

**CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**

25 YEARS OF CARING FOR THE PARK

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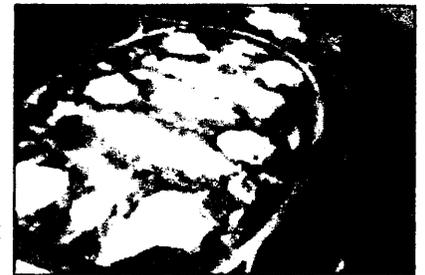
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Public/Private Partnership

In 1998, the City of New York awarded the Central Park Conservancy a management contract that ensured the continuing maintenance, public programming, and capital restoration of Central Park. This contract confirmed the City's confidence in its nearly twenty-year partnership with the Conservancy. Both the Conservancy and the City of New York had invested nearly \$350 million in Central Park operations, capital improvements, programs for visitors and volunteers, and endowment; it also had played an increasingly active role in Park management.



Great Lawn (before)

Under this agreement, the Conservancy received an annual fee for services. The amount of the fee was determined by a formula that requires the Conservancy to raise and spend a specified minimum amount of private funds in the Park on an annual basis. The minimum Conservancy annual expenditure – which can include maintenance, programming and landscape improvements – is \$5 million. The annual fee from the City depends on the Conservancy's expenditures in the Park and on the revenues generated by concessions in Central Park.



Great Lawn (today)

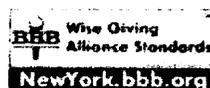
On April 27, 2006, the contract was renewed for another eight years. The new contract maintains the City's baseline allocation for the maintenance of the Park, but it lifts the cap on the amount of funding the Conservancy receives based on concession revenues generated in the Park. Under the previous contract, the Conservancy received an amount equal to 50% of concession revenues beyond the first \$6 million generated in the Park, not to exceed \$2 million. As more of the Park is restored and the cost of caring for it continues to grow, removing this cap will ensure that the Park will continue to benefit from increasing revenues that are directly related to its successful management.

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City of New York Parks & Recreation
Twenty-five years of partnership with the Central Park Conservancy

Central Park will always be a public park. The Conservancy will continue to involve the public



Contract with New York City

Under this eight-year agreement, the Conservancy will provide for the Park's day-to-day care. Specified in the contract are: landscape maintenance, replacement of dead trees and plants, mowing and reseeding/resodding, graffiti removal, cleaning playgrounds and comfort stations, clearing walkways; cleaning drains, sewers, and walkways; repairing benches, and maintaining and repairing structures and monuments. The Conservancy's responsibilities also include providing public programs to educate visitors about the Park's built and natural assets. Over the term of its partnership with the City, the Conservancy has expanded its activities to include all of the above activities; the management contract ratifies those activities.



Signing of the first contract in 1998

The City of New York's Role in Central Park
The City of New York retains control and policy responsibility for Central Park. Capital improvements in the Park will continue to undergo public review at each stage of development with advice and consent from the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation. The City of New York/ Parks & Recreation has discretion over all events in the Park, and that will continue. At present, all revenues generated from concessions in the Park go into the City of New York's general fund, and that will continue.



Signing of the renewed contract in 2006

The Conservancy's Qualifications

The Central Park Conservancy is uniquely qualified to manage Central Park. The Conservancy has a proven track record in restoring and managing the Park. With its partner, the City of New York, it brought the Park from its deteriorated state in the late 1970s to its present condition, with major landscapes and historic structures restored and well-maintained. The Conservancy is a model for public-private partnerships for parks throughout the country and has developed an excellent staff of park management professionals.

The Conservancy also has a track record in raising private funds to improve and preserve Central Park. Since its founding in 1980, the Conservancy has raised \$350 million in private dollars, which,

in the planning of any improvements to the Park.

combined with the City's investment, turned Central Park into a living symbol of New York City's revitalization. Further, of every \$1 the Conservancy raises, more than \$.80 goes toward direct spending on horticulture, operations, maintenance, education, recreation, and public programs.



Sheep Meadow (before)

The Conservancy's Governance
The Conservancy is and will be accountable to the City of New York. The City of New York retains control and policy responsibility for Central Park.



Sheep Meadow (today)

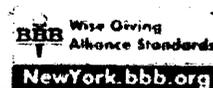
The Commissioner and officials of the City of New York/Parks & Recreation Department are involved in all Park planning and must approve all of the Conservancy's capital improvements in the Park. In addition, the Conservancy's 60-member Board of Trustees includes the Parks Commissioner and the Borough President of Manhattan, both ex officio, five Trustees appointed by the Mayor of the City of New York, and private sector members representing the City's business and philanthropic communities.

The Conservancy's Community Outreach and Public Review Process

Central Park will always be a public park. The Conservancy will continue to involve the public in the planning of any improvements to the Park. Starting with approval by the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, the Conservancy's community outreach on capital projects is one of the most extensive and inclusive in the City. For any project, the Conservancy consults with Park users and surrounding communities to help develop its plans. The Conservancy then presents its plans to Community Boards, the Landmarks Preservation and Art Commissions for their review and approval. This process will continue unaltered.

