



CENTENNIAL PARK CONSERVANCY

REVITALIZING NASHVILLE'S URBAN OASIS

Historic Centennial Park is not the only green space in Nashville, but it is city's most visited park. And a central hub where residents and visitors come to connect to nature, to history, to the future and to each other.

"Centennial Park is uniquely our city's central park. It is truly the people's park. It is vitally important in a thriving urban city to have this green space, and to protect and preserve it."

Sylvia Rapoport, Centennial Park Conservancy Founding President

Visitors to Centennial Park can experience education, entertainment, exercise and inspiration as they take in its acres of sheltering greenspace, architecture, visual and performing arts, music, and flavors of Nashville. The 132-acre oasis is where parents push strollers in the sunshine, photographers capture memories for starry-eyed newlyweds, Saturday night dances happen under the stars, and people of all ages enjoy the restorative powers of the great outdoors.

Along with Metro Parks, Centennial Park Conservancy is spearheading a revitalization to increase the park's accessibility and vibrancy. We are seeking input from community leaders as we progress with these renovations.



SO MANY NASHVILLIANS HAVE A STORY

Since Centennial Park's inception, Nashville has evolved from a parochial town into a cosmopolitan city. The Parthenon and surrounding green spaces, once segregated and welcoming only to some, have become the vibrant center of a culturally diverse and economically thriving community we call Music City.

The park is Nashville's family album. Resident Marianne Byrd speaks lovingly of being a country girl enamored with the park's charms while visiting her grandmother.

"We would make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and cut the crusts off, then put the crusts back in the bag," Marianne shares. "We would go to the park for a picnic and feed the ducks the leftover bread. It is just one of those simple memories that stays with you. So many Nashvillians have memories like that."

Our park also has a spot on the national stage. When the Titans have a home game or the Predators make the playoffs, television coverage always includes images of the Parthenon. Ongoing park improvements and maintenance is crucial to showing our best face to the world.



ALL THAT LOVE TAKES A TOLL

For 123 years, Nashville residents and visitors have flocked to the park for special events like concerts, craft fairs, exhibits and dances. Others frequent simply to connect with nature in the midst of a bustling and growing city.

Centennial Park welcomes an estimated 3 million visitors a year and that number is growing. To continue to thrive, we must transform the park's green space to properly support the visitors who enjoy it and revitalize our city's flagship park to serve future generations.

"Whether this is your everyday park, or the place you turn to when you have a special event, or if it's just that place in the corner of your mind when you're away from home and thinking about Nashville... this is your park. We need to support this project because if not us, then who? And if not now, then when?"

Neil Krugman, Centennial Park Conservancy Board Chair

The revitalization project is as ambitious and multi-faceted as the city itself and will rely on input and philanthropic support from the Nashville community.



DAYLIGHTING COCKRILL SPRING

With the support of donors and the city of Nashville, the project started quietly with freeing the waters of long-buried Cockrill Spring and cleaning Lake Watauga to create sustainable water sources. It also included parking improvements and creation of a permanent venue for Musicians Corner. This phase was completed in 2015.

BRINGING THE GREAT LAWN TO LIFE

We are now completing an ambitious overhaul of the Great Lawn that will expand the number of walking, jogging and biking trails. The lawn will be re-engineered with sports-field-quality turf and drainage improvements. A redesigned West End entrance will allow more space for pedestrians, and the lawn will be flanked by 20-foot-wide walkways shaded by double rows of trees.

The project includes a permanent location for the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument in celebration of the centennial of the 19th amendment. We are also updating the Parthenon lighting with a unique LED system to emphasize the building's elegance, symmetry, and three-dimensionality. Visitors will experience a visual extravaganza each night as the lights "come alive" sequentially and "go to sleep," leaving the Parthenon glowing from the inside out. Expected Completion: Late 2020



BRIGHT NEW GATHERING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

The next phase of construction, which is currently in design development, will revitalize the Park Plaza section of the park - our connection to North Nashville. The highlight of this phase is the building of a world-class events pavilion where the Nashville community can gather for engaging celebrations. The event pavilion will bring our community together by serving as a destination for ongoing local events, including nonprofit fundraisers, music performances, festivals, educational children's events, lectures, and the park's popular Big Band Dances.

