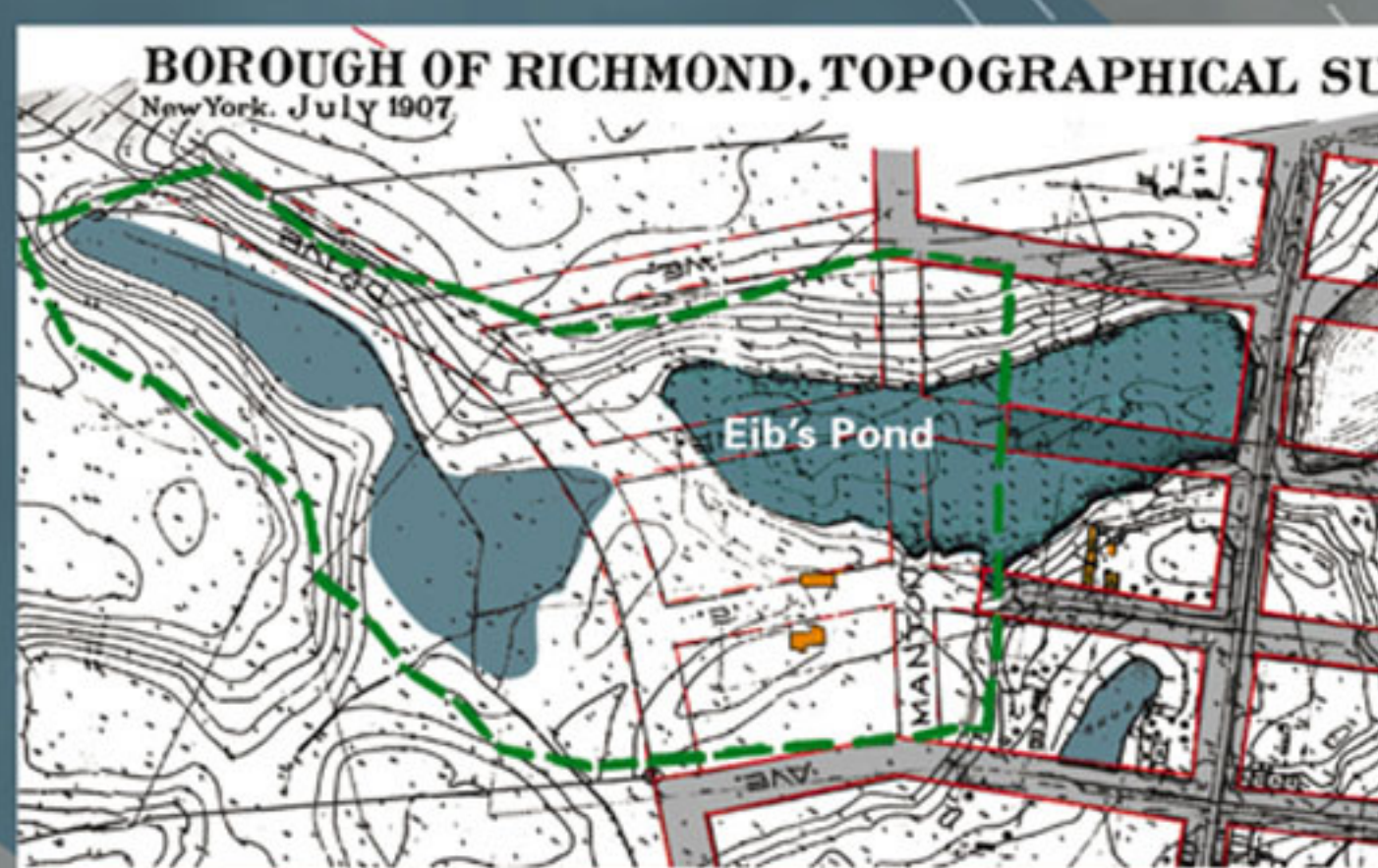


Around **10,000 BC**, the receding Wisconsin Glacier carved holes in the ground. These kettle holes lined with clay collected water for subsequent centuries, to form shallow kettle ponds. According to the *History of Staten Island*, Eib's Pond was "one of the largest kettle ponds on Concord Downs."



