

Artist's Guide to NYC Parks Public Art Sites



Artist's Guide to New York City Parks Public Art Sites

Virtually any park in New York City can host a public artwork, and nearly one in ten parks has done so. This guide represents a small selection of our venues in an ever-expanding resource for artists wishing to exhibit in our parks.

We are especially interested in directing your attention to sites little programmed in the past, but which demonstrate promise and potential as community art hubs. These parks are in highly visible and well-trafficked locations, but exist in neighborhoods that have been underserved by cultural programming.

We seek vibrant and thought-provoking artistic projects that will beautify, energize, and enhance a space, and create social interactions while respecting existing uses. Artworks that are site-sensitive and responsive have proven to be especially effective.

The list within this guide is by no means definitive, and is the beginning of our effort to improve and serve all communities.

To learn more or apply, visit the [NYC Parks Art & Antiquities website](#).

About NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program

In 1967, the City first demonstrated its commitment to public art when Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (then united as one agency) organized the group outdoor exhibit *Sculpture in Environment*. The intent was to use public space as an outdoor museum, letting works of art "loose in the city, to set them under the light of day where they intrude upon our daily walks and errands."

In the intervening decades, a pair of significant trends emerged. Previously untapped public spaces became coveted outdoor galleries in which to display contemporary art. The new forum provided a stage for emerging artists to display their work and reach wider audiences. Thousands of artists have exhibited their works in New York City parks, demonstrating an astonishing array of styles, forms, materials and conceptions.

Their works range from steel constructions to installations made from an assortment of organic biodegradable media. These public installations have helped launch careers, and they have also showcased the work of long-established artists.

NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Through collaborations with a diverse group of arts organizations and artists, we bring to the public both experimental and traditional art in many park locations. The works may be displayed in prominent flagship parks, neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and traffic islands. Temporary installations are defined by an exhibition period of less than one year, typically remaining on view for three to six months.

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COVER, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, *Dancers of the Wind*; George Sanchez-Calderon, *MONOLITH / PLINTH / STOOP*; Ben Snead, *Fish Farm (Brooklyn Snappers)*; Padilla-Harris, *MistWave*; Katherine Daniels, *Ornamental Paths*; Art Students League, *Flock*; Gimhongsok, *Bear-Like Construction*; Fanny Allie, *Serendipity*; Bundith Phunsombatlert, *Wayfinding: 100 NYC Public Sculptures*.

Bronx



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Alejandro Diaz, *A Can for All Seasons*;
Katherine Daniels, *Ornamental Paths*;
Anna Craycroft, *Lo! The Fiery Whirlpool*.



Anna Craycroft's *Lo! The Fiery Whirlpool* was a study in contrasts. The thick base of the smaller-than-life-size corten steel lighthouse suggested permanency and a certain ruggedness that seemed at odds with the filigree, almost lacy, cut-out at the apex of the structure.



The park includes a grassy amphitheater, a small beach front, and lawns punctuated by winding pathways.

Barretto Point Park

Hunts Point, Bronx // Viele Ave. between Tiffany St. and Barretto St.

About the Area

Located in the South Bronx, Hunts Point is largely dominated by industry with small, dense pockets of residential buildings. Most notably, the neighborhood is home to the Hunts Point Terminal Market, one of the world's largest food distribution centers.

Site Considerations

Located on the beautiful East River waterfront, fishers sit on the park's piers and cast lines, boaters take out canoes and kayaks for a turn around the river, and swimmers use the floating swimming pool during the summer. The park includes an amphitheater, a small beachfront, and lawns punctuated by winding pathways.

Park History

The original inhabitants of the area were the Weckgwaesgeek Native Americans, who grew corn and tobacco on the peninsula. European settlers displaced the Weckgwaesgeek in the 17th century. They named the peninsula Hunts Point for Thomas Hunt, who settled there in 1670. The newcomers built elaborate estates and farmed the land as well. This park, like the street on which it lies, honors Francis J. Barretto, a 19th century merchant who lived in the area. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

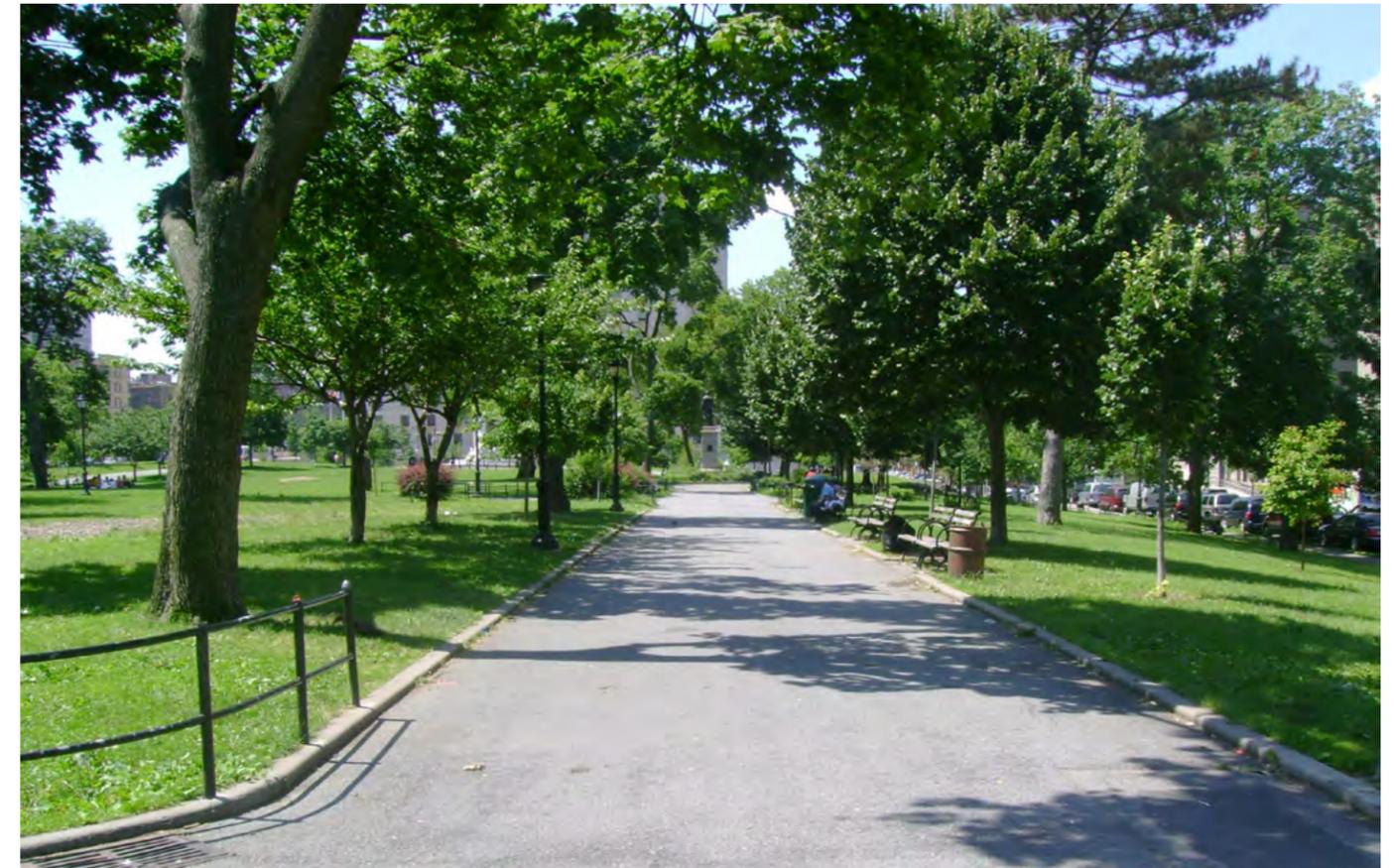
Anna Craycroft exhibited *Lo! The Fiery Whirlpool* in the park from October 2007 to June 2008.

