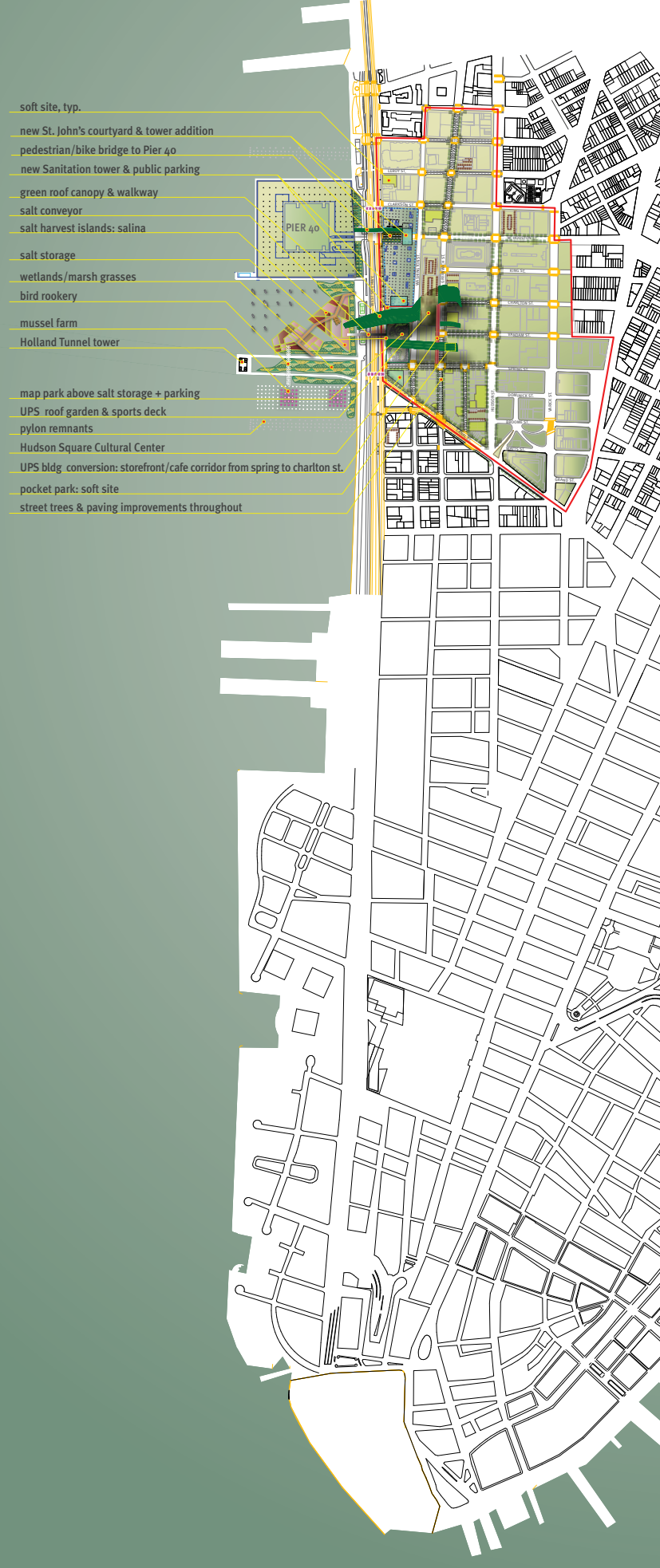
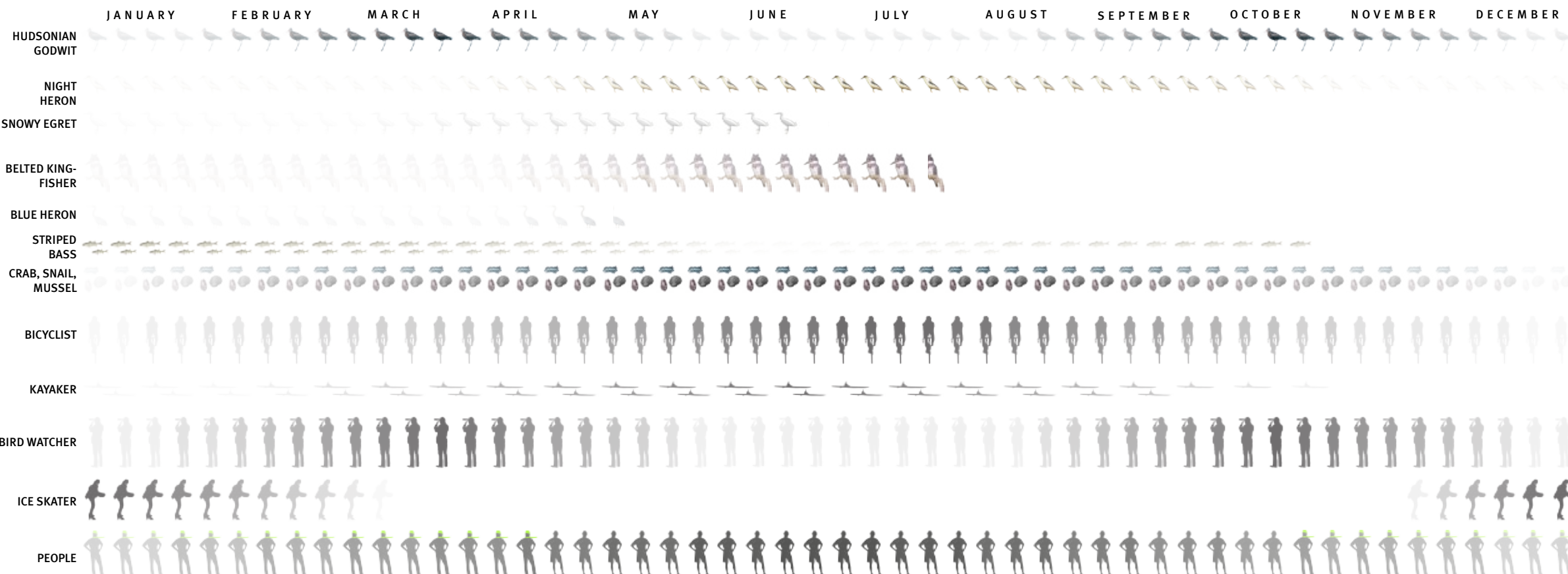


