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# EPA Starting Dredging of Gowanus Canal Main Channel Brooklyn, New York

Community Update #1

November 2020



*Excavator removing sediment from Gowanus Canal 4<sup>th</sup> Street turning basin in 2018*

## Start of Dredging in the Gowanus Canal

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin dredging operations in the main channel of the Gowanus Canal north of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge on November 16, 2020.

Dredging will begin just south of the Carroll Street bridge and will continue between the Carroll and Union Street bridges, followed by dredging north of the Union Street bridge and further dredging between the Carroll and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street bridges. An excavator mounted on a platform barge will remove contaminated sediment from the bottom of the canal.

Dredged material will be loaded onto small barges and transported down the canal to the primary staging area at Smith and Huntington Streets. At the staging area, water pumped from the barges will be treated on-site and discharged back into the canal. The dewatered sediment will be transferred onto a larger barge and transported to an off-site facility, where the sediment will be transformed into a beneficial-use product, such as landfill cover.

After dredging, certain portions of the original bottom of the canal, or native sediment, will be solidified using cement. These actions will be followed with the installation of a protective layer or cap. The dredging, solidification, and capping of this northern portion of the canal will continue through mid-2023.

## Bridge and Road Closures and Boating Restrictions

Dredging work in the canal will necessitate frequent bridge openings. Temporary traffic disruptions will occur at 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Carroll St, Union St, and 9<sup>th</sup> St during bridge openings. The frequency of the openings will be greatest during periods of dredging, starting in mid-November 2020 through June 2023. Extended closures of the bridges will occur during periods of heavy construction activity.

Huntington Street east of Smith Street will be closed through September 2021, with additional closures possible depending on needs and work progress. Street closures are being coordinated with the New York City Department of Transportation.

There will also be recreational boating and canoeing restrictions north of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street bridge.

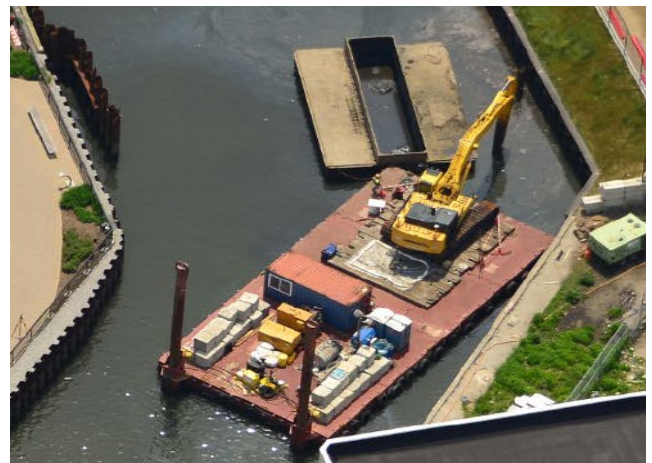
## Environmental Monitoring

During the cleanup activities, a series of monitors will be set up to monitor air quality, noise, vibration, movement, and water quality. Environmental monitoring data will be available online at:

[www.gowanussuperfund.com](http://www.gowanussuperfund.com)

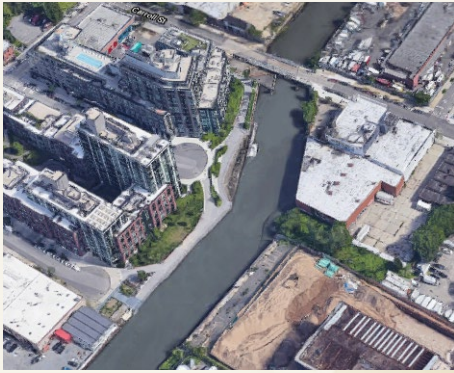
## Community Hotline

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.**



*Excavator mounted on a platform barge*

# Dredging in main channel of the Gowanus Canal Begins November 2020



Overhead view of the canal south of the Carroll Street bridge where dredging will

## Primary Staging Area

Dredged material will be dewatered and loaded onto larger barges for transport to an off-site facility for processing

## Environmental Monitoring

Water, air, noise and vibration monitoring will be conducted during cleanup operations. Monitoring data will be available online at:

[www.gowanussuperfund.com](http://www.gowanussuperfund.com)

For more information about the site,  
please contact:

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