BIRD LINK

DEPLOYABLE HABITAT

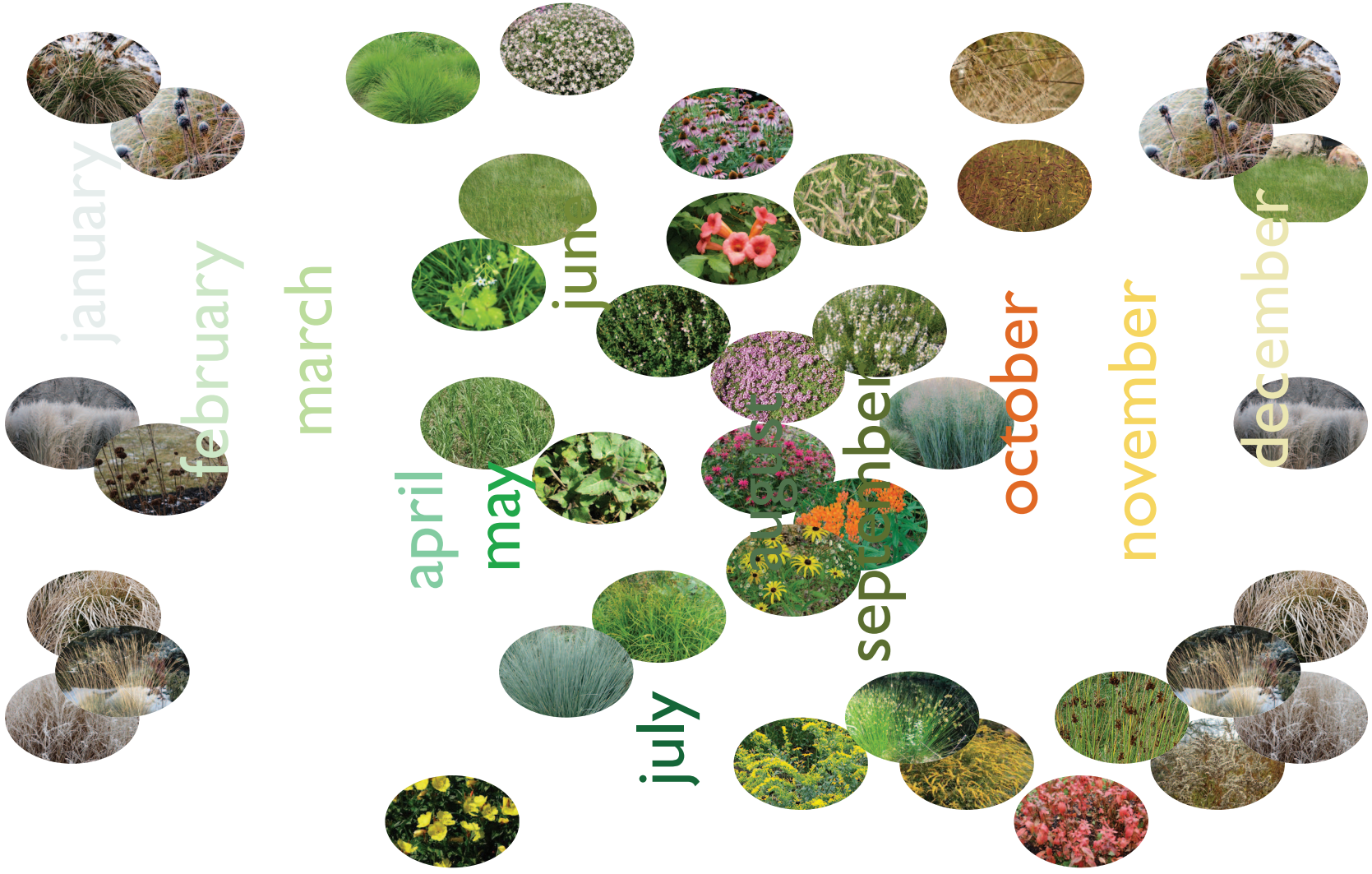
DESIGN TO FOSTER CIVIC AWARENESS OF SPECIES THAT SHARE OUR URBAN SPACE


BIRD LINK
DEPLOYABLE HABITAT
SHARING URBAN SPACE WITH NATIVE SPECIES
Public Art Project Sara D Roosevelt Park 2018

BIRDLINK Plants

Gypsophila repens
Deschampsia cespitosa
Echinaceae purpurea
Bouteloua gracilis
Campsis radicans
Myosotis laxa
Thymus vulgaris
Thymus serpyllum
Panicum virgatum
Monarda didyma
Asclepias tuberosa
Rudbeckia hirta
Carex muskingumensis
Helichtotrichon sempervirens
Juncus effusus
Solidago shortii 'Cascade'
Oenothera fruticosa

BIRDLINK Plant Blooming Schedule



NEW YORK Species Of Special Concern

Local and Migratory Birds

Common Nighthawk

Chordeiles minor

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Antrostomus vociferus

Red-headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Horned Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Black Skimmer

