

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## GREATER CORNING AREA Community Availability Session and Park Projects Comment Period



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Industrial waste, including ash, brick, and glass (ABG), has been historically disposed of in the Greater Corning area in Steuben County, and cleanup efforts are actively underway. Inside, you'll find resources available to residents, ensuring you stay informed and engaged in the ongoing efforts to restore and protect the Corning community.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the State Department of Health (DOH) are committed to sharing progress on the agencies' efforts to ensure the protection of the community from potential exposures to ABG within the greater Corning, New York, area.

## Community Availability Session 10/16

The DEC and DOH are holding a community availability session on **Thursday, October 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Corning** to update the community about the ongoing efforts to protect human health and the environment. At the availability session, DEC, DOH, and their project consultants will staff tables featuring information about the investigation and cleanup, providing opportunities for residents to ask questions of experts one-on-one.

Residents can also learn more about the upcoming work planned for McKinney, William Street, and Hillvue Parks. Based on the findings of recent investigations, the DEC has developed an interim remedial measure (IRM) work plan. The public comment period for the work plan runs from October 1 through October 31, 2025.

This session will be in the style of an open house where attendees can arrive and depart at any time during the session.

To check the status of your property during the availability session, please bring proof of residency such as a driver's license with your current address or a utility bill.

### For more information

Email: [PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com](mailto:PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com)

Call the Project Hotline: 833-770-1716

## McKinney, William Street, Hillvue, and Denison Parks



Past investigations determined that metals (namely, arsenic, cadmium, and lead) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) are present in the soils of McKinney, William Street, Hillvue, and Denison Parks in Corning. This contamination is due to the presence of glass manufacturing waste, also known as, ash, brick, and/or glass (ABG) which was formerly used as fill in many areas.

Recent investigations to define the nature and extent of contamination in the soil of McKinney, William Street, and Hillvue Parks were completed during the summer of 2025. To address this contamination, the DEC is now developing remedial designs tailored to each park. The remedy consists of removing ABG observed during sampling and the top two feet of soils that exceed the soil cleanup objectives. This remedy is expected to be completed by spring 2026, ensuring these cherished community spaces remain safe and welcoming for all. See more information about Denison Park on page 4.

Urban parks and greenspaces play a vital role in enhancing quality of life, providing recreational opportunities, improving air quality, and fostering biodiversity. As part of this initiative, the DEC is committed to preserving the trees in these parks, recognizing their immense value to the environment and the community. Trees not only provide shade and beauty but also help reduce urban heat, filter pollutants, and support wildlife habitats.

The DEC is proud to support the health and sustainability of Corning's parks while prioritizing the preservation of natural resources. Together, we can ensure these greenspaces continue to thrive for generations to come.



## Study Area (Houghton Plot) Updates

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Some of the properties in the Houghton Plot in Corning were found to contain ash, brick, and glass (ABG) materials in the soil, prompting the removal of up to two feet of impacted soil from residential yards to address contamination concerns. To date, 307 properties have been remediated and are now under site management. Several other properties have yet to be remediated.

DEC's top priority is to ensure that community members are not exposed to any site-related contamination. If you are planning work on your property such as landscaping, installing a swing set or basketball hoop, building a retaining wall, or putting in a dog fence, we recommended that you notify DEC as early as possible in your project planning. Even small, shallow jobs can be a potential risk if you don't know where ABG is buried.

When you call or email, please provide a description of the proposed work, including the location and depth, and a planned schedule. DEC will determine if the work may expose ABG or contaminated soil and will determine safe handling requirements to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

Call the project hotline at **833-770-1716** or email [PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com](mailto:PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com)

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### City of Corning Fire Department

Based on investigations conducted to date at the City of Corning Fire Department, metals and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) have been detected in soil at levels that exceed applicable standards, criteria, and guidance. Sediment samples, taken from locations along the Chemung River riverbank also reported metals at levels that exceed applicable standards, criteria, and guidance. On-site groundwater is contaminated with boron at levels that exceed DEC groundwater standards and guidance values. Glass manufacturing waste material, including ash, brick, and/or glass was also observed at the site.

Additional information about the Fire Department can be found using DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database Search with site number 851050:

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

Site-specific documents may be found online through the DECinfo Locator:

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/851050/>

### Denison Park

Based on investigations conducted to date at Denison Park, on-site soils and groundwater are contaminated with metals and semi-volatile organic compounds at levels exceeding applicable standards, criteria, and guidance. Glass manufacturing waste material, including ash, brick, and/or glass, was also observed at the site. Much of this public park is covered by grass and materials such as mulch or wood chips in the playground portions, acting as cover that prevents contact with the soils beneath. However, unnecessary digging in the dirt should be avoided and children and adults should wash hands after outdoor activities.

Additional information about Denison Park can be found using DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database Search with site number 851066:

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

Site specific documents may be found online through the DECinfo Locator:

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/851066/>

**Next Steps for Both Sites:** The next step for both sites is conducting a Presumptive Remedy Pre-Design Investigation (PDI). For the Fire Department site, the presumptive remedy is a one-foot cover that removes ABG and meets commercial soil cleanup objectives. For Denison Park, the presumptive remedy is a two-foot cover system that meets restricted residential standards.

## Minimizing Exposure

DEC is committed to supervising a careful and thorough cleanup of all impacted sites identified in Corning. However, it is possible for a person to come into incidental contact with contaminants in the soil through home maintenance and recreational activities. The following actions can reduce the risk of incidental contact:

- Maintain a grass or mulch cover to help prevent direct contact with the soil,
- Avoid unnecessary digging in the dirt,
- Wash your hands after outdoor activities, and
- Use doormats to help reduce exposure to outdoor soil that might be tracked indoors, and mop floors periodically.

All soil contains naturally occurring metals and microorganisms and, therefore, it is always a good idea to minimize contact with soil, whether it is potentially contaminated or not.



**We want to hear from you!** Even if you are unable to attend the public availability session, please contact the DEC and DOH teams if you:

- Have information about areas where ABG may be found
- Find ABG on your property
- Would like to request a meeting with DEC or DOH
- Have any other comments or questions about investigation, remediation, or restoration in the Corning area

### Comments and questions are always welcome!

General Inquiries/Comments for NYSDEC Team  
Email: [PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com](mailto:PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com)  
Toll-Free Project Hotline: 833-770-1716

Thoren Giannuzzi  
NYSDEC, Project Manager  
518-402-8246, [Thoren.Giannuzzi@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Thoren.Giannuzzi@dec.ny.gov)

Scott Williams  
NYSDEC, Construction Inspector  
585-773-8034, [Scott.Williams@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Scott.Williams@dec.ny.gov)

John Robinson  
NYSDOH, Project Manager  
518-402-7881, [Johnathan.Robinson@health.ny.gov](mailto:Johnathan.Robinson@health.ny.gov)

### For more information:

Project documents are made available at the Southeast Steuben County Library (607-936-3713) and Region 8 NYSDEC Headquarters (585-226-5324).

**DEC's Environmental Cleanup Within the Greater Corning Area Website:**  
<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/region-8/cleanup-within-corning-area>

**Sign up to Receive Updates by Email:**  
<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>