



## Former Geneva Foundry Site

State Superfund Site No. C835027A

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed the cleanup of properties in neighborhoods adjacent to the Former Geneva Foundry Site (Site No. C835027A), located at 23 Jackson Street in Geneva, Ontario County (see Figure 1 on page 2).

The Geneva Foundry was operational from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1988 and manufactured a variety of metal products. Air emissions (fly ash) from the former foundry’s furnaces contained lead and arsenic, which were deposited onto the soil in the surrounding area. As specified in the January 2017 Record of Decision (ROD), the cleanup included removal of soil contaminated with arsenic and lead from properties located near the former foundry. The 7.5 - year cleanup project achieved remedial goals while minimizing the environmental footprint of construction activities and ensuring the long-term resiliency of installed components.

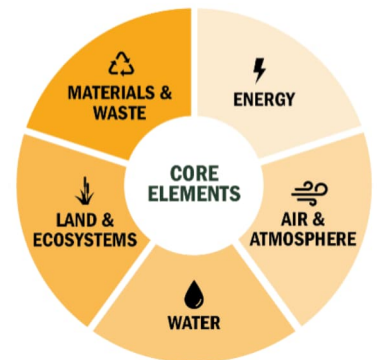
The project followed forward-thinking DEC policies and guidance, such as:

**DER-10 Technical Guidance for Site Investigation and Remediation:** Provides an overview of the site investigation and remediation process.

**DER-31 Green Remediation:** Establishes a preference for remediating sites in the most sustainable manner while still meeting all legal, regulatory and program requirements.

**CP-49 Climate Change and DEC Action:** Integrates climate change considerations into NYSDEC activities.

**CP-75 DEC Sustainability:** Provides sustainability directives to minimize the environmental footprint of DEC activities.



The city of Geneva is a New York State-designated [Disadvantaged Community](#) and a DEC [Potential Environmental Justice Area](#). Environmental justice areas and disadvantaged communities bear the disproportionate burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, and the impacts of climate change. These historically under-resourced areas experience higher instances of environmental damage from commercial and industrial developments in or near their communities. To learn more, visit the [DEC’s Office of Environmental Justice \(OEJ\)](#) webpage.

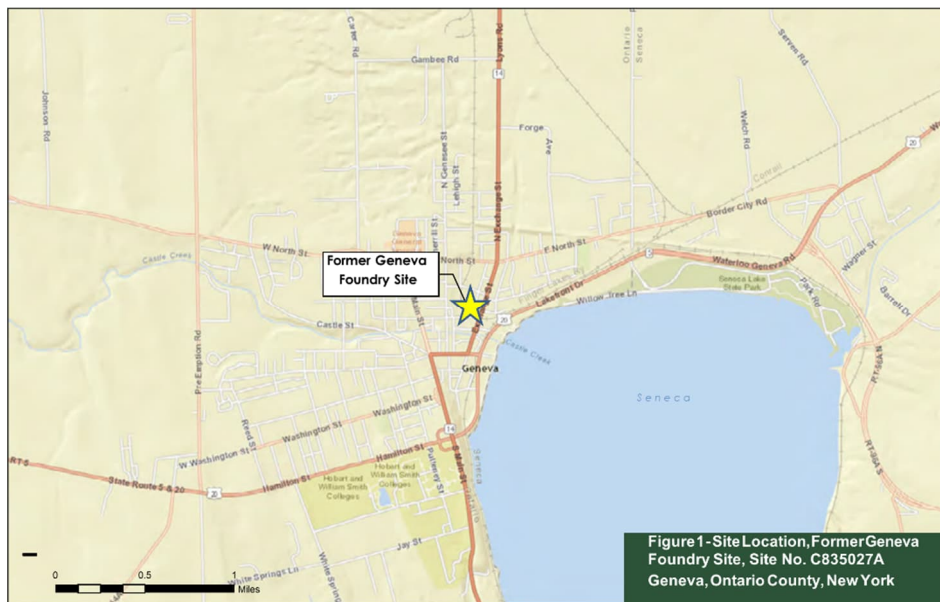
## Remedial Action Objective

The primary objective of any environmental cleanup is to reduce the toxicity, mobility, volume, and extent of released hazardous substances.

