

# A LANDSCAPE OF CALL AND RESPONSE:

## HOW NEW YORK PARKS REACT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**New York City Parks** have been transformed over the past century as needs for recreation, access, security and land management have shifted and evolved. In many respects, the changing landscapes of parks and recreation act as a visual indicator of the city’s interests, needs, and challenges, and might reflect social, cultural, political, and economic frameworks. Today environmental concerns take the stage, as both current and projected climate change pressures inspire new landscapes in New York City parks.



This poster identifies six major themes for the climate change adaptive landscape design in the New York City park system. Using a case study approach, and fieldwork to photograph and diagram climate-adaptive design interventions, the poster showcases current environmental control and mitigation systems at work. Themes include materials, water management systems, energy production, resilience to major weather events, animal habitat and pollination, and equity/access. By comparing parks within the New York City system, and then finding common threads for climate change adaptive design, a series of suggestions for best practices is offered for review.



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**LARGE WATER RETENTION AREAS:** THESE BUILT TO FLOOD AREAS PREVENT THE UNWANTED FLOW OF WATER THROUGH NOT ONLY THE PARKS BUT THE JOINING STREETS.



**LEVEES:** THESE LARGE BOULDER WALLS BORDERING PARKS SLOW WATER MOVEMENT AND ADD HEIGHT TO THE BANK RESISTING FLOOD WATERS.



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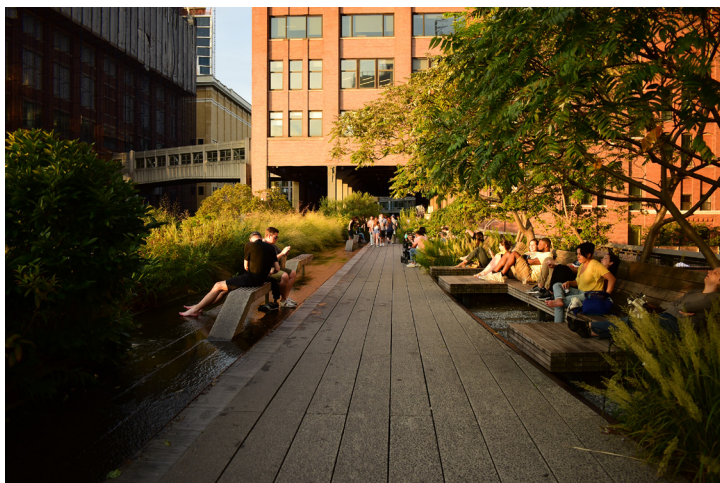
**DENSE CANOPY PLANTING:** THESE DENSE PLANTINGS OF WIDE LEAFED TREES SHADE THE PAVEMENT AND LIMIT SUN EXPOSURE REDUCING THE HEAT ABSORPTION FOR THE DAY.



**MATERIAL VARIATIONS:** VARYING THE MATERIALS OF THE PATHWAYS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS CHANGES THE PATHS ABILITY TO TRANSFER HEAT AND COOLS THE GROUND.



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**NATURAL LIGHT:** MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF THE HIGH LINE HAVE CLEAR VIEWS, THROUGH URBAN CORRIDORS, OF THE WESTERN SKYLINE REDUCING THE REQUIRED LIGHTING DURING AFTERNOON HOURS.



**PLANTING WALLS:** LARGE PLANTED WALLS AROUND THE CITY PROVIDE A BARRIER FROM THE LIGHTING OF THE BUILDINGS AND CONVERSLY THE PARK FROM OVERLAPPING EACH OTHER.



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**DENSE PREVENTATIVE PLANTING:** AREAS OF DENSE PROHIBITIVE PLANTING PREVENT HUMAN MOVEMENT FROM STRATEGIC PORTIONS OF THE SITE TO MAINTAIN THE GREEN SPACE IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.



**GREEN ROOFS:** THE INTRODUCTION OF GREEN ROOFS INTO THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT HAVE REDUCED HEAT ABSORPTION AND CITY POLLUTION IN THE LAST 6 DECADES.



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**WATER TOLERANT PLANTING:** THE NEW FOCUS ON WATER TOLERANT PLANTINGS RIGHT AT THE SHORELINE HAS CREATED A BEAUTIFUL WAY OF LETTING THE LAND INTERACT WITH THE RIVER IN A LESS INVASIVE WAY.

### TIMELINE OF NEW YORK PARKS



### BIBLIOGRAPHY

PHOTOS TAKEN BY ANDREW REILLY  
PHOTOS OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK, THE HUDSON RIVER PARK, AND THE HIGH LINE ARE ALL PRESENT.

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