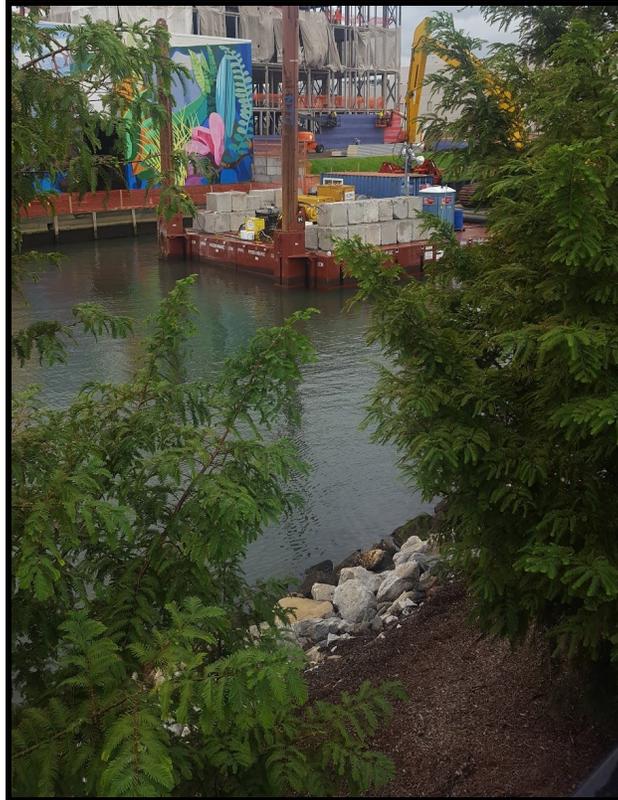


Learning Places Fall 2017

### **SITE REPORT #3**

Nature Walk Along the Gowanus Canal



**Green around the Gowanus Canal:** Looking at this picture you can see that there is a lot of green infrastructures along the canal by Whole Foods. Also the canal is in process of being clean.

