The Mayor Of Central Park

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delineate the politicians business people artists immigrant laborers and city dwellers who are the key players in the tale in tracing the park s history the writers also give us the history of new york they explain how squabbles over politics taxes and real estate development shaped the park and describe the acrimonious debates over what a public park should look like what facilities it should offer and how it should accommodate the often incompatible

the bridges of central park are whimsically elegant and practical in their efficiency straddling great rock formations roads bridle trails

footpaths and waterways more than 50 ornate bridges and arches enable over 60 miles of pathways to fit neatly within a 1 3 square mile recreational space on manhattan island frederick law olmsted and calvert vaux s competition winning greensward plan of 1857 enabled central park to become the first landscaped public urban park in america architects vaux and jacob wrey mould designed the bridges including some of america s oldest cast iron spans these graceful structures provide breathtaking vistas and unique venues for visitors and artisans alike standing inconspicuously in most cases and with bold pronouncement in others they are thoughtfully placed to assure a timeless beauty and ongoing utility built at great expense and well integrated with the surrounding natural and engineered terrain park bridges continue to circulate horseback riders pedestrians and horse drawn carriages effortlessly through the man made haven the bridges of central park celebrates the beauty and dimension of these structures which provide relief for crowded paths and are frequently subjects of the photographer s eye

the year 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the design of central park the first and arguably the most famous of america's urban landscape parks in october 1857 the new park s board of commissioners announced a public design competition and the following april the imaginative yet practicable greensward plan submitted by calvert vaux and frederick law olmsted was selected this book tells the fascinating story of how an extraordinary work of public art emerged from the crucible of new york city politics from william cullen bryant s 1844 editorial calling for a pleasure ground of shade and recreation to the completion of construction in 1870 the history of central park is an urban epic a tale not only of animosity political intrigue and desire but also of idealism sacrifice and genius

the story of how one woman s long love affair with new york s central park led her to organize its rescue from a state of serious decline returning it to the beautiful place of recreational opportunity and spiritual sustenance that it is today elizabeth barlow rogers opens with a quick survey of her early life a middle class upbringing in texas college at wellesley marriage a master s degree in city planning at yale and then her move to new york where she starts a family and when she finds being a mother and a housewife is not enough pours herself into the protection and enhancement of the city s green spaces interwoven into her own story is a comprehensive history of central park its design and construction as a scenic masterpiece the alterations of each succeeding era the addition of numerous facilities for sports and play and finally the anything goes phase of the 1960s and 70s which was often fun but nearly destroyed the park the two narratives continue to entwine as she finds a job in the administration of central park founds the central park conservancy and transforms both the park and herself a transformation that has led to the writing of her many books to travels that have taken her to parks and gardens around the world and to solidifying the prestige of one of new york s most conspicuous landmarks

since it opened in 1858 central park has been one of new york s most photographed landmarks however while some of the park remains

as it was then much of the park s landscape has changed over the years through historic images and contemporary photographs by denise stavis levine central park provides a previously unseen glimpse of the park s hidden history and brings it up to date

colonial capital and imperialism have shaped and redefined built environments in both metropole and periphery apparitions of trans atlantic colonialism and neo colonialism haunt those societies and bound an important field of ideological and political contest repudiation and resistance most of those actions have targeted commemorative monuments object collections and museum interpretation below and beyond those blatant ideological examples of imperialism however are the landscapes and structures that reinforce a habitus of imperial life inferring rather than explicitly declaring its hegemony this collection of historical archaeological studies centered in the long nineteenth century examines and reinterprets a series of architectural remnants structures and landscapes that continue to ideologically reinforce neo colonial social and power asymmetries examples include the failing spanish mission and colony in new spain the bombastic reconstruction of imperial paris the nascent imperium centered in an expanding new york city the failed cooperative utopia of the oneida religious community and the wide area effects of early industrialization in new england

central park is more than just a big patch of green in the middle of new york city it s a place filled with history hidden secrets fascinating wildlife and exciting adventures waiting to be discovered this fun and engaging guide takes kids on a journey through one of the world s most famous parks uncovering stories about statues underground tunnels and surprising animal visitors from learning about the people who designed the park to spotting turtles at harlem meer this book is packed with fun facts strange discoveries and cool places that most visitors miss want to know where to find a hidden waterfall curious about why there s a castle in the middle of the park ever wondered which movies were filmed right on the paths you walk this book answers all those questions and more whether kids are visiting central park for the first time or have been there dozens of times there s always something new to learn with sections on history famous landmarks fun activities and the park s future this book will inspire young explorers to get outside and start their own central park adventure

the statues of central park is the extraordinary photographic tribute to one of the world's most popular recreational destinations and public spaces new york city's central park the most visited urban park in the united states with 42 million visitors annually central park is of the most famous sightseeing spots in new york in no small part due to its collection of sculptures and monuments erected throughout the park the statues of central park highlights these sculptures and monuments in one spectacular photography collection complete with short descriptions detailing the interesting histories of these public art pieces with visually stunning photographs that capture the essence of the statues and monuments of central park this amazing collection serves not only as a perfect gift but as a powerful

reminder of the importance of art juxtaposed against the grandeur of nature

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putting archive and contemporary photographs of the same landmark side by side central park then and now celebrates the famous park throughout its 150 year history as well as the roads and landmark buildings surrounding itcentral park is an 843 acre sylvan landscape filled with a uniquely new york urban vitality crowds in long gowns and top hats change to mass gatherings in modern times such as the 1968 rally against the vietnam war and the vigil following john lennon s death in 1980 lost structures are revealed including a lavish 1920s era nightclub known as the casino and elaborate rustic shelters and bridges the book is a walk through the park beginning at its elegant fifth central park avenue entrance at east 59th street with views of the plaza hotel and grand army plaza it moves north along manhattan s upper east side taking in the zoo magnificent mall terrace bethesda fountain and metropolitan museum of art it extends to the park s northern border at 110th street in harlem returning south along the upper west side to west 59th street it presents picturesque scenes along the lake and boathouse as well as the great lawn and sheep meadow where historic rallies and concerts took place this side of the park also reveals hidden sites in the wooded ramble the glittering tavern on the green restaurant and a thanksgiving day parade that took place along central park west more than half a century ago other sites include millionaires row carriage row inscope arch belvedere castle gapstow bridge wollman rick balto memorial obelisk dairy and arsenal rare archival images are paired with specially commissioned photographs bringing the past and present together to reveal new york s fascinating history its major events controversies and cultural changes throughout the decades

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