

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek

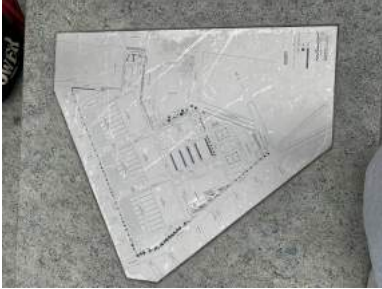


View of the Newtown Creek.

STUDENT NAME: Bryant Vera

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.



Nature walk



N.C. Wastewater Treatment Plan



Green Roof

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 estuaries of Newtown Creek have helped create the current landscape of the area by dividing Brooklyn and Queens. Other developments that have impacted the Newtown Creek area are the factories situated by the waterfront. However these factories have been the main reason for pollution in Newtown Creek.

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

One of the historical remnants that we came across on the Newtown Creek Alliance tour are the seven stones that were situated near the cacti, each one of these stones have been carved with native american names of geographic locations.

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 of the Newtown Creek Nature Walk designed by George Trakas is meant to emphasize the marine characteristics of the site and give public access to the creek with steps that descend into the water and also serve as a seating area with a view of the city skyline. Vegetation is the

main natural world resource that is repossessing spaces throughout the Newtown Creek Nature Walk such as the “Princess Tree”, “Atlantas Tree” or even the cacti.

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 most important architectural developments that we visited during the Newtown Creek Nature Walk was the Newtown Creek Wildlife Roof. If the green roof could talk it would probably talk about how concerned it is for its neighborhood that it overlooks and the pollution of the area as well. It would also suggest community leaders to build more green roofs on buildings around the neighborhood in order to cultivate native flora that will support local wildlife and reduce water pollution.

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 were to stage a performative intervention in a specific site, it would be on the steps descending to the water because it provides a view of the other side of the creek inhabited by factories and metal waste. The message that my performance would convey is to indicate the audience how factories across the creek such as Sims Metal Management has wiped out a big part of vegetation and other natural resources across the area and replaced it with factories that are causing pollution to the neighborhood.

FURTHER RESEARCH

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

What is the cause of fatbergs in the NYC sewage system affecting the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant?

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

MLA Citation for source:

Toussaint, Kristin. "Inside NYC's largest wastewater treatment plant, a plague of flushed wipes." Metro US. 01 Mar. 2019. Metrou. 21 June 2019 <<https://www.metro.us/news/local-news/new-york/inside-nyc-largest-wastewater-treatment-flushable-wipes>>.

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 selected this source because it talks about the high cost that flushed wipes are causing the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and as a result they are creating fatbergs which are clogging sewer pipes as well.

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

The criteria I used for selecting this source is based on the recent date that it was published on and it not being an article written as an opinion but actually serving as an informational news article.

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

The best source that I would need to answer my question is by visitng the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and consulting with people in charge of the plant. Another helpful source would be the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which are in charge of the costs for cleaning up the sewers and disposing these wipes.