



CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY FALL GUIDE

Fall is a dazzling time of year to explore Central Park! There's the refreshing, crisp air; the colorful fall foliage; and plenty of free events and outdoor activities. As the leaves start to transform into golden shades of yellow, orange, and red, use this Fall Guide to take advantage of all that Central Park has to offer.

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

**CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**
central to the park



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WHERE TO FIND FALL FOLIAGE IN CENTRAL PARK



Each fall, many of Central Park's approximately 18,000 trees transform into golden shades of yellow, orange, red, and more. It's one of the Park's most photogenic times of year!

If you're looking for a self-guided adventure to find the Park's most amazing autumn colors, don't miss the following landscapes.

1. THE NORTH WOODS

It's hard to miss the reds, oranges, and yellows in the North Woods this time of year. As one of the Park's three woodlands, it offers people and wildlife an oasis of nature in the middle of New York City. You can take in amazing views of the North Woods' watercourse, the Loch (Scottish for "lake"), and its many rustic features against a backdrop of fall colors.

2. CONSERVATORY GARDEN

The glorious crabapple allées in Conservatory Garden turn reddish-orange in the fall. Combined with the Garden's huge chrysanthemum display that is in full bloom in the North Garden around the time of peak fall foliage, this part of the Park makes for a must-see destination each autumn.

3. THE POOL

The Pool serves as a stunning spot to admire the foliage turn of trees like the red maple, hickory, tupelo, bald cypress, and sugar maple. It also doubles as a great spot to see turtles, birds, fish, and other wildlife. Be sure to look for the rustic bridge and waterfall just east of the Pool — continuing east from here, you'll enter the North Woods.

4. NORTH MEADOW AND THE RESERVOIR

Amid the soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and touch football games at the North Meadow each fall are the colorful leaves of the hickory, sugar maple, and flowering dogwood. From here, it's a short walk to the Reservoir. On the Reservoir's west side, you'll find the Kwanzan cherry, which turns bronze and red in the fall. On the east side, you'll see the Yoshino cherry, which becomes yellow and features sharply contrasting bark. Take a walk on the bridle path surrounding the Reservoir to catch all the colors.

5. THE RAMBLE

Make your way to the Ramble for a dense explosion of color. Some of the woodland's most colorful species include the red oak, sweetgum, red maple, pin oak, sassafras, and black cherry. One of Central Park's most iconic spots for fall foliage, Tupelo Meadow, is in the Ramble. Find it just north of Azalea Pond. Here you'll see a magnificent three-trunked black tupelo offering a colorful fall foliage display, along with many serviceberry, London plane, and American elm trees.

6. THE MALL

The Mall is home to one of the largest and last remaining stands of American elm trees in North America. They form a cathedral-like canopy above this wide pedestrian pathway. This time of year, that canopy will be bright yellow!

7. THE POND AND THE HALLETT NATURE SANCTUARY

Look for the colors of the black cherry, sawtooth oak, gray birch, pin oak, and tupelo at the Pond and the Hallett Nature Sanctuary. From inside the Hallett — a peaceful haven just feet away from some of Central Park's busiest paths — you can admire views of the Pond from several scenic overlooks, which feature unique rustic railings and benches.

CARING FOR CENTRAL PARK'S TREES



The Pool



Central Park's trees require lots of upkeep, attention, and care. That's where the Conservancy's tree care team comes in: Without our arborists, the Park wouldn't be the lush escape that so many New Yorkers depend on for an oasis of green in the concrete jungle.

The tree care team's primary responsibilities are to inspect, monitor, and maintain the Park's trees. This is accomplished with pruning and frequent inspection for harmful funguses and pests. Each of the Park's thousands of trees is also entered into a database to aid in monitoring over time.

It takes years for trees to mature — sometimes several decades — so our team gets to watch them grow and change over time, like old friends. "Trees are the largest and oldest organisms on the planet," says Conservancy arborist Peter Haupt. "There's a lot we can learn from them."



Get to know Central Park's trees

Central Park is home to more than 170 species of trees — visit our [Tree Guide](#) to learn more about some of your favorites. Our Tree Guide features photos, fun facts, and details on where to spot several species in the Park.

Discover more about the Park's trees and how to identify various species on a guided tree walk. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours for upcoming dates and to purchase tickets.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Get an insider's perspective on the history, design, and landscapes of Central Park on an official tour. Enjoy a year-round signature offering — learn about some of them below — or take one of our special seasonal tours on the next page. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours to purchase tickets and see our full schedule of tours.



ICONIC VIEWS OF CENTRAL PARK TOUR | TICKETS: \$15 (MEMBERS \$10)

Learn how rocky, swampy land was built into the living work of art that is Central Park today. You'll discover the original family-focused purpose of the Dairy, see skyline views from Sheep Meadow, walk under the stunning Minton tile ceiling at Bethesda Terrace, and see the gorgeous American elms that line the Mall.



