

# filtering and discharging

## description

As the tide flushes water, salt and nutrients in and out of the creek; plants, shellfish and fish filter these nutrients for their growth. This tidal fluctuation also supports the industries on Newtown Creek that discharge the water for cooling, cleaning or flushing. This passing through and separating out is an action shared here by both natural and industrial processes.

## stories

"All the filter-feeding animals living in the marsh eat the detritus-algae soup. The word "soup" is most appropriate in this case since these feeders get their food by straining it from water."

Teal, pg. 185

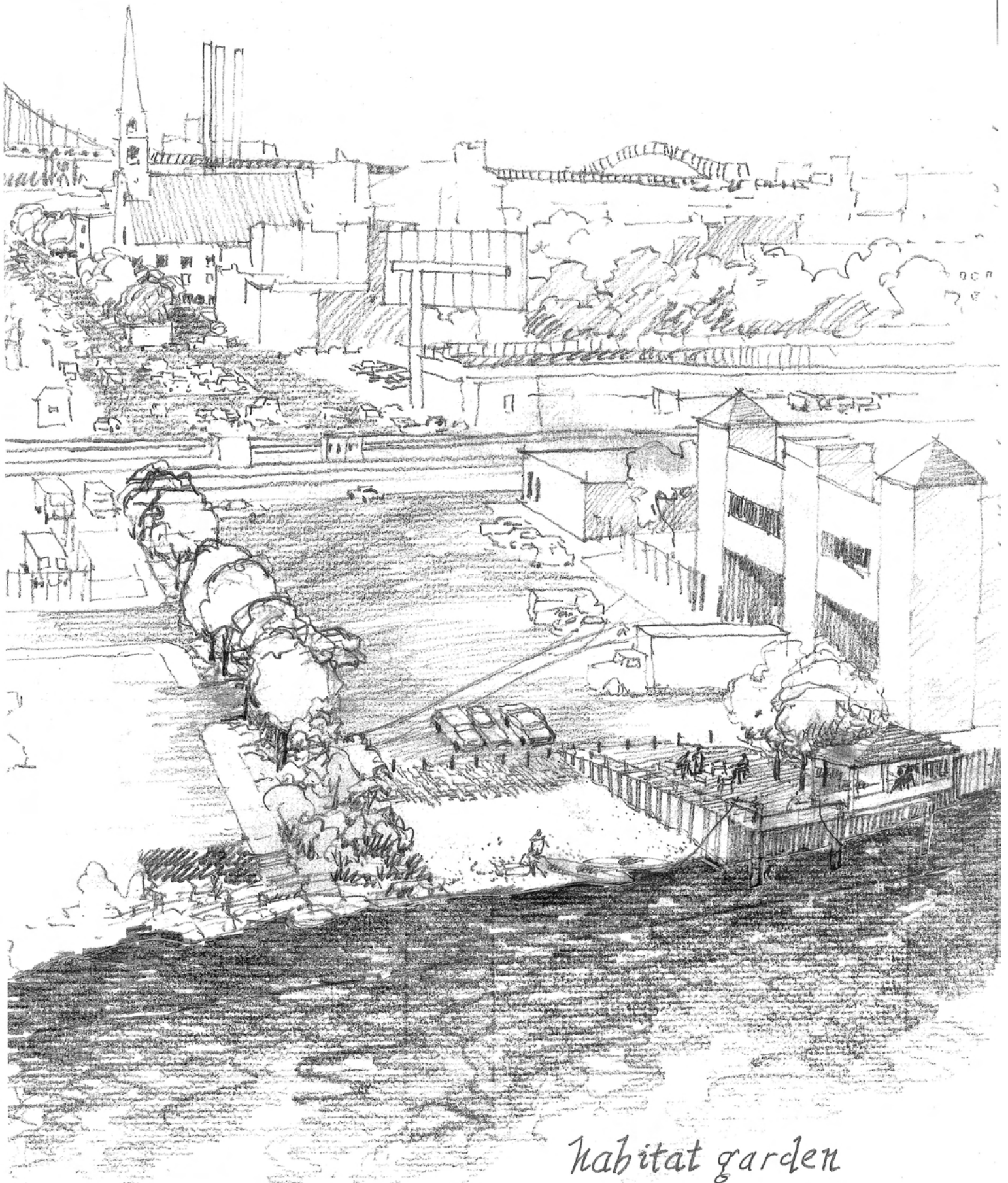
"Mussels begin to filter as soon as the tide wets them when the surface of the shells may still be almost entirely above water. The particles of food in the water are caught on a mesh of mucus threads secreted over the bivalves' gills and moved to the mouth by special bands of cilia. Before swallowing, the material is sorted by size. The smaller particles are selected. The larger particles are rejected as pseudofeces which accumulate around the mussels when they are periodically forced from the shell."

