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Capstones

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism

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### **A Closer Look at Water Quality, Illegal Dumping and Community Engagement in the Coney Island Creek**

Molly Nugent

*CUNY Graduate School of Journalism*

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It wasn't the rickety old Cyclone or the boardwalk that first attracted people to Coney Island. The first attraction, according to historian Charles Denson, was a little farther down Neptune Avenue: the Coney Island Creek. Decades later, it's still a natural sanctuary for fishing, boating and escaping the concrete jungle of New York City. But with high levels of fecal coliform found in the water on a routine basis - especially within the past year - the creek is also one of the city's filthiest waterways. This investigation examines how it got this way and who should be held accountable.