

Learning Places Summer 2019

# SITE REPORT #1

## GOWANUS



A view towards the Gowanus canal depicting how polluted the Canal is.

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### SITE OBSERVATIONS



Sewers



Carroll St Bridge



Hoyt Street

1. What are some general observations about the character of this neighborhood? What does it remind you of? How does it make you feel?

-The Carroll gardens neighborhood seems very peaceful, quiet, and clean like a white picket fence. Once we were in Gowanus it felt very commercial and less clean. Even more calm than Carroll gardens. This neighborhood have similar resemblance as sunset park by 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue by the factory area.

2. How is the natural world contained or shaped by human activity or architecture in Gowanus? In what ways does the natural world invade or disrupt human activity or architecture in Gowanus?

- In the architectural aspect, Gowanus buildings are becoming adaptive reused. Meaning they are keeping the façade of the buildings and reusing them to keep the same atmosphere or post industrial look. But as we saw near by the canal there is also new architectural design show the modern side the neighborhood is becoming. Also another example of natural world invade would be the paulownia tree which is also known as the “aluminum of timber”. That has grown on the edge nearby the union bridge. Also, the canal being polluted by human activity not just the factories and warehouses near but also the sewage system we have.

3. What people did you observe in the neighborhood and what activities are they engaged in?

-people around the neighborhood were jogging, biking and walking their dogs. Some were tourist other were residents. Also working people at the auto shop, candle warehouse and other small commercial space around.

4. Reflect on a **specific** space you viewed in this neighborhood:

a. who was the space designed for and what is its general purpose?

-It seems like the space was designed for factories and other commercial space. But now it begins to be design as residential space. The bridges where design for pedestrian and vehicles to cross the canal.

b. what are the implied rules of this **specific** space? How are people meant to interact with one another and with the environment?

-Commercial space like bars, restaurants and other places where people can interact or enjoy themselves.

c. describe a possible creative reuse of this **specific** space for a theatrical event:

a) Which areas are best for actors and which areas are good for observers? Do these spaces overlap? Mention specific objects and structures in your answer.

-A great area for actors would be by the Carroll or union bridge, because there is a lot of foot and vehicle traffic.

b) Describe the potential audience. Who are they (workers? inhabitants? recreational users? tourists?) and why would they be passing through? Where are they going and where did they come from?

-Most of the audience would be inhabitants and workers, but also tourist because of the nearby commercial space Gowanus have. They would pass there because it's the only way to cross into the next neighborhood which is Carroll gardens. Or probably go to take the nearby transportation like the MTA, the R,G and F train.

c) Discuss how light and sound would support a theatrical event.

-Sound would help the theatrical event because it's very open space and all you can hear is the sound of the cars zooming pass by the bridge. The light wont need much because its open space.

d) What kinds of performance would work best (intimate or grand; processional or stationary; text and/or music; interactive or passive audience; etc.)?

-The best performance would be music because it would get attention from everyone who passes by since now Gowanus is a very artistic area, with the pottery and other fun things to do there. But also a processional would work too.

**QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH.** Write down questions that require further research to answer. 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. Question?

How can the community board of Gowanus help to keep the Gowanus canal clean?

2. Question?

How will new construction around Gowanus can affect the Canal?

3. Question?

What would be other options for sustainable development for the Gowanus Canal?

## FURTHER RESEARCH

Choose and revise one of your research questions for further research.

Revised Research Question:

How will new construction around Gowanus can affect the Canal and the neighborhood? Will it help with funds for the urban sustainable development?

MLA Citation for source:

Krisel, Rebecca s. “Gentrifying a Superfund Site: Why Gowanus, Brooklyn Is Becoming a Real Estate Hot Spot.” *Consilience: the Journal of Sustainable Development*, vol. 14, no. 2015, 2015, pp. 214–224. *JSTRO*, [www-jstor-org.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/stable/26188751?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=GOWANUS&searchText=CANAL&searchUri=/action/doBasicSearch?group=none&acc=on&fc=off&wc=on&Query=GOWANUSCANAL&ab\\_segments=0/default-2/control&refreqid=search:541668561b881265594dd73e10f8efa3&seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](http://www-jstor-org.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/stable/26188751?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=GOWANUS&searchText=CANAL&searchUri=/action/doBasicSearch?group=none&acc=on&fc=off&wc=on&Query=GOWANUSCANAL&ab_segments=0/default-2/control&refreqid=search:541668561b881265594dd73e10f8efa3&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents).

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

I selected this source, because it’s a journal and it have a lot of information, I needed to help me out with my question. And JSTRO is a very good secondary source I always relied to.

Describe the process you used to find this source including any keywords and the search engine or tool you used to search.

I first went to the city tech library page and went to the journal section under JSTRO, I followed up by typing urban sustainable development and Gowanus Canal and brought me up to this journal article about gentrifying a superfund which leads me to my question of how new construction will affect the neighborhood and also how would it affect the canal itself.

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

Other sources that I would need to get more information, would be newspapers from tens years ago to see how the new upcoming Gowanus neighborhood is taking shape and how they planed out to clean or use other sustainable resources. And doing research by attending meetings or even anything that involves the community.