

#22. THE 606

Location:
Chicago, United States
Year: 2004

Theme(s):
Partnership/ Inclusivity/ Stakeholder involvement

Languages: English
Source: <https://bit.ly/1DQE411>

WHY IS THIS A GOOD EXAMPLE?

100 years after being built, the line continues to shape the city while offering a commute with a view. From being an industrial beacon, impromptu nature trail to an innovative public space and alternative transportation corridor for the next generation, the Bloomingdale Line has been the site for innovation since its inception. The story of The 606 is one of the urban design and redesign. The rail line served the needs of the community over 100 years ago, and the park fits the needs of the community of today. It has been beautifully repurposed to support neighborhood cohesion, educational opportunities and promotion of arts. The trail now knits communities together where it once divided them.



Photo credit: <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor.html>

DESCRIPTION

A relic of the industrial past of Chicago, the 606 is the cities beloved (and first!) elevated park. Built on old freight train tracks, the park offers a bike path, rubberized jogging track, and outdoor art space with sweeping views of the city. Known as the Bloomingdale line, the tracks were constructed after the Great Chicago Fire in an effort to rebuild city infrastructure. In 2003, a group of local Chicagoans formed the Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail advisory council and began converting the tracks to parkland. Now, almost 15 years later, maintaining the 606 remains a community effort as locals and tourists alike come to make use of this beautiful and unique public space.

Owner
The City of Chicago and The Chicago Park District, and The Trust for Public Land
City Hall 121 N. LaSalle Street Chicago, Illinois 60602, USA
<https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/general/contact.html>
<https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor.html>