



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

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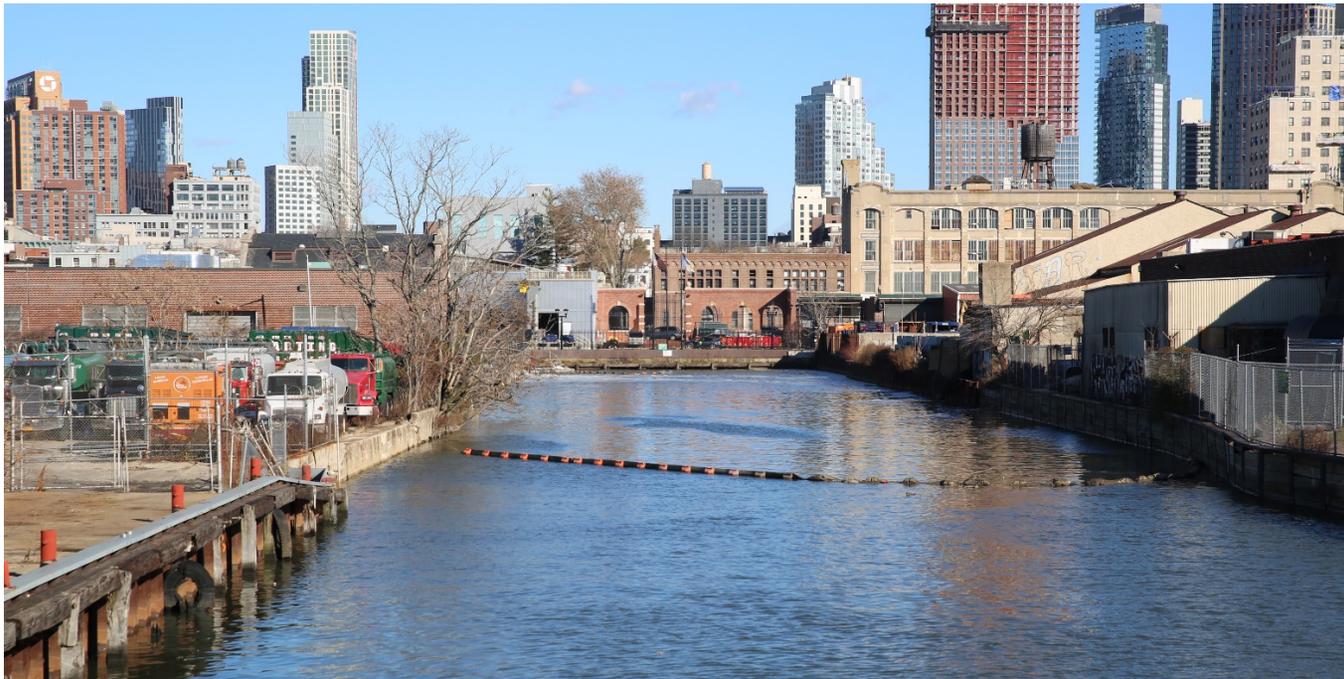
ULURP Site Selection, Acquisition and City Map Amendment  
200319 PCK, 200320 MMK, 200321 PSK, 180039 MMK