Rynchops niger

Common Loon

Gavia immer

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

Bicknell's Thrush

Catharus bicknelli

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera

Cerulean Warbler

Setophaga cerulea

Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Vesper Sparrow

Pooecetes gramineus

Grasshopper Sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum

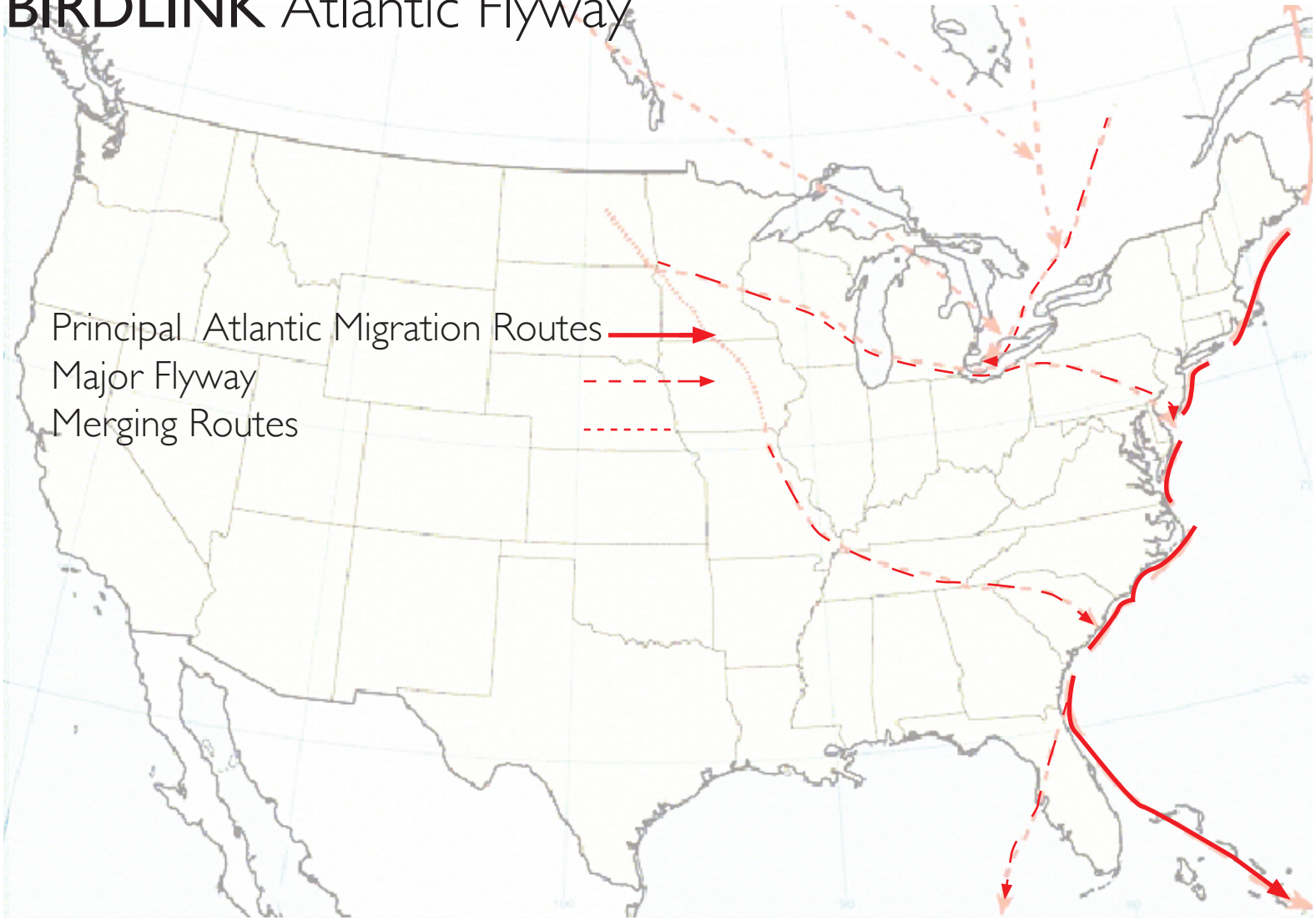
Seaside Sparrow

Ammodramus maritimus

Robins- the iconic bird of childhood currently suffer a 30% loss; part of a large trend among bird populations. One-third of wintering North American bird populations have declined since 1966.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) states that more than one-third of North American bird species are at risk of extinction.

BIRDLINK Atlantic Flyway



Migratory Birds of New York

Northern Cardinal
Northern Flicker
Orchard Oriole
Pine Grosbeak
Pine Siskin
Pine Warbler
Purple Finch
Red-breasted Nuthatch

American Tree Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Black-capped Chickadee
Blue Grosbeak
Blue Jay
Brown Thrasher
Chipping Sparrow
Common Redpoll

Dark-eyed Junco
Eastern Bluebird
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Towhee
Evening Grosbeak
Field Sparrow
Hermit Thrush
House Finch

Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Song Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-rumped Warble

BIRDLINK

A constructed habitat for bird conservation sparks the recognition that we share our urban space with other creatures in the ecosystem. What's good for birds is good for people

BIRDLINK is an interactive native-plant sculpture, designed to support urban birds and engage community. This spiraling green-wall grid is a living tapestry of native plants, with windows framing a park on one side and a bustling urban intersection on the other. BIRDLINK is intended to link fragmented urban habitats nation-wide, promote awareness of species that share our space, and build community. This project addresses global climate change at a local level, and will involve neighborhood students and residents in citizen science efforts for conservation.

During the four-season cycle, plants will take root within a coil of wire baskets that become food and shelter for passing birds. Milkweeds feed hummingbirds and Monarch Butterflies. Honeysuckles are nectar hotspots, and fall and winter berries attract species like Purple Finches and Hermit Thrushes.

BIRDLINK attracts people as a beautiful curiosity and then alerts them to the importance of habitat conservation before changes and loss become set in stone.

Citizen Science: Mobile bird and plant ID apps, bird surveys for the collection of data for conservation-helps research by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. Education and engagement in conservation practices brings awareness of shared species within city spaces. The bird counts for Audubon and NABCI (North American Bird Conservation Initiative) use breeding bird surveys (BBS) and eBird mobile app.

BIRDLINK in New York City

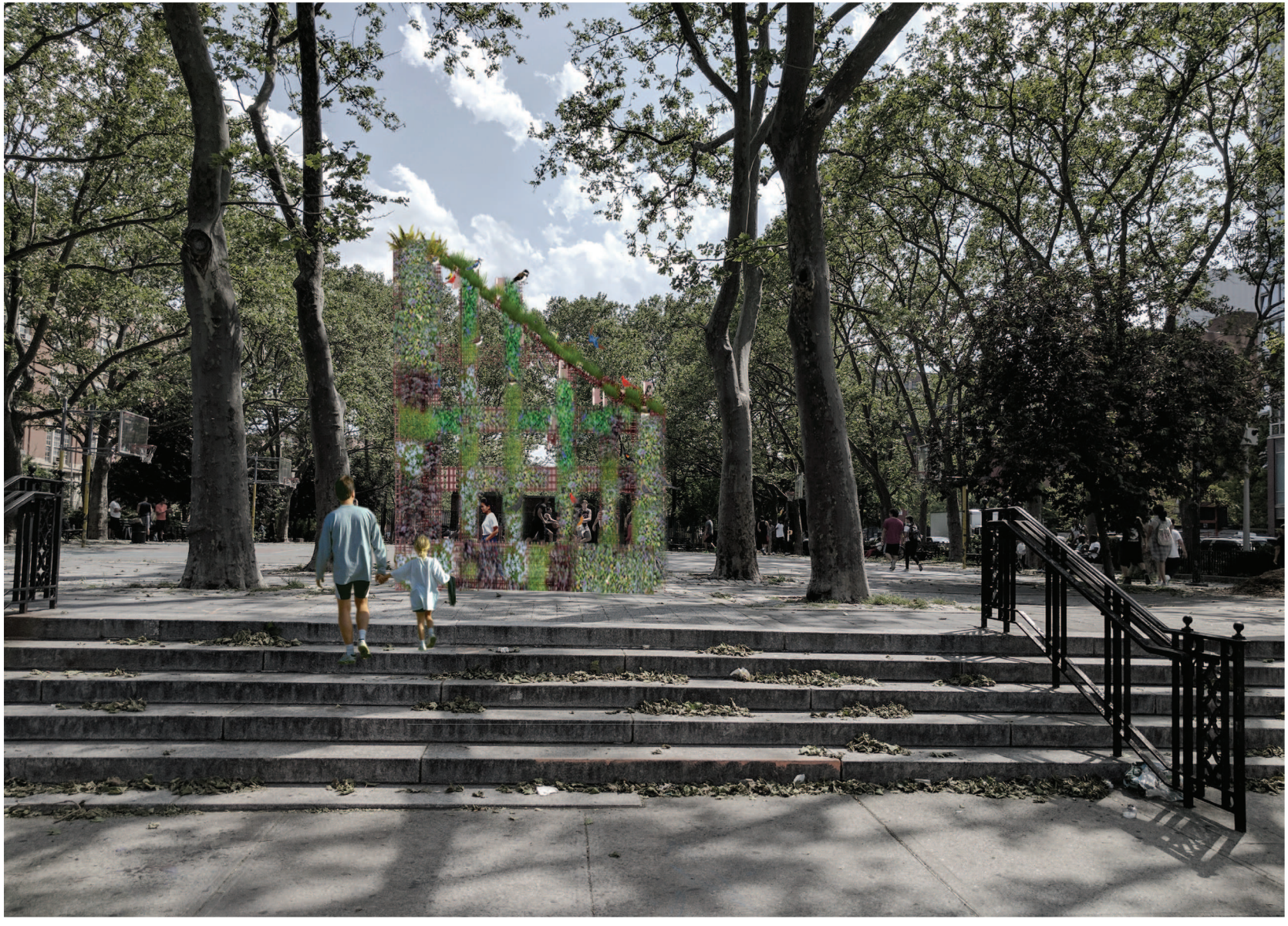
BIRDLINK will be installed at Sara D. Roosevelt Park on Manhattan's Lower East Side, in time for the spring bird migrations of 2018 that brings birds to our city as they cross the Atlantic Flyway. This is the first installation in a planned network of sculptural habitat connectors.