Advisory boards comprised of community residents work with the Conservancy on a range of projects and issues. They include the following, and will be expanded as projects and programs create the need: The Upper Park Community Advisory Committee, the Woodlands Advisory Board, the Great Lawn Advisory Committee, the Central Park Recreation Roundtable, the North Meadow Recreation Center Advisory Committee, the Public Programs Community Advisory Committee, and the Frederick Douglass Circle Community Advisory Committee.

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History of the Conservancy

At left is a year-by-year breakdown of the Central Park Conservancy's accomplishments since 1980. All of these accomplishments were made possible through a partnership with the City of New York and private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations and the hard work and generosity of the Central Park Conservancy's Women's Committee.



Harlem Meer (before)



Harlem Meer (today)

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1980-1988

1980-1981

The Dairy is restored by the City of New York.

The missing loggia is rebuilt and the Dairy becomes a visitor center under the supervision of the Conservancy.

The Conservancy begins to "program" the Park; exhibitions, music series, and educational programs for children begin at the Dairy.

Initial restoration of Cherry Hill Fountain

Restoration of Bethesda Fountain

Restoration of all three fountains at the Conservatory Garden

Restoration of the Sheep Meadow by the City of New York with funds from the City of New York and the New York State Office of Parks & Recreation

Initial resodding of Pilgrim Hill

The reconstruction of rustic pergolas

1982

Restoration of Belvedere Castle

Restoration of Bethesda Terrace

Relandscaping of the 5-acre site around the Dairy

Landscape restoration of the landscape surrounding the Obelisk

Restoration of Greywacke Arch



Owl sculpture at Bethesda Terrace before and after it was restored.



mowers.)

The Learning and Involvement for Volunteers in the Environment (L.I.V.E.) volunteer program begins.

A 1983 user survey reports that 80 percent of Park visitors said they came to the Park for "passive recreation" – people-watching, relaxing, thinking, reading, wandering, sunbathing, and picnicking.

1984

Restoration of Chess & Checkers House

Initial restoration of "Frisbee Hill," the landscape to the south side of the 72nd Street transverse, just north of the Mineral Springs concession.

Initial restoration of the East Green, the landscape on the south of the 72nd Street transverse, on the Park's east side.

In an effort to replenish the Park's understory vegetation, the Conservancy plants almost 12,000 plants, wildflowers and shrubs throughout the Park.



The Chess and Checkers House atop the Kinderberg.

Complete reconstruction of the Girls' Gate entrance at 102nd Street and Fifth Avenue.

1,916 volunteers worked 4,091 hours in the Park.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Luncheon raises more than \$200,000.

1985

The management and restoration plan, *Rebuilding Central Park*, is published by the Conservancy. This represents the culmination of three years of comprehensive, systematic study and analysis of the Park.

Strawberry Fields is dedicated by Mayor Koch, October 9, 1985.

The Conservancy initiates a Chess Camp.

By 1985, the Conservancy's graffiti removal crew had removed all of the accumulated graffiti of prior years, leaving it free to focus only on "fresh hits."

Repainting of the loggia at the Dairy, the ornate wrought iron gates at Conservatory Garden, and the polychrome cast-iron Ladies Pavilion at Henshead.

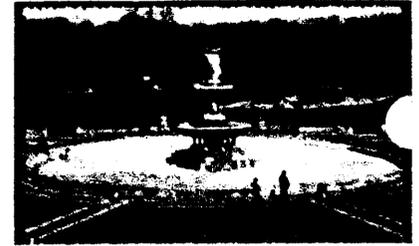
Cleaning and repatinating of the sculptural gates at the Children's Zoo entrance, the statues of Romeo and Juliet and the Tempest in front of Delacorte Theater, as well as Alice in Wonderland and Hans Christian Anderson at Conservatory Water.

Rebuilding of Cop Cot, the fanciful rustic shelter mid-Park at 60th Street.

Restoration of the last remaining rustic shelter in the Ramble

Graffiti removal crew is launched

The Falconer is returned to its pedestal after a 25-year absence.



Bethesda before it was restored to its present grandeur.

Restoration of the Point in the Ramble, including complete shoreline repair and replanting

Conservancy promotes safety lighting and designs a new and improved luminaire for the Park's 1,500 lamp posts

The Conservancy begins work on its restoration master plan, under the direction of Betsy Rogers. The goal of the plan was to produce up-to-date surveys of the Park's topography, hydrology, architectural features, circulation, drainage utilities, trees and other vegetation, along with a security analysis and Park user study.

1983

The Conservancy Women's Committee is formed after the success of the first annual Frederick Law Olmsted (FLO) Awards Luncheon. The first FLO luncheon takes place on May 3, 1983 at Tavern on the Green, and raises \$172,000 for the Conservancy.

