Waterfront Revival with Gowanus Dredgers
Happier by Design
Over 2,000 individuals, including more than 200 youth, participated in our programs. People who experience and enjoy our waterway become advocates for its revitalization. We doubled the size in advocates! Volunteer participation significantly grew. New membership categories increased involvement and created new programs.
Our Programs

Water Testing
Weekly & All Season

Self Guided Tours
Saturdays 1-5pm & Wednesdays 6-8pm.

Sunset Voyages
By Appointment

Shoreline Cleaning
At Special Events
Our Programs

Shoreline Art Walk
Historical and Neighborhood Promotion

Lighten Up Brooklyn
Athletic Workout Voyage

Promoting Gowanus Arts
Monthly Shows at Boathouse
Our Programs

Kayak Staten Island
Beach Kayaking Program

LIC Community Boathouse
East River Kayaking Program

NY Community Kayak
Winter Kayak Education

Red Hook Boaters
Kayaking Thursdays 6-8pm & Sundays 1-4pm
Regulations

And these are the requirements that apply across the whole city...

SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS
Provide additional public spaces on the waterfront

SHORE PUBLIC WALKWAY
Create a continuous path along the water

SUPPLEMENTAL AREA

VISUAL CORRIDOR
Visually connect city to the water

UPLAND CONNECT
Connect the city to the water

SEATING WITH BACKS

5R PARK, NEW YORK
Resulting Impacts

Less Used Open Spaces
A Waterfront Transformation

Tactical intervention elements

- Green Planters
- Tables
- Fascination frames with historical images
- Colorful Art Boxes
- Shade and Seating
- Bamboo

Before

After

Seeding Office, FAR ROC Design

Ecosistema Urbano
West Palm Beach Design
A Waterfront to Enjoy

Lessons Learned from another waterfront

64 percent of passing pedestrians and cyclists stopped and lingered with intervention day & on the control day only about 11 percent of passersby stopped. This five-fold increase in stationary activity suggests that, while intervention did not attract more pedestrians and cyclists, it encouraged a higher percentage of them to linger and interact with the site.

Stationary Activity in Control Site
- Standing
- Secondary Seating
- Benches

Stationary Activity in Intervention Site
- Standing
- Moveable Seating
- Secondary Seating
- Benches
- Physical Activities

Ecosistema Urbano
West Palm Beach Design
A New Design Approach
A Better Design Approach

Recreation

Retail

Entertainment

Environment

Ecosistema Urbano
West Palm Beach Design

Perkins Will - West Palm Beach Design
A Mix of Uses

- Industrial
- Residential
- Commercial
- Natural
- Accessible
- Recreational

Byungryoung Lee & Xiaobai Zhao, Syracuse University Fisher Center
Waterfront Revival with Gowanus Dredgers
Happier by Design

Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club
www.gowanuscanacl.org
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Environmental Restoration Through Recreation