

What I Changed:

1. I added pictures that were relevant to the Site Visit
2. Added more details to the pre-visit expectations
3. Revised the analysis section

Learning Places Fall 2017

SITE REPORT #2

Gowanus Canal Conservancy Walk



This picture was taken as we were walking. The significance of this photo is that it represents change within the Gowanus community, whether it be good or bad. There are parts of the Gowanus that have been revised and eventually the whole community will no longer suffer from the toxic conditions that live in the Gowanus

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09.28.2017

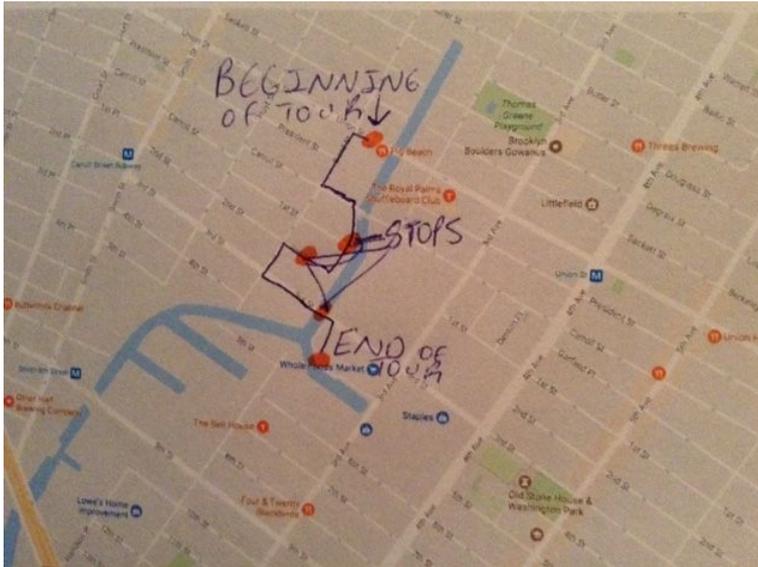
INTRODUCTION AND PRE-VISIT REFLECTIONS

I was looking forward to seeing the Canal this time being that I knew exactly where to go, compared to last time when I had such a hard time finding the area. I also knew that we would have a guide that was apart of the Superfund to inform us more about what they are doing for the Gowanus and also their plans to clean it up. This visit was one that I knew would be extremely helpful to my final project since this was a major discussion my class and I were having as far as what is being done to clean the Canal.

Based off of the very first time I visited the Gowanus as well as the research that I did I knew that the Canal was extremely polluted and not much has been done to clean it, up until recently.

SITE DOCUMENTATION:

(1) MAP OF AREA OF INVESTIGATION



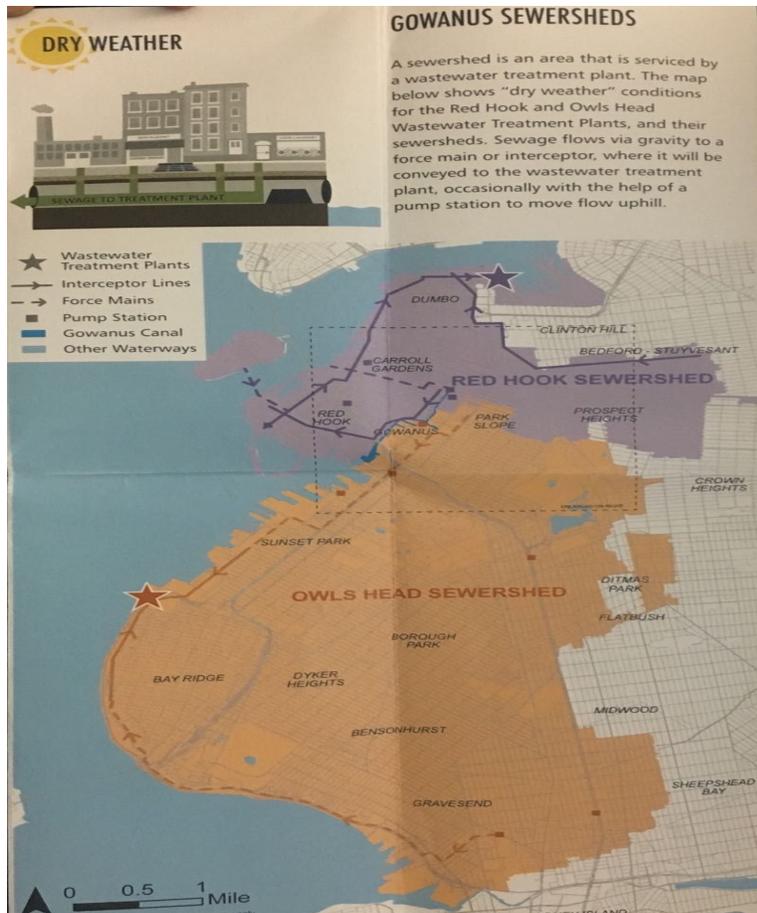
(2) PHOTOS AND SKETCHES:



This photo displays one of the obvious problems that the neighborhood faces. Which is polluted runoff water that has a hard time draining.



Another photo that shows how hard it is for water to drain and can be left there for days at a time.



This map shows what it is like when it is dry for the Red Hook and Owls Head Wastewater treatment plants and the sewersheds.

ANALYSIS:

During our walk, this time we met with our guide, her name was Christine Petro who was the Educational Director and informed us all about Superfund and how it will work to clean up the Gowanus. She explained that the cleanup will cost approximately 500,000,000 dollars and was supposed to be complete in 2022 but has now been postponed until 2030. One of the major issues that the Gowanus is experiencing is the sewage overflow that goes to the canal from the sewer. To fix the problem the Superfund created a Sponge Park. The purpose of the Sponge Park is to be able to help reduce pollution levels within the Gowanus which is extremely polluted.

Superfund is part of the United States Protection Agency and are the people who will be responsible for the cleanup of the Gowanus. During our walk with Christine, I learned that many business owners used the canal in order to transport their goods, they will be active in the cleanup of the Gowanus as well as the City, Federal and State funds. The Superfund is something that is clearly a need in the community. Although it is extremely pricey, something must be done for the residents so that they don't have to be surrounded with so much pollution and not have to worry.

KEYWORDS/ VOCABULARY

1. Cleanup
2. Superfund
3. Run-off
4. Sponge Parks
5. Green Infrastructure

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH:

1. How far has the Gowanus Conservancy gotten with the cleanup of the Gowanus?
2. How have the residents reacted/feel about the cleanup of the Gowanus?
3. How many delays have been experienced with the plan for the Gowanus?