Ever wondered what New York looked like before it was a city? After a decade of research, the Mannahatta Project at the Wildlife Conservation Society un-covered the original ecology of Manhattan in an innovative virtual map. Building on that initiative, the Welikia Project goes beyond Mannahatta to encompass the entire city, discover its original ecology, and compare it to what we have today. Welikia (pronounced “WAY-lee-ki-a”) means “my good home” in Lenape, the Native American language of the New York City region at the time of first contact with Europeans. Welikia provides the basis for all the people of New York to appreciate, conserve and re-invigorate the natural heritage of their surroundings.

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