The District Prints Green! Landscape Visions with a Grain of Salt



- soft site, typ.
- new St. John's courtyard & tower addition
- pedestrian/bike bridge to Pier 40
- new Sanitation tower & public parking
- green roof canopy & walkway
- salt conveyor
- salt harvest islands: salina
- salt storage
- wetlands/marsh grasses
- bird rookery
- mussel farm
- Holland Tunnel tower
- map park above salt storage + parking
- UPS roof garden & sports deck
- pylon remnants
- Hudson Square Cultural Center
- UPS bldg conversion: storefront/cafe corridor from spring to charlton st.
- pocket park: salt site
- street trees & paving improvements throughout



This approximately 30-block, historically industrial district on the western edge of a major U.S. metropolis was a former hub for the printing industry. Its long buildings and wide roadway infrastructure sever the district from its waterfront, and many of its multi-story industrial structures are undergoing transformations that range from loft to office and commercial building conversions. Our team was among five invited by a local community group funded by a private developer to participate in an envisioning process aimed at developing ambitious proposals for the area's future growth and transformation.

Given the district's proximity to major transportation thoroughfares and its adjacency to a five-mile linear park that borders a prominent river and links to the ocean, the area has become an appealing target for many competing interests. The controversial development scenario that instigated the community-based envisioning process came about as a result of a proposal by a powerful sanitation department, whose plan called for appropriating an 80,000sf waterfront site for fuel and salt storage, and a multi-story building to house its offices. An alternative to the sanitation plan is presented in this poster.

In our proposal, the district's connection to its cultural and ecological history and context—and by extension to the river that borders it—is considered paramount to the region's transformation. As a catalyst that can link the area with year-round activities and programs connected to the river, this vital connection to the water can establish the district as an important destination unlike any other in this city.

The District Prints Green! proposal seeks the transformation of the waterfront into a thriving environment for people and wildlife alike. It respects the region's history as both a formerly active printing center and wetlands that once covered the area with extensive creeks and marshes. Through the creation of a floating salt marsh adjacent to the thriving urban bustle, a rich new landscape will create a destination with striking seasonal appeal that concurrently fulfills the complicated needs of road salt storage, while becoming a multifunctional urban space that blends cultural and ecological history into its primary design strategy. Rather than rely on the mining of salt and its transport over thousands of seagoing miles, the salt is harvested directly from the adjacent water and becomes part of the spectacle of a uniquely productive ecosystem which can concurrently become a new destination for city and region.

Consistent with the printing history of the site, the landscape and building surfaces appropriate the technique of the 'halftone' using plant and material textures instead of ink to create surfaces that read clearly when viewed from the distance, and more abstractly when one inhabits them up close. The design also incorporates a series of overtly sculptural landscape 'ribbons' that act as overhead canopies, pedestrian bridges and elaborate green roofs, to create a direct connection to the water that reads from afar.

Rather than become ancillary urban amenities, the water's edge and the district's cultural history are therefore conceived as crucial elements tied to the district's future development. By expanding the field of intervention beyond architecture and into landscape, new possibilities are created that build on a growing linear park initiative, and that conceive of the city as being a part of the neighboring water ecosystem while concurrently addressing the area's immediate development and infrastructural needs.



MAP PARK park as history park as paper

The surface of the elevated "Map Park" reproduces the historic image of the Hudson Square area when it consisted of a series of wetlands and streams.

Additionally, given the district's history as an important printing hub, the design uses the idea of printing as an important design strategy, using landscape architecture and structure to define space, connect Hudson Square to the waterfront, and transform it into an iconic destination that provides exciting spaces and a renewed sense of identity that is tied to the district's history.

In the tradition of offset printing, which produces an image using a pattern of dots of varying size, the image of Hudson Square is recreated through the use of various types of plant and building material: sites that cover the surface of Map Park.

The map image therefore becomes more abstract the closer that one gets to it, and comes into focus as one walks or drives from the distance of neighboring streets.

The color wash, lending surface of Map Park, allows the underlying form of a view of paper as a printing press. It becomes a living grid that sets the pace of the region in a seasonal capacity that changes color according to the season, and that provides the unique vantage point of a street that frames the park, while reflecting a changing season.

