



# Gowanus Canal Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) “Owls Head” Facility

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ULURP Site Selection, Acquisition and City Map Amendment  
200319 PCK, 200320 MMK, 200321 PSK, 180039 MMK

Brooklyn Community Board 6

June 24, 2021

# Overview

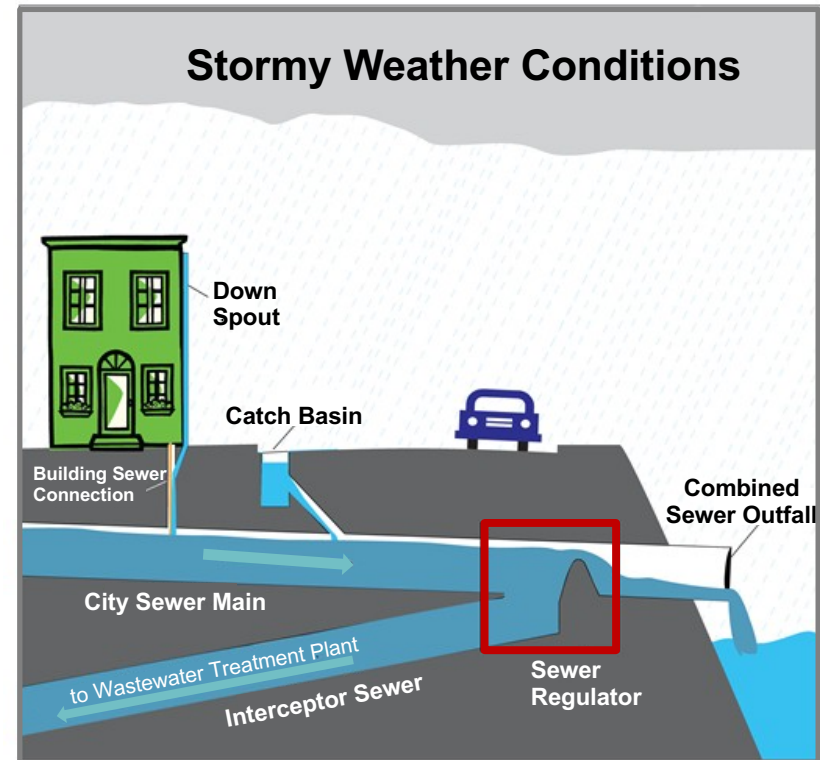
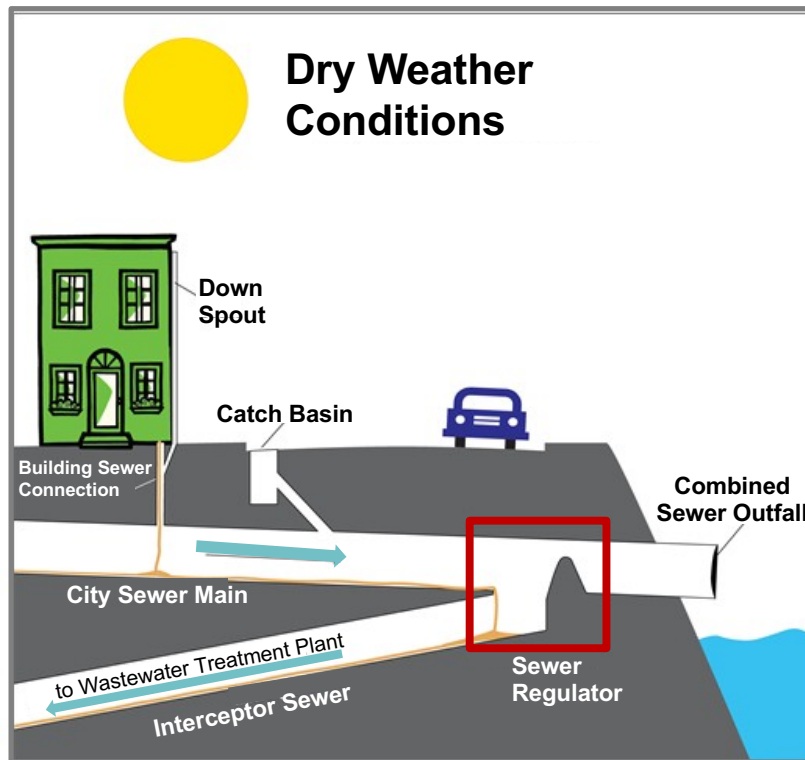
- The Gowanus Canal was designated a Superfund site in 2010.
- The EPA has identified a number of potential responsible parties, including New York City and National Grid.
- The EPA has required the City to remediate chemical contaminants at the canal and reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the canal.