Approximately **15,000** soil samples from nearly **3,200** soil boring locations were collected and tested for lead and arsenic to define the extent of the cleanup.

Over **94,000 tons** of contaminated soil and debris were removed from neighborhood properties.

In total, **48.3 acres** of land were remediated, and **244 private and community properties** were cleaned up.



## A GREENER CLEANUP

The environmental cleanup of the former Geneva Foundry site and surrounding area was conducted from April 2017 through July 2024.

During site work, various green remediation best management practices were implemented to achieve practical reductions of the environmental footprint of cleanup activities, including:

- The Record of Decision required removal of contaminated soil and debris and 73,755 tons of soil, or 78% of the total removed, was beneficially reused as alternate operating cover at a local landfill; reducing the amount of clean cover material that the landfill needed to import from other areas.
- A Community Air Monitoring Plan required continuous air monitoring during all excavation and backfilling activities to ensure no additional contamination was released to the environment or adjacent properties during the cleanup.
- Clean soil used as backfill material was locally sourced, and an idle reduction plan was implemented, both of which reduced greenhouse gas emissions associated with trucking.
- Asphalt millings from road repaving were given to the city for reuse in local areas.



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

*"THE WORK DONE FAR EXCEEDS MERELY REMOVING CONTAMINATED SOIL. THE WHOLE ENDEAVOR PRODUCED A COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT."*

- Local Church Pastor

*"IT'S A RELIEF KNOWING OUR PROPERTIES ARE NO LONGER CONTAMINATED. FAMILIES CAN ENJOY THE OUTDOORS KNOWING ALL IS WELL. NO FEAR OF HARM TO THEIR KIDS OR ANYONE IN THE AREA OF CONCERN."*

- Area Resident

*"THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN REVITALIZED BY THE REMEDIATION."*

- Local Business Owner



## REMOVAL OF CONTAMINANTS

Soils found to be high in arsenic and/or lead left behind as a legacy of the former Geneva Foundry posed a potential threat to human health were removed and replaced with clean, tested local soils.



## LOCALLY SOURCED BACKFILL

Over 100,000 tons of soil, stone, and topsoil was sourced from local suppliers, limiting greenhouse gas emissions from trucking and supporting local businesses.



## GENESEE PARK

DEC coordinated with the City of Geneva to enhance the park with newly constructed sidewalks, additional seating areas, and a new community stage. Mature trees important to the character of the park were protected. Park improvements added value and use to this central community green space.



## PLANTING NATIVE SPECIES

A certified arborist identified both high-value and invasive species of trees. Trees of importance were saved where feasible while invasive species were removed. The use of native plant species was emphasized during property restoration.



## NEWLY PAVED ROADS

Milling and repaving segments of six high-use roads was completed after restoration work was finished, with approximately 2 lane-miles of newly paved road installed in the area.



# 2024 RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## ✓ RESTORATION COMPLETION & FINAL LANDSCAPING

In 2024, the final five properties were addressed, bringing the total completed properties to 244. A total of 23 properties were determined to not require active cleanup while 217 required excavation and removal of contaminated soil. The offsite cleanup offered by DEC was voluntary; only four parcels did not participate in sampling cleanup. Remediated properties were located throughout the project area and in 2024 included the primary project office and staging area on State Street. Landscaping of properties where remediation was done in 2023, but could not be completed before the winter months, was also completed in 2024.

