Learning Places Summer 2019
SITE REPORT #2
Newtown Creek

The border between both Brooklyn (Kings County) and Queens County.

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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?

When I have arrived there was only one path that connects to the Creek, as well as some incorporation of nature that would be found in the area. To me it reminded me of the harbor near Ikea in Brooklyn, having a similar feeling of peace and serenity, but different because it wouldn't smell.

2. Historically, what are some of the important developments that have created the current environmental situation in the 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 important developments that were present in the environmental situation in the Newtown Creek area which was present by Prof. Spellane's were the development of Kerosene, Whale Oil, and Acid. All three of these were found in the same surrounding area for business. What's there now is the water treatment plant that disposes of sludge and the Sims Metal which disposes of both metal and garbage.

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?

In terms of architecture its more of a flow on what could have been found before all of the factories, and would be flourished with life. The flow goes from facing the empire state to facing the Water treatment plant as if there is a connection between both the city and waterways. When at the nature walk, they told us that there are invasive species that are carried all over the world due to many places not having natural predators and can sustain themselves at any place.

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

To me, the program of the nature walk was both a history lesson and a secluded path. People are supposed to admire and understand what was once there and see how much history had taken place before the city was ever in this state of development.

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)?

For this site, people can bring a more showy and open area that the public can interact with but in a controlled setting. This stage could be the entire path that leading to the creek and as you go further in people can be seen as skeletons presenting that the creek is in desperate need of help or present that the creek used to be flourishing until now.

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

This performance is supposed to show both urgency but also give a reason why there is such urgency in the first place. People need to hear this is the mayor and the senator since it is their responsibility to make sure there are waterways which is healthy enough for people to use.

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. How can we give more awareness to polluted waterways towards the communities?

2. How can we change the zoning in presenting more peace towards the creek?

3. How can we improve the architecture of the Nature walk towards 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 can we give more awareness to water polluted areas in poor communities?

CITATION 1: Johannessen, Åse, et al. "Transforming Urban Water Governance through Social (Triple-Loop) Learning." *Environmental Policy and Governance*, vol. 29, no. 2, Oct. 2019, pp. 144–154., DOI:10.1002/eet.1843.

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

When selecting this source, it describes the design of governance structures for triple-loop learning taking into account the identified barriers and supporting principles of other countries. It introduces some laws we can try and implement.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

It has been cited three times, as a research journal it took many statistics.

CITATION 2: Stillo, Frank, et al. "Well Water Testing in African-American Communities without Municipal Infrastructure: Beliefs Driving Decisions." *Science of The Total Environment*, vol. 686, 2019, pp. 1220–1228., DOI:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.05.317.

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

This source gives an understanding of how the different of different races communities got different focuses on funding. It helps with showing why it is a problem in these communities, and show what we could take into account.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

It is credible because it is a research journal from Elsevier.

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

Other information would include the health concerns that are caused in these polluted waterways. I would look for it on government websites such as EPA.