



**Washington Square Park Conservancy**  
**Guide for greeters / tour guides**  
*Version 1 - April 2016*

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## Stats

- The Park is 9.75 acres
- WS has been parkland since 1827
- 20,000 bodies are still buried beneath the park
- Named for George Washington, First President of the United States and Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War
- Approximately 12 million visits each year
- The Conservancy is the friends group for the organization.
- The Parks Department manages operations at Washington Square Park.

## History

### Pre- European History

- The park sits on what was once marshy land used by Lenape speaking Native Americans. Called Sapokanikan, meaning tobacco. Used as a place to fish and collect shellfish. Not a permanent settlement.
- Minetta, so named by the Lenape speaking people who fished in it, is a stream that runs to the Hudson, and flows under what is now the park.

### 17th Century

- By the 1630s Dutch settlers had cleared land in and around the park for farming.
- The Dutch called the area Noortwyck, or North District.
- Wouter van Twiller, director of the Dutch colony from 1633 to 1638, built a farm about a block from what is now the northwest corner of the park.
- The Dutch chose to settle the families of former slaves on this land to farm necessary crops and in order to protect the town from incursions by Native Americans
- Former slaves Anthony Portuguese and Manuel Trumpeter were given land on what is now part of the park.
- The English succeed in taking over New Amsterdam in 1664.
- The western area which became Washington Square Park was the property of Sir Peter Warren (from 1740 to 1752). Tracts of the Warren farm were then given to his three daughters and sons-in-law. By circa 1790, Thomas Ludlow purchases approximately 20 acres west of Minetta. He builds three buildings on the site of the future park.
- The eastern area is owned by Elbert Herring or Haring (from 1748). Tracts of the Haring farm pass to Cornelius Roosevelt, Jacob Sebor's, and in 1795 was bought by Col. William S. Smith, a brilliant officer in Washington's army, and holder of various

posts of public office, but in debt. The estate is contested between Smith and William Burrows.

### 18th Century

- The area was first designated Greenwich Village in 1713, denoted as Grin'wich, or green village.
- The City acquired the title for a portion of the land which became WSP in 1797 and used it as a Potter's field during the Yellow Fever epidemic -- approximately 20,000 persons were buried under the park between 1797 and 1825, when the field was closed.
- The city purchased the potter's field at public auction from the contested estate, between William Smith and William Burrows.
- The location was a source of contention with local wealthy landowners with property adjacent.
- A keeper's house was erected in 1797 in the NE quadrant of the field, near what is today Washington Square North.

### 19th Century

- Duels were known to take place on the site, the most famous in 1803 between William Coleman, editor of the New York Evening Post and Captain Thompson, harbormaster of the port of New York.
- Many people claim that many public hangings took place in the park, that there was a gallows erected here, and that the English Elm in the northwest corner of the park served as a hanging tree.
- The only confirmed public hanging took place in 1819 when Rose Butler, a young black woman, was hanged for setting fire to the house where she worked. There are conflicting accounts of whether it was in the potter's field or at a site nearby.
- Following the death of Thomas Ludlow, part of the estate is passed to his son, who sells it to Alfred S. Pell. In 1827, landowner Alfred S. Pell facilitated the square's expansion from the potter's field by selling his 2 1/2 acres west of Minetta Creek at a nominal cost (including the Park's famous Elm tree).
- The City repurposed the land as a parade ground known as the Washington Military Parade Ground, beginning in 1826. Companies of volunteer soldiers would train here
- A burial ground of the Scotch Presbyterian Church at what is now the northeast corner of the park was closed when the parade ground was opened.
- On the perimeter of Washington Square, stately red brick townhouses built in the Greek Revival style in the 1830s drew wealthy members of society.
- Thompson, Sullivan and MacDougal were settled by a wave of newly free African Americans created by the abolition of slavery in New York 1827. African Americans continued to live here through the Civil War to 1890. After 1890, most of the black population had moved north, making way for the first Italian immigrants.

