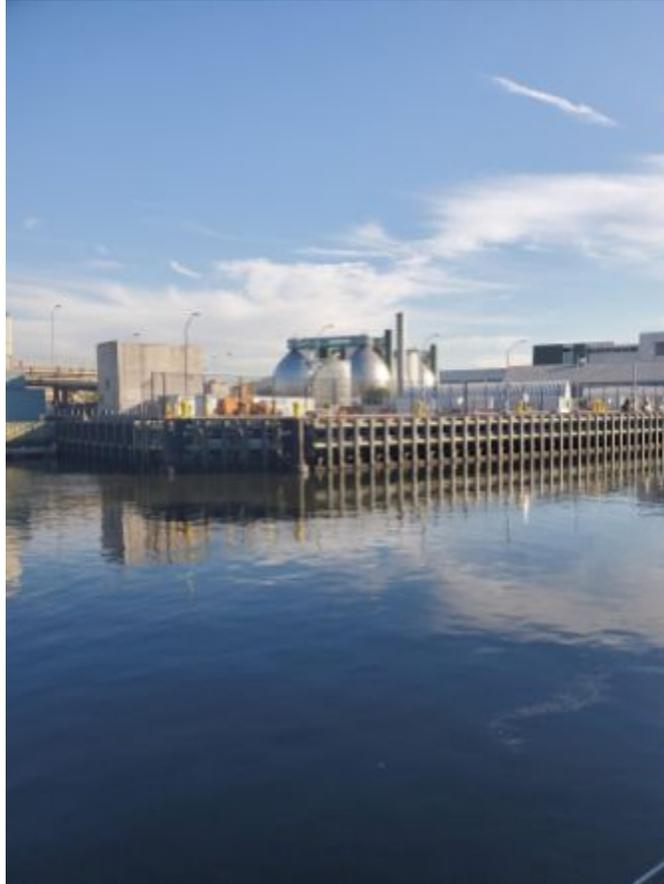


Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek



STUDENT NAME: ZAMBRANO,CESAR

SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. What are some general observations about the character of this place? What does it remind you of? How does it make you feel?

What I observed from this place was that it was a better experience than the Gowanus Canal. The creek to me is more of an open space to view the water and the surroundings. I observed the cars being wrecked and demolished on one side of the river. I saw a big boat sailing in the small river. The creek is a place where I would come to relax and see the water flow from the stairs tbh. I don't know what others feel about this place but I found it rather pleasant.

2. Historically, what are some of the important developments that have created the current environmental situation at Newtown Creek area. Refer not only to the reading and Prof. Spellane's lecture, but also what you learned on the Newtown Creek Alliance tour (hint... estuaries, for instance)?

The importance developments of the creek in today's age is that there is no more acres of grass. On the tour we learned that this place had acres and acres of grass and that native americans used to live here. We observed the seven stone circles which are made of stone and the stones are carved native place names on each circle at different angles. We also observed the steps which I found fascinating, is made of granite. Carved on the steps are also different ages that has passed: such as Jurassic age. When you go into the creek you see an entry gate and fence. The gate is 9 feet tall and if you turn, you see the empire state building straight ahead. Currently the creek is shaped like an L connected with a U. The big onion shaped metal is is put into digester eggs and breaking down. PLant is powered by methane in which we learn is stinky

3. In what ways is the natural environment contained or shaped by the architecture of the Newtown Creek Nature Walk? In what ways is the natural world repossessing, interacting with, or invading spaces that have been over-polluted or industrialized?

The natural environmental is contained by having different sections in the creek. The creek is introduced with the gate, then the turret, followed by the vessel, then the whale creek and industrial scene, and finally the fragrance garden and bridge. We see how there's plants growing by the water and onto the shore. The beauty of the trees and plants right after the stairs is beautifully preserved as a centerpiece. Many plants grow on thee side throughout the creek. The natural world repositions itself to still be in the area while the industrialized and pollution continues. You see the natural life in terms of weeds growing under the water and coming onto the steps. I also saw a bug very interestingly walking around the seats indicating that bug life still lives around here.