# Combined Sewer Overflow

- NYC's sewer system is approximately 60% combined, which means it is used to convey both sanitary and storm flows.
- When the sewer system is at full capacity, a diluted mixture of rain water and sewage can be released into local waterways. This is called a combined sewer overflow (CSO).
- CSO retention facilities collect and store combined sewer flows during wet weather events and then pump the flows back to the wastewater treatment plant.



# Ongoing Investment in Reducing CSO



Upgrade of Gowanus Pumping Station



High Level Storm Sewers

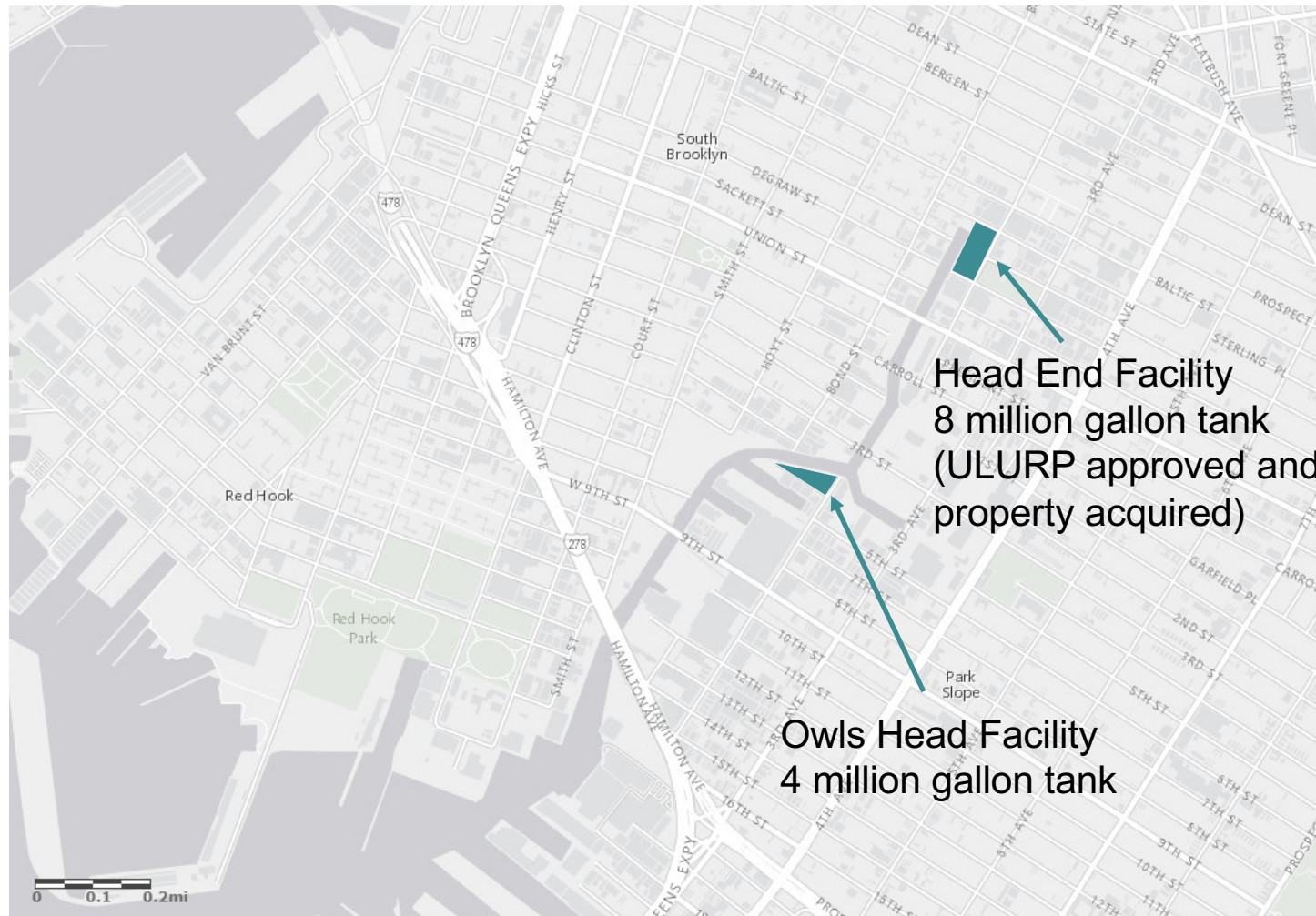


Green Infrastructure



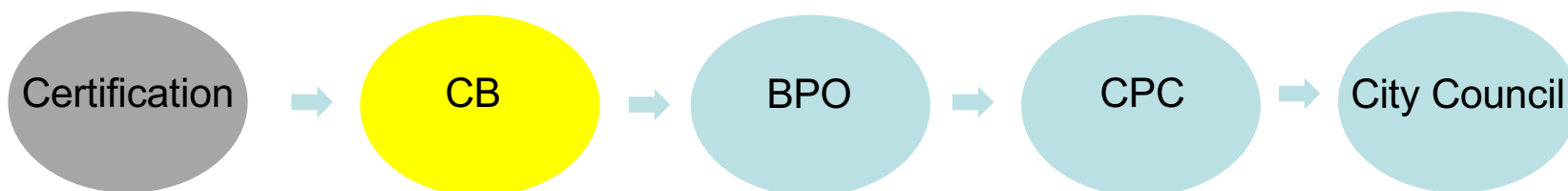
# Project Description and Location

Construct two underground CSO tanks and associated headhouses to intercept and store CSOs during wet weather events.



# ULURP Actions

- DEP is currently pursuing the following ULURP actions for the “Owls Head” Site:
  - Site Selection & Acquisition (200319 PCK) of four privately owned lots
  - Site Selection (200321 PSK) of the City-owned lot (occupied by DSNY)
  - City Map Amendment (200320 MMK) to demap 5<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the Canal
- DEP is also pursuing a City Map Amendment (180039 MMK) to demap Douglass Street between Nevins Street and the Canal at the “Head End” Site
- The application was certified into review May 3, 2021
- ULURP Anticipated Completion December 2021