Public programs expand by leaps and bounds, with the opening of a restored Belvedere Castle on May 1, 1983. Through its public programs, the Conservancy serves 5,000 elementary school students.

Restoration of Heckscher Ballfields

May 14 and 15, 1983 marked the first "You Gotta Have Park" weekend in Central Park.

An inventory is taken of Central Park's 26,000 trees. A computerized record is created of all trees, describing their size, age, condition, and species distribution.

25 American Elms are planted on Fifth Avenue between 90th and 105th Streets to replace trees that had died over the years.

New plantings and infrastructure renovations are made on the south side of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

New landscaping at Engineers' Gate (Fifth Avenue at 90th Street).

A new rustic shelter is built at 67th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Garden designer Lynden Miller forms the Friends of the Conservatory Garden and begins to oversee the Garden's design and care.

A lawn care crew of twelve staff members, along with ten mowers and eight other pieces of lawn equipment service all of Central Park's lawns. (At the time, this was the largest fleet in years. By comparison, by 1999, the Conservancy employed a horticulture staff of 66 with a fleet of 54 lawn

Restoration of the Gill – the stream running through the Ramble – including the reconstruction of a rustic bridge.

Steps at Conservatory Garden repointed.

Various sections of the Park wall repaired.

Renovation of eroded lawns at West 62nd Street entrance.

Planting of more than 1,400 understory trees and shrubs, 3,500 groundcover plants, and 7,500 wildflowers.

Conservancy volunteers log a total of 8,202 hours in the Park.

Bow Bridge repainted.

Clay surface installed on Rumsey Playfield.

1986

A new picnicking area is created when the cracked, derelict and abandoned game courts on the Great Hill, at 106th Street and Central Park West, are cleared away and a new meadow is seeded.

SummerStage, originally a Conservancy-sponsored entertainment series, begins at the Bandshell.

Heckscher Ballfields receive a facelift.

The closed roadway or "Dead Road" on the east side of Sheep Meadow is repaved with 1,650 square yards of asphalt, for disco-dancing roller skaters.

Reconstruction of the Billy Johnson Playground at East 67th Street.

Restoration begins at Engineers' Gate – 90th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Installation of new sod, 50 new trees, 3,500 shrubs and 3,000 ground cover plants at Bethesda Terrace.

The statue of Polish King Wladyslaw Jagiello on the Great Lawn at 79th Street is cleaned and repatinated.

Rebuilding of the pergola at the Mall.

Rebuilding of the pergola at Conservatory Garden.

William S. Beinecke steps down as Chairman of the Central Park Conservancy, and James H. Evans steps up to the plate as the new Chairman.

1987

Conservancy volunteers log a total of 9,713 hours in the Park.

The initial restoration of Cedar Hill.

Restoration of the East 76th Street Playground (James Michael Levin Playground).

Restoration of the West 81st Street Playground (Diana Ross Playground)

Installation of new playground equipment at the East 67th Street Playground.

At Bethesda Terrace, two magnificent banner poles bearing gonfalons – a sight New Yorkers had heretofore seen only in nineteenth century paintings and prints – were refabricated and reinstalled by the edge of the Lake.

The Fifth Annual Frederick Law Olmsted Luncheon raises more than \$300,000.

The Campaign for the Central Park Conservancy begins, and is chaired by Henry R. Kravis.

The campaign to restore Grand Army Plaza begins.

1988

Restoration of Inventors' Gate and its surrounding landscape (East 72nd Street).

The restoration of the boat landing at Henshead, including the restabilization of the shore edge and the reconstruction of the paths and the drainage system from the West Drive to the Lake.

Ongoing restoration of the Kinderberg, or Childrens' District, surrounding the Dairy.

The Conservancy initiates the redesign and reclamation of the Harlem Meer.

Conservancy volunteers log a total of 13,000 hours in the Park. The Conservancy's volunteer program wins a citation for excellence from the White House.

The Conservancy's restoration crew restores Glade Arch, north of Conservatory Water. The crew repairs the arch's sandstone balustrade, retools its remaining stonework and replaces approximately 6,500 damaged bricks.

The Shakespeare Garden is redesigned and expanded. The Conservancy's restoration crew repaves pathways and stairs, installs rustic wooden benches and rustic cedar railings.

The Conservancy cleans and repatinates Angel of the Waters, the statue at Bethesda Fountain, which had become encrusted with corrosive copper sulfate.

To help secure the Park from future cycles of decline and to reduce the subsequent demand for capital restoration, the Conservancy establishes the Greensward Trust, an endowment fund, with income dedicated to Park maintenance.

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1989-1992

1989

Restoration of Playmates' Arch – the Arch that links the Dairy and the Carousel.

Restoration of Bridge No. 24 – the last of five cast iron bridges in the Park restored.