Seline Perez

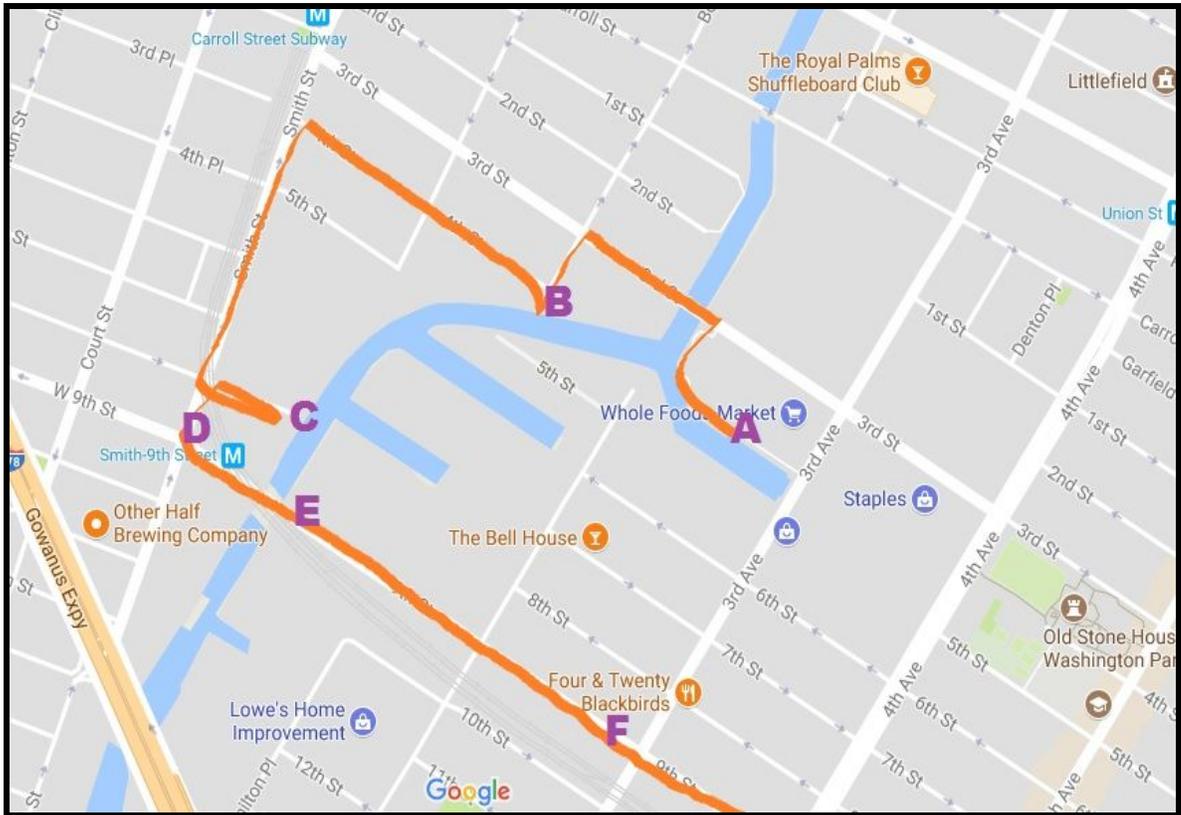
10.22.2017

### **INTRODUCTION AND PRE-VISIT REFLECTIONS**

Before going on the walk with my group, we got to see the Gowanus Canal get clean. There was a big crane clamp that was going into the canal and pulling out what's called as "black mayonnaise" and the smell that came with the crane was terrible. But, finally the Gowanus Canal is starting to be clean and we got to see the start of the cleaning. After watching the process of the cleaning, the group got to talking and planning and decided on visiting the south side of the Gowanus Canal that we have not seen. I assumed that the south side of the canal would have some green infrastructures around but, there was very few. But, there was a lot of plant life on that side growing everywhere, even on building and fences. The group kept in mind how the north side of the canal looked and all the different green infrastructures that were along the canal and as well the different plant life.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION:

### (1) MAP OF AREA OF INVESTIGATION:



- A) This is where the class met and the groups got together to explore the area more. Also, this where the Gowanus Canal was being clean.
- B) First stop that the green infrastructure group made and looked at the canal and what was in the area.
- C) Second stop, group was happy to see the Gowanus Canal again after walking 4th street, Smith street, and only seeing big trucks. Gowanus Canal has a powerful strong smell.
- D) Third stop at the deli to talk to the works there and ask them questions about green infrastructures.
- E) Fourth stop on Ninth Street Bridge where there were plants that seem to be a developed of some sort of sponge park along the canal.
- F) Fifth stop to see the bright purple and bright outline green building called "GroundWorks Inc".

## (2) PHOTOS AND SKETCHES:



**Gowanus Canal Clean Up:** This is where the area where the class met, which is also next to Whole Foods. In the image you can see the Gowanus Canal clean up process and the “black mayonnaise” that is being removed from the canal.



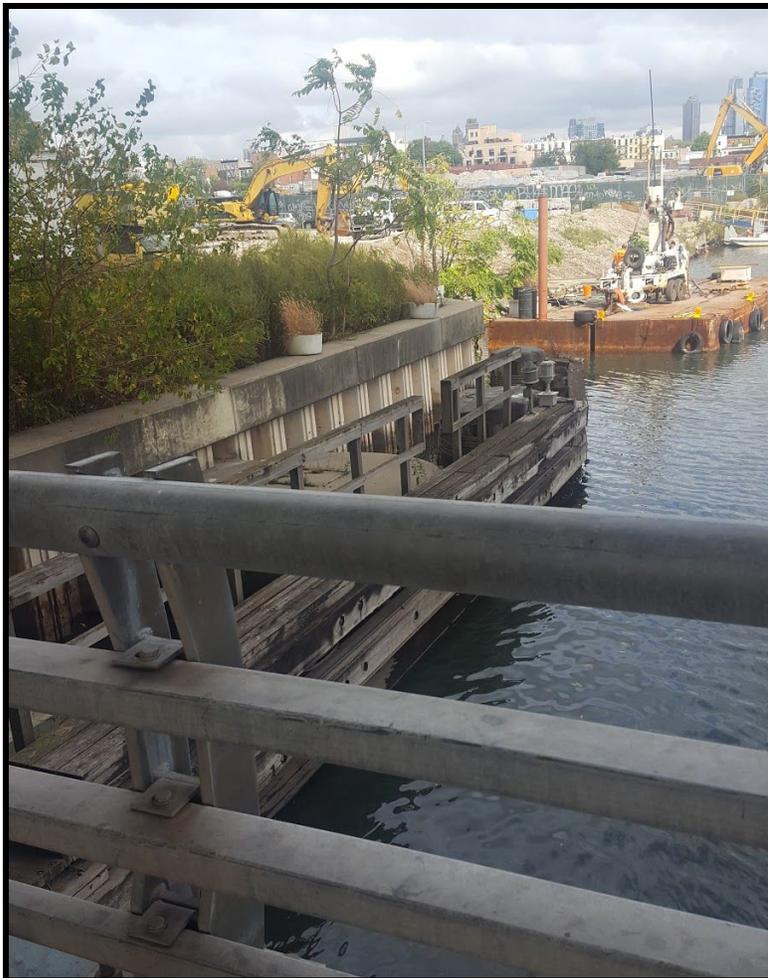
### **Green Infrastructure by Whole Foods:**

