

Learning Places Fall 2017

Annotated Bibliography

Public Spaces

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Wood, L ; Hooper, P ; Foster, S ; Bull, F .(2017) Public green spaces and positive mental health - investigating the relationship between access, quantity, and types of parks and mental wellbeing.*Health and Place*,48,63-71

In our research project on public spaces one attribute we were researching is how public spaces affect the mental health in a neighbor. This is important because public space should be more than someplace pretty to look at. In the journal article “Health and Place”, multiple studies were in place and compiled together to prove that public places can improve a person's mental health. How the study was measured was by how many public spaces were in the area, what type of public space, what the public space had to offer, accessibility to the public space, distances from neighborhood, and quality of public space. One result the studies concluded was that “greater exposure to better quality public open space was associated with lower odds of psychological distress compared with residents living in neighbourhoods” and “that the relationship between greenspace and mental health can differ according to gender, life-stage, or type of exposure to parks and green space”. Yet there were inconsistencies about what exact mental health was decreased. How this source applies to our project is because in Gowanus there are different type

of public space and each offer something different. Now it's for us to determine how each space affects the mental health of Gowanus residents and workers.

Jarnelle

Franck, K., & Stevens, Quentin. (2007). *Loose space : Possibility and diversity in urban life*. London ; New York: Routledge.

Public spaces can have a positive impact on neighborhoods because it can elevate the status of the area, also the atmosphere would be more relax because it allows a community to congregate and create bonds. At the same time public spaces can have an negative impact on neighborhoods (based on who you ask) because what people actually use that space for may not be what was intended. For example public benches being used as beds for the homeless, or parks being locations to purchase drugs. In the book 'Loose Space' examines different types of public spaces and how residents actually utilize the space. What I found interesting is how the book describes how residents "appropriate public space to meet their own needs and desires". This applies to our project because there are few public spaces in Gowanus that can be use for other than it's purpose, such as, 365 Bond and Whole Foods. In those spaces multiple activities can take place, such as; protest, fairs. This book will help us have a better idea on what to ask residents in Gowanus, what would they like in a public space?

Ajay

Shepard, B., & Smith Simon, Gregory. (2011). *The beach beneath the streets : Contesting New York City's public spaces*(Excelsior editions). Albany, N.Y.: Excelsior Editions/State University of New York Press.

This book basically talks about how the city hasn't been able to accomplish much in terms of public spaces. A lot of people still oppose what the city has done and they wish that the city would take their opinions into account, rather than just the real estate builder's point of views

and what they want. The book goes into depth on how each group of the city, and how each area of the city lives, and how gentrification really didn't help as much as it sometimes is believed to help with. Gentrification harmed these neighborhoods, even if it did bring in *some* public space. The public space isn't as good as you would think, since you have to pay much more in rent to live in the neighborhood once the space is created.

Ajay

Sary, A. (2013, October 03). Top 10 Indoor Public Spaces in Manhattan for Your Very Own Urban Oasis. Retrieved December 5, 2017, from <https://untappedcities.com/2013/10/03/top-10-indoor-public-spaces-in-manhattan-for-your-very-own-urban-oasis/>

This article shows how there are some more public spaces that not many people know about. These are called "Indoor" public spaces which are basically hidden but not for a specific reason. These places are specifically in Manhattan, but they are still public, meaning that you do not have to pay or donate to get into it. These public spaces were mainly created by the demolition of older buildings, or renovating an old defunct building into a new public space. This is actually a very good idea to reuse land, and it doesn't require taking up or gentrifying a new area to suit the needs of the public space.

Jhojansy

Gelinas, N. (2014, July). The threat to New York City's public spaces. New York Post . P 1.