HEART OF THE PARK TOUR | FREE

Walk straight through the heart of Central Park on this east-to-west tour and enjoy a variety of the scenic, sculptural, and architectural elements the Park has to offer. Highlights of this tour include Conservatory Water, the Loeb Boathouse, Bethesda Terrace, Bow Bridge, Cherry Hill, the Lake, and Strawberry Fields.



STATUES AND MONUMENTS TOUR | TICKETS: \$15 (MEMBERS \$10)

Over the last 160 years, more than 50 statues and monuments have been installed in Central Park. Learn more about the people and ideas that inspired them, and how these celebrated monuments reflect the diverse cultures of New York City.



STROLL TO STRAWBERRY FIELDS | TICKETS: \$15 (MEMBERS \$10)

Explore the southwest area of Central Park and see it like never before. From a planned military parade ground to the site commemorating a famous activist for peace, some of the most-visited spots in the Park have secrets to share with even the most seasoned Park-goer.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

continued



FALL FOLIAGE WALK | TICKETS: \$15 (MEMBERS \$10)

Admire Central Park's most colorful fall foliage on this walk from the Pool to the Ravine in the North Woods. Learn easy tips for identifying trees and discover more about these peaceful landscapes.

Thursday, October 24 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Sunday, October 27 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Tuesday, October 29 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm



BIRDING BASICS | FREE

Located along the Atlantic Flyway, Central Park welcomes more than 270 migrating bird species each year. Learn the basics of bird identification while exploring one of the Park's vibrant woodlands. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from our tour guides.

THE NORTH WOODS

Thursday, October 10 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

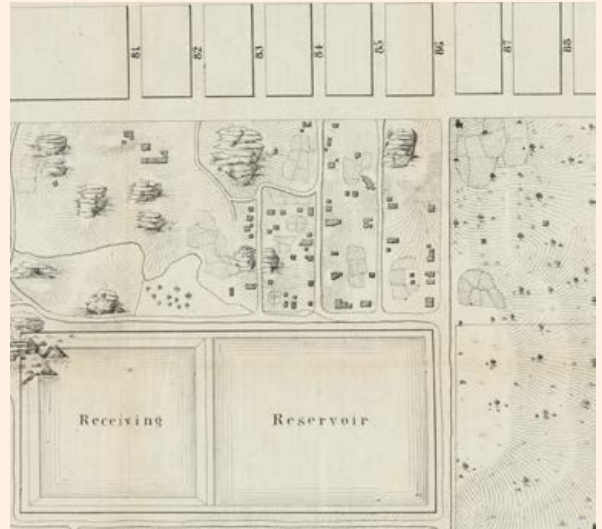
Sunday, October 13 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Wednesday, October 23 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

THE RAMBLE

Saturday, October 19 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Thursday, October 31 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am



Detail of map showing Seneca Village by Egbert Viele, 1856.
Courtesy of the NYC Municipal Archives.

DISCOVER SENECA VILLAGE | FREE

Before Central Park was created, the landscape along what is now the Park's perimeter from West 83rd to West 89th Street was the site of Seneca Village, the largest community of African-American property owners in 19th-century New York. Learn about this community through a new exhibit of interpretative signs installed throughout the area. If you prefer to explore with Conservancy guides, free tours are also available throughout opening weekend. Visit centralparknyc.org/seneca to learn more and register.

Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27 |

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm,

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

DON'T FORGET

Members receive discounted tickets
on all Official Central Park Tours.
Not a member?

Join Today

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

continued



MY DOG LOVES CENTRAL PARK FAIR | FREE

Come, sit, stay, and celebrate Central Park and its dog community! This fun event for people and canines includes contests, training tips, games, and more. Open to all ages. The Fair is an on-leash event. Visit centralparknyc.org/dogfair for more details.

Sunday, October 6 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Naumburg Bandshell (Mid-Park at 72nd Street)

The Central Park Conservancy's My Dog Loves Central Park Fair is sponsored by:



HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN FLOTILLA | FREE

Bring the whole family and celebrate Halloween in Central Park. At the Conservancy's signature Pumpkin Flotilla, you'll have the chance to send your homemade jack-o'-lanterns onto the Harlem Meer at twilight. Visit centralparknyc.org/halloween for more details.

Wednesday, October 30 | 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
The Harlem Meer (East Side from 106th to 110th Street)



CENTRAL PARK HOLIDAY LIGHTING | FREE

Celebrate the season at our Holiday Lighting in Central Park. Meet Santa and friends, watch a live ice-carving demonstration, sing carols on the Plaza, and warm up with hot cocoa and cookies. The event concludes with the lighting of a flotilla of trees on the Harlem Meer.

Thursday, December 5 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)

NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

On Sunday, November 3, roughly 50,000 runners will reach the New York City Marathon's finish line in Central Park. Experience the excitement of race day by spectating from the Park — and be sure to take note of various Park closures.



