

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

Exercise 18: RiverSpark - Industrial Location
Extra Credit Option

Due by no later than the time of the Final Exam.

PURPOSE: This exercise looks closely at industrial and manufacturing sites at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers and (1) analyzes the sites in light of late 19th century/early 20th century needs (technology/transportation/ power/raw materials) and (2) determines what physical and economic geography factors were important for the siting of individual establishments.

INTRODUCTION:

The theme of the **RiverSpark Heritage Area** is “Industry and Labor” with the subtext “Where Water Ignited a Revolution.” (*It is also called the Hudson-Mohawk Heritage Trail.*) There is a general map of the heritage area without the specific points of interest at <https://parks.ny.gov/historic-preservation/heritage-areas/documents/RiverSparkUrbanHeritageArea.pdf>

Go to the **RiverSpark** web site (<http://riverspark.org>.) Read the History section and look over the Heritage Trail maps. (**Note:** The maps may be slow to appear as the *Adobe Shockwave* software kicks in.) There is an index pane in the lower right corner that allows you to navigate the map. If the map fails to appear, use the paper map distributed in class) to conduct this exercise.

From the 70 points of interest shown on the electronic and paper maps select **4** manufacturing/industrial activities, **4** transportation-related activities/sites and **2** water-related activities or sites. (**Note:** While a number of sites listed fall into all 3 categories, you may use a site only once. Please specify which category you are using)

Search the imbedded links on the web page and look for other sources of information for the urban areas in which the sites are located (Cohoes, Colonie, Green Island, Troy, Lansingburgh (N. Troy), Waterford, Watervliet) to fill in the historical geography of the area and the reasons the activities/functions were sited there.

ASSIGNMENT: For each of the 10 sites selected, do the following:

- List the site by Map Number and name.
- Look closely at the mapped area of the individual site. You may want to use Google Maps as a supplement, especially for terrain features.
- Describe its physical location.
- Describe what is there (the purpose, operation, function, etc. of the selected site)
- Why was it located there? Is the site operational today? If not, what is there?)
- Include bibliographic references for information outside the web site.**

