

= High Line (New York City) =

The High Line (also known as the High Line Park) is a 1 @. @ 45 @- @ mile @- @ long (2 @. @ 33 km) New York City linear park built in Manhattan on an elevated section of a disused New York Central Railroad spur called the West Side Line . Inspired by the 3 @- @ mile (4 @. @ 8 @- @ kilometer) Promenade plantée (tree @- @ lined walkway) , a similar project in Paris completed in 1993 , the High Line has been redesigned and planted as an aerial greenway and rails @- @ to @- @ trails park .

The High Line Park is built on the disused southern portion of the West Side Line running to the Lower West Side of Manhattan . It runs from Gansevoort Street ? three blocks below 14th Street ? in the Meatpacking District , through Chelsea , to the northern edge of the West Side Yard on 34th Street near the Javits Convention Center . An unopened spur extends above 30th Street to Tenth Avenue . Formerly , the West Side Line went as far south as a railroad terminal to Spring Street just north of Canal Street , however most of the lower section was demolished in 1960 , with another small portion of the lower section being demolished in 1991 .

Repurposing of the railway into an urban park began construction in 2006 , with the first phase opening in 2009 , and the second phase opening in 2011 . The third and final phase officially opened to the public on September 21 , 2014 . A short stub above Tenth Avenue and 30th Street is still closed as of September 2014 , but will open by 2017 , once the Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project is completed . The project has spurred real estate development in the neighborhoods that lie along the line . As of September 2014 , the park gets nearly 5 million visitors annually .

= = Description = =

The park extends from Gansevoort Street to 34th Street . At 30th Street , the elevated tracks turn west around the Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on 34th Street , though the northern section is expected to be integrated within the Hudson Yards development and the Hudson Park and Boulevard . When the Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project 's Western Rail Yard is finished in 2018 , it will be elevated above the High Line Park , so an exit along the viaduct will be located over the West Side Yard , exiting out to the Western Rail Yard of Hudson Yards . The 34th Street entrance is at grade level , with wheelchair access .

The park is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the winter , 10 p.m. in the spring and fall , and 11 p.m. in the summer , except for the Interim Walkway west of 11th Avenue , which is open until dusk . It can be reached through eleven entrances , five of which are accessible to people with disabilities . The wheelchair @- @ accessible entrances , each with stairs and an elevator , are at Gansevoort , 14th , 16th , 23rd , and 30th Streets . Additional staircase @- @ only entrances are located at 18th , 20th , 26th , and 28th Streets , and 11th Avenue . Street level access is available at 34th Street via an " Interim Walkway " between 30th Street / 11th Avenue and 34th Street .

= = = Route = = =

At the Gansevoort Street end , which runs north @- @ south , the stub end over Gansevoort Street is named the Tiffany and Co . Foundation Overlook , dedicated in July 2012 ; the foundation was a major backer of the park . Then , it passes under The Standard hotel , and through a passage at 14th Street . At 14th Street , the High Line is split into two sides of different elevations ; the Diller @- @ Von Furstenberg Water Feature , opened in 2010 , is featured on the lower side , and a sundeck on the upper side .

Then , the High Line passes under the Chelsea Market , a food hall , at 15th Street . A spur connecting the viaduct to the National Biscuit Company building splits off at 16th Street ; this spur is closed to the public . The Tenth Avenue Square , an amphitheater located on the viaduct , is at 17th Street , where the High Line crosses over Tenth Avenue from southeast to northwest . At 23rd Street , there is the 23rd Street Lawn , a lawn where visitors can rest . Then , between 25th and 26th Streets , a ramp takes visitors above the viaduct , with a scenic overlook facing east at 26th

Street . The Philip Falcone and Lisa Maria Falcone flyover , as it is called , is named after two major donors to the park ; this ramp was based on plans for a Phase 1 flyover that was never built .

The park then curves west to Phase 3 and merges into the Tenth Avenue Spur , the latter of which stretches over 30th Street to Tenth Avenue and will open in 2017 . On Phase 3 , there is another ramp taking visitors above the viaduct at 11th Avenue , as well as a play area consisting of rail ties and modified , silicone @-@ covered beams and stanchions coming out of the structure called the " Pershing Beams " , a gathering space with multiple benches , and a set of three trackways where one could walk between the railway tracks . There are also seesaw @-@ like benches , as well as benches that , much like a xylophone , contain parts that make sounds when tapped . An " interim walkway " between 11th Avenue and 30th Street and 34th Street divides the viaduct into two sides ? a gravel walkway and an un @-@ renovated section still with rail tracks ; this walkway is open only temporarily , and will close for renovation once the Tenth Avenue spur is completed . The High Line turns north to a point just east of Twelfth Avenue . At 34th Street , it curves east , and the park ends at a wheelchair ramp midway between 12th and 11th Avenues .