Getting Here

6 train to Longwood Ave.



George Sanchez-Calderon, *MONUMENT / PLINTH / STOOP*. The plywood structure resembled a plinth for a classical monument on one side and a stepped entry on the other.



Wide paved pathways traverse Joyce Kilmer Park's vast lawns.

Joyce Kilmer Park

Concourse, Bronx // Grand Concourse to Walton Ave. between East 161 and East 164 St.

About the Area

Formerly known as Concourse Plaza until 1902, Joyce Kilmer Park is located near popular cultural and civic landmarks such as Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and the Bronx County Courthouse. This heavily used park is also flanked by the Grand Concourse, a century-old thoroughfare that is lined with historic, landmarked buildings designed with brick and mosaic Art Deco patterns.

Site Considerations

The park's open lawns offer ideal locations for large-scale artwork, particularly the lawns on the southeastern side of the park that get the most vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Wider paved areas where inner park pathways intersect can also be considered for installations.

Park History

This seven-acre, rectangular park is named after the author of the poem *Trees*, journalist and soldier, Joyce Kilmer. The park was redesigned in 1936, at which time its two monuments, the Louis J. Heintz statue and the Lorelei Fountain, were placed in their present locations. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 1975 Mark DiSuvero was the first artist to exhibit in Joyce Kilmer. George Sanchez-Calderon exhibited his interactive installation, *MONUMENT / PLINTH / STOOP* in 2007. In 2012, Katherine Daniels exhibited *Ornamental Pathways* as part of the Clare Weiss Emerging Artist Award.

Getting Here

B or D trains to 161 St./Yankee Stadium.



FROM TOP:
The Poe Park Visitor Center; Poe Cottage, where celebrated author and poet Edgar Allan Poe spent the last years of his life from 1846 to 1849.

Poe Park

Fordham, Bronx // Grand Concourse between East 192 St. and East Kingsbridge Rd.

About the Area

The park is located near Fordham University, the New York Botanical Gardens and the newly opened NYPL Bronx Library Center (NYPL's first green library). The Poe Cottage, believed to have been built in 1812, is part of the Historic House Trust and run by the Bronx Historical Society. Constructed in 2006, the raven-inspired Poe Park Visitor Center was designed by Toshiko Mori and is the recipient of several design awards.

Site Considerations

Open lawns and a spacious, paved plaza on the south end of the park offer ideal locations for larger work. The bandstand has been used for performances in the past, but access makes it difficult to place artwork within the structure. The park is heavily used by the community and their families so artwork should be durable enough to withstand frequent interaction.

Park History

Poe Park is named after Poe Cottage, a historical landmark in the park where Edgar Allan Poe spent the last years of his life from 1846 to 1849. The cottage was originally located near the intersection of Kingsbridge Road and Valentine Avenue, but was moved in 1913 about 450 feet north of its original location. The cottage neighbors the Poe Park Visitor Center, which holds regular community events, workshops, exhibitions and open activity hours. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

While public artwork has not been on view in the park, the Poe Park Visitor Center exhibits shows year-round, including work by Claudia Fernandez and the Bronx Latin American Art Biennial.

Getting Here

B or D trains to Kingsbridge Rd.



Flock, a collaborative piece by students at the Art Students League, used birds to represent the diversity of the Bronx.

Van Cortlandt Park

NYC-Westchester County Line, Bronx // Van Cortlandt Park South between Broadway and Jerome Ave.

About the Area

Van Cortlandt Park — more than one thousand acres atop the ridges and valleys of the northwest Bronx — is New York City's third-largest park and borders numerous neighborhoods. Playing fields and playgrounds are scattered about the park's edges, surrounding a richly forested heartland fed by Tibbets Brook. Large expanses of deep forest, running paths, playing fields, a pool, tennis courts, dog runs, and the country's first public golf course also find a home in the park.

Site Considerations

Van Cortlandt features the borough's largest freshwater lake and the Van Cortlandt Mansion and Museum, the borough's oldest house. Typically, past exhibitions have been placed in the vicinity of subway stations for optimal viewing. Pieces proposed for the Van Cortlandt Museum grounds need to be approved by the Daughters of the American Revolution, who maintain the home, and the Historic House Trust.

Park History

The Weckquaesgeek Lenapes occupied this site when, in 1639, the Dutch East India Company brought the first Europeans to settle in the Bronx. Jacobus Van Cortlandt bought the property in 1694 and the Van Cortlandt Mansion was built in 1748 by his son, Frederick Van Cortlandt. At the onset of the American Revolution, City Clerk Augustus Van Cortlandt hid the city records from the British Army at the family burial plot of Vault Hill. Van Cortlandt Park is also home to the country's first public golf course, popular cross country trails, and parade ground. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

The park has exhibited several public artworks by the Art Students League since 2010. Mary Mattingly exhibited *Flock House* in 2012.

Getting Here

1 train to 242nd St.; 4 to Woodlawn.



FROM TOP: Van Cortlandt House is the centerpiece of the 1,000-acre urban park that encompasses what was once the Van Cortlandt family's estate; the *Flock House* initiative examines questions of mobile, self-sufficient living units becoming building blocks for future cities.

Brooklyn



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Akihiro Ito, *Tomorrow*; Tom Otterness,
Covered Wagon; Leonard Ursachi, *Hiding Place*.



Leonard Ursachi, *Well*.

Cadman Plaza Park

Downtown Brooklyn // Cadman Plaza West, Cadman Plaza East between the BQE and Tillary St.

About the Area

The park is surrounded by federal and state courts, the main branch of the Brooklyn Post Office, the offices of the International Red Cross, and the headquarters of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Cadman Plaza remains a large recreational space for neighborhood residents, workers, and children. Containing fields, lines benches, and a comfort station, Cadman Plaza Park's main function is as a playground for the entire Brooklyn Heights community.

Site Considerations

The Brooklyn War Memorial, the massive memorial in the center of the park, was designed by Charles Keck and honors Brooklynites who served in World War II. The area south of the Memorial is predominantly recreational fields, while the northern end has wider grassy lawns, one of which includes a statue of William Jay Gaynor, former mayor of New York City.

