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The Brooklyn-Queens Greenway Guide



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Introduction

The Brooklyn-Queens Greenway (BQG) is a 40-mile, continuous pedestrian and cyclist route from Coney Island in Brooklyn to Fort Totten, on the Long Island Sound, in Queens.

The Brooklyn-Queens Greenway provides an active and engaging way of exploring these two lively and diverse boroughs. The BQG presents the cyclist or pedestrian with a wide range of amenities, cultural offerings, and urban experiences—linking 13 parks, two botanical gardens, the New York Aquarium, the Brooklyn Museum, the New York Hall of Science, two environmental education centers, four lakes, and numerous ethnic and historic neighborhoods. The guidebook also provides information about nearby public transportation, restrooms, places to eat, and bike shops.

The Brooklyn-Queens Greenway is part of the larger New York City Greenway System, an interconnected network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways linking parks and communities throughout the five boroughs. The Department of City Planning's 1993, *A Greenway Master Plan for New York City*, which outlined 350 miles of potential trails, noted that greenways are "...at once the parks for the 21st century and a part of the transportation infrastructure, providing for pleasant, efficient, healthful, and environmentally sound travel by foot, bicycle or skates."

New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) works closely with the Departments of Transportation and City Planning on the planning and implementation of the City's Greenway Network. Parks has jurisdiction and maintains over 100 miles of greenways for commuting and recreational use, and continues to plan, design, and construct additional greenway segments in each borough, utilizing City capital funds and a number of federal transportation grants.

In 1987, the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition spearheaded the concept of the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway, building on the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux, and Robert Moses in their creations of the great parkways and parks of Brooklyn and Queens. Feasibility and design studies were completed in 1988 with the help of many City agencies and civic and community groups. Recent City administrations have seen fit to further this vision of a chain of green from shore to shore, and today, the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway forms a critical component of the City's Greenway system.

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