

Research Question: How can rezoning and cleaning of the Gowanus Canal increase commercial and economic activity?

Annotated Bibliographies

“Feds to finally start the long-due cleanup of Brooklyn’s toxic Gowanus Canal”

“The US Environmental Protection Agency issued a formal order to officially start the first phase of \$506 million cleanups for one of the nation’s most polluted waterways (Gowanus Canal) after 10 years of the site”. Since the government is putting millions of dollars to clean up the canal and the canal toxicity came from manufacturers, they might limit the number of manufactures in the area by rezoning the area and bring more residential and commercial in the place. “Power company National Grid is expected to receive the \$100 million of the bill on the entire cleanup because it’s the manufactured-gas plants that polluted the waterway in the first place. Since the Industrial Revolution, textile manufacturers, gas refineries and coal shippers all dumped their toxic waste directly into the canal, leaving behind a festering cocktail of poison slime composed of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals including mercury, lead and copper to fester at the creek bottom”. This might lead the government to have restriction and rezoning regulation to not allow manufactures near the canal and in one hand, make a waterfront park which would draw visitors to come in the park and that will increase the economic activity in the area. In the other hand, if they rezone the waterfront for residential, lots of people would want to live nears the waterfront and that will also increase the economics activities of the area because many commercials will be opened near the area such as shops, theaters, museums about the canal and the area, etc....

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“City says Gowanus rezoning will create 8,200 new apartments”

“Gowanus rezoning proposal will create some 8,200 new apartments by 2035. Which is anticipated by a de Blasio administration rezoning”. This will bring commercials in the area because it will create at shops to open in the area. which will increase the economics and commercial of the area and also because the residentials will be waterfront, it will make the area more expensive. “The work is a plan reshape the industrial community with residential development including 3,000 units. The Proposed plans are intended to meet the long-term vision of a thriving, inclusive, and more resilient Gowanus where existing, future residents and workers can participate in civic, cultural, and economic activities”. The goal of the rezoning is to make the area more active in every way. The more active the area is the more economic and commercial active the Gowanus canal becomes. “Under the plan, low-rise neighborhoods in the Gowanus would transform into development by boosting density and encouraging mixed-use projects between Fourth Avenue and Smith Street. On several blocks bordering the polluted Gowanus Canal, new residential structures could rise as high as 30 stories and up to 17 stories on part of Fourth Avenue”. By allowing to have taller buildings near the waterfront, this will make the rent higher however, it will get high demand also because there will be a better view of the waterfront and the city. “The 8,200 apartment plan is estimated to create the second-highest total of 6,300 new units projected for the East New York rezoning. Overall, the rezoning is expected to create 696,000 square feet of commercial space, 251,000 square feet for community facilities, and generate 6.4 acres of open space. City officials say the rezoning would bring nearly 18,000 new residents to Gowanus as well as create some 3,100 new jobs”. This shows that the Gowanus will be both very economic and commercial active after its rezoning. Before the open space can be built near the water, the government will have to first clean the water since the canal is toxic. This means that the canal will have to be clean if they want the area to be active because people will not want to spend time or live near dirty water. “The neighborhood would suffer some loses as well, including the displacement of 104,000 square feet of warehouses, 125,000 square feet of self-storage, and 60,000 square feet of other industrial lands—space intended for light manufacturing.” By having light manufacturing pollution in the area will assure people that they can live there healthier since the area was once a heavy manufacturing site. “Some people want significant investment in the area’s transportation upgrades, and a plan to preserve historic buildings identified by the Gowanus Landmarking Coalition”. By preserving historic buildings, visitors will come to

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the area because people will want to come to see what old manufacturers in the area once look which will affect the economics of the Gowanus Canal in a great way.

