

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek nature walk



The Newtown creek surrounded with plethora of beauty, design, and nature.

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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 the photo.



Predator caught the prey



The rocks at the round table



The architecture with the plan

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 Newtown creek is an estuary created by the borders of Brooklyn and Queens derived its name from the Dutch and British settlement in the 19th century. Back then the creek was used for barging goods and it has one of the largest oil spills in the United States leaving it to be one of the most polluted creeks. Factories and sewers being located at the waterfront site had created population.

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

One of the historical remnants I observed as we continued to the nature walk was seven stone circle that were made from granite. The seven stone were made for sitting and were carved in with the names of places that were used by the Lenape people. In the middle of the stones is a honey locust tree that has the native names, translations, and the place. This tree can provide shade for people when they come to view the site.

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 architecture design by George Trakas of the Newtown creek nature walk is open the public. The nature walk site is designed in a way that it has both industrial and natural areas consisting of trees, plants, historical remnants, and other historic elements. The granite steps leading into the water is accessible to the public to walk on and observe the condition of the polluted water. As well to see how there are indigenous plants growing on the steps. The nature and the greenery is a natural world repossessing with in the creek. Even though the area has been over populated but the plants grow in any condition.

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?

One of the architectural buildings that I would choose that can talk would be the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant which states how considerate it is about its neighborhood, and taking care of the connected borough. It would want to prevent any overflow that can happen with in its community. It would want to make that difference in making the neighboring boroughs and its own community to have the best ways to reduce floods.

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?

If I was to create a performative intervention in a specific site it would be at the watershed bollard where I would stand in the middle next to the round table. I would prefer people to be sitting around in comfort not standing up the whole time. The Watershed area gives a view of the water side and the surrounding. The message I would convey my audience would be to help prevent pollution from increasing with in the creek. As well to give out brochures to expand the populations knowledge on the newtown creeks architectural beauty and how people have made the water toxic.

FURTHER RESEARCH

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

What are some ways to reduce pollution and water overflow with in the newtown creek and surrounding areas?

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

MLA Citation for source:

“NEW YORK CITY AND THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND CREATE ‘GREEN’ PLAYGROUND AT BUSHWICK’S J.H.S. 162 TO ABSORB RAINFALL AND REDUCE POLLUTION IN NEWTOWN CREEK.” States News Service, 2014, pp. States News Service, Sept 18, 2014.

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.

I had looked at 2 other sources before selecting this source, after reading the title I read the first two paragraphs which discussed how the city is planning to reduce the pollution and flooding of water by making more green playgrounds.

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

This source is credible as I searched through the database of the city tech library and finding the newspaper with the publishers. The criteria I used for selecting this source was typing key terms “Pollution”, “Reduce”, and “Newtown Creek”.

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

Some of the other sources for further information can be visiting the newtown creek and learning more deeply about the history and researching the government websites on the newtown creek.