- An African Free School stood on West Broadway. Meetings proposing the total eradication of slavery were held throughout the neighborhood in the early 1830s and led to New York's first anti-Abolitionist riot in July 1834.
- Judson Church laid its cornerstone south of the park in 1888. It was designed by Stanford White with windows by John LaFarge. Its founder, Edward Judson, was from the start concerned with ministering to the poorer populations south of the park. It has historically run many programs that minister to the poor and oppressed.

### 19th Century

- Stone-cutters, in one of the first NYC unions, protested NYU's use of prison labor to rough cut stone for NYU's first university building. After several days of skirmishes between protesters and police, the 27th Regiment of the National Guard set up camp in Washington Square in order to protect the building site. The regiment and union protesters skirmished for three days. Now referred to as the Stonecutters' Riot of 1834.
- Samuel Morse: painter and inventor of a single-wire telegraph and morse code. The NYU Professor gave the first public demonstration of his invention, the telegraph, on the Washington Square East side of the park in 1838.
- The draft riots of 1863 took place throughout the city. Violence erupted when more soldiers were drafted for the Civil War, reflecting racial and class tensions across New York. Military divisions brought in to quell the violence encamped in Washington Square Park.

### 20th Century

- 146 garment workers, many of them Jewish or Italian immigrant women, died on March 25, 1911, when a fire swept through the top three floors of the 10-story building where the The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory was located. Now an NYU building called the Brown Building, at Washington Place between Greene and Washington Square East.
- 20,000 people marched in Washington Square Park in 1912 to commemorate the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire the year before.
- Women's Suffrage Parade:
  - With a vote for women's suffrage upcoming in the NY State legislature, women's groups organized a parade in 1915.
  - The route went from Washington Square Park up Fifth Avenue to Central Park in October of 1915.
  - New Yorkers defeated the referendum, but a little over two years later — on November 6, 1917 — the women of New York state would win the right to vote.
- January 23, 1917 – artists and writers Marcel Duchamp, John Sloan, Gertrude Drick, and others snuck to the top of the Arch. They drank, tied balloons to the roof, and declared a Free and Independent Greenwich Village. John Sloan immortalized the evening with an etching named "Arch Conspirators."

- Beginning in the early 1950s, local mothers fought plans by the city to build a larger roadway through Washington Square Park. Local mother Shirley Hayes founded the Washington Square Park Committee, composed of 36 community groups including property owners, civic organizations, parent-teacher associations, and churches. They were successful in stopping the roadway and even stopped all traffic through the park. In 1958 there is a temporary closing of traffic, then a few months later, all but busses. By 1959, the busses are rerouted as well.
- Beatnik Riot, April 9th, 1961. After a ban on the playing of music in the park, almost 3,000 folk musicians and their supporters came to Washington Square Park and assembled peaceably and began to play. Police took a rather hard line against those protesting and eventually the music ban was lifted.

### 21st Century

- Iraq War protest 2003 - March 22. Estimates put the march that went from 42nd street down 5th Avenue to Washington Square Park at a quarter of a million people.
- Rally for Barack Obama in 2007, during his first campaign for the presidency.
- Millions March - Black Lives Matter protest -- An estimated “tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington Square Park before marching up 5th Avenue in December of 2014.
- Bernie Sander Rally - In April of 2016, a crowd estimated between 15,000 and 25,000 filled the park for a rally for Senator Bernie Sander and his presidential campaign.

### Immigration/Migration

Washington Square Park has been influenced by the many different immigrant groups who have lived surrounding the park

- Over 50,000 Italian immigrants settled south and west of the park, from the 1860s onward to before the first World War.
  - Garibaldi Statue funds came from surrounding neighbors
  - LaGuardia Place named for city’s first Italian-American mayor who grew up south of the park
  - nearby institutions such as Judson Church, Children’s Aid Society, and Greenwich House “ministered” to immigrants
  - Neighboring businesses such as Cafe Reggio (MacDougal Street) and Porto Rico Coffee (Bleecker Street) served the Italian population and continue in operation today
- The area south and east of the park developed into a French Quarter in the late 1870s.
- While the area surrounding Minetta Street, Minetta Lane, and Cornelia Street was an established African-American neighborhood from the park’s beginnings, the 1880s saw an influx of migrants from the south, especially from Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and other Atlantic states into the community. This was decades before the more famous “great migration” of the early twentieth century.
- Irish immigrants lived further west in Greenwich Village.

