





1900s-1910s

The New York City subway began in the early 1900s with the establishment of the first IRT line on October 27, 1904. The Rapid Transit Act of 1894 led to the creation of a board to plan the subway, and William Barclay Parsons designed the system with a central line and branches. The first line ran from City Hall to 145th Street and included local and express tracks. It connected major government and business areas, making it a valuable economically and politically, and it immediately became a success with around 100,000 riders on its opening day. The Dual Contracts of 1913 later shaped the system into the "T" layout by 1918, supporting development in Manhattan, Harlem, and the Bronx.

1950s

Parkchester was built beginning in 1938 as one of the first large-scale planned residential communities, covering 129 acres with over 12,000 apartments. It was designed as a "city within a city," including parks, courtyards, public art, and a major shopping center. Over time, it attracted a wide range of residents and became one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the Bronx. This growth helped make the Parkchester station one of the busiest stops on the B train.

1980s

The type of people riding the B train at Parkchester reflects the diversity of the neighborhood itself. Mornings and afternoons are filled with students heading to school, retail and service workers commuting to jobs in Manhattan, office workers traveling downtown, and families running errands or visiting other parts of the Bronx. You'll see immigrants who depend on the subway as their main mode of transportation.

2000s

Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the NYC subway system - including the B train - became even more essential for daily travel. With safety cameras, new security measures, and major renovations above ground, the subway remained the most reliable way for New Yorkers to move through the city. Line 6 connected the Bronx and Manhattan to key transit hubs like Grand Central during a period of reconstruction and resilience. This era highlighted how critical the subway system was in keeping the city functioning during times of crisis.

2025

We, as a group, rode Line 6 in order to get a sense of its importance. We arrived at the station around 4:30 p.m. at the beginning of rush hour, and the station quickly grew more and more crowded. One thing we found unique was the beautiful mosaic art displayed along the walls, along with movie posters and ads that added to the vibrant atmosphere. When we first got to the track, it was relatively empty, but as the train's arrival approached, the platform filled with students, union workers, and businesspeople. It was interesting to see so many different types of people from all walks of life sharing the same space. As we got closer to the Bronx, more passengers began to get off, likely heading home from work or school. Overall, it was a very cool experience that allowed us to appreciate the complexities