

RESOURCE BANK

This document contains hyperlinked resources related to the [Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority](#)'s (CCMUA) [Phoenix Park](#) and [Living Shoreline](#) projects, the case study for this Environmental Humanities learning module.

The Resource Bank is separated into different sections that correspond to the Group Research portion of the assignment. The first section contains useful general information. Under each heading you'll find information relevant to one aspect of the project.

General News & Information

- [Phoenix Park on Facebook](#)
- [Phoenix Park to Take Place of Brownfield in Camden](#) (NJTV article & video, Aug. 2014)
- [Phoenix Park rises from crumbling industry to create oasis for Camden residents](#) (NJ.com article, June 2015)
- [In the shadow of a Camden waste treatment plant, a park opens](#) (Courier Post article, Dec. 2017)
- [Phoenix Park 'Rises from the Ashes,' Opens in Camden](#) (SNJtoday article & video, May 2018)
- [Debris Removal to Establish Living Shoreline in Camden, NJ](#) (NOAA.gov)
- [Phoenix Park Supplemental Environmental Project, Camden, NJ](#) (NJ.gov)
- [Phoenix Park: The 2015 Excellence in Water Resources Protection and Planning Awardee](#)
- [Water Infrastructure in New Jersey's Combined Sewer Overflow \(CSO\) Cities: Elevating the Importance of Upgrading New Jersey's Urban Water Systems](#) (NJ Future Report. Section on Camden begins on page 83)
 - [What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?](#) (NJ EPA overview)
- [Living Shoreline Engineering Guidelines](#) (NJ EPA, pdf)

Community Stakeholders: Historical Perspective

- [Audio file](#) (38 minutes) and [transcript](#) from an oral history interview by Jen Kitson with Darnell Moore, former Waterfront South resident and author of "Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America." (Oct. 23 2018)
- [Audio file](#) (53 minutes) and [transcript](#) from an oral history interview by Megan Bucknum with Donna Helms, former student activist who is now the Assistant Director of [Heart of Camden](#), a non-profit community development organization operating in Waterfront South since 1984 (Aug. 20 2018)

- Audio file [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) (60 minutes) and [transcript](#) from an oral history interview by Megan Bucknum with Carlos Morales, who grew up in Waterfront South (in a Heart of Camden home) and is now the Director of of [Heart of Camden](#), a non-profit community development organization operating in Waterfront South since 1984 (Aug. 23 2018)

Community Stakeholders: Future Plans Perspective

- [Audio file](#) (4 minutes) from an [intercept survey](#) at the Fishing Pier (connected to Phoenix Park) (Aug. 8 2018)
- [Audio file](#) (5 minutes) from an [intercept survey](#) at Phoenix Park (Aug. 8 2018)
- [Audio file](#) (8 minutes) from an [intercept survey](#) at Phoenix Park (Aug. 8 2018)
- [Audio file](#) (2 minutes) from an [intercept survey](#) at Phoenix Park (Aug. 8 2018)
- [Audio file](#) (2 minutes) from a caller to the [Phoenix Park voicemail](#) (Oct. 14 2018)

CCMUA (Political, Social, & Cultural Factors)

- [A Plan to End Sewer Overflow in Camden](#) (NJpen.com article, Dec. 2017)
- [Audio file](#) (43 minutes) and [transcript](#) from an oral history interview by Megan Bucknum with Andy Kricun, Executive Director of the CCMUA (Sept.19 2018)
- [Camden Waterfront South Air Toxics Pilot Project: Qualitative Assessment Of Stressors](#) (Plentiful Information about Environmental Stressors in Waterfront South, Camden)

CCMUA (Engineering & Planning)

- [Camden SMART \(Stormwater Management and Resource Training\) Initiative](#)
- Note: Part 1 includes description of living shoreline project
- [Mussels, Marshes and Submerged Grasses: Hybrid Living Shoreline Concepts to Remediate Urban Tidal Freshwater Waterfronts](#) (poster, PDF)
- Audio file (7 minutes) [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) and [transcript](#) from an intercept interview by Megan Bucknum with Robert Hickman, CCMUA Engineering Department (Aug. 23 2018)
 - Note: Part 1 includes description of living shoreline project
- [Audio file](#) (43 minutes) and [transcript](#) from an oral history interview by Megan Bucknum with Andy Kricun, Executive Director of the CCMUA (Sept.19 2018)
- [Phoenix Park Phase I Construction - Time Lapse](#) (YouTube)
- [Phoenix Park Phase II Construction - Time Lapse & Slides](#) (YouTube)

Delaware River Ecosystem

- [The Delaware River — A Little Known Natural Treasure](#) (Delaware Riverkeeper Network)
 - [Remember the River](#) (5 minute documentary)
- [Economic Value of Nature and Ecosystems in the Delaware River Basin](#) (Peer Reviewed Article)
- [Economic Value of the Delaware Estuary Watershed](#) (report)
- [Water Quality Programs of the Delaware River Basin Commission](#) (booklet)

Some Background about Phoenix Park and Waterfront South, courtesy of Jennifer Kitson, Mahbubur Meenar, and Megan Bucknum from Rowan's Dept. of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability

The following information comes from the "Background and Significance" section of a project proposal entitled "Listen. Record. Play. Audio Storytelling for Equitable Placemaking and Park Design in Camden, NJ"

Today, Camden remains the poorest city in New Jersey, and one of the poorest in the nation (U.S. Census 2010). Home to an almost exclusively African American and Latino population, the Waterfront South neighborhood has poverty and unemployment rates at or exceeding those of the City overall. Recently, Camden City and County agencies have begun efforts to rectify the disproportionate presence of environmental burdens (e.g. poor air and water quality, flooding, noise and odor pollution) and the absence of environmental benefits (e.g. waterfront access, recreational opportunities) within historically disinvested urban neighborhoods like Waterfront South. The creation of Phoenix Park, a former brownfield site in Waterfront South, is part of this citywide movement to provide greater greenspace access. While such greenspace improvements are critical, they also can generate unintended and undesired effects. Residents who have lived through decades of urban neglect, disinvestment, and environmental pollution are often further marginalized or even displaced by investments and improvements in environmental amenities, such as park renovation and creation (Pearsall and Anguelovski 2016). Efforts to prevent or mitigate environmental gentrification emphasize the critical importance of designing greenspace with and for the uses, needs, and desires of the existing community (Curran and Hamilton 2012).

Building upon this literature, and in consideration of recent efforts to improve greenspace in Camden City, this research will pilot 'park storytelling' and community design as equitable placemaking methodology in identifying and proposing environmental design enhancements for Phoenix Park that meaningfully integrate local communities into the new or renovated parks. By partnering with Heart of Camden (<https://www.heartofcamden.org/hoc-home-page>), a longstanding Waterfront South community development organization, this project pilots an innovative methodology to communicate community and environmental history of the Phoenix Park site, while also shaping the future of this new greenspace.

The Waterfront South neighborhood was home to the New York Shipbuilding Company (1899-1968), which, during WWII was the largest and most productive shipyard in the world. Despite the decline of the shipbuilding industry in the post-war era, industrial activity at this site on the Delaware River has persisted; today, it is home to the working industrial South Jersey Port. As a result of this past and present land use, the Waterfront South neighborhood is a highly environmentally degraded area in the southern region

of the city. Less than one square mile, the Waterfront South neighborhood is straddled between the Camden County Municipal Authority (CCMUA) sewage treatment plant to the west, Interstate 676 to the east, a large U.S. Gypsum plant to the north, and the South Jersey Port Corporation to the south. It is also home to a National Paper Recycling facility, a Mafco Worldwide licorice extraction plant, plastic and metal fabrication, and other commercial activities.

The proximity of these industries to the residential areas (including approximately 268 homes and eight churches) of Waterfront South has resulted in longstanding health and quality of life concerns in the community. The neighborhood was involved in a landmark environmental justice lawsuit in the 1990s related to the discriminatory effects of environmental degradation and odor annoyance impacting the quality of life of predominantly African American and Latino residents (Pomar and Cole 2002). While not the only contributor to diminished air quality at this time, the CCMUA was the most egregious contributor of odor pollution diminishing quality of life and the primary target of environmental justice activism in the neighborhood. Importantly, Waterfront South residents were disproportionately affected by environmental harms (odor annoyance) resulting from waste treatment facilities serving the rest of the City and County. In recent decades, the CCMUA has made significant efforts to mitigate sewage odor and partner with the community. But visually and functionally, the industrial waterfront has continued to prevent public sightlines and access to the Delaware River, that is, until the creation of Phoenix Park, a 6-acre site situated directly between the CCMUA and the South Jersey Port Corporation.

Developed in 1898, the site that is now Phoenix Park, housed a factory processing minerals like limestone into chalk and other commercial products for about a century. After the factory closed, low levels of radiation from grinding earth materials remained, and the industrial property sat vacant for the last several decades. In 2014 the CCMUA, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and other local agencies announced a partnership to remediate the site and construct a new park reconnecting the Waterfront South neighborhood to the waterfront. Completed in 2017, after environmental remediation, the park is intended to afford residents with riverfront access, views, and greenspace recreation. But preliminary research indicates neighborhood residents are largely unaware of Phoenix Park, after decades of avoiding the industrial waterfront, or have difficulty accessing it, owing to the absence of signage, publicity, park programming, and accessible design.

Selected Bibliography

Curran, Winifred, and Trina Hamilton. 2012. "Just Green Enough: Contesting Environmental Gentrification in Greenpoint, Brooklyn." *Local Environment* 17 (9): 1027–42.

Pearsall, Hamil, and Isabelle Anguelovski. 2016. "Contesting and Resisting Environmental Gentrification: Responses to New Paradoxes and Challenges for Urban Environmental Justice." *Sociological Research Online* 21 (3): 1–7.

Pomar, Olga, and Luke Cole. 2002. "Camden, New Jersey, and the Struggle for Environmental Justice." *Clearinghouse Review Journal of Poverty Law and Policy* 36 (1-2): 94-108.

Project for Public Spaces. 2012. "Placemaking and the Future of Cities." Accessed March 30 2018. <https://www.pps.org/article/placemaking-and-the-future-of-cities>.