## Art & Culture

### Artists

- Edward Hopper, along with his wife Josephine, lived in a studio on the top floor of 3 Washington Square North from 1913 until the day he died in 1967. Today the studio is preserved by NYU and located in its School of Social Work.
- Realist painter William Glackens lived nearby on 9th Street and often painted scenes of the park
- 20th Century painter John Sloan lived nearby on Washington Place (participated in the Arch Conspiracy and etched a depiction of it).
- Jackson Pollock is said to have begun the Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit when he brought his paintings out on the sidewalks surrounding the park to sell his work. Willem DeKooning joined him.
- Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney built her art studio on 8th Street and began the first Whitney Museum there. It is now the New York Studio School.

### Writers

- Poet Gertrude Dick (one of the Arch Conspirators) lived in the Village. She gained notoriety in the Village under the self-imposed nickname 'Woe', so that when asked her name she would respond 'Woe is me.'
- Henry James, one of the 19th century's most prominent writers, often visited his grandmother who lived at 18 Washington Square North
- Lorraine Hansberry
  - Village resident from 1953 to her death in 1965.
  - Wrote "A Raisin in the Sun" while living in GV. Though married, Hansberry was a lesbian
  - Spoke in WSP in June of 1959 at a NAACP rally (to start a Greenwich Village chapter)
- E. E. Cummings -- modernist poet, lived at Patchin Place
- Theodore Dreiser -- lived at Patchin Place
- John Reed, co-editor of the Masses (a socialist magazine published in the Village with Max Eastman) was a writer and journalist known for his coverage of the Bolshevik Revolution.

### Theater

- African Grove Theater at Mercer and Houston
  - proprietor William Brown
  - early 1821-1827
  - several locations in and around GV/SoHo area
  - many productions of Shakespeare

- Provincetown Playhouse
  - just south of the park on MacDougal Street
  - 1918-1992
  - The playwrights Eugene O'Neill, Susan Glaspell were founding members of the theater

### Music

- Gerde's Folk City - a music venue on West 4th Street, then West 3rd. Musicians such as the Weavers, Peter Paul and Mary, Simon and Garfinkle, and Joan Baez played there. Bob Dylan debuted Blowin' in the Wind in the club.
- Village Gate, on the corner of Thompson and Bleecker Street, hosted countless musicians from 1958 to 1994. John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, Jimi Hendrix, Patti Smith, and Miles Davis performed there.
- Folk music was regularly played in the park in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Today many musicians regularly play in the park.

## Park Design

### Parade Ground

- A 1829 survey of the Washington Parade Ground reveals the first design for what we know as the park today.
- The survey records a design that is laid out in four quadrants, very linear with gravel walkways extending north-south and east-west converging at an oval area near the center of the park.

### Second Plan - 1836

- Wealthy residents who live in the new buildings surrounding the parade ground begin to influence design.
- A new design introduced diagonal gravel foot walks leading to the center of the square with corner entrances at each quadrant.

### Third Plan - 1848

- Gardener named William Curr is hired by the City's Common Council to make changes to the parade ground. He also designed Union, Madison, Stuyvesant, and Tompkins Squares.
- The design was very formal and added additional diagonal walkways through the park forming small angular grass plots
- An ornate iron railing and decorative entrance post with gates were added around the square where the wooden fence originally stood.



- In 1849, gas lighting was added to the park.

