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## Battery Park – [www.batteryparkcity.org](http://www.batteryparkcity.org)

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Battery Place and State and Whitehall streets  
Manhattan, NY



### **Facts:**

- 35 acres of open space
- One of the oldest public spaces in continuous use in New York City
- The Battery is the largest public open space in downtown Manhattan
- Over 280,000 people work within walking distance
- Over 50,000 residents live in the surrounding area
- Over 4 million people visit the park annually
- Serves as a hub of waterborne transportation for New York Harbor
  - 3 million passengers annual board ferries to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
- Castle Clinton National Monument
  - National monument that is over 200 years old
  - Adaptive reuse as a visitor center
- Piet Oudolf's Horticultural Maser Plan
  - Internationally acclaimed Dutch horticulturist
    - Know for establishing enchanting, inspiring and resilient landscapes
    - Website: [www.oudolf.com](http://www.oudolf.com)
  - The plan combines 114 varieties of hybrid perennials and native plants
  - The Plan calls for 75,000 square feet of gardens with sustainable perennials, native plans and preservation of 140 plane trees
    - Garden of Remembrance - 10,000 square feet
    - 4-acre Battery Bosque with 60,000 square feet of new perennial gardens

## Historic Timeline of The Battery

Source: Battery Conservancy Website

*1623*

Dutch settlers land and established New Amsterdam.

*1626*

Fort Amsterdam built by the Dutch at the tip of Manhattan Island.

*1626–1664*

Fort Amsterdam becomes the administrative center of New Netherland.

*1664*

September 8 — Fort Amsterdam surrendered to the British and renamed Fort James.

*1673*

Fort James captured by the Dutch; briefly held as Fort Willem Hendrick.

*1674–1776*

Fort James, renamed successively Fort William, Fort Anne and Fort George, serves as the administrative center of the Province of New York.

*1683–1688*

Governor Dongan mounts a cannon on the beach below Fort James - the original "Battery".

*1689*

Captain Jacob Leisler seizes Fort James in the name of King William and builds a "Halfe Moone" battery on rocks west of the fort.

*1691*

Leisler surrenders fort after brief siege.

*1693*

Governor Fletcher builds a new battery under the fort wall.

*1734*

Shoreline near the fort is reserved for military purposes.

*1735*

A new battery is built on the Capske rocks south of the fort.

*1756*

Fortifications with 92 guns in position below Fort George. November 3 — Guns on the Battery spiked during the Stamp Act riots.

*1776*

Fort George and the Battery occupied by American forces.

- 1776*  
July 12 — The Battery engages British frigates.
- 1776*  
September 2–14 The Battery engages guns on Governor’s Island.
- 1776–1783*  
Fort George and the Battery occupied by British forces.
- 1783*  
November 25 — British colors at Fort George hauled down, marking the end of Imperial rule. Later celebrated as Evacuation Day.
- 1790*  
Fort George demolished and the Battery is extended as a public promenade.
- 1798*  
Temporary fortifications erected on the Battery.
- 1807*  
Permanent fortifications for New York planned, including a "castle" on Manhattan Island.
- 1807*  
The City and State of New York cede lands at the Battery for fortifications.
- 1808*  
Foundations laid for the new fort on an artificial island off shore of the Battery.
- 1811*  
November 25 — West Battery, just completed, fires Evacuation Day salute.
- 1812–1815*  
West Battery continuously garrisoned during the War of 1812.
- 1815*  
May 30 — West Battery, renamed Castle Clinton, becomes headquarters for the Third Military District. Military headquarters removed to Governors Island.
- 1823*  
Castle Clinton ceded to the City of New York.
- 1824*  
Remodeled as Castle Garden, the structure becomes a public entertainment center.

- 1824  
September 14 — The Marquis de Lafayette, on farewell tour, received at Castle Garden.
- 1842  
October 18 — First public demonstration of the telegraph.
- 1850  
September 11 — Opera singer Jenny Lind gives her first concert in America.
- 1851  
December 5 — The Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, received.
- 1855  
Extension of the Battery joins Castle Garden to Manhattan Island.
- 1855  
Castle Garden leased to New York State Commissioners of Emigration.
- 1855–1890  
More than 8,000,000 future Americans pass through Castle Garden.
- 1876  
Castle Garden gutted by fire; immediately it is rebuilt.
- 1890  
April 18 — Immigrants land for the last time at Castle Garden.
- 1896  
Castle Garden is remodeled to become the New York Aquarium.
- 1941  
Aquarium dismantled to make way for Robert Moses' never-built "Brooklyn to Battery Bridge" provoking a major preservation battle.
- 1946  
August 12 — Congress authorizes establishment of Castle Clinton National Monument, saving the historic walls. Castle Clinton dedicated as a National Monument and turned over to National Park Service.
- 1986  
Ticketing for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island moved to Castle Clinton, which is restored to its fortification appearance.
- 1995  
The Battery Conservancy *begins* operations to rebuild and revitalize the park and Castle Clinton National Monument with its government partners NYC Parks & Recreation, New York State Parks, and the National Parks Service.

*1997*

Music at Castle Clinton series returns regularly scheduled musical performances to the Castle for the first time since Castle Garden's last performance in 1854.

*1998*

The renovated harbor promenade is open to the public.

*2001*

Rebuilt upper promenade with Gardens of Remembrance open, signaling the beginning of The Battery's horticultural era.

*2002*

Construction of The Battery Labyrinth is completed.

*2004*

First Lady Laura Bush visits The Battery to unveil the bronze plaques to commemorate the Gardens of Remembrance.

*2005*

Battery Bosque Gardens open June 2nd.

*2005*

150th Anniversary of Castle Garden. Launch of CastleGarden.org website on August 1st.