# Project Location – Site Aerial





# Project Location – Related Parcels





# Existing Conditions Photo



View of DSNY Salt Lot looking west from 2nd Ave



# Existing Conditions Photo



View of 5th Street looking west from 2nd Ave



# Existing Conditions Photo



View of 5th Street looking east toward 2nd Ave



# Existing Conditions Photo



View of the project site looking southwest along 2nd Ave

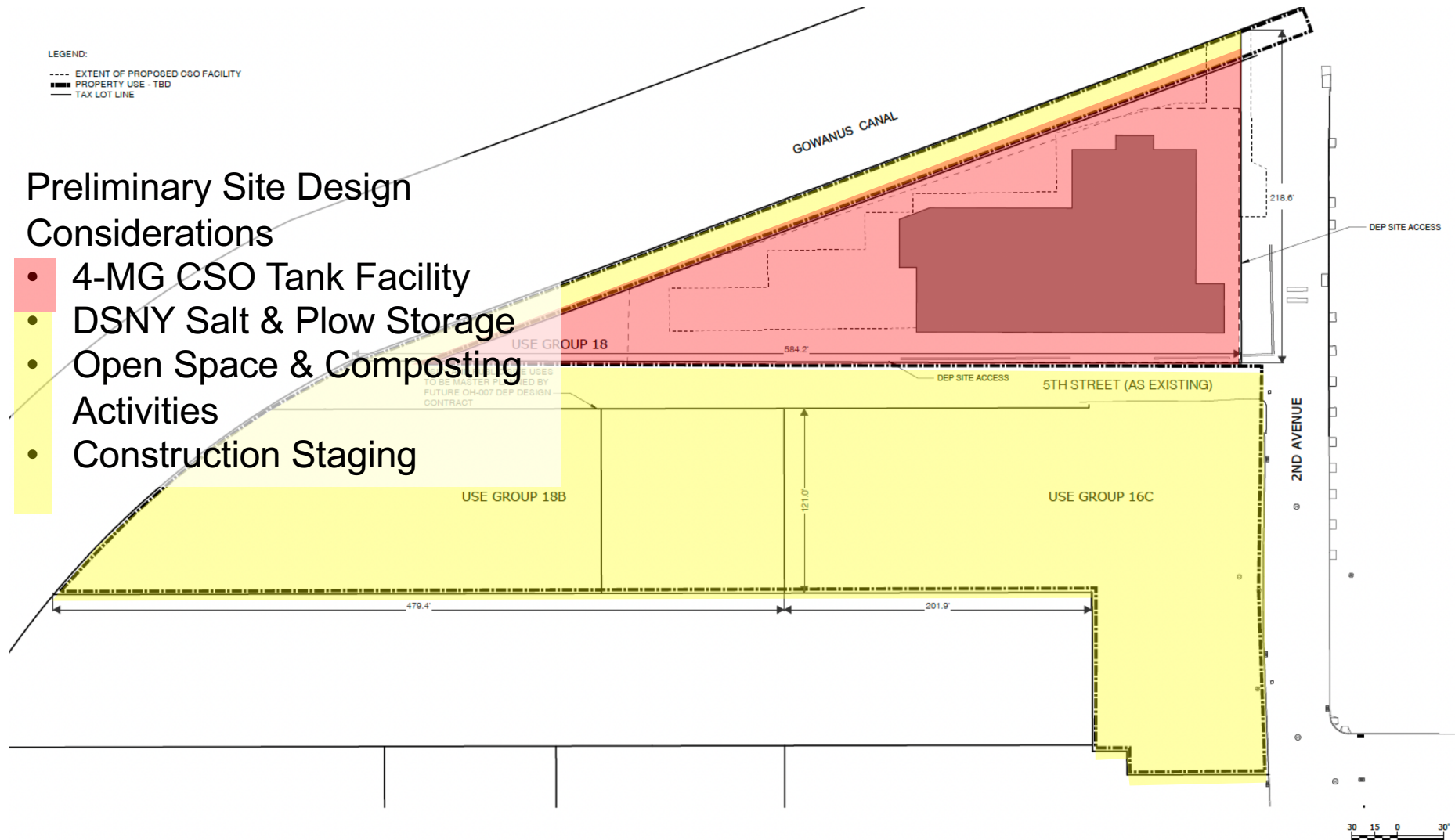
# Proposed Project – Conceptual Layout

LEGEND:

- EXTENT OF PROPOSED CSO FACILITY
- PROPERTY USE - TBD
- TAX LOT LINE

## Preliminary Site Design Considerations

- 4-MG CSO Tank Facility
- DSNY Salt & Plow Storage
- Open Space & Composting Activities
- Construction Staging

