

Learning Places Summer 2019

## SITE REPORT #2

### Newtown Creek



Newtown Creek's original watershed.

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#### SITE OBSERVATIONS



Survival



Beauty of ugliness



Dream

**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 area had fisheries, oistrios birds, other living organisms. However, since the beginning of the revolution, the wastes from houses and the facteriois have been moved to the nature. They did not care about the nature until pollution caused a lot of illness and DNA changes and other serious problems that people in the neighborhood had to face with.

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

—there’s an old bridge that calls Duch Kills. It used to be a swing bridge but it does not open anymore. It is still operational even though it looks nonfunctional bridge. it calls trash train line now.

- 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 Newtown Creek Nature Walk designed by George Trakas. It was completed in 2007. The architect tried to connect the design with the history of the area as well as the natude. We clearly can see the entrance that remind of a ship and wave . it gives us peace of mind.

- 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?**

— the architect George Trakes designed a hand railing that has an image if the H2O. It reminds us of the importance of water by standing next to the polluted water. Because of the true function railing of leading or helping ho use the starways without injurious falls, it asks us if we would like it swim in polluted or clean water.

**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 perform on the stairs next to the creek to give the audience the opportunity to see closely the cause of people's actions and indifference. My preference would be a beautiful dance but the surrounding of the area would distract my audience attention. People would understand that no matter how hard we try to cover or distract the people's attention from the problem, the people's attention will be focused on them when they are in that area. The sound of the working machines, the smell of the polluted water will give them even more important messages that we have to take action immediately to fix the situation for our future generations.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

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

—how some plants can grow in toxic area?

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

**MLA Citation for source:**

—“Plants vs. Pollution.” *Let It Grow*, 29 Aug. 2017, [letitgrow.org/science-wellbeing/plants-vs-pollution-2/](http://letitgrow.org/science-wellbeing/plants-vs-pollution-2/).

**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.**

—First I looked for scientific or biology books in NYCCT library search that could explain how some of the plants can grow in toxic areas as Newtown Creek. But I found a plant that uses toxins to protect themselves from animals, humans or other creatures that are dangerous for plants to grow peacefully. Then I tried to not use “Newtown Creek” for an additional search. But results did not change. Then I looked for an article and it gave me other toxic plants that use different chemicals to catch insects’ attention for their use. After I could not find any source that helped me find an answer to my question, I used Google.

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

—Let It Grow was founded by floral enthusiast Silke Tijkotte. While working at Royal FloraHolland, she was determined to find a way to encourage entrepreneurship and creativity within the floriculture sector. The group of people that specializes and focuses on plants and encourages greener cities.

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

—A botanist is a scientist who studies or experiments with plants. These plants may include a range of organisms, including flowers, trees and algae. Botanists are a type of biologist. For further information I need botanist's study papers or books. Also the government websites.

Also i would like to know if we can use these plants and make other kinds of plants sustainable to polluted condition by using genetic modification. Pollution is a very large problem that takes a lot of effort and time to deal with. However, we can not wait and let plants die. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and extract oxygen from the leaves that humans and other animals need to breathe.