

The New York Times

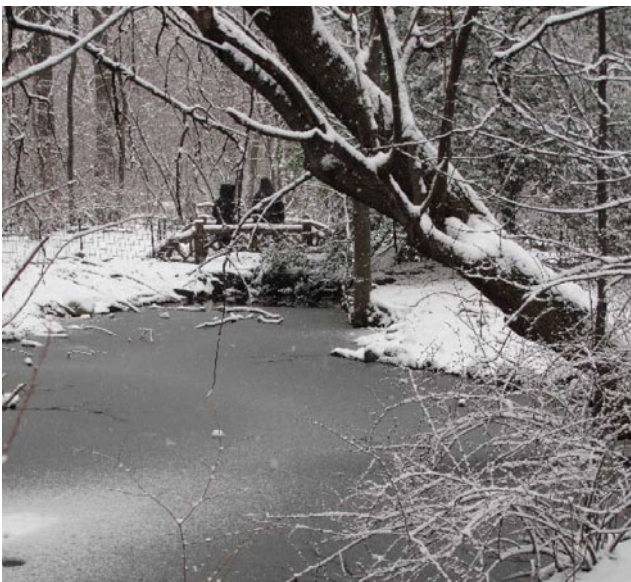
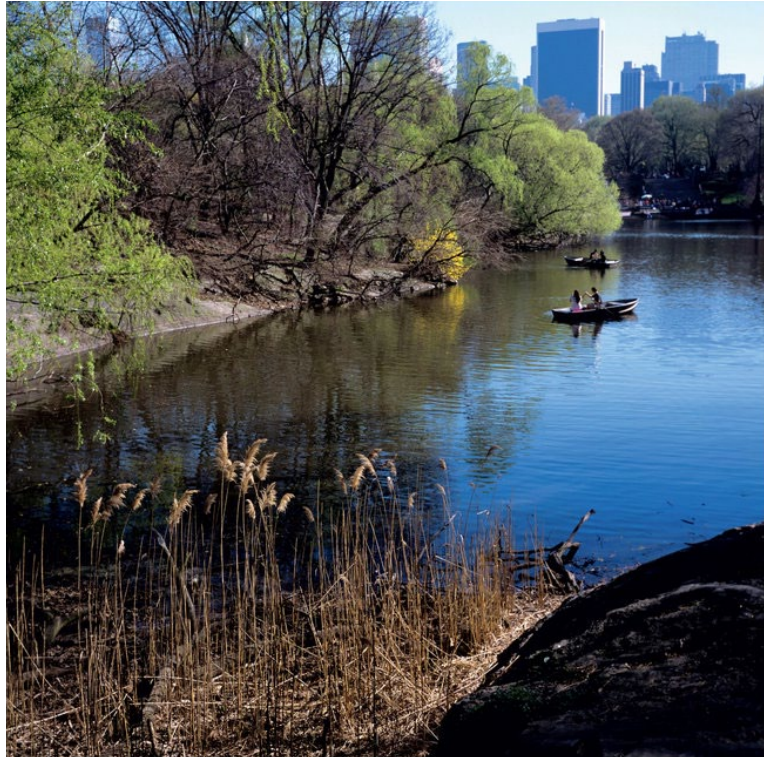
Adventures in an Urban Wilderness

By SAM ROBERTS

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In 1860, The New York Times complained that the newly minted Ramble in Central Park lacked signs to help visitors find their way out. It was no accident. “The Ramble’s designers’ goal was to make this small area of 38 acres seem large and complex by utilizing winding, twisting paths, and shrubbery and rock hills that blocked visibility,” the photographer Robert A. McCabe writes.

In *The Ramble in Central Park: A Wilderness West of Fifth* (Abbeville Press, \$35), Mr. McCabe presents his dazzling full-color, four-season photographs of the Ramble, which Douglas Blonsky, president of the Central Park Conservancy, calls “indisputably still the soul of Central Park.” Other contributors weigh in on the Ramble’s flora, fauna and geology in a book that itself is a welcome harbinger of spring.



Flora, Fauna: Scenes of the Ramble, the 38-acre wilderness that some call the soul of Central Park.