks and beverages are also located throughout the Park.

MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK

continued

9. COZY UP WITH A BOARD GAME

Challenge your family and friends to board games in the warmth of the Chess & Checkers House, one of the Park's five visitor centers. You can either borrow game pieces from Conservancy staff or bring your own, then sit down to a match at one of our indoor chess and checkers tables. A variety of other games, including Scrabble and Jenga, are also available.

Location: Mid-Park at 64th Street

10. ENJOY THE MUSIC AT THE DELACORTE CLOCK

While you're heading to the Zoo — or just passing through — check the time, because every half hour between 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, the George Delacorte Musical Clock rings seasonally appropriate chimes and nursery rhymes. Housed atop a three-tiered tower, its "band" members include a penguin, kangaroo, and hippo.

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

11. HEAD TO THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO

Curious what the animals are up to in the winter? The Central Park Zoo is open year-round, so you can spend some time catching up with the Zoo's menagerie — including the ones that especially thrive this time of year, like the penguins and snow leopards. Also managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Tisch Children's Zoo offers families with children the opportunity to say hello to a variety of furry friends, including Manhattan's only cow. Prices vary; tickets are [available on the Central Park Zoo's website](#). Winter hours are 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Location: East Side between 63rd and 66th Streets

12. SEE WHAT'S ON DISPLAY AT THE ARSENAL GALLERY

Located just to the east of the Zoo, the Arsenal is one of two buildings that predate the creation of Central Park. It's home to the Arsenal Gallery, situated on the third floor of the building. Exhibitions vary throughout the year; to see what's on, visit [NYC Parks' website](#). The Arsenal Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Location: 64th Street and Fifth Avenue

13. BUILD A SNOWMAN

Engage in that most classic of snow-day activities and fill Central Park with your own creative sculptures! There's plenty of room throughout the Park, and though many lawns, such as Sheep Meadow, are closed in the winter to let them rest — we open them when they are protected by more than six inches of snow cover on the ground (and conditions permit).

Location: Throughout the Park



Central Park Zoo



Arthur Ross Pinetum

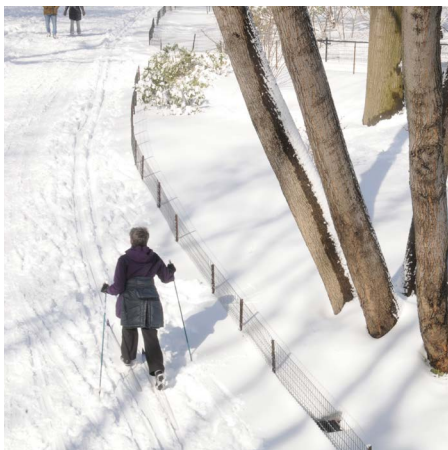
Safety tips

Enjoy Central Park safely this winter with these important tips and reminders.

- Before coming to Central Park during a snowstorm or blizzard, check our [Twitter](#) or [alerts and closures page](#) for updates on the Park's status.
- Never go out onto 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 and most Park drinking fountains are turned off during the winter season — see our [official map](#) for open 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 at Mineral Springs and the Kerbs Boathouse, Tavern on the Green, the Loeb Boathouse, and the Tennis House.

MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK

continued



Cross-country skiing



Seneca Village Tour



Heckscher Playground

14. GO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING OR SNOWSHOEING

Winter is one of the best times to take advantage of the vastness of Central Park's 843 acres. After a significant snowstorm, Central Park's wide-open meadows and bridle path offer the perfect avenues for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

Location: Throughout the Park

15. SNAP THE GORGEOUSNESS

Central Park in winter offers photographers of all stripes the chance to shoot some spectacular images. With the leaves off the trees, certain vistas are even more expansive, and when the Park is covered in snow and ice forms on the bodies of water, experimenting in black-and-white is the name of the game. Don't miss the Park's arches this time of year, either — their designs are set off even more gorgeously in the snow. Share your snaps on social media and tag @centralparknyc!

Location: We Love Inscope Arch on a Snowy Day (East Side at 62nd Street)

16. BORROW A DISCOVERY KIT

Available at our visitor centers ([listed on page 6](#)), you can borrow a Discovery Kit, which will lead you on a self-guided adventure through the Park. These special backpacks contain kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, a hand lens, colored pencils, and sketch paper.

Location: Throughout the Park

17. COMPLETE A DISCOVERY JOURNAL

Available at any visitor center ([or on our website](#)), Discovery Journals are filled with activities to help kids learn more about the connections between the design, plants, wildlife, and people in Central Park. Best for ages 6-10.

Location: Throughout the Park

18. ENJOY A DISCOVERY WALK FOR FAMILIES

On these free adventures for parents and children of all ages, you'll learn more about Central Park's people, plants, and wildlife. These fun, creative outings are especially engaging for kids, and include special guided, hands-on activities. See [page 9](#) or visit [our website](#) for upcoming listings and to register.