Brooklyn Community Board 6

June 24, 2021

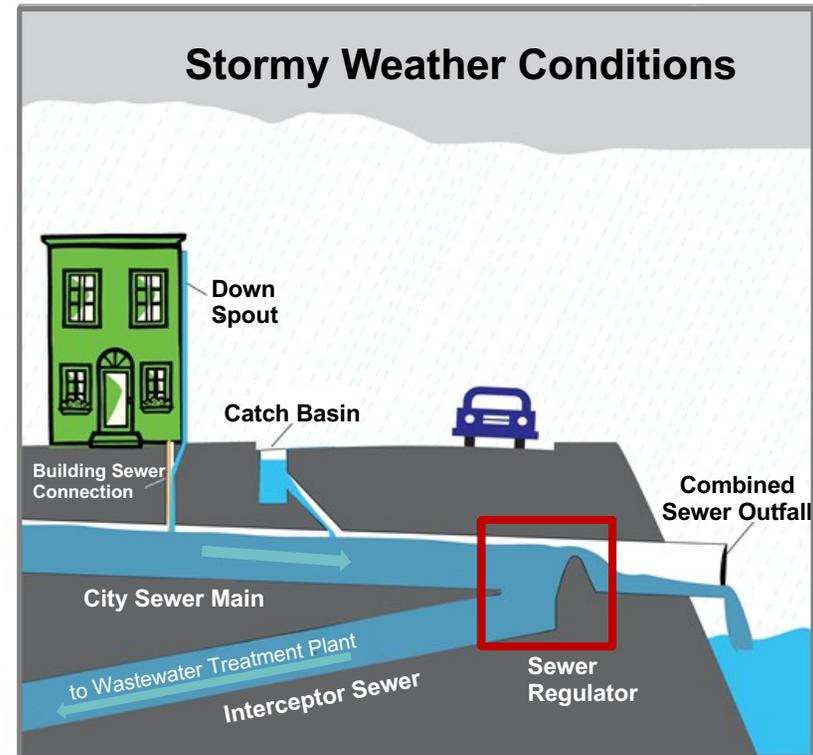
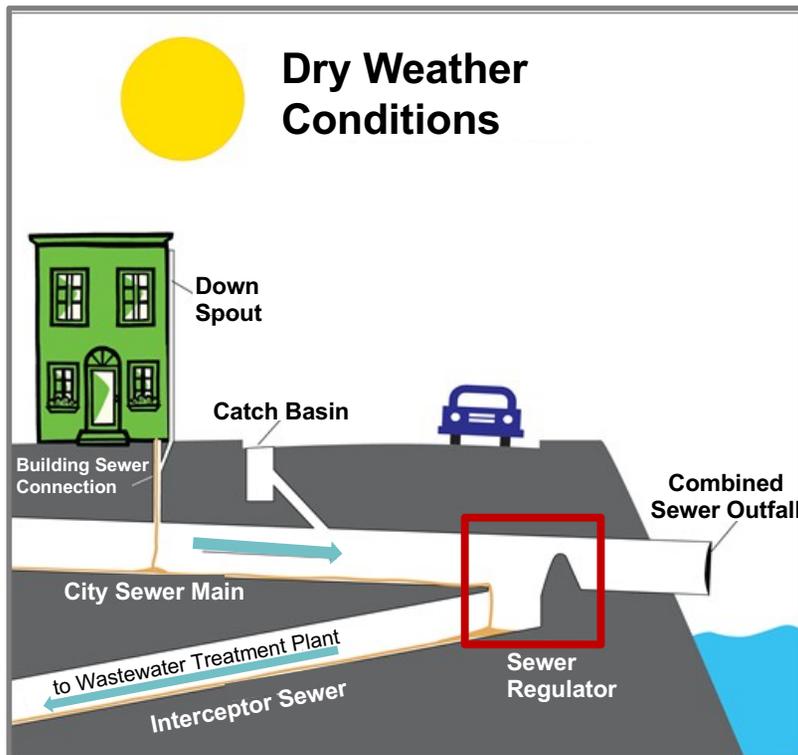
# Overview

