

Learning Places Fall 2017
Site Report # 3
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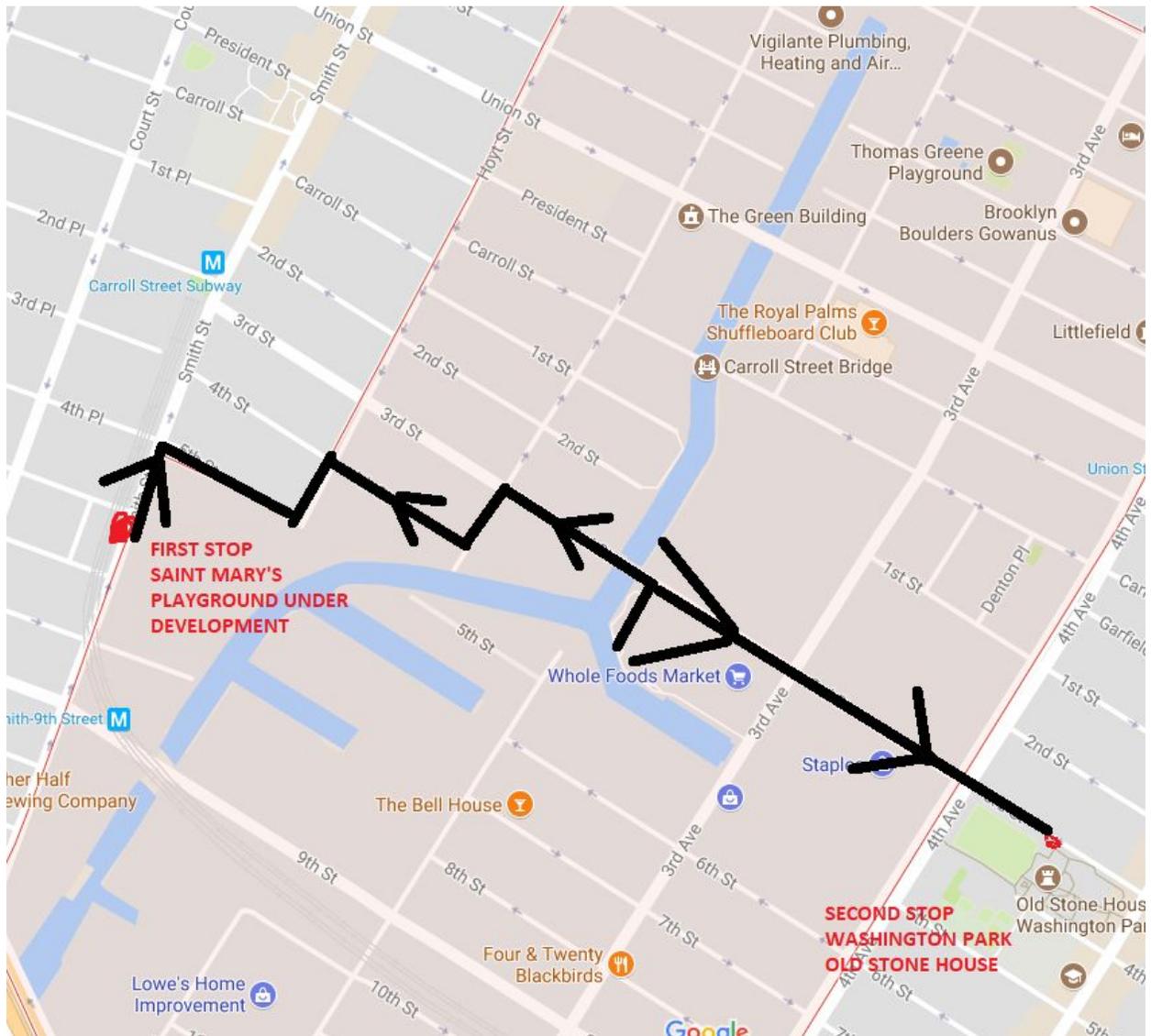


Image:

This is Washington Park where the old stone house replica is located along with a huge variety of public space within the park itself.

Introduction: We visited the Gowanus this time in search of Public spaces that are currently available to the Gowanus area but however after walking around the area we soon realized there are more to the Public space in Gowanus than we expected although we couldn't visit all the areas this trip we were able to see Public spaces in use and also ones that are upcoming. Public spaces provide a area that the community can use. Public spaces are open to everyone and is easily accessible. But most importantly is that it allows the community to connect with the space on a personal level. Public spaces we went to we were able to experience the atmosphere there and more.