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“Gowanus Canal Could Be New Model for Waterfront Planning”

“The GCC has been planting guerilla gardens on the canal for nearly a decade. shows that developing a variety of plants that grow well in the unusual ecosystem the nonprofit is experimenting with different types of bioswales to absorb the stormwater that is a major cause of contamination.” This shows that many tactics are used to try to clean the Gowanus canal and to make it more environmentally friendly. “While industrial businesses have continued to operate in the waterway and residential construction has begun to boom, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleanup begins”. Since residential demand in the area has a boom. The government is now focusing on cleaning the area because that’s what’s going to increase the economic activities in the area. “GCC has partnered with landscape architecture firm Scape to develop a vision for the Gowanus that can accommodate the diversity of uses and improve environmental quality, without sacrificing the waterway’s idiosyncratic character”. The government is already planning to make the canal a more enjoyable be place for people to come and spend time. “The neighborhood rezone could result in denser and taller housing. Developers will be required to contribute to public spaces. The plan will also consider how to create park-like spaces that aren’t typical Riverwalk. Also, have different heights maintained, so that at some places people can access the waterfront, and in others, they’ll have panoramic views from on high. The plan will also look at designs for street ends”. The government wants to make a park near the waterfront and bring tall buildings that will have a view of the canal. Which will bring high demand for both commercials and residents? Which will increase economic activity in the area?

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“The Gowanus Canal: An Appreciation”

The town is scheduled to complete the renovation of a long-abandoned tunnel designed to pump cleaner water from New York Harbor into the canal, and the region around the canal is gentrifying. When residents discuss the Gowanus Canal, they imply a two-and-a-half-mile physique of water that begins at Gowanus Bay in New York Harbor, about two miles southeast of Manhattan, narrows into what the maps call Gowanus Creek, near 16th Street in Park Slope, turns into what maps call the Gowanus Canal at Hamilton Avenue in Carroll Gardens and subsequently ends at Butler Street. The rest of the time it is slate gray. Today, about 10 companies nonetheless function along the canal, but it is frequently a backwater waiting for redemption. "We are standing on the threshold between the day before today and tomorrow," said Craig Hammerman, the district manager of Community Board 6, whose territory consists of the canal. It is a spooky, empty country, and in the summertime, insects chirp in the trees that line the banks. But matters do stay there, especially for the reason that 1986, when the city opened a sewage-treatment plant in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the first-class of the water increased somewhat. In the remaining few years, as rents and property values in Park Slope to the east of the canal and Carroll Gardens to the west have risen, the blocks between the water and those neighborhoods have been undergoing speedy gentrification.

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“On the Waterfront”

The Gowanus Canal runs one and a 1/2 mile through brownstone Brooklyn, cutting a disreputable gash between two of the most appropriate residential neighborhoods in New York City. In the lawless historical days, industries along the canal's banks fouled it with all sorts of pollution. Today, the canal is commonly disused, a hall of warehouses and razor wire, and the most enduring reminders of its colorful previous emanate from quite a few underground deposits of coal tar, which belch up oily bubbles. The residue types a prismatic sheen on the canal's surface, reflecting shimmering visions of the landscape. But over the previous decade, the authorities have cleaned up the water a bit, allowing the canal to be recolonized through some hardier forms of natural life shore crabs and cormorants, silvery baitfish along with enterprising humans. First came the artists for the lower-priced studio space, then the hipsters for the decayed authenticity, and finally, in the inevitable progression, residential developers arrived. It did not show up to be a deterrent that the canal was, quite literally, nonetheless something of a cesspool. But the case of the Gowanus Canal has put that assumption to an excessive test. The redevelopment method used to be creeping forward when, in April, the federal Environmental Protection Agency introduced that it was once thinking about including the Gowanus Canal to its Superfund cleanup program, which is reserved for the nation's worst hazardous-waste sites. There are more than one dimensions to the canal's pollution issues

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“Gowanus Rezoning on The Table Again as City Launches Planning Study”

The Department of City Planning will launch a *find out about Gowanus this fall* that could sooner or later lead to a rezoning permitting some residential improvement in the industrial neighborhood. To assist the Planning Department's find out about the neighborhood, City Councilman Brad Lander will resurrect his Bridging Gowanus initiative to build consensus on desires for the fast-changing area. 9 and an online survey, Lander will ask residents to rank the regional priorities they recognized in the course of the first spherical of Bridging Gowanus, which he launched in 2013 along with City Councilman Stephen Levin and different elected officials. Most individuals stated they would be open to that type of development, but only if it provided a way to reap affordable housing, jobs, and infrastructure investments, according to a government summary of the first section of the Bridging Gowanus project. He said Friday he invited critics of the Bridging Gowanus system to meet with Planning personnel lately too, but they declined the offer. Despite those misgivings, neighborhood leaders representing a range of pursuits from manufacturing to arts to environmental troubles voiced guidance for the re-launch of bridging Gowanus.

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