

Community Update #7

January 2025

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is finalizing plans for the cleanup of the portion of the Gowanus Canal Superfund site from 3rd Street to Hamilton Avenue. This portion of the site is known as Remediation Target Area 2, or RTA 2.

This past summer, contractors dredged some sediment and removed debris from the bottom of this portion of the canal to allow access for construction vessels.

After completing this work, the EPA began to construct bulkhead support systems in September 2024. Bulkhead support systems are used to prevent the collapse of the existing waterfront structures along the canal during dredging and other cleanup activities. This type of bulkhead support system typically consists of an interlocking sheet pile wall with tiebacks. The EPA expects that the interlocking sheet pile walls will be installed at more than a dozen properties throughout RTA 2. This bulkhead work is expected to take two years to complete.



Contractors placing sealant around newly constructed bulkhead

Next Phase of Work

Following the construction of the sheet pile bulkheads, the EPA will dredge the top layer of contaminated sediment in RTA 2. This layer is referred to as the soft sediment layer. It is sediment that has accumulated on top of the native sediment at the original canal bottom. Contractors will solidify portions of the native sediment using a process called in-situ stabilization, or ISS. This is the same process that was used to address some of the contaminated sediment in the upper portion of the canal. The solidified portions of the sediment, along with a protective layer or cap, will act as a barrier to prevent further movement of contamination from the native sediment and groundwater into the canal.

Bridge and Road Closures

Work in the canal requires frequent bridge closings as they open to allow work vessels to pass. For RTA 2, temporary traffic disruptions will occur regularly at Hamilton Avenue and 9th Street. Occasional closures at 3rd Street and Union Street may occur. Bridge closures may be extended during periods of heavy construction activity. The EPA is coordinating bridge and street closures with the New York City Department of Transportation, or NYCDOT. The closures will be implemented on certain weekdays, based on the need to conduct specific construction activities. For a schedule of planned bridge closures, visit:

www.gowanussuperfund.com/bridge-information/

In June 2021, the Carroll Street bridge closed for an extended period during the cleanup in the upper portion of the canal. During that closure, NYCDOT identified structural issues with the bridge and determined that the bridge could not be safely operated. Repairs to the bridge and structural improvements are expected to begin this winter. The EPA and NYCDOT are developing a timeline for reopening the Carroll Street bridge to the public.

REMEDIAL TARGET AREA 2, OR RTA 2, 3RD STREET TO HAMILTON AVE

Dredging work starting in
second portion of the canal
(RTA 2)



Community Hotline

A hotline has been established that people can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During hours when work is being conducted at the site, complaints and concerns will be relayed to a supervisor at the site and to EPA. **The hotline number is 718-403-2451.**

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

Natalie Loney
EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator
(212) 637-3639
loney.natalie@epa.gov