



1 Bridge over Minnehaha Creek

In 1890, brothers Edward and Edwin Baltzley created the Glen Echo on the Potomac real estate development hoping to lure Washingtonians to live in the beauty and serenity of this new suburban community. Glen Echo became the site of the 53rd Chautauqua Assembly, offering summer courses in the liberal and practical arts. The crown jewel of the Chautauqua was an 8,000-seat amphitheater that sat atop Minnehaha Creek and used the water flow to power the speaker system. During the amusement park era, the amphitheater became the Midway, home to many rides and entertainments.



Clara Barton National Historic Site

The Baltzley brothers donated a house and land to Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, in an effort to bring prestige to their Glen Echo community. Built in 1891, it was first used as a warehouse for disaster relief supplies. In 1897, Miss Barton made it her home and the headquarters for the American Red Cross. Thinking the house looked too somber, Miss Barton changed the original granite façade of the residence to an elegant Victorian wooden façade, retaining only the granite corners. The National Park Service offers free daily guided tours of the site, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. To make reservations for groups of 10 or more, please call 301-320-1410.



An etching shows the original amphitheater, which became the Midway during the amusement park era. The Midway was destroyed in 1956 when it became too expensive to maintain.

The trestle that supported the Glen Echo trolley – the primary mode of public transportation that carried visitors to the park during the Chautauqua and early amusement park years – is visible from the bridge as you look toward MacArthur Boulevard.



The Minnehaha Creek and trolley trestle



Clara Barton on her front lawn

2 Path into the park

Discovery Creek Children's Museum, a Living Classrooms program, offers children's programs that continue the Chautauqua ideal of teaching about the natural world. Discovery Creek Children's Museum is located in a building that once housed the electric supply for the amusement park.



Discovery Creek Children's Museum teaches children about the natural world.

The stone Caretaker's Cottage dates from the Chautauqua era and was originally a two-story structure. Today, the remaining first level of the building houses the park's resident glassblowing studio.



The Caretaker's Cottage once had two stories.

4 Visitor Center and Popcorn Gallery

Located on the first floor of the Arcade Building, the Visitor Center features a timeline of the park's history as well as documentaries and historic videos of the park. The National Park Service also offers free guided walking tours of the park. For tour times and reservations for groups of 10 people or more, please call 301-320-1400.



A park ranger explains the timeline to visiting students.

The Popcorn Gallery, which served as a refreshment stand during the amusement park era, opened in 2006 as an exhibition space operated by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. Throughout the year, the Partnership organizes exhibitions that feature the work of local and regional artists.



The Popcorn Gallery showcases the work of local and regional artists.



The Popcorn Gallery



The style of the entrance changed over the years, as did the style of the trolleys.

5 Trolley and Entrance

The neon sign marks the original entrance to the park. During the Chautauqua era, horse-drawn carriages pulled up to the entrance. Beginning in 1897, trolleys rode the rails to the park from Georgetown and continued on to the Cabin John Bridge, approximately one mile west of the park. Because the trolley company owned the park, it promoted the park to increase both park attendance and trolley ridership. Trolley service continued until January 1960.



Trolley passes often promoted the park.

The entrance to the park was reinvented many times before settling on the Art Deco style in 1940. Installed in 2003, the current neon "Glen Echo Park" sign is a replica of the 1940 sign.



Horse-drawn carriages and trolley cars at the park's entrance

6 Chautauqua Tower, Yellow Barn, and Candy Corner

The stone tower, once an entrance gate and bell tower, is the only remaining intact building from the Chautauqua era. During the amusement park era, it housed the park superintendent and security offices for the park. Renovated in 2008, the tower now houses two artist studios.



The Yellow Barn

The Yellow Barn was built in 1914 and served as the amusement park's woodworking and repair shop. Since 1994 it has housed the park's resident painting and drawing program.

It also provides space for two additional artist studios. The building was rebuilt in 2007.



Candy Corner in the 1950s

The Candy Corner sold sweets – cotton candy, candied apples, lollipops, and ice cream – during the amusement park era. Rebuilt in 2007, this space has been used for classroom space and children's art programs.



The yurts provide studio space.