Teal, 186

"There are still pools in the creek that are collecting the leakage and the seepage from the Mobil Oil spill. That was from the 1940's! When are we going to see that it will stop, I mean it just continued and never stopped." Irene Holentoby

"...at all times there is a steady flow from the large sewer which drains five large growing wards of Brooklyn.... Immense bubbles of varied hues flow from the sewer's mouth and after drifting a distance, burst like miniature bombs, emitting puffs of vile gases. These combined vapors are wafted to every quarter with the changes of the wind, carrying sickness and death in turn to all parts." March 27, 1884 4:5

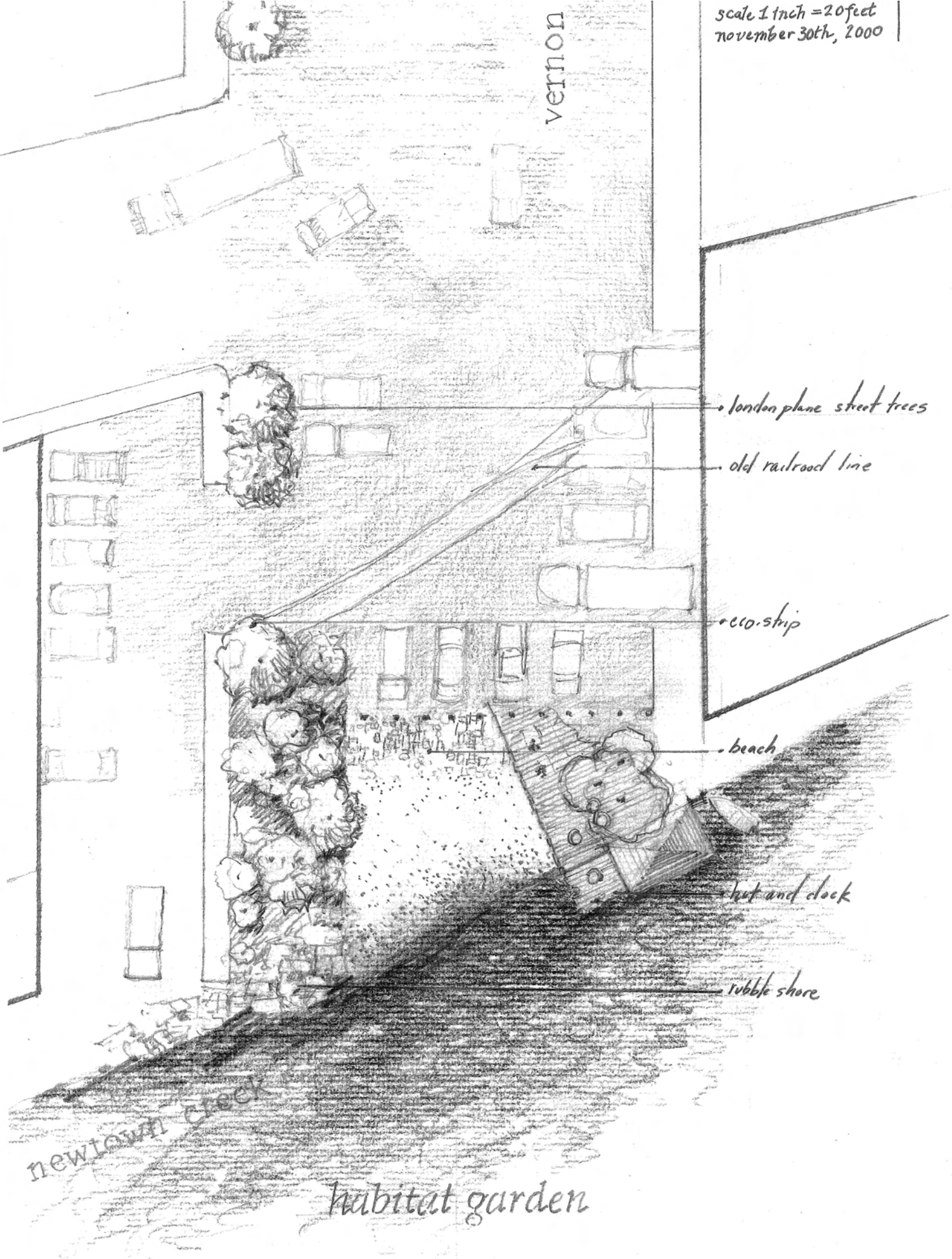




*habitat garden*

scale 1 inch = 20 feet  
november 30th, 2000

vernon



london plane street trees

old railroad line

eco-strip

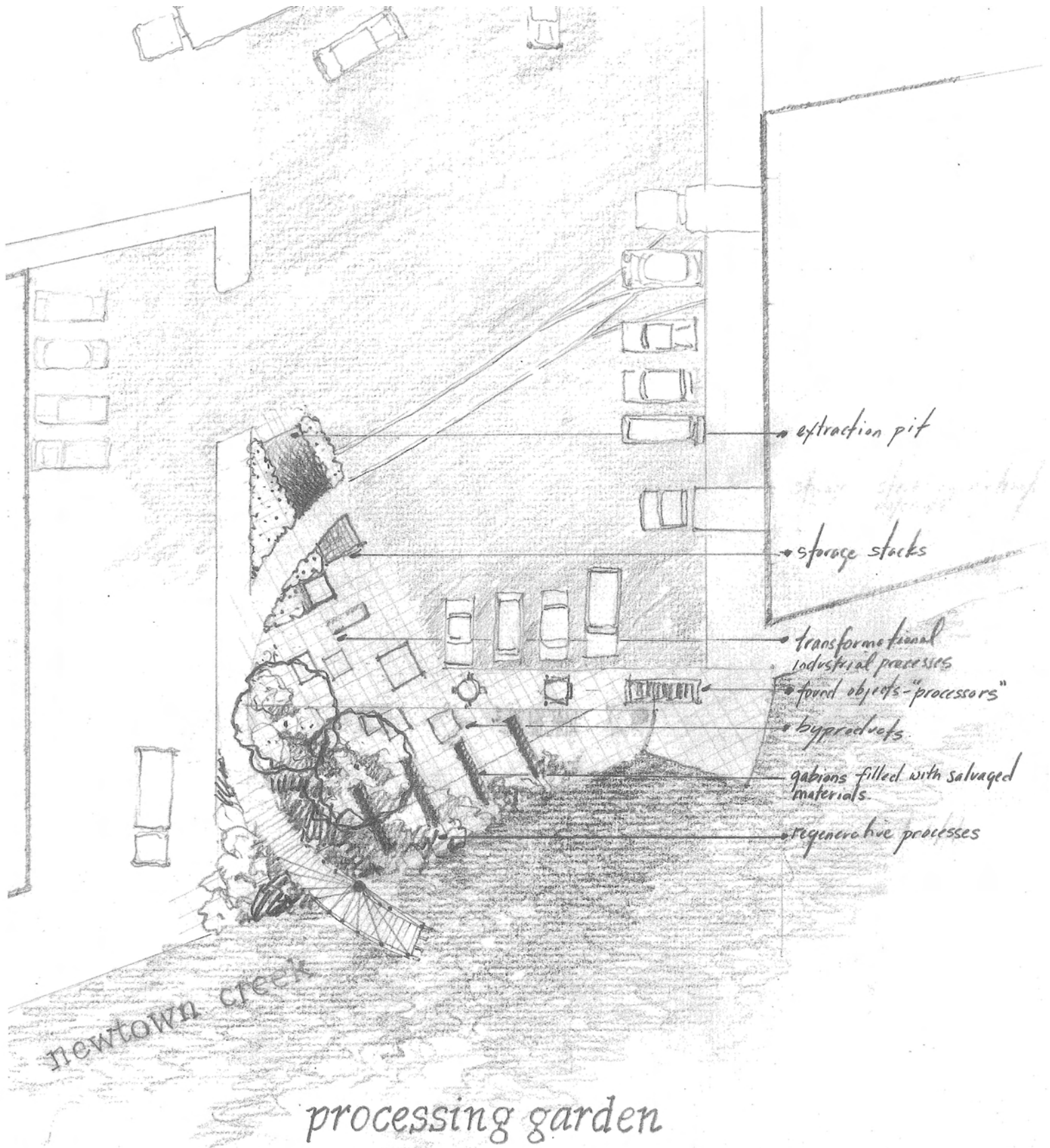
beach

hat and clock

rubble shore

newtown creek

habitat garden



newtown creek

