



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215
Website: <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb10/>

Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

Resolution: To Support Restoration of the Great Hill Bathroom in Central Park

WHEREAS the Great Hill Bathroom is located on the West Side between 94th and 96th Streets near the West Drive; and

WHEREAS The part of the Park occupied by the Great Hill is rich in history. Once known as Harlem Heights, it commanded panoramic views in all directions. Because of its strategic elevation—134 feet above sea level—it was used as a military encampment during the Revolutionary War. Olmsted and Vaux in their design for Central Park took advantage of the site's steep topography, creating an oval carriage concourse that encircled the summit of the Great Hill and served as an outlook. The concourse offered spectacular views of Manhattan, the Hudson River and Palisades, and the Long Island Sound. From it, pedestrian pathways led into the surrounding landscape; and

WHEREAS The area along Central Park West between 103rd and 104th Streets is a spot of special significance in that it was the site of the Bogardus House, a farmstead that served as Olmsted's home during the Park's construction and the spot where he was married in 1859; and

WHEREAS From the Park's early days, the Great Hill was conceived as a site for family outings. It is listed in an 1872 handbill, signed by Olmsted, that recommends locations in the Park suited to day-trips for children. Families arriving by carriage would take in the breathtaking views of the concourse, disembark and go for a stroll in the adjoining picturesque landscapes, and picnic or play in the shade of the central lawn; and

WHEREAS In 1909, wooden steps that had been added to provide access to the Great Hill from the 106th Street entrance were removed and replaced with the more rustic path and stone staircase that now exist; and

WHEREAS The Project Goals include:

- Restore the building's exterior consistent with the historic design
- Update MEP systems to minimize carbon footprint while introducing electric heating to make the building a year-round facility
- Improve restroom accessibility to meet jurisdictional requirements and best practices
- Create accessible routes to restroom facilities and adjacent park locations

WHEREAS The Scope of Work includes:

Building Envelope

- Selective replacement and repairs to the slate roof
- Restoration of the exterior masonry, including cleaning and repointing
- Replacement of windows and doors based on historic drawings
- Repair original drinking fountain

Interior Renovation

- Reconfigure interior walls to accommodate an accessible stall in each restroom
- All new finishes, fixtures and fittings and accessories.
- Upgrade interior lighting to LED

Building Systems

- New mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems

Site Accessibility Improvements

- Replace existing granite blocks with ADA-accessible blocks
- Create accessible landings at each restroom entrance
- Slope up from existing loop trail to restroom entrance landings to create accessible route
- Pitch walkways away from building to achieve positive drainage; and

WHEREAS Central Park Conservancy presented the objectives, project scopes and design concepts of the project at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on September 13th, 2023; and

WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board 10 is in support of the Central Park Conservancy design plans to upgrade the Great Hill bathroom through restoration; and

WHEREAS Central Park Conservancy presented the objectives, project scopes and design concepts of the project at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on September 13th, 2023; and

WHEREAS on September 27th, the Executive Committee had quorum and voted to support the resolution to support the renovations, reconstruction, and new designs of the Great Hills bathroom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on Wednesday, October 1st, 2023 the General Board had quorum and voted 29 YES 0 NO, 0 ABSTENTION and 0 RECUSAL to support the resolution to support the Central Park Conservancy's efforts to upgrade through renovations, reconstruction and new designs the Great Hill bathroom.