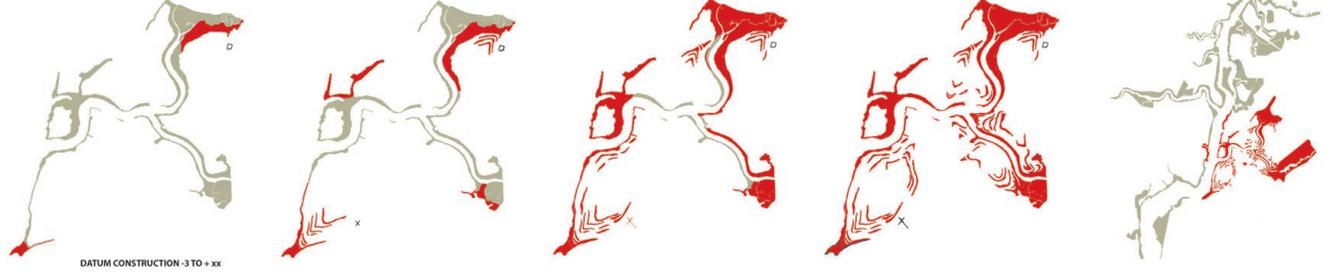


*Spartina alterniflora* constructs the foundation for land-building at FK. It triggers a vertical zonation of species even as it grows further out to colonize more land from under tidal water. Today, its native successor -- the once commercially popular

*Spartina patens* or marsh hay -- is displaced by the invasive *Phragmites* (giant reed). We propose to cut into the land below the phragmites, lowering its datum and increasing salinity, allowing *Spartina* to recolonize and rebuild. The soil removed will be (after

composting) available to construct 'bench nurseries' on the mounds that intercept the fresh water (and sediment) coming down. We see this as an ongoing process of datum-building, one that maintains the agency of *Spartina* rather than merely its habitat.



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ONE SHOP AND PARTNERS  
APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
LEAFLEAF

DYNAMIC - 3

# MATERIAL DATUM

## DEPOSITION - 3 MARSH DETRITUS

The salt marshes of FK are deposits of soil and detritus. The pioneer of this environment is *Spartina alterniflora*, an indigenous salt-tolerant grass that has its beginnings in a seed or a raft that breaks away and roots itself. Spreading rhizomatically, it forms dense baffles that trap sediment and detritus, extend and raise land, and make way for less salt-tolerant species.

a datum generator / a rhizome / a successional environment

