



Oyster Shell Park Restoration: SITES Initiative Pilot Project

Guides: Aris Stalis, Tom Tavella, and Jesse Harris

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10:30 PM - 12:30 PM Norwalk, CT
(Rain or Shine)

\$20.00 ELA Member or \$25 Non-Member

Located along the Norwalk River waterfront, Oyster Shell Park is part of the State Heritage Park system and is one of the Pilot Projects for the SITES Initiative. SITES Pilot

Projects are the first projects in the United States and abroad to demonstrate the application of *The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks*. This new park is a reclaimed landfill located in a highly visible area and in close proximity to other educational resources, Oyster Shell Park is positioned to bring a large body of knowledge to the public about the importance of preserving and restoring our environment and about the value of parklands. Three key design principles guided the planning process: *Art, Education, and Environmental Stewardship*.

Notable elements of the plan include the use of renewable energy technologies such as photovoltaic cells and wind power, shoreline and habitat restoration featuring native plants to enhance wildlife value, and utilization of recycled materials such as glass pavers for path construction. The project also incorporates bio-filtration of runoff for improved water quality. These design elements will demonstrate to the public the environmental and economic value of sustainable design practices while improving recreational value to the community. Trail connections will also be made to the nearby Maritime Aquarium and Stepping Stones Children's Museum.



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Tom Tavella, ASLA, LEED AP, served as one of the project managers for the development of the Oyster Shell Park Master Plan and was a consultant during implementation of Phase 1. Tom has been the project consultant throughout the nomination, selection and implementation of the Sustainable Sites Initiative. Tom is the Director of Design for Fuss & O'Neill and is currently serving as President of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Aris Stalis, ASLA, LEED AP, served as one of the project managers for the development of the Oyster Shell Park Master Plan and led the development of design documents for the implementation of Phase 1 for improvements to Oyster Shell Park. Aris is currently firm principal at Aris Land Studio.

Jesse Harris, ASLA, is a landscape architect at BSC Group and was the project management point person throughout the Oyster Shell Park construction process in 2011 and 2012.

CEUs are being sought for this presentation.