Out of all the ponds shown in blue on this **1874** map, only those within what is now Eib's Pond Park (outlined in green) still exist. The map shows how urban development patterns often ignored the ponds as well as other territorial features.



This **1907** topographical survey shows farm buildings next to Eib's Pond, belonging to the Eibs family dairy farm. The north end of what is now the park was part of the Fox Hills Golf Club. For some reason, the ponds now in this area do not appear on this map. Roads that have been built—most of which dead end into the park—are marked in grey. The dashed outline identifies planned roads that were never built. It is crucial that these unbuilt roads be demapped to help ensure the integrity of the park.

This archival photograph shows how the area around Eib's Pond became an unofficial dumping ground in the **1930s**. In the **1940s**, it became first an army base and then a Prisoner of War camp for Italian and German soldiers, who were instructed in "English, hygiene and military discipline." A fence ran through the middle of Eib's Pond and the Small Pond. In the **1960s** Eib's Pond was cut along the old fence line and its southern half filled in with rubble, to become the parking lots and buildings of the Steuben Street housing. Remnants of the fence are still visible in the small pond.



This **1987** map delineates the 100' wide area around the ponds as a **Class 1 Wetland**, deserving of the highest level of protection. One aspect of this protection is that no buildings can be built within 100 feet of the wetland area around the ponds.

**1973** The land around Eib's Pond is secured by the Real Estate Division of the Aetna Life & Casualty Company.

**1981** The U.S. government passes the Wetland Protection Act. The Aetna Life & Casualty Co. donates a 17-acre portion of land around the ponds to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), receiving a tax cut of \$500,000. Eib's Pond is declared a Class 1 Wetland (r1) assuring it the highest level of protection. Aetna sells a portion of the land to real estate developer Fred Weiss, with the TPL having the option to take back 8.14 acres to preserve as a park.

**1989** The TPL, exercising its option, donates the 8.14 acres to the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), prompting Commissioner Henry Stern to remark that "Every eight acres to us is eight acres of joy."

**1991** Meadow Restoration Event on Earth Day, 1991. Eileen Finnin, PS 57 Science Teacher, brings her first grade to help with the cleanup. (1)

**1992** Beverly DeAngelis leads a "discovery" of Eib's pond. Armed with nets, wading boots, dish pans, pasta strainers, and water testing kits, she and a group of parents and children search the pond for life. (3)

Saturday, April 13. 50 volunteers, including children, lead by Dr. Elaine Allen, Pediatrician, spend a day removing garbage from the park. (2, 4, 5)

**1996** The TPL orchestrates the transfer of an adjacent 8.8 acre parcel of land from developer Randy Lee to the Parks Department

**1997** Tom Paulo, Borough Parks Commissioner, links the Fox Hill community to The Parks Council, to help reclaim and develop the park in the absence of public funds.

The Parks Council obtains a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to remove abandoned vehicles from the site. (6) A map describing the location of the cars (7) helps the effort.

First group of Urban Conservation Corps (UCC) youth begins work at Eib's. They remove debris, create a cut-log walkway, clear and woodchip trails (8), and distribute birdhouses throughout the park (9).

Parks Council intern Sari Weissman, student of landscape architecture at Harvard University, develops *Site Guidelines* for the park.

**1998** Local teenagers again employed by UCC pull weeds, clean up garbage, draw plans for the park (10), and keep journals of their experiences.

The Raised Walkway is built in a week by AmeriCorps youth, working with The Parks Council, from drawings by Marpillero Pollak Architects (MPA) (11) People enjoy having a place to sit within the park. (12)

Volunteers remove more than a thousand tires from Eib's Pond. (13)

**1999** Tom Paulo works with the Fox Hill Tenant Association, The Parks Council, PS 57, and CB1 on planning for the park. A Conceptual Master Plan by MPA is submitted to the Borough President's office in May 1999 to seek capital funding. (15) The New York Times reports that "Herons replace Hoodlums" at Eib's Pond Park. (14)

Construction of the Outdoor Classroom begins. An AmeriCorps crew headed by Kate Chura of The Parks Council works from a large-scale model by MPA. (16, 17, 18)

Fisherman return in record numbers following clean-up. (19)

**2000** The Fox Hill Tenant Association receives a grant from Urban Resources Partnership to build an accessible path and control erosion.

