

# Chicago's 606 Trail Brings Community, Connection to City Neighborhoods



Location: Chicago, Illinois  
Details: Bloomingdale Trail

*"We're taking a 100-year-old piece of our industrial heritage and repurposing it for another 100 years. This was a rail corridor and now it's going to be this beautiful park, a living work of art and a transportation corridor all rolled into one,"*

– Beth White  
Director of The Trust for Public Land's  
Chicago regional office



## Project Summary

**Challenge:** Provide efficacious, energy-efficient, vandal-resistant luminaires to safeguard pedestrians, cyclists and drivers beneath Chicago's 606 (Bloomingdale) Trail.

**Solution:** LuxTran™ LED luminaires installed in 37 (one new and 36 restored historic) concrete viaducts, which accommodate two-to-six lanes of ground-level vehicular traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.

**Benefit:** 150,000 hour LED lifetime (L70) means significantly reduced maintenance, LEDs provides rapid payback, and rugged fixtures withstand the constant vibration generated by viaduct traffic.

## LuxTran™ Helps Deliver Pedestrian Safety and Energy Savings Under the 606 Bloomingdale Trail, Chicago, IL



### An old rail line gets new life.

For 80 years the Bloomingdale rail line hauled coal, furniture, yeast, toys and other goods to and from businesses adjacent to its tracks. In the 1990s, the trains stopped hauling goods and nature flourished. Today, this defunct rail line is the Bloomingdale Trail—part of The 606, which opened in June 2015 on Chicago's West Side. Currently the longest elevated trail in the world, it has 37 viaducts—36 of which are restored 1910 structures—holding it aloft.



Above: Chicago Public Art Group mural restoration (2015) of Children Are Our Future (1979) in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago. Restored by original artists: John Pitman Weber and Cathy Cajandig. Mural done in partnership then (1979) as now (2015) with Youth Service Project. Youth Artist pictured, Tattianna Howard, 22.

### Illuminating patron safety and local art.

The 606 has proven to be extremely popular, attracting families, recreational bikers, runners and walkers, as well as neighborhood residents going to and from work and school. To preserve users' safety and comfort, good visibility is paramount: local residents demand bright, reliable lighting.

To help address safety concerns for neighborhood residents and new users of The 606, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) installed a total of 186 new Kenall LuxTran LED luminaires under the trail's viaducts, as well as 28 new tunnel-specific High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamps.

Despite the fact that the luminaires remain on 24 hours per day, they consume less power than the old HID fixtures and are more efficacious as well. The luminaires also provide significantly improved color rendering index (CRI) values which helps illuminate new and restored artwork along the trail such as the recently restored 35-year-old mural, "Children are our Future", at California Avenue. Even glimpses of the underlying historic bridge framework can now be seen, thanks to ample uplighting under the viaducts.

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**Above:** Notice the sharp contrast in light levels and color between the existing HID light on the left and the Kenall LED fixtures on the right.

### Kenall LuxTran Features:

- One-piece, seam-welded, corrosion-resistant, marine-grade aluminum housing with polyester powder coat finish
- Mounting brackets allow 360° adjustment
- Stainless steel, rotary latches with tool-less access to electrical compartment
- Prismatic tempered glass lens
- Standard 0-10% dimming capability

### Benefits for CDOT:

- Increased safety under and around viaducts
- Reduced power consumption vs. incumbent technology
- Reduced maintenance
- Designed to withstand rough use and vibration

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