PATHING

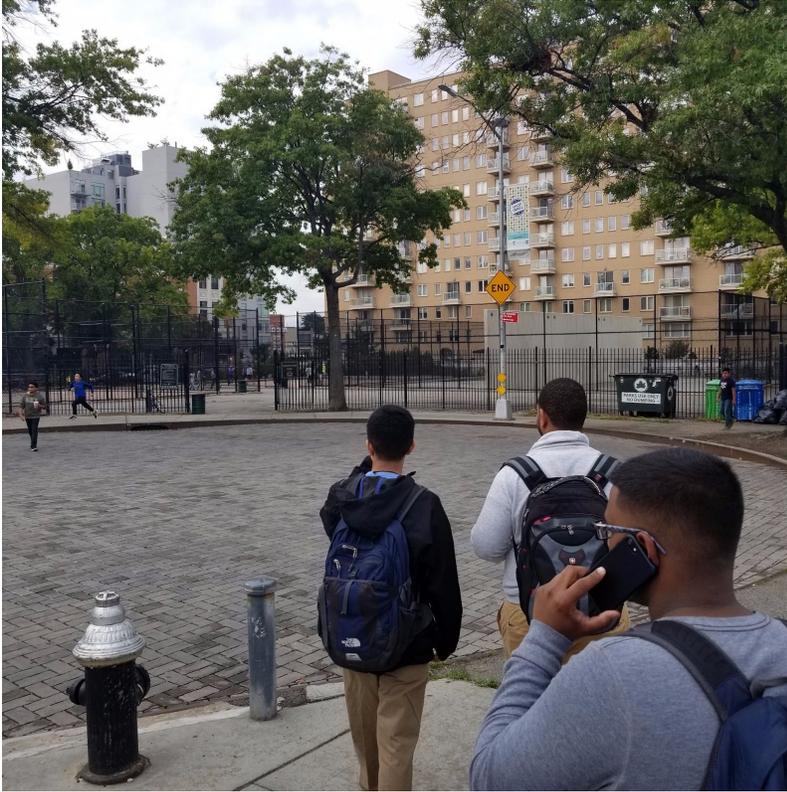


Firstly we went down towards Smith Street and we walked down towards Smith-9th until we got to Saint Mary's Playground which was under the elevated tracks then backtracked past whole foods down one block Washington Park to the Old stone house also which was located inside the park.

PHOTOS & SKETCHES



PICTURE- Here we have the new reconstruction of St. Mary's as we can see from the background it is completely under the elevated tracks. Further research found "Though the project is still in the design stage, the anticipated scope includes reconstruction of the existing playground, sport courts and a multi-purpose play area with skate park elements," Parks Department spokeswoman Maeri Ferguson said in a statement." which will be interesting as the older playground across the street only had a basketball court from what we could tell.



Picture-

When we went to Washington park not only was there a huge baseball field but many other specially designed areas of the park that I didn't expect it to have around this stone area you can see a handball court and a basketball court and further to the back there was a basic skate park. And directly next to it was a apartment building and a school making it very easy to access for anyone.