BIRDLINK SITE Sara D. Roosevelt Park

BIRDLINK Public Space

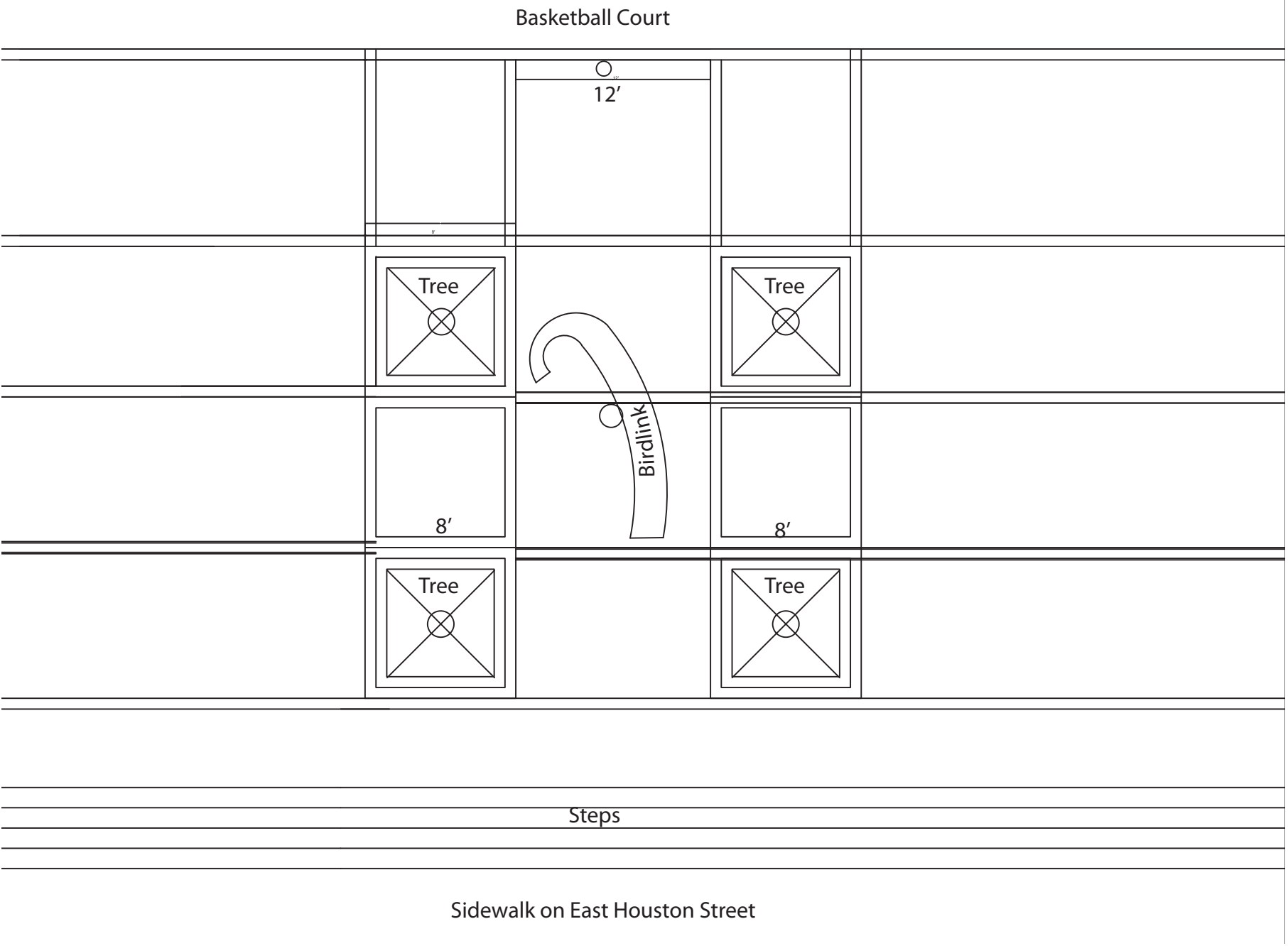
Public spaces need activation to create community.

