

ADVENT[NAT]URE – Discover Play Educate Heal

THE 2015 BETTER PHILADELPHIA CHALLENGE - THE FUTURE OF PETTY ISLAND

ED BACON URBAN DESIGN COMPETITION 2014

Design Team:

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New Orleans' Second Line Quarter

ADVENT[NAT]URE

Advent nature represents a 3 phased future for Petty Island and its surroundings. Beginning in 2014, Petty Island is revealed as a nature and urban park. As time passes, continued human interest and presence on the island leads to the reuse of existing infrastructure. In many years the sea levels will rise and engulf much of the island. Programming and management will be scaled back to let the island return to its natural state.

Phase 1 - REVEAL)

Bringing attention to Petty Island is the first step in establishing it as a local asset. The implementation of a greenway in the immediate region with Petty island as the center will highlight this special place and give area residents new opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

Phase 2 - REUSE)

In the next phase, increased interest in the Island will lead to investment and creative reuse of the site's oil tanks and shipping containers. Adapting the existing infrastructure negates the need for additional construction.

Phase 3 - RETURN)

Rising seas lead into the final stage where most of the island is flooded, leaving only a few sections above water. Human influence intentionally wanes as the shoreline recedes. After cleaning up after themselves, people leave the island for good and let plants and animals reclaim it. Discover - At the moment Petty Island is not accessible to the public. Residents and visitors should have the opportunity to set foot on the island and experience its treasures for themselves. Adventure awaits!

Play - Petty Island is a natural and urban playground. The open spaces offer venues for concerts and festivals, while the forests can host activities like zip lines or climbing. Oil tanks become skate parks and containers turn into art galleries.

Learn - The history of the island is a fascinating story that visitors can learn and to be a part of. Lessons in ecology, design, planning, and resource management are taught by using the existing conditions as a classroom. The infrastructure of oil tanks and shipping containers provides more opportunities for gaining knowledge and mastering skills at aquariums or planetariums.

Heal - By harnessing the power of phytoremediation, Petty Island's toxic conditions can be reversed, and a clean and healthy ecosystem will be reestablished. Growing plants can also restore health through the realization of urban agriculture on the island. Providing much needed fresh products to the adjacent urban population can certainly contribute to curing hunger.