



## Effective May 8, 2013, Parks has clarified the rules applicable to selling paintings, prints, photography, reading material, and sculpture, or providing entertainment in exchange for a fee or donation in City parks

The rules are available at [www.nyc.gov/parks/rules](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rules). Vendors can learn more by reading the rules, FAQs below, or by calling 311.

In 2010, Parks established rules designed to balance the interests of vendors of expressive matter who wish to operate in City parks and visitors to parks. The rules provide expressive matter vendors with reasonable opportunities – through limited time, place, and manner restrictions - to vend in parks. In the parks most significantly impacted by expressive matter vendors (Union Square, Battery Park, High Line, and certain portions of Central Park), the rules restrict expressive matter vending to specific locations. The expressive matter vendor rules are in line with Parks' ongoing efforts to balance the many competing uses of our green spaces - from quiet enjoyment, to active recreation to cultural and community events, and opportunities to vend expressive matter.

In 2012, Parks determined that it needed to clarify these rules. The clarification, **which took effect May 8, 2013**, confirms Parks' original intent: that the rules apply to vendors who sell or solicit donations in exchange for tangible items such as books, paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures, as well as to performers who provide entertainment, such as musical performances, dance, juggling, or other performance arts in exchange for a fee or donation.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q. Why did Parks need to clarify the rules?**

Based on questions raised in litigation not involving Parks, the Agency in spring 2012 determined it was necessary to temporarily suspend enforcing the rules against performers and to clarify that the rules apply to performers and entertainers. The clarification provides clearer information to both the general public and expressive matter vendors.

#### **Q. Are the rules changing for vendors of paintings, prints, photography, reading materials, and sculpture?**

No. The same rules will continue to apply to vendors of paintings, prints, photography, reading materials, and sculpture. The clarification simply confirms that Parks always intended that the rules apply to people providing entertainment in exchange for a fee or donation.

#### **Q. Will the rules be enforced differently?**

No. Enforcement of the rules will continue in the same way it has with respect to those who sell or seek donations for books and artwork. The only change is that Parks will *resume* applying the rules to performers and entertainers. Additional information on the rules applicable to vending in parks can be found below:

- In the four parks with designated vending spots (Union Square, Battery Park, High Line, and certain portions of Central Park), performers, like all other expressive matter vendors, will need to sell or solicit donations from the designated spots, which are marked with Parks medallions on the ground.
- Outside of the areas with designated vending spots, the rules primarily impact expressive matter vendors using a display table to sell their items, and restrict the size of display tables and their proximity to park entrances, curbs, bus tops, park furniture, monuments, fountains, and public art installations. It is important to reiterate that these proximity restrictions, which include a prohibition on vending within 50 feet of a monument or within five feet of park furniture, **ONLY** apply to vendors using a display table to sell items. Because performers do not typically use display tables, the rules should not impact the majority of performers and buskers in parks without designated vending spots.

- There are general rules that apply to all vendors (including entertainers and performers) on Parks property. For example, no one is permitted to vend in playgrounds or pools.
- There are also general requirements for performances and events in parks that are expected to draw large crowds.

Please continue reading for additional FAQs about the rules for vending expressive matter in City Parks. You can also visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/rules](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rules) to read the rules. As always, Parks Enforcement Patrol officers in City parks will seek to explain the rules to vendors and the public and work to bring vendors into compliance.

**Q. Who must follow these rules?**

The rules apply to expressive matter vendors (anyone selling paintings, prints, photography, reading material, or sculpture whether original or mass-produced, or providing entertainment, such as musical performance, juggling, or dance, in exchange for a fee or donation) who operate in City parks.

**Q. What do the rules require?**

The rules establish general standards for expressive matter vendors in parks, such as where vending is permitted and the allowable location, size, and set up of a display table.

**Q. Who enforces the rules?**

Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers and New York Police Department (NYPD) Officers enforce the rules.

**Q. How do the rules affect an expressive matter vendor using a display table to sell items?**

If you use a display table, the table must:

- provide at least a twelve (12) foot wide clear pedestrian path unless specifically otherwise allowed at a designated spot.
- occupy no more than eight (8) feet long by three (3) feet wide parallel to the curb or park path.
- must abut the curb unless specifically otherwise allowed at a designated spot.
- stand between two (2) to five (5) feet high.
- be more than five (5) feet from any park or street furniture.
- be more than fifty (50) feet from a monument, public art installation, including ornamental fountains.

**Expressive Matter Vendor Stand Requirements**



**Q. All of my items do not fit on my display table. What can I do?**

You may use the area below your display table to store additional items, but you must use a covering, like a tablecloth, to shield these items from view.