Park History

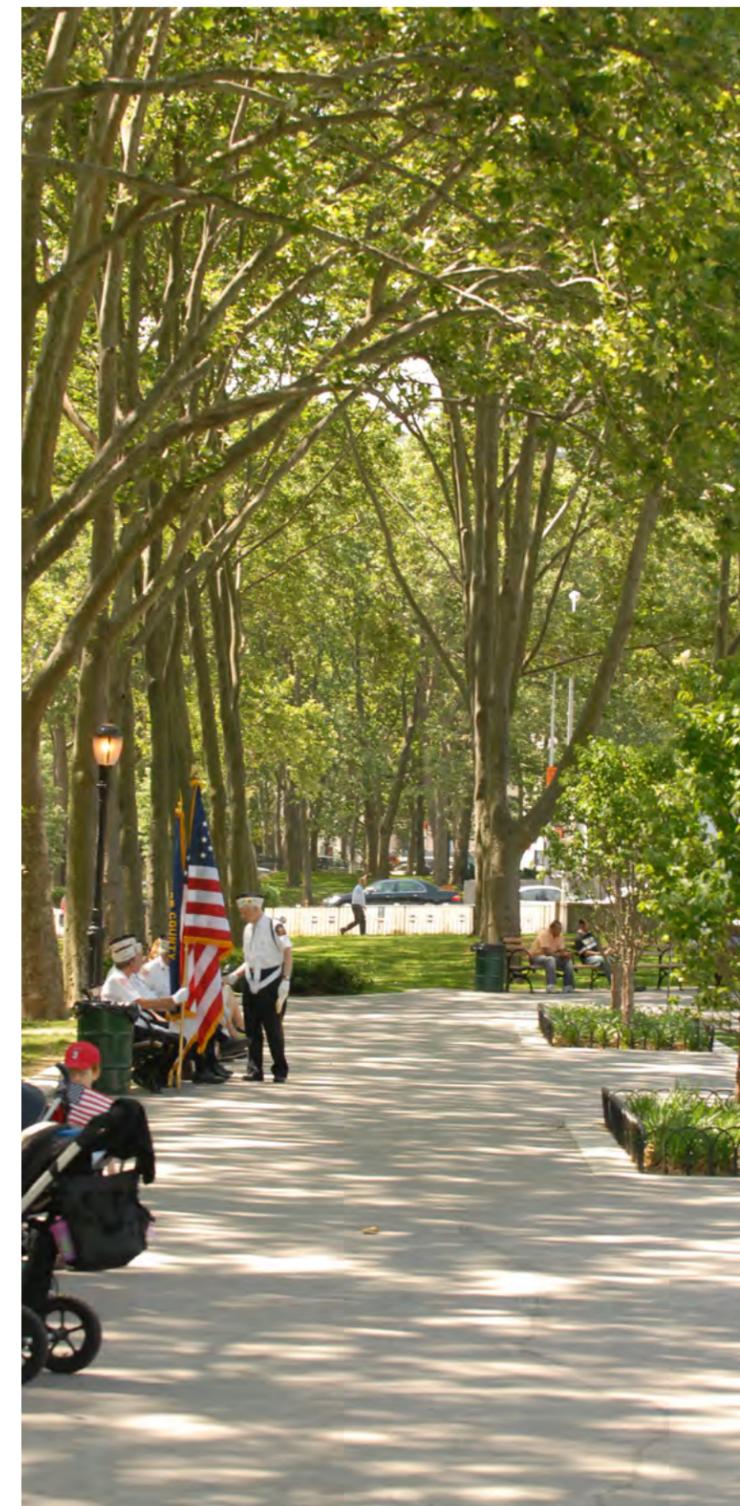
This park honors Reverend Dr. Samuel Parkes Cadman (1864-1936), a Brooklyn Congregational minister and radio preacher famed for his oratory. Lenape Native Americans originally inhabited the area until the Dutch arrived in the 1600s and gained control of the land they came to call Breuckelen. Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights remained sparsely inhabited until 1814, when Robert Fulton's new steam ferry began to offer an easy commute to and from downtown Manhattan. Brooklyn Heights became Manhattan's first suburb, and Downtown Brooklyn was on its way to becoming a center of commerce and the heart of municipal Brooklyn. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

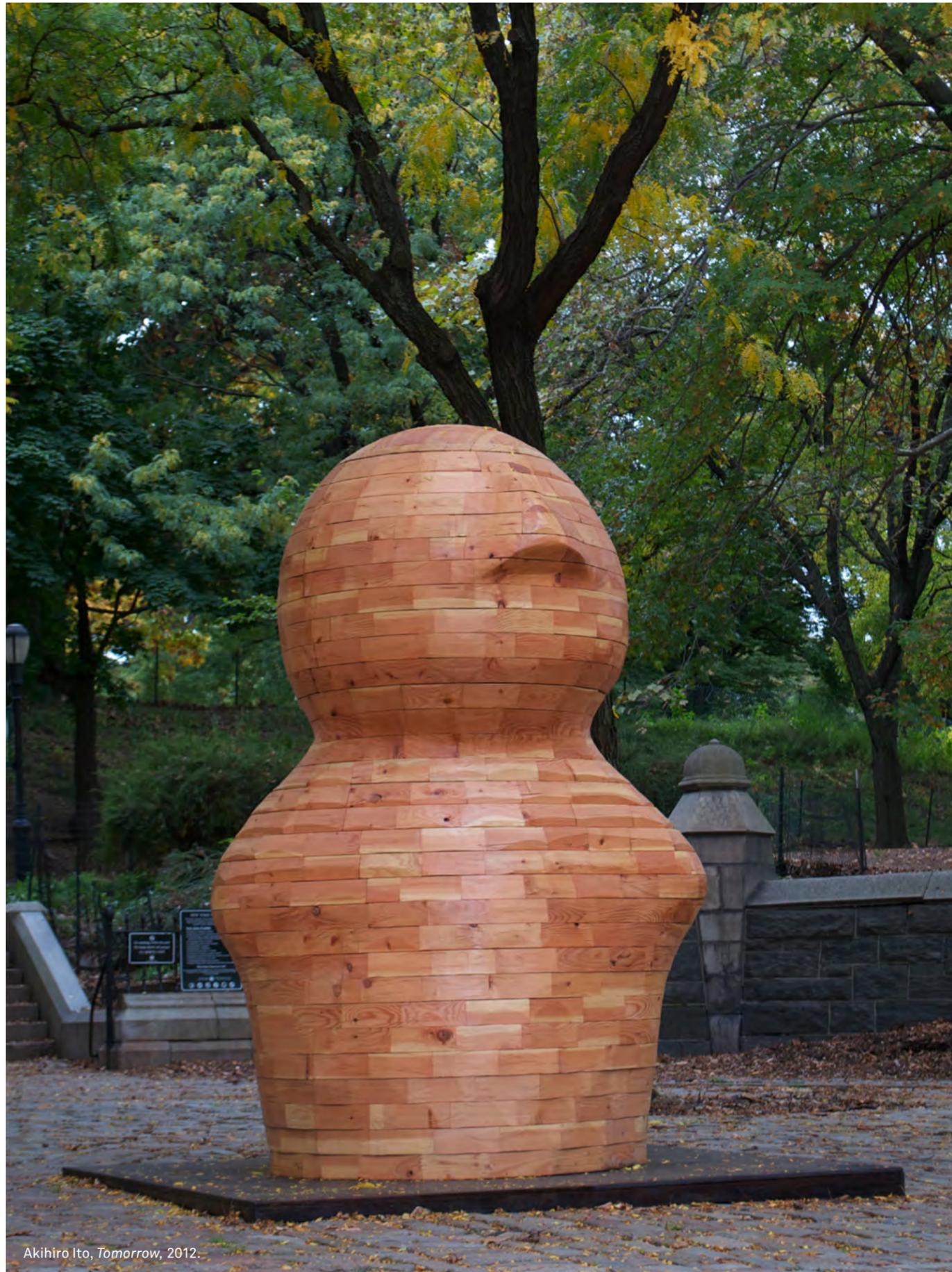
Mark DiSvero was the first artist to exhibit in Cadman Plaza in 1975 as part of an exhibition organized by the Whitney Museum. The park was used as a sculpture garden in the 1980s and since DiSvero's installation, 21 artists have exhibited in Cadman Plaza. Most recently *The Strategic Placement of Stone* by Samuel Nigro was exhibited in 2008 and Leonard Ursachi exhibited his sculpture *Well* in 2011.

Getting Here

A or C trains to High St., 2 or 3 to Clark St., F to York St.



Turf recreational lawns and paved paths are located south of the Brooklyn War Memorial in Cadman Plaza.



Akihiro Ito, *Tomorrow*, 2012.



Public art installations work especially well at the cobblestone courtyard at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park.

Fort Greene Park

Fort Greene, Brooklyn // Myrtle Avenue, DeKalb Ave. between Washington Park and St. Edward's St.

About the Area

Fort Greene is a designated New York City Historic District located in northwest Brooklyn, west of Prospect Park. The neighborhood is known for its 19th-century architecture and row homes. The Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, BRIC and the renowned Pratt Institute are nearby.

Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn's first park, continues to reward its neighborhood today. Facilities include a variety of ball courts, barbecues, mature trees, rolling hills, playgrounds, and spray fountains.

Site Considerations

The Fort Greene Park Conservancy and the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership help NYC Parks maintain the park. Potential sites for artwork can be found throughout the park including the vast lawns, and specifically the cobblestone courtyard at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park.

