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## Places

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# New York's Central Park: A Retrospective



The 150th Anniversary of Central Park comes at an opportune moment. One hundred and fifty years ago the idea of Central Park was derided as a boondoggle. Yet, through the civic leadership of William Cullen Bryant and Andrew Jackson Downing, and capitalizing on the holistic vision of designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, Central Park eventually became one of the most renowned parks in the world. And over the years Central Park has inspired the creation of hundreds, if not thousands, of other urban parks.

Today parks are again rising to the forefront of a movement to build livable cities. In June 2003 New York City will host "Great Parks/Great Cities: Celebrating 150 Years of Central Park," an international conference for those who care about urban parks and their role in contemporary life. At the conference, Central Park's immense achievements and influential history will serve as a starting point for discussions about current trends in design and management of urban parks, and an exchange of lessons on these topics from around the world. This special section of *Places*, incorporating an illustrated timeline of Central Park, is intended to help inform that discussion and honor the role of this great park in the life of New York City.

"Great Parks/Great Cities: Celebrating 150 Years of Central Park" is jointly organized by the Central Park Conservancy, the Project for Public Spaces, City of New York/Parks & Recreation, City Parks Alliance, City Parks Foundation, Cityscape Institute, New Yorkers for Parks, and the Prospect Park Alliance.



NOOK IN  
CENTRAL PARK  
NEW YORK

Central Park, New York.  
*Aerial View.*



ILL. POST-  
CO., N. Y.



The Terrace and Bethesda Fountain, Central Park, New York City.



The Mall Central Park, New York.

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