### First Fountain - 1852

- Designer unknown.
- The 100 foot diameter basin was made of bluestone and had a number of display jets.
- The fountain situated at the center of the square with access from each entrance.
- Fountains added to many parks at this time to celebrate the opening of the Croton Aqueduct, which was completed in 1842.

### A Park - 1870

- In 1870, Tammany "Boss" William M. Tweed organized the first Department of Public Parks. Influential landscape designers such as Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted are out.
- Employees of the new department, M.A. Kellogg, Engineer in Chief and I.A. Pilat, Chief Landscape Gardener made significant changes to the park.
- The Square's redesign aimed to apply the layout of Central Park to the parade ground's plot, replacing the ruler-straight lines and rigid symmetry appropriate for military reviews with curving pathways outlined by plantings and interrupted by small gathering places. This was strongly influenced by Olmsted and Vaux's design in Central Park.
- The most dramatic change to the park is the introduction of the carriage drive.
- A new fountain was to be designed by Jacob Wrey Mould, the Architect-in-Chief for the Department of Public Works between 1870 and 1874, to make way for the carriage drive.
- Following press about lavish spending, plans for a new fountain were ditched and a fountain from the Fifty-Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue entrance to Central Park, also designed by Jacob Wrey Mould, is placed in the park.
- Music Stand -- erected in 1872. Demolition unknown. Located in the northwest quadrant of the park.
- Police Shelter -- erected in 1872. Stood until at least 1939. Located in the northwest quadrant of the park.
- Woman's Cottage -- erected 1872. Demolished 1968. First comfort station. Located approximately where the comfort station is now.

### Removal of Carriage Drive - 1879

- Unpopular with local residents, the carriage drive is short lived.

### Monument Period

- From 1888 to 1895, the park gets its monuments. First Garibaldi, then Holley, and lastly, the Arch.

### Robert Moses - 1934

- Appointed Parks Commissioner in 1934, Moses immediately begins improvements to many NYC Parks.
- The Parks Department renovated the fountain into a wading pool for children by adding four concrete steps around the inside of the stone rim to access the shallow waters inside.
- A new comfort station and tool shed were constructed
- Repairs were made to the leaking roof of the Arch.
- The Chess Plaza is most likely installed around this time
- The community nixes a redesign plan that Moses puts forward in 1935, although he does add new playgrounds, one in each quadrant.

### Community Renovation - 1969-1970

- Led by Robert Nichols, the community worked with the NYC Parks Department.
- The refurbished Square - those involved preferred to call it a restoration rather than a redesign - maintained the gently curving walks and diagonal paths while creating new urban expressions throughout the park including corner entrances defined by concrete walls, new play areas and a performance stage.
- The most dramatic change to the park was around the central fountain-the park core where once lived a road since the 1870's.
- The removal of the road allowed the opportunity to create new public spaces around the central fountain for the creation of a large sunken plaza and adjacent raised plaza. The community was split between the idea of an ornamental fountain. Ultimately, the stairs leading into the fountain were retained.
- The mounds with a wooden adventure playground were added, curved seating nooks, a stage and a petanque court were added to the Park.

### Arch Restoration - 2003-2004

- 3 million dollar restoration
- Roof was repaired to prevent leaking
- Internal staircase repaired
- Rosettes recast as necessary
- Eagles and statues repaired
- Marble facade cleaned and sealed