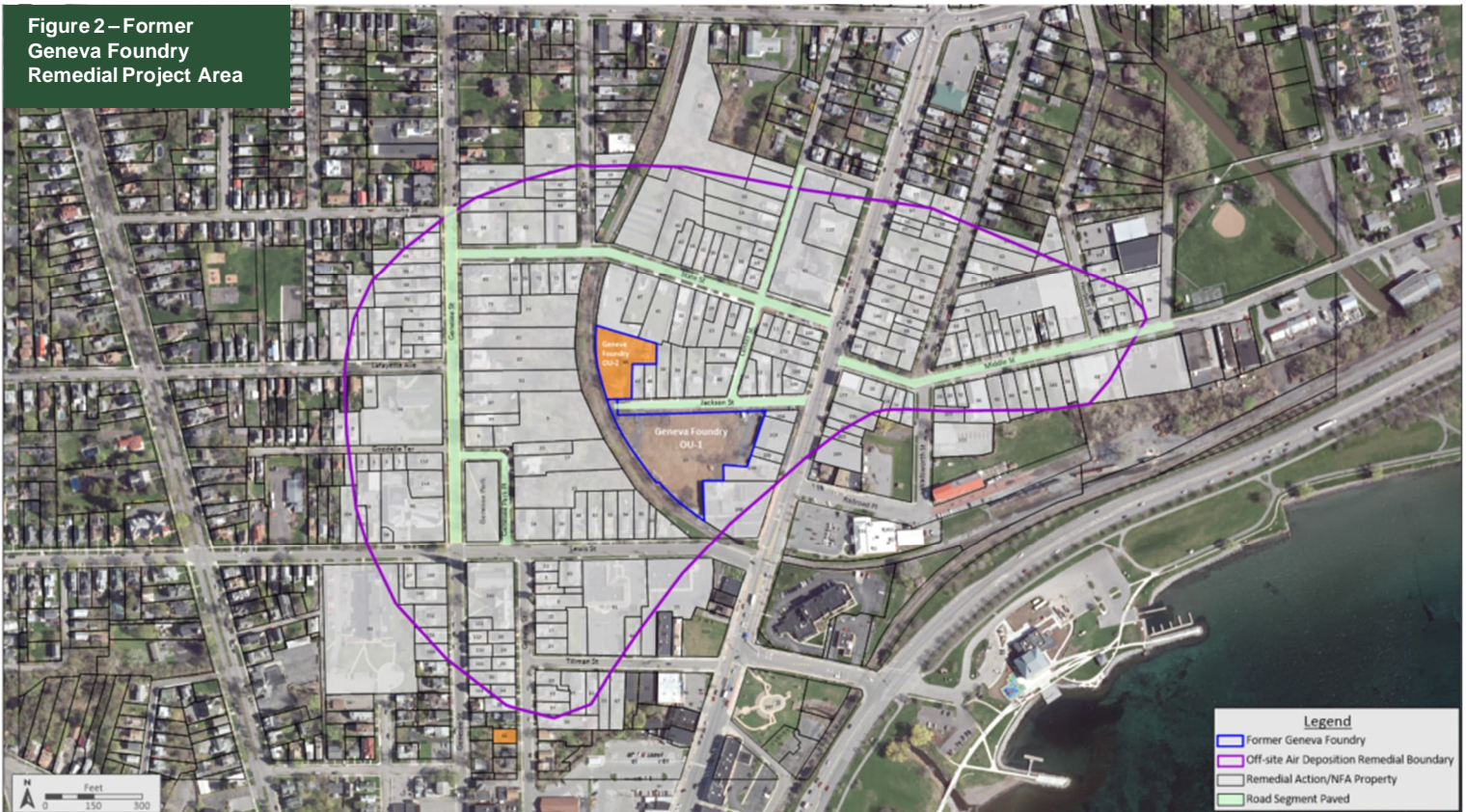
## ✓ PROJECT COMPLETION & CLEAN-UP

Upon completion of property cleanup activities, the project equipment and materials staging areas on State, Jackson, Geneva, and Lehigh streets were restored in consultation with the City of Geneva. Completion of project documentation is anticipated to be completed by year end.

## ✓ ROAD MILLING & PAVING

Although best management practices were employed during the project, impacts to frequently used city roads were identified. As such, DEC milled and repaved approximately 2 lane-miles of road surface in July 2024 following completion of field work (see figure below).

Figure 2 – Former Geneva Foundry Remedial Project Area



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Project documents are available at:  
The DEC project website:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/region-8/former-geneva-foundry-site>

Through the DECinfo Locator:  
<https://dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

Watch a video of project highlights on DEC's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpsafUQQPMq&t=16s>

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