The 7th Annual Frederick Law Olmsted Luncheon raises a record \$592,000.

Restoration of the West 67th Street Adventure Playground.

This year, the Conservancy completes the restoration of the Park's 130-year old cast iron bridges, with the restoration of Bridge 24, located on the Bridle Path near East 86th Street.

The Conservancy begins to develop a comprehensive environmental plan to manage the Park's three major woodlands: the Hallett Nature Sanctuary, the Ramble, and the North Woods.

The building of the West 72nd Street rustic arbor.

New entrance piers are added at the Park's entrance at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Restoration and relandscaping of the terrace of the 3,600 year-old Obelisk near the Great Lawn. The monument is now illuminated, and new benches, paving, and landscaping have transformed the spot into a small sitting garden.

Restoration of the landscapes between West 86th and West 90th Streets.

Conservancy volunteers log 11,500 work hours in the Park.

The Conservancy announces a \$50 million Capital Campaign.

1990

Chaired by Ira Millstein, the Conservancy's Citizen's Task Force on the Use and Security of Central Park conducts the most exhaustive study ever undertaken of safety in an urban Park. The report includes 50 recommendations that challenge the Conservancy to pursue new programming directions and expedite restoration of the Park.

The dredging of the Harlem Meer is the first step in restoring this exceptionally beautiful but neglected landscape. The Conservancy removes 34,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris from

the lake bed and replaces the valves that regulate the water level.

The restoration of Grand Army Plaza, including Pulitzer Fountain, the bronze equestrian statue of General William Tecumseh Sherman, and the Plaza itself.

The bronze statue of José Martí, the Cuban poet and patriot, at Sixth Avenue and Central Park South, is refurbished and rededicated on October 10, 1990.

Volunteers greet Park visitors at a new kiosk.

The Ballplayers House at Heckscher Ballfields at 65th Street is completed. This new building replaces an original Park structure that stood from 1873 to 1969.

Daily recreation programs begin at North Meadow Recreation Center.

The first season of Camp Central Park.

The Conservancy's Capital Campaign reaches \$42.5 million.

The Carousel landscape and surrounding plaza are restored.

In its ongoing restoration of the Mall — the Park's only formal promenade — the Conservancy has added new planting beds at the southern entrance, as well as new hexpaving, and a pipe rail fence to protect the Mall's precious elm trees.

Schoolchildren made nearly 10,000 visits to at least one of the education programs at the Dairy Belvedere Castle, and the Park's North End.

New plantings at the Billy Johnson Playground at East 67th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The Woodland Management Advisory Board is formed to develop strategies and monitor the care of the park's 130 acres of woodland.

The Pat Hoffman Friedman Playground at East 79th Street is dedicated, with the unveiling of the playground's centerpiece, a bronze statue Group of Bears by Paul Manship.

1991

The Campaign for the Central Park Conservancy comes to an end after a five-year effort. The Campaign, which was chaired by Conservancy trustee Henry R. Kravis, raised more than \$50 million for Central Park.

The restoration of the Mall is completed: Literary Walk is restored; new benches that replicate the original design by Calvert Vaux encircle the planting islands near the Bandshell; an endowment fund is created for a zone gardener to maintain the Mall.

The installation of 24 trompe l'oeil panels designed and painted by Lucretia Moroni in the niches of the Bethesda Terrace arcade.

Green Gap and Drirock Arches, located on the Park Drive to the east and west of Wollman Rink, are restored. The Conservancy located, and succeeded in having reopened quarries in New Brunswick, Canada, which supplied the original sandstone for the arches.

The Greensward Trust endowment fund reaches \$7 million.

The Women's Committee establishes the Adopt-A-Bench program.

Funds from the Women's Committee's Frederick Law Olmsted Luncheon create an endowment at the Dene, located along Fifth Avenue between 66th and 71st Streets.

The Central Park Tree Trust is established, to form an endowment fund for tree care, and to protect Central Park's trees — one of the finest collections of trees in any urban park in the nation.

The restoration of the landscapes on the south side of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The completion of the Bernard Family Playground at East 108th Street.

More than 12,000 students participate in the Conservancy's education programs.

A rock-climbing wall is added to the North Meadow Recreation Center.

Three half-basketball courts are added to the North Meadow Recreation Center.

James H. Evans steps down as Chairman of the Central Park Conservancy, and Ira M. Millstein is elected as Chairman.

1992

The restoration of the arches, cascades and surrounding landscapes of Glen Span Arch and Huddleston Bridge.

Playground Partners, a Women's Committee program, is inaugurated and raises more than \$100,000 for playground maintenance.

Three new roving crews are created: one for playground maintenance, another for upkeep of historic structures, and a third for bronze conservation.

The loggia at the Dairy is repaired and repainted. The Dairy, an original Park building designed by Calvert Vaux, had been shorn of its beautiful loggia for several decades prior to its restoration in 1980. However, until a gift established the new maintenance crew, the Conservancy had no ability to provide ongoing routine maintenance for this and other historic Park structures.

