

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:
Crops in this corner need to be
followed precisely due to critical
location of Park symbol!!!!

STUYVESANT COVE PARK

A View Across the Water



1. Queensboro Bridge (59th Street Bridge)

Completed in 1909, the Queensboro Bridge stretches for 7,450 feet and is 135 feet above the water. It is the only cantilever bridge that crosses the East River. This double-decked bridge connects midtown Manhattan with Long Island City, Queens, and passes over Roosevelt Island.

(Postcard: Onoma LLC)

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2. The Smallpox Hospital

Designed by self-taught architect James Renwick, Jr. in 1856, this gothic revival structure was originally built as a hospital to care for people with smallpox. In 1875, it became a training school for New York City nurses. The building was eventually abandoned in the 1950s. (Photo: Beth Wilson)

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LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS

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5. Hunters Point, Long Island City

Flanked on the north by the Queensboro Bridge, the south by Newtown Creek, and the west by the East River, Hunters Point has been defined by transportation for many years. It was once known as the freight gateway to Long Island. In 1860, the Long Island Rail Road moved its main western terminus from Brooklyn to Hunters Point to accommodate local passengers and consolidate rail lines. (Photo: Greater Astoria Historical Society)

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GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN

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7. Greenpoint, Brooklyn

The northernmost neighborhood in Brooklyn, Greenpoint was transformed from farmlands to industry and refining in the mid-1800s. Heavy industry along the waterfront made Greenpoint the destination spot for cargo ships from around the world. (Photo: Greater Astoria Historical Society)

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9. Greenpoint Terminal Market Fire

The Greenpoint Terminal Market, built in 1890 for the American Manufacturing Company, was one of the most prominent buildings along the Brooklyn waterfront. On May 2, 2006, a 10-alarm fire ravaged through the abandoned building complex. The flames grew so large that hundreds of firefighters were on the scene for more than 3 days. (Photo: Michael G. Chan)

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WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN

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11. A View from Brooklyn

This photo is a view of Stuyvesant Cove Park, taken from the East River State Park. Formerly part of the Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal, or BEDT, the East River State Park offers unique remnants of Williamsburg and its industrial history. (Photo: Sarah Pidgeon)

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What is the East River?

Despite its name, the East River is not a river, but a 16-mile-long tidal strait. Formed 11,000 years ago, this tidal strait connects the Long Island Sound to the Upper New York Bay. With strong currents, the East River has been studied as a potential source for hydroelectric power.

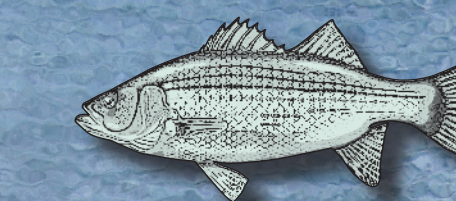
Water Quality

The Clean Water Act has set the standard for clean water in the United States since the 1970s. According to reports issued in 2007 from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the East River is the cleanest it has been since the early 1960s.



History of Oysters in New York

Oysters are filter feeders that help clean the water. Once growing to the size of dinner plates, oysters were one of the most popular foods in New York City in the mid-1800s. Overharvesting and pollution in the East River nearly caused the oysters to vanish. Many organizations are now working hard to restore their numbers.



Life of the East River

A popular misconception is that the East River is too polluted to support aquatic life. In fact, the East River is home to many varieties of invertebrates, fish, sea mammals, and birds. The Double-crested Cormorant and Red-breasted Merganser can both be seen near Stuyvesant Cove Park diving for food in the river.

(Double-crested Cormorant: Paul Sullivan)

BOLARone