

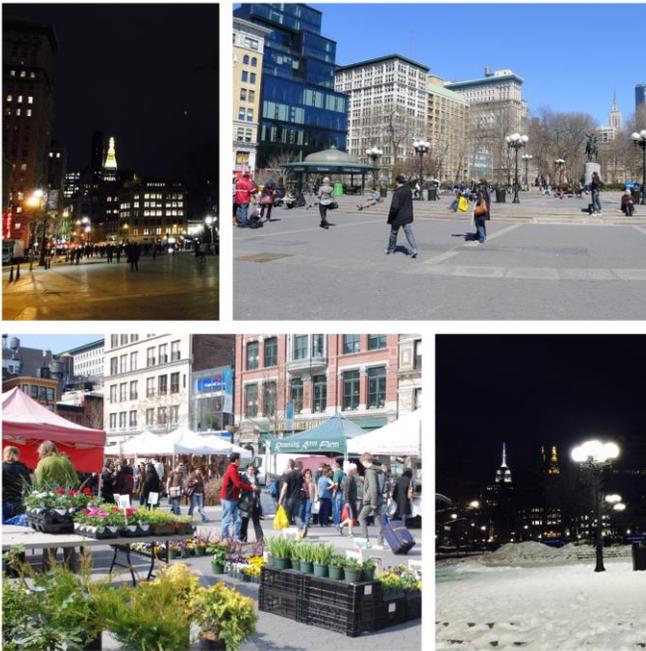
## New York City East Village & Lower East Side Leisure Guide

New York City is composed of five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island with a population of about 8.4 million. Today, you will explore two of the most vibrant and exciting neighborhoods in Manhattan: the East Village and the Lower East Side. These two neighborhoods are known for its night life, restaurants, and shops and of course some important parks and recreation centers. There are approximately 46 parks, including playgrounds and recreational centers in the East Village and Lower East Side. This is a leisure guide to four of the most relevant parks in this area.



### Union Square Park

### Tompkins Square Park



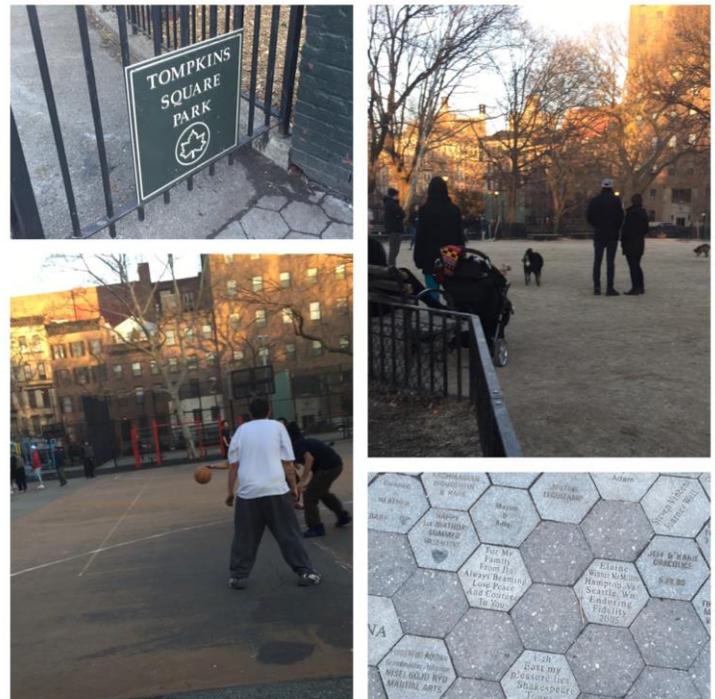
Union Square Park is one of the iconic squares of NYC. It was built in 1882 and it is home of some impressive statues such as U.S President George Washington modeled by Henry Kirke brown and was unveiled in 1856; the Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Gandhi, and Marquis de Lafayette. An interesting fact about the Washington statue is the oldest statue in NYC department of parks and recreation collection. Union Square Park hold the "Green market" it is the largest green market in the city in its peak it will about 140 regional farmers and producers selling fruits ,veg, meats, artisan breads, cheese pickles and so much more. This is a must do.

#### Fun facts:

- First labor day parade was held here in 1882
- It used to be a burial ground
- Performers dance and play music in nice weather
- In Christmas time there is a holiday market

This park honors Daniel D. Tompkins (1774–1825), who served as Governor of New York from 1807 to 1817 and as Vice President of the United States under James Monroe. Tompkins Square Park is in the middle of the East Village it has changed drastically in past several years. Some very interesting facts about this park is that in the late 80s; riots took place here, drug pushers, homeless people and young people known as skinheads had largely taken over the park. It was a high crime area that was a center for illegal drugs dealing and heroin users. So Many events that were deadly and harmful were forced into the park to change the environment positively. Today, people from all the ages visits this park from children, youth and adult enjoy this park. Tompkins is known as the perfect centerpiece for the neighborhood. It is equipped with two playgrounds, a handball court, chess tables, and a basketball court and several monuments which are called Permanent Art.

#### Tompkins Square Park



## Hamilton Fish Park

Hamilton Fish Park is located in E Houston St. & Pitt St. The Park is known for its Olympic sized pool (If you are here in the summer, this is a good place to cool off). The pool itself used to be one of the eleventh public outdoors pools in NYC. An interesting fact about the Hamilton Fish Pool is that it was so highly regarded that the U.S. Olympic Team used it for practice sessions on their way to the 1952 Helsinki Games. The gymnasium is an icon of the park for its beautiful architecture, was designed in 1898 by Carrere and Hastings, who were the architects of the New York public library. In 1982, the gymnasium was declared a NYC historic landmark. Three years after its opening, the park was redesigned to accommodate more active outdoor recreation such as track and tennis. This interesting park offers after school programs, fitness and computer lessons for adults. In addition, this park has basketball courts, a gym, public bathrooms, handball courts, recreational centers, showers, and playgrounds all around.



## East River Park



The East River Park was established in 1930, and built along with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) highway and 12th St. This park offers more than 56 acres of waterfront access, with breathtaking views of Brooklyn, Queens, the Empire State Building and the Williamsburg Bridge. This open space it is paradise for bikers, walkers and runners. If you are looking for an outdoor place to exercise with amazing views this is it. In addition to the Park offers tennis courts, soccer fields, eateries, playgrounds and more. This park has something for everyone in the family. And for those who are morning people, this is a good place to catch a beautiful sunrise.

### Fun Facts:

- A paradise for squirrels
- Bikers ride their bikes with their dogs
- Go under the bridge and take a selfie
- The Bridge is used every day by approximately: 140,000 motorist, 92,000 transit riders, 600 bikers and 500 pedestrians.

### How to get to \_\_\_\_\_ by subway:

#### [Union Square Park](#)

Take the L, N, Q, R, 4, 5, or 6 train to Union Square Station.

#### [Tompkins Square Park](#)

Take the L, N, Q, R, 4, 5, or 6 train to Union Square Station and walk ten minutes east.

#### [Hamilton Fish Park](#)

Take the F, J, M or Z train Essex St and Delancey St Station and walk five minutes east.

#### [East River Park](#)

Take the N, R to NYU 8 St or 6 train to Astor Pl and walk 12 minutes east