

Highbridge Park

A Visitor's Guide



NYC Parks

Highbridge Park is a destination for adventure seekers, nature lovers, and history buffs alike.

Magnificent cliffs, beautiful lawns, scenic overlooks, meandering forest pathways, and countless picnic areas make it a sanctuary from the city. The park is named for the High Bridge, which is part of the Old Croton Aqueduct and is the city's oldest standing bridge. Beginning in 1842, the aqueduct ran 41 miles into the city, providing New York with its first reliable source of clean water. In 2015, the bridge reopened after a 40-year closure, once again connecting Manhattan and the Bronx. That same year, Highbridge Park received \$30 million as part of the city's Anchor Parks Initiative, funding that will help improve the park's safety, forest ecology, and connectivity, and create new places to play and discover!



The Highbridge Pool and Water Tower

Highbridge Park's
130 ACRES

include both natural forest
and recreational space.

At Highbridge Park, you'll find:



102 ACRES
OF *NATURAL* **FOREST**



28 ACRES OF
RECREATIONAL
SPACE

EIGHT 
Playgrounds

1 RECREATION
CENTER 

ONE
BMX BIKE
PARK

THREE BALL
FIELDS
  


1 OLYMPIC-SIZED
POOL

1 *world-class* 
SKATEBOARDING
FACILITY

ONE 
MOUNTAIN BIKING
COURSE


14 **SPORTS**
COURTS



Clockwise from top: Highbridge Park's high bluffs are the eroded roots of an ancient mountain range created by several collisions of huge land masses, beginning about 450 million years ago; the park is home to variety of native and exotic forests, and you can spot northern red oaks, hickory, and sweetgum trees, among others; the presence of salamanders, hawks, birds, and snakes illustrates the important ecological value of the park.

Highbridge Park Highlights

Playgrounds and Courts

Coogan's Bluff Playground

West 155th–156th Streets and Edgecombe Avenue

Adventure Playground

West 164th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

Sunken Playground and Basketball Courts

West 167th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

CPF Playground

West 172nd Street

Volleyball and Basketball Courts

West 175th–176th Streets and Amsterdam Avenue

Quisqueya Playground

West 180th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Raoul Wallenberg Playground and Basketball Courts

West 190th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Fort George Playground

Fort George, north of West 193rd Street

Select Historical Features

1 Laurel Hill Terrace Overlook

Laurel Hill Terrace and West 184th Street

The circular lookout of this overlook was created using large chunks of schist, a rock common to this area. The granite stairs and sandstone walls are an example of the hand labor once used in early park construction. Each sandstone block bears the signature style of the stonemason who chiseled it.

2 The High Bridge

West 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue

The High Bridge connects Manhattan and the Bronx. It was built in 1842 to carry water from the Croton River in Westchester down to Manhattan, and soon became a favorite spot to promenade, spot crew competitions on the Harlem River, and watch horse-and-buggy races on the Harlem River Speedway.

3 The Highbridge Water Tower

West 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue

The 200-foot-tall octagonal water tower, designed by John B. Jervis in 1872, was a later addition to the water system and brought water service to Inwood.

4 John T. Brush Stairway

Edgecombe Avenue and 158th Street

This 80-step staircase on the side of the cliff once led to the ticket booth for the original Polo Grounds. Dedicated to John T. Brush, the longtime owner of the New York Giants, this steel-and-concrete stairway was a gift to the City of New York by the Giants in 1913.

5 The Old Croton Aqueduct Trail

West 158th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

The trail follows the route of the underground aqueduct, which remained in service until 1950, for a mile from the High Bridge to 158th Street. It then continues through

Manhattan, ending at Bryant Park. This trail highlights the remains of the aqueduct and provides a sense of the complex engineering required to build it.

6 Sugar Hill Luminaries Lawn

West 155th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

This lawn overlooking Harlem Valley is a part of Harlem that became home to many leading African-American intellectuals and artists during the first half of the 20th century. Harlem Renaissance musicians, political activists, authors, and painters are commemorated here.

7 Coogan's Bluff

West 155th Street to West 160th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

Coogan's bluff is a former site of the Old Polo Grounds, the iconic baseball stadium that housed five New York sports teams from 1890 to 1963. The bluff's location made it possible for non-paying crowds to witness some of baseball's greatest moments.

Sport and Recreational Facilities

8 Highbridge Mountain Biking Course

Fort George Avenue

Highbridge Park is the home of NYC's first mountain biking course. This 3-mile course offers diverse trails of varying difficulty, with a free-ride trail that includes drops and berms, as well as a dirt jump park. The course has been featured in national magazines and is supported by the NYC chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association.

9 Alexander Hamilton Bridge Skate Park

West 181st Street and Amsterdam Avenue

This skate park is a destination for skaters from the tri-state area, featuring concrete ramps, steel grinding areas, rails, and urban skateboarding features.

10 Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center

Amsterdam Avenue between West 172nd and West 174th Streets

The Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center were built in 1936 and are NYC Landmarks. The pool is free to the public and open daily from late June through mid-September. The Recreation Center is open year-round, except on Sundays.

Bouldering at Highbridge Park

Highbridge Park's massive geological formations make it ideal for bouldering, a form of rock climbing on large boulders and small rock formations. NYC Parks requires climbers to wear a helmet and use a drop pad, chalk, and a spotter. No ropes are permitted. Explore the park to find your favorite spot to climb!

Highbridge Park: North



Highbridge Park: South



Discover the Adventure

Highbridge Park runs from West 155th to Dyckman Street, between the Harlem River Drive and Edgecombe/Amsterdam Avenues in Manhattan.

Park Hours

6:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Subway

A, B, C, D, and 1 trains
to Dyckman Street and 155th Street

Buses

M101, M2, Bx6, Bx13, Bx30

Images: 5K run: Daniel Avila, Fall Field Day: Malcolm Pinckney, geology: Trish Mayo, kids hiking: Daniel Avila, raccoon: Keith Michael, Wallenberg Courts: Malcolm Pinckney, water tower and pool: Daniel Avila.



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