Park History

As editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle*, Walt Whitman called for the establishment of Fort Greene Park. The park, formerly Washington Park, was redesigned in 1867 by landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the designers of Central and Prospect Parks. Once a site of forts built for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, Fort Greene hosts the impressive Prison Ship Martyrs Monument designed by Stanford White, which honors the 11,500 men and women—known as the prison ship martyrs—who died as British captives on overcrowded prison ships during the Battle of Long Island. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

Over ten artists have exhibited temporary artworks in the park in the past two decades including Akihiro Ito's 2012 sculpture *Tomorrow*. In 2011 Ruth McKerrell also debuted three cast aluminum sculptures—*Ancient*, *Goatie Boy*, and *Goat as Wolf*—as part of the Clare Weiss Emerging Artist Award.

Getting Here

A or C trains to Lafayette Ave.; G to Fulton St.; D,H,N,Q or R to DeKalb Ave.; 2, 3, 4 or 5 to Atlantic Ave. or Nevins St.



— *Las Bicletas* by Gilberto Aceves Navarro encouraged New Yorkers to use bicycles as a form of transportation around the city.



Surrounded by turn of the century Brooklyn industrial buildings, this public park is a jewel along the otherwise inaccessible waterfront.

Louis Valentino, Jr. Park and Pier

Red Hook, Brooklyn // Ferris St. between Coffey St. and Van Dyke St.

About the Area

Valentino Pier was once the site of an active shipping industry. The park is only a couple of blocks from Van Brunt Street, which offers a growing number of independent shops, restaurants and businesses. The Statue of Liberty, Governor's Island, Manhattan's skyline, Staten Island, and the New York Harbor are visible from the pier. Other parks and attractions nearby include Red Hook Recreation Center, The Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge, and Beard Street Pier.

Site Considerations

Surrounded by turn of the century Brooklyn industrial buildings, this public park is a jewel along the otherwise inaccessible waterfront. Exhibitions can be proposed for the lawns as well as the pier. Artwork proposed for the pier is subject to weight restrictions. Additionally, pieces cannot be anchored into the pier, and must be attached to a plate or freestanding.

Park History

In the 1600s, the Red Hook district was settled by the Dutch and as the land became more developed and the population grew, the shipping industry took shape. With the growth of the New York Harbor and accompanying changes on the waterfront, Red Hook became one of the nation's premier shipping centers in the 19th century. This park was named in honor of firefighter and Parks lifeguard Louis J. Valentino, Jr. (1958 – 1996). To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

Las Bicletas by Gilberto Aceves Navarro was on view in Valentino Park in 2014.

Getting Here

B61 bus to Van Dyke St. - Van Brunt St.



Sunset Park offers stunning views of Manhattan's skyline. From the park's highest point, you can see the Statue of Liberty, vibrant Brooklyn neighborhoods, and the green hills of Staten Island and New Jersey.

Sunset Park

Sunset Park, Brooklyn // 41st St., 44th St., between 5th Ave. and 7th Ave.

About the Area

Sunset Park is one of New York's hidden treasures. Tucked away in the Brooklyn neighborhood that bears its name, this park is famous for its breathtaking vista. Sunset Park offers stunning views of Manhattan's skyline. From the park's highest point, you can see the Statue of Liberty, vibrant Brooklyn neighborhoods, and the green hills of Staten Island and New Jersey.

Site Considerations

Though the apex of the park has the best views, exhibitions will be most visible to the public if placed along the 5th Avenue commercial corridor, or on the lawns at 7th Avenue in front of the Recreation Center/Pool House. In the summer months, Sunset Park and its pool become home to swimmers. With an active recreation center and playground, Sunset Park has visitors even in the colder months of the year.

Park History

The area surrounding the park was acquired by the Dutch in the 1600s. The land remained relatively undeveloped until the beginning of the 19th century, when Irish immigrants settled the area. The neo-classical/Art Deco Sunset Park Pool and Play Center was opened in 1936 as part of a massive Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. Sunset Pool received an extensive restoration in the 1980s, including reconstruction of the pool, bathhouse, and comfort station, and expanded playground. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

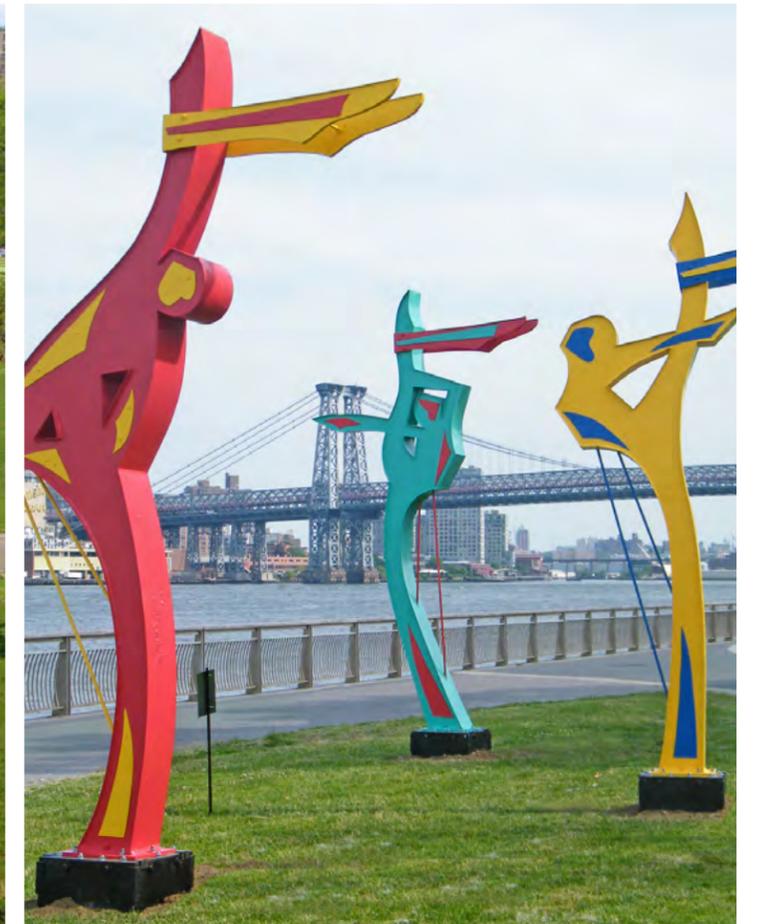
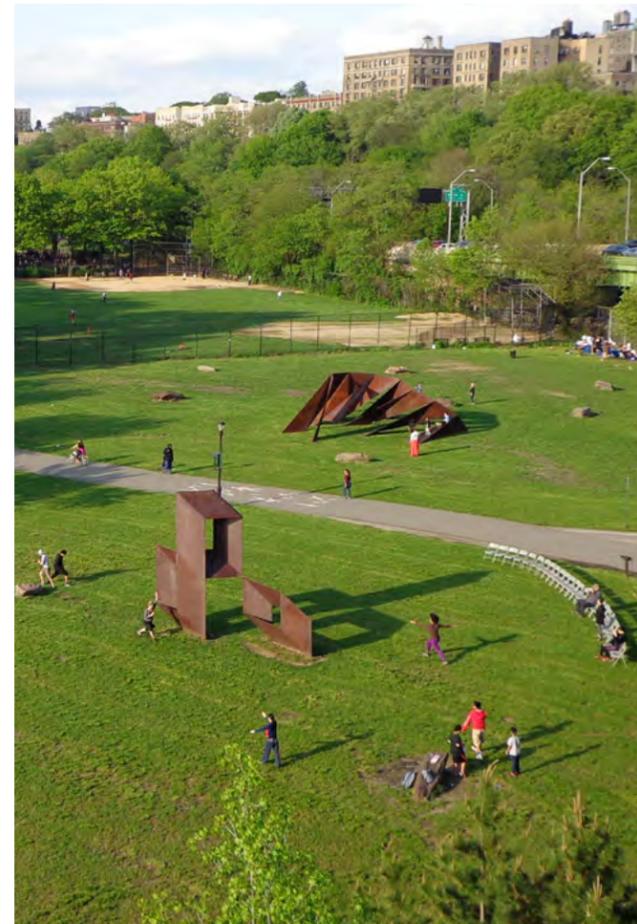
Getting Here

R train to 45th St.; D to 9th Ave.