BIRDLINK East Houston Street Plaza

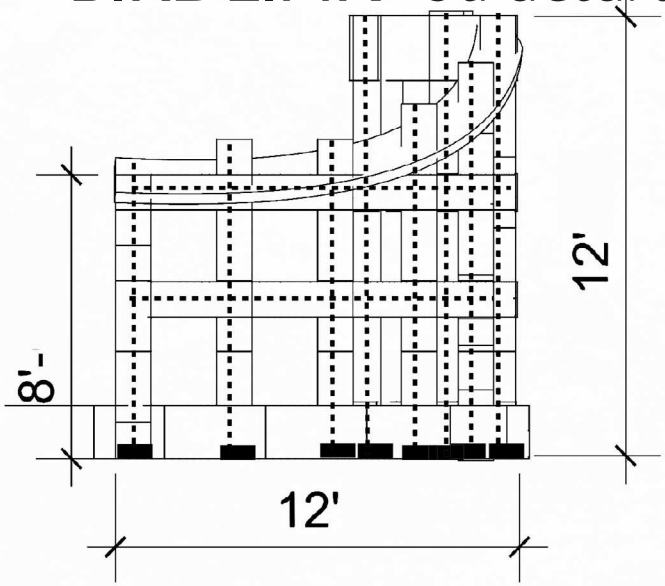


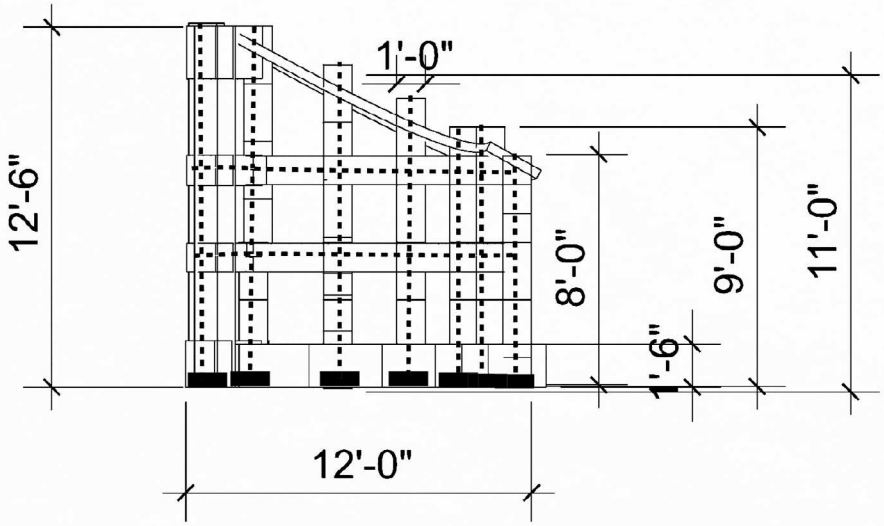
Artificial structures play a role in conservation and education and increase green space.

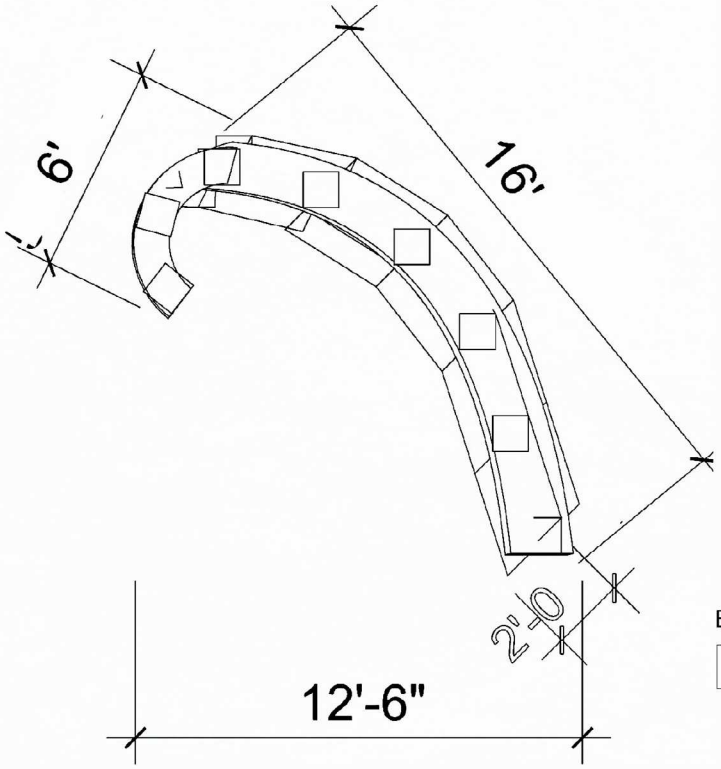
BIRDLINK Site Layout At Sara D. Roosevelt Park