**Q. Can vendors leave tables or store anything overnight?**

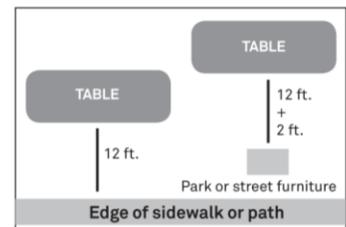
No. Vendors must set up when a park opens and everything must be removed from the park when the park closes.

**Q. What happens if I do not comply with the rules?**

Failure to comply can lead to a summons and possibly arrest.

**Q. What if I do not use a display table to vend?**

Vendors are not permitted to place items they intend to sell directly on a sidewalk or park path, on a blanket or board directly on the sidewalk or park path, or on a trash bin, park wall, bench, or other street or park furniture or park feature, such as a rock, tree, shrub, or planting.



## Rules Applicable to Expressive Matter Vendors in Union Square Park, Battery Park, High Line Park, and certain sections of Central Park

### Q. Where can expressive matter vendors set up in these parks?

Non-mobile vendors, regardless of whether they use a display table, may only occupy available spots designated by Parks (see attached maps for the number and location of these spots in each park). In Central Park, vendors may occupy areas outside the zones where spots have been designated as long as they comply with all other Parks rules.

### Q. How will I recognize designated vending spots?

Spots are marked with a Parks medallion on the ground. Vendors must set up centered directly behind the medallion. In Union Square Park, daily, expressive matter vendors are authorized to vend directly behind the green-colored medallions. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, expressive matter vendors in Union Square Park are also authorized to vend directly behind the gray-colored medallions.



### Q. How many expressive matter vendors may use a designated spot?

One vendor at a time behind each medallion, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Q. When are designated spots available?

Designated spots are available for expressive matter vendors when the park opens and until it closes. Times are: Central Park, 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.; High Line Park: June 1 - September 30, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m., October 1 - November 30, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., December 1 - March 31, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., April 1 - May 31, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Union Square Park, 6:00 a.m. to midnight; Battery Park, 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

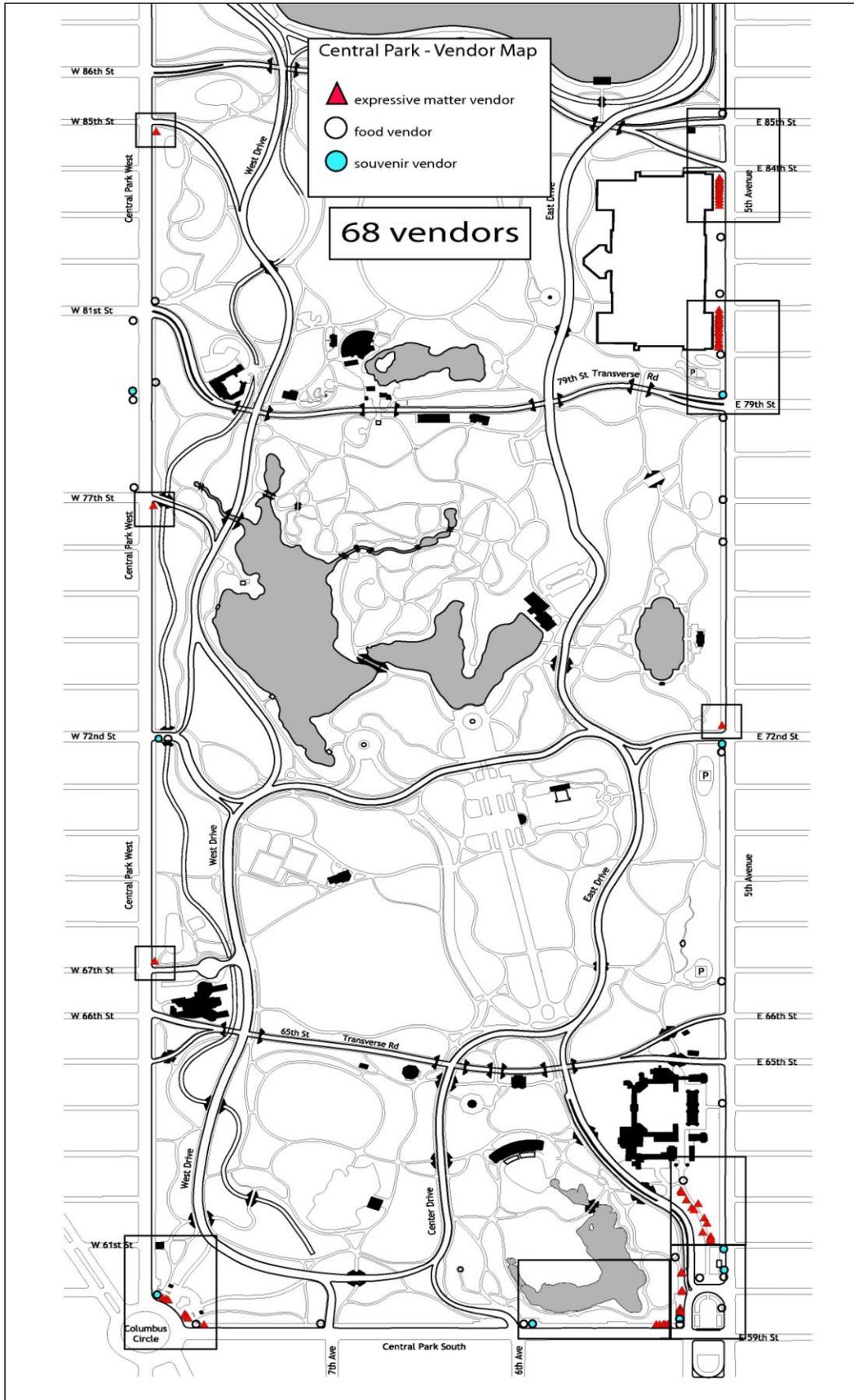
### Q. What if all the designated spots for expressive matter vendors are taken?

