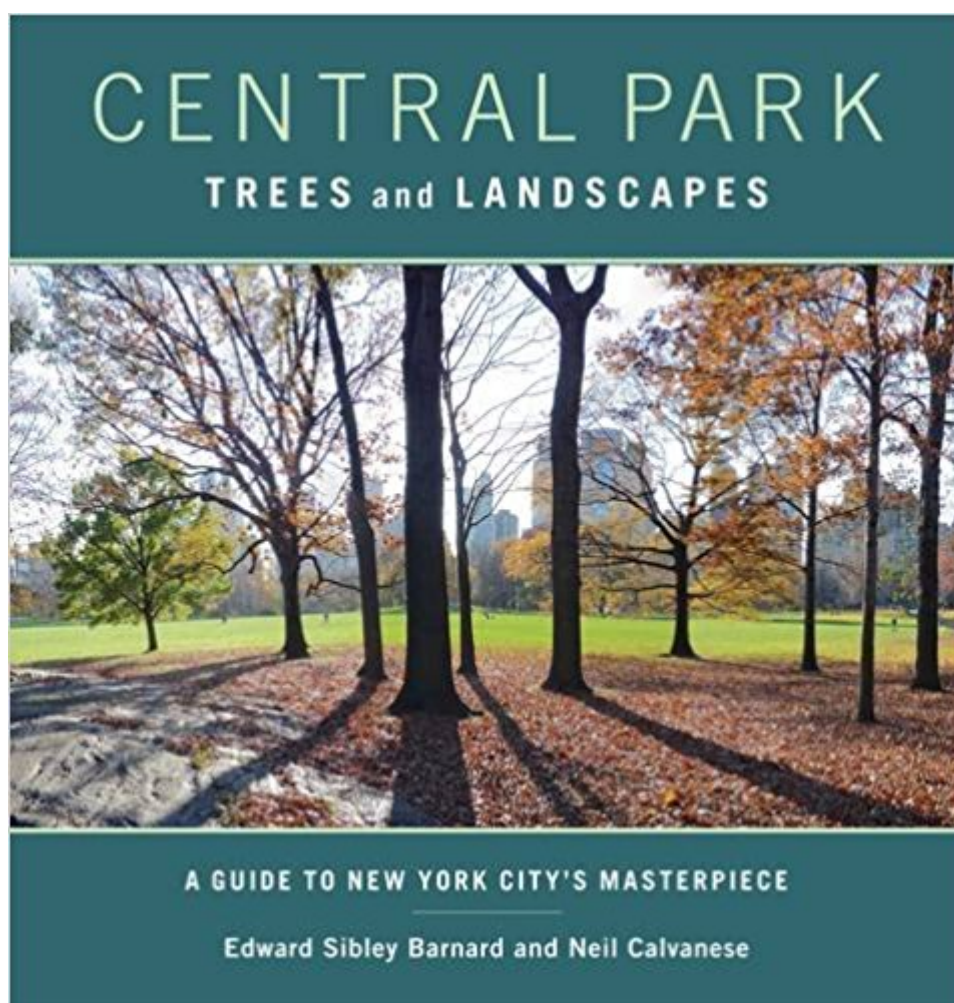


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# Central Park Trees And Landscapes: A Guide To New York City's Masterpiece