Fourteen of the Park's 50 historic bronze structures are cleaned and rewaxed.

Two new zone gardeners are hired in 1992, bringing the total number of such site-specific workers to ten. These zone gardeners work at Conservatory Water and the Mall.

The Rudin Family Playground is built at West 97th Street.

The Abraham & Joseph Spector Playground at West 86th Street is refurbished with new water features and play equipment.

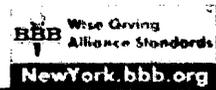
The Conservancy breaks ground for the new Charles A. Dana Discovery Center at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues.

A record 3,700 individuals volunteer in the Park this year, donating 27,500 hours of service.

The Conservancy adds an indoor climbing wall at the North Meadow Recreation Center to supplement cold- or rainy-weather programs.

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1993-1997

1993

To date, the Conservancy's award-winning designers have initiated the restoration of more than half the Park's landscapes and historic structures.

Richard Gilder, a Conservancy Trustee and lifelong New Yorker, offers an unprecedented \$17 million challenge grant to restore major landscapes of Central Park. In response to Mr. Gilder's generosity, the City of New York agrees to meet his challenge, pledging another \$17 million in matching funds. His gift is finally contingent upon \$17 million in private contributions, which are to be raised by the Conservancy during the next three years. This campaign is chaired by Daniel P. Tully.

The challenge is specifically to address: new playgrounds, lawns benches, drinking fountains, and paths on the Park's west side; the Great Lawn; the North Meadow Recreation Center and North Meadow Ballfields; and the upgrading of drainage and other Park infrastructure.

The 11-acre Harlem Meer and surrounding landscape are reopened, with a new wildlife habitat island.

The Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, which will provide environmental education programs and activities, and information to visitors, officially opens.

The new Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Terrace adjacent to the Dana Center, offers an informal area for outdoor performances.

New play equipment is installed at the Playground at 110th Street and Central Park West.

A Woodlands Manager is assigned to the North Woods, and the Woodlands Crew increases from two to five people.

The Conservancy reintroduces more than 40 species of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees to the North Woods.

New plantings at Wien Walk and new benches at Wallach Walk.

The reconstruction of the East 85th Street Park entrance.

At 60th Street and Fifth Avenue, the Conservancy restores the Doris C. Freedman Plaza, a setting for exhibitions of contemporary sculpture.



The Great Lawn before it was restored.

Wagner Cove, on the Central Park Lake east of Strawberry Fields, is beautified with shoreline plantings. The cove is a memorial to the late mayor Robert Wagner.

The restoration of the terrace at Kerbs Boathouse at Conservatory Water includes new benches and fencing, and a restored landscape.

The bronze conservation crew completes comprehensive treatments of five bronze statues on the Mall, the Untermyer Fountain at Conservatory Garden, and three additional bronze statues throughout the Park.

The Historic Preservation Crew repairs the perimeter wall at numerous locations along the perimeter and replaces steps at the Great Hill.

In 1993, 20 Conservancy education programs take place in the Park, serving 20,000 students.

1994

The Conservancy receives three awards for its work on the Harlem Meer and The Charles A. Dana Discovery Center: the 1994 New York City Landmarks Preservation Award, the American Society of Landscape Architects' Design Merit Award, and the Victorian Society's Citation of Merit.

The restoration of Winterdale Arch at West 81st Street includes the reconstruction of the cast-iron balustrades that had been missing for 50 years.

The reconstruction of the southwest corner landscape reconfigures the confusing tangle of pedestrian paths from West 62nd to 66th Street to direct people more conveniently to popular lower-Park destinations.

A new pedestrian entrance is opened at West 63rd Street, lawns planted, and lighting installed.

Restoration of the landscapes from West 106th to West 108th Streets, including a plaza at West 106th Street and a pedestrian entrance at West 108th Street that connects to a path to the Great Hill, as well as new benches, plantings, open lawns, and an improved drainage system.

The perimeter landscape from West 97th to 100th Streets is restored to its historic character, with new pathways, benches, and rebuilt rustic stone fences.

Renovation of the East 96th Street Playground, with colorful new play equipment, a new toddler area and a rubber safety surface.

New plantings and benches at the East 76th Street Park entrance.

Restoration of a picturesque woodland and meadow-like garden at the Sixth Avenue and Central Park South entrance.

The Women's Committee's 1994 Frederick Law Olmsted Awards Luncheon raises \$690,000 for horticulture, security, and programs for visitors.

The Monuments Conservation Crew repairs the Burnett "Secret Garden" fountain at the Conservatory Garden, so that water flows for the first time in 30 years.

Structural repairs are made to Central Park's historic Carousel and the building that houses it.

Conservancy volunteers log 30,000 hours of service in Central Park.

1995

Restoration of Greysheet Arch at West 61st Street.