= = = Attractions = = =

The park 's attractions include naturalized plantings that are inspired by the landscape that grew on the disused tracks , and views of the city and the Hudson River . The trail is made of pebble @-@ dash concrete walkways that swells and constricts , swings from side to side , and divides into concrete tines that meld the hardscape with the planting embedded in railroad gravel mulch . Stretches of track and ties recall the High Line 's former use . Portions of track are adaptively re @-@ used for rolling lounges positioned for river views . Most of the planting , which includes 210 species , is of rugged meadow plants , including clump @-@ forming grasses , liatris , and coneflowers , with scattered stands of sumac and smokebush , but not limited to American natives . At the Gansevoort Street end , a grove of mixed species of birch already provides some dappled shade by late afternoon . Ipê timber for the built @-@ in benches has come from a managed forest certified by the Forest Stewardship Council , to ensure sustainable use and the conservation of biological diversity , water resources , and fragile ecosystems .

The High Line Park also has cultural attractions . As part of a long @-@ term plan for the park to host temporary installations and performances of various kinds . Creative Time , Friends of the High Line , and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation commissioned The River That Flows Both Ways by Spencer Finch as the inaugural art installation . The work is integrated into the window bays of the former Nabisco Factory loading dock , as a series of 700 purple and grey colored glass panes . Each color is exactly calibrated to match the center pixel of 700 digital pictures , one taken every minute , of the Hudson River , therefore presenting an extended portrait of the river that gives the work its name . Creative Time worked with the artist to realize the site @-@ specific concept that emerged when he saw the rusted , disused mullions of the old factory , which metal and glass specialists Jaroff Design helped to prepare and reinstall .

The summer of 2010 featured a sound installation by Stephen Vitiello , composed from bells heard through New York . Lauren Ross , formerly director of the alternative art space White Columns , served as the first curator for the High Line Park . During the construction of the second phase between 20th and 30th Streets , several artworks were installed including , Sarah Sze 's " Still Life with Landscape (Model for a Habitat) " a sculpture made of steel and wood , located on the line near 20th and 21st Streets ; this structure was built as a house for fauna such as birds and butterflies . Kim Beck 's " Space Available " was installed on the roofs of three buildings visible from the southern end . Three 20 @-@ by @-@ 12 @-@ foot (6 @-@ 1 by 3 @-@ 7 m) sculptures looked like the armature of empty billboards , constructed like theater backdrops , so they look three @-@ dimensional from a distance . Also installed during the second phase of construction was Julianne Swartz 's " Digital Empathy " , a work that utilizes audio messages at restrooms , elevators , and water fountains .

= = History = =

=== Rail line ===

In 1847 , the City of New York authorized street @-@ level railroad tracks down Manhattan 's West Side to ship freight . For safety , the railroads hired men called the " West Side Cowboys " to ride horses and wave flags in front of the trains . However , so many accidents occurred between freight trains and other traffic that Tenth Avenue became known as " Death Avenue " .

After years of public debate about the hazard , in 1929 the city , the state of New York , and the New York Central Railroad agreed on the West Side Improvement Project , a large project conceived by Robert Moses that also included the construction of the West Side Elevated Highway . The 13 @-@ mile (21 km) project eliminated 105 street @-@ level railroad crossings and added 32 acres (13 ha) to Riverside Park . It cost more than US \$ 150 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 (about US \$ 2 @,@ 067 @,@ 151 @,@ 000 today) .

The High Line viaduct , then a portion of the New York Connecting Railroad 's West Side Line , opened to trains in 1934 . It originally ran from 34th Street to St. John 's Park Terminal at Spring Street , and was designed to go through the center of blocks rather than over the avenue . It connected directly to factories and warehouses , allowing trains to load and unload their cargo inside buildings . Milk , meat , produce , and raw and manufactured goods could be transported and unloaded without disturbing traffic on the streets . This also reduced the load for the Bell Laboratories Building (which has housed the Westbeth Artists Community since 1970) , as well as for the former Nabisco plant in the Chelsea Market building , which were served from protected sidings within the structures .

The train also passed underneath the Western Electric complex at Washington Street . This section still exists as of May 18 , 2008 , and is not connected with the rest of the developed park .

The growth of interstate trucking in the 1950s led to a drop in rail traffic throughout the nation . By 1960 , the southernmost section of the line was demolished due to low use . This section started at Gansevoort Street and ran down Washington Street as far as Spring Street just north of Canal Street , representing almost half of the line . The last train on the remaining part of the line was operated by Conrail in 1980 .