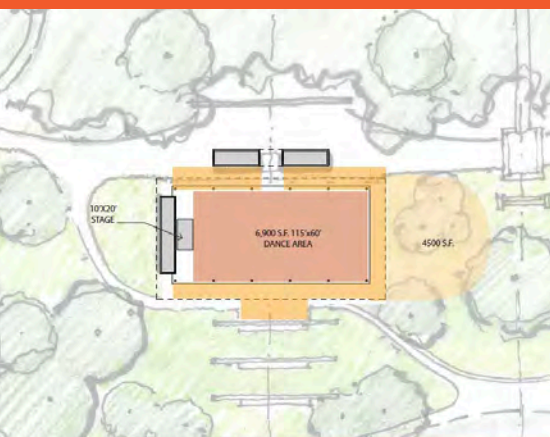
"We have the benefit of having relatively low taxes, so if we want a world-class public park, we all have to help especially if we want future generations to enjoy the incredible gift Centennial Park is to this city."

Paula Van Slyke, Centennial Park Conservancy Former Board Chair

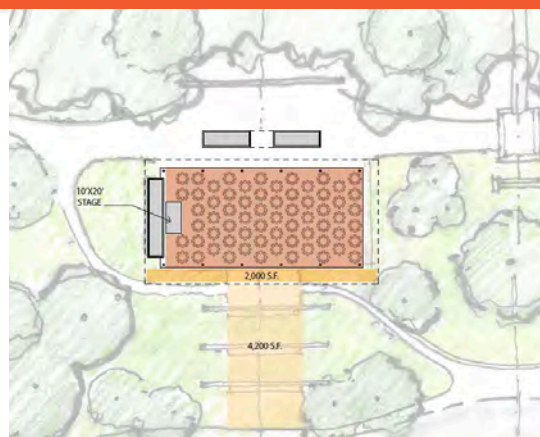
This phase is expected to be completed in 2023. We are currently fundraising \$2M to complete this project.



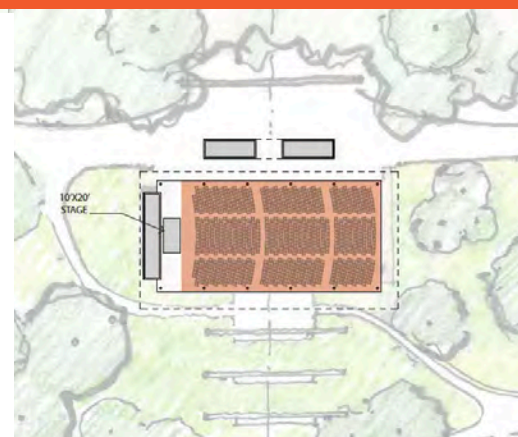
SET-UP FOR DANCE EVENTS 1,100 PEOPLE CAPACITY



SET-UP FOR BANQUETS 480 PEOPLE CAPACITY



SET-UP FOR LECTURES 985 PEOPLE CAPACITY



Centennial Park was developed to host the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, but that is far from its only claim to fame. In 1902, Percy Warner, one of the greatest supporters of Nashville Parks, purchased the first 72 acres of the exposition grounds and donated it to the Park Board. In 1916, suffragist Anne Dallas Dudley led a parade of more than 60 cars from the Tennessee Capitol to Centennial Park in Nashville's largest women's suffrage rally. In 1931, the Parthenon was completed as a permanent structure and opened to the city as an art museum

AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF NASHVILLE LIFE

Our park has faced several threats over the years, from tornadoes to an ecosystem damaged by surrounding construction. Nashville has rallied to protect and improve the park because we recognize its incomparable value to our past, present and future. We must not let neglect be its latest threat.

We are in the midst of the largest effort ever to revitalize our beloved and life-affirming green space. Continued financial support for the project will be essential to keep the momentum going. To best prepare for continued improvements, we are engaging in confidential conversations with key leaders.

“Centennial Park is one of the things that Nashville can be most proud of; it’s a link to our history and a bright beacon toward our future. It is in the best interest of everyone who lives here, works here, raises children here, studies here, invests here, and visits here to make sure that it’s treated with respect and is well cared for.” Hope Stringer, Centennial Park Conservancy Former Board Chair

Centennial Park is a city park, but tax dollars only go so far. If we want the park to truly shine, we must do our part. The Centennial Park Revitalization is a \$28M multi-phase improvement project, with \$18M invested by the city and \$8M in private funds. We are currently raising an additional \$2M in private funds to complete the project, while also securing donations for the Centennial Park Maintenance Fund.



In the 21st century, Centennial Park belongs to all Nashvillians. The once segregated park has evolved into a center for celebration, recreation, culture, and free access to arts & educational programming for everyone in our community. Centennial Park Conservancy is committed to working with Metro Parks and dedicated partners to revitalize our city’s central park for current and future generations.

We partner with Metro Parks to preserve two Nashville treasures and present enriching programming for our community and visitors.



**CENTENNIAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**

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