

Phase I of Overlook Pavilion Work Nears Completion

The National Park Service (NPS) along with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation are working together to restore and rehabilitate the Overlook Pavilion at Riverside Park at General Grant National Memorial. This project will significantly enhance the visitor experience by providing better access and improved visitor services.

Work is winding to its final stages for the first phase of the rehabilitation of the Overlook Pavilion in Riverside Park across the street from General Grant National Memorial (Grant's Tomb). The Pavilion, when all work is completed, will house a visitor center for Grant's Tomb as well as bathrooms and a drinking fountain -- two things that are not available in the memorial itself. In addition, the site will be handicapped accessible, utilizing a ramp or ramping system.

Phase I, which covers the exterior and the public space on the interior, is expected to be completed in the early Fall of 2009. The roof has been reconstructed, painted and had lighting installed. Some column work and some lighting on the lower half of the pavilion remain to be done.

The interior work is on track. The historic doorframes have been restored and re-installed, the bathrooms created and installed, and the interior lighting fixtures are in place, as is the visitor information desk. Painting of the dry wall, sealing of exposed interior brick and the installation of the drinking fountain and a few cabinets is all that remains on the public spaces inside.

Phase II will consist of the utility work, communications systems, and completion of unfinished interior spaces. The National Park Service is currently entering the contracting process for Phase II and the work is expected to commence in early Fall 2009.

General Grant National Memorial, commonly called Grant's Tomb, is the largest mausoleum in North America. It is the final resting place of Ulysses S. Grant, victorious Union commander of the Civil War and President of the United States from 1869 to 1877, and his wife, Julia Dent Grant. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/gegr.