Inter-Tidal Pool at Roberto Clemente State Park

Bronx, New York



2. The Inter-Tidal Pool at Roberto Clemente State Park in the Bronx is shown in its larger context.



3. Roberto Clemente State Park, in plan, with Inter-Tidal Pool centrally-located.



4. The Inter-Tidal Pool is a constructed marsh environment protected by the bulkhead at Roberto Clemente State Park. Crenels in the bulkhead allow tidal waters to flow through the marsh, creating habitat for local fauna.



6. As seen from above, the elevated walkways of the Inter-Tidal Pool allow one to traverse and observe the sensitive ecosystem from above. This, paired with interpretive signage, encourages visitors to engage, observe, and learn about the critters and plants in their "back yard," an experience not previously available.



5. (Left) Before: the former bulkhead along the Harlem River discouraged engagement with the water. (Right) After: visitors are encouraged to move out and above the marshes to take in spectacular views and re-connect with the water.



7. The heart of the linear New York State Park delivers a dynamic and interactive relationship between land and water for the under-served neighborhood.



8. Naturalized vegetation within the freshwater wetland that lives just above the Inter-Tidal Pool captures and treats runoff before it is released into the tidal marsh.



9. This photo taken during construction demonstrates how collected storm water from the upland is captured and filtered through the tidal marshes before entering the Harlem River.



10. As tides rise, water flows from the adjacent Harlem River through the porous bulkhead and intermixes with the stormwater within the inter-tidal zone.





11. The construction process can be seen here after the boulder installation at mean and high tide, and immediately after initial plant installation.



12. Planting within the Inter-Tidal Pool is hardy, salt-tolerant, and seasonal, changing color dramatically throughout the year.



15. The diversity of the plant palette becomes more apparent as seasons change. Blooms during warmer months are followed by breath-taking color in the fall. Marcescence and evergreen species provide winter interest and shelter.



13. The Inter-Tidal Pool highlights a variety of ecosystem typologies and naturalized vegetation groups. The "Get-Down" gives users a closer view of the tidal marsh, inter-tidal zone, scrub-shrub, and a glimpse of the wildlife that have now claimed this place as their home.



14. Located at either end of the marsh, the scrub-shrub showcases a variety of plant species that serve different ecological functions that include food sources for birds and pollinators. Plant heights and elevations within these areas were closely coordinated to frame views of the marsh and the river.



16. The Inter-Tidal Pool successfully creates river access for a notoriously underfunded community with this new cohesive, dynamic open space.



17. Working with the client and the design team, the landscape architect generated a design for a safe, accessible, and ecologically vibrant site that offers an exciting glimpse into an estuarine environment that was previously hidden in plain sight.



18. Within days of opening the marsh to tidal flows, schools of fish and blue-claw crabs began to take refuge in the space.



19. Interpretive signage is placed at key moments around the Inter-Tidal Pool to highlight the different ecosystems, plant communities, and green infrastructure.



20. The elevated walkways provide unique means for the public to engage with the river through breath-taking, unobstructed views north, south, and across to Manhattan.