WHERE TO WATCH

Get into the marathon spirit by watching the race at one of our suggested viewing areas:

- Fifth Avenue from 90th to 110th Street
- East Drive from 59th to 90th Street
- West Drive from 59th to 66th Street
- 59th Street from Fifth Avenue to Central Park West
- Columbus Circle

CLOSURES

Large portions of the Park will be closed to all visitors on race day:

- Central Park West perimeter sidewalk from 59th to 85th Street
- West Drive from 59th to 85th Street
- East Drive from 59th to 90th Street
- All of Center Drive beginning at the 6th Avenue and 59th Street entrance

Visit centralparknyc.org/alerts for a full list of Central Park alerts and closures.

Want to map out your own run through the Park? View our official [Central Park running map](#).



FAMILY PROGRAMS



DISCOVERY WALKS FOR FAMILIES | FREE

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 the following Park landscapes.

Conservatory Garden

Join us on a guided walk through thousands of blooms. Discover the difference between the various flowers and landscapes that make up the Park's only formal garden. Learn about its history and design while discovering what it takes to maintain a healthy and beautiful garden.

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.

The North Woods

The largest of the Park's woodlands, the North Woods offers a 40-acre forest retreat in the middle of New York City. Learn about the design of this serene landscape and how the plants and trees contribute to the health of an urban woodland community.

Shakespeare Garden

Enjoy a guided walk in this four-acre landscape named for the famed English poet and playwright. Shakespeare Garden features flowers and plants mentioned in Shakespeare's poems and plays.

The Ramble

Get "lost" with us in the Ramble! Explore how this carefully planned woodland provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. You'll learn who calls the forest floor, the Lake shoreline, and the treetops their home.

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.

Visit centralparknyc.org/discoverywalks to register and see our full schedule of Discovery Walks.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

continued



Family Volunteer Days

Spend quality time with your family while volunteering in Central Park! Projects include spreading mulch and raking leaves. Families only, maximum of three children per parent or guardian. Space is limited. Advance registration, which opens two weeks before each project date, is required. Visit centralparknyc.org/familyvolunteer for more information.

Saturdays, October 5, 19, 26 & November 2, 16, 23 & December 7, 14, 21 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am



Teen Volunteer Days

Help to maintain and beautify the grounds through a variety of Park projects! Teens are invited to give back to their community and promote good stewardship by assisting with seasonal projects in Central Park. Ages 13 to 18 only. Advance registration, which opens two weeks before each project date, is required. Visit centralparknyc.org/teenvolunteer for more information.

Saturdays, October 5, 19, 26 & November 2, 16, 23 & December 7, 14, 21 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Discovery Club Activity Card



Collect 5 punches to receive a free Discovery Notebook.

Collect 10 punches to receive a free Discovery Club bandana.

CENTRAL PARK
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centralparknyc.org/discoveryclub

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 centralparknyc.org/discoveryclub.



VISITOR CENTERS

Central Park contains five visitor centers — find the one nearest to you.

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 between 64th and
65th Streets

Chess & Checkers House

Mid-Park at 64th Street

Columbus Circle Information Kiosk

West 59th Street at Central Park West

Please note: visitor centers are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

MEMBER PROGRAMS

Show your support for Central Park with a Conservancy membership. Our members help keep Central Park beautiful throughout the summer season. Benefits include reduced ticket prices, discounts in Central Park, and access to exclusive members-only events and programs, including the ones below. Times and dates vary. Visit centralparknyc.org/mp to register and view our full schedule of member programs.



DRAWING CLASS WITH JESSICA DARYL WINER | FREE FOR MEMBERS

Members will learn how to capture the beauty of the Park on paper in this drawing class, led by *Centennial Trees of Central Park* artist, Jessica Daryl Winer. Attendees should bring a large sketchpad and pencil. No drawing experience is necessary.

THE MALL

Saturday, October 12 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

THE HARLEM MEER

Saturday, November 16 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



HOUND HIKE | FREE FOR MEMBERS

Coined the "wild garden" by Park co-designer Frederick Law Olmsted, the Ramble offers visitors a tranquil spot to meander along winding paths and discover hidden forest gardens. Take a tour of this landscape with your favorite furry family member and let our Conservancy guide give you an insider's look at some of the most iconic features of the Park. This is an on-leash event. Attendees should bring water and disposable bags for their dog.

THE RAMBLE

Sunday, October 13 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm



WOODLAND WALK | FREE FOR MEMBERS

View some of the Park's most colorful fall foliage while escaping the City and getting lost in nature. Explore this serene 36-acre landscape with the added expertise of Conservancy staff. Highlights of this tour include the Lake, Bow Bridge, Ramble Arch, Oak Bridge, the Gill, and Azalea Pond.

THE RAMBLE

Sunday, November 10 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Not a member?

Visit centralparknyc.org/membership to 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

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
- PK** Playground
- IK** Information Kiosk
- FF** Food / Closed in Winter
- RR** Restrooms / Closed in Winter
- WA** 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