

Bringing high-speed data to Central Park.

Due to its sheer size, expanding wireless coverage in New York's Central Park is particularly challenging. The park covers 843 acres, and dense foliage prohibited rooftop antennas around the perimeter from providing adequate coverage. Working closely with several governing bodies, we installed fiber across the park and utilized existing infrastructure to deploy a state-of-the-art small cell network. This approach provided necessary voice and data coverage while blending in and maintaining the natural beauty of the park.

The Need

Central Park averages over 100,000 visitors a day, and on a typical Saturday, that number regularly reaches 220,000.* In addition, the park is also host to large events including concerts on the Great Lawn and the finish line of the New York City Marathon. Providing the infrastructure to ensure that all these visitors have access to the voice and data services they demand comes with several unique challenges:

- The park is considered part of the city. Residents and guests expect their smartphones to work.
- For over 150 years, people have gone to great lengths to ensure that the park remains an oasis from the fast pace and urban feel of the rest of the city. Any new infrastructure couldn't disrupt the park's beauty and restful feeling.
- The needs and interests of several different stakeholders and governing bodies had to be weighed, including the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Central Park Conservancy, the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation.



* "Report on the Public Use of Central Park," Central Park Conservancy, 2011.

The Solution

To meet the wireless demands of the many visitors who frequent the park, we settled on a fiber-based solution—giving us essentially unlimited capacity to build our small cell network. It is also a forward-looking solution, since future upgrades won't require installing additional cable. To preserve the park's natural beauty, we placed nodes on a variety of existing infrastructure, from streetlights to signposts—helping to maintain the park's main draw as a beautiful retreat in a bustling city. Like all the small cell networks we build, it's a neutral host solution, so all wireless carriers can take advantage of the new system without unnecessary infrastructure. With everything in place, Central Park now has the capacity to meet the voice and data needs of the many tourists and New York City residents.



Small cell installation on a Central Park streetlight.

Why Crown Castle?

We have more than 20 years of experience implementing small cells in communities of all kinds, from dense urban centers to residential neighborhoods.

Discreet, innovative technology

We provide shared infrastructure that enables the wireless service you have come to depend on—all while blending in with your environment.

Scalable solutions

Small cells are connected by fiber optic cable—making upgrades easy and enabling virtually unlimited future capacity.

Long-term commitment

Our business is all about infrastructure, and you can count on us to be here no matter how technology or carriers change.



Crown Castle owns, operates and leases more than 40,000 cell towers and approximately 90,000 route miles of fiber supporting small cells and fiber solutions across every major US market. This nationwide portfolio of communications infrastructure connects cities and communities to essential data, technology and wireless service—bringing information, ideas and innovations to the people and businesses that need them.