

1986



Open Road Park rests on land that was used as a bus depot. It left oil on the site and contaminated the soil.



In 1987 this bus depot was torn down leaving a vacant lot next to a public school for 6 years.



In 1993 Open Road spread a liner on the contaminated lot, with funding from the Department of Sanitation.



The plastic liner was covered with gravel soil and compost, all spread by hand, from 1993-1994.

1994



The design group met in the garden every Saturday from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Meetings are important because you have to plan what you are going to do and how a high school student on the team



THE BEGINNING

REMEDIATION OF THE CONTAMINATED LAND

DESIGNING THE GARDEN

BUILDING THE GARDEN

2004 - Living Memorials Project at Open Road Park

In 2004 Open Road began to create a living memorial together with the USDA Forest Service, Cornell University, and local partners.

Design Teams - Students from New Design HS, East Side Community HS, Cornell, Medina Masjid Mosque, neighbors, and Open Road staff

Presentation - On May 21, Cornell presents design ideas at Open Road Park



This living memorial design has been proposed by Ken Smith for the WTC. Open Road is working on a team with Smith in Santa Fe on a PD park design. Besides Santa Fe, Open Road works in Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.



Student from New Design HS working on his design. Open Road will begin construction of the living memorial by Oct 2004.

2005

The Living Memorials Project at Open Road Park will be complete and open to the public by June 2005.



OPEN ROAD PARK History, Design, Living Memorial

USDA Living Memorials Project University Partnership Open Road and Cornell University Design Board by Paula Hewitt, with assistance from Jake Li and Ianthe Jackson Design Team: Open Road, New Design HS, East Side Community HS, Medina Masjid Mosque

2002

Lower East Side Park is permanently preserved and renamed Open Road Park



PROGRAMS

2 - Fact Finding



The team studies the site, its current and future users, and the neighborhood. Neighborhood and site information is collected and added to interactive web-based maps such as www.ossimc.net. This information is used to create designs that respond to community needs and resources.

3 - Generating Design Ideas



Team members create drawings and lists of design ideas. They create moveable model pieces to show these ideas to each other and to present in public sessions.

4 - Creating a Design



After getting feedback from other team members, architects, and the public, the teams use models and base maps to create final designs. They negotiate over these and agree to one final design to present it to the community & land owner.

Participatory Design Process

Before After



5 - Building the New Design



The team plans a construction timeline, coordinates community and professional construction, and creates what it has designed.

Participatory design is a dynamic and continuous process. Sometimes designers may revisit a site and start another PD process because the needs of its users have changed.

BUILDING THE PLAYGROUND

DESIGNING THE PLAYGROUND

1998



Students surveying the lot



1997



"Open Road of New York, with the help of teachers and students from different schools, made 1/3 of the lot into a pretty garden." - Student from East Side HS



"Since the beginning, Open Road planned to develop the entire lot as a playground and garden. In 1997 they started designing a playground on the remaining two-thirds of the lot. The design team was made up mostly of high school students, teachers, architects, engineers, and community volunteers."



Volunteers placing the liner over the north side of the lot in 1999. In 1999 the park became part of the Cityspaces program of the Trust for Public Land.