Construction of the Outdoor Classroom continues, headed by Alban Thomas, with a new crew of AmeriCorps volunteers. (20) Weekly meetings with MPA produce detail sketches that guide the work. (21, 22)

Reverend Hattie Smith-Davis, President of the Fox Hill Tenant Association, and Danita Staples, Open Space Program Coordinator, organize Celebration Day (08/25) to celebrate completion of the Outdoor Classroom. They present awards to people who have helped reclaim the park. (23) PS 57 4th graders read their stories about Eib's Pond.

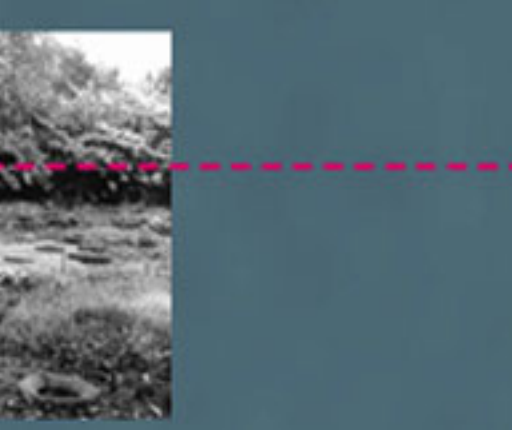
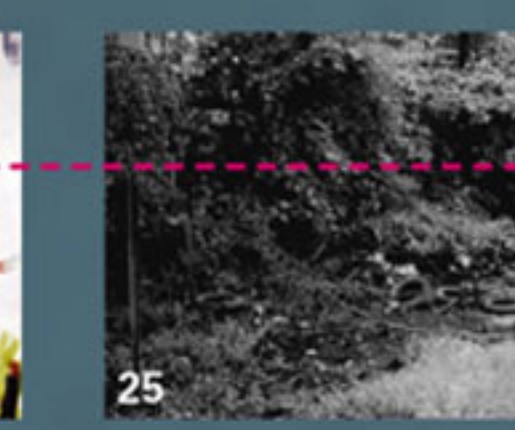
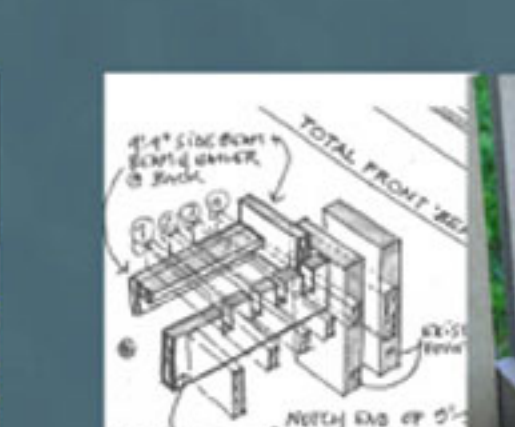
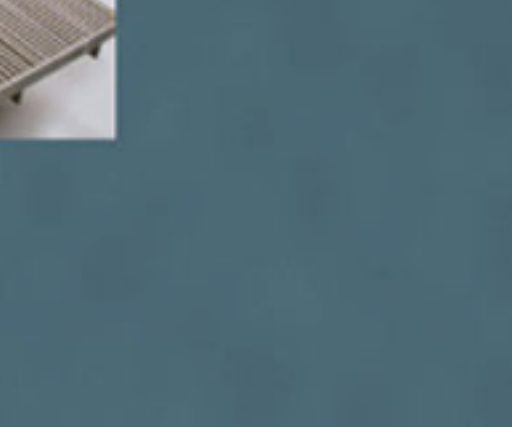
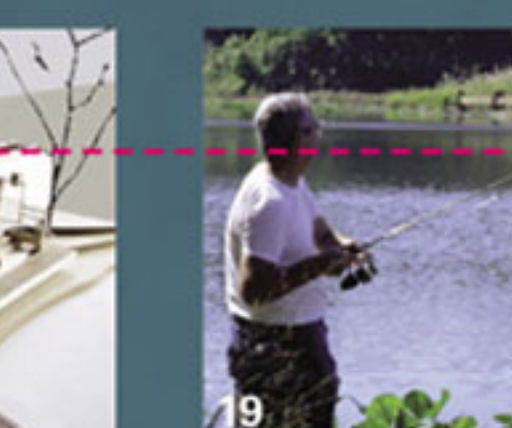
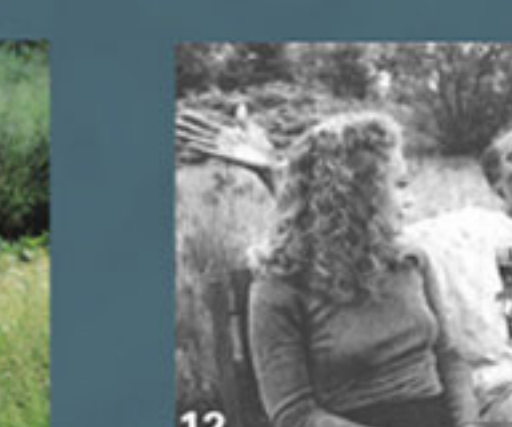
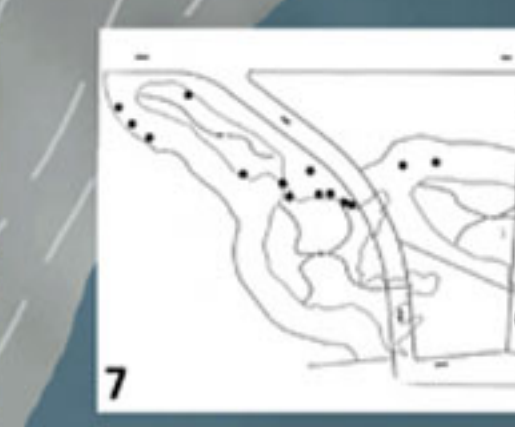
Borough President Guy V. Molinari gives Eib's Pond Park its first capital funding, which the Parks Department will use to develop perimeter control.