processing garden

- extraction pit
- storage stacks
- transformational industrial processes
- found objects - "processors"
- byproducts
- gabions filled with salvaged materials
- regenerative processes

# processing

Here raw materials from elsewhere have been transformed into valuable products. bituminous shale, Nova Scotia, iron, Congo, animal carcasses, the Southwest, ears, New York streets, night soil, bones.



This is a place of processing.

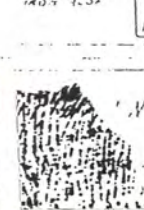
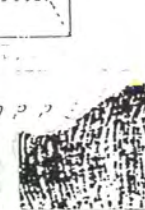
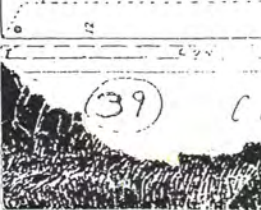
## description

In the process this place has been transformed by the necessary tools, lines, buildings, network.

The industrial processing is inscribed in the landscape bodies, memories, neighborhood.

This is also a place of significant natural processes.

Here the fluctuations of a tidal river have created a marsh rich in sediment, nutrients, and habitat.



This landscape is shaped by the industrial practices of specializing, integrating, engineering natural processes and concealing:

### Specializing

The specific requirements of manufacturing processes produced specialized tools, buildings and spatial organizations of sites (bones distilled in specialized structures called "vertical retorts.") The landscape becomes a diagram of a process. Consequently, as the process changes or manufacturing declines the sites have to be adapted or abandoned

*Integrating* -- "Space participates in the process." In the "Nichols System," for instance, the series of linear tanks for electrolytic refining illustrates how the shape and organization of space is integral to the process. Linkages are also made with other industries. The sulfuric acid produced by Nichols was used in the petroleum refining all along Newtown Creek

## stories

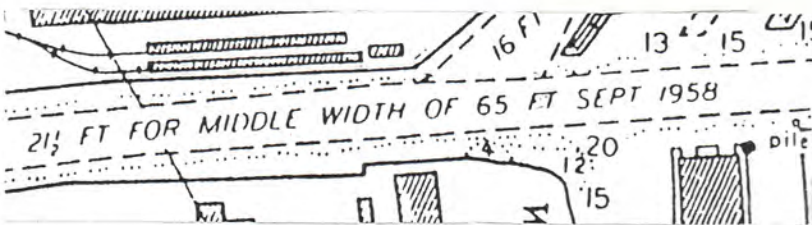
Every process is a story. The site is a visual narrative of national and global history.

