Cheonggyecheon

Cheonggyecheon is a 10.9 km long stream locates in the centre of Seoul, capital of South Korea.

This stream has its colourful history. Firstly, this stream was called Gaecheon and used as a drainage system during the Joseon Dynasty. Then, during the Japanese colonial period, it was renamed into its current name. after the Korean war (1950-1953), more and more people migrated to Seoul to make their living and settled down along this stream. However, because of lacking of management and poverty at that time, the houses besides the stream was shabby and makeshift (shown below). Trashes and all the living wastes were covered the stream and it became an eyesore of this city. In 1958, because of the bad condition of the stream, it was covered with concrete in 1958, and a 5.6 km ling, 16m wide elevated highways was built in 1976. After the elevated highways finished, this area became a successful example of industrialization and modernization in South Korea.

![Figure 1. Before the cheonggyecheon Restoration Project](image1.png)

![Figure 2. After the cheonggyecheon Restoration Project](image2.png)

However, with the rapid urbanization, population and ownership of cars became unacceptable in this area, traffic congestion, pollution other related problems were contributed. Therefore, in 2003, the Seoul mayor- Lee Myung-bak initiated a project to regeneration this area, the elevated highway was removed and the stream was restored. 120,000 tons of water were pumped into the stream daily, also, with the redevelopment project, nature was reintroduced to the city centre, which promoted an
eco-friendlier urban design.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government established the Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project to restore the loss natural appearance and history in last 600 years. The Cheonggyecheon restoration project was initiated based on citizens’ demand to improve the quality of urban life. In the aspect of functions, the implementation of the project brings stakeholders a lot of benefits, the local residents and travelers get a healthy and convenient life, more specifically, the public can fish in the river and the temperature in surrounding area reduced by an average of 3.6°C demonstrated by thermal imagery. Urban renewal and new design (reflect historical and cultural values) attracted visitors and improve the income for government and shops. Meanwhile, thanks to improved educational and history revitalization students can receive better education (higher quality).

The Cheonggyecheon has played diverse roles after the regeneration, such as a natural rivulet, attractions. During the day, upgrading of facilities will be convenient people’s life. At the night, the unique night scenery (landscape design) attracts many people stay there.
High Line Park

High Line opens for trains in 1934 as part of the West Side Improvement Project in New York City. It runs from 34th Street to St. John’s Terminal, carrying goods to and from Manhattan’s largest industrial district. After the last train runs on the High Line in 1980, the entire railway was abandoned. Friends of the High Line was founded in 1999 to advocate for the High Line’s preservation and reuse as public open space. The first section, section one of the High Line opened to public in June, 2009. Section two followed up two years later. (Friends of the High Line, 2016) High Line is still developing, more section will open in the future.

“The High Line’s planting design is inspired by the self-seeded landscape that grew on the out-of-use elevated rail tracks during the 25 years after trains stopped running.” (Friends of the High Line, 2016) The park’s landscape involved the plant spices that grew in the High Line in to ensure less impact on the environment. The transform from the abandoned railway system to the public park makes High Line sustainable. The green space in the High Line works as a green roof in the Manhattan area.

Figure 1: This picture shows the plant design of the High Line. (Friends of the High Line, 2016)
Figure 2: This picture shows the green roof of High Line Park. (Friends of the High Line, 2016)

The High Line Park was a part of the railway system of New York, which was abandoned in 1980 as shown in Figure 1. After that, as Figure 2 indicated that it has been changed to be a public park in 2006 and attracted many artists to come to
decorate it (Friends of the High Line, 2015). This urban regeneration project has positive effects on the local culture and economy. It has become the culture and arts corridor of New York and the successful outside open space for the contemporary art (Farago, 2013). Many local residents choose to relax in this park and it also attracts some tourists. The local cultural and economic environments have been changed because of the High Line Park.

Compare with the Commercial transformation of some cultural programmes, the development of High Line Park considers the demands of local residents and activities. The respect for resident requirements and local activities cause High Line Park will not develop to be a commercial area for tourists, and it will be a comfortable place for walking and relaxing of local residents. In addition, the works of artists will have positive contributes to the High Line Park, instead of destroying its original atmosphere.

Figure 3: This picture shows the High Line has been abandoned after 1980. (Sternfield, 2015)
Figure 4: This picture shows the new High Line Park after 2006. (Silva, 2014)
Reference List