### 2009-2014 Renovation

- The first phase (2009) included a renovated and accessible fountain and plaza,

- conservation of the *Alexander Holley Monument*, additional seating, expanded lawns, and new planting beds that increased the park's green space.
- The second phase (2012) provided a small dog run, a renovated chess plaza, a performance stage, renovated petanque courts, as well as enhanced landscaping, lighting and pathways, and the relocation and conservation of the statue of Garibaldi.
- The third and final phase, completed in 2014, features BSKS Architects' new LEED-certified park house and comfort station, whose subtle curvature, reclaimed wood, stone palette and low profile integrate with the lush surroundings. To the southwest, the asphalt mounds were replaced by a new mounded play area submerged in a meadow and made safer and more attractive with artificial turf.
- The renovation included:
  - Current design added 24% more green/planted space to the park. The goal was to make WSP less fragmented creating more expansive greenery, creating a space that mirrored meadows and fields
  - The renovation tore down concrete walls in the core of the park that created a pit and had visual barriers. These barriers fueled crime and drug use. Creating a more open space also minimized the existing grade change (the park has a large gradient change as you move East to West)
  - ADA approved - parks should be accessible for everyone. Before the renovation the plaza was two-tiered and contained non-ADA compliant ramps.
  - Fountain needed repair and they also wanted to raise the plaza to make it less of a pit and more accessible.
  - The fountain was relocated to be centered with the Arch so that you can look through the portal of the Arch and view this urban plaza with the skyline.
  - The periphery of the Park has the highest concentration of planted areas, followed by the meadows, which lead to the urban plaza.
  - There are 7 “formal beds” in the park. One at each corner entrance, one “parterre” to the east of fountain plaza, near Garibaldi Plaza, and two to the west of fountain plaza, near Holley Plaza. The WSPC purchases the plants for these beds every year. WSPC volunteers plant bulbs in them every fall.

## Horticulture / Biology

### English Elm - Northwest corner of the park

- Estimated to be over 300 years old
- It is one of the oldest trees in all of Manhattan.
- Part of Thomas Ludlow's property. Ludlow was a New York City merchant who owned the land west of Minetta Brook. The archeology report traces three Ludlow buildings in what is now the park's Northwest corner.

- There is a legend that Abigail Adams is said to have sat in its shade. Smith had served with John Adams on the American legation in London following the Revolutionary War. While he owned the land on the eastern side, records indicate he rented from the Ludow's.
- Dutch Elm disease was first reported in the United States in 1928. By 1989 the fungus had destroyed 75% of the then estimated 77 million trees.

### Cherry Grove

- There are several cherry trees located just north of the Thompson Street entrance, on the west side.

### Hawk Population

- WSP has had a pair of resident mating red-tailed hawks for several years.
- Hawk enthusiasts have named them "Sadie" and "Bobby."
- Bobby has had several partners in his time at Washington Square Park, including Violet and Rosie.
- They make their nest on Bobst Library.
- Eyas, their young, hatch yearly, in the spring.

## Monuments

### Washington Square Arch

- Constructed from 1890-1892, dedicated on May 4, 1895
- Designed by Architect Stanford White, who also designed the Judson Church on the South end of the Park, which was completed in 1893. White donated his services.
- White originally built the arch of plaster and wood for the Centennial celebration of Washington's first presidential inauguration-1789/1889-it was located about a half block up Fifth Avenue from the current location. Everyone loved the temporary arch. Local William Rhinelander Stewart led the fundraising to have a permanent arch built.
- The permanent Arch is made of Tuckahoe Marble (so named because the marble was sourced from Tuckahoe Village in Westchester County, approximately 16 miles north of midtown Manhattan). The marble is large grained and porous.
- It stands 77 feet high. The arch opening is 47 feet.
- A restoration was completed in 2004. Tuckahoe marble unearthed beneath the Taconic Parkway was used to recreate some elements during the renovation, including the acanthus leaves and rosettes. The Arch was cleaned, micro-cracks were sealed, the eagle was repaired, and the Washington Statues were repaired.
- You can access the top of the arch through a doorway at the base – a spiral staircase designed by Raphael Guastavino, the famed designer/creator of ceramic arches and domes, a frequent collaborator of Stanford White, leads up to the top. The ceiling of the attic in the top of the arch is decorated with Guastavino tiles

