



The High Line

Tour Guide: Tom Smarr, Director of Horticulture

Saturday, October 19, 2013

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM New York City, NY
(Rain or Shine)

\$20.00 ELA Member or \$25 Non-Member

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Located in the heart of Manhattan's lower west side, the High Line has become one of the most popular new park-gardens in New York City. This unique park is the restoration of a 1.45-mile section of the former elevated New York Central Railroad, West Side Line. Inspired by Paris' Promenade Plantée, this "aerial greenway" currently extends from Gansevoort Street to 30th Street.

Through collaborative efforts started in 1999, Friends of the High Line successfully preserved and transformed this extraordinary public space. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is maintained by the non-profit High Line Conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. With Phase 1 and Phase 2 opening in 2009 and 2011 respectively, the Friends of the High Line are actively working toward the third and final section, which would run between West 30th and West 34th Streets.

The restoration began with removal of everything down to the steel and concrete structure, in order to safely accommodate the public. The public space blends plant life (inspired by the self-seeded landscape that once grew on the abandoned track) with long walking paths, a water feature, viewing platforms, a sundeck, and gathering areas for performances, art exhibitions and educational programs. The majority of the plant species in the design of Section 1 of the High Line are native to New York.

Join Tom Smarr for an insider's view of the High Line's sustainable design elements such as the re-purposing of industrial infrastructure as public green space; the green roof design function that uses porous pathways to allow stormwater to irrigate adjacent planting beds; and the use of native plants to enhance habitat value and contribute to urban habitat corridors. Tom will explain the ecological management practices and will discuss High Line successes and challenges.

For more information: ela.info@comcast.net

Tom Smarr is the Director of Horticulture at the High Line and brings nearly two decades experience in horticulture, botanic gardens, organic/ecological landscaping, and non-profit management. Tom is committed to the preservation of cultural landscapes through sensible design, horticulture practices, and public education and is dedicated to the principle that landscapes should not only be beautiful and functional, but should contribute to a healthy ecology. Tom has also served on the ELA Board of Directors.

CEUs are being sought for this presentation.

