Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks is the educational arm of the Conservancy.

The Institute teaches park users and managers to care for urban parks everywhere.
Youth Education & Service-Learning Programs
Redefinition
- Programs directly relate to Conservancy’s mission & work
- Rely on expertise of CPC staff
- Fixed application periods & program schedules

Future Growth
- Depth over breadth
- Engaging families & educators to be better Park users
- Connecting youth to careers in urban park management

Past Youth Programs
- Broad range of offerings & content:
- Contracted educators
- Open enrollment & flexible schedules
The Center for Urban Park Management shares the Conservancy’s expertise with current and aspiring park professionals to elevate the urban park management profession.

The Center for Urban Park Management engages high school and college students in internships, apprenticeships, career exploration, and service-learning programs to cultivate the next generation of urban park managers.
Service Learning
- Woodlands Youth Crew
- ROOTS

Apprenticeship
- Visitor Experience Apprentice Program

Career Exploration
- Green Career Lab

Internships
- Summer Internship Program
- Horticulture Sciences College Internship
Summer Internship Program

- 7-week, full-time, paid internship for 30 high school students
- One-on-one mentorship with CPC staff
  - Horticulture
  - Visitor Services
  - Public Programs
- Weekly site visits with program staff
- Weekly Friday trips
- Daily journaling & final writing project
- Overnight trip to Black Rock Forest
Green Career Lab

• 5-week career exploration workshop for high school students

• Saturdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in January & February

• Learning about careers in urban park management by:
  • Interviewing professionals
  • Visiting other urban parks

• Part of program pipeline keeping students engaged with CPC year-round

• Program piloted in 2015
The Center for Urban Park Discovery redefines how visitors experience Central Park, facilitating exploration and in-depth educational experiences in the Park.

The Center for Urban Park Discovery provides environmental education for the Park’s youngest visitors, resources and training for educators who use parks as outdoor classrooms, and a variety of lectures and tours for adults who wish to learn more about the park.
Fostering a stewardship ethic through volunteerism

Service Learning Programs
Keeping it Green for Schools
- Started mid-90’s
- Grades K – 12
- March – June
  Spreading mulch
- September – November
  Spreading mulch or leaf-raking

Keeping it Green for Families
- Started fall 2014
- Engaging parents and children in active stewardship
- Location provided with registration

Pitch In, Pick Up
- Reserve trash grabbers and bags at visitor centers
Volunteers Are Essential
Environmental Education

Self Guided
• Discovery Kits
• Discovery Journals and Exploration Guides

Facilitated
• Discovery Walks
• Woodlands Discovery Club

Professional Development
Dana Discovery Center

- Opened to the public in 1993
- Invite the public to explore the northern end of the Park
- Educational and community programs
- Exhibition gallery
- Holiday celebrations

Discovery Guides

- Fall 2012
- In-Park Visitor Experience representatives
- Support Conservancy programming

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center
Bonnie Ralston
Michael O'Grady

Discovery Kits

• Free, self-guided exploration
• Cornerstone of our Discovery Programs
• Families and school groups
• Discovery Tools
  • Binoculars
  • Hand lens
  • Ruler
  • Field guides
  • Colored pencils
  • Clipboard with paper
• Discovery Journals ($2.00 in Visitor Centers)
• Exploration Guides (free, online)

Habitat Hunt
Animals need food, shelter, space, air, and water to live. Those five things make a habitat. The Harlem Meer provides habitat for newts, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and birds.

Did You Know?
Although it's only 10 feet deep, the Harlem Meer contains about 30 million gallons of water. If you drank 8 cups of water each day, it would take you more than 100,000 years to drink that much water!
Discovery Walks
Discovery Walks

- Facilitated inquiry based exploration of Park landscapes using Discovery Kits
- Building relationships with families
- Encouraging further self-guided exploration
- Promote responsible discovery
- Free, registration required

Birding Basics for Families

- Partnership with NYC Audubon
- Recently refocused program to meet the desired family audience
- Free, registration recommended
Canopy Layer

Understory Layer

Ground Layer

Management
Woodlands Discovery Club

Discovery Club Field Notebook
Center for Urban Park Discovery

Name: __________________________

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY
central to the park

35 years
Woodlands Discovery Club

- Piloted fall 2014
- Five week paid program
- Cultivate a community of stewards and supporters
- Focus on the field notebook and ongoing observation
- Culminates in a service project enhancing the North Woods
Train the Teacher

• Developing resources for educators that align with the Conservancy’s message while correlating with learning standards and remaining relevant in the classroom

• Developing workshops based on feedback from educator focus groups

• Increasing comfort level for educators not accustomed to teaching outdoors

Professional Development
Questions?
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