

# Introducing Abingdon Square

***“It’s not Central Park;  
it’s not Prospect Park;  
it’s not Battery Park.***

***You kind of lose yourself  
in those kinds of parks.  
In the smaller parks,  
you find yourself.”***

Lee Zimmerman, founding member  
of Abingdon Square Conservancy

# Abingdon Square and Abingdon Square Conservancy: The Basics



## Abingdon Square

Established as a municipal park in 1836, Abingdon Square is the third oldest park in New York City. The Square's history is interwoven with the history and evolution of New York from British colony to 21st Century megalopolis.

Before the Revolutionary War, a local landowner's daughter, Charlotte Warren, married the Fourth Earl of Abingdon, and a share of the Warren estate, which included the land that became known as Abingdon Square, was part of her dowry.

Over the intervening centuries, Abingdon Square became a comfort and gathering place for the residents of this ever-changing neighborhood; a place to meet neighbors, make friends and to mark the changing seasons.

From the 1960s to the Millennium, The Square fell on hard times and became a dilapidated and forgotten spot. That began to change in 2000, with the creation of the Abingdon Square Conservancy and the efforts of local residents to save and revive the park.

Today, Abingdon Square displays a rich variety of trees, bushes and flowers over three growing seasons. And yearly 10,000 tulip bulbs are planted throughout the Square to explode in May into a beautiful celebration of spring.

## Abingdon Square Conservancy

Why a conservancy?

Year after year, the NYC Department of Parks' budget is less than one percent of the City's total budget. Over the last few decades, New Yorkers in all five boroughs became actively involved in the care of their neighborhood parks.

Now, many New York parks are predominantly sustained by the efforts and financial support of New York's residents, local communities and businesses.

Since its creation in 2000, the Abingdon Square Conservancy has had an extraordinary impact on the park. The Square has been transformed from a neglected, inner-city space into a tranquil, beautifully kept, colorful, park and garden.

Beyond the physical beauty that has made the Square one of the centerpieces of the West Village, the Conservancy develops and produces Square-centered events that have had an exceptional impact, creating community among the people who live in the West Village.

The Square's annual community activities involve hundreds of families and neighborhood residents of all ages:

- The Welcome Spring Tulip Celebration in May.
- On Memorial Day Weekend our "Flags In" display.
- The Pumpkin Patch (a week before pumpkins will be given out to be carved and returned and lit at the Halloween dusk celebration.)
- Our Thanksgiving and Fall Display.
- The Holiday Tree Lighting with Santa and Caroling in early December.

## Helping Your Garden Grow

Abingdon Square is a place, but more importantly, it is a community of people. Every donation matters. Thanks to the support of its growing donor base, the Conservancy is now able to fulfill its mission to work together with the West Village community to maintain and enhance Abingdon Square as a scenic and historic landmark, and a warm community gathering place for all.

What the Square is now and what it will be, is shaped by the people who visit the Square, donate to its upkeep and become involved with the Conservancy. Your participation truly matters – to the Square and the community.

We seek a park that lives up to the West Village's history of tolerance and inclusion. The future of the Square is dependent on West Villagers being committed to maintain Abingdon Square as a source of pride for the community and a comfort in all seasons. Join us !!



*Meet You  
At The  
Square!*



Abingdon Square Conservancy is a non-profit public charity exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Conservancy is solely dependent on private donations for its operations and receives no public funding.