- 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



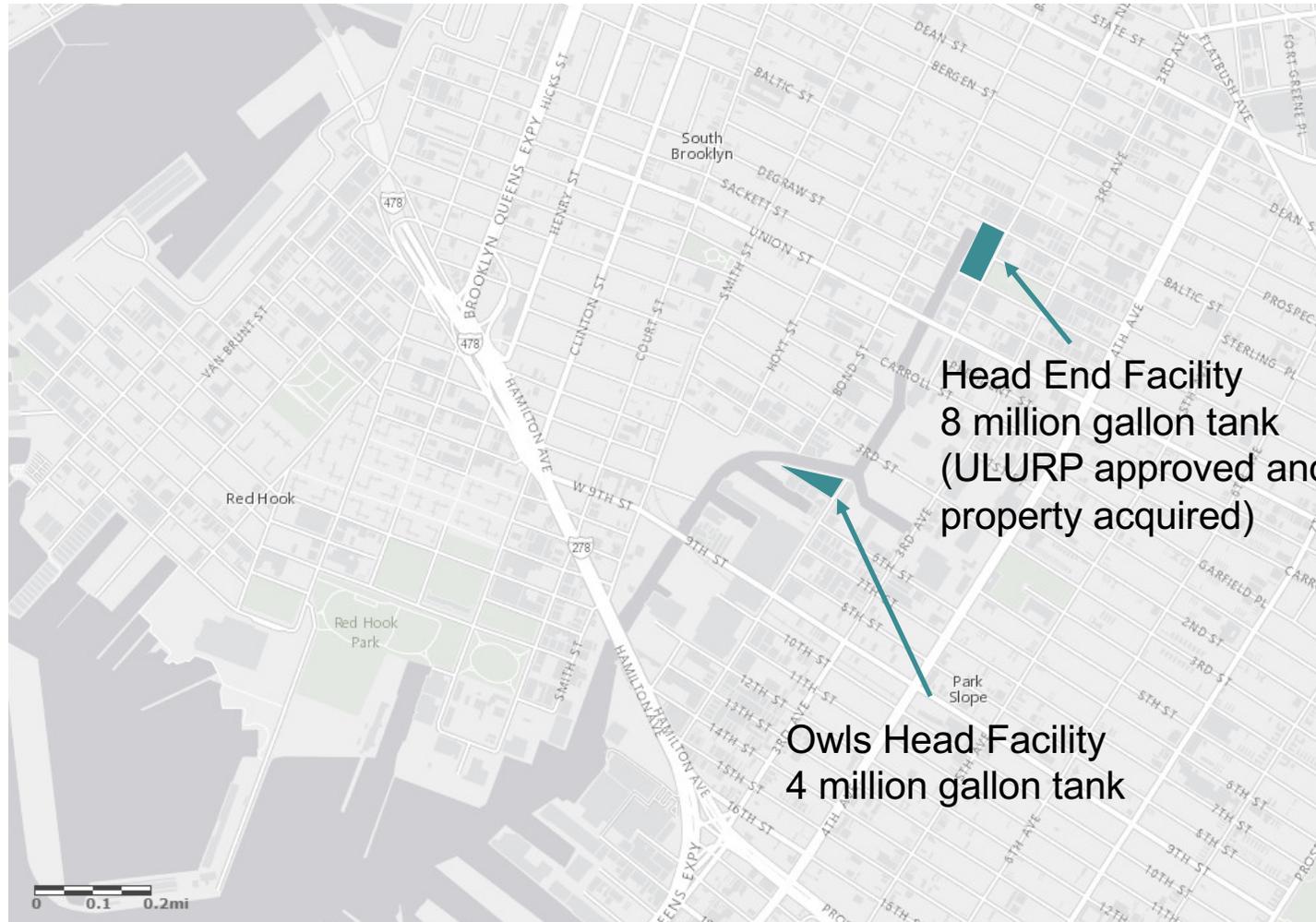
High Level Storm Sewers



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 – Area Map

## Area Map

### Gowanus CSO - Owls Head Facility

Borough: Brooklyn  
Block: 977 Lots: 1, 3, 16  
Block: 990 Lots: 1, 21

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

- Project Area
- 600' Radius

#### ZONING

- C5-1 Zoning Districts
- C2-4

#### LAND USE

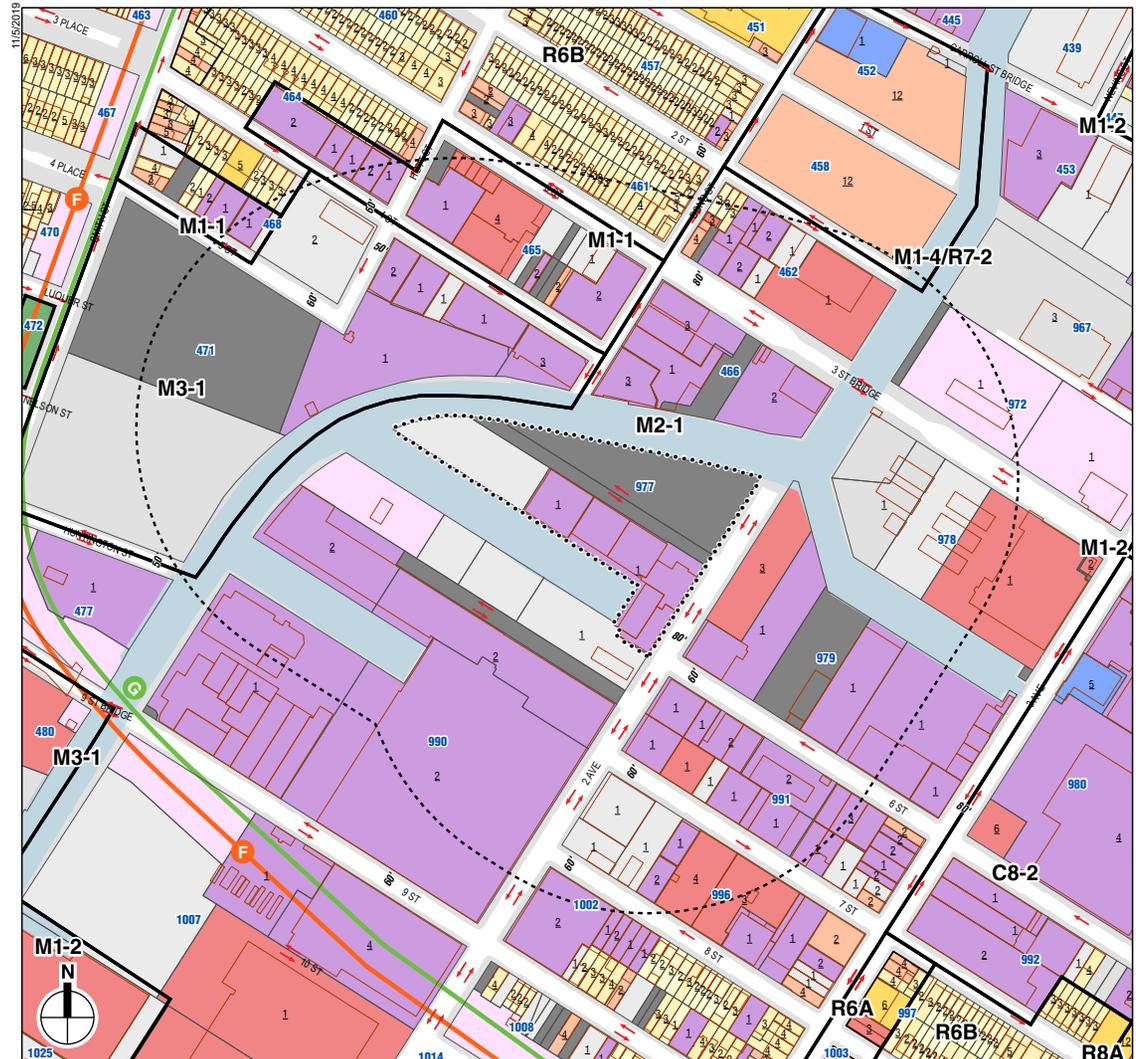
- One & Two Family Buildings
- Multi-Family Walk-Up Buildings
- Multi-Family Elevator Buildings
- Mixed Residential & Commercial Buildings
- Commercial & Office Buildings
- Industrial & Manufacturing
- Transportation & Utility
- Public Facilities & Institutions
- Open Space & Outdoor Recreation
- Parking Facilities
- Vacant Land

#### TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

- Street Direction
- 60' Road Width
- Subway Lines
- Subway Lines

#### PROPERTY DATA

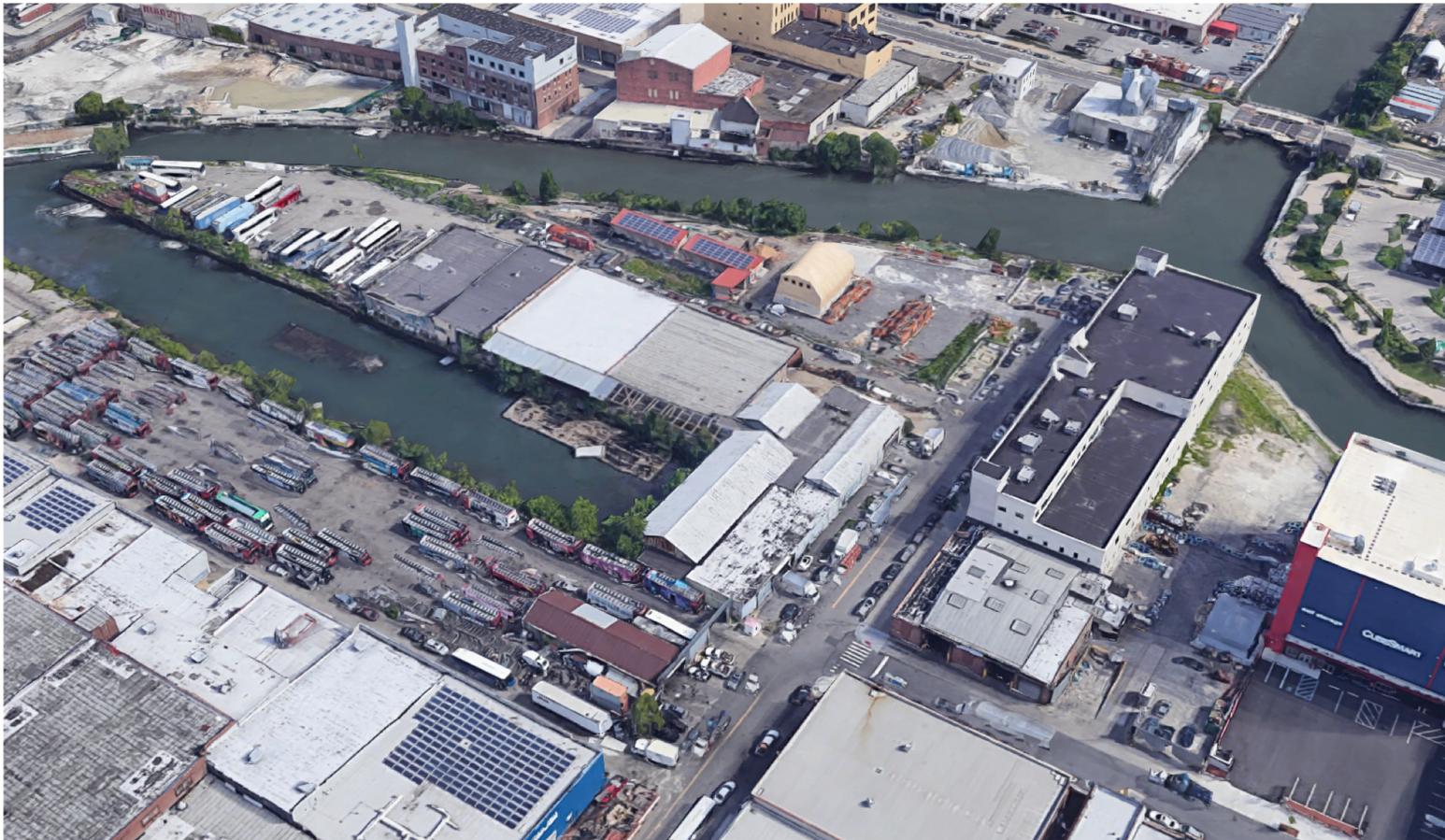
- 1385 Block Number
- Building Height/Number of Stories
- Tax Lot
- Building Footprint