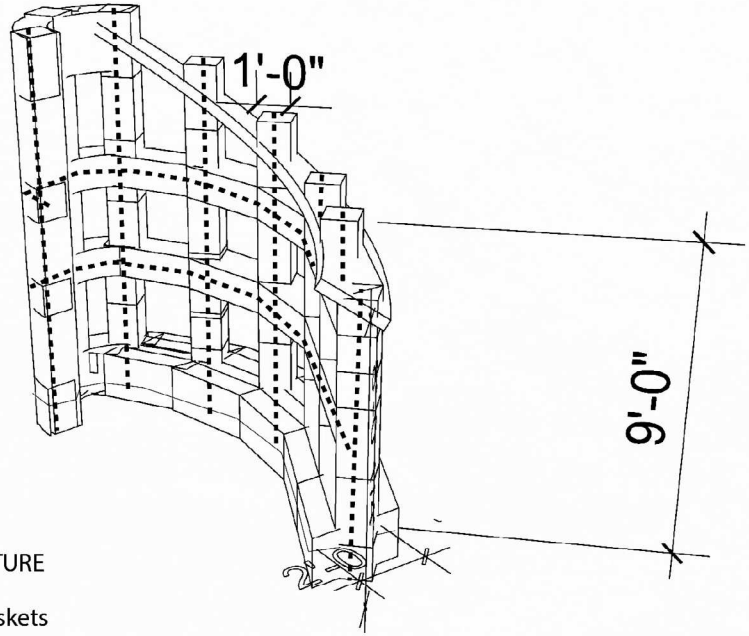


BIRDLINK Structural Dimensions









BIRDLINK STRUCTURE

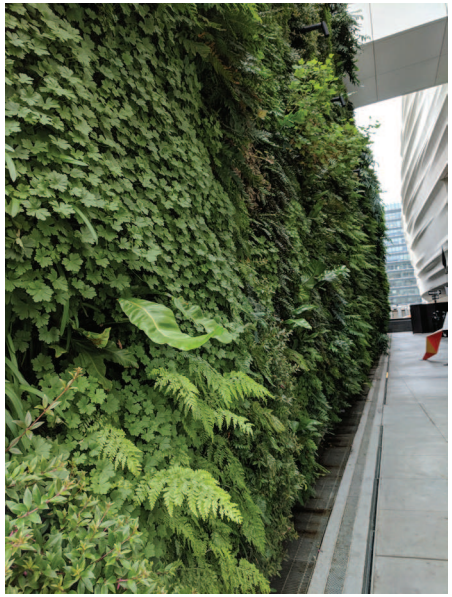
Gabion Baskets

Rebar

Cement Footing

BIRDLINK Green Wall Material

Gabion Fill, Stone, Re-used Concrete, Felt, Soil, and Plants

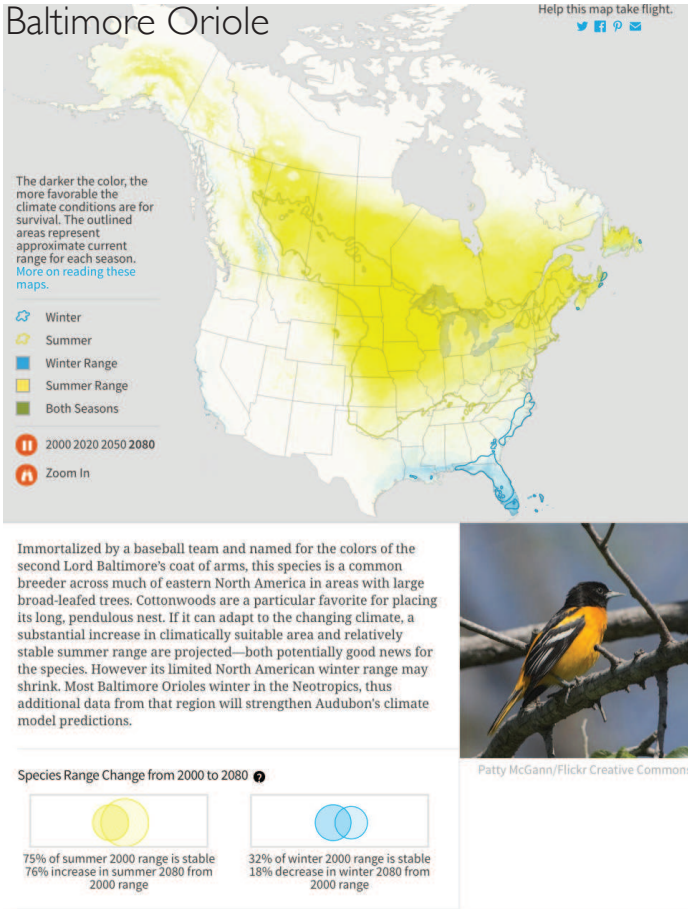


BIRDLINK Time Frame

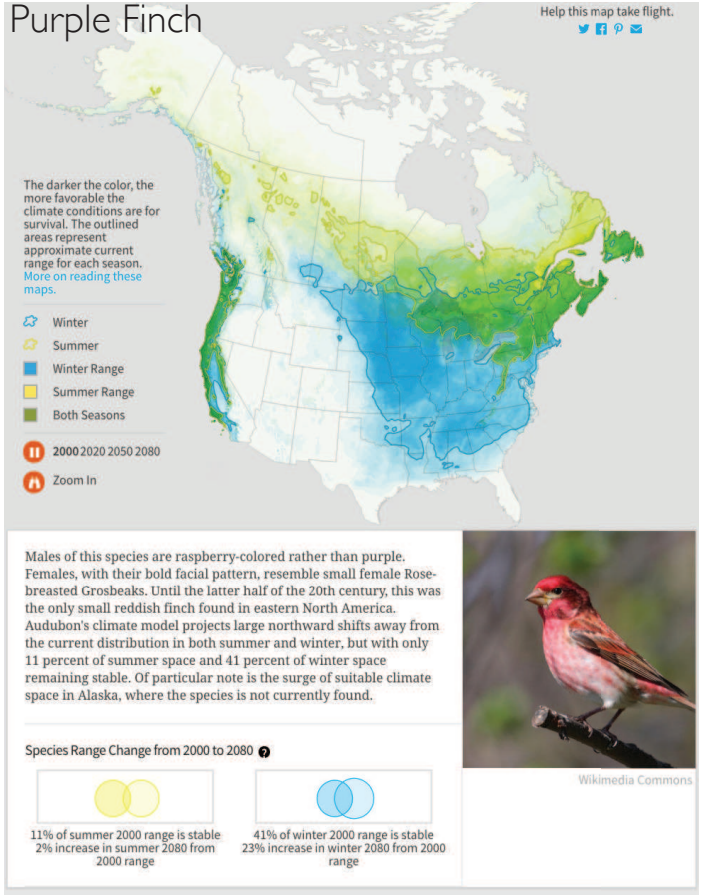
Construction, Planting, Maintenance, Public Outreach Programming

- Structure in place spring 2018
- Plants added as seeds and plugs throughout the growing season
- Autumn and winter growth and berries to be maintained as the year passes
- De-installation scheduled for 2019 -final planting into permanent site TBD with Parks Dept.
- Plants originate at Staten Island Native Plant Nursery
- Planting and maintenance phases overseen by Gerchick and community collaborators throughout the year
- Event and education programming throughout the year in concert with local schools and community organizations
- Community participation in regular maintenance, ecological and cultural programs
- Citizen science projects with the Audubon Society and The Cornell Ornithology Lab
- and Bio Bus
- Mobile apps are free and available to help people contribute observations to avian population surveys
- Art and citizen science projects to be coordinated with local schools and community centers in the neighborhood, and during public events with the general public with coordination with Sara D. Roosevelt Parks Coalition

CLIMATE CHANGE Projection of Migration Patterns

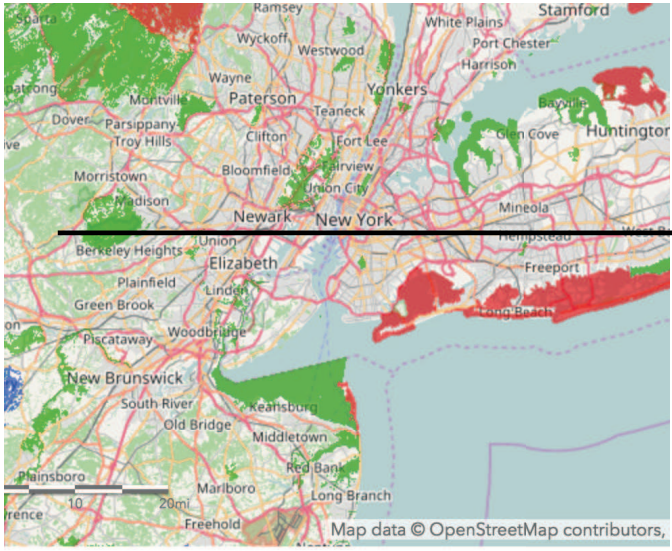


Birds migrate to move from areas of low or decreasing resources to areas of high or increasing resources. The two primary resources being sought are food and nesting locations. Many species can withstand freezing temperatures as long as an adequate supply of food is available.



