

# A guide to the Great Lawn in Central Park



Welcome to Central Park's Great Lawn.

**Help keep the Great Lawn clean, green, and beautiful.** While visiting, please protect the grass, trees, pond, wildlife, buildings and monuments. Group sports are permitted in designated areas with a permit. Obey official signs. Remember, the long-term health of the Great Lawn depends on your cooperation and support.

## History

Originally the site of a reservoir from 1842 – 1931, the Great Lawn was created in the 1930s as a pastoral landscape, with playgrounds at its northeast and northwest corners, and at its south end Belvedere Lake, now called Turtle Pond. Eight ballfields were added in the 1950s.

Intense use and poor drainage resulted in the severe deterioration of the Great Lawn. Erosion from the lawn deposited in Turtle Pond over the years, endangering an important habitat for the Park's aquatic wildlife and birds. In October 1995, the Central Park Conservancy and the City of New York/Parks & Recreation, embarked on the 55-acre restoration of the Great Lawn. The two-year, \$18.2 million project included the 13-acre lawn and its 8 ballfields, Turtle Pond, and surrounding landscapes from 79th Street to 86th Street between the East and West Drives.

Preserving Central Park's Great Lawn will require routine maintenance from Central Park zone gardeners and field personnel and sustained cooperation and assistance from visitors to the Great Lawn. When you visit the Great Lawn please follow these simple rules:

## Great Lawn Oval, North Fields & Surrounding Landscapes

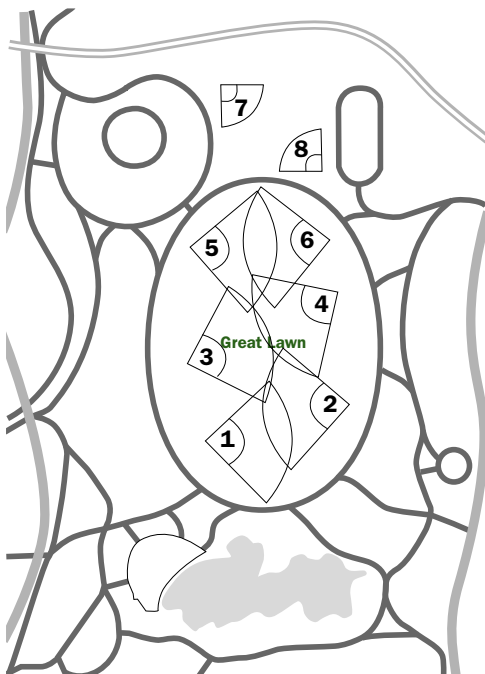
- Do not litter. Deposit trash in waste containers.
- Get a permit for commercial activity and amplified sound devices.
- Do not barbecue.
- Leave the Park by 1:00 am, closing time.
- Fields may be closed for maintenance or when wet.
- A permit is required to play group sports on the Great Lawn Oval and North Fields.
- The Great Lawn Oval is designated for softball with a permit.
- Youth soccer is only allowed on North Fields from mid-September through November, by permit only.
- Cleats are not permitted on the Great Lawn Oval and North Fields.
- The northeast corner playground is designated for volleyball and basketball.
- Events with more than 20 people require a permit.
- The landscapes surrounding the Great Lawn are for casual activities—sunbathing, picnics, reading, etc.
- Motor vehicles are not permitted on the Great Lawn, North Fields, or surrounding landscapes.
- Dogs are not permitted on the ballfields. Leashed dogs are permitted in the landscapes surrounding the Great Lawn.
- Rollerblading is prohibited around the Great Lawn.

## Turtle Pond & Belvedere Castle

- Turtle Pond is a “quiet zone.” Musical instruments are prohibited and earphones are required for electronic devices.
- Dogs are not permitted in Turtle Pond.
- Swimming, washing, and wading are not permitted in Turtle Pond.
- Fishing is not allowed in Turtle Pond.
- Belvedere Castle was built in 1872 as an ornament for the landscape and as a place to look at the view.
- The Castle is now a visitor center where park patrons can get maps and information on upcoming programs.
- The exhibits in the Castle help visitors to understand the ecology of Central Park.

Softball Season: mid-April through mid-September

Youth Soccer Season: mid-September through November



## Map Key

- Park Drive/Recreation Lane
- Transverse Road
- Path
- Water Body