William Nichols produced sulfuric acid by a standard 65 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit. He was crazy he said he would only use sulfuric acid in the 12 largest oil refineries consumed 18,000 tons of Cravens)

State Board of Health "Preston Fertilizer"



"Estuaries in general and salt marshes in particular are unusually productive places. None of them are..."



Engineering Natural Processes -- Natural systems are reduced to inputs of raw material, transport systems (Creek profile dredged to fit standards of shipping barges), and to serve as a "sink" for receiving wastes.

# stacking and packing

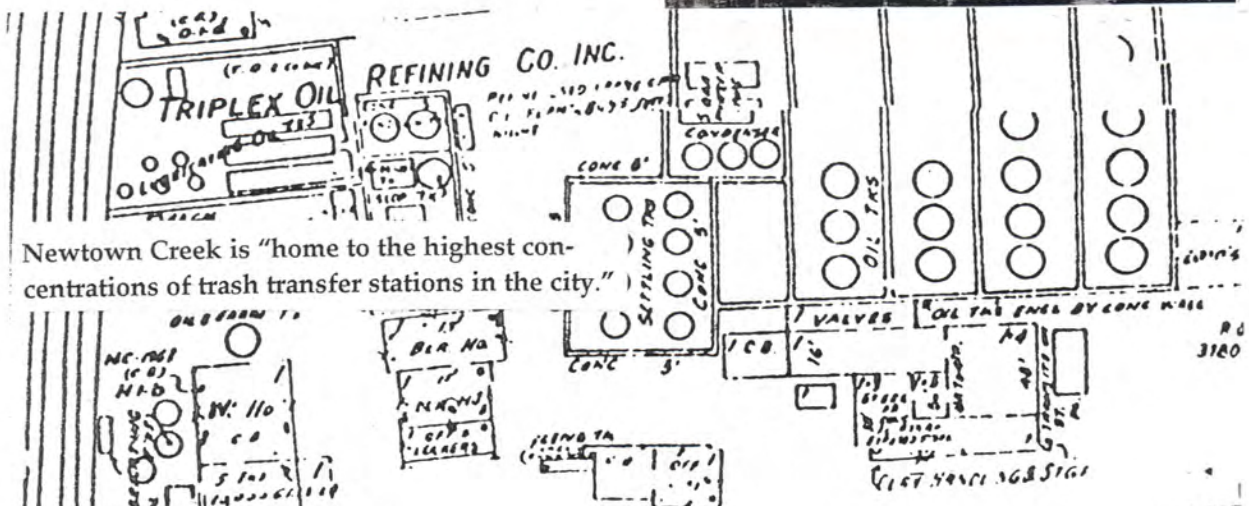


## description

Behind the fences and in the warehouse yards and lots of Newtown Creek, lie stacks and piles of goods and materials waiting to be moved, sold and processed. These piles are situated somewhere within an industrial and economic process. They could be sitting until they are needed in a process yet to begin or until a global market price rises. The stored energy in these stacks is part of larger and more complex stories of industries. They are also part of the worker's everyday operations requiring skill and power to place and move them with efficiency.

## stories

In 1917, 517,601 tons of copper ore and copper manufacturers were transported on Newtown Creek - a tonnage valued at \$230,000,000 which is an amount greater than the total value of all the manufactured products of either Kansas City, Minneapolis or San Francisco and greater than the value of exports from Boston or Philadelphia. (Queens Borough New York City 1910-1920, Chamber of Commerce, pg. 21)



# transforming

## description

Although Newtown Creek has maintained an industrial character over the last two centuries, a transformation in the type and scale of manufacturing activity has occurred. Many of the old industrial buildings have been adapted to new uses - oil refineries have become wholesale yards or real manufacturing companies have become offices. Many large manufacturing buildings and yards are being converted to businesses with cleaner and lighter uses including storage and office space. Still Newtown Creek is characterized by mixed industrial and commercial uses where bus repair shops sit next to warehouses, and theater supplies sit next to Asian food imports, and bread making takes place next to graphic designing of billboards. Although Newtown Creek continues to be predominantly a blue collar work place, the well dressed executive has become a part of the scene.

