

# North Aud Block Site

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Site No. C915406

City of Buffalo, Erie County



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

June 2025

## Cleanup Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination; Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the North Aud Block site ("site") located at 130 Main Street, Buffalo, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location. Based on the findings of the investigation, NYSDOH has determined that the site does not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment.

### How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a "Draft Remedial Investigation / Alternatives Analysis Report (RI/AAR)" for 45 days, from **June 25 through August 9, 2025**.

- Access the RI/AAR and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915406/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Contact Information" area.

### Draft Remedial Investigation/ Alternatives Analysis Report

The proposed Unrestricted Use (Track 1) Cleanup remedy plan consists of:

- Removal of temporary structures (Canalside Ice Rink shelter);
- Excavation of contaminated soil to an average depth of approximately 5 feet below ground surface across the majority of the site and off-site disposal at a secure permitted landfill;
- Stabilizing a small area of lead-contaminated soil with hazardous characteristics, followed by excavation the stabilized soil for off-site disposal at a secure permitted landfill;
- Collecting and analyzing post-cleanup soil and groundwater samples to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleanup;
- Importing clean material that meets the established Soil Cleanup Objectives for use as backfill; and
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities.

The proposed cleanup plan was developed by North Aud Owner LLC ("applicant") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

## Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the remedy plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. NYSDOH must concur with the proposed cleanup. After approval, the proposed cleanup becomes the selected cleanup. The applicant may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

## Site Description

The site is an approximately 1.870-acre site, located in an urban area, at 130 Main Street in the City of Buffalo, Erie County. It is bordered by Upper Terrace Street to the north, Main Street to the east, Commercial Street to the west, and the Ice at Canalside and Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation office building to the south. The site is mostly vacant land consisting of an unfilled pit that was part of the basement and foundation of the former Memorial Auditorium Arena demolished in 2009. The auditorium was built in 1939/40. Previous to the former auditorium, the site consisted of a portion of the former canal side commercial district containing a series of buildings for various business, streets and the western terminus of the Erie Canal along the southern boundary of the site.

Planned redevelopment following cleanup consists of construction a multi-story/mixed use structure with commercial use on ground floors and residential on upper floors.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, C915406) at:

<https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch>

## Summary of the Investigation

The primary contaminants of concern at the site are semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals in soil site wide. A small area central to the site contained lead contaminated soil that exceeded hazardous characteristics for lead. Several naturally occurring metals exceeded water quality criteria at several monitoring wells on the site. A fluorinated VOC, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), was detected in one monitoring well above water quality criteria.

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/brownfield>

## Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

**We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.**

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

## **DECinfo Locator**

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Project-Related Questions**

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NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation

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### **Project-Related Health Questions**

Shaun Surani  
NYSDOH, Bureau of Environmental Exposure and Investigation

Empire State Plaza  
Corning Tower, Room 1787  
Albany, New York 12237  
P: (518) 402-7860  
[beei@health.ny.gov](mailto:beei@health.ny.gov)

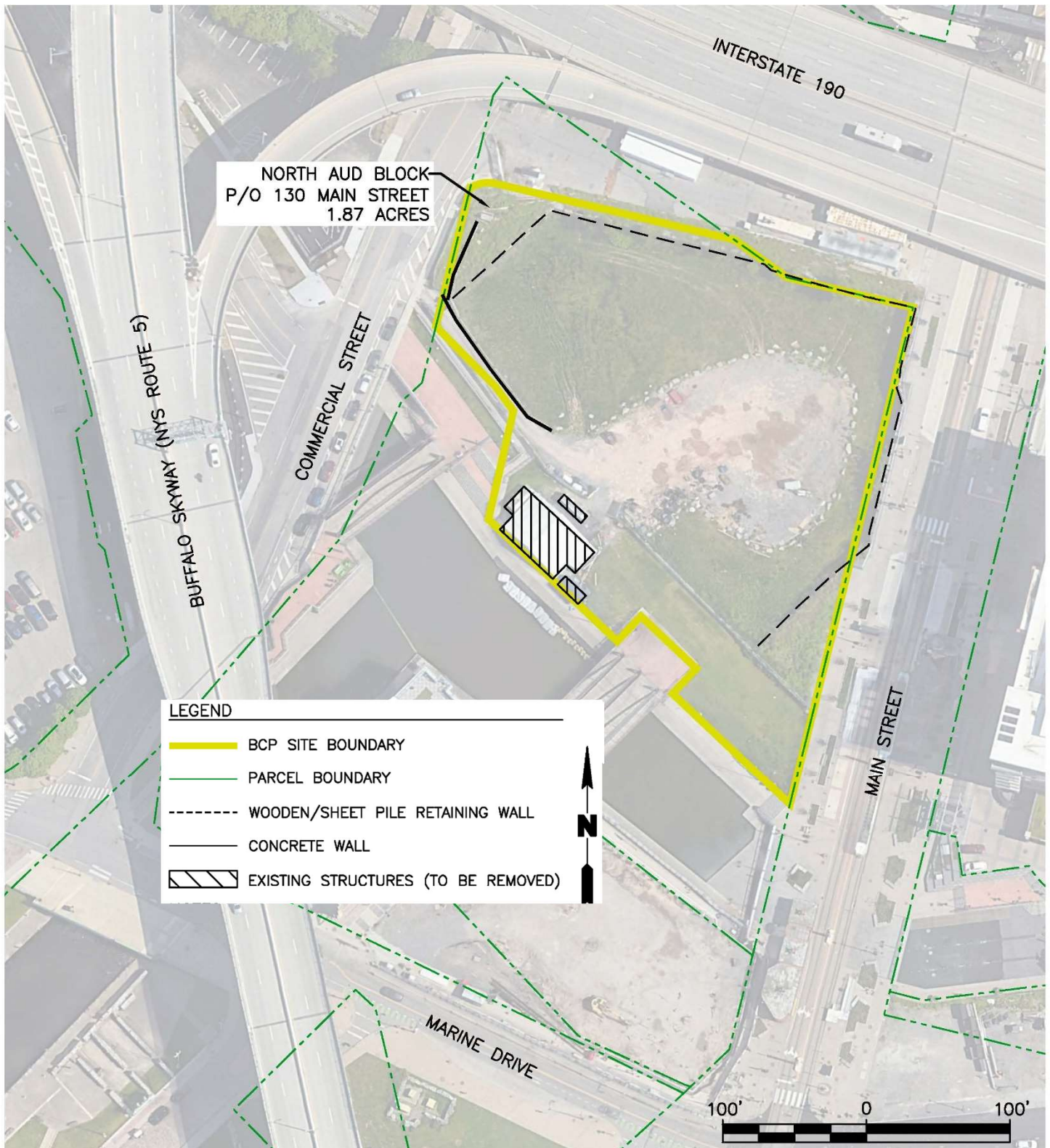
## **WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION**

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):  
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915406/>

### **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library – Central Library**

1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 858-8900

## Site Location







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