

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-8**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**Highwoods Properties, Inc.***(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)***Maryland***(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)***6798***(Primary Standard Industrial  
Classification Code Number)***56-1871668***(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)***3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604  
(919) 872-4924***(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of the registrant's principal executive offices)***HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC. 2015 LONG-TERM EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN***(Full Title of the Plan)***Jeffrey D. Miller, Esq.  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary  
Highwoods Properties, Inc.  
3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604  
(919) 872-4924***(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)*

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check One):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company 

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Securities To Be Registered</b>	<b>Amount To Be Registered <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee <sup>(2)</sup></b>
Common Stock	3,000,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$42.57	\$127,710,000	\$14,839.90

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement shall also cover additional shares of common stock which may become issuable by reason of any stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization or other similar transaction effected without consideration which results in an increase in the number of Highwoods Properties, Inc.'s shares of outstanding common stock.

(2) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h) of the Securities Act of 1933. The proposed maximum offering price per share, proposed maximum aggregate offering price and the amount of the registration fee are based on the average of the high and low prices of Highwoods Properties, Inc. on the New York Stock Exchange on May 11, 2015.

(3) Represents the number of shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Highwoods Properties, Inc. issuable under the Highwoods Properties, Inc. 2015 Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). Shares of common stock issuable under the Plan include awards of restricted stock and shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options and restricted stock units under the Plan.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is filed by Highwoods Properties, Inc. (the “Company”) relating to 3,000,000 shares of our common stock to be offered and sold under the Company’s 2015 Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”).

### PART I INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

(a) The documents constituting Part I of this Registration Statement will be sent or given to participants in the Plan as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”).

(b) Upon written or oral request, the Company will provide, without charge, the documents incorporated by reference in Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement. The documents are incorporated by reference in the Section 10(a) prospectus. The Company will also provide, without charge, upon written or oral request, other documents required to be delivered to employees pursuant to Rule 428(b). Requests for the above-mentioned information should be directed to Jeffrey D. Miller at the address and telephone number on the cover of this Registration Statement.

### PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

#### Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference

The following documents filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) are incorporated herein by reference and are deemed to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents:

- (1) The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014;
- (2) The information specifically incorporated by reference into the 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K from the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 3, 2015;
- (3) The Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015;
- (4) The Company’s Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 28, 2015, April 22, 2015 (excluding Items 7.01 and 9.01) and May 13, 2015;
- (5) The description of the Company’s common stock contained in the Company’s registration statement on Form 8-A dated May 16, 1994, including all amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- (6) All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement that indicates that all securities offered have been sold or that deregisters all securities that remain unsold.

As described in Note 14 to the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements included in the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, our segment information for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was retrospectively revised from previously reported amounts to not separately report the industrial segments as they no longer meet the definition of an operating segment in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The amounts related to these components are now included in the “Other” caption.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated herein by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purpose of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is, or is deemed to be, incorporated herein by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

#### Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

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**Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.**

Certain legal matters with respect to the validity of the common stock registered hereby have been passed upon for the Company by Jeffrey D. Miller, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company. Mr. Miller is employed by the Company, is eligible to participate in the Plan from time to time and owns or has rights to acquire an aggregate of less than 0.1% of the Company's common stock.

**Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The Company's officers and directors are and will be indemnified against certain liabilities in accordance with the Maryland General Corporation Law, the charter and bylaws of the Company and the partnership agreement of the Operating Partnership. The charter requires the Company to indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted from time to time by the Maryland General Corporation Law. The Maryland General Corporation Law permits a corporation to indemnify its directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, or the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services, or in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

The Company also maintains a policy of directors and officers liability insurance covering certain liabilities incurred by the Company's directors and officers in connection with the performance of their duties.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the Company has been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

<u>Ex.</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	Form of certificate representing shares of common stock (filed as part of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 (No. 33-76952) filed with the SEC on March 28, 1994 and incorporated herein by reference)
5	Opinion of Counsel
10	Highwoods Properties, Inc. 2015 Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan (filed as part of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 13, 2015 and incorporated herein by reference)
23	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
24	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned Company and the Plan hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price

represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the “Calculation of Registration Fee” table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change in such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Company pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Company and the Plan hereby undertake that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Company’s annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan’s annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company pursuant to Item 6 of this Part II, or otherwise, the Company and the Plan have been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Company of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Company in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Company will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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May 13, 2015

Highwoods Properties, Inc.  
3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600  
Raleigh, NC 27604

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is being delivered to Highwoods Properties, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the “Company”), in connection with its registration statement on Form S-8, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) on May 13, 2015 (the “Registration Statement”) to register under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 3,000,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “Shares”), for issuance and sale by the Company in accordance with the Company’s 2015 Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”).

In connection therewith, I have examined the originals, or photostatic or certified copies, of such records of the Company and of public officials and such other documents as I have deemed relevant and necessary as the basis for the opinions set forth below. In my examination, I have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity and competency of all natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals and the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to me as copies. I have also assumed that there are no agreements or understandings between or among the Company and any participants in the Plan that would expand, modify or otherwise affect the terms of the Plan or the respective rights or obligations of the participants thereunder. Finally, I have assumed the accuracy of all other information provided to me by the Company during the course of my investigation, on which I have relied in issuing the opinion expressed below.

Based upon and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, I am of the opinion that the Shares to be issued by the Company under the Plan have been duly authorized by the Company and, when issued and delivered by the Company upon receipt of the consideration therefor as provided in, and otherwise in accordance with, the Plan and the resolutions of the Company’s board of directors authorizing the adoption of the Plan and the registration of the Shares, such Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600, Raleigh, NC 27604-1051  
Phone: 919.872.4924 Fax: 919.876.2448  
www.highwoods.com Listed: New York Stock Exchange - HIW

My opinion set forth above is subject to the following general qualifications and assumptions:

1. The foregoing opinion is rendered as of the date hereof. I assume no obligation to update or supplement the opinion if any laws change after the date hereof or if any facts or circumstances come to our attention after the date hereof that might change the opinion.
2. I have made no investigation as to, and I express no opinion concerning, any laws other than the Maryland General Corporation Law, applicable provisions of the Constitution of the State of Maryland and reported judicial decisions interpreting the Maryland General Corporation Law and such applicable provisions of such Constitution, and I do not express any opinion herein concerning any other laws.
3. Without limiting the effect of the immediately preceding qualification, I express no opinion as to compliance with the securities or "blue sky" laws or principles of conflicts of laws of the State of Maryland or any other jurisdiction.
4. I assume that the issuance of the Shares, together with all outstanding shares of the Company and other issuances by the Company, will not cause the Company to issue shares of common stock in excess of the number of such shares authorized by the Company's Charter.
5. I assume that none of the Shares will be issued in violation of Article VI of the Charter.

I consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, and I further consent to the use of my name under Item 5 in the Registration Statement and the prospectus that forms a part thereof. In giving this consent, I do not thereby admit that I am within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the Rules and Regulations of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jeffrey D. Miller

Jeffrey D. Miller  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary



**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our reports relating to the consolidated financial statements of Highwoods Properties, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) (which report expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company’s adoption of the new accounting standard for reporting discontinued operations) and the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting dated February 10, 2015, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2014.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Raleigh, North Carolina  
May 13, 2015