

The High Line - New York City

By Carter Pruitt

The High Line is a beautiful park located in New York City, New York. It spans nearly 1.45 miles and is still being worked on to this day. The most recent expansion is set to open to the public in 2023. It is a must see for any tourist interested in the blending of nature and architecture as it boasts a strong collection of over 500 plus plants and trees in the heart of a city.

The park was built as part of a renovation project to an old decommissioned rail line which had fallen into disrepair during the 1970s because of the new reliance on trucks in New York. The original raised rail line had been constructed in 1933 as a response to the mounting deaths caused by ground based rail systems.

Although ideas about renovating the rail line had been floating around since the 1980s, an official "ideas competition" was not held until 2003. With no small amount of support from the mayor of New York City, the renovation was selected to be a park which would break ground in April of 2006. The project would be led by the design firm James Corner Field Operations with help from Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

The first section was completed in 2009. It spans from Gansevoort Street to 20th Street and proved to be a major success and attraction to the public. With this section under their belt, the design team moved on to build the second section which was completed in 2012. The two sections together cost a combined 152.3 million USD and now covered the rail line all the way from Gansevoort to 30th street. The last main linear section was completed in 2014 and cost around 76 million USD. With this section, the rail now extended to 34th street. All sections were completed using different general contractors and construction companies.

As mentioned previously, there is work currently being done on what is being called "the Spur" which renovate the final piece of track which is available to the city. The project started in 2019, but Covid-19 has majorly delayed it. As such, there is not much information available.

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