

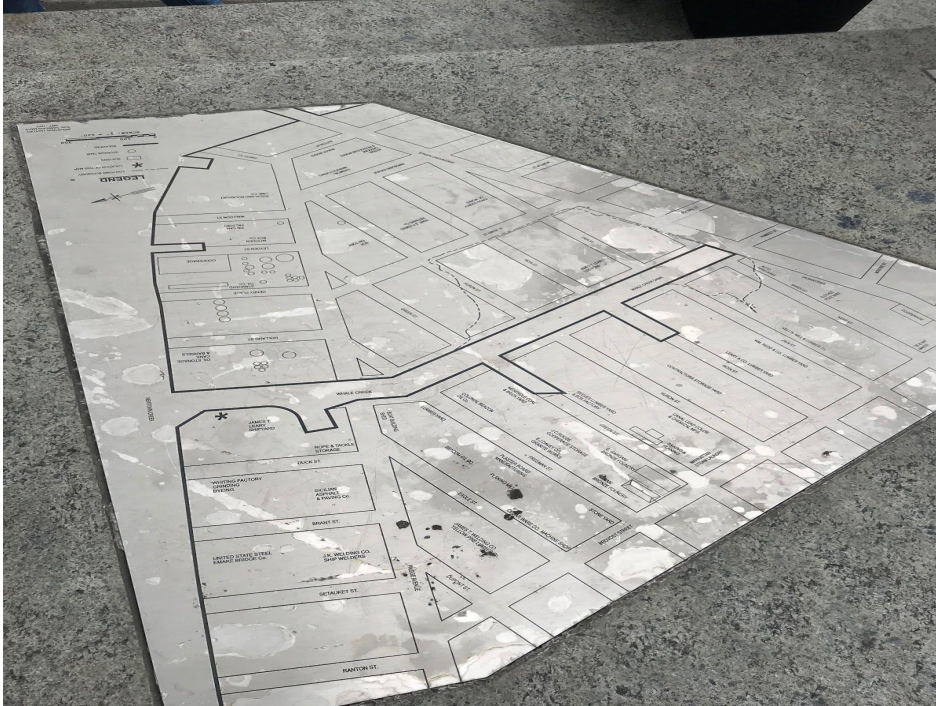
Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek



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The map of Newtown creek and its tributaries



The slap step staircases



The Vessel long walk

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 and its tributaries form a big boundary between Queens and Brooklyn. They include Dutch Kills, Whale Creek, Maspeth Creek. There is sewage because of oil spillage from refinery factories. There are bulkheads put in 20s for larger barges. Recently, there is sewage plant "digester eggs" and the Newtown creek walk.

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

There is a boulder "Glacial Erratic" in the entrance of Newtown Walk. It was transported to Greenpoints 17000 years ago. It was found during the installation of a waterline.

There are seven graphite stones when we enter the park after finishing the long walk. The original names of places were engraved on the graphite stones. Such as Marechkawieck and Rinnegachonck.

They go around in a circle.

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?

In the "vessel", there are bowed walls on two sides in a wave shape. It looks like the shape of water wave. There are holes in the wall to let us see through the sewage plant.

There is thick slab graphite staircases with species name engraved. The steps are descending from land to water. It symbolizes the common origin of lifes.

After the staircases, there is a graphite table with a map of newtown creek engraved. The map on the table is the original one before europeans moved in.

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 Vessel. The designer want to inform us the sewage problem is being improved with the time.

This long wall mimics the river and when we are in the walk we can see the sewage plants through the holes.

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?

Set up the newtown creek as the finishing line of brooklyn marathon. The route may be from Bayridge to Gowanus and then Greenpoint. Greenpoint is the end point of north Brooklyn. The marathon is the intervention performance. The runners follow this route and connect different superfund sites. It reflects that the sewage problem is concerned. The finishing line would be the end of the vessel. And the runners could see the landscape of newtown creek after finishing the run.

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

What was the greenpoint residence's opinion on the development of Newtown creek area?

MLA Citation for source:

Sengupta, Somini. "Sewage Plant: No vs. Maybe." *New York Times*, 22 Sept. 1996. *Academic OneFile*, http://link.galegroup.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/apps/doc/A150450083/AONE?u=cuny_nytc&sid=AONE&xid=106a847c. Accessed 21 June 2019.

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 because this news was before Newtown Creek was announced as a superfund site. And it recorded the opinion of the residences in the greenpoints

Similar to documentaries, studying the foresight of people is also important as the analysis of the consequences. I looked for one other source but it only reported the financial budget involved in the superfund site project.

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

It is credible. It is from the New York Times. It is a reliable source, unbiased and provided with evidence. My criteria is the source provider has to be neutral. I can not ask what their opinions were. They would not tell me. They may be beneficial from the development and then changed their minds.

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

I would need to have an on-site observation of the greenpoint neighborhood. I saw many new apartments. It may show that many residences moved out. It needs observation.