

MOON TREE



Building on this legacy, in 2022, NASA's Artemis Program sent a new generation of Moon Tree seeds into space, where they orbited the moon for four weeks aboard the Orion spacecraft. When they returned to Earth, Forest Service scientists studied and germinated the seeds, and Madison Square Park Conservancy (MSPC) was chosen by NASA to receive one of the seedlings!

THE JOURNEY TO THE MOON AND BACK:

ARTEMIS I

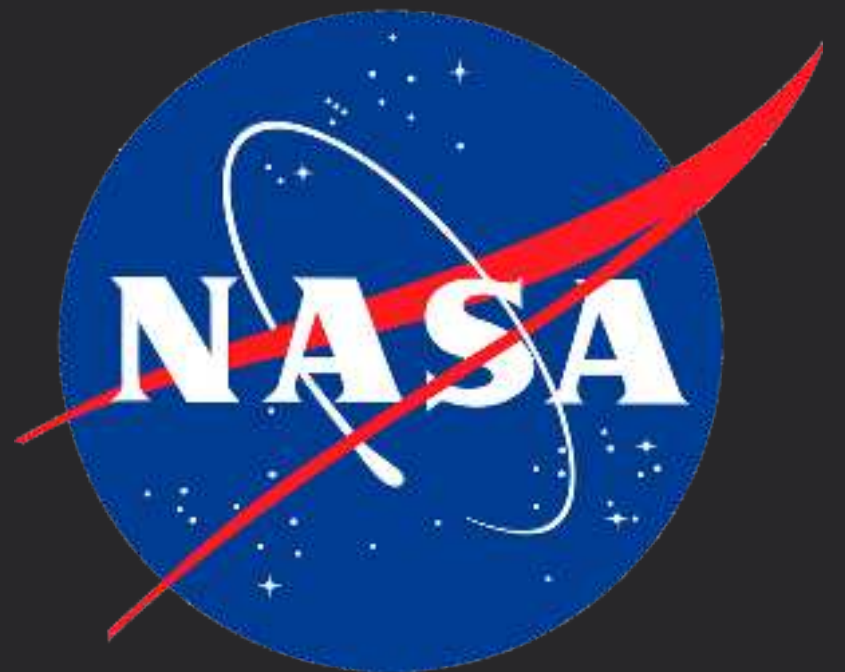
National Aeronautics &
Space Administration (NASA)

LAUNCHED

Nov. 16, 2022

RETURNED

Dec. 11, 2022



MISSION DURATION

2 | 5

111

10

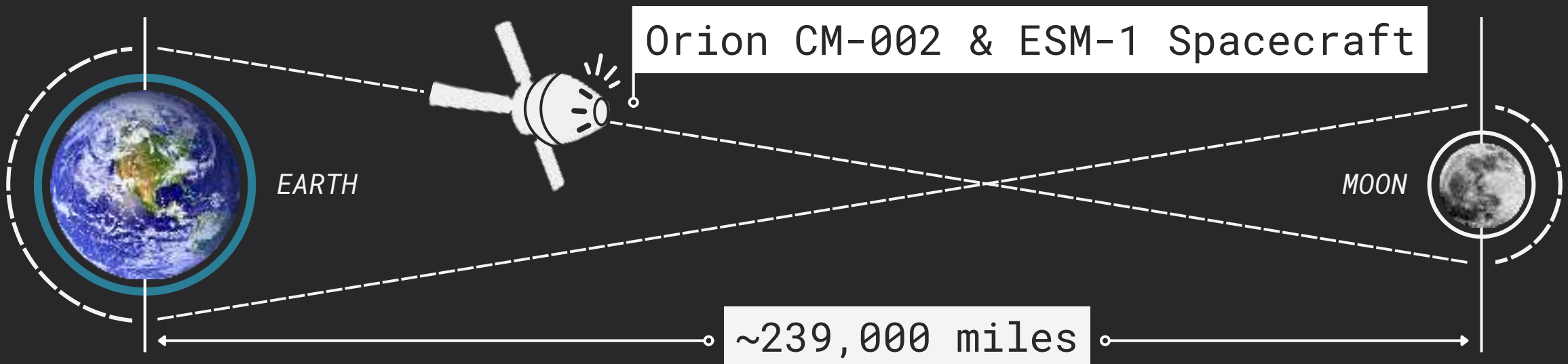
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5 | 3

DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES



RE-ENTRY SPEED 24,581 Miles per Hour

TOTAL DISTANCE TRAVELLED 1,400,000 Miles

MOON TREE

SPECIES **AMERICAN SWEETGUM**
Liquidambar styraciflua

SEED COLLECTION SITE Rapides Parish, LA

NATURAL RANGE Eastern North America

Only the second Moon Tree to land in New York City, the American Sweetgum on Farragut Lawn was planted by MSPC’s horticulture team in April 2025. The species is known for its distinctive star-shaped leaves, vibrant fall colors, and adaptability to various climates.

Though the American Sweetgum is not native to Manhattan, the tree is a good fit with MSPC’s tree conservation plan, as it has adapted to handle warming temperatures.

