

**Project:** Coastal Dunes on Sec. 3 and 4, Fresh Kills Landfill  
**Location:** Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island, NY  
**Client:** NYC Department of Sanitation  
**Completion:** 1992  
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The Department of Sanitation was in the process of progressive closure of sections of the landfill. Various upgrades were made both by Consent Order and the desire to obtain an operating permit.

A team of Landscape Architects and Planners performed a series of projects designed to ascertain the best systems for integrating the vegetation into the final cover plan. This team consisted of Dean Cavallaro, John McLaughlin, and Bill Young. Mr. Richard Lynch, a local naturalist, provided technical assistance.

The Demonstration plantings on Section 3/4 were notable because it was the first time that woody plant materials were designed and planted over clay cap. This planting encompassed a series of ecosystems or plant communities, divided into coastal Pine dune, Oak barrens and Ericaceous plant community. Rutgers University was hired to monitor the performance of the plantings. The photo above shows the symbolism of this planting as the “gateway” into the Greenbelt and the Wm. T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, i.e. integrating the landfill with the community at large.

The adjacent photo depicts the before (during) and after of the project. The after photo is two years after completion.

Other experimental plantings included a Little bluestem prairie using a modified seed drill, various two-step hydroseeding techniques with dozer tracks crimping in the seed and straw mulch, plantings of trees in clusters to ascertain bird visitation and hence seed dispersal, and bioengineering and salt marsh plantings for mitigation.