4. Discuss the program of the nature walk. How are people meant to interact with one another and with the environment?

The program of the nature walk is multiple intersections with history in them. The turret is where you can interact with people. It has a middle part where is great to talk and sounds better in which everyone around you can hear perfectly. It is a circular area where you can echo your voice. Before that, there is the vessel. This hall is where a boat is resembled. You can see the curvature of the wall and a wave. There are also portholes in which you can see the skyline and the empire state building. The hall is a lot smaller than what the real boats lengths were. In the river area you can interact with the environment: such as the air blowing, the natural water flowing sounds, the water flowing, and the breeze that the grass sways. This area is my favorite part of the walk because I really felt a connection with nature here and was nice seeing cars being crushed to be honest. At the end there is a bench in which you can interact with people and observe the creek. You can see the industry's work, interact with friends, and observe what really goes on here.

5. If you were to stage a performative intervention in a *specific* site (i.e., a single structural aspect of the walk or industrial remains) where would you stage it and why (how does the environment add meaning to the performance)?

If I were a stage performer I would choose the water to be my stage. I would have a floating water ancred to the steps. This is what adds meaning to the performance, the environment. Being in this type of environment at any time, preferably in the night, would feel amazing and refreshing. You would be in the centerpiece of the creek, enjoying the performance and nature around it.

6. What message would your performance convey and who needs to hear this message?

My performance would be stand up comedy in the water. The people that visit the creek would hear it. The message is you can find laughter even in areas of industrialization and work. The water is there and you can find the beauty in what is here.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project.

Questions might relate to architectural or environmental observations, socio-political problems and/or solutions, demography, history, zoning, civic processes, performance strategy, etc.

1. Question? Why is there so much sewage overflow in the Newtown Creek?
2. Question? What health problems can be caused by living near the Newtown Creek?
3. Question? How does pollution affect the animals or insects near the Newtown Creek?

FURTHER RESEARCH

Choose and **revise** one of your research questions for further research. Refine your question following from examples that we've discussed in class.

Revised Research Question:

How do we solve the issue of excessive sewage going into the Newtown Creek?

Find and cite 2 sources that address your question in [MLA format](#). Respond to the questions below.

CITATION 1:

“Newtown Creek: How to Fix the Combined Sewage Overflow Problem.” *Brooklyn Eagle*, 2 May 2017,

<https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2017/05/02/newtown-creek-how-to-fix-the-combined-sewage-overflow-problem/>.

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

I selected this source because when i searched for my question online, I saw that I had used the Brooklyn eagle before and realised that it gave me news that focused on Brooklyn. When I was reading

the article it showed me a lot of data in numbers; such as the route, diameter, length, and depth of the creek. This addresses my question because it tells us, “One option included digging a 2.5-mile long tunnel that would capture sewage runoff rather than let it enter the waterway.” Shows us ways to repair the damage done to the creek.

Is the source credible? Why or why not

The source is credible because the research that they find is accurate compared to other sites and it gives us data to work with.

CITATION 2:

Hogan, Gwynne. “\$910 M Underground Tunnel Plan to Trap Sewage Runoff For Newtown Creek.” *DNAinfo New York*, DNAinfo New York, 1 May 2017, <https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170501/greenpoint/newtown-creek-pollution-combined-sewage-overflow-department-of-environmental-preservation/>.

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

I selected this source because the article provided us with a photo of the sewage, fecal matter, that shows me that they go out of their way to capture such a shot. Also in the article, it is discussed on how much it would cost to catch the raw sewage runoff, the amount it would catch, and the length in which the variety of how wide it would have to be.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

This source is credible because I didn't have pop up ads appear at all, the site is clean, and gave me relevant information on the creek. Also gave me, in detail, data of the amount of fecal matter that there is throughout the creek, some more than others.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources?

Further information I would need is how much time this process of solving the excessive sewage in the creek. I can compare data to similar projects that have gone down. I would look for a site that shows me a detailed timeline on how much time this would take. Also look for different organizations that are focused in cleaning the creek.