



GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND TIMELINE

Prepared by the GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

TASKS COMPLETED

- 2008** **Superfund Nomination:** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requests that the Gowanus Canal be nominated to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).
- 2009** **National Priorities List (NPL):** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II proposes the Gowanus Canal to the 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 identifies and 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.
2013-2014: EPA working with NYC DEP to site 2 required sewage holding tanks and begins pilot study for dredging and capping canal bottom.
- 2017-22** **Remedial Action (RA):** Construction of the remedy; Dredging the canal.
2017-18 REMEDIAL TARGET AREA 1: 4th and 5th Street Basins, and Butler Street to 3rd Street
2019-20 REMEDIAL TARGET AREA 2: 3rd Street to 9th Street
2021-22 REMEDIAL TARGET AREA 3: 9th Street to 21st St/Erie Basin
- 2021** **Construction Completion:** Completion of physical cleanup
- 2021 +** **Operation & Maintenance (O&M):** Maintain effectiveness of cleanup.
Post Construction: Actions to provide long-term protection. Five-year reviews will ensure that the cleanup plan remains effective.

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 that helped to build 19th century New York City.

