



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

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District Manager

**Resolution for NYC Parks - Central Park Conservancy/ Conservatory Garden and Dairy Access Path Renovation Projects**

WHEREAS the Conservatory Garden is a 6-acre formal garden in the northeastern corner of Central Park. It is located between 104<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup> Streets west of Fifth Avenue. The Conservatory Garden takes its name from a conservatory that stood on the site from 1898 to 1935. The wrought-iron Vanderbilt Gate was made in Paris in 1894 and originally stood at Fifth Avenue's Vanderbilt Mansion; and

WHEREAS The proposed reconstruction of the Conservatory Garden would include the in-kind restoration of pavement, curbs and drainage, retaining walls, stairs and pergola. Modifications would consist of replacement of concrete pavement and accessibility improvements; and

WHEREAS The interior bluestone of the Conservatory Garden would be replaced in-kind; and

WHEREAS The original bluestone on the perimeter path was replaced with concrete in 1969; and

WHEREAS The existing concrete pavement along the perimeter of the Conservatory Garden would be replaced with original bluestone pavement; and

WHEREAS To the north, the French-style Garden offers spectacular seasonal displays of tulips each spring and Korean chrysanthemums in autumn, all within an ellipse of Japanese holly. At the Garden's center stands the Untermyer Fountain, featuring the Three Dancing Maidens by German sculptor Walter Schott; and

WHEREAS The proposed reconstruction would make the French Garden universally accessible; and

WHEREAS The accessible ramp section would: (1) install accessible ADA ramp and handrail, and (2) extend the existing cheek-wall while lowering the path up to three inches to create the ramp; and

WHEREAS The Untermyer Fountain basin depth will be reduced to 18 inches; and

WHEREAS The project proposes drainage at the garden's perimeter fence and will include modification of the grade to collect surface runoff from the mount; and

WHEREAS The Conservatory Garden will be reconstructed to ensure its longevity and increase accessibility and access for communities around the north eastern segment of Central Park; and

WHEREAS The Dairy, located mid-park at 65th Street serves as a general visitor center and provides the public with information on the design of Central Park, current park events and programs; and

WHEREAS The Dairy, designed by Vaux and erected in 1870, is a combination of architectural styles that have been characterized as Victorian Gothic. The Dairy consists of a roofed open gallery, or loggia, made of wood with geometric gingerbread borders. When it was built the Dairy was designed to provide a view of the Pond, but now it serves to provide a view of Wollman Rink; and

WHEREAS the project proposes the replacement of the bluestone paving bands in-kind in the loggia; and

WHEREAS the project proposes the installation of brick pavers in herringbone pattern; and

WHEREAS Central Park Conservancy has met with other surrounding Community Boards 8, 9 and 11 who are pending supportive resolutions; and

WHEREAS The Conservatory Garden restoration project has a budget of \$10 million and is completely funded; and

WHEREAS The Dairy Access Path renovation project has a budget of \$1 million and is completely funded; and

WHEREAS The Central Park Conservancy and New York City Parks anticipate that the Conservatory Garden restoration project will be implemented in segments with temporary closures of the reconstruction site while unaffected Conservatory Garden areas will remain open. The construction is expected to begin in the Fall around October and completed in 2022. The Conservancy is working with NYC Parks to develop a plan to minimize inconvenience and to identify interim locations for existing programs during the construction period; and

WHEREAS The Dairy Access Path will be rebuilt to better integrate into the landscape and increase accessibility and access for communities around Central Park; and

WHEREAS The Dairy Access Path renovation project is anticipated to begin in May 2020 and completed by Spring 2021. Park goers will be directed to an alternate site for visitor information; and

WHEREAS Central Park Conservancy met with the Parks and Recreation Committee on April 8th, 2020 to present proposed design plans for the Conservatory Garden and Dairy Access Path to garner community feedback; and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Committee voted unanimously to support the Resolution; and

THEREFORE NOW BE IT RESOLVED that on May 6, 2020 Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the joint efforts of New York City Parks and Central Park Conservancy to upgrade the Conservatory Garden and Dairy Access Path through new designs and reconstruction, with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.