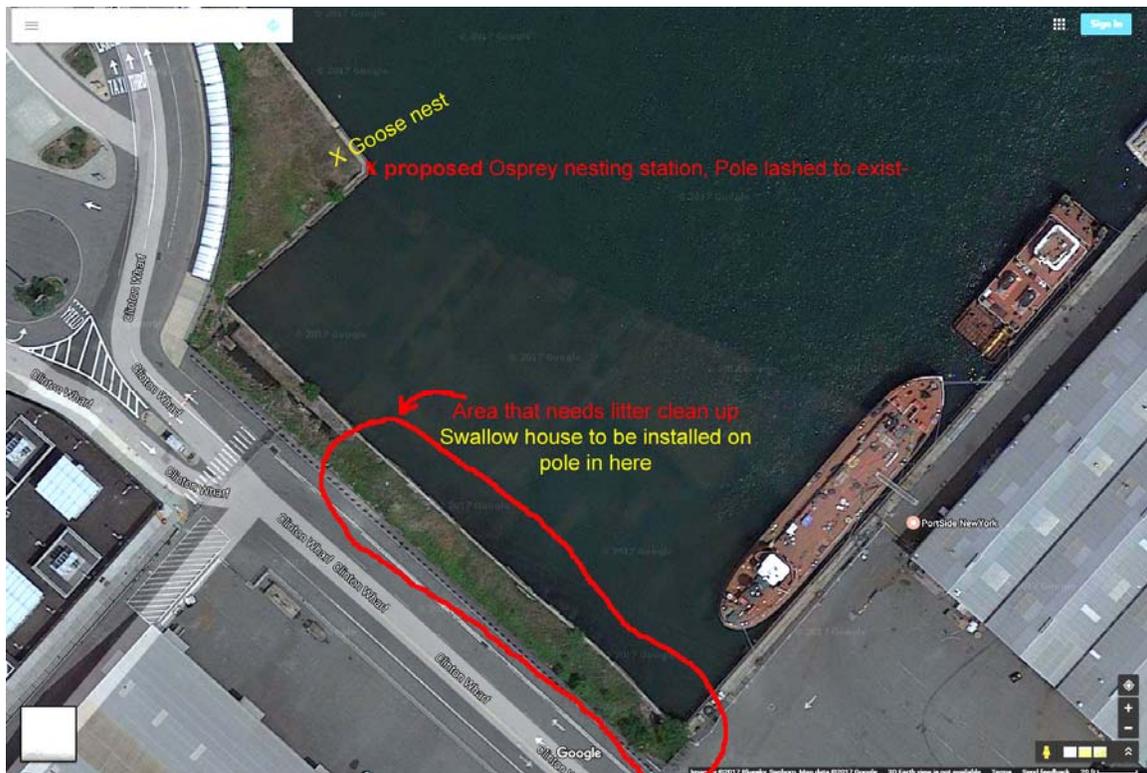


PortSide New York Atlantic Basin Nature Center Proposals

PortSide proposes creating several projects in partnership with schools, artists, non-profits, or citizens to create a nature center gateway to Red Hook. This will be an asset for locals and for passengers of the cruise ships and NYC Ferry. This can be executed as a phased project. This is a relatively low-work, high-impact project that will convert a weed patch into an educational feature by interpreting what lives and grows there and also adds some amenities.

The land site is the ribbon of land running astern of our ship MARY A. WHALEN from pier 11 along the sidewalk to the NYC Ferry, and from the ferry behind the cruise terminal pick-up area to Pier 12. The water, what lives in and on it, can also be interpreted.



Space is in the photo above (before construction of NYC Ferry dock) and at <https://www.google.com/maps/@40.68091,-74.0132113,122m/data=!3m1!1e3>

PortSide would handle getting all the permits for installations; we have deep experience on site. We can advise on the concepts below; in many cases, we have done considerable research about them. In addition, we can offer physical assets: our floating dock, rowboat and kayak for going out on the water. We have ladders to get over the fences, tools to build and install stuff like the stand that the camera and solar panel would be on. We have binoculars for analog watching, etc.

Extant nature in Atlantic Basin includes:

- Life in the water: fish, shellfish, smaller organisms
- Nesting pair of Canada geese
- Nesting pair of mallard ducks
- Swallows (they returned 4/9/17 and leave around
- Visiting water birds: seagulls, cormorants, Brant bufflehead and Gadwall ducks
- ducks, night heron, and others
- Land birds: sparrows



Proposed projects:

Plants:

- Install interpretive signs about the plants.
- Monitor the return of plants after the Spring 2017 earth disruption for NYC Ferry sidewalk and electrical trench.
- Reseed the disturbed earth with native plants



Birds:

- Add osprey nesting station. Bart Chezar has [built one on Governors Island](#) (with the MARY WHALEN in RHCT in the background). He also built the one in Bush Terminal Piers Park.
- Install Solar powered goose nest cam with live feed to the web so people can watch the goslings hatch in Atlantic Basin. This would be a great nature project that all of the Red Hook community could follow. We would link the web cam feed in on our e-museum at www.redhookwaterstories.org giving the project another tech component and making the project accessible to many people. This can tie-in to existing school projects; Miss Elzoghby's PS15 5th grade class had a super [Canada Goose project](#) in 2015. For many years, a pair of Canada Geese has nested in a protected part of Atlantic Basin (see attached annotated aerial). When construction of the NYC Ferry dock began, workers put a gangway out from a huge barge that went out over the nest, and mama goose did not flee. She hatched her brood. Here's a photo made by one of the Skanska workers.
- Install a house for [barn swallows](#). Put out nesting supplies for them. In San Juan Capistrano, California, the return of the swallows has [a festival](#); up until now, the return of the swallows in Red Hook does not generate news. Let's improve that!



- Install a low float so the little goslings and can get out of the water. They can't do that here because of the lack of a natural shoreline. The baby birds can't fly, so they can't fly out of the water over the vertical bulkheads (walls along the waterfront). We think predator fish ate many of the young ducklings in 2015 as soon as a float was removed. Ideally, this is a floating natural habitat. We have research on how to make those.

Other: Guardhouse Exhibit space

We have permission to convert the exterior of the white guardhouse near the MARY A. WHALEN to a WaterStories exhibit space. Exhibit could cover any kind of content in Red Hook WaterStories. That could include Nature Center ideas (marine life, fighting ocean pollution, local wastewater issues) or historic or contemporary maritime, immigrants that arrived here by water or resiliency/flood preparation issues.

Convert exterior of white guard house to exhibit space



Create Atlantic Basin, Red Hook version



Students sampling water quality