- Individual statues of Washington on the North side of the Arch piers were installed later. They are carved from Dover marble.
  - East Pier: *Washington as Commander-in-Chief, Accompanied by Fame and Valor* (1916) by Hermon MacNeil. Familiarly known as Washington at War.
  - West Pier: *Washington as President, Accompanied by Wisdom and Justice* (1918) by Alexander Stirling Calder. Familiarly known as Washington at Peace.
- Symbols of war and peace adorn the Arch, including: wreaths of oak surrounding a sword and wreaths of laurel; acanthus leaves; allegorical figures holding banners, horns, and laurel wreaths; shields, an eagle on the keystone, and W's and stars.. 92 Rosettes adorn the inside of the arch. They were carved by the Piccirilli Brothers, who also carved the NYPL lions.
- North side inscription: To commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States
- South side features a quote from Washington: "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair - the event is in the hands of God."
  - This quote is frequently assumed to be from Washington when he was addressing delegates as the President of the Constitutional Convention in 1787
- There are four seals/coats of arms on the Arch:
  - Northeast, the arms Washington adopted from his British ancestors, bearing three stars above two bars
  - Northwest, the "Great Seal of the United States"
  - Southeast, the the seal of New York State
  - Southwest, the seal of New York City

### Giuseppe Garibaldi

- Dedicated to General Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882), the 19th century Italian patriot who crusaded for a unified Italy during the European era of state building.
- Advocated for by the large historic Italian presence surrounding WSP - was known as the "Little Italy" at this time
- Sculpted by Giovanni Turini, an artist who volunteered with Garibaldi's fourth regiment in 1866.
- The statue, with funds donated by NY's Italian-American community, was cast and dedicated on June 4, 1888.
- Bronze statue on a granite pedestal. Cast at Lazzari & Barton in Woodlawn, N.Y.
- Moved within the park three times.

### Alexander Lyman Holley

- Statue cast in 1889. Sculpted by John Quincy Adams Ward.
- Dedicated on October 2, 1890.

- Cast by the Henry-Bonnard Bronze Company of New York in 1889. The bust is mounted on the central pillar of an elaborately carved tripartite pedestal made of Indiana limestone. The pedestal was designed by architect Thomas Hastings.
- Helped launch the American steel industry by adapting the Bessemer process of steel-making to U.S. needs. His work immediately brought rapid production to ironworks and rolling mills, reduced steel prices and enabled unprecedented growth in the industries that moved America forward, including railroads, bridges, and ships.
- The statue was founded by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) of which he was the “leading spirit” in its founding; the Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) of which he was a past president; and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) of which he was a past vice president.
- In 1999 the Holley monument was conserved and a maintenance endowment established through the Adopt-A-Monument Program
- Robert Redford is seen hanging around the Holley statue “drunk” in the park scene in Barefoot in the Park (1960s Neil Simon play made into a movie).

### Founders Monument (outside the park)

- NYU has been part of the Washington Square Park neighborhood since the mid 1830s
- Established in 1831 by the diplomat and banker Albert Gallatin, who lived at 57 Bleecker Street
- NYU’s first building was designed by Andrew Jackson Davis, one of the leading architects of his era, between Washington and Waverly Place, on the east side of the square
- The building was demolished in 1890. A spire from the building was saved and kept at the school’s Bronx campus until 1973, when it was rededicated just south of WSP in the courtyard just east of Bobst Library.

### Fountain

- A fountain was dedicated on January 31, 1852. The 100 foot diameter basin was made of bluestone and had a number of jets.
- To accommodate the addition of a carriage drive in the park, a smaller fountain was moved from Fifth Avenue and 59th Street Central Park in the mid-1870s to Washington Square.
- The fountain was designed by Jacob Wrey Mould. He was secured to create a new fountain, but lack of funds necessitated the recycling.
- George Vellonakis, Landscape Architect for the most recent renovation, suspects the original basin may have been used for the Bethesda Fountain basin in Central Park.
- In the mid-1930s, Robert Moses added steps into the fountain and changed the jets to make it functional as a wading pool.
- The late 1960s and early 1970s re-design of the park lowered the fountain below grade, and created of a two-tiered central plaza which cemented its reputation as an ad hoc performance space.

- In the most recent renovation, the fountain was raised to grade, the concrete steps were repaired, damage to the basin was repaired, the fountain pipes were repaired, and the fountain was moved 22 feet east.

