



Rewilding a Post-Industrial Landscape:

a story about diversity

After centuries of extractive industry and decades of abandonment, unique ecosystems are emerging in a 520-acre quarried landscape along a 1-mile stretch of the Hudson River shoreline. How can we welcome community to this place while amplifying ecological value and upholding cultural meaning with the resourcefulness of a regional non-profit land trust? Follow the client/design team's analysis and strategies aimed at bolstering biodiversity and transforming an oversized site into inclusive gathering spaces within a framework of interpretation, stabilization, and recovery.

ASLA 2024 INSIGHT

Conference on Landscape Architecture

OCTOBER 6-9 | Washington, DC

SUN - B03 | Sunday, October 6 | 10:15 - 11:30 AM



Learning Outcomes

1. Understand how a well-executed Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) process can inform land use planning of a post-industrial landscape from habitat surveys to partner driven management strategies.
2. Learn from various engagement strategies to facilitate community agency in the planning process for hard to reach and poorly served local, low income neighborhoods and non-english speaking communities.
3. Learn about erosion management and vegetative restoration techniques in no-soil and minimal soil quarry landscapes to promote ecosystem restoration and protect water quality.
4. Gain insight on strategies for trail management and inclusive access that complement the ecological regeneration goals.
5. Learn about technical science and data driven analytical processes in habitat quality assessments leading to pragmatic design and land management recommendations.

Outline

1. Hudson Valley: Linking Conservation and Community
 - a. Scenic Hudson and Mission
 - b. River Cities + Equity
2. From Advocacy to Stewardship
 - a. 20 years of work to protect public waterfront access and a key landscape
 - b. Site acquisition and non-profit/state/city partnerships
 - c. Finding a name, with a purpose
3. Meet the Site
 - a. Post-industrial sublime
 - b. Uncovering the layers of history that shaped the land
 - c. What is living here now: ecological assessments and opportunities
4. Planning a park for humans and non-humans
 - a. Community engagement + priorities for nature
 - b. Design principles
 - c. Framework Strategy: Destinations, Interpretation, and Ecological Value
5. Tending the Rewilding
 - a. Ecological restoration approaches
 - b. Site analysis and evaluation: measuring habitat health and value
 - c. Habitat enhancement and design scenario methodologies
 - d. Test case: habitat creation and erosion mitigation at the Waterfront Pavilion
6. A Park in the Making
 - a. Biodiversity monitoring
 - b. Community Activation: trails and events
 - c. Future
7. Q & A



Heather Blaikie, ASLA, PLA
Scenic Hudson, Inc.

Heather Blaikie, RLA, is a Senior Park Planner at Scenic Hudson, Inc. a non-profit environmental organization and land trust in New York State's Hudson Valley. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture degree from Cornell University and a Master of Environmental Planning and Design from the University of Georgia. She believes that equitable access to public spaces in bio-diverse environments is an innate source of inspiration that can amplify personal life experiences, improving one's own well being. Her own inspiration through observation of existing wetland habitats and plant assemblages and their unique natural processes.



Marni Burns, ASLA, PLA
OLIN

Marni Burns, ASLA, is a Partner at OLIN with over 16 years experience in Landscape Architecture and a previous foray in environmental consulting. Diving deep into site, context, and community, she uncovers the possibilities of how landscapes can both work hard and spark curiosity. Recent work includes projects aimed at connecting people with unique ecosystems, bolstering community resilience in the face of climate change, and contributing to social and ecological vibrancy of cities and neighborhoods. She holds an MLA from the University of Virginia with a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies from the University of California at Berkeley.



Eric Rothstein,
eDesign Dynamics

Eric Rothstein is a hydrologist and ecosystem restoration designer with twenty-five years of experience working on a variety of projects with a focus on urban centers. He currently leads the team investigating the sustainable water resource planning for multiple projects in New York City. His international work includes water resource and ecosystem planning in Asia, South America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

He has managed ecological restorations including salt marshes, fresh water wetlands, grasslands, and forests and developed naturalized stormwater management structures. Examples of Eric Rothstein's built work can be found in all five boroughs of New York City and beyond.

Sources

1. Quarry Waters Park: Existing Conditions Analysis report - July 22, 2020
2. Future State Park at Quarry Waters: Framework Plan - July, 2021
3. “Governor Hochul Announces Completion of Waterfront Trail and Pavilion at Sojourner Truth State Park”, NYS Press Office (November 17, 2023) <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-completion-waterfront-trail-and-pavilion-sojourner-truth-state-park>
4. Waste Ground Portraits: Ecology of Degraded Land <https://www.hudsonia.org/natural-histories/wastegroundportraits>