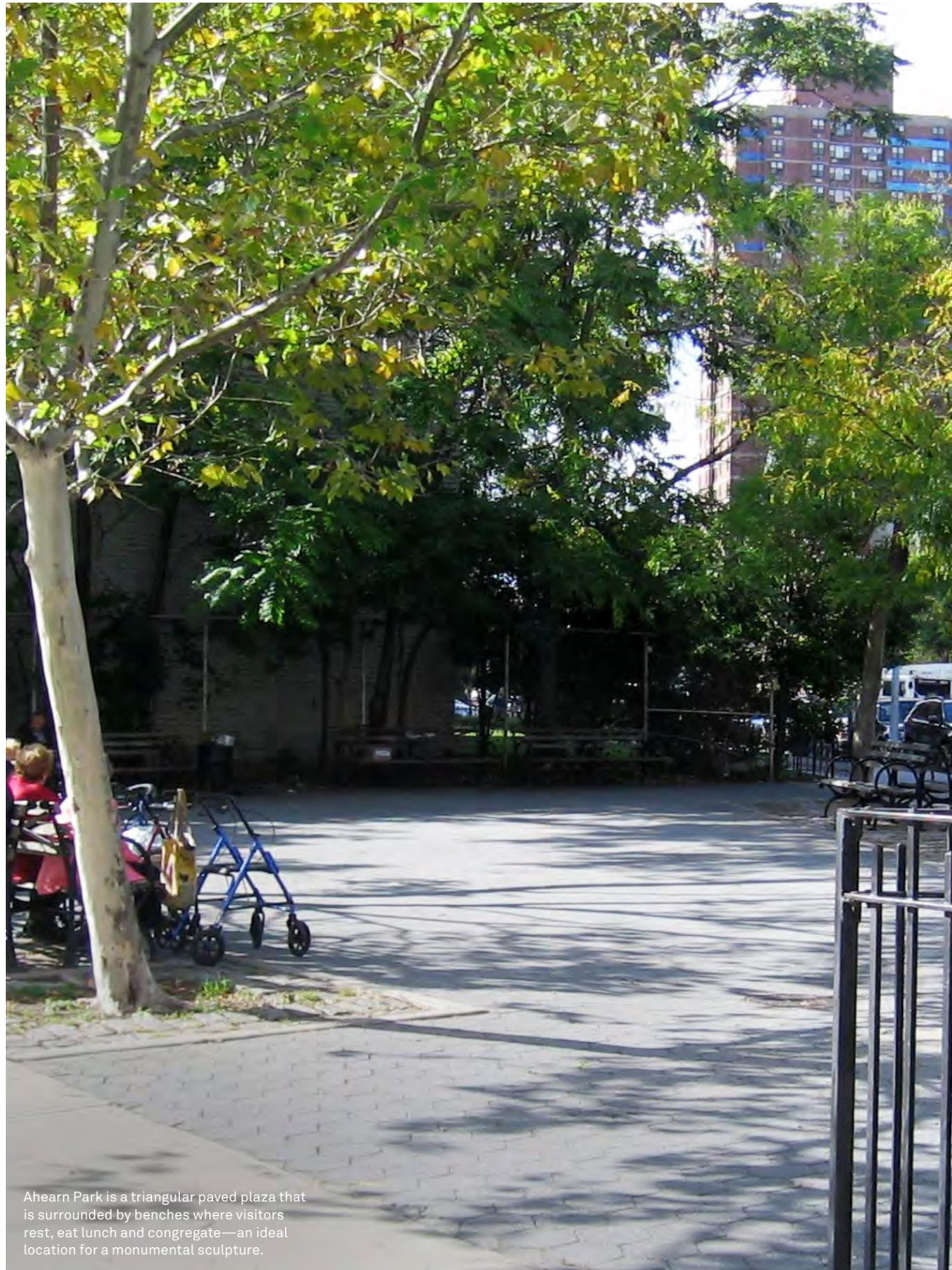


More Art installed Sari Carel's *Borrowed Light* in Sunset Park in May 2015. The project features abstract geometric architectural forms, incorporating field recorded sounds from the park's local fauna.

Manhattan



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Chuck Ginnever, *Medusa and High Rise*; Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, *Dancers of the Wind*; Gimhongsok, *Bear-Like Construction*.



Ahearn Park is a triangular paved plaza that is surrounded by benches where visitors rest, eat lunch and congregate—an ideal location for a monumental sculpture.



Allen Glatter's *Toro*, the first public artwork to be exhibited in Ahearn Park in the Lower East Side.

Ahearn Park

Lower East Side, Manhattan // Grand St., East Broadway and Willett St.

About the Area

Located in Manhattan's Lower East Side, the park is just a few blocks from the East River in a primarily residential area. This small urban oasis is a short walking distance to Chinatown, Seward Park, the Seward Park Library branch, and the Williamsburg Bridge. An elementary school is across the street and several apartment complexes surround the park.

Site Considerations

Ahearn Park is a triangular paved plaza that is surrounded by benches where visitors rest, eat lunch and congregate. Mature trees border the park, providing shade. The central plaza is ideal for a monumental sculpture, but note that pavers must be replaced at the exhibitor's expense if anchoring into them is necessary.

Park History

This small Lower East Side park is one of New York City's oldest. On August 2, 1824, the Common Council agreed to take a triangular piece of land. In 1923 the park was named for John Francis Ahearn (1853-1920), a Tammany Hall sachem who rose to power around the turn of the century. Ahearn's leadership style was marked by his devotion to the personal needs of his constituents. The park was renovated in 1998 to include new World's Fair benches, reset pavers and planting areas, making it an enduring oasis in the Lower East Side. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2015, Allen Glatter's sculpture *Toro* was the first public artwork exhibited in Ahearn Park.

Getting Here

F train to East Broadway.



The sizable, 20-acre park is centered on the spine of Fifth Avenue on a steep outcropping of Manhattan schist surrounded by spacious, flat lawns that are ideal for installations.

Marcus Garvey Park

Harlem, Manhattan // Madison Ave, East 120th St. to East 124th St.

About the Area

Marcus Garvey Park, formerly known as Mount Morris Park, has been a central public square in Harlem for over 150 years. Located in one of the earliest landmarked neighborhoods, the park's Mount Morris Historic District boasts some of the city's most impressive brownstones. The historic Apollo Theatre, National Black Theatre, Schomburg Library, Studio Museum of Harlem, and numerous houses of worship are in walking distance from the park. Marcus Garvey Park also offers important facilities including the Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, an amphitheater and a swimming pool. The Marcus Garvey Park Alliance community group organizes a variety of cultural events in addition to supporting capital projects.

Site Considerations

The sizable, 20-acre park is centered on the spine of Fifth Avenue on a steep outcropping of Manhattan schist surrounded by spacious, flat lawns that are ideal for installations. Although the park's natural features have been preserved, a number of architectural elements have been added over time, including a landmarked fire watchtower that is currently being conserved at an offsite facility. The community would like to reactivate the Acropolis, a bluestone plaza at the apex of the park adjacent to the watchtower site; however, there are logistical considerations regarding installation and weight limitations to preserve the integrity of the pavers, getting materials up to the site, and visibility.

Park History

The social and political history of this site reaches back to the early colonial period. Dutch settlers referred to the park as "Slangberg," or Snake Hill, because of its now-extinct reptile population. British fortifications on the site guarded the Harlem River during the Revolutionary War. The Common Council considered razing the hilly area in 1835 to accommodate new streets, but local citizens successfully petitioned to preserve it as a public park and it opened as Mount Morris Park in 1840. The park was renamed in 1973 for Marcus Garvey, an advocate for economic independence within the black community and proponent of black nationalism. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).



