

Learning Places Fall 2017

Final Project Outline

Group Members: Seline Perez, Raju Ahmed, Elmer Merejo , Jin Huang, Anjali Rawat

Question:

How can green infrastructure be incorporated into developments, and getting developers involved in environmental issues that has been occurring in the Gowanus the last decade?

Project Overall Roles:

Jin: Podcast

Raju: Podcast

Elmer: editor/copy editor

Anjali: technical - openlab

Seline: project site design

Discussion Panel Roles:

Seline: Gowanus History

Anjali: Gowanus Conservancy (Rain Gardens and sponge parks)

Jin: Oyster Specialist add some information on the DEP rising water exhibition (MOMA)

Elmer: Developer-Brownfields

Raju: Leed Consultant/City Planner (two peoples)

Pairing and working together:

Developer (elmer) works with leed consultant (raju)

DEP (jin) and Gowanus representative (anjali)

Developer (elmer) and DEP (jin) and gowanus (anjali)

Leed consultant (raju) and DEP (jin) and gowanus (anjali)

Subtopics:

1. New development around the Gowanus Canal
2. Green life around the Gowanus Canal area.
3. History of the green life around the canal and the canal itself.
4. Changing of the people and developments throughout the past 10-20 years and how drastic the changes have been. (population density and eco environment)
5. Green infrastructure around the canal, plans to continue adding more, etc.
6. Green conservancy group, planting of trees around the canal, and anything else they do
7. What are the environmental problems of the gowanus canal? How does it affect the surrounding area?

What each person should research into:

Jin: Oyster reef revitalization and benefits to canal.

Elmer: Brownfields + Gowanus Developments

Raju: LEED consultant

Anjali: Sponge parks

Seline: History of Gowanus Canal

How the discussion will be:

Role-playing, Informative panel

Moderator - Seline

Objective: Inform people about green infrastructure and

Start: Seline with some of the history of gowanus

Transition: Introduce the panel guests

Transition: Start with the problem -> Anjali , Seline

Transition: Possible solutions -> Jin , Raju , Anjali

Transition: How it can work in gowanus -> Jin, Raju , Elmer , Anjali

Transition: How the developer can help -> Raju , Elmer

Transition: End with ??

Raju: LEED consultant

Sub topics

- What is LEED? (intro)
- Places where LEED buildings were used.
- Case study of LEED and non-LEED buildings.
- How can LEED be used in gowanus developments neighborhood? I.E rooftop gardens, public space (solutions)

Potential questions to answer

- What is LEED and their purpose?
- How will using lead LEED within the gowanus affect the neighborhood?
- How does having LEED development affect the gowanus neighborhood?

Seline: History

- Changing of development in the last five years in the Gowanus area.
- Oysters history within the Gowanus Canal
- Environmental issues that have occurred in the last five years
- Positive environmental things that have happened in the last five years

Elmer: Developer/Brownfields

- What can be done to help with CSOs as a developer
 - Green roofs is one solution. If we were to cover 100% of the suitable buildings with green roofs it would solve 26% of the problem for us(case study as evidence) .
- What is happening to Brownfields
 - Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA), how is that going in gowanus, etc.
- The trend in gowanus(gentrification) -> brownfields
 - There will be a sudden need for multiple developments in the area once they are finished with BOA's in the gowanus. With the gentrification of the adjacent neighborhoods(carroll gardens and park slope), gowanus is moving towards the same trend.
 - How 365 bond got spot zoned

Jin: Oyster

- Life of an Oyster: Oysters life process and how they retrieve nutrients and expel by products that are environmentally friendly.
- Oyster filtration: Oysters filter through their gills and trap microscopic particles within their filtration process while cleaning the water from its pollutants.

Anjali: Green Infrastructure

- Purpose of the Sponge Parks: To help dilute and clean contaminants from the land, prevent water overflow, etc.
- Goals of implementing the Sponge parks and other Green Infrastructures: reduce the quantity of stormwater entering the combined sewer system by promoting the infiltration of stormwater through soil media, reducing contaminated stormwater, entering the Gowanus Canal through direct drainage, minimize floating waste,
- Long Term plans: to expand it to 70 blocks that's including green infrastructure surrounding the GC.
- Contaminants: Lead-one of the largest contaminants, and the other types of contaminants.