0 200 FEET  
SCALE

Located within the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone (IBZ)

# Project Location – Site Aerial



# Project Location – Related Parcels



# Existing Conditions Photo



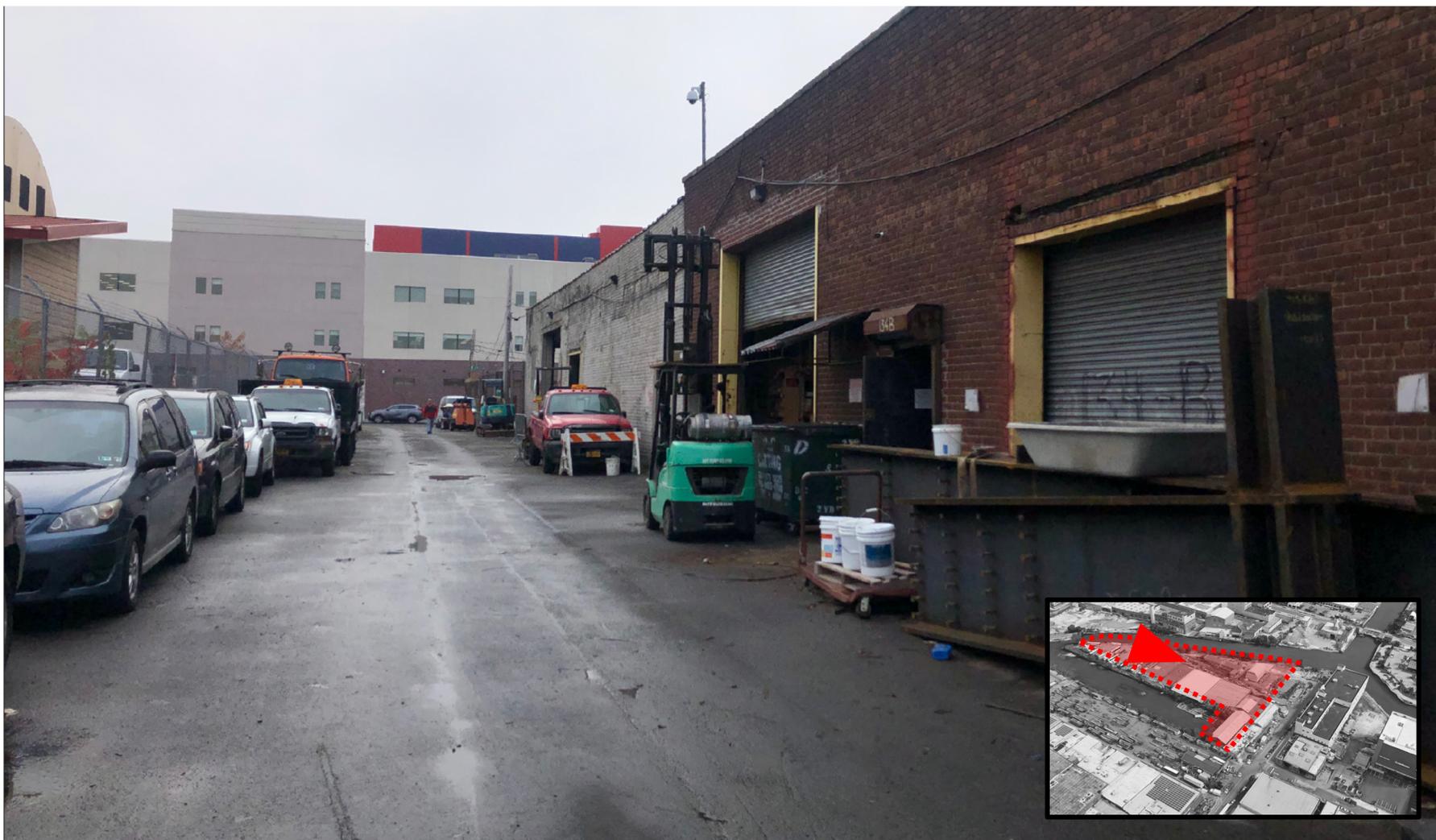
View of DSNY Salt Lot looking west from 2nd Ave

