

# TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE: FRESHKILLS PARK, NEW YORK CITY

Freshkills<sup>1</sup> Park will be almost three times the size of Central Park and the transformation of what was once a large **landfill** into a productive and beautiful cultural destination will make the park a symbol of renewal and an expression of how our society can **restore** balance to its landscape, combining state-of-the-art ecological restoration techniques with extraordinary settings for recreation, public art, and facilities for many sports and programs that are unusual in the city. The full **build-out** will continue in phases for the next 30 years, showing its unusual combination of natural and **engineered** beauty. The site is **currently** composed of hills, wetlands, open waterways, and **flat areas**.

In 2001 the Department of City Planning prepared the **Draft Master Plan** for Freshkills Park. In 2006, the Department of Parks & Recreation assumed responsibility for implementing the project. The plan integrates three separate systems – **programming**, **wildlife**, and **circulation** – into one interrelated and dynamic unit.

**Programming** – Fresh Kills Park will host an incredible variety of public spaces and facilities for social, cultural and physical activity, for learning and playing.

**Wildlife** – Freshkills Park will also **carry** richly diverse habitats for wildlife, birds and plant communities.

**Circulation** – An open network of **paths**, roads and waterways will help create an animated, inter-connected park. People will be able to experience the site by canoe, on horseback, on mountain bike, on foot, or by car.

Freshkills Park will have five main areas: **The Confluence** (Creek Landing and The Point), **North Park**, **South Park**, **East Park** and **West Park**. Each area will have a distinct character and programming approach. **The Confluence** is the cultural and waterfront recreation **core** of the park, sited at the confluence of Richmond Creek and Main Creek and encircled by the park road.

**Creek Landing** (80,920 m<sup>2</sup>) will be designed for waterfront activities, including an **esplanade**, canoe and boat **pier**, restaurants, a visitor centre, a large **lawn** for picnics and sunbathing and also a large car parking.

**The Point** (202,300 m<sup>2</sup>) will contain sports fields, event spaces, lawns, **artwork** and educational programming. **North Park** (942,718 m<sup>2</sup>) will be characterized by simple, vast natural **meadows**,

1. The Fresh Kills landfill (about 12 km<sup>2</sup>) – Staten Island – was opened in 1948 in what was then a rural agricultural area. It was supposed to be in use for only twenty years, after which the area would be split into industrial, park, and residential areas. However, after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, the landfill was temporarily reopened to receive and process much of the debris from the destruction.

**artwork:** *attività artistica*

**build-out:** *sviluppo e costruzione*

**to carry:** *sostenere*

**circulation:** *viabilità*

**core:** *corpo centrale*

**currently:** *attualmente*

**Draft Master Plan:** *piano regolatore di massima*

**earthwork:** *arte in terra*

**engineered:** *progettato*

**esplanade:** *lungomare*

**flat areas:** *aree pianeggianti*

**landfill:** *discarica pubblica*

**lawn:** *prato all'inglese*

**to lend oneself:** *prestarsi*

**meadow:** *terreno prativo*

**path:** *sentiero*

**pier:** *molo*

**to restore:** *recuperare*

**setting:** *scenario*

**sight:** *vista panoramica*

**wetland:** *zona di stagni*

wetlands and creeks. **South Park** (1,719,550 m<sup>2</sup>) will provide large natural **settings** and active recreational spaces, including soccer fields, an equestrian facility and mountain biking pathways. **East Park** (1,950,172 m<sup>2</sup>) will be a nature education area with specially designed **wetlands**, exhibitions and public art installations. The large hill in this area **lends itself** to a variety of recreational uses, from golf to archery. **West Park** (2,205,070 m<sup>2</sup>) hosts the site's largest hill. An enormous **earthwork** will be built on the top of the hill as a September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial. The earthwork will be open to the sky and offer spectacular 360° views of the region, including a direct line of **sight** to lower Manhattan.



### 1 Read the text and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F), then correct the false ones.

1. Freshkills will be larger than Central Park.
2. Today the park construction is finished.
3. The Draft Master Plan was prepared in 2001.
4. Plan integrates three separate systems.
5. You can circulate in the park by car only.
6. All the parts in the park will be similar.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2 Match the words with the right definition.

- |                 |                          |  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. An area of very wet muddy land with wild plants growing in it.              |
| 2. wetland      | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Piece of equipment you fit or put somewhere so that it is ready to be used. |
| 3. waterway     | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Having a meal in the open air.  |
| 4. picnic       | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. A strip of ground that people walk along.                                   |
| 5. pathway      | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Everything you can see when you look across an area of land.                |
| 6. installation | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Canal, river, or narrow channel of sea which ships or boats can sail along. |

### 3 Complete the chart with the missing information.

1.	2006	
2.		The cultural and waterfront recreation core of the park.
3.		Simple, vast natural meadows, wetlands and creeks.
4.	South Park	
5.	East park	
6.		An earthwork as a September 11 <sup>th</sup> Memorial.
7.	The Point	