This is by Whole Foods, and there’s a lot of different plant life and these plants are located around the canal.



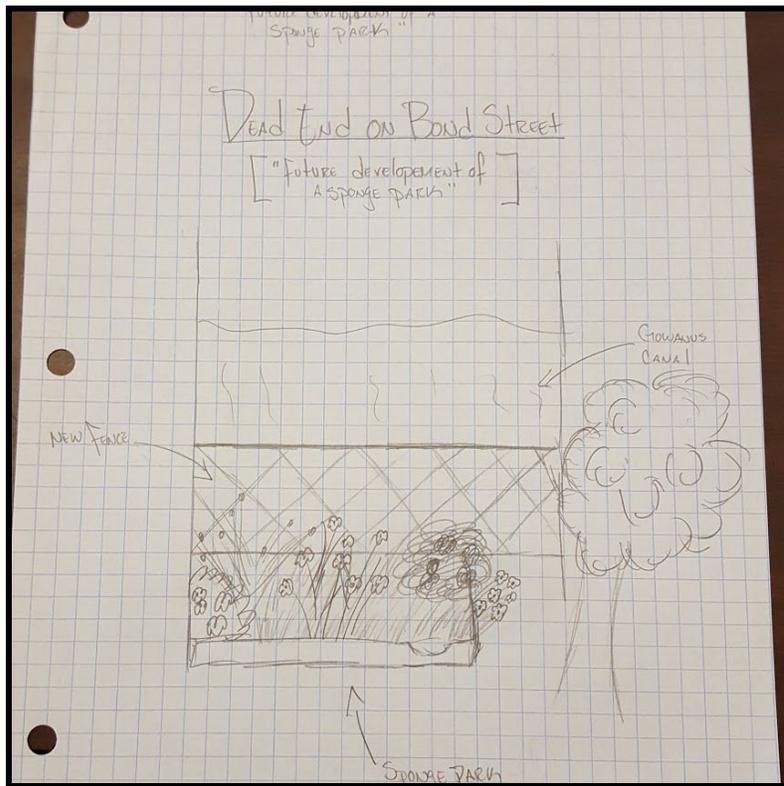
**Dead End on Bond Street:**

This a fences that's broken down at the end on Bond street.