# 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



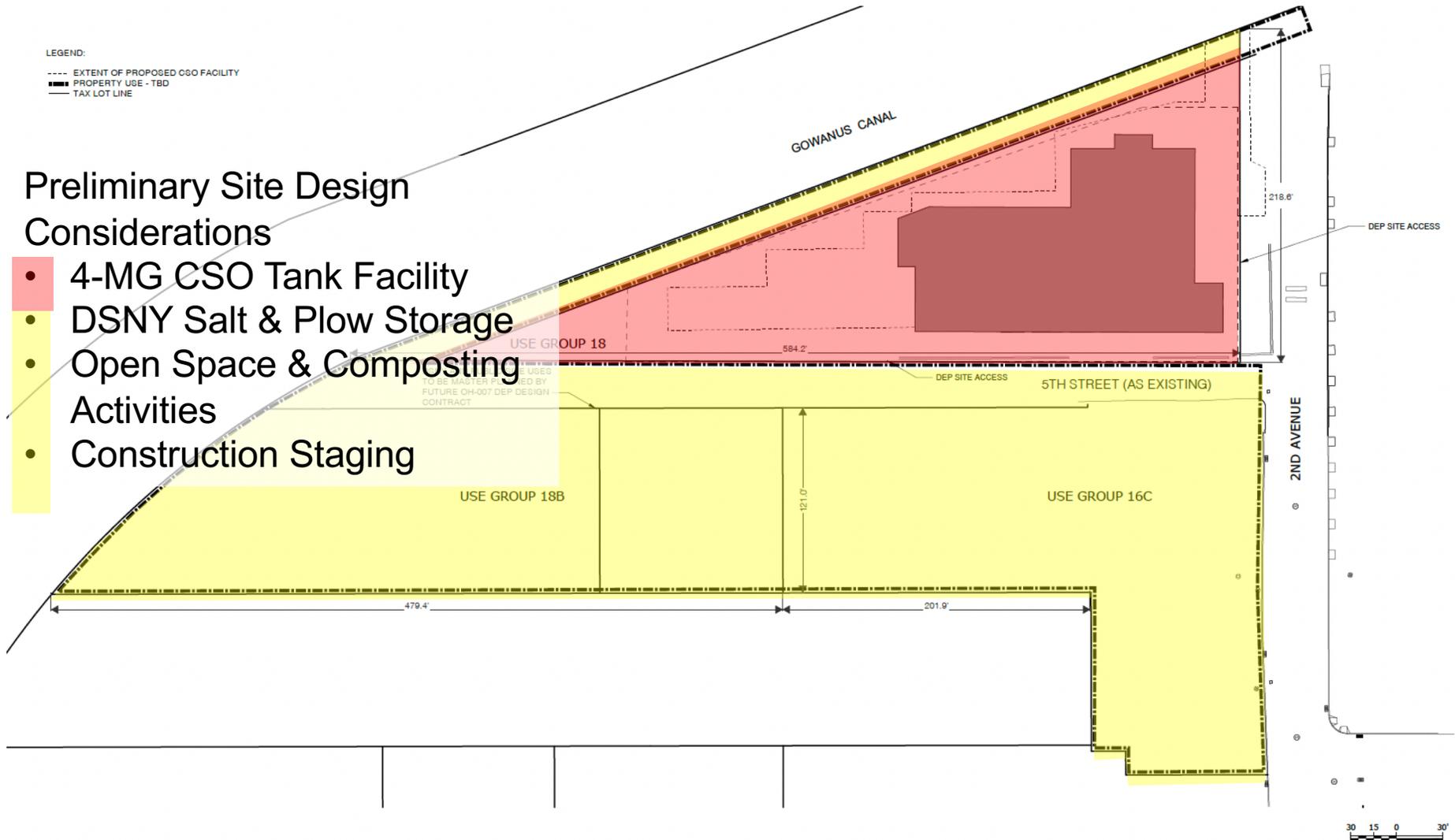
View of the project site looking southwest along 2nd Ave

