

Gowanus Canal Area Community Update

Brooklyn, Kings County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

September 2026

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is working closely with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to protect public health and the environment in the Gowanus Canal area. DEC and NYSDOH are working with partners from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake the comprehensive investigation and cleanup of former industrial sites near the Gowanus Canal.

New York State is committed to keeping the community informed about ongoing cleanup actions and efforts to address legacy contamination in the Gowanus neighborhood.

In addition to this update, DEC and NYSDOH are planning a community availability session this Fall to discuss the community-wide Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI) investigation results and provide an overview of cleanup activities within the Gowanus Canal and surrounding area. Details about the session will be provided once finalized.

Site Description

The Gowanus Canal is an approximately 1.8-mile-long man-made navigational waterway in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. The Gowanus Canal area contains approximately 61 environmental cleanup sites overseen by DEC and adjacent to both sides of the Gowanus Canal. DEC's area-wide SVI study area extends approximately three blocks surrounding the canal, generally bordered by Baltic Ave. to the north, 3rd Ave./4th Ave. to the east, Gowanus Bay to the south, and Court St./Bond St. to the west (Figure 1). The below figure shows the status of the cleanup sites, which are both in the State Superfund and Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP), including ongoing and completed sites. EPA has the lead for cleaning up the canal itself.

Gowanus Canal Area Wide Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation (Site #224133A)

During the availability session, DEC and NYSDOH will discuss 2025-2026 heating season sampling findings, as well as upcoming activities for the 2026-2027 heating season. This will help inform Gowanus residents and other stakeholders about the State's ongoing investigation to assess where legacy contamination may be affecting indoor air quality in Gowanus Canal area buildings and how that data is incorporated into an expanded soil vapor intrusion (SVI) investigation. SVI is a process by which chemicals underground can enter the indoor air of a building through the basement, crawlspace, or slab.

A Gowanus Canal Area Wide 2025-2026 heating season sampling report will be posted on DEC's website at dec.ny.gov/gowanus prior to the October community availability session. During the three years of SVI investigations, more than 2,000 properties in the study area were contacted and access was granted from 453 properties, which were sampled.

Sampling will be scheduled for the 2026-2027 heating season after additional properties are canvassed for access.

If you are a property owner in the Gowanus Canal Area who has not yet responded to New York State's offer for indoor air sampling and are interested, the owner can contact DEC project manager Aaron Fischer at aaron.fischer@dec.ny.gov or (518) 598-7799. Additionally, if you are a tenant in a building and would like sampling, contact your landlord/property owner to request that the property owner

comply with sampling requests. DEC and DOH will work with the owners of other properties in the area and conduct additional investigations as appropriate.

Mitigation Systems Installed

When soil vapor intrusion sampling results indicate mitigation is recommended for buildings participating in New York State's investigations, SVI mitigation is offered to each building owner and is voluntary. Where accepted, a DEC contractor installs vapor intrusion mitigation system or other acceptable measures. These systems are tailored to individual building conditions. After installation, additional sampling is conducted to verify the system is effective at preventing contamination from affecting indoor air quality. Due to the age and size of many of the buildings in the SVI study area, mitigation can be complicated and take time.

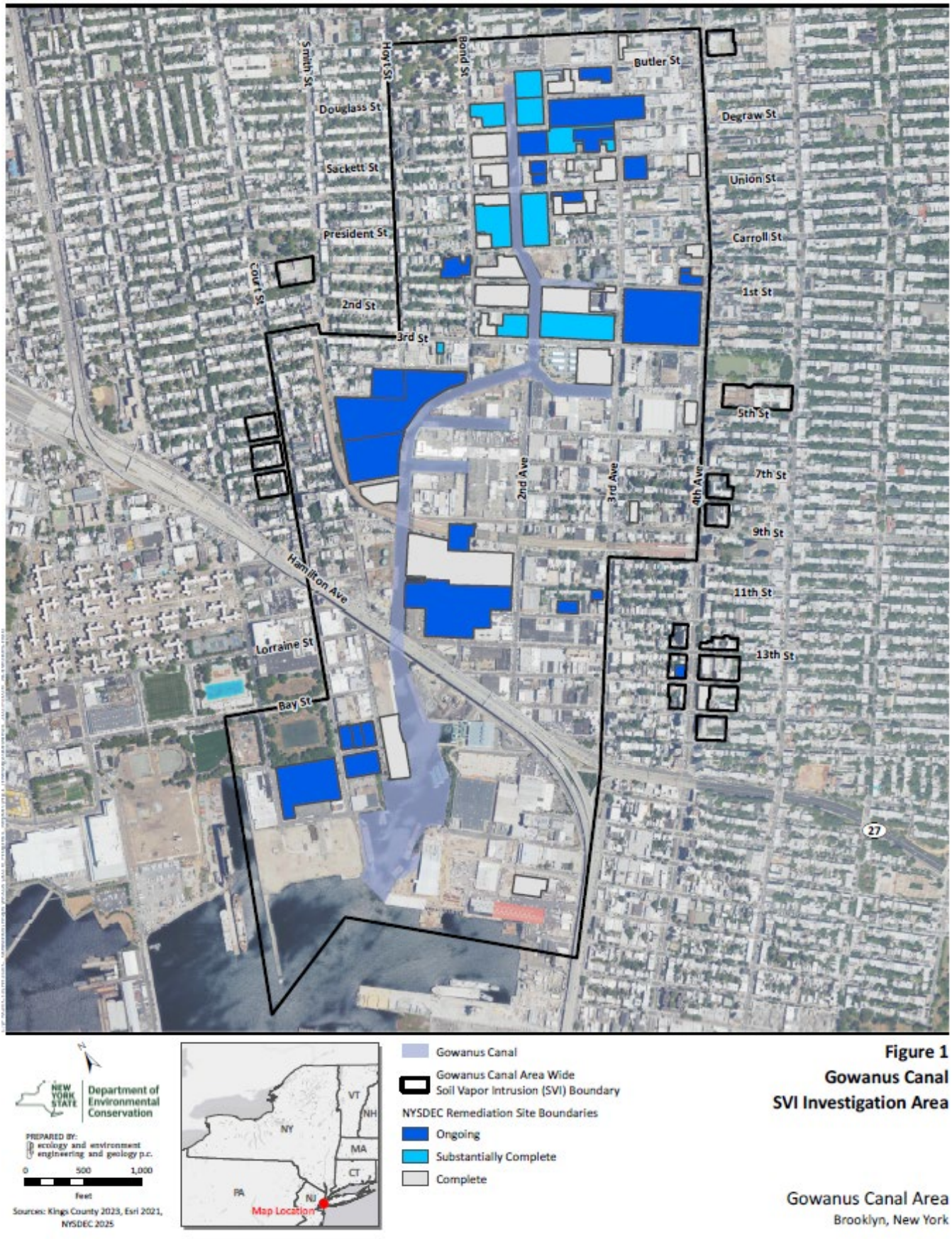
Based on the results of the 2025/2026 heating season sampling, NYSDOH recommended mitigation at six of the 82 buildings sampled, bringing the total number of buildings which required mitigation to 44.