Location: Throughout the Park

19. TAKE AN OFFICIAL CENTRAL PARK TOUR

Bundle up and explore Central Park with one of our guides! Learn more about the Park's many iconic destinations and fascinating secrets. Topics range from the Park's history and landmarks to its nature. Take one of our year-round tours or a special one tailored just for the season. Browse some of our recommended highlights on [page 7](#) or visit [our website](#) to see our full listing and register.

Location: Throughout the Park

20. VISIT A PLAYGROUND

Central Park's numerous playgrounds are open year-round (if conditions allow), and they're a great way for the kids to release some energy if they've been spending a little too much time indoors. For example, at almost two acres, Heckscher Playground (Mid-Park at 61st to 63rd Street) is the perfect place for wintertime play — and the bathroom is one of a handful that stays open during the winter!

Location: Throughout the Park



VISITOR CENTERS

Stop by one of Central Park's visitor centers to warm up, pick up a free map, and learn more 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

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

Visitor centers are open from
10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

CARING FOR CENTRAL PARK IN THE WINTER



Pio Davilla

While Central Park is graced with countless sledding, skating, and snowshoeing aficionados during the winter, this season's real MVPs are the Central Park Conservancy Operations staff.

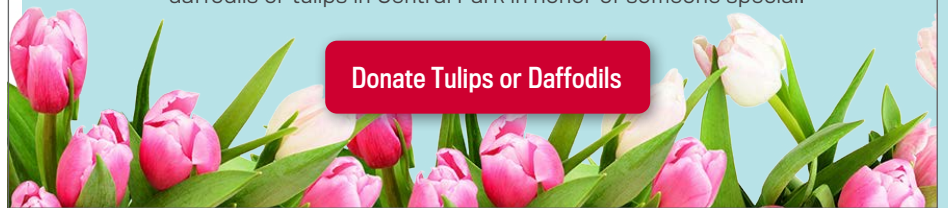
Our dedicated crew works before, during, and after snowfall to keep the paths and select fields safe for visitors. This means staff members come in for shifts late at night and early in the morning to ensure that all necessary preparation and maintenance is completed while the fewest people are in the Park.

And just because a storm has stopped doesn't mean our crew has — Conservancy staff is often cleaning up snow for days after a weather event. **What can you do to help?** Stay clear of all large machinery, especially plows and snow-throwers. That goes for you, children you are supervising, and pets you are walking on-leash.

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 or tulips in Central Park in honor of someone special.

Donate Tulips or Daffodils



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. Enjoy a year-round signature offering or take one of our special seasonal tours below. Visit [our website](#) to purchase tickets and see our full schedule of tours.



WINTER TREE WALK: EAST MEADOW | Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Friday, January 10 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Friday, February 7 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Friday, March 6 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Stroll through the idyllic East Meadow, appreciating some of the most beautiful beech trees in Central Park, along with other species that give the area its character. You'll learn the difference between some native and non-native trees, and get tips to identify the most common tree in the Park.



WINTER TREE WALK: GREAT LAWN | Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Saturday, January 25 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Saturday, February 22 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Friday, March 13 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Formerly the site of a reservoir, the Great Lawn is now home to an array of flora and fauna. Discover the history of the area and more about the trees on this famous pastoral landscape. You'll hear how the Conservancy cares for the Park's trees and learn how to identify many species.



SENECA VILLAGE TOUR | Free throughout the month of February, otherwise tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Join the Conservancy in exploring the history of Seneca Village, the largest community of African-American property owners in 19th-century New York. All Seneca Village tours will be FREE throughout the month of February in honor of Black History Month. Can't make it to a tour? The Conservancy's exhibit of interpretive signage, offering a glimpse into pre-Park history, is on display through October 2020. You can also [download a map](#) before you go or pick up a brochure at any visitor center (see our list on [page 6](#)) and explore at your own pace.



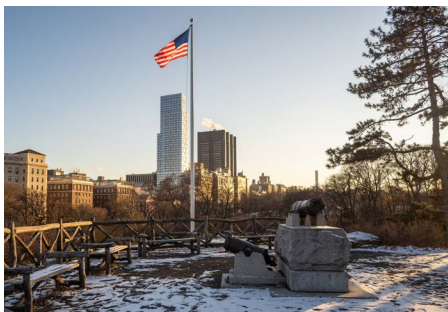
VALENTINE'S DAY STROLL | Tickets: \$25 (Members \$20)

Friday, February 14 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Bring your Valentine for a special Valentine's Day Stroll and see some of Central Park's most romantic places! All visitors will start the tour with a free hot beverage at Le Pain Quotidien and a special Valentine's Day gift from the Conservancy.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

continued



NORTHERN FORTS TOUR | Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Saturday, February 15 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sunday, February 16 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

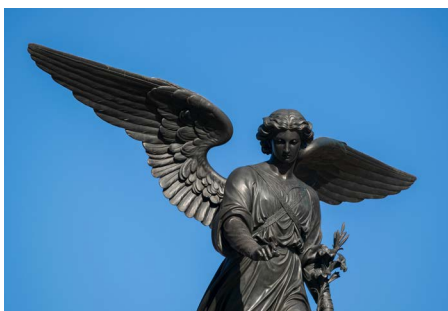
Central Park's north end played an important role in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The area's high ground and expansive views made it an important strategic outlook, while its rocky and swampy terrain made it difficult to infiltrate. This area is now known as the Fort Landscape, where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



MEMORIAL WALK | Free

Monday, February 17 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Take a walk through time to see how generations of New Yorkers have used the Park as a place to remember and honor our veterans. This guided tour — offered on Presidents' Day — takes visitors to Maine Monument, the Navy Walk and Terrace, and the Red Cross Flagpole, and other landmarks.