3 Yurt Village

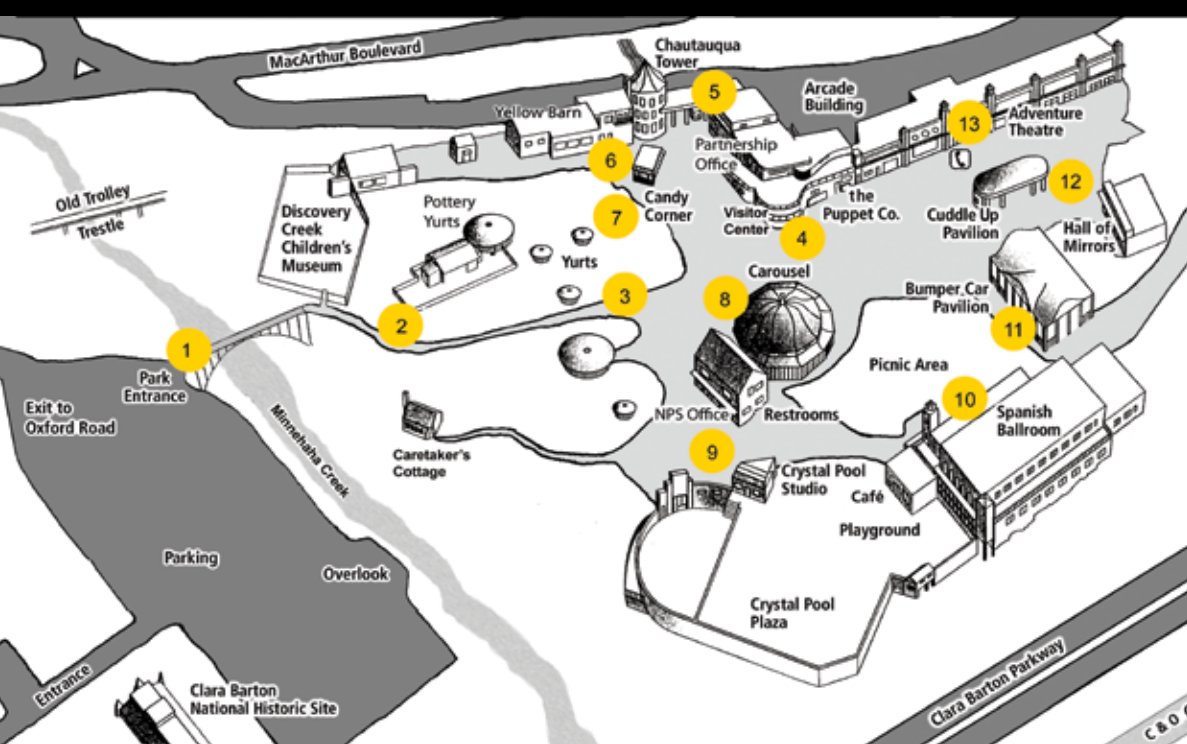
In 1972, six cupcake-shaped sod-roofed yurts (an experimental housing design based on traditional Mongolian dwelling huts) were erected in the park on the site of the demolished roller coaster to offer resident artists much-needed studio space. In 1975, the park's fledgling pottery classes moved out of the old amusement park cafeteria and into the yurts, establishing a permanent home for Glen Echo Pottery. The yurts also provide space for other resident studio artists.



A pottery artist creates a bowl at Glen Echo Pottery.



The stone tower in the 1920s



About Glen Echo Park

Glen Echo Park is a national park like no other. In 1891, it was home to a Chautauqua Assembly, an educational summer camp where people could study the liberal arts and sciences. From the late 1890s until 1968, Glen Echo Park was a popular amusement park. During the 1960s, the private owners of the park tried unsuccessfully to redevelop the site as high-rise apartment buildings. The federal government acquired Glen Echo Park in 1970 and the National Park Service (NPS) reopened it to the public in 1971 as an arts park. In June 2002, the NPS transferred several major management functions of the park to Montgomery County, Maryland. The county in turn formed the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, to manage the facilities and the arts, cultural, and educational programs at the park. Recognizing that Glen Echo Park is a treasure for the entire region, Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and the federal government committed over \$22 million toward renovating the park's facilities. This multi-year rehabilitation was completed in 2009. Today, more than 450,000 people visit the park annually for festivals, exhibitions, social dances, children's theater, art classes, and ranger-led tours.

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The National Park Service preserves and protects over 390 treasures - natural, cultural, and recreational sites across the country. Experience Your America!

7 Coaster Dips In the past, various roller coasters occupied what is now the grassy area near the yurts and the park flagpole. The largest of them, the Coaster Dips, arrived in 1921.



The Gravity Railway, built in 1912, was later replaced by the Coaster Dips.



The Coaster Dips grew a bit each year until it reached the height shown at the right.

Constructed in stages, the Coaster Dips started out with seven dips. New dips and climbs were added

over time until the ride covered the area from the Chautauqua Tower to the Minnehaha Creek.



A 1960s aerial view showing the Coaster Dips, Chautauqua Tower, and Arcade



Riders get ready to bump and dodge in competitive fun.

11 Bumper Car Pavilion The Bumper Car Pavilion was originally called the Scooter when it came to the park in 1923. In 1995, the National Park Service organized a major volunteer effort that included constructing a foundation wall, replacing floorboards, and stabilizing the structure. The Bumper Car Pavilion is now a popular venue for dances, concerts, private rentals, classes, and special events.



