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## 4<sup>th</sup> Street Turning Basin Debris Removal Pilot Project *Brooklyn, New York*

### Community Update



*Common debris found in waterway cleanup projects*

#### WHAT DID THE SONAR SCANS FIND?

The scans revealed 36 large objects at the bottom of the basin, including two boat wrecks, eight support pilings, a tree and 25 other items that measured greater than five feet across. Sonar also revealed that numerous tires have been dumped in the basin. All of these items will be removed during this pilot project.

#### HOW WILL THE DEBRIS BE DISPOSED OF?

During the cleanup, recovered debris will be sorted into recyclable and general landfill material categories. Sediment extracted during the process will be treated and disposed of at a commercial facility offsite. In addition, EPA, in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, determined that none of the wrecks are historically significant.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

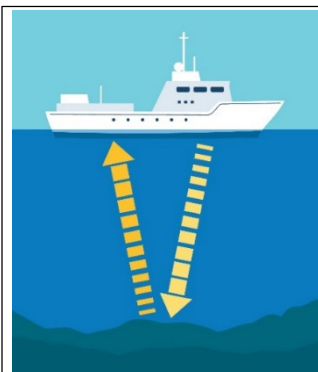
During this preliminary work, several techniques will be tested to establish a best practice for debris removal throughout the rest of the canal. Once the debris removal is completed, EPA expects to begin dredging of the contaminated sediment in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Turning Basin in 2017.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE 4<sup>th</sup> STREET TURNING BASIN?

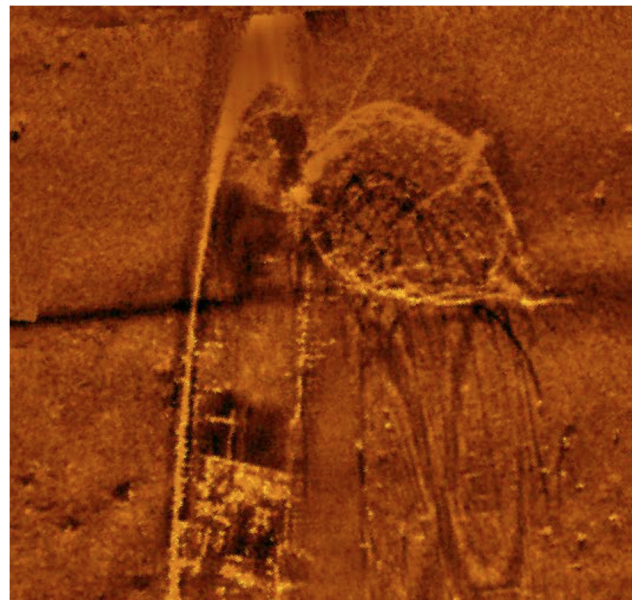
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is starting a debris removal pilot project at the Gowanus Canal Superfund site. Field personnel will be removing debris from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Turning Basin (located at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave). Work is scheduled to begin on October 24, 2016 and is expected to continue for 3-4 weeks. Debris removal operations will take place on weekdays from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. There is no major trucking associated with the project.

#### WHY IS DEBRIS BEING REMOVED FROM THE BASIN?

This debris removal pilot is part of EPA's overall plan to remove contaminated sediment from the Gowanus Canal Superfund site. The turning basin is littered with underwater debris that accumulated over time. Left in place, this debris could restrict future barge access and hamper dredging of contaminated sediment from the bottom of the basin.



To assist in identifying debris, technical experts created a map of underwater objects in the basin using sonar. This is similar to technology used on submarines or on the bottom of ships for ocean mapping.



*Sonar scan shows a sunken ship in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Basin of the Gowanus Canal*



# Timeline for Pilot Project Begins Oct. 24

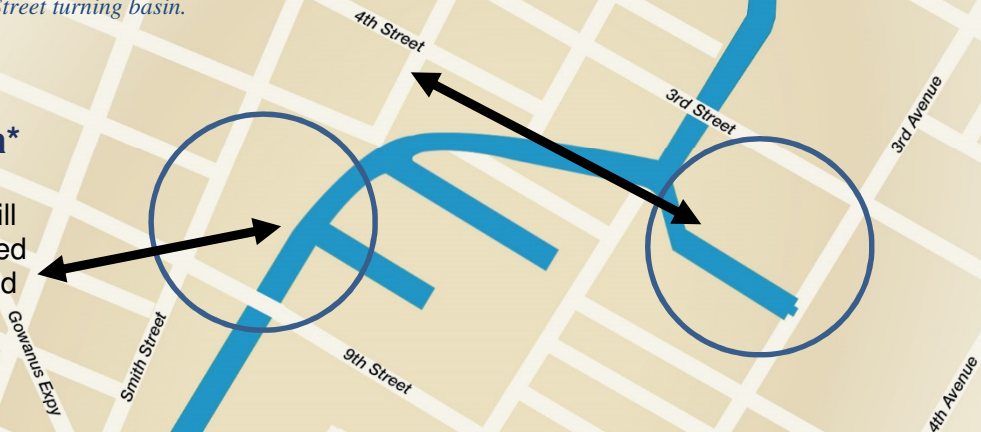


*Overhead view of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street turning basin.*

Location of  
sunken ship in  
Turning Basin 4.

## Primary Staging Area\*

Equipment for the project will be staged on an undeveloped lot at the corner of Smith and Huntington streets. Barges would then transfer needed resources to the site's location.



## Environmental Monitoring

Water, air and odor monitoring will continually be conducted during this project. This will include visual inspection and a network of automated monitoring stations that measure air quality. These stations will provide real-time data to project managers.

**For more information about the site please contact:**

Natalie Loney  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(212) 637-3639  
[loney.natalie@epa.gov](mailto:loney.natalie@epa.gov)

Or see EPA's Gowanus Canal webpage:  
[www.epagowanussuperfund.com](http://www.epagowanussuperfund.com)

\* Debris removed from the canal will be temporarily placed on a barge stationed in the basin. It will then be transported to the primary staging area once its construction is complete.