**2001** A grant from the Design Trust for Public Space helps to build advocacy for the park, and to produce this brochure.

Drawings of birds at Eib's Pond by PS 57 fourth graders are featured in "A Year with Children 2001" at the Guggenheim Museum. (24)

The Parks Department initiates a plan to improve the southern edge of the park, with assistance from the Design Trust for Public Space.

*Partnerships for Parks* helps residents form "Friends of Eib's Pond Park." Even with so many things accomplished, much work has yet to be begun, such as the Small Pond, which still awaits cleanup. (25)



# FORMATION DEGRADATION RECLAMATION a timeline of Eib's Pond Park

Many organizations have helped Eib's Pond to become a thriving park, including Staten Island Department of Parks and Recreation • Fox Hill Tenant Association and Resource Center • Hubert H. Humphrey Elementary School (PS 57) • Celebration Homeowners Association • Partnerships for Parks • Design Trust for Public Space • Staten Island Community Board 1 • Staten Island Borough President's Office • Staten Island Tough Love • The Audubon Society • Urban Resources Partnership • Trust for Public Land • The Parks Council

This brochure has been produced as part of a project of the Design Trust for Public Space. Brochure design and production is by Linda Pollak and Sandro Marpillero, as Fellows of the Design Trust, and Principals of Marpillero Pollak Architects (MPA) with Geraldine Monier, Project Intern, and Karen Hock, Design Trust Project Director. All photographs courtesy of MPA unless otherwise noted.

For more information or to get involved, please contact

- The Friends of Eib's Pond Park** 718 815-0148  
917 445-7095
- Staten Island Department of Parks & Recreation** 718 390-8000
- Partnerships for Parks, Staten Island** 718 815-7194