SVI Site Update: P.S. 372

DEC and NYSDOH are working closely with P.S. 372, property owner Diocese of Brooklyn, and the New York City Department of Education to mitigate soil vapor intrusion in the cellar of the school's annex. New York State is taking effective steps to ensure that any potential exposure concerns are addressed to prevent potential impacts to the school's students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding environment.

DEC installed a sub-slab depressurization system and is coordinating measures to optimize and supplement the existing HVAC with a Heat Recovery Ventilator system to ensure that the health of students and staff are further protected during the new school year.

Figure 1: Gowanus Canal Site Boundary



NYSDEC Updates for select sites in the Gowanus Canal Area

Gowanus Green (Building A) (Citizens Parcel IA) - Site No. C224012

In August 2026, DEC approved a Brownfield Cleanup Agreement amendment separating the former Carroll Gardens / Public Place Former MGP Brownfield Cleanup Program site into Gowanus Green Building A (Site No C224012) and Carroll Gardens / Public Place Former MGP (site C224012C).

A remedial action work plan (RAWP) to address coal tar, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals at Gowanus Green/ Parcel IA (C224012) was approved by DEC in August 2026. An in-situ solidification (ISS) remedial design document and pilot test work plan is estimated to be implemented later this year. A fact sheet announcing the start of work will be issued to the public prior to the start of the ISS action.

DEC received many comments on the amendment application and the proposed RAWP for Parcel IA, and DEC prepared a detailed responsiveness summary to those comments. Copies of the amendment, RAWP, Decision Document, and Responsiveness Summary are available at [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - File Listing](#).

Citizens Parcel IB and II - Site No. C224012C

In August 2026 National Grid and DEC agreed on the extent of ISS necessary to address MGP-related contamination at this site. With this agreement in place, the extent of MGP-related cleanup necessary on Parcels I-III of the former Citizens MGP site is defined, which will treat the primary source of contamination on these parcels, and allow for EPA's cleanup of the canal itself to continue.

The Carroll Gardens / Public Place Former MGP/C224012C also will perform a pre-design investigation to delineate non-MGP related contamination. The investigation will delineate contamination for the development of a RAWP to be submitted following the completion of the investigation. The Draft RAWP for this area will be sent for public comment with a fact sheet prior to DEC approval.

459 Smith Street MGP Site (Citizens MGP Parcel III) - Site No. C224012B

A remedial action work plan to address coal tar, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals was approved by DEC in March 2026. An in-situ solidification remedial design document and pilot test work plan is estimated to be implemented later this year. A fact sheet announcing the start of work will be issued to the public prior to the start of ISS.

210 Douglass Street – Site No. C224316

Remedial soil excavation and off-site disposal and ISS are complete. In August 2026, the property owner began implementing the DEC approved the full-scale remedial design document for in-situ geochemical stabilization (ISGS) to address MGP-related contamination along the bulkhead abutting the Gowanus Canal. A Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) is implemented to help prevent any potential exposure to contamination during cleanup activities.

601-607 Union Street – Site No. C224392

Recent and planned remedial activities include soil excavation and off-site disposal, as well as groundwater monitoring and sampling. A CAMP is implemented to help prevent any potential exposure to contamination during cleanup activities.

141 3rd Street – Site No. C224336

ISS and the bulk of the remedial excavation have been completed. Future remedial activities include the installation of a soil vapor extraction system and a sub-slab depressurization system. A Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) is implemented to help prevent any potential exposure to contamination during cleanup activities.

21 Denton Place – Site No. 224386

On-site in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) injections were completed to clean up VOCs on-site. Remedial excavation is ongoing. A CAMP is implemented to help prevent any potential exposure to contamination during cleanup activities.

175-225 3rd Street – Site No. C224209

Remedial in-situ stabilization (ISS) and remedial excavation have been completed. Future remedial activities include the installation of a sub-slab depressurization system. A Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) is implemented to help prevent any potential exposure to contamination during cleanup activities.

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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WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/224133/>

For more information on New York's environmental investigation and cleanup actions in the Gowanus Canal area, visit
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/127317.html>



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