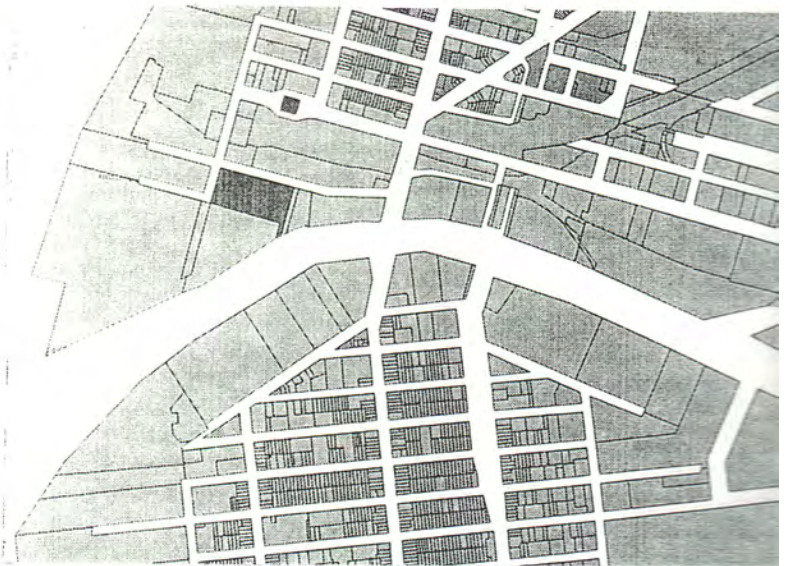
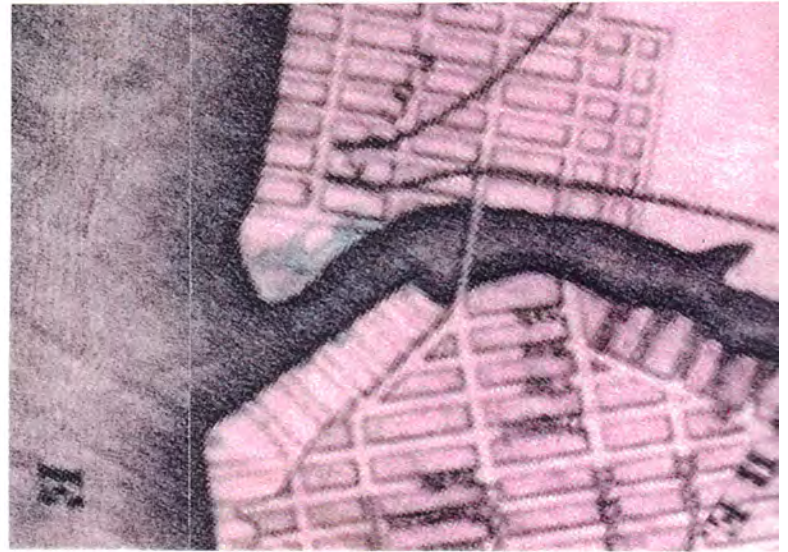
## stories

A shift to containerized ports and an increased use of trucking for moving goods caused a marked reduction in the traffic along Newtown Creek. Although more and more goods were being moved by trucks, Newtown Creek became in the mid 20th century a greater fairway for the transfer of NYC garbage.

*One man working along Review Avenue spoke about how his business has changed from processing waste to office space. Fifty-two years ago he was the only one using his alley way and now workers from the American Ballet and Hyundai Foods keep the alley busy with traffic day and night. "In 1948 I was the only one here. I didn't even have a lock on my door. Since I locked the door and put in a security camera I have been robbed twice."*



Stewart Brand describes the industrial warehouse building commu landscape as "endlessly adaptable" raw space that sustains shifting form. (*How Buildings Learn*)



Urban waterfront edges can be redesigned to more closely mimic the interti replaced. Replacing vertical bulkheads with beaches, concrete walls with m hard surfaces with soft textured surfaces can recreate lost wildlife aquatic h

