



The Rail Park's programming incorporates history and cultural sites. Photo: Courtesy of Friends of the Rail Park

HIGH LINE NETWORK CASE STUDY

Capturing a Neighborhood's Past and Future

Organization: Friends of the Rail Park

Park: [The Rail Park](#)

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Infrastructure type: Railway

Theme: Community Engagement

Project phase: Open / Ongoing

Friends of the Rail Park—whose project is revitalizing three miles of unused Philadelphia rail lines—took a temporal approach to creating a community assets map. The Rail Park Time Capsule will serve as a public archive of shared histories, stories, and hopes of the people who live in the 10-plus neighborhoods close to the park.

During art installations, musical performances, and tours, the organization invited neighbors to recount memories of people and places, and asked what they hoped the park would be in the future. Participants have shared fantastic memories and their park visions through written

narratives, photos, songs, and illustrations. One remembered gazing at the city skyline through a train window when the rail line was operational. Another recalled sneaking into the site as a child.

A digital archiving company will create an interactive, geotagged digital map with all the information the organization gathers. Friends of the Rail Park will also look to the time capsule to inform programming, communications, and capital planning.

Related Resources:

[CFT Case Study: Capturing a Neighborhood's Past and Future](#)

[Time Capsule: The Rail Park](#)

WHO WE ARE

Presented by the High Line, the High Line Network is a group of infrastructure reuse projects—and the people who help them come to life. As cities become denser and land for traditional parks becomes more scarce, residents are finding creative ways to bring greenspace to their neighborhoods. Projects in the High Line Network transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes. Redefining what a park can be, these hybrid spaces are also public squares, open-air museums, botanical gardens, social service organizations, walkways, transit corridors, and more. For more information about the High Line Network, please visit network.thehighline.org