In the mid @-@ 1980s , a group of property owners with land under the line lobbied for the demolition of the entire structure . Peter Obletz , a Chelsea resident , activist , and railroad enthusiast , challenged the demolition efforts in court and tried to re @-@ establish rail service on the line . However , during the late 1980s , the north end of the High Line was disconnected from the rest of the national railroad system because it was expected that the High Line would be demolished . Due to the construction of the Empire Connection to Penn Station , which opened in spring 1991 , new tracks were routed to the new Empire Connection tunnel built underground to Penn Station . A small section of the High Line in the West Village , from Bank to Gansevoort Streets , was taken apart in 1991 , despite objections by people who wanted to keep the High Line .

In the 1990s , as the line lay unused and in disrepair (despite the fact that the riveted @-@ steel elevated structure was structurally sound) it became known to a few urban explorers and local residents for the tough , drought @-@ tolerant wild grasses , shrubs , and rugged trees such as sumac that had sprung up in the gravel along the abandoned railway . It was slated for demolition under the administration of then @-@ mayor Rudy Giuliani .

=== Repurposing ===

In 1999 , the nonprofit organization Friends of the High Line was formed by Joshua David and Robert Hammond , residents of the neighborhood that the line ran through . They advocated for the line 's preservation and reuse as public open space , so that it would become an elevated park or greenway , similar to the Promenade Plantée in Paris . CSX Transportation , which owned the High Line , had given photographer Joel Sternfeld permission to photograph the line for a year . These photographs of the natural beauty of the meadow @-@ like wildscape of the railway , discussed in

an episode of the documentary series Great Museums , were used at public meetings whenever the subject of saving the High Line was discussed . Fashion designer Diane von Fürstenberg , who had moved her New York City headquarters to the Meatpacking District in 1997 , organized fund @-@ raising events for the campaign in her studio , along with her husband , Barry Diller . Broadened community support of public redevelopment of the High Line for pedestrian use grew , and in 2004 , the New York City government committed \$ 50 million to establish the proposed park . New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Council Speakers Gifford Miller and Christine C. Quinn were important supporters . In total , funders of the High Line Park raised more than \$ 150 million (equivalent to \$ 165 @,@ 449 @,@ 000 in 2015) .

On June 13 , 2005 , the U.S. Federal Surface Transportation Board issued a certificate of interim trail use , allowing the city to remove most of the line from the national railway system . On April 10 , 2006 , Mayor Bloomberg presided over a ceremony that marked the beginning of construction . The park was designed by the James Corner 's New York @-@ based landscape architecture firm Field Operations and architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro , with garden design from Piet Oudolf of the Netherlands , lighting design from L 'Observatoire International , and engineering design by Buro Happold . The New York City Department of City Planning director and Chair of the City Planning Commission Amanda Burden actively contributed to the success of project development .

Major backers included Philip Falcone , Diane von Fürstenberg , Barry Diller , and von Fürstenberg 's children , Alexander von Fürstenberg and Tatiana von Fürstenberg . Hotel developer Andre Balazs , owner of the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles , built the 337 @-@ room Standard Hotel , straddling the High Line at West 13th Street .

The southernmost section , from Gansevoort Street to 20th Street , opened as a city park on June 8 , 2009 . This southern section includes five stairways and elevators at 14th Street and 16th Street . Around the same time , construction for the second section began .

On June 7 , 2011 , a ribbon was cut to open the second section from 20th Street to 30th Street , with Mayor Michael Bloomberg , New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn , Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer , and Congressman Jerrold Nadler in attendance .

In 2011 , CSX Transportation , the then @-@ owner of the northernmost section , from 30th to 34th Streets , agreed in principle to donate the section to the city , while the Related Companies , which owns the development rights to the West Side Rail Yards , agreed not to tear down the spur that crosses 10th Avenue . Construction on the final section was started in September 2012 .

On September 20 , 2014 , a ribbon @-@ cutting ceremony for the High Line was held , followed by the opening of the third section of the High Line Park on September 21 , and a procession down the High Line . The third phase , costing US \$ 76 million , is divided into two parts . The first part , costing US \$ 75 million , which opened on September 21 , is from the end of the existing Phase 2 of the High Line to the line 's terminus at 34th Street west of 11th Avenue . The second part , the spur , was going to contain such amenities as a bowl @-@ shaped theater but has changed and will provide more room to install ambitious artworks curated by the public art program . The Spur will also provide much @-@ needed storage space for park operations , maintenance , and horticulture , as well as additional public restrooms . It will also be integrated with 10 Hudson Yards , which has already been built over the High Line Spur as of December 2013 ; the spur will not open until sometime in 2017 .

