

Putnam Greenway Overview

ULURP No. 090196MMX

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the applicant for this project, proposes a change in the City Map to reflect the mapping, as parkland, of a 2.5 mile segment of the decommissioned Putnam Railroad Right-Of-Way (ROW), from the Bronx-Westchester County Line in Van Cortlandt Park south to West 230th Street, for the development of a bicyclists and pedestrian greenway.

The Department of City Planning's Greenway Plan for New York City, as well as the Bronx Borough President's Greenway Plan for the Bronx, identifies the ROW as a priority acquisition for expanding New York City's Greenway. The ROW serves as a key component for what will eventually be a regional, non-vehicular trail system along the former Putnam Railroad Line proposed from Manhattan to Dutchess County.

The proposed action will facilitate a formalized bicycle and pedestrian path via the abandoned ROW with access points being proposed via ramps connecting at street level on West 230th Street, West 234th Street, and West 238th Street. The greenway design proposes an 8-foot bikeway and 4-foot pathway with various plantings flanking both sides of it. The design phase of the greenway and its construction through the park has been fully funded. DPR is expected to have the design proposal ready for public review by the end of 2010.

The State has offered the City preferential rights to the ROW through the park, therefore there is no funding required for the acquisition of this segment and construction of the greenway can begin once the design review process is completed. The 0.7 mile section south of the park to West 230th Street however is owned by CSX. Only following the approval of the ULURP application, can the City can begin negotiations with CSX for the segment's purchase. Partial funding for the acquisition has been budgeted through monies allotted from the building of the Croton Filtration Plant as well as from an Environmental Protection Fund grant award by the State in 2008.

In the future, DPR plans to continue the greenway through the ROW south of West 230th Street through a license agreement with the MTA, which owns the ROW in this area, after the MTA's current operations on the lines cease.

