NEITHERMEAD ARCH RESTORATION IS COMPLETED
Calvert Vaux designed arch is restored to its glory

Brooklyn, NY – The Prospect Park Alliance, building on 25 years of restoring Prospect Park’s physical well-being and bringing the Park back to prominence, is proud to announce the completion of the Nethermead Arch Restoration Project. The project recreated and restored the carved sandstone parapet panels that line both sides of the upper roadway and reopened the upper bridle path for horseback riders. Pedestrians can now also walk up to the parapet on both sides to enjoy the views of the Ravine and stream from one side and the Nethermead from the other.

“This restoration project is an important chapter in the Alliance’s ongoing mission to restore Olmsted and Vaux’s glorious vision for Prospect Park and our 25 year restoration plan for the Parks’ 250 acres of natural areas,” said Emily Lloyd, Prospect Park Alliance President. She added, “The Alliance is grateful for the unwavering support of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, the leadership of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, our local elected officials and the supporters and members of the Prospect Park Alliance.”

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz proclaimed, “I was so proud to join Mayor Bloomberg and the State of New York in supporting the restoration of the Nethermead Arch, one of the most iconic features of Brooklyn’s gorgeous Prospect Park. Congrats to the Prospect Park Alliance and President Emily Lloyd as well as NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe and Brooklyn Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey on this exciting new chapter in the storied history of Prospect Park, which remains an urban oasis, a crown jewel in our City’s park system.”

The Nethermead Arch is an important component of Prospect Park because it was conceived by Park co-designer Calvert Vaux and it is located at the very center of the Park. Unlike any of the other bridges and underpasses in the Park, The Nethermead Arch, also known as Three Arch Bridge, was planned to accommodate five circulation routes. Originally, horse-drawn carriages and now automobiles, pedestrians, cyclists and horseback riders pass overhead on Center Drive. Beneath the drive, the watercourse occupies the central, widest arch, and equestrians and pedestrians traverse on their respective paths on either side.

Many of the arches and ornate walls in Prospect Park were built between 1865 and 1874 using Ohio sandstone in combination with other materials. For the Nethermead Arch restoration, the original stones were repaired and reused, where possible. A quarry in the Cleveland area was located that could produce carved sandstone panels and capstones that closely match the original
stone. As the new lighter colored stones age they will begin to match the older stones in tone and texture.

The project cost approximately $350,000 and was funded by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and a grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. The arch was fully reopened just before Christmas.

For more information on Prospect Park programs, volunteering and membership, call the Park Hotline at (718) 965-8999, or visit www.prospectpark.org

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In partnership with the City of New York and the community, the Prospect Park Alliance restores, develops, and operates Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs. Prospect Park’s 585 acres of meadows, waterfalls, forest, lakes, and athletic facilities comprise a masterwork of urban green space.

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