

fresh kills reserve
staten island, new york

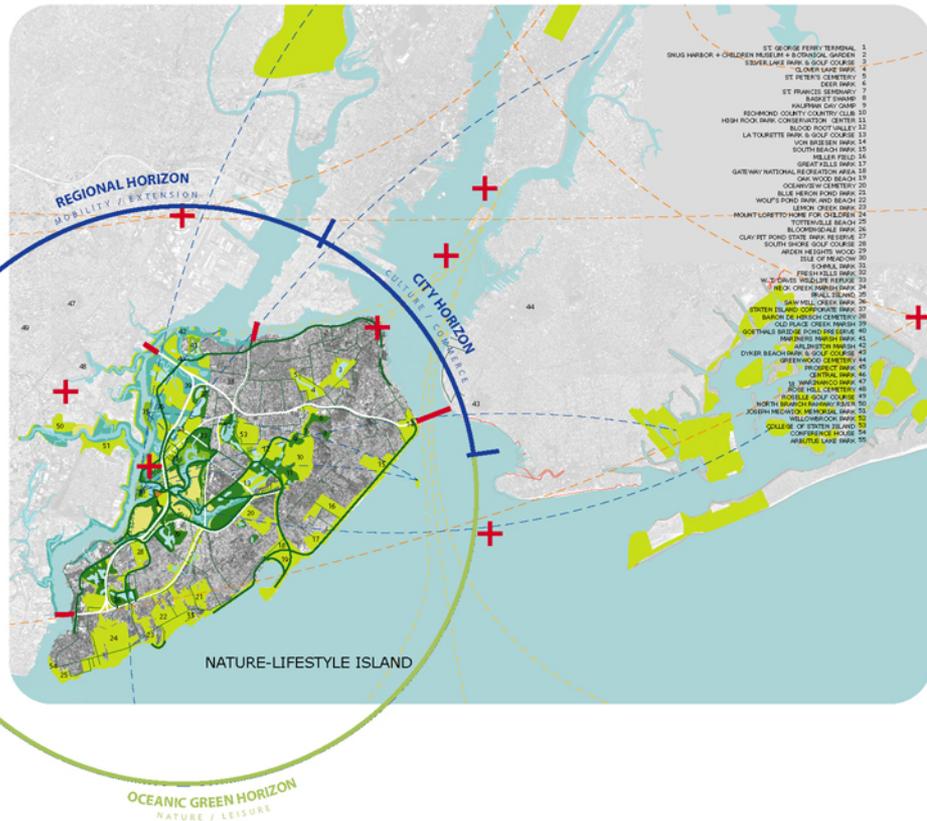
a regional ecology:

The closure of Fresh Kills Landfill marks a significant shift in land-use for Staten Island - from a past condition with over 40% of land designated as industrial or vacant, to a future scenario where over 75% of the land area will comprise nature, recreation and residential programs, with over 40% designated as open space. This is both generous and appropriate given the fact that Staten Island supports more plant species, including many endangered species, than any similarly sized area in New York State. Because of its geographical location, glacial and estuarine geomorphology, range of soil types and microclimates, Staten Island is home to many southern species reaching their northern limits and many northern species reaching their southern limits. This creates a rich mix of ecosystems, many unique in the region, and some fundamental to the health of larger ecosystems, such as the estuary, the heron nesting island network, and the eastern migrating bird flyway.

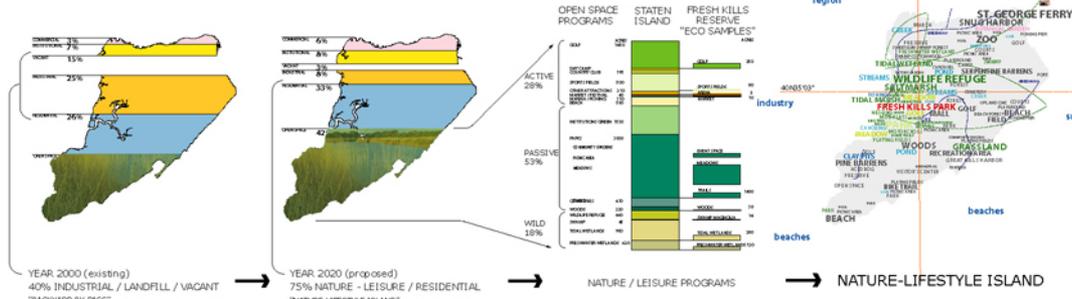
In the past, small islands of nature have persisted amidst urban sprawl. That unsustainable pattern can now be reversed: Staten Island can assume its new identity as an expansive "nature sprawl", a big spread of lush vegetation open space, birds, mammals and amphibians. Once backyard by-pass in a larger and more vital metropolis, Staten Island will now be recast as an expansive network of greenways, recreational open spaces, and restored habitat reserves - a new nature-lifestyle island, both destination and envy of the surrounding urbanites.

As a catalyst for this new identity, the reclaimed Fresh Kills Reserve will form an expansive green matrix of infinite horizons and newly connected ecosystems.

The restoration of Fresh Kills may be directed toward creating a huge nature reserve, within which a representative sample of each major Staten Island ecosystem and open space type finds a place. Such a vision is not just for the birds - it marks a strategic repositioning of Staten Island's identity as a place to live, raise children, visit and enjoy - a rich reserve in an otherwise densely urban metropolis.



- OPEN SPACE**
 - MEADOW / BAYLAND
 - FOREST / WOODS
 - LANDFILL MEADOWS
 - FRESHWATER PONDS & WETLANDS
 - TIDAL SALTMARSH
 - TIDAL STREAMS AND CREEKS
- LINKS AND CIRCULATION**
 - WEST SHORE EXPRESSWAY
 - EXISTING INTERCHANGES
 - PROPOSED INTERCHANGES
 - EXISTING ARTERIALS
 - PROPOSED NEW THROUGH-ROADS
 - GREENWAY PATHS
 - ON-STREET BICYCLE LANES



As a catalyst for reshaping the entire identity of Staten Island, the reclaimed Fresh Kills Reserve will form an expansive green matrix of infinite horizons, inter-connected ecosystems and pathways.