Contra dancers in the Bumper Car Pavilion

12 Cuddle Up and Hall of Mirrors The Cuddle Up, a teacup ride, arrived in 1946 and continued to be popular until the park closed in 1968. Today, the Cuddle Up is used for art classes and camp programs, and the stage is ideal for performances.

Built in 1964, the Hall of Mirrors is now used for dance and movement classes.



Riders on the Cuddle Up



The Alpine Hi-Ride arrived in 1966 and offered spectacular views of the park.

8 Dentzel Carousel Installed at Glen Echo Park in 1921, the carousel was made by the



A confrontation at the park ultimately led to the park's decision to embrace all people.

Dentzel Carousel Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1960, the carousel was the focal point of a civil rights sit-in demonstration against segregation at the park. Yielding to local pressure, the park's private owners opened its gates to all races in 1961.

In 1970, the carousel was slated to be moved to California. The local community, however, raised the funds to purchase the carousel and donated it to the National Park Service, thereby saving it for present and future generations. The Glen Echo Park Partnership currently operates and maintains the carousel.



The carousel continues to delight children of all ages.

A 20-year effort to restore the carousel was completed in 2003. The carousel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

13 Arcade Formerly the site of the Chautauqua Hotel and Administration Building, the Art Deco Arcade was built in stages starting in 1940 to house games, such as a shooting gallery, skeeball, and other attractions. The main level of the Arcade Building now provides space for several long-standing resident arts organizations, including Adventure Theatre and the Puppet Co., as well as the park's photography, fused glass, and music programs. Renovated and reopened in 2004, the upper levels of the Arcade Building house the offices of the Glen Echo Park Partnership and many classrooms.



The shooting gallery in the original arcade

9 Crystal Pool The Crystal Pool opened in 1931. It was an Olympic-sized pool that accommodated up to 3,000 swimmers. In addition, it featured a quarter-acre sandy beach. The pool was filled in after the amusement park closed. In the 1980s, the area became the site of a children's playground. In 2000, the local community installed new equipment, which it funded through a grassroots campaign. In 2009, the National Park Service updated the playground with new landscaping and seating.



A dip in the pool followed by relaxation on the sandy beach was a perfect way for land-bound Washingtonians to spend a hot summer day.

During the 1970s, the pool's locker rooms housed a sculpture program and a foundry. Today, only the Art Deco façade remains. It was rebuilt in 2009.

The Comfort Station, or park restrooms, was originally the site of a souvenir and game stand. The National Park Service offices are now on the lower level.



The souvenir and game stand across from the carousel

The amusement park's First Aid Station, now called the Crystal Pool Studio, houses the park's resident children's art program.



Night-time swimming was a special treat.



The amusement park used stylized posters to promote its attractions. It also held drawings and contests.



The Moon Ride, pinball machines, and other games delighted amusement park patrons.

Before the Art Deco Arcade was built, the amusement park's original arcade housed games and other attractions.



Adventure Theatre, the park's longest-standing resident organization, offers live performances for children of all ages.

The Nutcracker, presented annually by the Puppet Co., is a holiday favorite.



10 Spanish Ballroom In 1933, the mission-style Spanish Ballroom was built over the 7,500-square-foot floor of the previous Crystal Ballroom. Many big name bands – such as Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Lawrence Welk, Bill Haley and the Comets, and others – played to capacity crowds of up to 1,800 dancers. In the 1960s, the ballroom was used briefly as a Jungleland ride. In the 1970s, the National Park Service restored it to ballroom use.

halls on the East Coast. The Glen Echo Park Partnership co-produces a year-round schedule of events in the ballroom, including social dances in various styles – such as contra, swing, waltz, tango, and salsa – as well as classes and special events.



In the 1920s, A. L. Oehmann's Glen Echo Dance Orchestra included a banjo player as rag tunes were popular.



Today, swing dancing is popular in the ballroom.

Festivals Glen Echo Park is home to many music, dance, and family festivals, including the Washington Folk Festival.



Musicians gather for one of the many festivals in the park.

Volunteers The park's active volunteer program has resulted in many benefits. Volunteers saved the Bumper Car Pavilion from demolition by stabilizing the structure. They repaired the floor of the Spanish Ballroom, planted flowers, and

installed the playground. To volunteer, please call the National Park Service at 301-320-1400 or the Glen Echo Park Partnership at 301-634-2222.



Volunteers raise the last column of the Bumper Car Pavilion.

Rentals The Spanish Ballroom, Bumper Car Pavilion, Cuddle Up, Arcade classrooms, and other spaces at the park are available for private rentals. For more information about facility rentals, please call 301-634-2233.



The Spanish Ballroom is one of several venues that can be rented for special events.

For National Park Service information, visit nps.gov/glec.

For program information or to make a contribution, visit glenechopark.org.