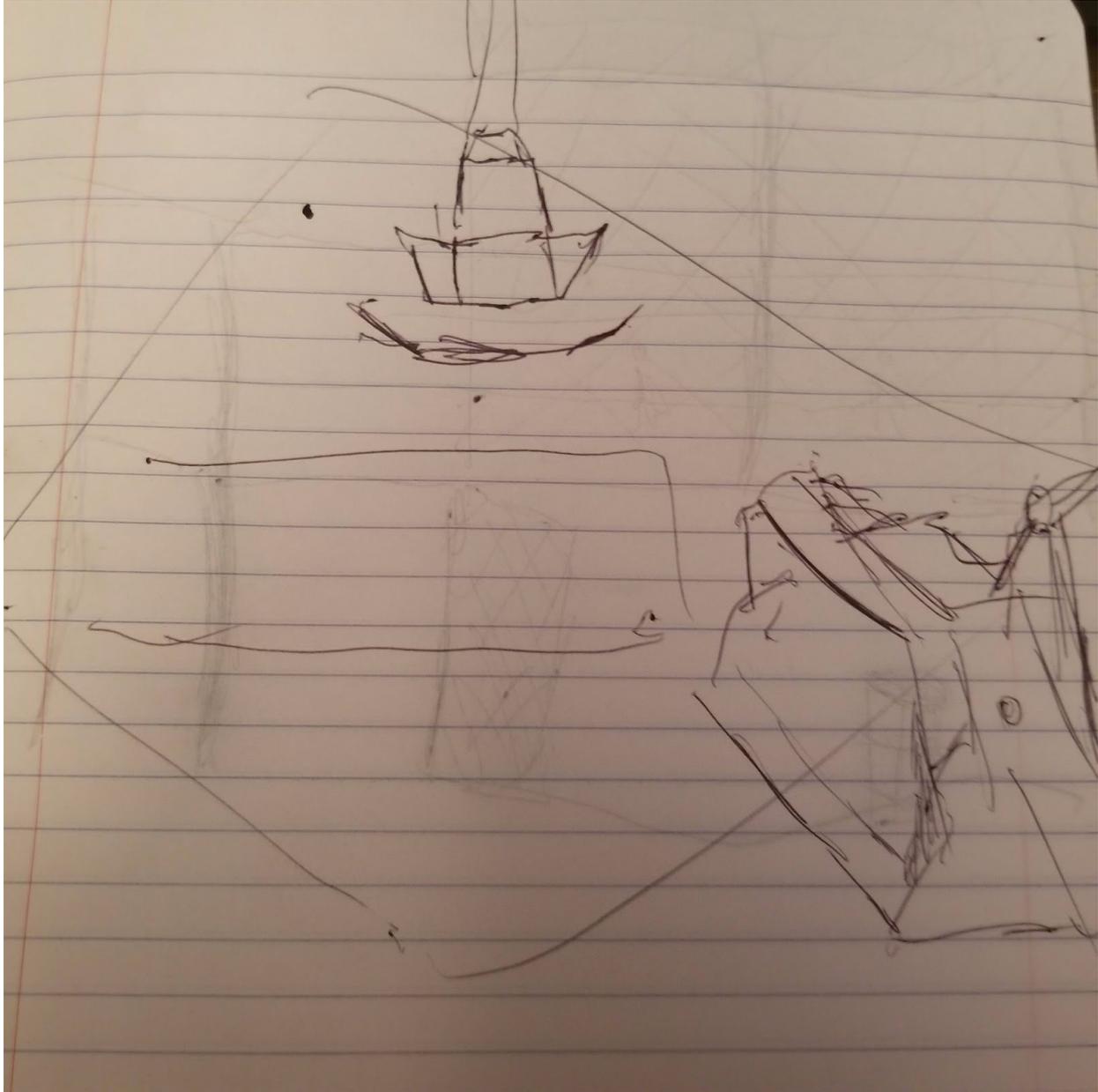
PICTURE-

Not only did Washington park have playgrounds and basketball courts but it also had the Old stone house which is a replica. But it is a historical site which dates back to the colonies. There were many people walking around the area and I believe events such as performances and shows are held there. Not to mention people can walk up to the area and see it and you can see the other decorative parts that the old Stone House use to have.



Picture-

Whole foods area the starting point to our trip around Gowanus is a public space in the past we have seen many people part of the community utilizing the Public space to sketch or to read. We saw many people walking through the area. It is very accessible as anyone can walk in and sit down in front of the canal.



PICTURE-

St. Mary's New area as we can see they are making new spots are equipment for the playground we have a flagpole most likely previously there and a bulldozer and other equipment used for development looking through the fence in.



PICTURE-

Washington Park's huge baseball field kids running around huge open space

THOUGHTS

After taking a walk around the area I found that Public space is extremely important to the community as we saw walking to St. Mary's Playground which was closed for renovation we saw despite the area being high traffic since it was located blocks away from train stations the area was very bland we didn't feel any sort of vibrant life there. Hopefully that will change when the playground is finished in early 2018. But going to Washington park seeing hundreds of kids coming out of school during lunch and parents bringing their kids to the park. We saw so much life there the entire park is very alive. And the huge amounts of open public space and areas for

sports and activity. But the park was also located right next to a school and apartment building not to mention it was surrounded by residential area made it a very popular spot. Not to mention they had a historical building right in the center which could be used for many special events.

I believe that the Public space truly has an impact on the communities spirits and is almost up lifting. I believe that the transformation of the area and including plenty of Public spaces that allow people to just walk through would change the atmosphere of the area. And it can easily spark other public spaces to pop up around the Gowanus in the future. I think that once St. Mary's Playground is completed the area along Smith St will also see a new change not only physically but in the communities hope for more and better changes.

KEYWORDS

1.PUBLIC SPACE

2. RENOVATION

3.DESIGN

4.PARKS

5.OLD STONE HOUSE

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH-

1. Will the design on these parks affect how many people will actually use the parks on a daily basis?
2. How much space is sufficient for a public space?
3. How can we integrate public space even more around the Gowanus?