Restoration of West 81st Street entrance, establishes an expanded seating area with new benches that embrace a London plane tree.

The relocation of the pedestrian entrance at West 62nd Street to West 63rd Street, better leads visitors to Heckscher Ballfields and other points east.

Pedestrian pathways near Columbus Circle are repaved to create a recreational pathway for pedestrians, inline skaters, bicyclists and joggers, providing access to the Drive

The restoration of Cedar Hill, one of the Park's most heavily-trafficked landscapes, popular with dog walkers and sledders.

The Conservancy's Office of Government & Community Affairs works closely with Park users to create a new flag system to alert parkgoers to wet turf conditions so that visitors keep off the grass when it is vulnerable to damage.

Conservancy volunteers spend more than 26,000 hours donating their services.

The Conservancy's Monuments Conservation Crew restores the fanciful Delacorte Clock at the Zoo.

The Conservancy's Monuments Conservation Crew replaces 14 lost bird heads and 23 broken carvings at Bethesda Terrace.

The Conservancy's Historic Preservation Crew replaces all 16 columns on the loggia of Belvedere Castle.

The Women's Committee's 13th Annual Frederick Law Olmsted Luncheon raises a record \$1.3 million.

The North Meadow Recreation Center draws almost 27,000 teenage visitors this year. They played basketball or handball, took tennis clinics, or rock climbing classes and played chess and ping pong.

Almost 12,000 people borrow fishing poles at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center.

The Conservancy formally adopts the zone management plan, which divides the Park into 49 zones, each maintained by at least one zone gardener trained in horticulture and responsible for all aspects of the management and maintenance of his or her zone. The zone gardeners are assisted by specialized Parkwide crews, including tree, bench, and playground care, graffiti removal, monuments conservation, historic preservation, soil and water conservation, and storm



Cedar Hill before and after its restoration.



water management. This new system ensures improved cleanliness and productivity throughout the Park.

1996

The successful conclusion of the three-year, \$71.5 million Wonder of New York Campaign, which matched the Gilder Challenge. The overwhelming support of thousands of new Yorkers and many corporations and foundations enables the Conservancy to exceed its goal by approximately \$5.7 million, raising nearly \$77.2 million.

The Conservancy embarks on its single most ambitious landscape restoration and the centerpiece of the Wonder of New York Campaign – the restoration of the 55 acres including and surrounding the Great Lawn and Turtle Pond.

At Summit Rock at West 83rd Street, the highest natural point in the Park, a long-abandoned cement sandbox from the Robert Moses era is replaced by a picturesque amphitheater and rocky overlook.

Naturalists' Walk, a nature education landscape from West 77th to West 81st Street, is completed.

The completion of Azalea Walk, a beautiful landscape along the slopes of Eaglevale Bridge from West 74th to West 77th Streets, with an array of colorful azaleas, rhododendrons, and other native flora.

Renovation of the Adventure Playground at West 67th Street.

The restoration of the West 68th Street landscape – the location of the finish line for the New York City Marathon.

Conservancy volunteers give 35,000 hours of their time to Central Park this year.

The restoration of the Maine Monument at Merchants' Gate – 59th Street and Eighth Avenue, Columbus Circle.

The restoration of the Sixth and Seventh Avenue Park entrances, including the reconfiguring of pedestrian pathways and the planting of surrounding landscapes.

The restoration of Dipway Arch, mid-Park at 60th Street.

Opening of the Henry Luce Nature Observatory at Belvedere Castle, with colorful, hands-on exhibits on the rich variety of animals and plants that exist in Central Park.

The main-floor Discovery Room of The Charles A. Dana Discovery Center is converted into a community gallery for rotating educational exhibits.

Conservancy workers skilled in rustic wood construction recreate a rustic wooden footbridge at Naturalists' Walk, and construct 400 feet of rustic railing at Summit Rock.

Karen H. Putnam becomes President of the Central Park Conservancy, and Betsy Barlow Roge steps down after 16 years in this role.

1997

The 55-acre restoration of the Great Lawn, Turtle Pond and surrounding landscapes is complete. After two years of construction and an investment of \$18.2 million, the 55-acre area features new amenities for sports enthusiasts and nature lovers.

Restoration of Merchants' Gate Plaza. The area is transformed into an attractive and inviting public plaza with decorative granite paving, a low stone seating wall, clearly defined pedestrian entrances and a shaded sitting area with improved lighting.

More than 15,000 young people participated in after-school fitness, recreation and basketball programs at the North Meadow Recreation Center.

Central Park's visitor centers attract nearly half a million people this year.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Awards Luncheon raises \$1.3 million.

Conservancy crews repair 2.4 miles of benches with the assistance of volunteers.

The Conservancy completes a feasibility study for the restoration and re-installation of the historic Minton Tile ceiling at Bethesda Terrace arcade.

The restoration of the "Safari" Playground at West 91st Street with treehouses and hippopotamuses playing in a safety surface "river."

