



## The Wildwoods “Sightseer” Tram Car Fact Sheet

- The five original electric Tram Car trains were custom built for the 1939 New York World’s Fair. Greyhound Bus Company had the transportation contract for the Fair. They were called Greyhound Trackless Trains.
- In 1949, Wildwood Businessman Gilbert Ramagosa purchased the Tram Car trains and put them into service on the Wildwoods Boardwalk on June 11, 1949. The fare was 10 cents each way.
- From 1949 until 1963, five Tram Cars serviced the Wildwoods Boardwalk. In 2014, five additional Tram Car Trailers were ordered and for the first time since 1949, five of the original Tram Cars were retired.
- In 1963, three new, complete Tram Car trains were custom built by a metal shop in Camden, New Jersey.
- From 1963 until 2007, eight Tram Car trains serviced the Wildwoods Boardwalk.
- In 1994, Mr. Ramagosa sold the Tram Cars to a group of local business people. Gilbert Ramagosa passed away in 1995.
- In 2004, in an effort to preserve the Tram Car service, which was falling victim to increased insurance costs, property values and other operating expenses, the private, non-profit Wildwoods Boardwalk Special Improvement District Management Corporation (WSID) purchased the Boardwalk Tram Car system.
- In 2007, in an effort to increase passenger capacity and rider comfort, WSID ordered the construction of five new Tram Car trailers.
- Rampage Trailers, from Middle Township, New Jersey, built exact replicas of the original Tram Cars from scratch, without any drawings or prints.
- Each new Tram Car trailer costs approximately \$18,000 to build and outfit.
- The Tram Cars can run for up to 12 hours on a single charge from their 2,000-pound electric batteries.
- The Sightseer Tram Cars carry approximately 600,000 people annually.
- Since 1949, the Wildwoods Boardwalk Sightseer Tram Cars have carried over 20 million passengers on the Wildwoods Boardwalk.
- “Watch The Tram Car Please,” which is broadcast over speakers in the engine of the Tram Car as a warning for pedestrians, is one of the most recognizable phrases at the Jersey Shore. The current warning was recorded in 1963 by North Wildwood resident Floss Stingel.
- The five original Tram Car trains are some of the oldest, continually operating modes of public transportation in the United States.