



FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

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Friends of the High Line

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ADVOCATES MARK ANOTHER BIG STEP TOWARDS THE HIGH LINE'S
PRESERVATION AT THE RAIL YARDS**

Department of City Planning kicks off public review process to authorize City acquisition of the High Line's remaining section.

Supporters of the High Line celebrated today as the Department of City Planning certified an application to begin the public review process to allow the City acquire the final section of the elevated structure. This announcement marks the beginning of the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), a seven-month process of community and government review. After the ULURP is complete, the City will be authorized to move forward with acquisition of the historic High Line structure as it runs the perimeter of the West Side Rail Yards.

The certification of this application, submitted by the Department of Parks & Recreation, is a critical step by the Bloomberg administration toward the preservation of the historic High Line structure, and the extension of the popular elevated park north of 30th Street.

Today's announcement follows another major step for the High Line at the Rail Yards, taken in December, 2009, when the City approved the Western Rail Yards Rezoning. The rezoning contains requirements that the High Line west of 11th Avenue be used for public open space, as well as stipulations for the ways in which future buildings can interact with the High Line. Taken together, these two actions pave the way for integrating the historic structure into the future development at the Rail Yards.

The non-profit Friends of the High Line has been advocating for full preservation of the historic High Line structure north of 30th Street since the planning process for the redevelopment of this site began several years ago. The group has worked along with the administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the MTA and the Empire State Development Corporation, the state agencies that own the underlying land, and The Related Companies, the site's developer, to ensure that the High Line is included in plans for the site.

The High Line south of 30th Street is already owned by the City of New York, and is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation. This section was donated by CSX Transportation, Inc. in 2005, following a public review process similar to the one beginning today. The southernmost part of the structure opened in June, 2009 as a public park.

Once the ULURP process is complete, the City will be authorized to acquire the High Line north of 30th Street.

On receiving word of the announcement, Friends of the High Line's Chairman John Alschuler said, "We are extremely pleased that the City is taking this important first step towards ownership of the High Line's iconic Rail Yards section. Through continued community advocacy, and continued collaboration with the City, the MTA, and the Related Companies, we are confident that this historic structure will be transformed into a great public space to be treasured by generations to come."

About the High Line

The High Line is a public park built on a 1.5-mile elevated freight rail structure. Originally constructed in the 1930s to deliver meat and agricultural goods to the industrial West Side, the High Line connects the west side neighborhoods of the Meatpacking District, West Chelsea, and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen. The section below 30th Street is owned by the City of New York, and is operated under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation, in partnership with the non-profit Friends of the High Line.

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