If all the designated spots are taken by other vendors, vendors can go to another park. In the case of Central Park, there are areas that do not require vending at a designated spot. However, vendors will still have to abide by all other applicable rules.

### Q. Can spots be reserved?

No.

**For more information on the rules please go to [www.nyc.gov/parks/rules](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rules), or call 311.**



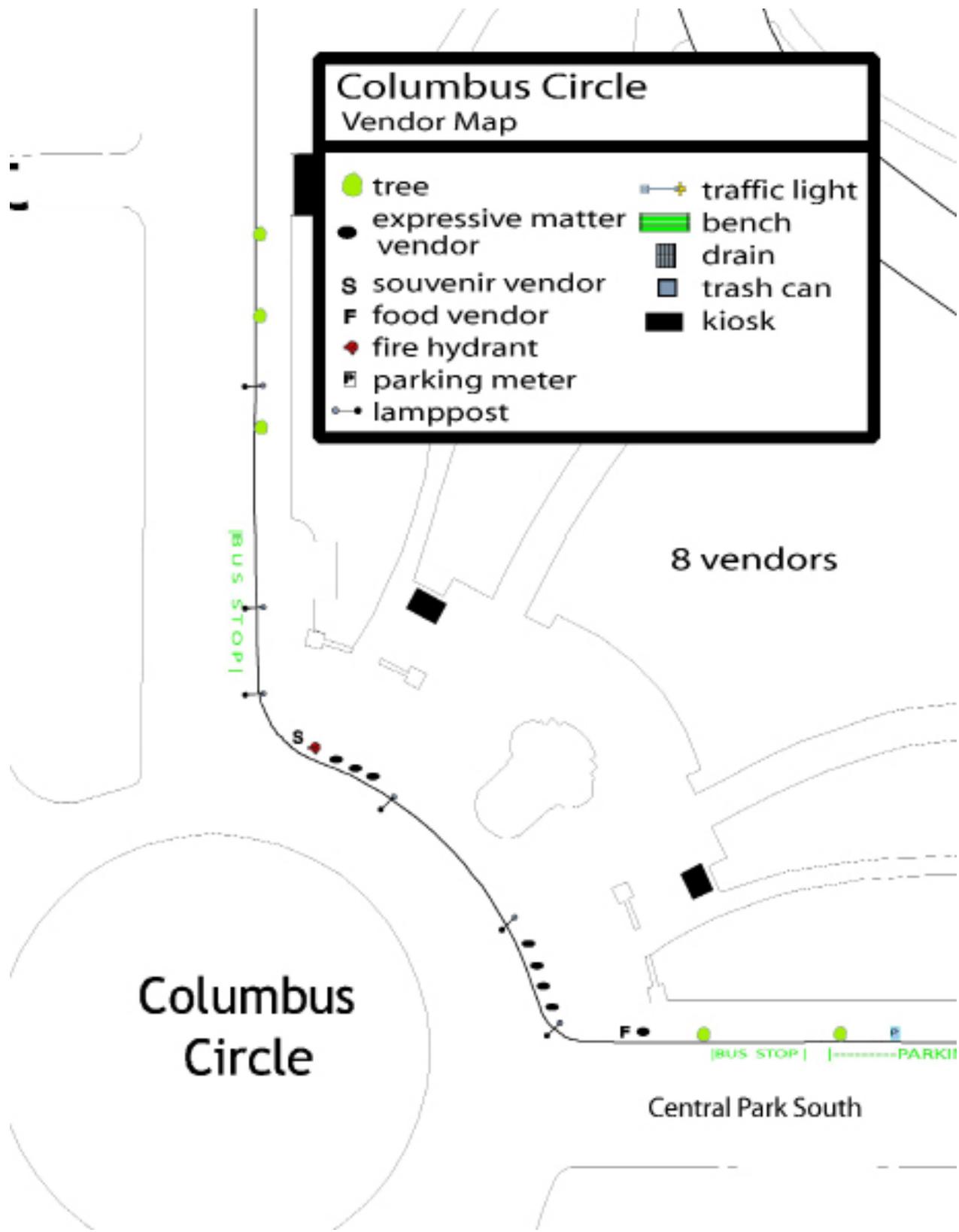
# Columbus Circle Vendor Map

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ● tree                     | ⚡ traffic light |
| ● expressive matter vendor | ▬ bench         |
| S souvenir vendor          | ▨ drain         |
| F food vendor              | ■ trash can     |
| ♦ fire hydrant             | ■ kiosk         |
| Ⓜ parking meter            |                 |
| ● lamppost                 |                 |