## getting there

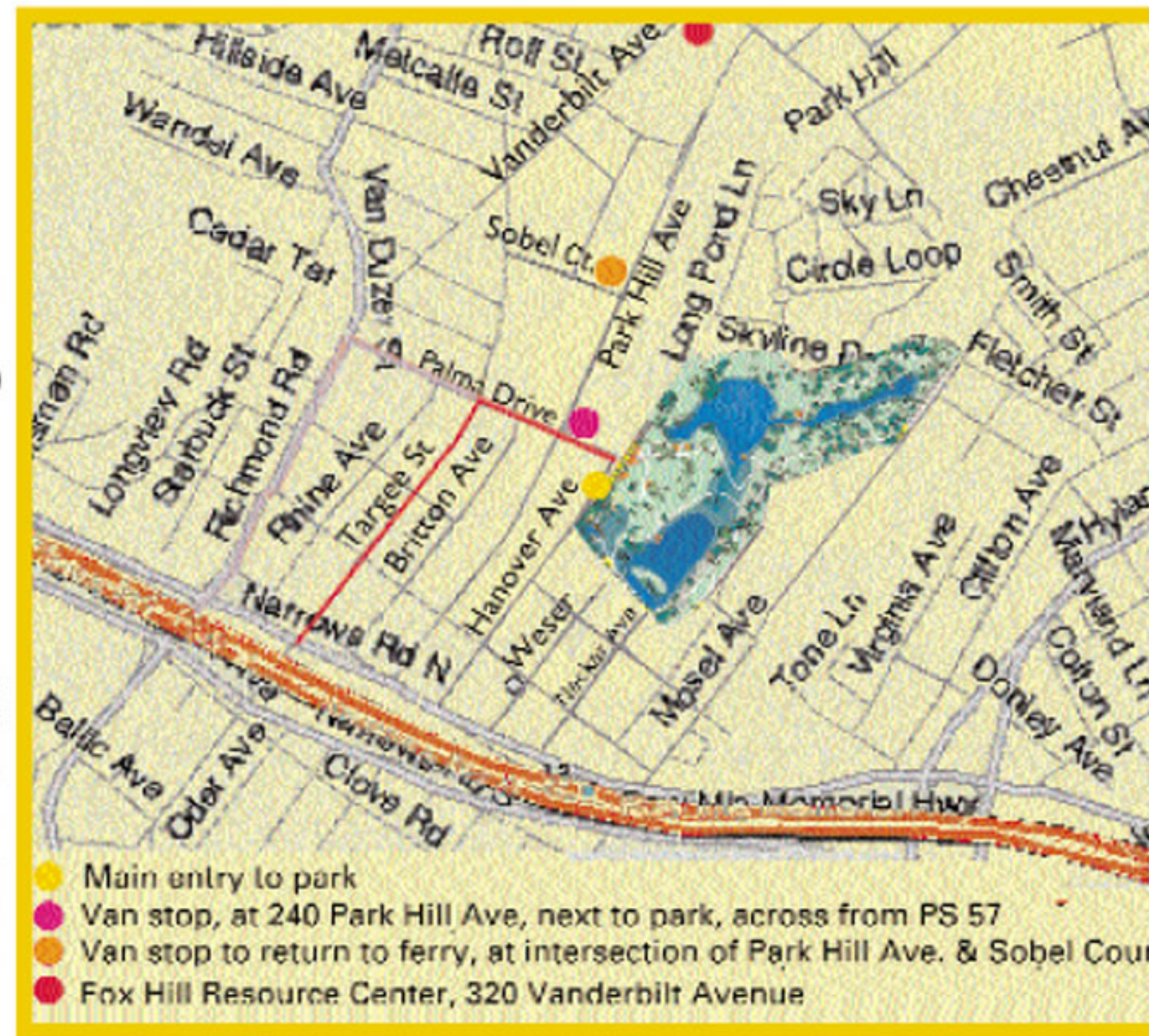


From **Manhattan**, take the Ferry to the Saint Georges Terminal in Staten Island. Go to Ramp F, for Van Service, and tell the driver you want to get off at 240 Park Hill Ave, which is next to the park. To return to the ferry, wait for a van at the Sobel Ct. /Park Hill Ave. intersection. (See right.)



From **Brooklyn**, by car, take the Verrazano Bridge to **Expressway 278**.

From **New Jersey**, by car, access Staten Island from the Bayonne or Goethals Bridge or the Outerbridge Crossing, to reach **Expressway 278**.



