

**Question 1: Was Whole Foods footprint remediated when it was built?**

- Previous answer: The Whole Foods property is in NYSDEC's Brownfield Cleanup Program and was remediated in approximately 2013. EPA was satisfied with the remedy at that time. Please refer to the NYSDEC Brownfield Cleanup Program website for further details.

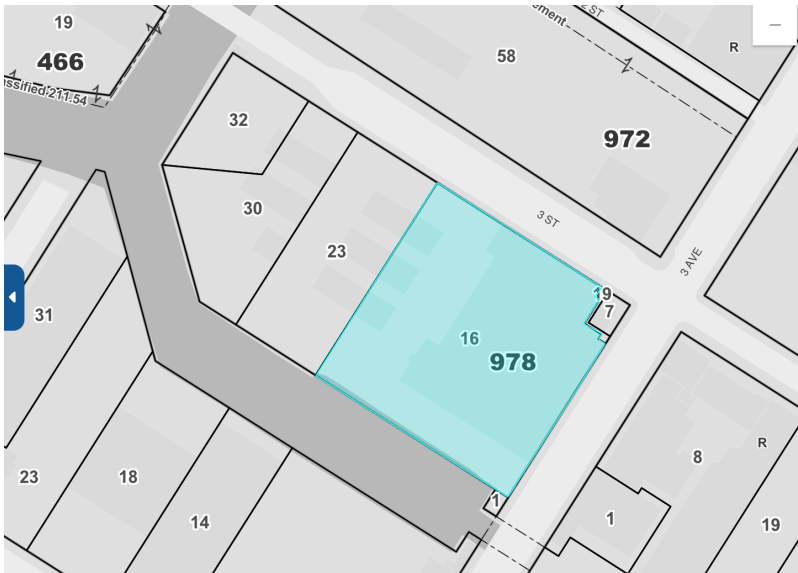
**Follow up to question #1:**

**Although the answer to this question was "yes", the information below and your answer to # 3 below is not reassuring (see below, question 3 is included for your reference).**

**It appears that the area of the parking lot that was owned by The Crushers was not entered under the Brownfields Program. Attached is the easement document the NYSDEC placed on the property following the BCP work. It covers the lots 16-1 on block 978, *but not lots 23, 30, or 32. There is no evidence that Lots 23,30,32 were ever in the DEC Brownfield Cleanup Program.***

**As far as our committee members recall, the cleanup work on Lots 1-16 was for the removal of septic tanks on the site. Was testing done for other contaminants? If so: Which ones? What were the results? Was the site remediated for such contaminants?**

**Below, New York City Tax Map of the block:**



**Thus, our question regarding recontamination stands.**

**The text for our previous question #3 is below for your reference:**

Question 3: Can the new bulkhead be perforated?

- Previous answer: Perforations have been made solely to extend existing outfalls. Otherwise, these bulkheads are typically required to be sealed without perforations as a backup cleanup measure in case there was undetected residual subsurface contamination present.

Question 5: How much water are we losing?

- Previous answer: Encroachment into the Canal along the newly installed bulkhead support system along the Whole Foods properties varies from one foot to 10 feet. This encroachment was unavoidable due to the condition of the existing sheet pile bulkhead that was installed at a significant incline. EPA is still considering potential approaches with respect to this encroachment.

**Follow up to question #5:**

**This answer is, so far, not responsive. In terms of how much water we are losing in the turning basin, that question remains outstanding. We cannot know if we are getting this volume back at other places on the canal if we don't know what the volume lost is.**

**Can this question please be answered with actual numbers?**

Question 6: How will what we lose here be returned to us at Turning Basins 1 & 11 (near Lowe's in RTA 3)?

- Previous answer: In coordination with EPA, the Trust is currently designing a wetland in the former First Street turning basin to provide ecological value and recreational benefits to the community and to offset water area lost by bulkhead encroachment throughout the project area. Additional encroachment mitigation will occur beneath the Third Avenue bridge and slightly into the Fifth Street Turning Basin, pursuant to plans which are still being developed. At Turning Basin 11, encroachment from the bulkhead construction is anticipated due to structural limitations from the former Pathmark building.

**Follow up to question #6:**

**Sadly, it sounds from this answer as though we will not get anything back at Turning Basin 11.**

**What does EPA anticipate will be lost at turning Basin 11?**

**What will we get in return? We are losing about a full acre of land in the entire canal and at least 832 square feet of land at this turning basin alone (which was also a "taking" of Federal waters). Is the failure of the old bulkheads at the Whole Foods site a unique situation? If not, can we expect further narrowing of the Canal and loss of waters? Will this be EPA's policy going forward?**

**\*It should be noted that the First and Fourth Street Basin were illegally landfilled with EPA / NYSDEC failing in their protective duties... so technically up to 3.5 acres of habitat restoration would need, legally, to be compensated for.**

Question 7: Will the CAG be involved in the designs for TB's 1 & 11?

- Previous answer: EPA anticipates sharing the designs for these areas with the CAG to obtain feedback.

**Follow up to question #7:**

**As the 1st St and 11th St turning basins are in the planning stages, when does EPA anticipate those proposed designs will be shared with the CAG for input and commentary? Can CAG make suggestions during TB1 conceptual design phase or would that be after the completed designs are shared?**

Question 8: Are there preliminary designs already?

- Previous answer: TB1 is currently at the conceptual design phase. We anticipate that the design will advance in 2025. There have been no changes made to the TB11 design from the RTA2 Remedial Design.

**Follow up to question #8:**

**Water Quality Committee requests a walk-through of the Remedial Design Plan for RTA 2 be presented at our February 25, 2025, General CAG meeting. We want to know what encroachment is happening in RTA 2 (bulkhead encroachment is already visible at the bulkhead repair just above the 9th St. bridge) and what we are getting back - actual numbers - actual volume.**

**We'd also like to see the preliminary designs for TB1.**

Question 10: Can we expect mounding of the water from the underground streams?

- Previous answer: Based on groundwater modelling efforts documented in the RTA2 100% Design Appendix B18 calculation package, the forecasted mounding near Whole Foods ranges from less than 0.5 foot to 1.5 feet. Groundwater mounding in the vicinity of TB1 will be evaluated as part of the TB1 design effort.

**Follow up to question #10:**

**A number of questions arise from the question and answer above.**

**Is the mounding a rise in groundwater level of .5' to 1' 5"? If so, where does that put the groundwater level at and around the Whole Foods area and the other side of that turning basin? Under what circumstances is the mounding happening? Is the mounding due to underground streams?**

**We heard from Park Slope residents from as far up the slope as 8th Avenue and at the Van Alen Institute Flood Solutions Fair that they are experiencing basement flooding that they never experienced before - for some, the water is coming through their basement walls.**

**Has a new hydrology/groundwater study been done that takes the underground streams and their outflows extending up into Park Slope & Carroll Gardens into account?**

**Question 11: Is there a plan to use rip rap (layers of stones, dirt, pebbles, in essence) for fill? Presumably there would need to be weep holes or cutback of the new bulkhead for that to even work.**

- Previous answer: Bulkhead support system designs in RTA2 all require a 1-foot layer of Aquablok followed by gravel backfill. The bulkhead supports have been designed to not require weepholes. The only perforations in the bulkheads are for extending select outfalls. EPA is reviewing options for minimizing the extent of and visual impacts from the encroachment.

**Follow up to question #11:**

**What are those options? Do they include natural solutions like oyster/mussel beds?**