

If you dig a hole straight down in Washington Square Park you will discover the many layers of major history that the ground under the now public green holds. At the top of the soil lies the grass, the pathways, fountain and people enjoying the park today. When asked about why a “normal” looking person comes to the park their response was, “I enjoy being able to absorb the energy and observe what is happening in the park. There is always something happening that is intriguing to watch, that's why I come here.” As you dig farther you find a park somewhat similar to what you see today but In 2002 the arch underwent major restoration and conservation. Dig for quite a while more and you will find that in 1970 the city added the open area around the fountain creating a much more social and enjoyable area. Keep digging and you will find artists and activists using the park around the early 1900s. Dig some more, you find a park with no arch, The arch was first built in 1895. Just a little farther in 1870 you find the park fountain less. The park was also renovated into a stylishly landscaped park from the once shabby parade ground it was. In 1863 you find Troops summoned from Gettysburg camped out in the Square to ensure peace because of riots held in the square. You've dug so far you can't stop now so you continue only to find the bodies of yellow fever victims from when the square was a potter's field. Then you find the marshy ground once roamed by the Lenape tribe. This is where your hole must end. The history of WSP is one of the richest and most unexpected histories any of the NYC parks hold.