Fresh Kills Parklands

Fresh Kills landfill to landscape is a challenge embracing many subjects: scale, economy of means, ecology, sociology, transportation, and engineering. What distinguishes Fresh Kills from the many projects we have done as individuals, firms, and as a team, is scale: the vastness of the undertaking. We are reminded that large landscapes are living dynamic entities set in motion by initial designs and forever evolving in relation to human activities and biological development. Perhaps that is why we have conceptualized **Fresh Kills Parklands** as a series of strategies. We believe employing in different places and at different times, three linked but different landscape strategies: succession, operation, and transformation, the Parklands can be realized soon with a relative economy of means. We also believe these strategies will help conceptualize the management of the Parklands for several centuries.

In the end the strategies must lead to a meaningful environment, and with 2,200 acres, there is an imperative to create places for our culture and enhance regional biodiversity. Our proposal seeks the intersection of landscape strategy, community expression, and memorable place making. **The Domain** is meant to be an extension of Staten Island's life into the Parklands whether it be communal and indoors, communal and outdoors, or individualistic and partaking of the outdoors. Community Centers will provide places where people can participate in the life and affairs of their communities, within the Parklands. The Domain is the ground of the community.

The Meadows offer the condition of forest and grassland edge. A condition long favored by emerging wildlife for biological reasons and humans for gazing out from the forest edge to the open meadow. Walks, talks, and reflections are our favored activities in such an environment. Along these walks site installations created through interdisciplinary collaboration provide insight about natural phenomena, show a new way of "seeing" or point out a unique or odd natural feature. In each case, these provide an element of surprise, delight, insight. Linked together by pedestrian bridges over the bluebelt, the Domain and Meadows offer places one cannot often visit at once without the aid of the car. These bridges would be dedicated to the interconnected nature of all things, as serene, contemplative open-air stops where visitors can pause and be amazed by all possibilities.

Lake Island is a bird sanctuary. A newly resurrected place available to pedestrians only along its edge, it is separated by a canal from The Fields, a very active regional facility that can become widely regarded as a central sporting complex for the region. One can imagine many familial pictures from the Fields as youth, camaraderie, and American life array themselves through time at this place. Ferry service will transport people from New Jersey and New York City directly to the heart of the park, connecting the life of the greater community with the life of the park and its cultural, recreational, and educational activities.

Joining all these places, a powerful architectural statement transforms the bridge at Route 440 into an announcement of Fresh Kills' entry into the public realm. The center at this center of the site: The Hall of exhibits, inquiry, and collaborative projects, with a remarkable relationship to the creek and highway, offers the public a journey of the mind, or into the Parklands. A cross-disciplinary exhibition hall with an ongoing series of curated shows and exhibitions of creative work loosely based on a history of humanity's dreams and investigations, The Hall becomes a museum of "possibilities".

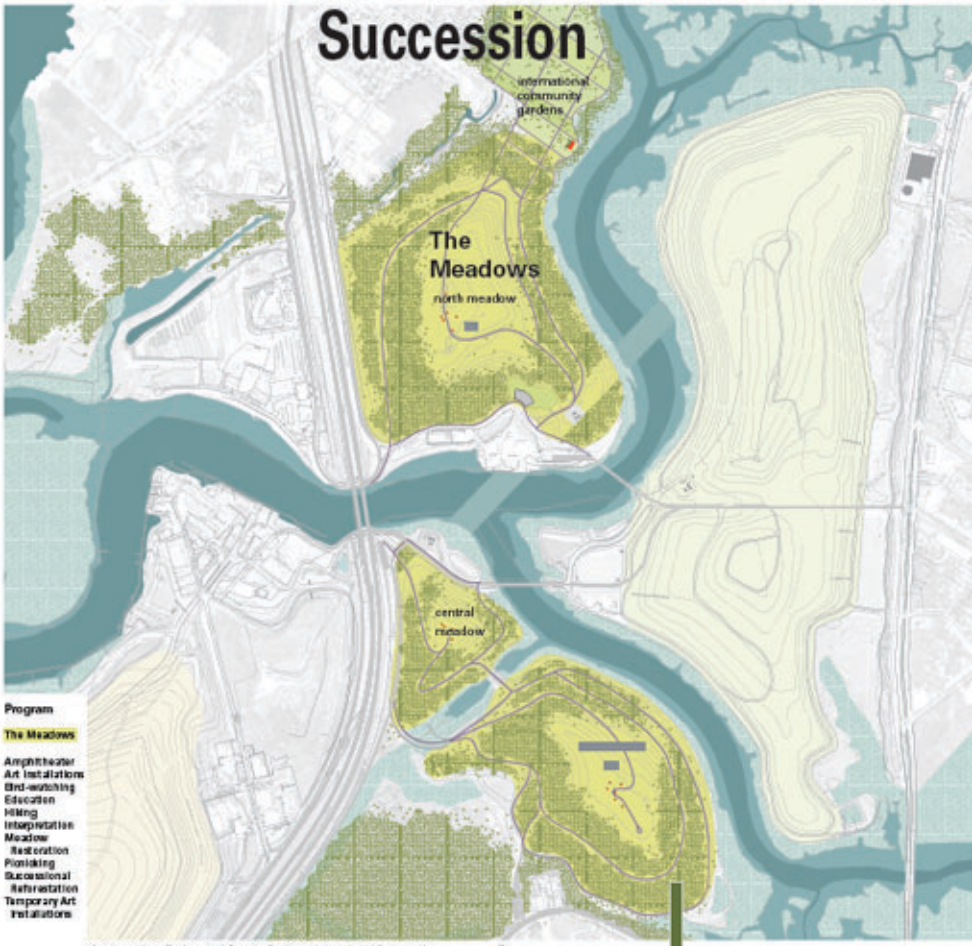
Finally there is another place - **The Preserve**. A place of transformation, of memory and metamorphosis: life and death; hope despite loss; perseverance against adversity. Its dictionary definition, "keep free or safe from harm, decay; keep alive a name, memory" almost does this place justice. We would simply add that it is a place for the global community to reflect, remember, and seek peace.

The world is not yet exhausted;
let me see something tomorrow
which I never saw before.
Samuel Johnson

Even a thought, even a possibility,
can shatter us and transform us.
Friedrich Nietzsche

The true past departs not,
no truth or goodness realized by man ever dies,
or can die;
but all is still here, and, recognized or not,
lives and works through endless change.
Thomas Carlyle

Land. The restoration of a precious natural resource, especially one of this size and scope, represents a singular obligation to build for the ages - something that will endure and become intertwined with New York life and the American imagination; a stellar civic amenity that expresses and perhaps defines (for future generations) who we are, what we believe in, and what we value.



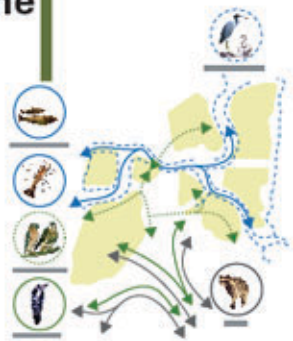
phasing notes - De-fragment forest - Configure International Community Garden - Strategic addition of topsoil to Sections 3/4 and 2/8 - Establish native and forest species to Sections 3/4 and 2/8 -Install "Wind Buoys"- Construct outdoor Amphitheater - Initiate salt marsh restoration -

phase one

context

analysis

islands



ecological movement