8 vendors

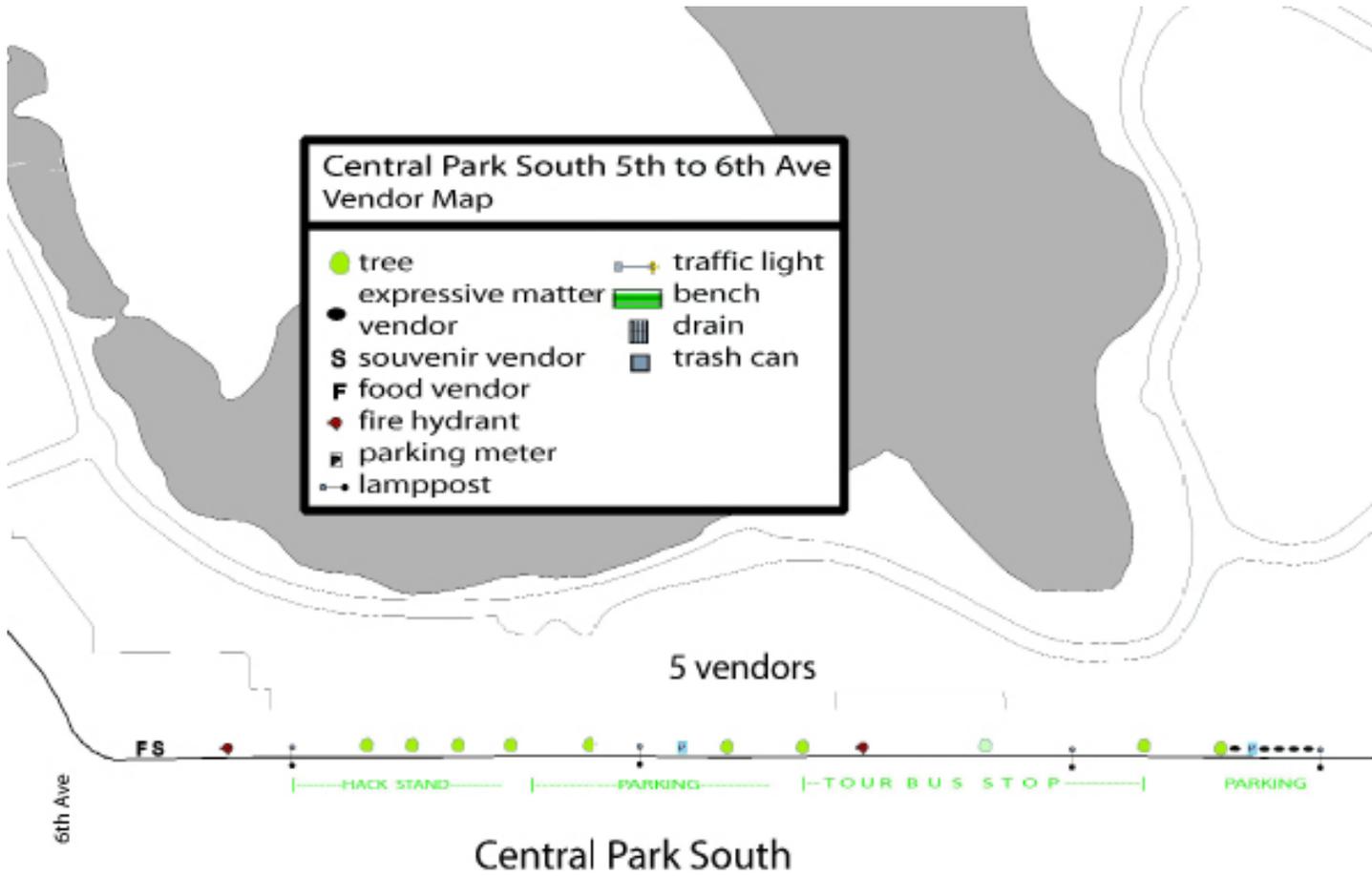
Columbus Circle

Central Park South



**Central Park South 5th to 6th Ave  
Vendor Map**

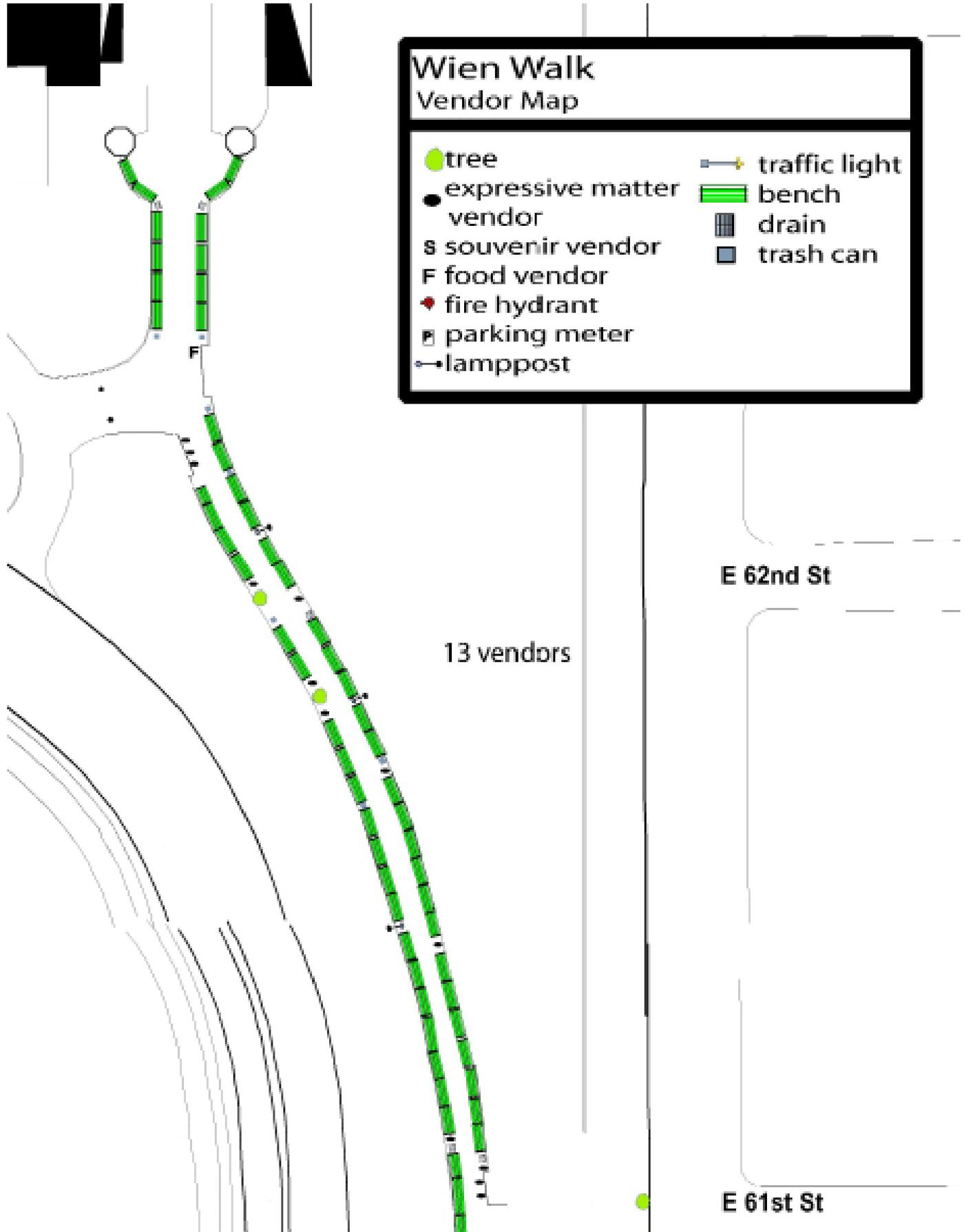
- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| ● tree              | —+ traffic light |
| ■ expressive matter | ■ bench          |
| ● vendor            | ■ drain          |
| S souvenir vendor   | ■ trash can      |
| F food vendor       |                  |
| ◆ fire hydrant      |                  |
| ■ parking meter     |                  |
| —• lamppost         |                  |





