

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



THE QUEENS WAY: *A Cultural Greenway*

The QueensWay will transform a 3.5-mile portion of abandoned rail line into an elevated pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting the communities of Rego Park, Forest Hills, Richmond Hill, and Ozone Park. The project will provide a new public green space, celebrating the cultural diversity of Queens with art, sculpture, and food from around the world.

Goals

- Provide public green space in communities that lack parks and open space.
- Serve as a connector between Forest Park and adjacent neighborhoods to the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway.
- Encourage physical activity and bicycle use through integration with the city's system of bicycle paths.
- Promote economic development in Queens.
- Celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the borough.

Features

- Landscaped paths, bikeways, walkways, gardens, and Fitness Zone outdoor exercise equipment.
- Space for public art and exhibitions—including sculpture gardens, cultural displays, performances and celebrations, and ethnic dining experiences.
- Easy access to public transportation.
- Security fencing and natural barriers to maintain the safety and privacy of adjacent residential properties.

WHERE

The abandoned rail line begins in central Queens as a spur off the eastbound Long Island Rail Road. It runs through wooded gullies, residential communities, and retail areas, bisecting Forest Park. The rail line borders Little League fields and public schools and crosses major roadways before terminating at the A train in southern Queens. The location creates the potential for the Queensway to link to the existing Jamaica Bay Greenway.

The Trust for Public Land will transform this abandoned resource into a valuable public amenity connecting the neighborhoods of Queens. In addition to an elevated and secure public walkway and bikeway, the QueensWay will provide much-needed green space. Terraced plantings will be integrated with bleacher-type seating adjacent to playing fields and play areas.

As a cultural greenway, the QueensWay will celebrate the extraordinary ethnic diversity of Queens. The possibilities are endless—from art installations and murals to concerts and performances, food festivals, farmers markets, and craft fairs.

WHY

Nearly 190,000 people live in the high-density neighborhoods within a mile of the QueensWay. The area is virtually devoid of public open space; other than Forest Park, the few existing parks are all less than one acre in size. The little available green space is heavily used by youth, parents with young children, and the large population of senior citizens.

The neighborhoods adjoining the QueensWay are also notable for their high proportion of recent immigrants. One of the highest priorities of local community boards is to welcome and celebrate these new Americans—a goal well served by a new cultural greenway.

HOW

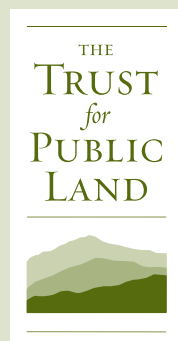
The Trust for Public Land is working with Friends of the QueensWay and the City of New York to develop a conceptual design for the QueensWay Cultural Greenway. Members of the City Council and New York State elected officials have already expressed their interest in this process.

Community engagement and participatory design are hallmarks of The Trust for Public Land's work in New York City. We envision a process that will include community outreach and design charettes to solicit local input.

We will produce engineer's cost estimates for the elements of each phase and a feasibility study to examine environmental conditions along the railroad right of way—including the condition of trestles, bridges, embankments and retaining walls. The cost of these activities over the next three years is estimated to be \$1.62 million.



In partnership with



*The Trust for Public Land conserves
land for people to enjoy as parks,
gardens, and other natural places,
ensuring livable communities for
generations to come.*

tpl.org/newyork

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