= = = Impact = = =

The recycling of the railway into an urban park has brought on the revitalization of Chelsea , which had been " gritty " and in generally poor condition in the late twentieth century . It has also spurred real estate development in the neighborhoods that lie along the line . Mayor Bloomberg noted that the High Line project has helped usher in something of a renaissance in the neighborhood : by 2009 , more than 30 projects were planned or under construction nearby . Residents who have bought apartments next to the High Line Park have adapted to its presence in varying ways , but most responses are positive ; some , however , claim that the park became a " tourist @-@ clogged catwalk " since it opened . The real estate boom has not been victimless , however , many well

@-@ established businesses in west Chelsea have closed due to loss of neighborhood customer base or rent increases .

Crime has been very low in the park . Shortly after the second section opened in 2011 , The New York Times reported that there have been no reports of major crimes such as assaults or robberies since its first phase opened two years prior . Parks Enforcement Patrols have written summonses for various infractions of park rules , such as walking dogs or riding bicycles on the walkway , but at a rate lower than in Central Park . Park advocates attributed that to the high visibility of the High Line from the surrounding buildings , a feature of traditional urbanism espoused by author Jane Jacobs nearly fifty years earlier . According to Joshua David , a co @-@ founder of Friends of the High Line , " Empty parks are dangerous ... Busy parks are much less so . You 're virtually never alone on the High Line . "

A New Yorker columnist , in a review of the Highliner restaurant (which took over the space of the classic Empire Diner) , complained that " the new Chelsea that is emerging on weekends as visitors flood the elevated park ... [as] touristy , overpriced , and shiny . "

The success of the High Line in New York City has encouraged the leaders of other cities , such as Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago , who see it as " a symbol and catalyst " for gentrifying neighborhoods . Several cities also have plans to renovate some railroad infrastructure into park land , including Philadelphia and St. Louis . In Chicago , where the Bloomingdale Trail , a 2 @. @ 7 @-@ mile (4 @. @ 3 km) long linear park on former railroad infrastructure , will run through several neighborhoods . One estimate is that it costs substantially less to redevelop an abandoned urban rail line into a linear park than to demolish it . James Corner , one of the Bloomingdale Trail 's designers , said , " The High Line is not easily replicable in other cities , " observing that building a " cool park " requires a " framework " of neighborhoods around it in order to succeed . In Queens , the Queensway , a proposed aerial rail trail , is being considered for reactivation along the right @-@ of @-@ way of the former LIRR Rockaway Beach Branch . Other cities around the world are planning elevated rails @-@ to @-@ trails parks . One writer called this the " High Line effect " .

Due to the popularity of the High Line , there have been several proposals for museums along its path . The Dia Art Foundation considered , but rejected , a proposal to build a museum at the Gansevoort Street terminus . On that site , the Whitney Museum has built a new home for its collection of American art . The building was designed by Renzo Piano and opened on May 1 , 2015 .

= = In popular culture = =

The High Line has been depicted in numerous media works , before and after its redevelopment . The 1979 film Manhattan included a shot of the High Line , as director and star Woody Allen speaks the first line : " Chapter One . He adored New York City . " Director Zbigniew Rybczy?ski shot the video for Art Of Noise 's recording Close (to the Edit) on the High Line in 1984 .

In 2001 , two years after the formation of the nonprofit Friends of the High Line , photographer Joel Sternfeld documented the dilapidated conditions and the natural flora of the line in his book Walking the High Line . The book also contained essays by writer Adam Gopnik and historian John R. Stilgoe . Sternfeld 's work was regularly discussed and exhibited during the 2000s as the rehabilitation project moved forward . In a similar vein , Alan Weisman 's 2007 book The World Without Us discussed the High Line as an example of the reappearance of the wild in an abandoned area . That same year chase scenes from the zombie apocalypse film I Am Legend were filmed there and in the Meatpacking District . The 2009 hip @-@ hop song " The High Line " by Kinetics & One Love is a pro @-@ green song that uses the High Line , before its conversion into a park , as an example of nature 's reclamation of man @-@ made structures .

With the opening of the High Line Park , many films and television shows have set sequences there . In 2011 , the television series Louie used the High Line as a setting for one of the title character 's dates . Other works to set scenes on the High Line since it opened include the HBO series Girls , the Simpsons episode " Moonshine River " , and the film What Maisie Knew .

= = Gallery = =

The High Line