# Wien Walk Vendor Map

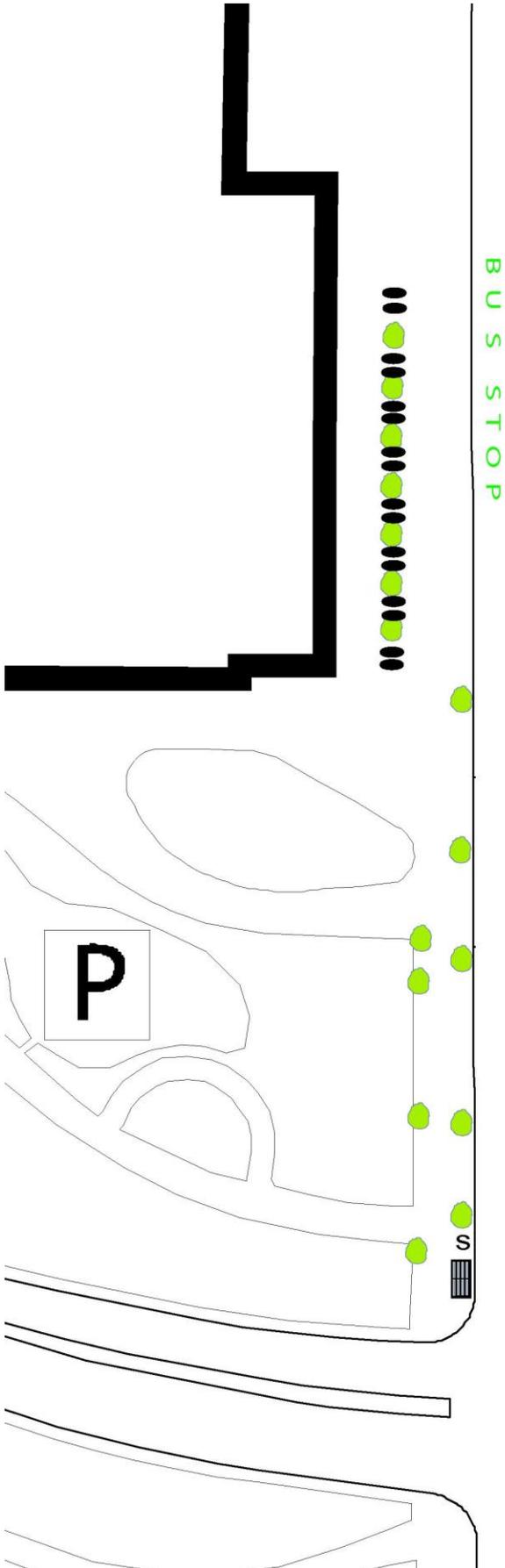
- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ● tree                     | → traffic light |
| ● expressive matter vendor | ▬ bench         |
| S souvenir vendor          | ▨ drain         |
| F food vendor              | ■ trash can     |
| ◆ fire hydrant             |                 |
| ⊠ parking meter            |                 |
| ↔ lamppost                 |                 |



13 vendors

E 62nd St

E 61st St



## E 81st St

16 vendors

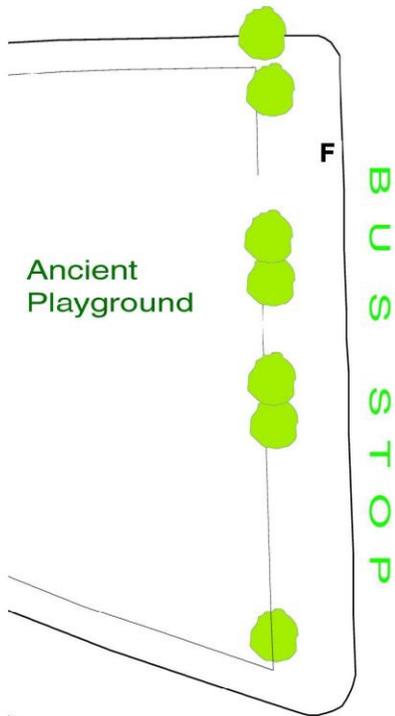
## E 80th St

Metropolitan Museum  
79th to 81st Streets  
Vendor Map

- tree
- expressive matter vendor
- S souvenir vendor
- F food vendor
- ▨ grate
- lamppost