Long-distance Migrants typically move from breeding ranges in the United States and Canada to wintering grounds in Central and South America despite the arduous journeys involved, long-distance migration is a feature of some 350 species of North American birds.

BIRDLINK Context



Healthy & Threatened

Sample Neighborhood Network

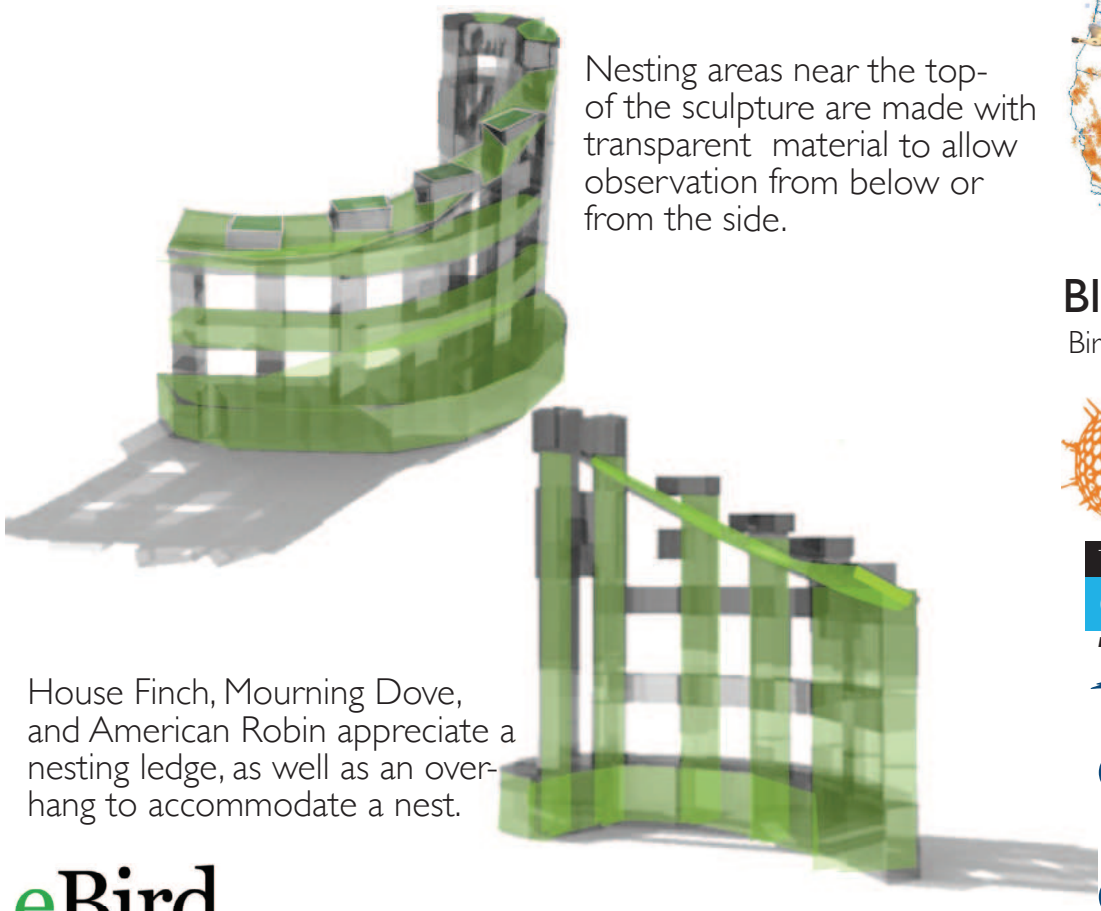
Sites in Network

BIRDLINK is a project that builds upon current work designing for ecological challenges. Design for biodiversity starts in cities with small experiments to restore wildlife habitat with ecological infrastructure. This is the idea of adaptive infrastructure to bring safe passage. A landscape network strategy connects fragmented habitat across scales by building complex functions into the landscape to make communities and wildlife more resilient to climate and other changes.

BIRDLINK is designed for ecological function with the aesthetics to communicate with the public.

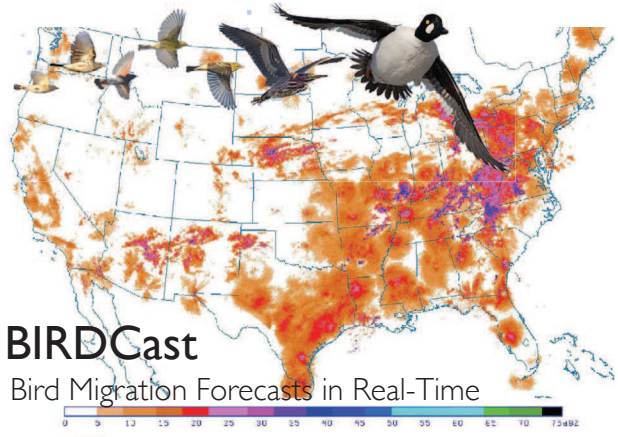
BIRDLINK Citizen Science Education

Events • Observation • Technology • Outreach to Schools and Community Organizations



Nesting areas near the top-of the sculpture are made with transparent material to allow observation from below or from the side.

House Finch, Mourning Dove, and American Robin appreciate a nesting ledge, as well as an over-hang to accommodate a nest.



BIRDCast

Bird Migration Forecasts in Real-Time

Biobus.org

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Celebrate **Urban Birds**

Let's get started!

Learn to identify the 16 focal species. Use the enclosed bird-ID guide and silhouette posters. If you want to obtain a regional list of focal species, visit celebrateurbanbirds.org/regional

Pick a place to watch birds and stick to it! Your bird-watching area should be 50 feet by 50 feet–about the size of half a basketball court. Find and remember the visual boundaries of your area. Don't change your bird-watching area.

10 Mins

Spend just 10 minutes observing birds.

- ✔Tell us if you see–or don't see–any of the focal species.
- ✔If you can't confidently identify a species, select "Unsure."
- ✔Zero means a lot! Send us your information even if you see no birds.
- ✔Only report birds inside your bird-watching area.
- ✔Mornings are best.

3x

Repeat your observation three times in the same bird-watching area anytime within a month.

Send your data. Citizen science happens when everyone shares their observations.

Have fun!

50 x 50 ft

10 mins

Illustrations by Bartels Science Illustration Interns Chloe Lam (cover) and Liz Clayton Fuller (bird-ID illustrations).

