

Fresh Kills Parklands

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.

Spirit. The transformation that will occur over the next thirty years could not be more dramatic. Like the mythological Phoenix, the park will rise from the ashes, a living testament to the resilience of nature and the highest aspirations of the human spirit, a change from something discarded and dismissed into something desirable. Themes of hope and renewal, memory and loss, will co-exist, mirroring nature's eternal cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

Mind. As the park evolves over time, and is experienced by people from all over the world, new levels of meaning will accrue. Visitors will be exhilarated and enthralled - transformed - by what they see and do and learn. Interpretive programs will engage all the senses, employing those facets of human nature that allow us to understand and deeply appreciate the world we live in: our creativity, spirituality, ingenuity, inventiveness, and curiosity.

Community. The democratic ideals that have shaped American society will imbue the park with a spirit of community, tolerance, an appreciation of our diversity, a sense that all are welcome. A set of well-designed places and experiences will encourage citizens to share their cultures and ideas with others, to become more involved in society - not only in public concerns but also in art, science, and the humanities.

World. Perhaps the most important transformation is in our perspective on nature. We and all living things ultimately share a common existence and destiny; and that social, economic, and environmental systems are profoundly interdependent. Visitors to the park will gain insight into our human nature, our place in the world, and how we can create a sustainable, renewable future by following nature's own example.