5 - Future Whole Foods Site

Find the small sidewalk near the intersection. This was planted by the Gowanus Conservancy to absorb rainwater (note that porous bricks were used to line the bed) and to beautify the neighborhood.

Walk past the Third Street Bridge, along the fence. Take a picture of permits posted on the blue construction wall. Find out from the signs when construction will be completed.

Walk further until you can see the entire construction site, take a picture to document the progress.









6 - Gowanus Conservancy

The Gowanus Conservancy attempts to educate and raise awareness in the local community. Take a photograph of the supplies you see through out the lot – what parts of the clean up project does the conservancy contribute to?

Walk along the fence to the edge of the canal. Can you see the birdhouses? Take a picture. Look for spots along the water where fresh planting has been done and take pictures. These plant beds are designed to supplement rainwater absorption, to alleviate the amount of CSO's that occur during rainfall. Speaking of CSO's can you see any round holes in the walls of the canal? These are the pipe openings that allow raw sewage to flow into the canal.



Gowanus Canal



Interaction Guide

1 & 2– The Walk to Douglass Street

Right now you are walking along Smith Street in the direction of Douglass Street, where you will compile evidence of gentrification. Take note of the trendy new restaurants and businesses in the area. Take a picture of any storefront that looks like it belongs in an expensive neighborhood, and any new stores that are housed in old, historical buildings. Look for Carroll Gardens Realty, go to the window and check out the real estate listings in the area. Note the prices — are they reasonable for an average middle class family to afford? When you get the corner of Smith & Douglass take photographs of the brownstone buildings you see. Continue to photograph residential buildings as you walk towards the water — what change do you see in the aesthetics?







3 - The Flushing Tunnel

Welcome to Flushing Tunnel. Notice that the Tunnel is still being repaired. Take a photo to document to construction progress

Look for signs posted about the construction of the tunnel. Try to find the proposed project completion date. Later on you can use this information to assess the speed at which construction around the Gowanus Canal is being completed.

Walk to the location marked Union Street Bridge on your map. Look for bubbles coming from the white buoys in the water and take a picture. These buoys contain the oxygen that is pumped from the oxygenation tank in the Flushing Tunnel, which helps circulate the water. This is integral to having any kind of animal life in the canal. Bonus points if you photograph a fish!

4 - Third Street Bridge

At the Third Street Bridge, take note of the make-up of the community. What kinds of buildings are in the area? Take pictures of any lots that seem abandoned or dilapidated. What do you think will replace them as the clean-up progresses? Can you imagine the long-term effects on this neighborhood?

Now look at the canal water. Take a picture of any trash you see floating. What color is the water? Can you tell if there are algae present? How recently do you think CSO pipes released sewage into the canal?