The Robert Bendheim Playground at East 100th Street is the first in Central Park specifically designed for both able-bodied and disabled children.

Restoration of the Olmsted Bed at the end of Literary Walk.

The Conservancy begins its Central Park Challenge, a professional development program offering leadership and team-building opportunities to the City's corporate community.

Alexander P. Papamarkou donates \$500,000 to endow a zone gardener for the Pond in memory of his mother, Margot.

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1998-2002

1998

In February, Chairman Ira M. Millstein signs, with Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Henry J. Stern, the most important agreement in Conservancy history – an eight-year management contract that officially makes the Conservancy "Keeper of the Park."

The Conservancy receives the single largest institutional grant in its 18-year history – a \$10 million gift from the Uris Brothers Foundation. The grant provides capital funds for the improvement of visitor center facilities, the restoration of landscapes, and for public programming, including recreation, education and family and community programs.

The Conservancy reconstructs the 2.58-mile Reservoir running track.

The Conservancy begins an extensive \$4.6 million project to rebuild the 20-acre North Meadow, popular Park locale with 12 baseball-softball fields and five soccer-football fields.

The Conservancy receives a national award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for design excellence in the reconstruction of the Great Lawn.

The Conservancy receives the Philip N. Winslow Landscape Design Award for the reconstruction of the Merchants' Gate Plaza entrance.

1999

Dedication of the nautically-themed Mariners' Playground at West 84th Street at Mariners' Gate.

The Conservancy officially reopens the North Meadow Recreation Center. Previous classroom space is doubled. Exercise equipment, new indoor and outdoor climbing walls, and computers for analyzing individual fitness data are added.

The Conservancy begins design work to modernize the East 72nd Street Playground.

The Conservancy begins design work to restore the Pond at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Ira M. Millstein steps down as Chairman of the Central Park Conservancy, and A.J.C. Smith becomes the new Chairman.

2000

The North Meadow reopens after a two-year restoration providing 12 beautiful baseball and softball fields for use in the spring, and six soccer fields for use in the fall

Karen H. Putnam resigns after five years as the Conservancy's president having completed all the projects included in the Wonder of New York capital campaign.

Conservatory Water reopens after a six-month restoration to make necessary repairs and replace crumbling concrete coping with beautiful "Atlantic Blue" granite.

Construction begins on the restoration of one of Central Park's most visible and heavily used landscapes, the 59th Street Pond.

An innovative after-school program funded by The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. is launched in the fall to help at-risk teens from the Bilingual Bicultural Middle School in East Harlem. The yearlong program uses rock climbing with academic enrichment activities to promote personal development. More than 570,000 children, teens, and adults participate in the Conservancy's free recreation, education, visitor, volunteer, and family and community programs.

The original 19th-century gate names are inscribed along the Park's perimeter.

The \$2.5 million restoration of the Reservoir landscapes is completed, thanks to a grant from the Uris Brothers Foundation.

The Chairman's Circle, composed of individuals who make an annual unrestricted contribution of \$25,000 or more, is founded to support the outstanding horticulture and maintenance work of the Conservancy. The Olmsted Society, named for the pioneering landscape architect who, in partnership with Calvert Vaux, designed Central Park, recognizes and thanks those friends who have expressed concern for the future of the Park by including the Conservancy in their estate plans.

\$5.86 million is raised by the Women's Committee, including more than \$1 million through the Adopt-A-Bench program.

2001

In May, the Conservancy welcomes Regina S. Peruggi as its new president. With a background in education, she plans on making that a cornerstone of her tenure.

Seneca Village, a settlement once located in the Park and founded in the 1820s, is commemorated as the first prominent community of African-American property owners in New York City.

An aging irrigation system under Sheep Meadow is replaced to reduce erosion and to keep the lawn healthy, made possible by a grant from The Marc Haas Foundation.

The \$1.5 million reclamation of the Pool is undertaken thanks to a generous anonymous gift.

In memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, 40,000 daffodil bulbs are planted in Central Park

Central Park Conservancy staff tie ribbons of remembrance to more than 450 light posts lining the Park drives as a symbol of spirit, remembrance, and honor.

The Conservancy is jointly awarded, with three other organizations, the 2001 Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections by The American Institute for Conservation and Artistic Works (AIC) and Heritage Preservation.

A Daffodil Program to support the Conservancy is launched by Women's Committee.

The Women's Committee celebrates Playground Partners' 10th anniversary.

A water trough for horses rededicated in by the Conservancy, New York City/Parks & Recreation, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

2002

The \$4 million reconstruction of the Pond is completed, and it reopens after an eighteen-month renovation, thanks to the generosity of Julian and Josie Robertson.

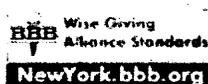
The Conservancy is awarded a \$300,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for care and maintenance in the Park over the next year.

