

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek



Select a meaningful image to that captures your perception of the site we visited and provide a caption explaining what the image is.

STUDENT NAME: Christopher Senquiz

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?

Some general observations I noticed when arriving to the site was a nature walk path way that brought you to the park which I thought was a really nice way to get into the park. While I was walking on the path way I started to smell a bad odor as if someone used the bathroom on the path. Once I got to the site I was surprised, the site opens up from the path and I wasn't expecting the site to be as nice design as it was. There were steps seats leading down to the water which I thought was a really nice design with a nice view

looking across Manhattan and there was some beautiful trees around the site. Walking down the site across from the water it wasn't nice as the site. There was a pile of car scraps. It look so dirty and there was a bad smell coming from the area of the water waste treatment plant. There was these ugly egg shaped structure. I don't think I would go back to visit the site because after hearing how residents in the area got sick with cancer it made me feel uncomfortable to be there. I believe the city still has a lot of work to do.

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)?

According to the readings, lectures and tour person, 85% of all tidal wetlands in New York City has been lost due to the economic. There was 16,000 acres and now there is only 1,200 acres. The toxicity that can be found in the Newtown Creek is from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Today, there is no wetlands in Newtown Creek. In a few more years Newtown Creek is looking to clean up and restore some plant life back into the area.

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 environment is contained or shaped by the architecture of the Newtown Creek Nature Walk because it was designed for long lasting modern material and for the environment and people to be together. The materials that were used was mostly concrete. To improve the site instead of using materials that would go bad fast. Also, the chairs and tables are place in the ways that people can enjoy the views of the city buildings, flowers, trees and water. Making it less as a industrialized area.

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 for people to be informed of what happened in the past at Newtown Creek. There are many signs in the space that shows the background history.

You can still see what the space used to be like from the other side where there is garbage and pile of car scraps. Which is still dirty and a bad smell coming from the area of the water waste treatment plant. The place is definitely for people to interact with one another because it is a quiet area and surrounded by trees and flowers bring life to the site.

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 to stage a performance I would use the corner of the site because from the concern of the site you can see the whole site from the bad to the good, how the area used to be contaminated and how it has changed. You have views of the city, trees and flowers. Making it a friendly site to visit and to enjoy a live performance. Making a statement that anything is possible, that you can change bad into something good. I would have a big screen with videos and images of Newtown Creek showing the before and after. The plans of how the area is becoming a better place and how it will continue to get cleaned up. The performance will be based on making a difference to our environment. People around New York City will come together for the performance. Thousands will watch the performance being done by children. Making a statement that the children is the future and we must make a difference now before it is too late.

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

The performance would be about pollution and the consequences of it and the city environmental officials and residents needs to hear the message.

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? Who polluted Newtown Creek water?

2. Question? What is being done to cleanup Newtown Creek water?

3. Question? How much longer is it going to take to cleanup 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:

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

CITATION 1:

"The Dirty yet Important History of the Newtown Creek: Our Neighborhood, The Way It Was - QNS.Com." QNS.Com, 2016, qns.com/story/2018/03/31/dirty-yet-important-history-newtown-creek-neighborhood-way/. Accessed 21 Oct. 2019.

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

I choose this source because it discusses how the Newtown Creek water got polluted.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

Yes, this source is credible because it discusses how farmland and industrials surrounded Newtown.

CITATION 2:

"Cleaning Up Newtown Creek | WNYC | New York Public Radio, Podcasts, Live Streaming Radio, News." WNYC, 2019, www.wnyc.org/story/72699-cleaning-up-newtown-creek/. Accessed 21 Oct. 2019.

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

I selected this because it discusses how they are trying to cleanup Newtown Creek.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

Yes, this source is credible because it discusses in details how the government is putting money into cleaning up Newtown.

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

I would look for additional information on how the residents in the area is doing to cleanup Newtown.