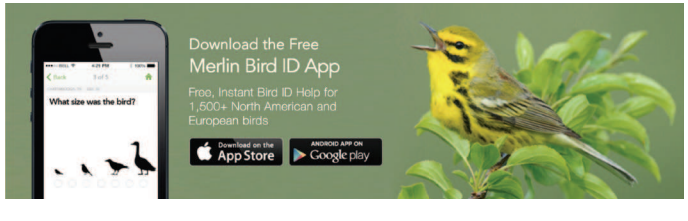
June, 2016

Visit us at CelebrateUrbanBirds.org

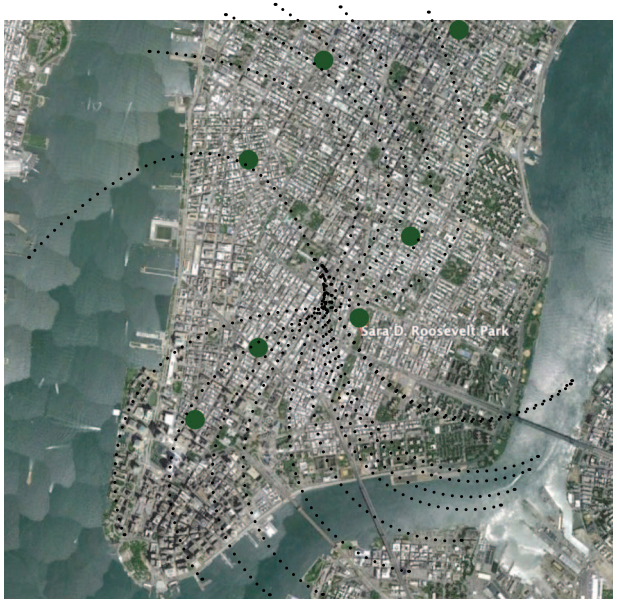
eBird

A joint project by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon

eBird is a free online program that allows birders to track their sightings, while other birders watch and search in real-time.



BIRDLINK Future Neighborhood Network Strategy



BIRDLINK interactive native plant sculptures function singly or as part of a larger network to support species by rebuilding native flora and fauna into the urban fabric. They attract resident and migrating birds and green city spaces.

BLOOMING SCHEDULE

Oenothera speciosa

Achillea millefolium

Oxalis corniculata

Geranium maculatum

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Vinca minor

Ajuga reptans

Chasmanthium latifolium

Hakonechloa macra

Phlox divaricata

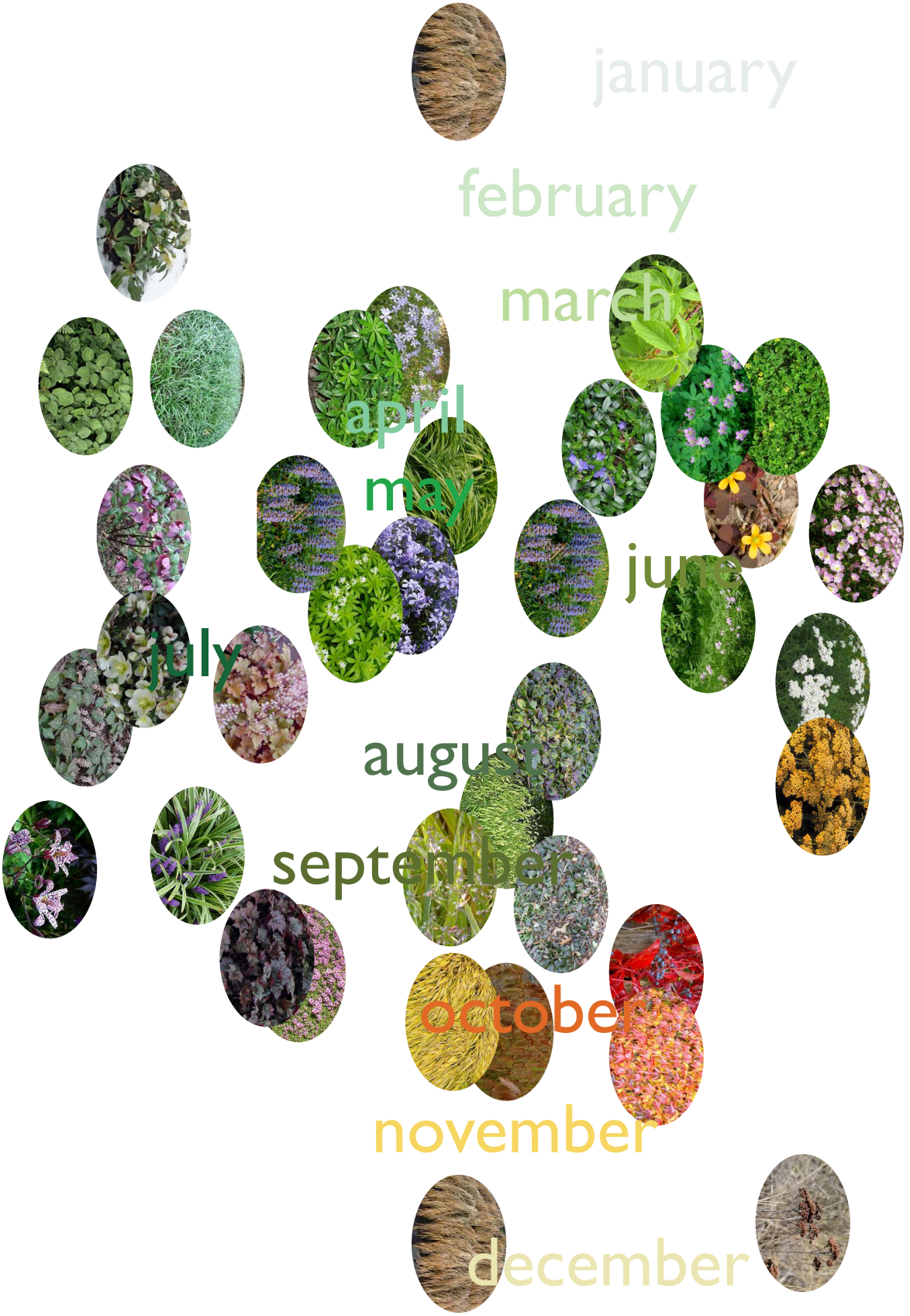
Galium odoratum

Athyrium filix-femina

Heuchera villosa

Liriope spicata

Helleborus x hybridus 'Winterqueen Strain''


