

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek



STUDENT NAME: James Martinez

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? While heading to the site you first notice the smell of beach, follow by the smell of garbage. This is all introduced by a tight bridge of 10 feet of width. It reminds me a lot of Gowanus, however looks says otherwise. It's more of a welcoming journey and site a family can enjoy, having spectacular views out towards the water and a few resting spots. Personally it made me feel like it could have been a wonderful experience without the dark side of curing water and seeing all the dumb the boats were carrying.
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)? Some of the important development of Newtown Creek started by the manufacturing of goods that was brought in to the Newtown, which increase the pollution of

the water and land. As well living creatures like whales would travel in those waters.

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? One way they preserve the natural environment was by isolating in way that played with the architecture form of the site. For instance, the trees and cactus were kept from the native environment. One way would be they add long steps that reached into the water, forming a relationship between land and water. As well the land was made up of small sedimentary rocks.
4. Discuss the program of the nature walk. How are people meant to interact with one another and with the environment? The way the program was design was for people to travel one spot that didn't allow you to see the water and but to experience the edge of Brooklyn. When going through the path you are leaded to an open environment, which you quickly realize the unnatural causes that is between Brooklyn and Queens.
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)? I would probably stage between the exit and entrance of the site because right in between, architecturally they created a form of tunnel where a person voice can be louder, which will make a great spot to preform and get people attention.
6. What message would your performance convey and who needs to hear this message?

My performance would convey the unhealthy environment Newtown Creek is in and the people who needs to hear it is the residence but as well the tourist. If tourist hears it, then the word would likely spread throughout media and may reach to the audience that never heard of this kind of situation.

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? What might encourage Newtown Creek to become so polluted?
2. Question? What methods can Newtown Creek develop to decrease the amount of pollution?
3. Question? What other difficulties is Newtown Creek facing other than pollution?

FURTHER RESEARCH .

Revised Research Question:

What action can the city make to decrease the disturbing pollution in the water?

CITATION 1:

"Newtown Creek Water Pollution Control Plant." *Water Technology*. N.p., 2019. Web.
<https://www.water-technology.net/projects/newtown/>.

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

I selected this source because it news article that highlights the method the city used to eliminate the pollution, as well they inform the audience the cost, size and reason why.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

As a research answer it's not 100 percent credible due to the fact there is no author but its sponsor by Globaldata, which they purposely inform people as a news report.

CITATION 2:

Leonard, AnneE., and Peter Spellane. "Using Old Maps and New Methods to Discover the Early Chemicals and Petroleum Industries of Newtown Creek in New York City." *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*, vol. 9, no. 1/2, Jan. 2013, pp. 25–43. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/15420353.2012.726205.

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

This source is the history of Newtown Creek pollution and this will inform the audience what kind of issue Newtown Creek is facing.

Is the source credible? Why or why not? The source is credible since it's a full research on Newtown Creek edited by author who used a lot of concrete sources.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources? I still need to find more methods the cities can do to better Newtown creek without

breaking code and rules. Majority of these sources can be found within companies' websites, news reports and daily media. For instance, the NTA tour guide was a primary source and she inform us what they wanted to do to better Newtown Creek (add plants around the water edge).