Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

98-00 - GENERAL PURPOSES

File generated by https://zr.planning.nyc.gov on 11/15/2026

98-00 - GENERAL PURPOSES

LAST AMENDED
8/24/2017

The "Special West Chelsea District" established in this Resolution, is designed to promote and protect public health, safety, general welfare and amenity. These general goals include among others, the following specific purposes:

(a) to encourage and guide the development of West Chelsea as a dynamic mixed use neighborhood;

(b) to encourage the development of residential uses along appropriate avenues and streets;

(c) to encourage and support the growth of arts-related uses in West Chelsea;

(d) to facilitate the restoration and reuse of the High Line elevated rail line as an accessible, public open space through special height and setback regulations, High Line improvement bonuses and the transfer of development rights from the High Line Transfer Corridor;

(e) to ensure that the form and use of new buildings relates to and enhances neighborhood character and the High Line open space;

(f) to create and provide a transition to the lower-scale Chelsea Historic District to the east;

(g) to create and provide a transition to the Hudson Yards area to the north; and

(h) to promote the most desirable use of land in the area and thus to conserve the value of land and buildings, and thereby protect the City's tax revenues, consistent with the foregoing purposes.

98-01 - Definitions

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

Definitions specifically applicable to this Chapter are set forth in this Section. The definitions of other defined terms are as set forth in Sections 12-10 (DEFINITIONS) and 32-301 (Definitions).

High Line

The "High Line" shall, for the purposes of this Chapter, refer to the elevated rail line structure and associated elevated easement located between Gansevoort Street and West 30th Street.

High Line bed

The "High Line bed" is the highest level of the horizontal surface (platform) of the #High Line# elevated rail line structure as of June 23, 2005, as shown in Diagram 7 in Appendix C of this Chapter. For the purposes of this Chapter, the level of the #High Line bed# is the average level of the #High Line bed# on a #zoning lot# over which the #High Line# passes.

High Line frontage

“High Line frontage” is that portion of a #building# that faces and is located within 15 feet of the west side and 25 feet of the east side of the #High Line#.

High Line Transfer Corridor

The “High Line Transfer Corridor” is an area within which the #High Line# is located, as specified in Appendix B of this Chapter, where development rights may be transferred to receiving sites in certain subareas in the #Special West Chelsea District#, pursuant to the provisions of Section 98-30 (HIGH LINE TRANSFER CORRIDOR), inclusive.

98-02 - General Provisions

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to any #zoning lot#, or portion thereof, within the #Special West Chelsea District#, except that the provisions of Sections 98-11 (Special Regulations for Developments and Enlargements Above, Beneath or Adjacent to the High Line) and 98-16 (Air Space Over a Railroad or Transit Right-of-way or Yard) shall also apply to any #zoning lot# south of the #Special West Chelsea District# over which the #High Line# passes. The regulations of all other Chapters of this Resolution are applicable, except as superseded, supplemented or modified by the provisions of this Chapter. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and other regulations of this Resolution, the provisions of this Chapter shall control. However, in #flood zones#, in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 4 (Special Regulations Applying in Flood Zones), the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 4, shall control.

The provisions regarding the transfer of #floor area# set forth in Section 98-30 (HIGH LINE TRANSFER CORRIDOR), inclusive, and the #High Line Improvement Bonus# in Subareas D, E, F, G and I set forth in Section 98-25 shall be effective upon the issuance of a final and binding Certificate of Interim Trail Use (CITU) by the Federal Surface Transportation Board and the execution of a trail use agreement between the City and CSX Transportation, Inc., or its successor, with respect to the #High Line#, or upon a determination by the Office of the Corporation Counsel that the restoration and reuse of the #High Line# as an accessible, public open space has been obtained pursuant to an alternative mechanism that protects the interests of the city.

Upon transfer of the #High Line# to the City, pursuant to ULURP application C 050163 PCM, and in accordance with such CITU and trail use agreement, the following shall apply:

(a) the provisions regarding the issuance of building permits set forth in Section 98-11 shall be effective;

(b) any area within the tax lot located at Section 3, Block 8224, Lot 111, as of June 23, 2005, which is separated from other portions of such tax lot by bounding streets, shall be considered a separate #zoning lot#; and

(c) underlying #use# and bulk regulations shall not apply to #uses# and #buildings and other structures# constructed on the #High Line# specifically in connection with its use as a public open space.

98-03 - District Plan and Maps

LAST AMENDED
11/13/2012

The regulations of this Chapter are designed to implement the #Special West Chelsea District# Plan.

The District Plan includes the following maps and illustrative diagrams in Appendices A, B and C and the special regulations in Appendices D, E and F:

Appendix A - Special West Chelsea District and Subareas

Appendix B - High Line Transfer Corridor Location

Appendix C - Illustrative Diagrams of the High Line and Building Envelopes for Sites Adjacent to the High Line

Diagram 2 - Street Wall and High Line Frontage Regulations in Subarea A

Diagram 3 - Subarea H Requirements

Diagram 4 - High Line Improvement Area Boundaries for Zoning Lots Divided by District Boundaries in Subareas D, E and G

Diagram 5 - Subarea I Requirements between West 16th and West 17th Streets

Diagram 6 - High Line Access Easement Volume Parameters

Diagram 7 - High Line Bed and Frontages

Appendix D - Special Regulations for Zoning Lots Utilizing the High Line Improvement Bonus in Subarea H

Appendix E - Special Regulations for Zoning Lots Utilizing the High Line Improvement Bonus and Located Partially Within Subareas D, E, G or I

Appendix F - Special Regulations for Zoning Lots Utilizing the High Line Improvement Bonus and Located Within Subarea J.

The maps and diagrams are hereby incorporated and made part of this Resolution. They are incorporated for the purpose of illustrating requirements or specifying locations where the special regulations and requirements set forth in this Chapter shall apply.

98-04 - Subareas and High Line Transfer Corridor

LAST AMENDED
11/13/2012

In order to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, Subareas A through K and a #High Line Transfer Corridor# are established within the #Special West Chelsea District#.

Within each of the Subareas and the #High Line Transfer Corridor#, certain special regulations apply that do not apply within the remainder of the #Special West Chelsea District#. The locations of the Subareas are shown in Appendix A of this Chapter. The location of the #High Line Transfer Corridor# is shown in Appendix B of this Chapter.

The Subareas and the #High Line Transfer Corridor# are subject to all other regulations of the #Special West Chelsea District# and the underlying district regulations, except as otherwise specified in this Chapter.