Anti-infestation measures are enacted for monitoring of the Asian Longhorned beetle in Central Park. New Yorkers are recruited and trained by Conservancy and USDA to help in spotting the wood-boring pest.

A new genus and species of centipede is discovered in Central Park. The centipede is about four-tenths of an inch long, making it one of the smallest in the world. The creature -- *Nannarrup hoffmani*, named for the man who discovered it -- lives in the park's leaf litter, the crumbling organic debris that accumulates under the trees.

Conservancy volunteers log 30,000 hours of service in Central Park.

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**Join
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2003-Present

2003

Annual visitation to Central Park reaches 25 million people.

July 21, 2003 marks Central Park's 150th Anniversary, which the Conservancy celebrates with events throughout the year.

The Central Park Conservancy completes work on the new Reservoir fence, a \$2 million capital project to replace the old chain-link fence with a replica of the 8,170-foot steel and cast-iron fence that enclosed the Reservoir in 1926. The new fence and the removal of invasive trees and shrubs restore the stunning panoramic views of the Park and the Manhattan skyline.

The \$1.5 million restoration of the Pool, supported by a generous gift to the Conservancy, is completed. The Pool's features were enhanced: new settee benches and path lights were installed, the site was graded, and attractive aquatic plants were introduced at the water's edge. Conservancy volunteers contribute 21,000 hours of their time to working in the Park.

2004

Work begins on the restoration of the Heckscher Playground, the first step toward restoring the entire 30-acre historic playground landscape, which includes a building, ballfields, meadows, and rock outcroppings.

Conservancy staff and contractors begin work on the restoration of the Minton tiles that hang in the ceiling of the Bethesda Arcade to return them and the arcade back to their original glory.

President Regina Peruggi resigns after three years. Central Park Administrator Douglas Blonsky assumes the top position, while retaining the joint role of Administrator.

Conservancy volunteers spend 32,200 hours in Central Park helping field staff keep the Park beautiful.

2005

The Conservancy Celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude install *The Gates, Central Park, New York City, 1979-2005*. For more than two weeks, Central Park is alive with color, excitement, enthusiasm, and goodwill. Millions of visitors come to see this long awaited and much anticipated installation from all over the U.S. and around the world. Many plan visits to New York City around this once-in-a-lifetime spectacle in

Central Park, bringing unprecedented business to hotels, restaurants, theaters, and stores of all kinds during a normally slow and often bleak winter period.

Funding is secured for many projects, including the restoration of Literary Walk, Bank Rock Brick and Bay in the Ramble, and the West 110th Street and Ancient Playgrounds.

2006

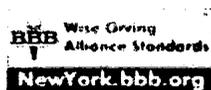
The newly restored Hayscher playground, Central Park's oldest and largest, reopens after a yearlong renovation. This major face-lift was the first component of a three-phase project for the 30-acre historic playground landscape, located in the southwest part of the Park.

The Conservancy constructs a new Soil and Water Lab at the North Meadow Recreation Center with completely new equipment. The Lab will tend to the specific biological and chemical needs of the Park and will also serve as an education center for children and a link between the scientific community and the Conservancy.

The Conservancy announces *The Campaign for Central Park*, a \$100 million initiative to restore the remaining major landscapes in Central Park and to provide long-term operating support.

The renovation of the Mall is completed after nine months. This included restoring the landscape to its original character and ensuring the health of the Mall's precious American elms.

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Capital Projects

Since its founding in 1980, the Conservancy has spent over \$113 million (through 2006) to restore most of the major Park landscapes. A partial list of those restoration projects (there are over 90) and their completion dates includes:

- The Dairy, Central Park's first visitor center, in 1981
- Conservatory Garden in 1983
- Strawberry Fields in 1985
- King Jagliello statue in 1986
- Bethesda Terrace's four-year restoration, completed in 1988
- Grand Army Plaza in 1990
- The Ravine in 1992
- The Charles A. Dana Discovery Center and Harlem Meer in 1993
- Cedar Hill in 1995
- Maine Monument at Columbus Circle in 1996
- Merchants' Gate at Columbus Circle and its surrounding landscapes in 1997
- Great Lawn, Turtle Pond and adjacent landscapes completed in 1997
- Reservoir running track in 1998
- The building of the 79th Street Yard in 1999
- Restoration of the Reservoir landscapes completed in 2000
- Installation of the irrigation system at Sheep Meadow in 2001
- The Pond at 59th Street in 2001
- The Pool at West 103rd Street in 2003
- New Reservoir Fence in December 2003
- Park entrance at West 72nd Street in 2004
- Heckscher Playground, ballfields, and surrounding landscape in May 2006
- Restoration of the Mall in June 2006
- West 110th Street Playground in fall 2006
- Restoration of the Minton tiles ceiling at Bethesda Terrace Arcade in March 2007

Current capital projects under way include:

- Restoration of Back Rock Bridge and Bay
- West 100th Street Playground
- Ancient Playground

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