

HARLEM MEER CENTER | FACT SHEET

The re-envisioning and reconstruction of the Harlem Meer Center represents the culmination of the Conservancy's decades-long effort to restore the north end of Central Park as a vital recreational space for the community.

The new, fully accessible facility will be built in the spirit of Central Park's original design and features include:

- Year-round programming and expanded recreational opportunities at the Harlem Meer, with increased access to nature
- Enhanced swimming and skating, including a larger-than-Olympic-size pool and outdoor spray pad, a full-scale ice rink, and an additional new skating experience on the Meer
- A facility that serves a broader cross-section of Park users, with year-round access to restrooms and amenities and more community programming
- A boardwalk through freshwater marsh plantings at the edge of the water body, which will enhance nature-based recreation on the Meer and, as a seasonal event in the winter, provide for a unique ice-skating experience that evokes the historic experience of skating on the Meer
- Restored flow of water and unhindered access through the north end of the Park by reconnecting the watercourse that runs through the Ravine so it flows freely into the Harlem Meer and re-establishing the pedestrian path that once ran alongside it

The new facility will be better integrated into the landscape, modernized so that it can remain open throughout the year, and support more activities and programming. The North Woods receives about 2 million visits per year, while the Harlem Meer sees about 2.5 million. In contrast, Lasker Rink and Pool attendance in the same timeframe is about 220,000.

For more than 50 years, the Lasker Rink and Pool has acted as a physical and visual barrier in the north end. The building disconnected the Ravine landscape and Loch watercourse from the Harlem Meer. Water running from the Loch into the Meer was redirected through a culvert (a tunnel that carries water around Lasker beneath the ground), which has resulted in regular flooding throughout the years.

Before construction, the pool was open July through early September, and the rink was open late October through mid-March. The rest of the time, the entire facility was shuttered. After construction, the building will be open year-round.

The Conservancy is undertaking the project in partnership with NYC Parks and leading the design and planning effort in collaboration with the architectural team of Susan T. Rodriguez Architecture | Design and Mitchell Giurgola.

The Conservancy committed an initial \$100 million to establish the new Harlem Meer Center, supplemented by a commitment of \$50 million from the City toward construction. The Conservancy will maintain and operate the new facility.

Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY FACTS

The Central Park Conservancy . . .

- is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1980 to restore Central Park after decades of neglect.
- is officially entrusted with managing Central Park and has invested more than \$1 billion into the Park to restore and enhance it.
- is responsible for raising the Park's annual operating budget and for all aspects of the Park's stewardship.
- shares best practices for urban park management with other parks around the world.

Mission statement

The mission of the Central Park 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.

Key facts

- Founded: **1980**
- Investment in Central Park since 1980: **more than \$1.2 billion**
- Annual budget for Central Park: **\$74 million**
- Annual visits to Central Park: **over 42 million**
- Staff: **300+**
- Volunteers: **3,400**
- Annual economic impact of Central Park on NYC: **\$1.4 billion**

Gift shops in Central Park

Belvedere Castle (select merchandise)
Mid-Park at 79th Street

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (select merchandise) 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

Columbus Circle Information Kiosk
Central Park West at 59th Street

Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop (full selection of merchandise) Mid-Park at 65th Street

Online: shop.centralparknyc.org

Volunteer

centralparknyc.org/volunteer

Connect with us

Sign up for email updates:

centralparknyc.org/insider

    @CentralParkNYC #myCentralPark

Donate to maintain Central Park

Donate in Central Park at Belvedere Castle, Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, Chess & Checkers House, and the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop.

Online: centralparknyc.org/donate

Mobile: Text PARK to 20222 to donate \$5

Mail: Make check payable to the Central Park Conservancy and mail to:

Central Park Conservancy
14 East 60th Street
New York, NY 10022
Attention: Membership

Call 212.310.6672

Keep the Park clean and green

- Carry in, carry out
- Recycle
- Use trash cans
- No smoking
- Don't feed the wildlife

CENTRAL PARK FACTS

AREAS	ACRES
Park Total	843
Cedar Hill	12
East Meadow	8.5
Great Lawn Oval	13
Great Lawn Total	55
North Meadow	23
Sheep Meadow	15
Total Woodlands	80
Hallett Nature Sanctuary	4
Ramble	36
North Woods	40
Total Lawns	250

WATER BODIES	ACRES / DEPTH
Conservatory Water	1.91 / 3.5'
Harlem Meer	9.93 / 4'-9'
Reservoir	95.79 / 38'
The Gill	.18 / 3'
The Lake	17.83 / 7'
The Pond	3.73 / 2.5'
The Loch	.61 / 6.5'
Turtle Pond	1.98 / 10'
The Pool	1.57 / 6'
Total Water Bodies	133.53 acres

FEATURES	TOTAL
Arches & Bridges	42*
Artworks	70 ^Δ
Ballfields	26
North Meadow	12 [#]
Great Lawn	8
Heckscher	6
Benches	10,000 [^]
Drinking Fountains	141
Playgrounds	21
Species of Trees	171
Species of Birds (Annually)	More than 210
Tennis Courts	30 (26 Clay)
Trees	18,000 [^]

* Includes 30 ornamental arches and bridges (e.g. Bow Bridge) and 13 bridges (typically unseen and unnamed) that carry Park traffic over transverse roads. One exception is Denesmouth Arch, which is both a transverse road bridge and ornamental bridge. This number does not include various rustic bridges in the Park.

^Δ Sculptures, monuments, memorials, ornamental fountains, gates, and benches that are part of Central Park's permanent collection and are cared for by the Conservancy

[#] 5 softball, 7 hardball, and 6 soccer fields

[^] Approximate