Cuban-American artist Florencio Gelabert presented *Forest Door*, three tilting columns of stainless steel.

Who Has Exhibited Here

Florencio Gelabert exhibited *Forest Door* as part of the Hallelujah Public Art Festival in 2006. In 2008 and 2013, Learning Through an Expanded Arts Program (LEAP) exhibited artistically transformed lunchroom tables designed by Harlem students, who used them as a platform to address important social issues.

Getting Here

2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 trains to 125th St., Metro North to Harlem-125th St.



Boaz Vaadia uses slate, shingle, bluestone—all materials that are found in the native geology of the New York City area. He then continues the process by casting the original stone sculpture in bronze.

Morningside Park

Harlem/Morningside Heights, Manhattan // W. 110th St. to W. 123rd St., Manhattan to Morningside Aves.

About the Area

Morningside Park is a narrow strip built on a steep incline that stretches 13 blocks through the neighborhoods of Harlem and Morningside Heights. The park is conveniently located in the heart of upper Manhattan, only a few blocks from Columbia University, Riverside Park, St. Nicholas Park, the Apollo Theater, St. John the Divine, and the northern tip of Central Park. The park offers a number of recreational and natural amenities including playgrounds, ballfields, breathtaking views from the upper esplanade along the buttressed masonry wall, as well as a cascading waterfall. The Friends of Morningside Park promote the rehabilitation, maintenance, and programming of Morningside Park.

Site Considerations

The steep, rocky terrain limits installations to the flatter southern and eastern portions of the park. Public art has been successfully exhibited around the pond, as the surrounding lawns are open and level.

Park History

Morningside Park takes its name from the eastern side (where the sun rises) of the rugged cliff of Manhattan schist which separates Morningside Heights from the Harlem Plain. On September 16, 1776, during the Revolutionary War Battle of Harlem Heights, colonial forces retreated on a road through the area. Three blockhouse fortifications were built here and put to use during the War of 1812. Originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1873, their park plans were initially rejected, and later reworked by Jacob Wrey Mould before Olmsted and Vaux were rehired to finish the construction. In 1968 student and community protests halted construction of a large gymnasium by Columbia University in the park and the excavated foundation crater was converted into an ornamental pond and waterfall in 1989-90. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).



Morningside Park is a narrow strip built on a steep incline that stretches 13 blocks through the neighborhoods of Harlem and Morningside Heights.

Who Has Exhibited Here

Monuments installed in and around Morningside include *Lafayette and Washington* (1900) by Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, the *Carl Schurz Memorial* (1913) by Karl Bitter and Henry Bacon, and the *Seligman (Bear and Faun) Fountain* (1914) by Edgar Walter. Barbara Segal exhibited *Drawn to Water* as part of the Hallelujah Public Art Festival in 2006 and Boaz Vaadia exhibited a series of four sculptures in the park from 2007-2008.

Getting Here

B or C trains to Cathedral Parkway (110th St.), Bor C trains to 116th St., A, B, C, or D trains to 125th St.



Bill Barrett, 911, 2011.



Finn Square, a highly trafficked intersection, is adjacent to a subway station and just blocks south of the Holland Tunnel.

Finn Square Park

Tribeca, Manhattan // West Broadway between Leonard and Franklin Sts.

About the Area

Finn Square is a small triangular, green canopy of trees surrounded by a concrete border on just .1 acre of land. The park is in a residential part of Tribeca that borders SoHo. The neighborhood was once an important district for wholesale commodities, produce, and dairy products, but is now known for its celebrity residents, famous restaurants, and historic warehouse buildings. This highly trafficked intersection is adjacent to the Franklin Street subway station and just several blocks south of the Holland Tunnel.

Site Considerations

The park's landscaping is divided by a small pathway, but artwork is best exhibited on the paved southern plaza or on the northern walkway.

Park History

Finn Square was named for Phillip Schuyler Finn, who lost his life bravely fighting in World War I as a member of the legendary 69th Regiment. The land was designated a New York City Greenstreet in 1999. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

Tribeca artist Bill Barrett exhibited at Finn Square in 2004 and 2011.

Getting Here

1 train to Franklin St.



FROM TOP:
Katherine Daniels' *St. Nicholas Park Mesh* was a series of weavings on basketball court fences; made of twisted steel and wood. Kristin Campbell's *Moving Between* appears frozen, as if caught in a slow dance.

St. Nicholas Park

Harlem, Manhattan // St. Nicholas Terrace between West 128 St. and West 141 St.

About the Area

St. Nicholas was built on a rugged mass of rock, following the steep and irregular topography of northern Manhattan. This spacious park borders the Manhattan neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Harlem. The western side of the park is flanked by the City College of New York campus, which sits high on the rocks overlooking the park. The eastern side of the park is bordered by residential buildings and historically restored brownstones.

Site Considerations

The steep, rocky terrain limits installations to several locations in the park. The plaza at the 135th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue entrance provides a prominent, grand location for public art. Note that pavers must be replaced at the exhibitor's expense if anchoring into them is necessary. The rolling lawn west of the plaza has successfully exhibited several artworks.

Park History

A Native American path passed along what is now St. Nicholas Avenue and connected Spuyten Duyvil to the tip of Manhattan. General George Washington positioned himself in the park (originally settled by Dutch farmers in the late 1600s) during the Battle of Harlem Heights in 1776 during the American Revolution. Hamilton Grange, home of founding father Alexander Hamilton, is located on the northern end of the park and is under the authority of the National Parks Service. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2003 Kristin Campbell exhibited *Moving Between* with the West Harlem Art Fund. The organization also exhibited Marcie Reven's *Closer: In Conversation* and Scherezade Garcia's *Unity Ribbon* in 2010. In 2013 Katherine Daniels exhibited *St. Nicholas Park Mesh*, a series of fence weavings on basketball court fences that represented the park's history.

Getting Here

A, B, or C trains to 135th St.



The plaza at 135th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue entrance provides a prominent, grand location for public art.

Queens



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Bundith Phunsombatlert, *Wayfinding: 100 NYC Public Sculptures*; Mary Miss, *SUNSWICK CREEK: Reflecting Forward*, part of *Civic Action: A Vision for Long Island City*; Christopher K. Ho, *Kingcharlesrufuskingmartinluther*.



Jeppe Hein, *Modified Social Bench*, 2007. The exhibition stemmed from the artist's consideration of social space and the way the physical environment shapes one's behavior.



The Long Island City Courthouse overlooks the park and the central ornamental fountain.

Court Square Park

Long Island City, Queens // Jackson Ave., Thompson Ave., Court Sq.

About the Area

Long Island City, the westernmost neighborhood in Queens, is known for its thriving arts community. Previously home to many factories and bakeries, Long Island City hosts a growing number of artist lofts and arts organizations including SculptureCenter, Socrates Sculpture Park, MoMA PS1, the Fisher Landau Center for Art, and the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Museum.

Site Considerations

Tall birch trees surround a central fountain in Court Square Park, which leads up to the steps of the courthouse. This park is visible from the highly trafficked Jackson Avenue, adjacent Citigroup Building and subway entrance.

There is a pre-existing cement slab on the lawn along Jackson Avenue that measures 126" x 210", which can be used to anchor large-scale works. The paved plaza directly in front of the courthouse is not Parks property and cannot be used for exhibitions.

Park History

Court Square Park is located directly in front of the Long Island City Courthouse. A worker repairing the roof of the original French Second Empire style building accidentally set it ablaze, destroying the entire building. A neo-English Renaissance building was opened in its place in 1908. The park's focal point, a vintage-inspired fountain, was added during the 1990s. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

SculptureCenter has sponsored two exhibitions in the park—Julita's Wojcik's *My Garden* in 2003 and Jeppe Hein's *Modified Social Bench* in 2007.

Getting Here

E or M trains to Court Sq./23rd St.;
G or 7 to Court Sq.



This small paved platform is located adjacent to the entrance to MoMA PS1.