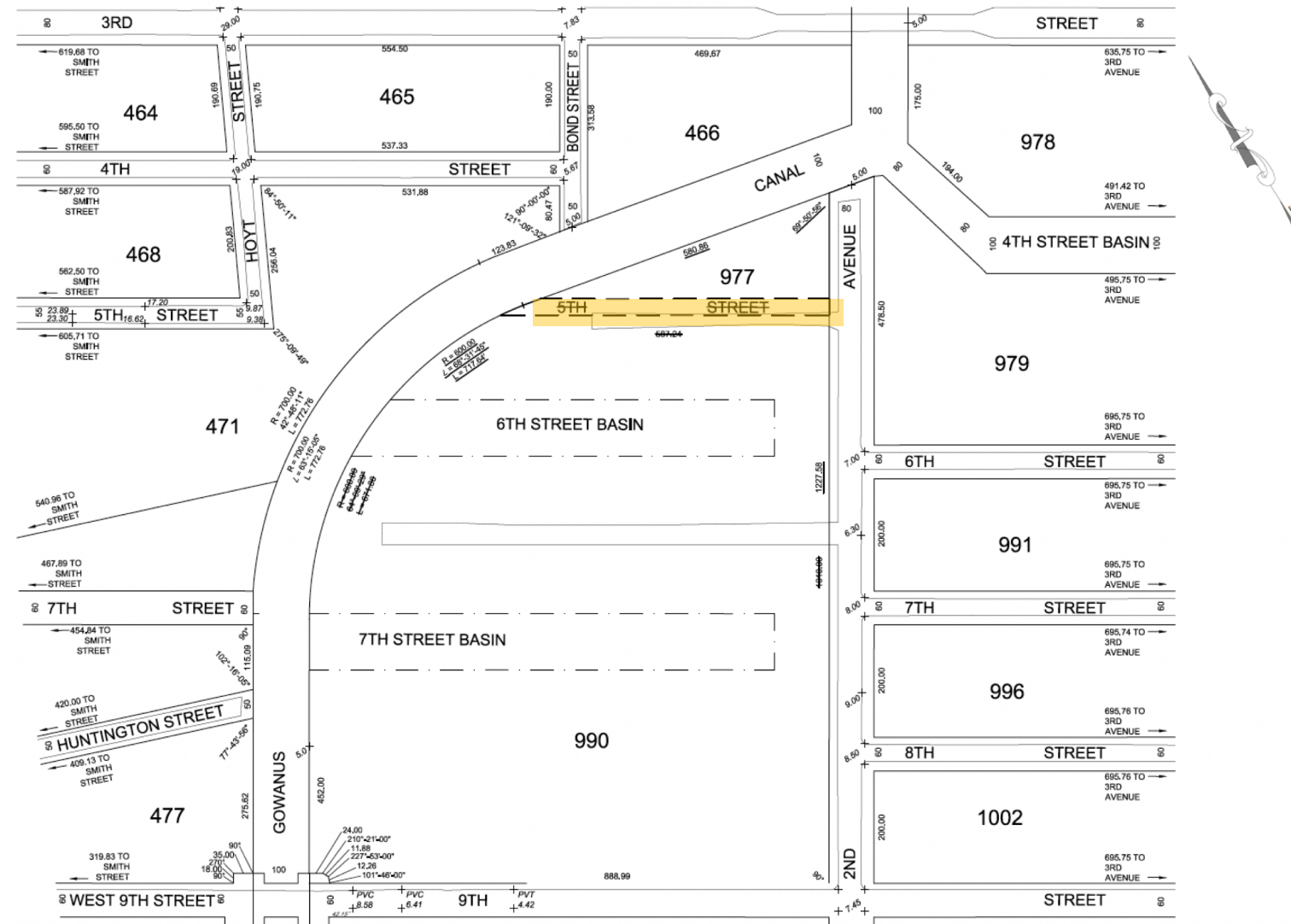


For illustrative purposes only



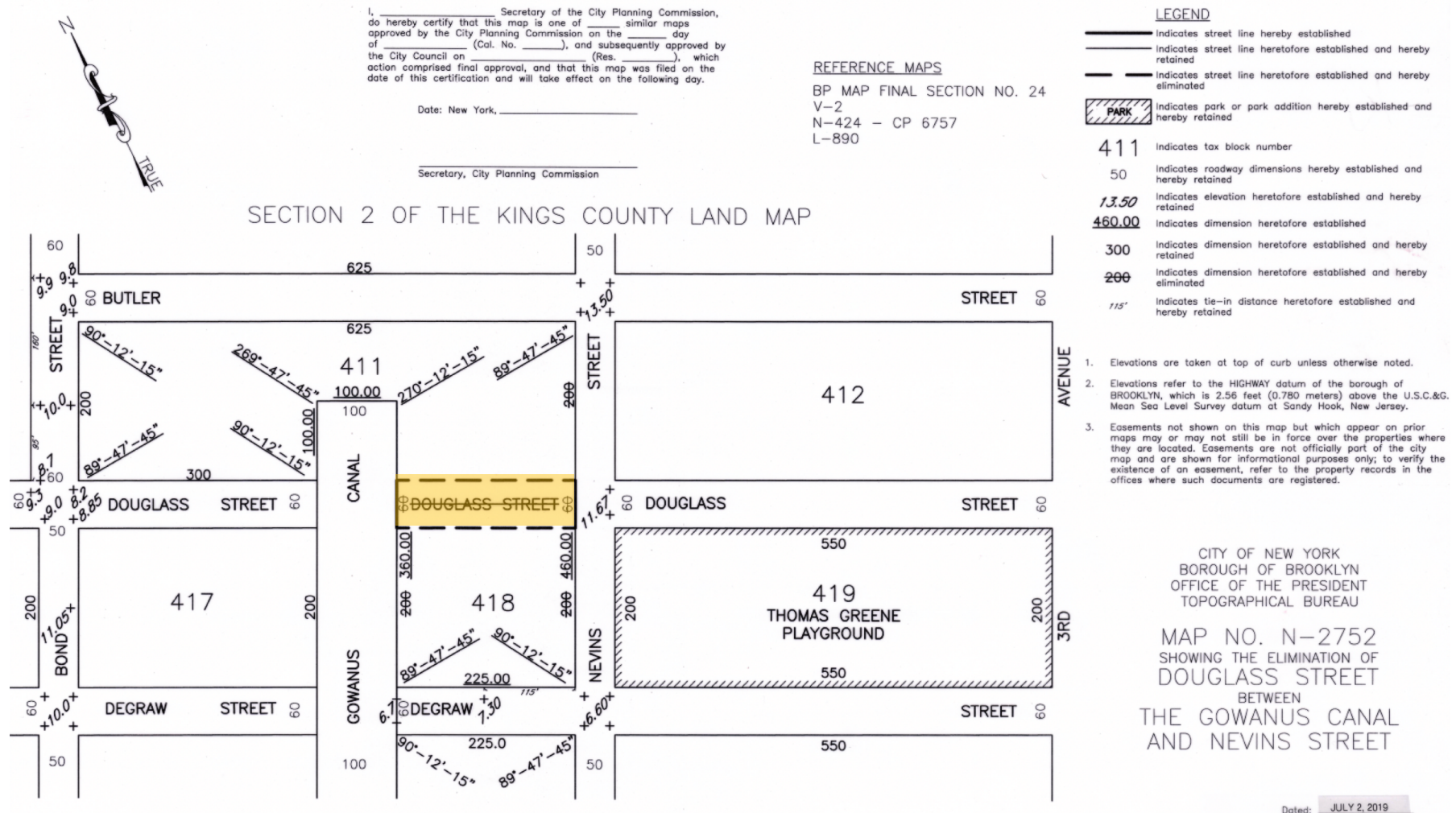
# City Map Amendments

## City Map Amendment (200320 MMK): Demap 5<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the Canal



# City Map Amendments

## City Map Amendment (180039 MMK): Demap Douglass Street between Nevins Street and the Canal



# Final Environmental Impact Statement



A Notice of Completion of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which analyzed **both** the Owls Head and Head End Facilities, was issued by DEP (Lead Agency) on February 1, 2018.

The FEIS identified potential significant adverse impacts from the project. Potential, temporary, significant construction noise impacts were identified for the Head End Facility only. A potential significant adverse impact for Historic and Cultural Resources (Archaeological Resources) could occur at the Owls Head and Head End Facilities. No other significant adverse impacts were identified.

A Technical Memorandum was issued by DEP on April 23, 2021 to review and refresh critical environmental impact areas for the present ULURP applications and focused primarily on the Owls Head Facility. No substantive changes have been made to the proposed Owls Head Facility since the FEIS. It was concluded that the significant adverse environmental impacts findings remain unchanged from those previously identified in the FEIS.

