



2026 ULI NEW YORK
AWARDS *for*
EXCELLENCE *in*
DEVELOPMENT

East Midtown Greenway - New York, NY

Developer: New York City Economic Development Corporation

Owner: New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

Architect: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

East Midtown Greenway is an in-water public park between 53rd and 61st Streets built on newly constructed piers that stretch into the East River. The two-acre greenway closes a key gap in the not-yet-complete 32.5-mile Manhattan Waterfront Greenway loop as part of the envisioned 22-block East River Esplanade. The path offers shade, benches, and a biking and walking path. Additionally, a new, 115-foot pedestrian bridge over the FDR Drive at 54th Street now eases passage to the new waterfront park. Most noteworthy is the novel way troughs were designed into the path's edges to anchor newly planted trees and soil cells for trees' lateral root growth. Sloped pavements capture stormwater to irrigate new plants, all of which are native to New York State. Also of note are lighter-colored pavements to reduce the urban heat island effect—designed so the greenway can withstand flooding and sea-level rise, and the \$3 million in funding returned to the city due to efficient engagement, approvals, and planning between a complex group of stakeholders such as community boards and several city agencies. In a city starved for greenspace and flood mitigation, East Midtown Greenway offers future generations a place to unwind and enjoy spectacular waterfront views.