

Succession by Design

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Ecological succession, defined as the observed process of change of an ecological community over time forms the basis for our final master plan design. The concept is succession; succession of space, species and energy.

The succession of space being the conversion of a closed landfill to a community destination. Succession of species, represented by natural forces at work in the woodland and meadow, and finally, the succession of energy usage, evolution from carbon-based fuels to solar energy. The park celebrates this evolution through a connection between the natural and engineered spaces within the park to the solar array. A connection has been established between the alignment of park structures and spaces to the alignment of the solar panels to the sun.

Our goal for this project is to create safe and usable open space for passive recreation in Voorhees that will not affect the health and safety of the park's users. The contaminants will continue to be monitored and controlled, the solar panels installed in an effective manner, and natural ecosystems restored. In addition, providing safe access for people to enjoy the benefits of park and pond spaces is also very important, as is offering habitat and access for wildlife.

Our second goal is to ensure environmental sustainability in terms of storm water, structures, plants and preservation. When deciding on plantings the root systems will be evaluated proportionally to the amount of fill so the cap will not be punctured. Structures will be limited to those requiring only shallow footings. Additionally, our design will include a water management plan that continues to divert all runoff to the pond.