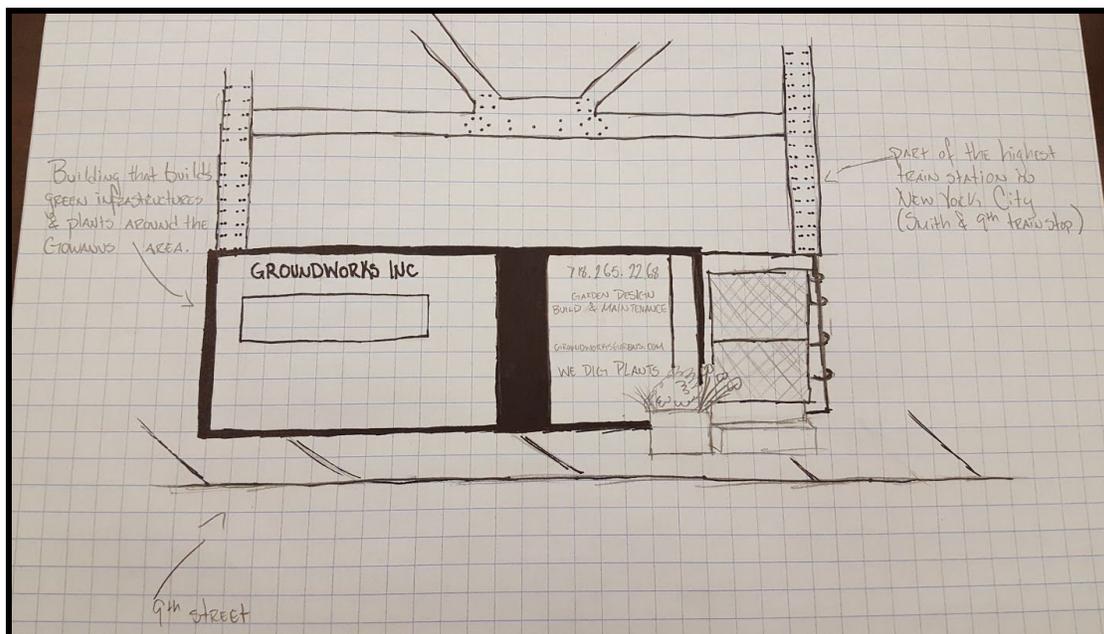
**Green on Ninth Street Bridge:**

This picture was taken on the Third street bridge and as you can see from the left of the picture that there's some sort of sponge park or just regular plant life by the canal.



### Dead End on Bond Street:

This is a sketch of a sponge park that could be made at the dead end on Bond Street.



### GroundWorks Inc:

This is a sketch of a small building that does plant work and green infrastructures.

## ANALYSIS:

While taking the walk, the group kept in mind how the north side of the Gowanus Canal is developed and the different types of green infrastructures that have been built and are under development. The first image "Gowanus Canal Clean Up" shows not only the starting process of the clean up of the Gowanus Canal but also, the bright green grass that is growing along the side of the canal across from Whole Foods. The big patch of green grass shows that the south side of the canal has some type of green infrastructures growing around the area. The green infrastructure group, grouped together and got to talking and decided to check out what the south side of the Gowanus Canal has or was in the process of developing. When starting the walk from Whole Foods, the image above "Green Infrastructure by Whole Foods" shows how the area along the canal has different green infrastructures that have been developed with the new things that are being built alongside the canal on the north side. After the image was taken, the next place that was visited was the dead end of Bond street, which you get there by making a left on 3rd street. At the dead end on Bond street there's a messed up fence which bend towards the canal as shown in "Dead End on Bond Street". What is seen in the photo is that there are different plant life alongside the Gowanus Canal, even small trees that have roots that go into the canal. The first sketch is an idea for building some sort of green infrastructure at the dead end, and also fixing the fence and making it lower. This area is important because this area gets flooded, so putting some sort of sponge park would help keep the overflow of the canal and help filter out the rain water when going into the Gowanus Canal. The walk continue on 4th street and there wasn't much to see and the canal wasn't visible. Everything in the area was very industrial but there was some residential within the area. Along the walk there was a fence that was completely taken over by big long vines that seem to just eat away at the fence and as well as bushes that were growing out of the ground and using the fence as support to grow upwards. As we continue to walk we made it to Ninth Street Bridge and that is where the last image was taken. When you look at the image you can see to the left that there is some sort of green infrastructure that is either being built or in the process of becoming a sort of sponge park. As the walk continue the group notice that there wasn't much to the south side of the Gowanus Canal area. The difference between the north side of canal and the south side could be noticed off the start walking around on 4th ave, 5th ave, Smith street, and 9th street. There's not a lot of residential areas, the area is mainly industrial in the south side of the canal. Also, there isn't as many green infrastructures as the north side of the Gowanus Canal, expect the area that's on 9th street right under the highest New York City train station, is a small bright purple and green outlined building that is shown on the last sketch. This company offers different plant designs and different green infrastructures that could be made and they also have a website which is written on the sketch and on their building. Overall, the walk in the south side of the Gowanus Canal is different from the first to site visit which were mainly in the north side area of the canal. The south side seems to be going through some changes but not as much or as rapidly as the north side of canal.

**KEYWORDS/ VOCABULARY** (these must be words you learned on this walk such as specialized vocabulary, city agencies, names of businesses or significant people – they must be specific to the topic of the walk) \*5 keywords required per site visit

1. Vines
2. Ecology
3. Maintenance
4. “WE DIG PLANT”
5. Big Reuse Brooklyn

**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; do not include questions you can answer with a quick google search)

1. Is the Gowanus Canal trying to take over what was once in the area?
2. Would there be more green infrastructures on the south side of the canal being developed?
3. How can the company on 9th street, “Groundwork Inc” help in adding more plant life around the Gowanus Canal?