

## BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2011, around 11am, I visited Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The weather that day was very nice for October; mostly cloudy (UV index 2-low), temperature was 13°, humidity 52% with visibility 16.1km, precipitation was 0 and dew point 4°, wind was 14.3mph from West.

I live in Bensonhurst; to get to the park I drove my car via BQE and took an exit right before the Brooklyn Bridge. Metered parking was available, so I parked very close to the park, on the North side of the bridge. From there I took a walk in the part of the park which is between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges. Later I went on the South side of the Brooklyn Bridge, to the new extension of the park and spent some time there.



terrestrial, or land, plants surrounding the cove: a century old cottonwood tree, red mulberry tree, Russian olive, beach plum, bayberry, shadbush, milkweed and butterfly weed and other native meadow plants, ammophila, or Eastern dune grasses, purple coneflowers, blue nepeta, or catmint, purple leaf wintercreeper<sup>1</sup>.

The park is located right on the East River, close to the ocean, so the elevation of any part of the park is less than 10'. The park is well maintained with vegetation. The plants of the cove, both aquatic and terrestrial, are the heart of Brooklyn Bridge Park: green sea lettuce, green algae, the brownish-colored rockweed. The



Amazingly, all hardscape of the park is artificial. The South side of the park is still in the process of development. Besides pathways along, around and through the hills, the park has a beach (not for swimming) and lawn where people can relax, sitting on rocks or lying on the grass. The South side of the park also has streams and small waterfalls with crossing bridges above.

Park not only provides the zone for relaxation but for activities as well. Even though rollerblading isn't allowed there, people jog and do other exercises; new carousel and playground attract adults with kids, and movies are shown in the evening; Park also exhibits works of different artists.

Unlike any other park, Brooklyn Bridge Park provides unique views. Towards the North and South visitors of the park see colossal structures of bridges; across the East River skyscrapers dominate the view. Opposite the river, Brooklyn Heights creates a wall. The only view towards infinity is when you look in the direction of Statue of Liberty.

Brooklyn Bridge Park is unique. For its location (being in the middle of a big city, surrounded by a noisy environment) it provides escape from the busy lifestyle to some extent. I like the fact that it is located in the area where visitors (especially tourists) can fully appreciate their presence in the Big Apple. Noise is a big issue; it



surrounds the park from all sides, and the infrastructure of the city overwhelms the visually quiet



setting. And yet, given the location of the park, it is hard to imagine it to be different.

<sup>1</sup> [brooklynbridgepark.org/index.cfm?objectid=D70EC6B2-3048-2C77-F21D73777F7977C5](http://brooklynbridgepark.org/index.cfm?objectid=D70EC6B2-3048-2C77-F21D73777F7977C5)