



GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND TIMELINE

Prepared by the GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

TASKS COMPLETED

- 2008** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requests the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nominate the Gowanus Canal to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).
- 2009** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II proposes the Gowanus Canal for the National Priorities List (NPL).
- 2010** **SUPERFUND DESIGNATION:** EPA places the Gowanus Canal on the National Priorities List.
- 2010** The Gowanus Community Advisory Group (CAG) is formed, comprised of residents and stakeholders to improve public participation and provide a forum for interests and concerns related to the cleanup.
- 2009-10** **Remedial Investigation (RI):** Data collection and analyses of the site that determines the nature and extent of contamination.
- 2011** **Feasibility Study (FS):** Identifies feasible alternative remedies to the contamination.
- 2012** **Proposed Remediation Action Plan (PRAP):** EPA's proposed recommendation plan to address contamination in the canal.
- 2013** **Record of Decision (ROD):** A public document that explains the cleanup alternatives that will be used to clean up the site.

TASKS REMAINING

- 2013-16** **REMEDIAL DESIGN (RD):** Preparation of technical plans and specifications to implement the remedy for the canal.
- 2017-22** **Remedial Action (RA):** Construction of the remedy; Dredging the canal.
- 2017-18** **REMEDIAL TARGET AREA (RTA) 1: Butler Street to 3rd Street**
- 2019-20** **REMEDIAL TARGET AREA (RTA) 2: 3rd Street to 9th Street**
- 2021-22** **REMEDIAL TARGET AREA (RTA) 3: 9th Street to 21st St/Erie Basin**
- 2021** **Construction Completion:** Completion of physical cleanup
- 2021 +** **Operation & Maintenance (O&M):** Activities to ensure cleanup methods are working properly and remedy continues to be effective.
Post Construction: Actions to provide long-term protection of human health and the environment. Five-year reviews will take place to ensure that the cleanup plan is acting as designed.

EARLY HISTORY

The Gowanus Canal was one of the nation's busiest and most polluted industrial waterways. A high level of contamination still exists in the water, the sediment at the bottom of the canal and the adjacent upland areas.

Originally, the Gowanus was a tidal creek within a saltwater marsh inhabited by the Lenape Indians and then Dutch settlers. In 1776 the Gowanus played a major role in the first major battle of the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Brooklyn. In the first half of the 19th century, farms and watermills still existed but by 1867 the City of Brooklyn, third largest city in America, bulk-headed the canal and dredged it for industrial uses.

