

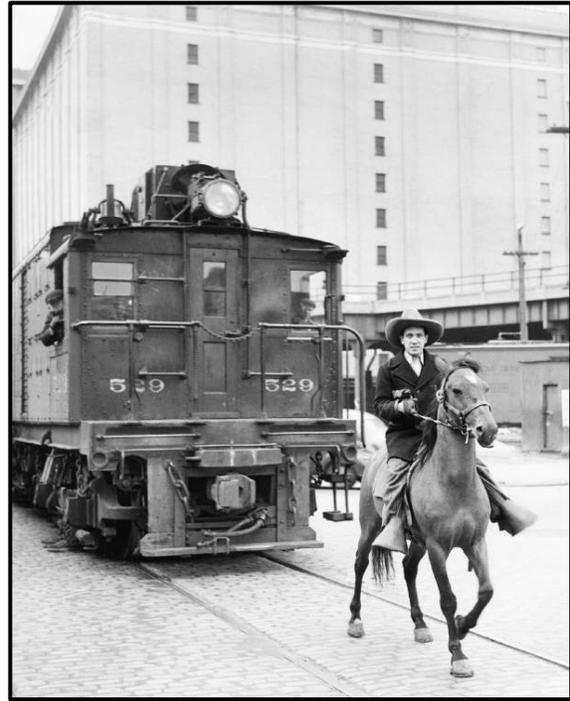
## High Line - Elevated NYC Park-Rail Trail

### **A brief history:**

In 1847, the City of New York authorized street-level railroad tracks down

Manhattan's West Side to ship freight. For safety, the railroads hired men called the "West Side Cowboys" to ride horses and wave flags in front of the trains. However, so many accidents occurred between freight trains and other traffic that Tenth Avenue became known as "Death Avenue".

After years of public debate about the hazard, in 1929 the city, the state of New York, and the New York Central Railroad agreed on the West Side Improvement Project, a large project that included the construction of the West Side Elevated Highway.



From 1934 to 1980 an elevated rail line, now called the High Line, connected the rail yards of mid-town Manhattan to an industrial district along the lower West Side of Manhattan. Constructed 30 feet above the ground, it avoided dangerous street crossings, and routed between 10th and 11th streets in its more northern sections the railway avoided association with the unpopular elevated sections of New York's subway system.



It connected directly to factories and warehouses, allowing trains to load and unload their cargo inside buildings. Milk, meat, produce, and raw and manufactured goods could be transported and unloaded without disturbing traffic on the streets.

The growth of interstate trucking in the 1950s led to a drop in rail traffic throughout the nation. The last train on the remaining part of the line was operated until 1980.

## The birth of the Highline Park:

After much controversy and considerable effort -- this is New York City -- the High Line opened an initial segment to the public (from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street) in June 2009. Section 2, extending the walkway to West 30th Street, was opened two years later. Completed in September 2014, the third and final section loops around the Hudson Yards located between West 30th and West 34th Streets. The aerial greenway now measures 1.45 miles.



The recycling of the railway into an urban park has brought on the revitalization of Chelsea, which had been "gritty" and in generally poor condition in the late twentieth century

More than 2M people visited the High Line during its first year; as of September, 2014, the number had grown to 5M per year.

Source: <https://www.thehighline.org/history/>