

# RESTORING AN ECOLOGICAL TREASURE

After Ridgewood Reservoir was abandoned in 1989, approximately eight distinct ecologies spontaneously emerged across the three basins, placing a small piece of wilderness in the heart of Brooklyn and Queens. To experience each of these ecologies, one would have to travel throughout the city and as far as Connecticut.

Ridgewood Reservoir has them all in one place.



MATURE COASTAL FOREST. Pelham Bay Park, Bronx



BIRCH/MAPLE SWAMP, Bronx Park, Bronx



BLACK LOCUST SAVANNA, Fresh Kills Park, Staten Island



FRESH WATER POND. High Rock Park, Staten Island



NORTHERN BOG. Mohawk State Forest, Connecticut



BIRCH, LOCUST, POPLAR FOREST, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx



FRESHWATER WETLANDS, Alley Pond Park, Queens

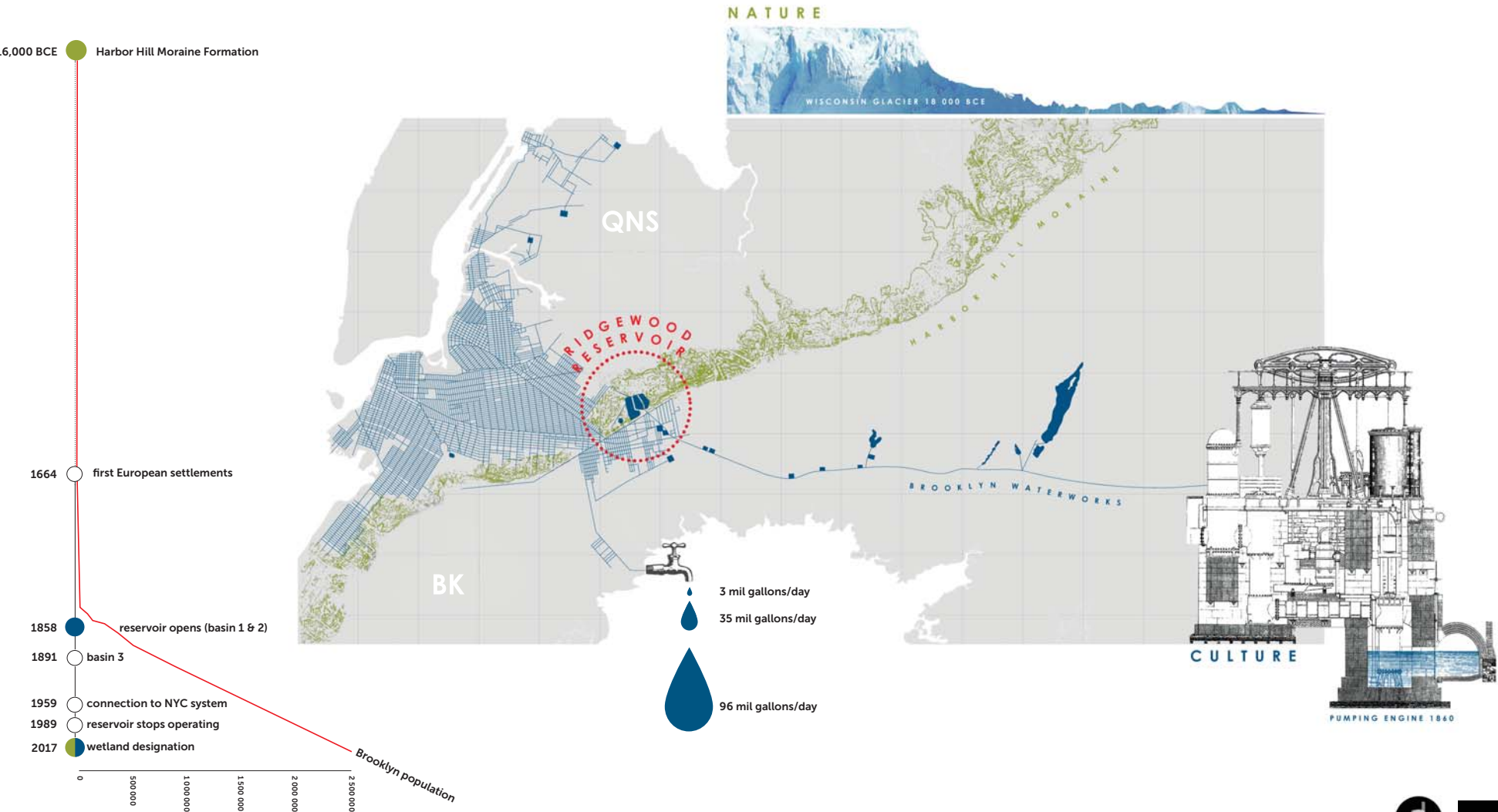


MATURE UPLAND FOREST. Forest Park, Queens



# REVEALING A CULTURAL TREASURE

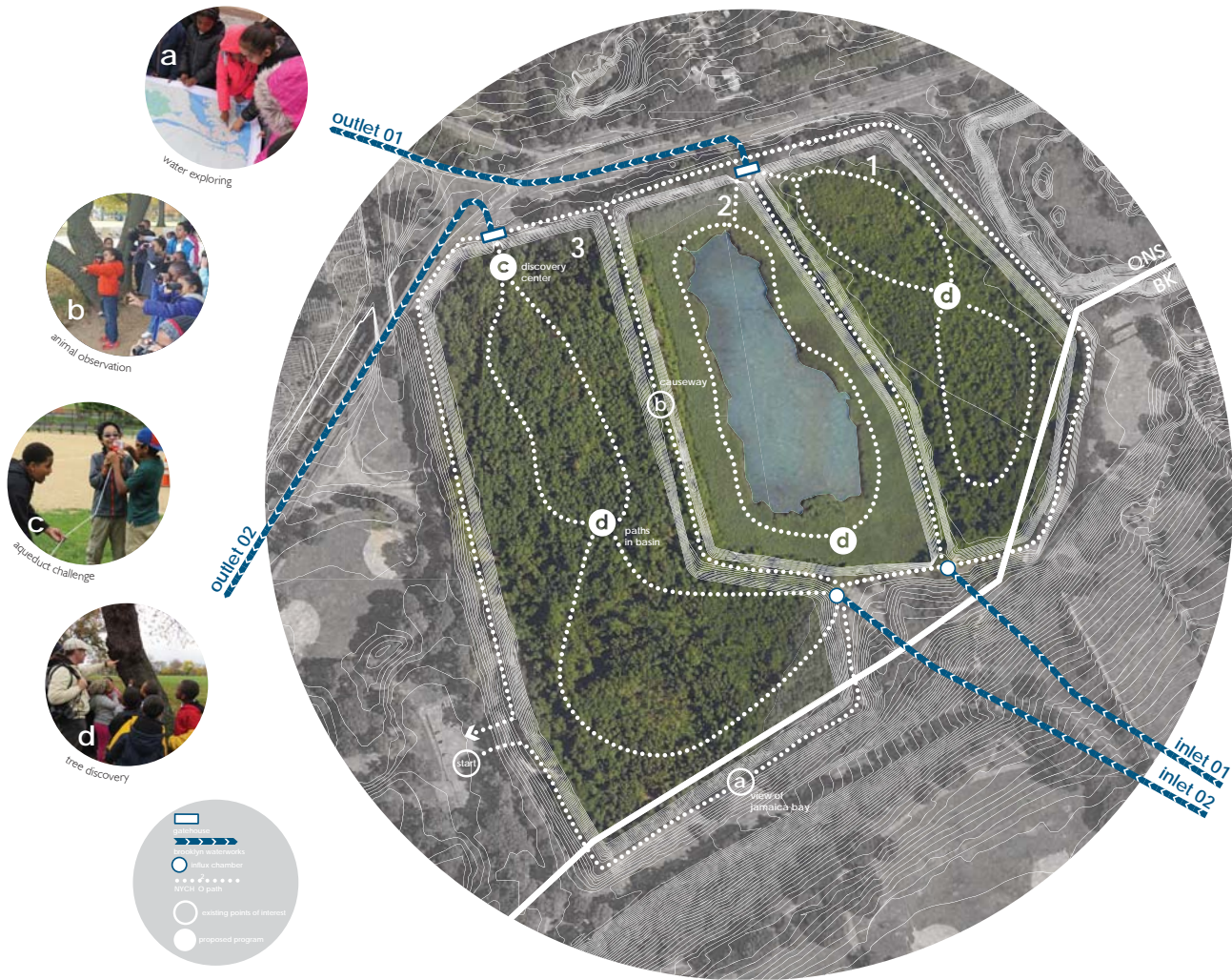
The site sits on top of the Harbor Hill Moraine, formed by the Wisconsin glacier in 16,000 BCE. Built in 1858, Ridgewood reservoir was the crown jewel of Brooklyn's original municipal water system; nevertheless, following the consolidation of 1898, NYC started relying more to the Catskill water network, making the Ridgewood reservoir redundant and eventually decommissioning it in 1989. Two of its three basins were drained and its infrastructures abandoned until in 2011, when NYC Parks installed new lighting, fences and walking paths.





# NYC H<sub>2</sub>O VISION

As part of their mission, NYC H<sub>2</sub>O has shepherded hundreds of teachers and thousands of school children on a series of reservoir adventures. While conducting field trips at the Ridgewood Reservoir, NYC H<sub>2</sub>O encountered an abandoned building which they realized was not an eyesore but an opportunity. The vision is to transform the gatehouse, which once controlled the flow of water to 19th century Brooklynites, into a source of knowledge and a gateway to new discoveries for their 21st century descendants.



- Basin 1: Emergent ecologies - early successional native forest due to fluctuating water levels
- Basin 2: Freshwater - open water with phragmites australis (common reed)
- Basin 3: Urban wildland - black locust canopy, japanese knotweed, mugwort ground cover



# A RICH EXPERIENCE

Providing access to the Ridgewood Reservoir offers the children of New York City an unparalleled exposure to native ecologies and a cultural and historic treasure. No other site in the city offers this type of education and adventure.



WALKING THROUGH RICH WOODLANDS



EXPERIENCING HISTORY FIRST HAND



MARVELING AT VARIETY