## E 79th St

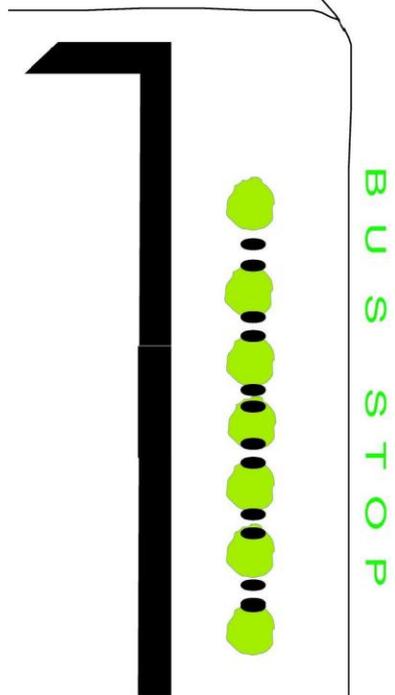
E 85th St



Fifth Avenue

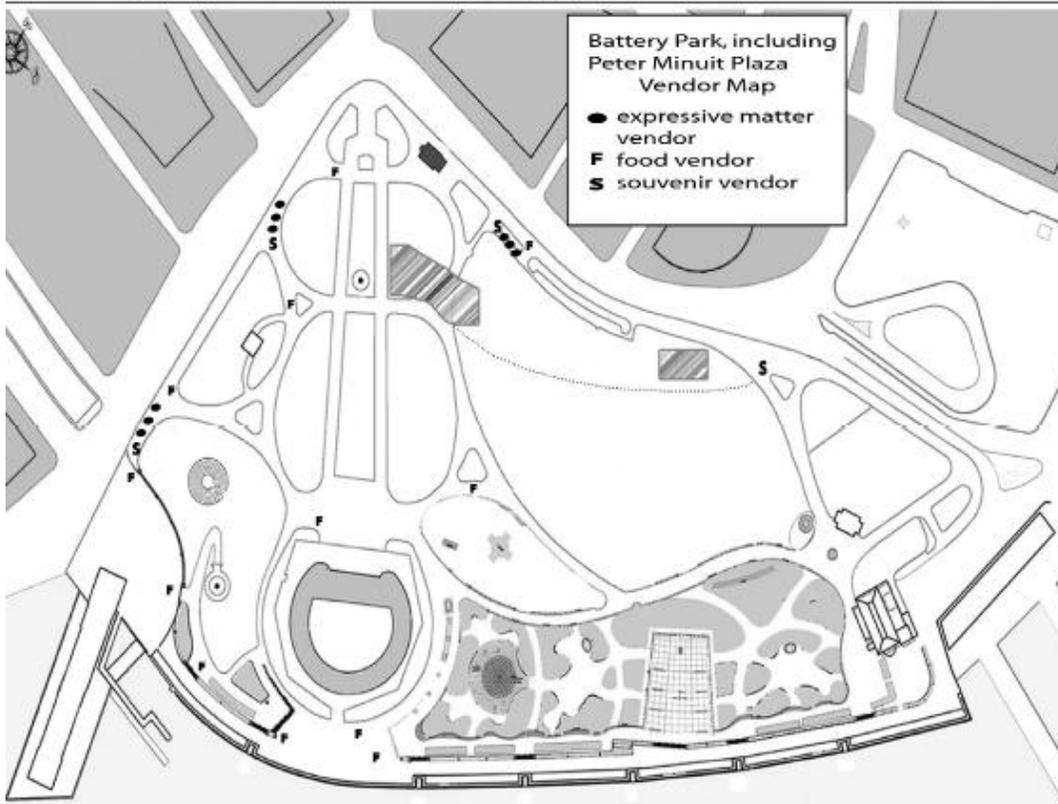
E 84th St

12 vendors

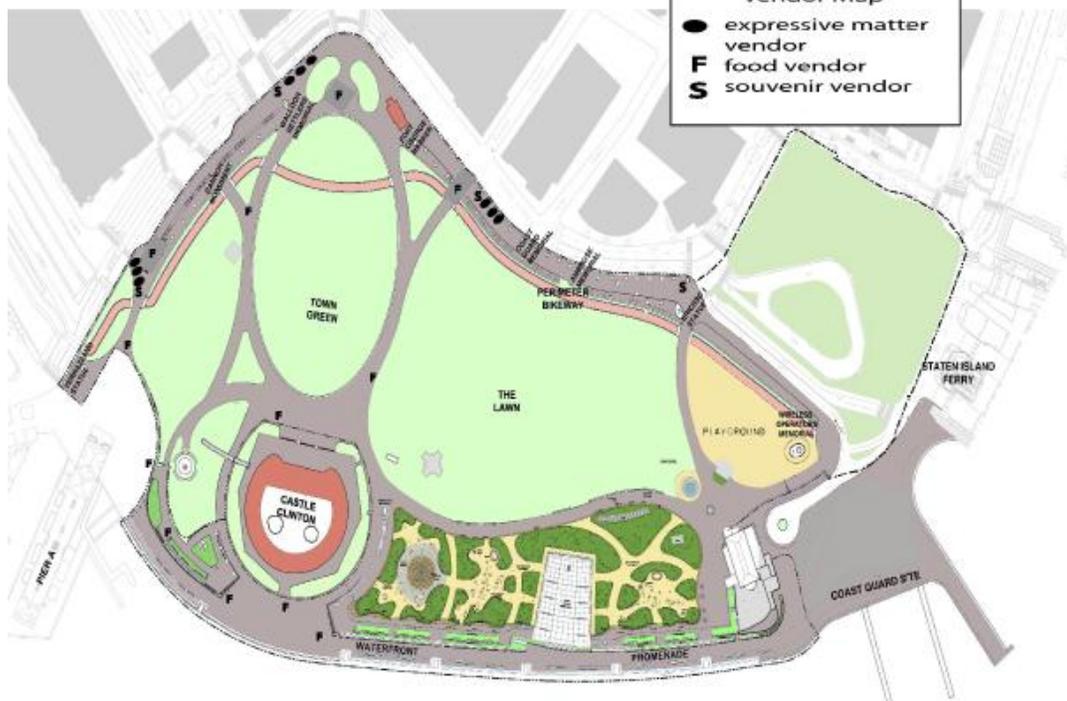


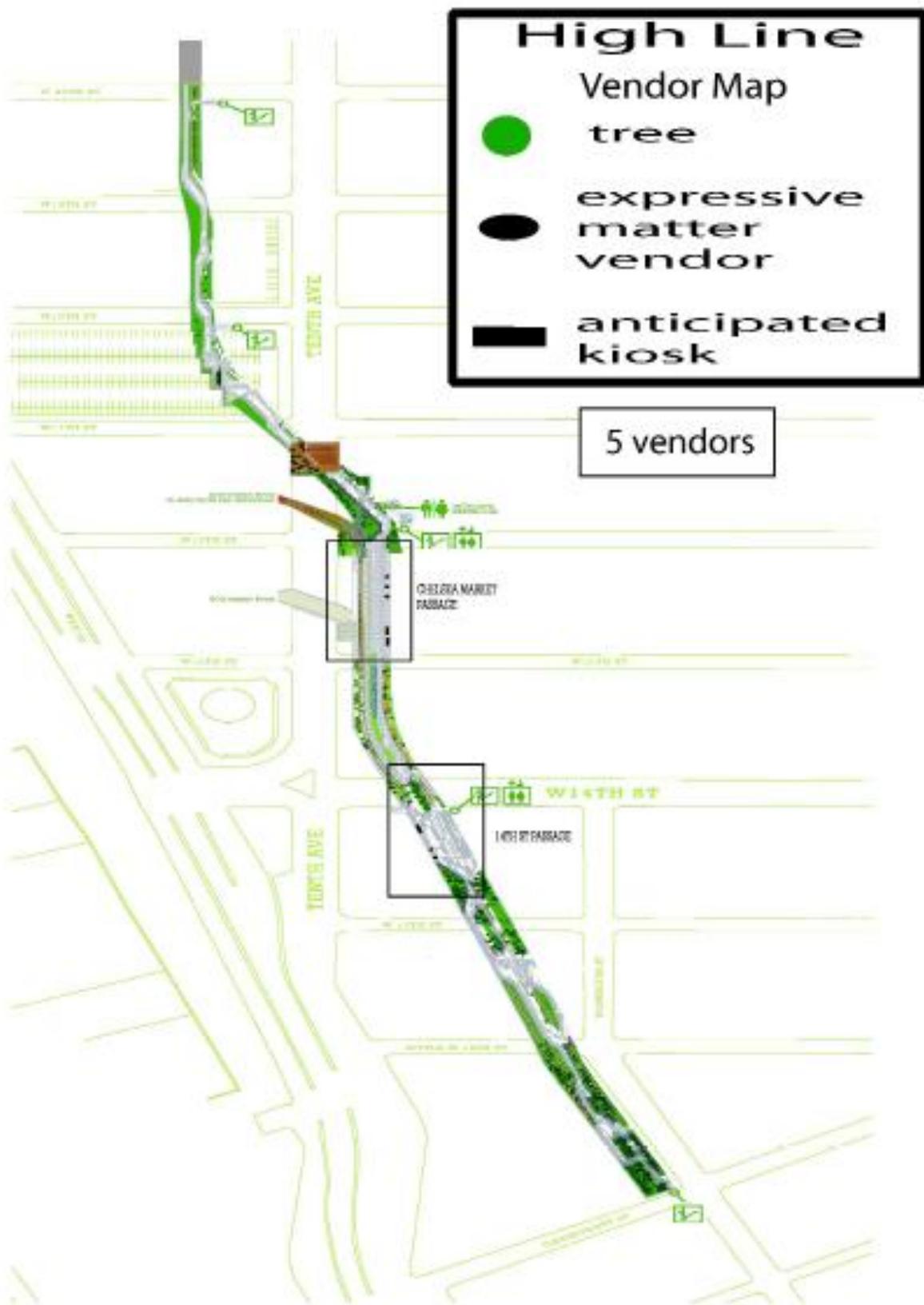
Metropolitan Museum 83rd to 85th Streets Vendor Map	
●	tree
●	expressive matter vendor
S	souvenir vendor
F	food vendor

Battery Park - During Construction 9 vendors



Battery Park - Post Construction 9 vendors





# High Line

Vendor Map



tree



expressive matter vendor



anticipated kiosk

5 vendors

CHELSEA MARKET PARKADE

14TH ST PARKADE

