

Video Transcript - Biocube in Central Park, New York

Liittschwager: We chose Central Park in New York City because we wanted to find out if even in the middle of most heavily visited urban park in the country, whether you can find a place that's still full of life. We spent a lot of time looking around to try to find a spot full of diversity, and then in the southeast [00:00:30] corner of the park there's a little nature sanctuary, but there's been a fence around it since 1939. So there's this little spot that's not stepped on. And the forest, the leaf litter, and all of the creatures that are inhabiting that and turning the soil and all of that, it's very lively.

Liittschwager: So when I placed the cube, I wanted a place that had some dimension, lots of places for creatures to live. And [00:01:00] so this rotting log, underneath it, and even inside the log there were going to be creatures. So as we were collecting the contents of the cube, we were parsing it by sort of habitat type, meaning the soil or the piece of rotten wood or the leaf litter.

Liittschwager: When we looked underneath the log, there was this lovely, big spider. [00:01:30] There were probably a hundred millipedes. We found just under a hundred species in Central Park. So even in a city of millions of people, you can find places that are abundant with life. It may not have the same diversity as a coral reef, but the number of individuals, the abundance, is still fantastic.