# FEIS Historic Resources: Archaeological



## **In consultation with SHPO & LPC during and after the Environmental Review Process:**

DEP completed a geoarchaeological assessment of both the Head End and Owls Head Sites in April 2019. The assessment included:

- Review of select historic maps and the boring logs of geotechnical borings performed at both sites.
- Examination of soil samples retained from those borings.
- Radiocarbon dating of four samples of organic materials collected from the borings.

## **What we found:**

The assessment concluded there is a low potential for the Project to impact deeply buried archaeological sites dating to the prehistoric period and that historic; pre-industrial sites have likely been destroyed by subsequent industrial development.

## **Conclusion:**

- DEP has committed to prepare an archaeological monitoring plan and conduct archaeological monitoring during construction activities that will affect soil layers located below modern fill or modern disturbances and extending to the depth of glacial outwash.
- DEP will continue to coordinate with EPA and SHPO.

**More information:** Chapter 7 of the FEIS; Page 7 of the Technical Memorandum



# Anticipated Schedule



Issue FEIS: Complete

Certify ULURP: Complete

ULURP Anticipated Completion: December 2021

Design Completion\*: Fall 2023

Construction\*: 5 years; 3 phased construction packages (CPs); anticipated completion 2028

Facility Site Prep/Demolition (CP 1): 12- to 15-month duration

Facility Excavation/Tank Construction (CP-2): 36-month duration

Construction of Above-grade Structure (CP-3): 27-month duration

\*Subject to change based on coordination with EPA

Questions?

# Addendum



## **Prior Coordination with CB 6 and Community Members on Gowanus CSO Superfund Program:**

October 2017: CB 6 Land Use Committee Hearing for Head End Facility Site Selection & Acquisition

November 2017: CB 6 Approval of Head End Facility Site Selection & Acquisition

May 2018: Community Input Meeting hosted by Council Member Levin

July 2018: Gowanus Visioning Presentation and Workshop hosted by GCC

October 2018: CB 6 Parks/Recreation/Environmental Protection Committee Presentation of Head End Facility Design (Head House and Open Space)

2018-2020: CM Levin's North Gowanus Visioning Group Meeting