



2019

A Green Place to Be: the Creation of Central Park

Maryn Wheeler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wheeler, Maryn (2019) "A Green Place to Be: the Creation of Central Park," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 40: Iss. 9, Article 5.

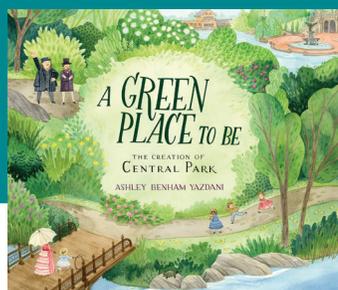
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol40/iss9/5>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park



Author

Ashley Benham Yazdani

Illustrator

Ashley Benham Yazdani

Reviewer

Maryn Wheeler

.....

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary, Intermediate

.....

Pages

38

Year

2019

ISBN

9780763696955

Publisher

Candlewick Press

New York City's Central Park was just a dream in 1858. The city was growing quickly and the people needed a green place to be. Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmstead teamed up to share their vision in a park design contest. Their 10 foot long drawing submission won, and they set right to work. The park opened in sections, starting with ice skating on the lake in the winter of 1858. Much more came to life over the next 14 years, including The Ramble and a children's district. Calvert worked on the thirty-four unique arches and bridges, while Frederick designed the landscape with artful plant shades and sizes. Central Park was the first large public park in America when it was finished in 1872, and stands as the city's jewel today.

This delightful history of Central Park in New York City is bursting with interesting information. The author provides details about the contest, the building process, and the opening days. The full-page illustrations beautifully capture the story line in pencil and watercolor. This colorful picture book includes pictures and names for each of the original arches and bridges as well as information about collaborating with the artists of the pagodas and statues. The back section contains short biographies for Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmstead, a list of architectural changes that have been made to the park, a small history of the land before the park, an author's note, and a bibliography. Central Park's remarkable history began as a collaborative idea and remains a beautiful treasure for city dwellers and tourists alike for over 100 years.