● Main entry to park  
● Van stop, at 240 Park Hill Ave, next to park, across from PS 57  
● Van stop to return to ferry, at intersection of Park Hill Ave. & Sobel Court  
● Fox Hill Resource Center, 320 Vanderbilt Avenue

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The park's **main entry**, on Hanover Ave. facing PS 57, will be made into a welcoming place as funds become available.



1

## Eibs Pond Park in context



- Black-capped Chickadee *Parus arcticus*
- Blue Bird *Sialia sialis*
- Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*
- Red-Winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

- American Robin *Turdus migratorius*
- Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
- Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*
- Birdwall at Outdoor Classroom, next to birch tree

**This is a very special place**, Reverend Hattie Smith-Davis told the Staten Island Advance in 1998. "It used to be a place people would run to hide from the police. Now it is a haven where people can come to meditate, to relax."

Eibs Pond Park is a seventeen-acre freshwater wetland, with extraordinary potential as a wildlife refuge, an educational environment, and a social center for surrounding underserved communities.

To fulfill this potential, **Eibs needs Friends** to recognize its importance, to volunteer their support in its reclamation and care, and to advocate for its funding. As the only freshwater wetland park in New York City adjacent to a low income community, it presents a unique set of opportunities and challenges.

A long-dedicated coalition of groups and individuals are working with the Staten Island Department of Parks and Recreation to help the park become a safe and well-designed place that serves its surrounding disparate neighborhoods while remaining a haven for its wildlife communities. This working group includes the Fox Hill Tenant Association, led by Reverend Hattie Smith-Davis, PS 57, the elementary school facing the park, Staten Island Community Board 1 and Borough President, and, since 2001, Partnerships for Parks and the Design Trust for Public Space.

This two-sided brochure communicates some of the park's unique beauty and value. This side is a map guide that locates the park in space, and describes some of its natural and constructed characteristics. The other side situates Eibs Pond Park in time, revealing some of the historical background of the land that is now a park, and focusing on ways in which organizations and individuals have invested in it, to date.

Please enjoy Eibs Pond Park and pledge your support to help realize its tremendous potential as a natural urban environment.

To get involved, see contact information, reverse side.



Eibs Pond Park is a **freshwater wetland**. New York City was once covered in freshwater wetlands. Over the last two centuries 224,000 acres of wetlands have dwindled to 2,000. It is only in the past few decades that the ecological value of wetlands has been recognized and become protected by law.



Freshwater wetlands are characterized by soft-stemmed aquatic plants such as cattails, arrowheads, pickleweed, reeds, and sedges. Wetland boundaries vary over time as a result of fluctuation in average precipitation, evaporation, and changes to the watershed. The soil that floods and drains on a regular basis supports plants that clean water by filtering out toxic substances.

**Paths** connect street and ponds, winding through meadows and along ridges, supporting views and gathering places.



2

At the **raised walkway**, a line of movement becomes a space of rest, with two benches, each facing a pond.



3

- White Perch *Morone americana*
- Green Frog *Rana clamitans*
- Pugnose Minnow *Notropis emiliae*
- Water Strider *Gerris remigis*
- Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta*
- Volvox Algae
- Fragrant Water Lilies *Nymphaea odorata*
- Reeds *Phragmites*
- Sedges *Carex*

This drawing shows the park in its varied contexts—surrounded by its urban and suburban neighborhoods, and also by some of the wildlife species that make up its great biodiversity. Landscape improvements, some completed by volunteers, some underway, and others planned, include wetland restoration, erosion control, removal of invasive species, planting of native species, and installation of an accessible path leading to the Outdoor Classroom. As funds become available, development of the park will also focus on its fragmented perimeter, to provide amenities at entries, beginning with the main entry at Hanover Avenue facing PS 57.



The **outdoor classroom** is both a destination to be attained and an entry point towards new experiences. It hovers over its wetland site, weaving together land, water, city, and park. (lower right)

The classroom is a giant collector. The water table (left) holds containers for sampling pond life; a birdwall supports feeders, a bath, and homes for native species and a deck-planter holds native plants. Fisherman and others appreciate the pier extending into Eibs Pond (far right).

The classroom supports educational programming by PS 57, the Audubon Society, and other groups, for all ages. Everyone visiting the park is welcome to enjoy it. (upper right)