### WWI Flagpole

- Dedicated in 1920, the Memorial Flagpole is dedicated to the local heroes of World War I.
- Base designed by Stanford White.
- Funds were provided by the Washington Square Association.
- Originally located in the center of the view through the Arch, moved to the Southeast of the Arch in 1930, where it remains today.
- Final monument to be placed in the park.
- Front of monument reads “In honor of all those from this district who gave their lives in the World War.”
- Back of monument features a quote from Abraham Lincoln: “For the great republic, for the principle it lives by and keeps alive for man’s vast future.”

## Other Park Features

### Chess Plaza

- The chess tables were installed in the 1930s (at the same time the fountain was converted to a wading pool).
- In 1955 -- a series of chess tournaments was held in the park. A 12 year old Bobby Fischer went undefeated until the final day.
- Sullivan and Thompson street hosted several chess studios and stores from the 1950s onwards
- Today, players usually charge a fee to their opponents

### Small and Large Dog Runs

- The two dog runs in the park are operated by the NYC Parks Department.
- There is also a friends group for the runs, called the Washington Square Park Dog Run. They raise funds and support volunteer work in the runs. <http://wspdogrun.org/>
- The rules of the run are posted, but also can be found here: <http://wspdogrun.org/the-rules/>

## Surrounding Buildings

### NYU Buildings

- NYU’s presence transformed many of the surrounding buildings from their original geo-gothic structure to a more standard “skyscraper” structure of tall buildings
  - NYU Foundation Building - demolished 1890
  - Stern Business School - built 1990
  - Law School - Vanderbilt Hall, built in 1950

- Bobst Library - built in 1973
- Kimmel Center - 2000
- Silver Center - 1892
- Skirball Center - 2000
- Global Center for Academic and Spiritual Life - 2010

### Other Buildings

- The Greek Revival Row, or “the Row.” Built in the mid-1830s, buildings are grand examples of the Greek Revival style, usually three to three and one-half stories high with basement, sometimes an attic story below the cornice; medium height stoops; columns surrounding the door; Greek motifs.
- Former House of Genius (formerly at 61 Washington Square South, located where Kimmel Center is now) - housed artists and writers and the community rallied around its preservation before it was demolished in 1948.
- Provincetown Playhouse (now an NYU building)
- 2 Fifth
  - 1952
  - Architect Emery Roth
- 1 Fifth
  - Built in 1927
  - Art Deco
  - Architect Harvey Wiley Corbett
- 29 Washington Square West, built in 1927, was home to Eleanor Roosevelt from 1945-1949.

### Streets

- Greene, Mercer, Sullivan, Thompson, and MacDougal streets all named for Revolutionary War officers. The streets surrounding the park were renamed for Washington and the Park.

## Washington Square Park Conservancy

- The Washington Square Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization working with the New York City Parks Department and neighborhood groups to ensure that Washington Square Park continues as a diverse and historical urban green space through engaging volunteers and raising funds to keep the park clean, safe and beautiful.
- Formed in 2012, 501c3 in 2013
- Programs include:
  - Horticulture



- The Conservancy supports a full-time gardener dedicated to Washington Square Park
- WSPC provides the labor and the plant materials annually for seven formal beds in the park
- Maintenance
  - The Conservancy supports two seasonal workers for afternoon/evening shifts for trash removal and comfort station maintenance.
- Seasonal Park Programming
  - Playground Associates – recreation staffers in the park’s large playground
  - Volunteer Opportunities – we help interested people give back to the park through our volunteer horticulture and welcome programs
  - Mini-Grants Program – supports cultural programming in the park
  - Welcome Program – greeters answer questions and conduct weekly tours for park visitors
- User Counts -- the Conservancy has conducted two user counts. One in the summer of 2014 and another in the spring of 2015. We counted 45,000 visits on a sunny summer weekday and 54,000 on a sunny spring weekday. Based on these counts, we estimate 12 million visits a year.