

# NEW YORK'S NEW PARKLAND FRESH KILLS FACTSHEET

## TRANSFORMATION OF FRESH KILLS BEGINS

New York's New Parkland at Fresh Kills will be one of the most ambitious public works projects in the world, combining state of the art ecological restoration techniques with extraordinary settings for recreation, public art, and facilities for many sports and programs that are unusual in the city. At 2,200 acres, the site is 2.5 times the size of Central Park. It has the potential to become an international model of creative reuse that will transform how we experience vast, reclaimed urban landscapes.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FRESH KILLS TODAY?

Opened in 1948 and closed in 2001, the landfill is now in the process of being capped and replanted. Already, many of the landscapes of Fresh Kills possess a stark beauty, with 360 degree, wide horizon views from the hills, over 300 acres of salt marsh and a winding network of creeks. On September 29, 2003, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the selection of an interdisciplinary design team, headed by Field Operations, an urban design and landscape architecture firm, to lead the master planning process for the transformation of Fresh Kills. The team has since been studying the site's systems and ecologies, analyzing local traffic patterns, and identifying potential recreational activities. The team has begun to meet with leaders of civic groups, public agencies and the public to gather ideas and identify goals and concerns.

## WHAT IS A LANDFILL?

The mounds at Fresh Kills are the result of 50 years of land-filling household waste. By 1997, 3 of the 6 mounds were covered with a thick, impermeable cap. The remaining 3 are expected to be fully capped between 2008 and 2011.

Solid waste breaks down over time. The main products of this decomposition are landfill gas and leachate. Landfill gas is methane, carbon dioxide, water and other organic compounds. Leachate is the liquid by-product of the breakdown of household waste. Fresh Kills is highly engineered, with sophisticated systems in place to

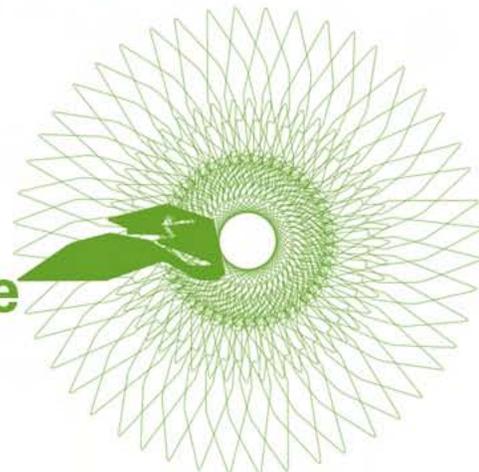
collect and treat these by-products, and to protect public health and the environment. For example, methane is harvested from Fresh Kills to produce energy for cooking and heating in New York City homes.

As gas and liquid are extracted, the waste becomes denser and the landfill settles. (Almost 50% of settlement occurs in the first 5 to 10 years.) Thirty years from now, decomposition will be complete. At that point, settlement, and gas and leachate production will end. Environmental agencies will continue to closely monitor the site for at least this 30-year period. No area of the landfill will be opened to the public until it has been tested and found safe for park use.

## BUILDING FRESH KILLS PARKLAND

Phased development of the Fresh Kills parkland can begin on the 3 mounds that are already closed and in the areas that were never landfill—over 55% of the 3.4-square mile site. Although there are some limitations that come with reuse of a landfill, cities all over the world have successfully converted landfills to parks offering golf, skiing, windsurfing, playing fields, nature preserves and sculpture gardens. Many of these parks opened not long after the landfill cap was in place. A world-class park at Fresh Kills can be built in stages, beginning shortly after public reviews of the master plan are completed in 2007.

**lifescape**





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- New York City Dept of Cultural Affairs
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- Office of the Staten Island Borough President
- New York State Dept of State
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**PARK DESIGN GOALS**

- Transform Fresh Kills into a unique asset
- Create a world class park through public engagement, creative design and environmental innovation
- Improve quality of life and active recreation opportunities on Staten Island and in the region
- Build an ecologically-sound road system that provides a framework for the park and reduces local traffic congestion

**NEXT STEPS**

In spring and summer of 2004, the City and the design team will meet with the public in a series of community design workshops. The team will describe the proposed concept plan in detail and gather ideas for activities for specific areas of the site—areas the City believes are feasible for early redevelopment. We hope you will come share your thoughts and participate in designing New York's New Parkland: a lifescape at Fresh Kills.

- March 2004 First Public Presentation
- April 2004 Community Design Workshop to gather ideas about desired activities and amenities for North Park / Loop sites.
- May 2004 Community Design Workshop to gather ideas about desired activities and amenities for South Park / Richmond sites.
- May 2004 Community Design Workshop, including families and rescue workers, to gather ideas for September 11 site.

Candace Damon  
Director of Outreach for Field Operations Team  
Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler  
New York, New York  
212.977.5597 x 275

