

Learning Places Fall 2017

**SITE REPORT #3**

Exploring Gowanus (Groupwork



ngton Park to be a well-established public place to

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**INTRODUCTION AND PRE-VISIT REFLECTIONS**

This is the third time visiting Gowanus and I felt like I am able to present to a given audience about everything we have learned after doing research and continuing to learn new things about Gowanus. The purpose of this trip was to scope out several public places. Everyone worked in groups and each group had their own topic. Public places could include parks, benches, scenery, playgrounds, ball courts and basically any place open to the public. My expectations were met as we tried to find public places that were in development or under construction that fell into the criteria of our research.

- (1) MAP OF AREA OF INVESTIGATION – We explored areas around Washington park and the Old Stone House where the Battle of Brooklyn took place.





This was the play area of Washington Park's field. This is a perfect example of a public place because it's open to the public of all ages.

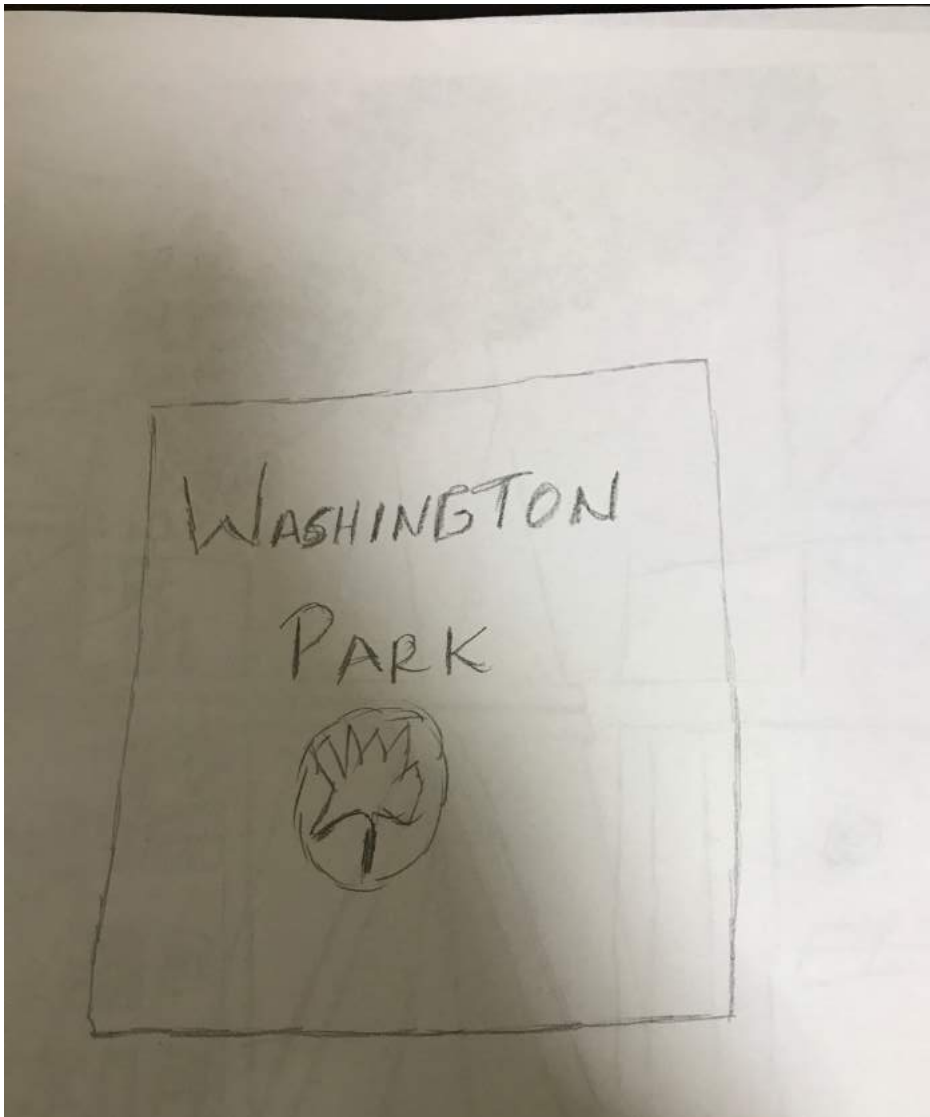




This image shows the cleanliness of the park and the civil environment it carries. Just this image gives you a sense of how people act or the different activities that take place here at the park.



This is a rough sketch of the bridge right above the construction of Washington Park. It shows trees and a bridge of where there is a highway right above.



This is the park logo, which says Washington Park. This sign lies not too far from the Old Stone House, which was why I chose this sketch. The park and Stone House are two main public places of Gowanus due to its history from earlier time.

**ANALYSIS:** Parks provide environmental and recreation benefits to the Gowanus community. They serve as an outlet for families to spend time and for individuals to enjoy some sort of solitude. Parks are also seen as a means for economic development in up and coming neighborhood. They enhance property value, increase municipal revenue, bring homebuyers and workers and attract retirees. There is a direct correlation to the assumptions that property value is dependent no the presence of parks and other

recreational means. In a 17 year long period, the neighborhoods surrounding Central Park increased \$209 million in value. Increased property values and increased municipal revenues go hand in hand. Property tax is one of the most important revenue streams for cities. By creating a positive climate for increased property values. The tax rolls will benefit in turn. Many real estate brokers and homebuyers are advocating that parks are a influential factor when looking into purchasing property. To add to that, there are groups of retirees in good financial standings that are always looking to buy homes and settle down. They are significant assets to the communities, specifically ones that are surrounding by recreation.

**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. Washington Park
2. Brooklyn Stone House
3. St. Marys Park
4. Economic Development
5. Claes Arents Vechte (Built Stone House)

**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. What would happen to the parks if the city decided to take it away? This would cause a great deal of inconvenience for the community.
2. What are the rules for entering the Brooklyn Stone House? Are people able to enter? Is it limited to the public?
3. When is the expected date of completion of St Mary's Park since it isn't displayed on the work permit?