MoMA PS 1 Greenstreet

Long Island City, Queens // 46th Ave. and Jackson Ave.

About the Area

Long Island City, the westernmost neighborhood in Queens, is known for its thriving arts community. Previously home to many factories and bakeries, Long Island City hosts a growing number of artist lofts and arts organizations including SculptureCenter, Socrates Sculpture Park, MoMA PS1, the Fisher Landau Center for Art, and the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Museum.

Site Considerations

Sculpture must be limited to the circular concrete pad that measures 78.5" in diameter.

Park History

This landscaped greenstreet is located across the street from MoMA P.S.1. The site is regularly visited by art enthusiasts and is visible from the Court Square subway station and busy Jackson Avenue. The site contains a small planting bed that has a short cobble path that leads to a circular concrete pad. Work can be anchored to the pad, but it must be patched at the end of the exhibition.

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2015, Rebecca Hackemann's *Public Utteraton Machine* was the first public artwork at this site.

Getting Here

E or M trains to Court Sq./23rd St.;
G or 7 to Court Sq.



Rebecca Hackemann's *The Public Utteraton Machine* installation at the MoMA PS1 Greenstreet.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: In 2013, three artists created murals along the protective barriers on Shore Front Parkway, which are still on view; MoMA PS1's *VW Dome 2*, located at 94th Street, acted as a community center that offered arts and neighborhood programming after Hurricane Sandy; Situ Studio's *Heartwalk* created a sculpture made from salvaged pieces from the storm-damaged boardwalk; Far Rockaway resident Ethan Long created a rammed-earth sculpture that resembled a minimal cube during the day, but at night a series of fiber-optic lights dotting the structure's surface were revealed; barrier painting along Shore Front Parkway in 2013.

Rockaway Beach

Rockaway, Queens // Beach 3rd St. to Beach 153rd St. and Shore Front Parkway

About the Area

Rockaway Beach is a year-round resource for residents along the Rockaway peninsula, which is known for its vibrant arts and surf culture. Rockaway comes alive each summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend with millions of visitors. Beachgoers can enjoy the sand and water, a variety of concessions, and the city's only legal surfing beach.

Site Considerations

The boardwalk and the plaza on the eastern side of beachfront parking at 94th Street is ideal for public art. This circular plaza is central to Shorefront Parkway, the Cross Bay Bridge access and the drop-off for beach visitors. The concrete has been painted with a blue decorative design, which will need to be patched and restored after an installation if anchoring is necessary. Artwork cannot be exhibited on the beach proper. Sculpture materials should be able to withstand high winds, high humidity and salty conditions.

Park History

Improvements in transportation in the early 1900s provided the general public with access to the peninsula, which had previously been reserved for wealthy New Yorkers and exclusive beach clubs. Subway access also stimulated Rockaway's transition from a vacation area to neighborhoods with permanent residents. Rockaway Beach totals 7 miles of beachfront—making it the country's largest urban beach. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

Rockaway's bus shelters host several murals by Ester Grillo. Ethan Long exhibited *Dirt Sculpture* in 2009. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, MoMA PS1's *VW Dome 2* acted as a community center and Situ Studio's *Heartwalk* created a sculpture made from salvaged pieces from the damaged boardwalk. Additionally in 2013, three artists created murals along the protective barriers on Shore Front Parkway, which are still on view.

Getting Here

A or S trains to Beach 90th St., Q53 bus to Beach 96th St. and Rockaway Blvd.



Jamaica Flux challenged traditional ideas about where art should be displayed and explored the relationship between art, commerce, urban renewal, and community.



Rufus King Park

Jamaica, Queens // Jamaica Avenue, 89th Ave. between 150th St. and 153rd St.

About the Area

King Park is located in the diverse neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens, a vibrant community that boasts historic architecture and a population from around the globe. A popular commercial district (including Jamaica Center and Jamaica Avenue) abuts the park. The neighborhood is a nexus for international travel—located near JFK Airport with Jamaica Station and subway lines located a block from the park. Cultural points of interest include King Manor Museum, the King Park bandstand, and the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, making this a highly visible site for artwork.

Site Considerations

The lawns along Jamaica Avenue are preferable for installations, as they have greater visibility than the north end of the park, which is predominantly recreational fields. Any artwork proposed for the fenced lawn directly in front of the Manor needs approval from the Museum and the Historic House Trust.

Park History

Rufus King Park houses King Manor Museum, once the home of Rufus King (1755-1827), a framer and signer of the constitution, distinguished lawyer, statesman, and ambassador to Great Britain. King Manor has operated as a museum since 1900 under the care of the King Manor Association of Long Island, Inc. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the house and park are designated New York City landmarks. In 1915, a bandstand was constructed in the center of the park, which continues to host events. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2004, Sebastian Romo exhibited *Joint Point (Displacement)* in King Park, organized with Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning. *Jamaica Flux: Workspaces and Windows* was a series of installations by various artists placed throughout King Park in 2007.

Getting Here

E or J trains to Jamaica Center;
E or F to Parsons Blvd.



Rufus King Park houses King Manor Museum, once the home of Rufus King (1755-1827), a distinguished lawyer, statesman, and gentleman farmer.

Staten Island



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
DB Lampman, *The Dance*;
Elizabeth Egbert, *Tibetan Bench*;
Padilla-Harris, *MistWave*.



Ann Marie McDonnell's permanent work *A Bird Named Goldilocks* is sly homage to the classic children's story *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.



Clove Lakes Park

Sunnyside, Staten Island // Forest Ave., Victory Blvd. between Clove Rd. and Brookside Ave., Royal Oak Rd.

About the Area

A protected [Forever Wild](#) site because of its valuable ecological assets, Clove Lakes Park has a rich natural history including the park's lakes and ponds, outcroppings of serpentine rocks, and Staten Island's largest living thing, a 300-year-old tulip tree.

Site Considerations

This park offers picturesque landscapes and backdrops for public artworks; however, due to its scale, some of the most striking locations are passive locales isolated from heavy foot traffic. The most active area is the southeast corner of the park near Victory Boulevard and Clove Road. Several baseball diamonds, a soccer field, ice rink, basketball court, playgrounds, and football field dot the park's landscape.

Park History

By 1683 Governor Thomas Dongan owned many acres in the northern section of Staten Island where he hunted bears. Subsequent owner Abraham Britton built a dam and a grist mill at the east end of Britton's Pond in 1825, which created Clove Lake. Staten Islanders considered making this area a park as early as 1897, one year before the consolidation of New York City. Leading Islanders William T. Davis, Charles Leng, and Frederick Law Olmsted spoke out for the need to preserve this area's natural beauty. In 1921 and 1923 the land around and including Crystal Lake and Brooks Dam was acquired as a city park. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