# Proposed Project – Conceptual Layout

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

## Preliminary Site Design Considerations

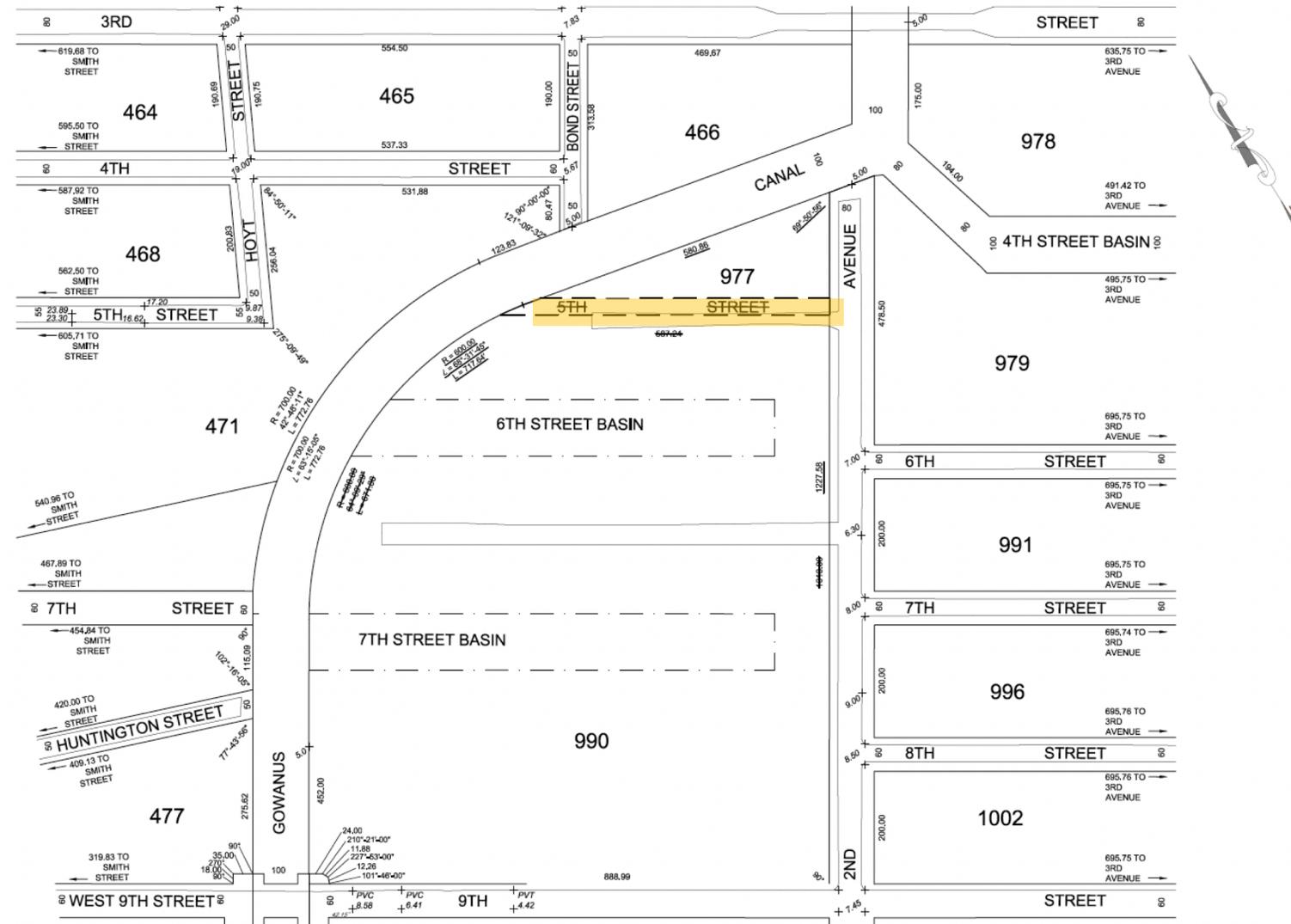
- 4-MG CSO Tank Facility
- DSNY Salt & Plow Storage
- Open Space & Composting Activities
- Construction Staging



