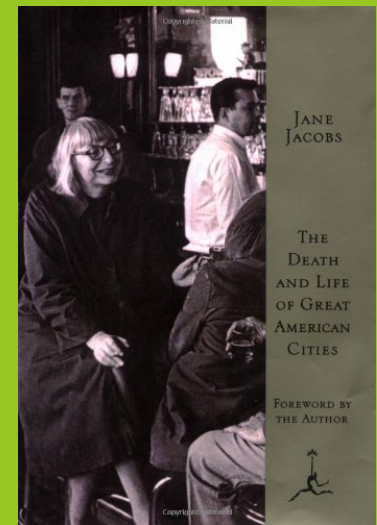


PHILADELPHIA'S
**WASHINGTON SQUARE
PARK**

THEN
&
NOW

- Jane Jacobs is a journalist writing for *Architectural Forum* magazine in New York City.
- She comes to Philadelphia to cover a story on urban renewal, and tours the city with Edmund Bacon.
- As a result of this visit, Jacob begins to form her own ideas on urban planning and her book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* is born.

THEN:
1961



- While in Philadelphia, Jacobs took particular note of the city's four park squares.
- Through her observations, she developed several theories regarding the relationship of a park to its city.
 - The neighborhood creates the park, not vice versa.
 - A diverse neighborhood creates a diversely used park.
 - A diversely used park is a successful park.

1961

City Parks

What Jacob's saw:

- A park whose rim is dominated by huge office buildings
- A rim and immediate hinterland that lacks diversity
- One potential reservoir of users – office workers
- Users are all on the same schedule – park is a vacuum most of the day

1961

Washington
Square
Park



THEN & NOW

A Visual
Comparison
Of the Park
Rim



**NOW:
2011**

**Inside
The Park**

What I saw:

Wash Sq. Park - Snapshot
 9:15 - Sat 4/4 - Sunny 75°

- 3 - Homeless (2 sleeping)
- 2 - stroller w/ kids
- 1 - individ. walking dog
- 2 - elderly w/ walkers.
- 2 - joggers
- 1 - exercise class by fountain (1 people)
- 2 - reading individuals

Sunny 75°
 2°-25° 1/2

- 1 crazy
- 2 sets of invalids
- 1 set invalids & eternal flame
- numerous people w/ bikes
- numerous people lounging on grass (most alone)
- 2 - 1 group
- 3 sets of people playing frisbee
- 6 people sleeping
- 2 on grass (1 w/ blanket, 1 w/ blanket)
- 3 on benches (1 w/ blanket, 1 w/ blanket)

South side of park is quieter

- 2 groups doggers
- 1 set of invalids
- 1 group on grass
- 1 set of invalids
- 1 man relaxing on bench
- 2 people in scrubs
- 1 man w/ arch Plans in role
- 1 trash picker-upper
- man rolling chair on roller cuts thru
- he → see, come back 5 min later → see
- 3:15 school kids get off bus, cut thru NW corner of park

Snapshot (Wash Sq Park) 6/18/11
 8:50am Sat 75 sunny

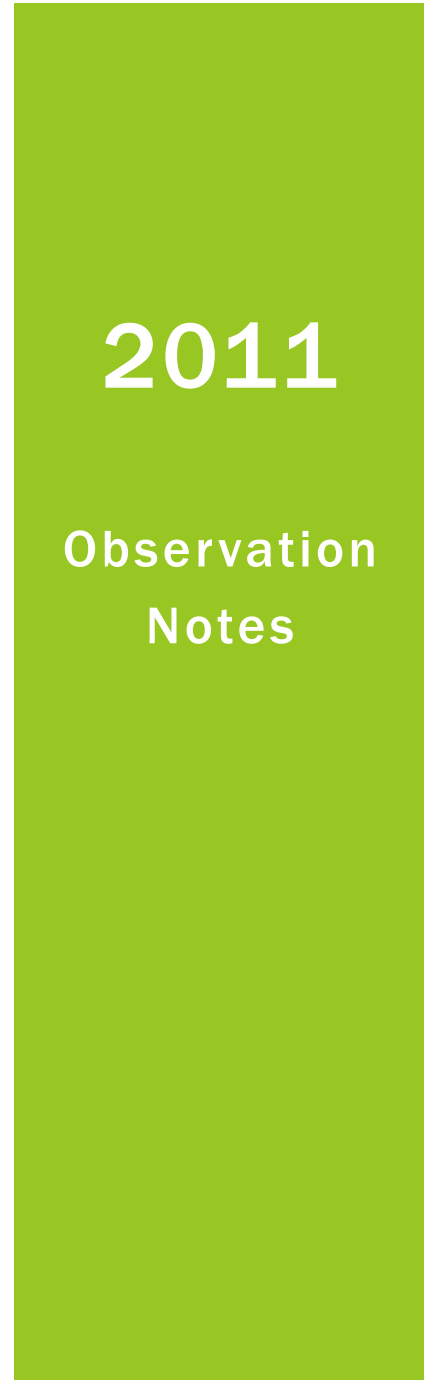
- 2-3 parent/d kids in strollers
- 2-3 dog walkers
- 2 homeless on benches
- 1 parent playing with toddler
- 1 man, sweeping up leaves into small piles by fountain. wore heavy shirt w/ dog, but was using a really small broom
- 1 guy preparing for taking down steps for gym class (check time on hot machine & snapshot)
- 2-3 pairs of people chatting on benches
- 2-3 single people sitting/people walking on benches
- No one on grass. (Wet from sprinklers?)

