

Learning Places Summer 2019

# SITE REPORT #1

## NewTown Creek

**NAMING PROTOCOL.** When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: SiteReport2.SwiftChristopher.



Entrance

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:** Eric Abreu

### SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs and provide a *creative* title for each image. The title should be a word or short phrase that suggests *a theme or conceptual association* related to th



Industrial zone by the creek



Barrel shaped garbage representing the surrounding industrial zone.



Green Roof surrounded by the industry

**General instructions:**

- a. Do not try to anticipate an answer the instructors “are looking for”. We want you to write truthfully about your own observations.**
- b. Be sure to draw meaningful connections between what you observed and the purpose of the performative intervention. In other words, how does the performative intervention respond to, or integrate directly with, the specific material conditions of the site.**
- c. Finally, your research question should respond directly and specifically to your site observations.**

1. Historically, what are some of the important developments that have created the current landscape of the 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)?

The Kosciuszko bridge was added recently and had been made part of the history. Before this bridge there was a very old bridge that was kind of a landmark in the area. Also Mussel Island was added to widen the creek along with many industrial buildings to go with it.

2. Discuss the historical remnants that you observed in the current landscape.

There were two historical remnants that stuck out to me before. 1 was the old swinging bridge that was once used to cross lands. This was used for people to walk across as well as letting boats and incoming ships to come through the creek. The creek used to be one of the most used for trades, and industrial reasons. The second object was the trash can shaped as a barrel. This represented what the area used to be and still is but also showing how they are trying to change the area into a friendly, thriving ecosystem of animals and plants one barrel of trash can at a time.

3. In what ways is the natural environment contained or shaped by the architecture of the Newtown Creek Nature Walk designed by George Trakas? In what ways is the natural world repossessing spaces that have been over-polluted or industrialized?

The steps in the creek were kind of made to say hey walk into the creek I. But obviously you couldn't due to the pollution. Maybe it was put there to show how maybe one day you would be able to go into it. Also to allow flow from the creek to the walk. With crabs and birds hanging around the stairs. As well as

plants growing.

4. Discuss one instance of architectural semiotics. **Choose *only one building or built structure***. If the building or designed structure could talk, what would it say?

On building i would choose would be the green roof. If the building could talk it would probably say how its trying to help out the environment but the surrounding area is countering it. It would probably discuss all the good it does for the area and how bad the area is as well as what other buildings are doing to worsen the area.

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 what message would your performance convey?

I would choose the walk way that enters into the circular passage way. As the tour guide said the area has an echo and makes your voice louder. Also people walking by have to pass by yo get to the creek. While we were there we saw people running towards the creek as well as people already there. My message would be to help the ecosystem thrive by keeping the area clean and trying to stop other industries from polluting the area. Because while we were there we saw the life was starting to thrive and in a few years of hard work keeping and getting the area clean we could see lore life and maybe even more human interaction in the area.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

Research Question (*should follow directly from your above observations, and be complex, specific, and researchable*):

how can green roofs help out superfund areas?

Find an article from a journal, website, or newspaper that you believe will help you answer your question

MLA Citation for source:

Shafique, Muhammad, et al. "Green Roof Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges – A Review." *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 90, July 2018, pp. 757–773. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1016/j.rser.2018.04.006.

How many sources did you look at before selecting this one? Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question? Be specific.

4-5 sources. I chose this one because it related the most to my question as well as giving me the most information without going off topic.

Is this source credible? How can you tell (what criteria did you base your evaluation on)?

I find this source credible due to the authors' affiliations. He is affiliated with many engineering research facilities as well as many universities.

What other sources or further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for them?

I think my source has told me all the benefits i need to know to apply to a superfund site like both of the ones we visited.