january
february
march
april
may
june
july
august
september
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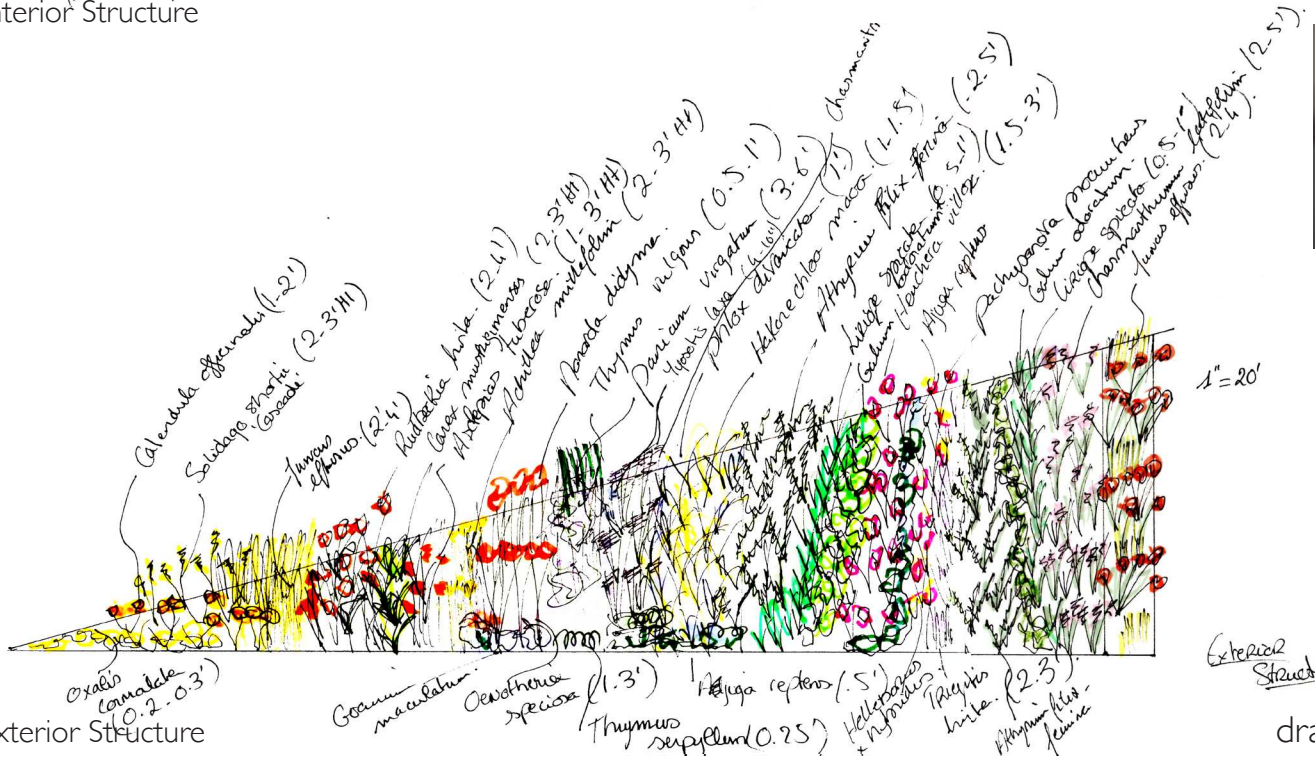
december

BIRDLINK Planting Sketches

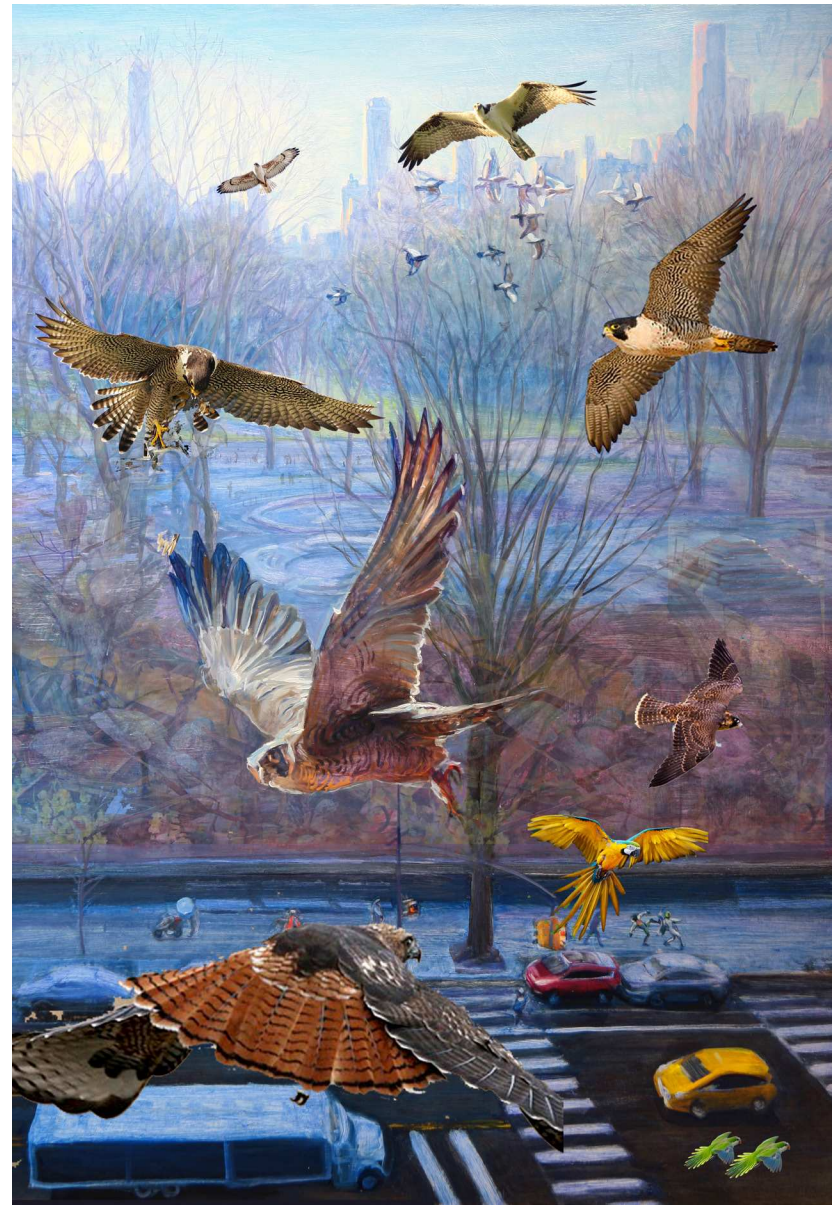
Interior Structure



Exterior Structure

drawing by SALEMBIER

BIRDLINK Birdpark



oil on canvas 48 x 34 inches

paintings by GERCHICK

About the author

Anina Gerchick is a public installation artist, landscape architect and painter .
Her public work combines ecological functionality and enhancement of urban public space with a focus on climate challenges that includes other species that share our built environment.
Gerchick works in collaboration with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as well as with community coalitions and educational institutions that offer citizen science outreach.
Her paintings have been exhibibited widely in New York City, internationally and in the Southeastern US.

ANINA GERCHICK
Author and Designer