CENTRAL PARK'S MONUMENTAL WOMEN | Tickets: \$15 (Members \$10)

Saturday, March 7 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sunday, March 8 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 11 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 18 | 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Celebrate Women's History Month with a special tour featuring the stories of several women who helped create, inspire, and place monuments and memorials throughout Central Park. Visit a number of iconic sites including the Pulitzer Fountain, Wollman Rink, and Bethesda Terrace.



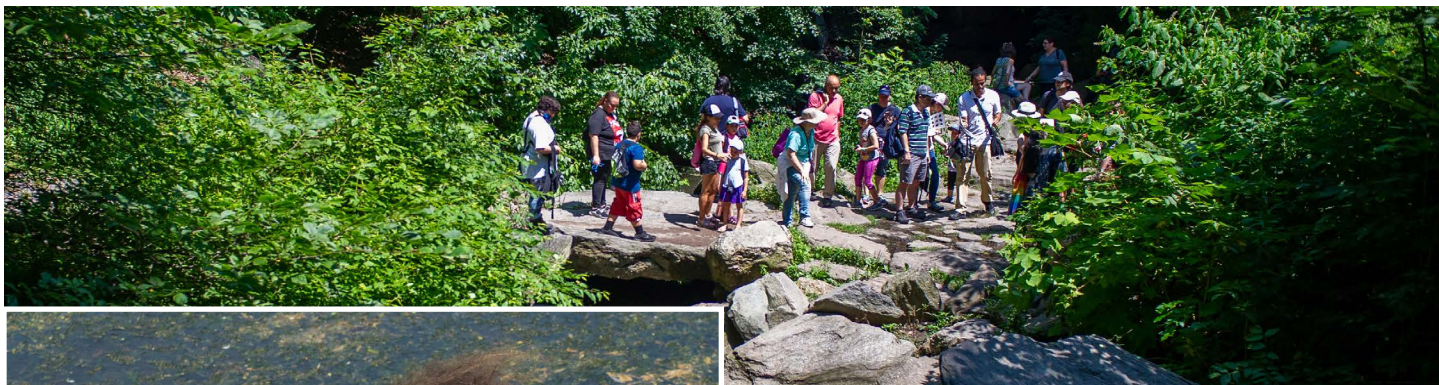
Run the 2020 United Airlines NYC Half with Team Central Park!

As an Official Charity Partner of the Sunday, March 15 event, the Central Park Conservancy has a limited number of guaranteed entries available for runners in the United Airlines NYC Half. Now is your chance to participate in this premier race by joining Team Central Park. 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](#)

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.

Discovery Walks for Families take place on weekends and select school holidays at various landscapes throughout the Park. Visit [our website](#) to see a full listing and to register.

THE HARLEM MEER

The rocky landscape surrounding the Harlem Meer has a storied history. Join our guides to learn more about how the area has changed over time, the plants and animals that live there today, and how the Conservancy cares for this complex ecosystem.

TURTLE POND

Discover Turtle Pond — home to five species of turtles who live here year-round. Learn why they love basking in the sun on flat logs and rocks, which makes the base of Vista Rock the perfect spot for their sunbathing activities.

JOIN OUR DISCOVERY CLUB

Participate in our free family programs to learn about nature and the history of Central Park — and collect exploration tools along the way! The more programs your family enjoys, the richer your experiences with the Park will be.

Join the club by getting your activity card. Earn a punch on your card each time you complete various family activities, including borrowing a Discovery Kit, going on a free Discovery Walk for Families, completing a Discovery Journal, and more.

Collect 5 punches to receive a free Discovery Notebook. Young Central Park explorers can jot down findings and observations in this rugged notebook.

Collect 10 punches to receive a free Discovery Club bandana. Kids can wear it with pride as an official steward of Central Park!

Rewards are available at all visitor centers. Get the activity card at one of our visitor centers, at an eligible program, or by visiting [our website](#).





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 and
Lenox Avenues

Belvedere Castle
Mid-Park at 79th Street

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

Points of Interest

W WEST

W 103 The Ravine / The Loch

W 101 The Pool

W 79 Shakespeare Garden

W 79 Belvedere Castle

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
- P** Playground
- K** Information Kiosk
- F** Food / Closed in Winter
- R** Restroom / Closed in Winter
- W** 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**