## Synopsis

This is the ultimate field guide to the trees and landscapes of Central Park, with a lively, authoritative text and over 900 color photographs, botanical plates, and extraordinarily detailed maps. Under the direction of the Central Park Conservancy, the park's landscapes have been painstakingly restored to achieve the effects envisioned more than 150 years ago by the park's designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. This book highlights the leading role that trees play in defining 22 of these landscapes and chronicles the history of each of more than 200 tree species and varieties present in the park—where it came from and where the most outstanding specimens are located. Besides being a superb guide to the world's greatest center-city park, this book is a highly informative guide to most of the tree species commonly encountered in the eastern United States. Anyone who loves trees will find this book a very rewarding read, full of fascinating details and beautiful illustrations. Central Park Trees and Landscapes is divided into two major sections: "The Landscapes" opens with a geological account of Manhattan Island—from its position 500 million years ago on the edge of the proto-North American continent to its emergence about 15,000 years ago from the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The effects that human inhabitants had on the ecology of the island are described—from the burning of field stubble by Native Americans to the clearing of forest trees by Europeans. Next, the narrative focuses on the land that would eventually become Central Park—how it was saved from being dissected by John Randel's rigid street grid and how Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux became the park's designers. The heart of the section is devoted to the construction of the park in the late 1850s and 1860s. Twenty-two of the park's grand landscapes are pictured in dozens of photographs and in seven detailed maps pinpointing nearly 20,000 trees. Readers can identify each tree on the maps by species using the Tree Maps Key (located on the back of the front flap). "The Tree Guide" contains informative essays full of intriguing botanical and historical facts on over 200 of the park's tree species and varieties. Each two-page entry features illustrations of leaves, fruits, flowers, and bark as well as a striking portrait photograph of a park tree. The entries are organized into groups by leaf shapes shown on an easy-to-use identification key (located inside the front cover).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is an informative and breathtaking guide to Central Park's magnificent collection of trees and their glorious landscapes from Edward Sibley Barnard, a leading naturalist and author, working closely with Neil Calvanese, the park's former chief arborist who dedicated more than 30 years to the park's magnificent plantings. They have written a guide that is lovingly produced and easy to use. Anyone who loves Central Park and all who visit it will benefit from this timely new book. (Sara Cedar Miller, author of *Central Park, An American Masterpiece: A Comprehensive History of the Nation's First Urban Park*) If this book were only a compendium of informative and beautifully illustrated entries on trees and their botanical characteristics and history, it would rank as a splendid achievement. Edward Sibley Barnard and Neil Calvanese have done this and then gone further. By making it possible to tour the Central Park landscape section by section with their words and Ken Chaya's excellent maps depicting the location of each species, Barnard and Calvanese have equipped the reader to receive an unparalleled plant-identification lesson and park experience at the same time. (Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, founder, Central Park Conservancy) More than 900 color photographs and maps grace this Central Park guidebook, which looks at the vast landscape section by section. (Booklist) A lushly illustrated reference book that will help you sound smarter than your children think you are. (Sam Roberts *The New York Times*) A book that will turn even the most hardened urbanite into a nature lover. (Billy Heller *New York Post*) A summer visit on Shabbat or any time to Central Park will be enriched by reading *Central Park Trees and Landscapes*. (Sandee Brawarsky *The Jewish Week*) A detailed but delightfully accessible Baedeker for both exploring the elegant vistas and identifying the species of trees. (*The New York Times*)

The splendor of New York's most famous green space comes alive in this essential companion for

nature lovers and travelers to New York. In more than 900 color images, a leading nature writer and a long-time Central Park naturalist detail the park's tree species and their place in the park's iconic landscapes. More than a botanical guide, this book cultivates an appreciation of the park as both a natural triumph and an embodiment of the city's varied spirit.

This book is a treasure. Its subject, Central Park, is an extraordinary creation that warrants a publication which mirrors the Park's beauty and reflects the hard work needed to maintain that beauty. I have sat down time after time to dip into this book, enjoying the pages that are chock full of information and beautiful photographs. I particularly enjoy the two-page presentations about individual species of trees, one page providing a full-page photo of that species as it appears in the Park, while the facing page includes very interesting information about the species, typically its history and the challenges of maintaining it in Central Park. The trees face many challenges such as air pollution, disease and the cold winter climate. The book is a wonderful companion to the Park; its sturdy paperback makes it suitable for visits to the Park, but it also well-suited for "armchair strolls" through the Park regardless of weather or time of day. The Park is large, almost overflowing with its beautiful variety of trees and landscapes. To capture it is not easy, but this book does so in a way that is simply excellent. The authors bring great knowledge and professionalism to their subject.

THIS BOOK IS AMAZING. For years I have wandered Central Park almost daily asking "what kind of tree is that?" despite knowing virtually nothing about trees. I cannot believe how well this book answers that question, no matter which of the ~20,000 trees in the park you are asking about. If you want to do some detective work, you can start by identifying the type of leaves and then paging through the corresponding section. Or, you can just look at the incredibly detailed maps by park section and pinpoint exact individual trees that are coded to a legend in the front. I'm glad I waited until 2016 to try to quench my tree curiosity because this book just came out and I'm certain nothing could rival it. It's gorgeous, the perfect size, and filled with rich histories and vivid descriptions of every type of tree in Central Park. You will not regret this purchase if you have any iota of interest in trees, the history of Central Park, or New York City nature in general!

I read the descriptions of leaves and trees every day. It is indispensable for a person living close to Central Park.

Beautiful pictures

Wow.....COMPLETE! And lovely.....

Read for free at the New York Society Library, a subscription library. This marvelous guide to Central Park and its trees and vistas was written by Edward Sibley Barnard and Neil Calvanese (the Central Park Conservancy's vice president for operations). The book is very detailed, but provides makes a delightful opportunity to help you explore the elegant vistas and identifying the species of trees. I would like to have a Kindle version of this book to carry with me on my walks; the book is really too nice to take to the park in my backpack. Instead, the Library is kind enough to let me Xerox various key page which I can carry with me. However you use this marvelous guide, it is a wonderful help for exploring Central Park -- you will learn an enormous amount from the work of these two dedicated authors. Robert C. Ross December 2016

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