Wash: Snapshot 76°
 8:45pm 6/18/11 - Monday 7:50pm - 5:10pm + humidity

- 3 people walking dogs
- 1 person (female) reading on grass (center)
- 1 female on blanket w/ dog on grass NE corner
- 3 people reading on benches
- 24 homeless people on benches (clean, sitting)
- 2 women chatting on bench
- 3 people w/ strollers (2 female, 1 male)
- 3 males playing catch (West side)
- 2 runners
- Group of 1 just exercising walking thru
- 2 "Flac" members practicing
- Several people walking thru

Snapshot
 9:30 pm 75/sunny 6/25/11

- group of 3 young people playing guitar + singing by center fountain
- several couples on benches
- 1 homeless man?
- 1 man w/ book, laying down, sleeping (didn't appear homeless)
- several 8-10 people sitting/walking thru



2011

Observation Notes

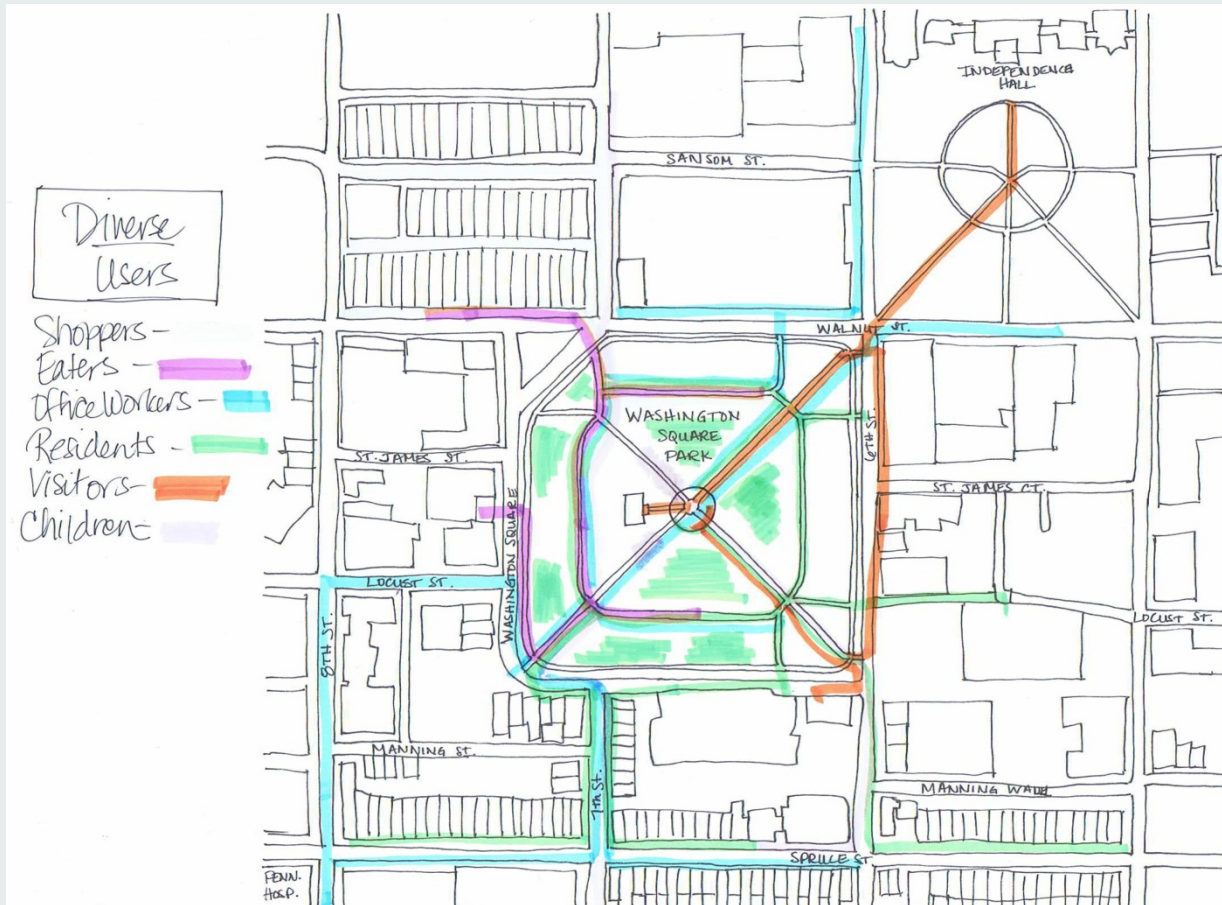


2011

Neighborhood Diversity

2011

Diversity of Park Users



- Today the park has a diverse rim of office buildings, restaurants, retail shops and residences.
- It has an immediate hinterland that is relatively diverse, although split north/south in residential versus business usage.
- There are multiple reservoirs of users.
- The users on many different schedules – park is in use throughout the day.

2011

Conclusions