When people from all around the world think about New York City, the first things that come to their mind are the big screen of 42nd Street, all the different entertainment around that

area but they don't really see what happens under the hood of those sidewalks. In the newspaper article "The threat to New York City public places" Gelina relates to a dad and his daughter who were visiting the City specifically time square when they were approached by one of those people who stand along the sidewalk handing out CD disk to pedestrian. These people are called CD bullies, they offer the CD disk for free, once you take it, they chase you saying "You have not paid that", and end up requesting for money. From a personal experience , when they approach they offer the disk for free, once you stop and try to take it, they inquire for money and if you walk away a group of people would surround you asking you to play for what they said was free. This scenario is exactly what happened to the man and his daughter but, when the man handed out money to the CD hustler, he inquired for more and even asked him if he felt pressure. As Gelina keeps saying that, this is one of many daily extortions that happen in NY every single day. If we were to look at the Gowanus, this place does not fit in the definition of what New York City is but, with a full potential of fitting it. The fact that the Gowanus neighborhood is in development and that future seems to be very bright, this like the ones related in the article worries a lot. Having to do all that has been done to make Gowanus a clean and safe environment and then having to deal with more problems such as this makes you want to give up on all the work you've done.

Jhojansy

Ken Worpole; (2007,04). The Social Value Of public spaces. Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

In this book Joseph explains how important are public spaces and area in a society. Public spaces does not only play a important role in the community but in the economic part of it. He states that in public spaces is where people get to know each other in a community and, not to be

stranger like in many others community. He states that when people interact with others and create relationship even at the most basic level, it creates a sense of joy and you get to be more involved in your community. Also the fact that there is a bond in the community, reduces the crime and the fear of being out there and interacting with the unknown. The fact that people are scared to change blind them to the point where they are in denial of the outside world. When we take a look at the Gowanus, that is something that all residents and newcomer would like to see. In the other hand we look at the current Gowanus, it look like a deserted place, people barely talk to each other; everyone is in their own world. This does not define a community at all.

Richard

Jan Gehl & Anne Matan (2009) Two perspectives on public spaces, Building Research & Information, 37:1, 106-109

When a lot of people think of a public space they think only of the of the physical aspects of the public spaces like the benches. But in addition to all the physical aspects we also have many other contributing factors that can affect the atmosphere of the space.

Understanding what people truly want in public space is to go beyond into other elements. In the article we see that they speak of the non-visual elements such as sounds and smells. Which are quite important and are often missed out. This is important for our project because we want to see how the residents feel about what their ideas on what makes a public space important to them what aspects they feel belongs in the public space in their community especially the parks and public space such as the wholefoods waterfront.

Richard

Stanley, B. W., Stark, B. L., Johnston, K. L., & Smith, M. E. (2012). URBAN OPEN SPACES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY TYPOLOGY AND ANALYSIS1.

This article is more of like a study in which they speak of many different spaces not just including green space which we often talk about but other spaces such as grey space which is like plazas or train stations which are often considered public space. They speak of the aspects of the space that give them the characteristics. Such as within such a space what of the space is being utilized for what. And how in the past such spaces like plazas were used and seeing how such spaces were to the community. It's important to see all these public spaces because we want to see diversity in the spaces in the community such as the Gowanus.

Randy

Kayden, J., & New York . Department of City Planning. (2000). Privately owned public space : The New York City experience. New York: John Wiley.

I chose this source because of the in depth explanations about New York City. It focuses mainly on over 500 places that are privately owned public places in the city. Great history is given in the context of this text included with several photographs, maps and plans for the spaces in New York City. Several designers, lawyers and planners will gain a better insight to the management, structure and enforcement of the privately owned public spaces. I felt like this book better explained the topic of public spaces better than any source that I came across during research. The point of the public spacing is that it's open to the public freely and diverse no matter which space it is.

Randy

“Great Public Spaces of New York.” *Project for Public Spaces*, Project for Public Spaces, 6 Mar. 2012, www.pps.org/blog/nyc_great_public_spaces/.

I chose this source because it has a list of the public spaces in New York City. When first researching the topics of public places and spaces, we needed a few examples to obtain a better understanding of the topic. A few public spaces that were mentioned in the list gave us a clearer understanding of what type of places in the Gowanus area we were trying to pinpoint in order to complete our project. Even though this source displays public places, we didn't rely on it solely because it was a brief list of multiple places. We used it more as a reference to better understand the term public places.