For illustrative purposes only

# City Map Amendments

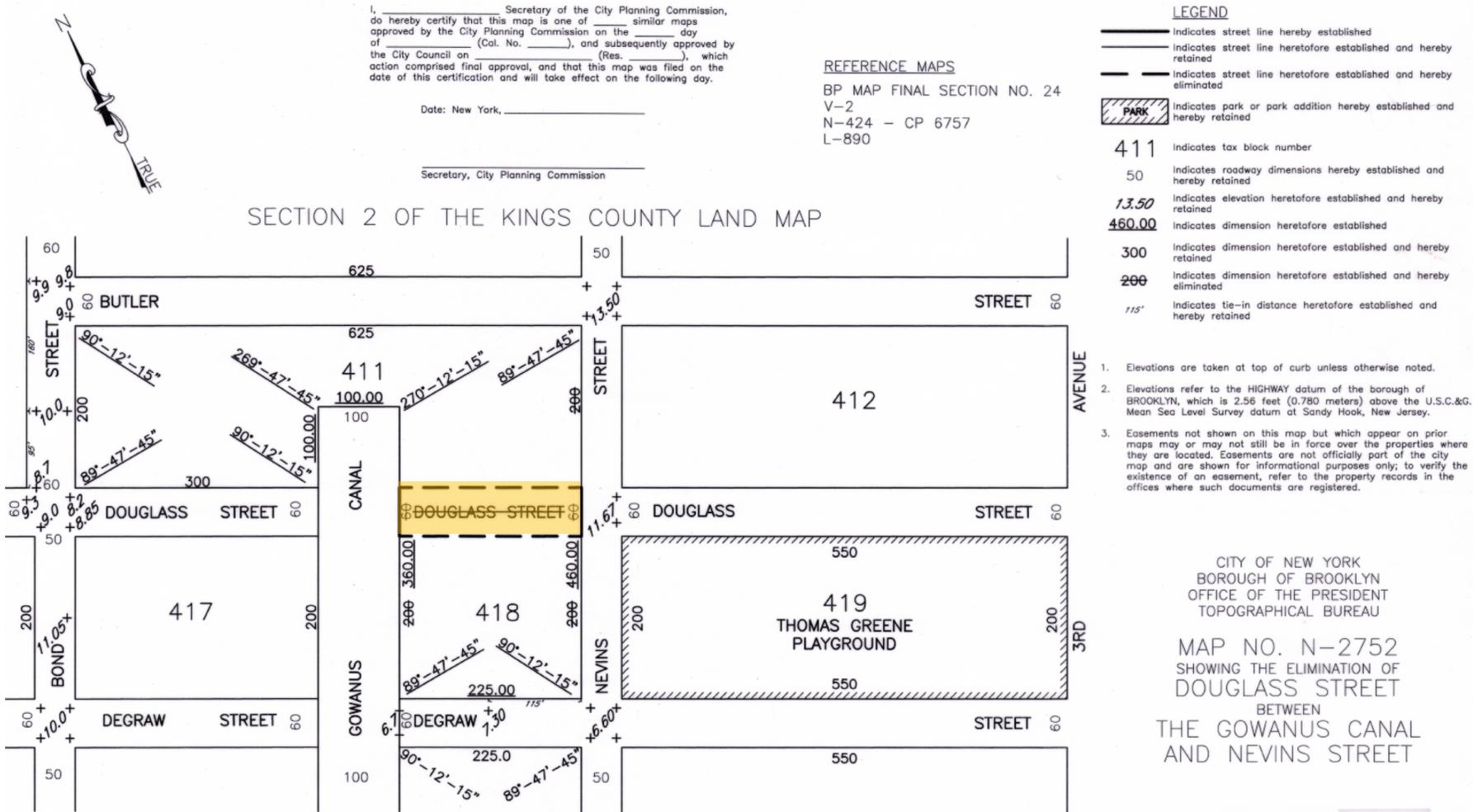
## City Map Amendment (200320 MMK): Demap 5<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the Canal



# City Map Amendments



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



I, \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary of the City Planning Commission, do hereby certify that this map is one of \_\_\_\_\_ similar maps approved by the City Planning Commission on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (Cal. No. \_\_\_\_\_), and subsequently approved by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_ (Res. \_\_\_\_\_), which action comprised final approval, and that this map was filed on the date of this certification and will take effect on the following day.

Date: New York, \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, City Planning Commission

### REFERENCE MAPS

BP MAP FINAL SECTION NO. 24  
V-2  
N-424 - CP 6757  
L-890

### LEGEND

- Indicates street line hereby established
- Indicates street line heretofore established and hereby retained
- Indicates street line heretofore established and hereby eliminated
- Indicates park or park addition hereby established and hereby retained
- 411** Indicates tax block number
- 50** Indicates roadway dimensions hereby established and hereby retained
- 13.50** Indicates elevation heretofore established and hereby retained
- 460.00** Indicates dimension heretofore established
- 300** Indicates dimension heretofore established and hereby retained
- 200** Indicates dimension heretofore established and hereby eliminated
- 115'** Indicates tie-in distance heretofore established and hereby retained

1. Elevations are taken at top of curb unless otherwise noted.
2. Elevations refer to the HIGHWAY datum of the borough of BROOKLYN, which is 2.56 feet (0.780 meters) above the U.S.C.&G. Mean Sea Level Survey datum at Sandy Hook, New Jersey.
3. Easements not shown on this map but which appear on prior maps may or may not still be in force over the properties where they are located. Easements are not officially part of the city map and are shown for informational purposes only; to verify the existence of an easement, refer to the property records in the offices where such documents are registered.

CITY OF NEW YORK  
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
TOPOGRAPHICAL BUREAU

MAP NO. N-2752  
SHOWING THE ELIMINATION OF  
DOUGLASS STREET  
BETWEEN  
THE GOWANUS CANAL  
AND NEVINS STREET

Dated: JULY 2, 2019

# 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.

## **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?

## **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