The QueensWay
A Survey of Existing Conditions
The Trust for Public Land
March 2013
In the Context of the City

The incredible success of the 1.5 mile Highline in Manhattan has prompted Communities in other Borough to examine where a similar transformation of abandoned infrastructure could take place.

In the case of the QueensWay, it could be a major 3.5 mile elevated cultural greenway that would connect Rego Park and Ozone Park and all communities in between to Forest Park.
An Introduction

The QueensWay project proposes to transform a 3.5 mile portion of the abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Rail Line into a “cultural green”, an elevated pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will connect the communities and amenities in Rego Park, Forest Hills, Richmond Hills Woodhaven and Ozone Park to Forest Park. The entire length of the right-of-way is owned by the City.

QueensWay Goals:

• Serve as a pedestrian connector and feeder from Rego Park and Ozone Park to Forest Park.
• Become an integral part of the NYC Bicycle path system throughout Queens
• Encourage economic and cultural development in the Borough of Queens thru the celebration of its rich ethnic diversity.
• Create landscaped paths, community gardens, cultural and arts event spaces adjoining discrete seating areas along it lengths that offer open vistas out over the urban fabric.
• Provide easy access at strategic intersections along its length to public transportation and proper illumination
• Protect and maintain the privacy of adjacent residential properties
The Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad

EXISTING
Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad

PROPOSED
Queensway Cultural Greenway

Queensway Cultural Greenway

Rego Park
Forest Hills
Richmond Hill
Ozone Park
Woodhaven
South Ozone Park
Forest Park
North
Central
South
North Segment Existing Conditions

The Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad rail bed north of the Fleet Street Trestle.
Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad from atop the Yellowstone Boulevard Trestle.

Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad at Yellowstone Boulevard Trestle as seen from the Eden Project Community Garden.
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad as seen from the entrance to PS 233.

Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad as seen from the Home Depot Parking Lot.
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad. Collapsed Trestle over active Montauk rail line.

Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad Trestles crossing over Union Turnpike.
North Segment Sections

Segment I: Conceptual Section at Forest Hills Little League Field

Segment II: Conceptual Section Through Residential Area North and South of Yellowstone Boulevards

Segment III: Conceptual Section Through Home Depot Parking Lot and PS 233 High School Property
Central Segment Existing Conditions

Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad passing under the Myrtle Avenue overpass.
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad passing under Forest Park Road.
Existing rail bed and embankments cleared of volunteers and landscaped. Dedicated pedestrian and bicycling paths established.

South Segment Existing Conditions
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad passing under J & Z elevated subway line and above Jamaica Ave.

Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad Woodhaven Station over Atlantic Ave.
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad over 103rd street.

Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad over view south of 103rd Street.
Existing Abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch Railroad beneath Ozone Park Station.

South Segment Section
The existing rail bed runs over an existing viaduct. Beneath the viaduct are auto repair, storage, recycling facilities and a variety of small business tenants.