

THEN AND NOW: SUMMER STREETS ROUTE



Grab a copy of the *Then and Now: Summer Streets Route* to explore the streetscape of New York City from 100 years ago. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Summer Streets, DOT Art designed and produced 2000 historical flipbooks that highlight the six rest stops of the Citi Summer Streets Route. Historical photos, collected from the New York Public Library and the Museum of the City of New York, are overlaid onto present day photos in the flipbook alongside fun facts and historical maps from 1916. Before picking up a flipbook, step back in time with us at the 'selfie' station at the SW corner of 50th Street and Park Avenue. A large-scale banner will be placed in the exact same position in which the photograph was originally captured 100 years ago.

Special thanks to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission; Michael Miscione, Manhattan Borough Historian; Barbara McLaughlin, President, The Fund for Park Avenue; Sam Schwartz, former NYC Traffic Commissioner;

Claire Weisz, FAIA Principal, WXY architecture + urban design; Jonathan Kuhn, Director of Art & Antiquities, NYC Parks; and Robert Pigott, author of *New York's Legal Landmarks: A Guide to Legal Edifices, Institutions, Lore, History, and Curiosities on the City's Streets* who contributed content to the booklet. Download a digital copy of *Then and Now: Summer Streets Route* at: www.nyc.gov/summerstreets.

SUMMER STREETS ROUTE TIMELINE

- 1800:** Park (Fourth) Avenue was farmland.
- 1803:** John Jacob Astor opened Vauxhall Gardens at Astor Place offering concerts and pastoral relief from the city.
- 1811:** East Road became Fourth Ave. when Manhattan was organized into a regular grid as part of the Commissioner's plan.
- 1826:** Astor closed Vauxhall Gardens and sold land for development. A wide street named Lafayette Place laid out through its center.
- 1831:** Resolution passed permitting a single or double track on the north bounds of 23rd St. connecting it to the more rural parts of the city.
- 1832:** First stretch of railway opened extending from Prince St. to 14th St. along Fourth Ave.
- 1834:** Horse drawn cars still traveling between Prince St. and East 86th St.
- 1837:** Park (Fourth) Ave. widened from 100 ft to 140 ft.
- 1858:** Trains banned south of 42nd St. due to noise and air pollution.
- 1860:** Blocks named Park Avenue between 34th St. and 38th St. because of the modest parks along the street.
- 1871:** Grand Central Depot opened on East 42nd St.
- 1872:** The Fourth Ave. Improvement Scheme introduced a partially enclosed tunnel from 56th St. to 96th St. in response to legislation to reposition tracks below street level.
- 1875:** Completion of train between 56th St. and 96th St.
- 1883:** Completion of Colonnade Row, a set of Greek Revival rowhouses; home to elite like the Vanderbilts and Astors.
- 1887:** The Board of Alderman voted to rename Fourth Ave. to Park Ave.
- 1888:** Lafayette Place joined Elm St. improving vehicle accessibility.
- 1890:** Lafayette St. opened between E. Houston St. and Great Jones St.
- 1903:** Wilgus' plans called for complete submersion and electrification of all tracks to run from a new train terminal north to 97th St.
- 1907:** Based on a State assembly law passed in 1902, passenger trains electrified by 1907.
- 1913:** Grand Central terminal, as we know it today, opened.
- 1919:** Opening of the Park Ave. viaduct establishing Park Ave. as a continuous north/south thoroughfare.
- 1920s:** Traffic policemen replaced by green and red signal lights, and traffic lanes added as part of the municipal street widening program.
- 1929:** The Parks department began planning 2,000 trees from 46th St. to 72nd St. in its efforts to beautify Park Ave.
- 1965:** Four of the remaining rowhouses of Colonnade Row became some of the City's first landmarked buildings.
- 1970:** The Park Ave. Malls redesigned by Clara Coffey; fences removed and replanting took place.
- 1980:** New laws passed in SoHo + NoHo allowing artists to live and work in the same dwelling.
- 1990s:** The City renovated Foley Square by demapping cross streets and consolidating spaces into a unified five-acre public space.
- 2008:** First Summer Streets Event.
- 2016:** Opening of Astor Place Plaza by WXY architecture + urban design.
- 2017:** 10th Anniversary of Summer Streets.



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