For more than 50 years, the old former Flushing–Beech Forest branch line has not been used. Today, this line has been repurposed as a greenway: the QueensWay. The QueensWay is a 3.5-mile path stretching from Corona Park in the north to Ozone Park in the south, running along the trackbed of the old Flushing–Beech Forest branch line.

The QueensWay site is owned by the City of New York. Of the 47 acres, approximately 27 acres are publicly accessible.

The QueensWay Plan

The QueensWay plan was conceived by the then Public Advocate, now Mayor, Bill de Blasio, in 2014. It was first proposed as a park in 2016 by the current Mayor, Bill de Blasio, and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson.

The QueensWay is a project of the New York City Council. The QueensWay will implement an interdisciplinary team to analyze the land and design concepts for the project. The project will be led by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York City Department of Transportation, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

The QueensWay is planned to be completed in 2023.

Connections to Queens-wide Destinations

The QueensWay will connect to several key destinations in Queens: Corona Park, Glen Oaks Park, Flushing Park, and Woodhaven.

A Small Number of Areas Reaches a Lot of People

- 322,000 people live within a mile of the QueensWay.
- 368,000 people live within a mile of Prospect Park.
- 436,000 people live within a mile of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Connections + Neighborhoods

The QueensWay will benefit the City’s economic development, job creation, and demand for residential and commercial space.

Eco-Friendly Benefits

- The QueensWay will reduce the number of cars on the road by 21,000 per day.
- The QueensWay will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,000 tons per year.
- The QueensWay will reduce air pollution by 400 tons per year.
- The QueensWay will reduce noise pollution by 5 decibels.
- The QueensWay will increase green space by 47 acres.

Eco + Education

The QueensWay will have exercise stations at key activity areas. There is an opportunity for learning about nature, wildlife, and history.

A Cultural Greenway

The QueensWay will be a gateway and introduction to the borough’s diverse communities. Central and Southern Queens are among the neighborhoods with the highest percentages of Hispanic, African American, and Asian residents in the United States.

Commercial Opportunities

The QueensWay will bring new businesses to the park. The park will be a gateway for local food, activities, and daily necessities. When the park is complete, it will be a destination for visitors and tourists.

Privacy for Adjacent Homes

The QueensWay will be positioned and designed to draw visitors to the park. Spaces will be designed to ensure wide visibility across pathways for the safety of park users. Lighting at activity spaces will be positioned to ensure adequate visibility.
The QueensWay is an overgrown landscape where invasive plants choke out native species in many areas. The project will also remove unhealthy trees.

Geological Formations and Dynamic Terrain

During the last Ice Age, the Wisconsin Glacial moraine covered most of the land and rock called a terminal moraine. The QueensWay cuts through the terminal moraine, which is a mixture of glacial till and sand. The moraine is composed of rock, gravel, and sand removed from the land by glaciers and rocks carried by glacier meltwater. The moraine is preserved in the urban landscape, and many areas have developed on top of it.

Native Plants and Urban Wildlife

The QueensWay is an ecosystem in which native plants and animals can thrive in many areas. Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife, helping to maintain the ecosystem in a healthy state.

Planning the QueensWay: Six Zones

The QueensWay Plan outlines six distinct areas of the QueensWay, each with its own unique characteristics and potential uses. The areas are designed to connect the public to trails, while also providing access to various land uses and amenities. Each area has a specific focus and is designed to meet the needs of the surrounding community.