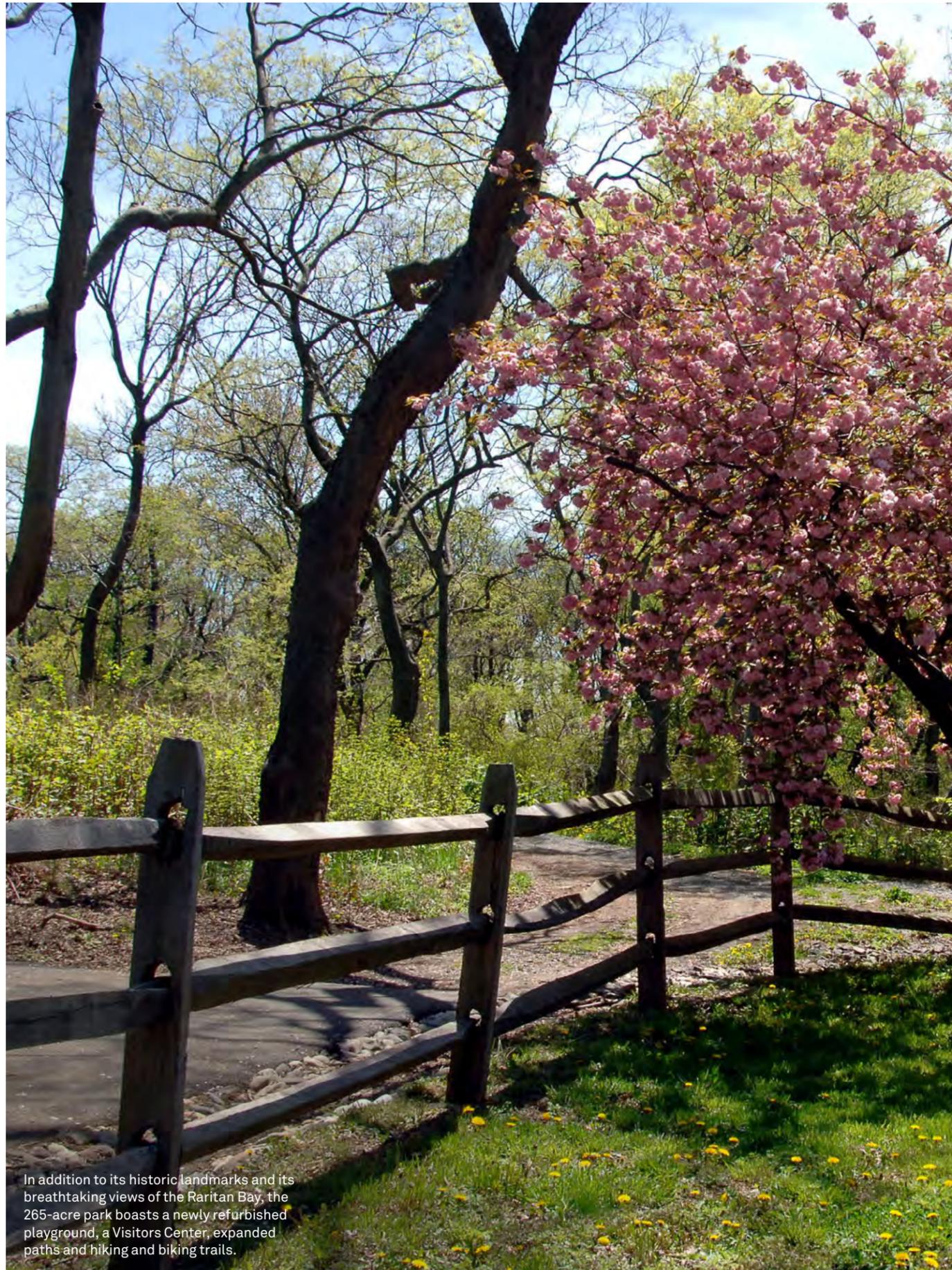
Adjacent to the Stonehenge administration building, Ann Marie McDonnell's permanent work *A Bird Named Goldilocks* is sly homage to the classic children's story *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

Getting Here

X42 bus to Victory Blvd.-Slosson Av;
S61 to Victory Blvd.-Little Clove Rd.



Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island has a rich natural history and is flush with valuable ecological assets.



In addition to its historic landmarks and its breathtaking views of the Raritan Bay, the 265-acre park boasts a newly refurbished playground, a Visitors Center, expanded paths and hiking and biking trails.



The Conference House, a grand stone manor house built in 1680, is named for the unsuccessful Revolutionary War peace conference that was held here on September 11, 1776, between the Americans and the English.

Conference House Park

Tottenville, Staten Island // Pittsville St., Hylan Blvd. and Richard Ave.

About the Area

Conference House Park is a great destination for both park and history buffs. Located at the southernmost point of New York State, this park houses four historic buildings that trace the history of the borough over the course of three centuries. The Conference House, the Biddle House, the Ward House and Rutan-Beckett House all tell of a New York and an America of the past. Another great park destination is the “South Pole,” marking the southernmost point of New York State.

Site Considerations

In addition to its historic landmarks and its breathtaking views of the Raritan Bay, the 265-acre park boasts a newly refurbished playground, Visitors Center, expanded paths and hiking and biking trails. Lawns at the Visitors Center and the Conference House are ideal spots for public artwork. Proposals for the House grounds will be reviewed by the Conference House Association and the Historic House Trust.

Park History

The Conference House, a grand stone manor house built in 1680, is named for the unsuccessful Revolutionary War peace conference that was held here on September 11, 1776, between the Americans and the English. Despite their negotiations to end the fighting, no agreement was reached and the Revolutionary War continued for another seven years. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2010 Paul Ramirez Jonas included Conference House Park as part of the exhibition *Key to the City*, sponsored by Creative Time.

Getting Here

S59 or S78 buses to Hylan Blvd. and Craig Ave.; Staten Island Railway to Tottenville.



Tappen Park

Stapleton, Staten Island // Canal St., Water St., Bay St.

About the Area

The Stapleton neighborhood has undergone resurgence in recent years. Notably, the Stapleton Library, an original 1907 Carnegie Library, reopened in June 2013. The NYC Economic Development Corporation is also working on the New Stapleton Waterfront development plan, which will bring new housing and businesses to the shore. A host of regular concerts and performances, Tappen Park is also part of a growing artistic community that *The New York Times* included in “the next wave of artists’ neighborhoods.”

Site Considerations

All areas of the park can be used except for the Village Hall building and the red brick roadway that runs between the Village Hall platform and the Park House. Please note that regular concerts and performances take place on the center lawns during the summer. These activities should be taken into consideration when drafting proposals for this park.

Park History

Tappen Park is located in the neighborhood of Stapleton, which still contains brick row houses from the 19th century that refer to a time when the town was a popular tourist destination and famous for its breweries. The Edgewater Village Hall, a Romanesque-revival town hall built in 1889, is a notable landmark in the park that served as a civic hub. The park has undergone several restorations in past decades, adding acreage and an ornamental fountain to the park. For more information on Tappen Park, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Who Has Exhibited Here

In 2013, Karlis Rejevics installed *All-Too-Familiar Tangle* in Tappen Park as part of the Clare Weiss Emerging Artist Award. DB Lampman’s *The Dance* was exhibited in Tappen Park in 2014.

Getting Here

Accessible by the Staten Island Railway, Stapleton Station and the S76 bus via the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.



Karlis Rejevics, *All-Too-Familiar Tangle*, 2013. After documenting notable forms and architecture around the park, Rejevics created a series of wooden molds that combine recognizable elements in altered scales.



The Hiker by Allen G. Newman honors those local soldiers who served in the Spanish-American War.



This park is a short walk from the St. George Ferry Terminal.

Tompkinsville Park

Tompkinsville, Staten Island // Bay St. and Victory Blvd.

About the Area

The neighborhood of Tompkinsville is located on Staten Island's eastern shore, just south of the St. George Ferry Terminal, making the park an easy destination for visitors. The town hosts a number of live music and art venues, as well as restaurants and shops.

Site Considerations

Sculptures should be limited to the lawns to allow for pedestrian flow. The permanent sculpture, *The Hiker* by Allen G. Newman, is a monument to local soldiers who served in the Spanish-American War. Additional tablets, dedicated to the Daughters of the American Revolution and those who served in the Civil War and World War I, have been installed on the pedestal. Plaques to The Watering Place and David D. Tompkins are found in the park as well.

Park History

Tompkinsville retains the feeling of a small village green. The park's unique features include a Spanish-style park house and *The Hiker* monument that was dedicated in 1916. The monument stood in front of Staten Island Borough Hall, but after being frequently hit by cars, the sculpture was moved to its present location in Tompkinsville Park in 1925. Here it has been the focal point for the community's annual Memorial Day and Veterans' Day parades. To learn more, visit the [NYC Parks website](#).

Getting Here

Accessible by the Staten Island Railway, Tompkinsville Station and numerous buses stopping at the Bay Street/Victory Boulevard stop via the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

To learn more or apply, visit our [guidelines page](#).



NYC Parks