



NEWTOWN CREEK SUPERFUND SITE BROOKLYN & QUEENS, NEW YORK



August 2024

The EPA Requests Public Comment

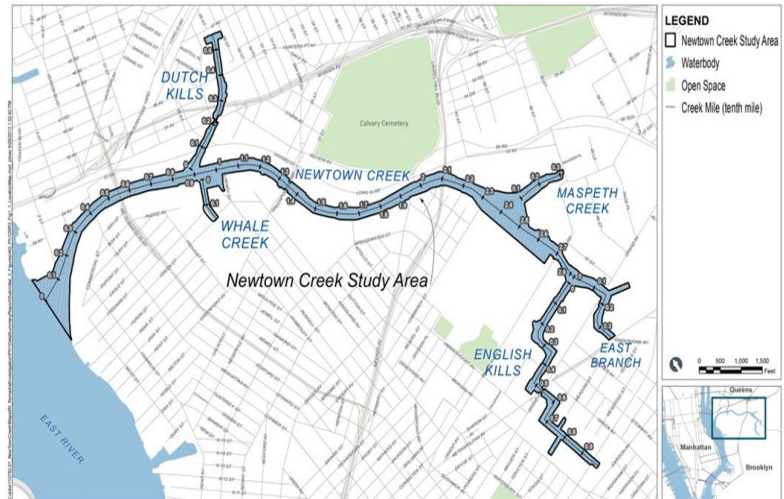
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is asking the public for input on its proposed plan to address contamination related to the Newtown Creek Superfund site in the East Branch portion of the creek in Brooklyn and Queens, New York.

The EPA is proposing to dredge the East Branch portion of the creek to remove the contaminated sediment for off-site disposal.

The EPA may dig deeper in some areas and may also add concrete/a substance to some portions of the sediment below the areas dredged to make it solid like cement, a process called solidification. The proposed plan also

calls for a combination of backfilling, where deeper dredging occurs, and capping of all dredged areas to keep the water depth the same. In addition, the plan includes sealing the bulkheads to address shoreline leaks where needed, which is a temporary measure until the sources of contamination found upland can be addressed. Finally, the EPA will extensively monitor to make sure the cleanup approach is functioning as designed.

The EPA's initial estimates are that over 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be dredged from the East Branch portion of Newtown Creek and that almost 10,000 cubic yards of sediment will be solidified in-place over an area of 0.4 acres. The proposed cleanup plan also includes placing a specially designed, multi-layer cap to provide additional protection against future contact with contaminants remaining below the cap over the entire dredged area of about 10 acres. The EPA estimates that the entire cleanup action would take about 3 years to complete.



Get Involved with the EPA's Cleanup!

Comment Period:

The EPA is requesting the public's comments on its proposed cleanup plan for the East Branch of Newtown Creek. The 30-day comment period runs from **August 28, 2024** to **September 27, 2024**.

The public is encouraged to review the plan, attend the public meeting, and comment on the cleanup options. To provide written comments to the EPA, read the document online at: www.epa.gov/superfund/newtown-creek

Send your comments to Caroline Kwan, Remedial Project Manager via email to kwan.caroline@epa.gov or mail to 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866

Public Meeting:

The EPA will hold a public meeting to present the proposed cleanup plan and take public comments on **September 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

The in-person meeting will be held at the **Chatroom at Elsewhere, 599 Johnson Avenue**, Brooklyn, New York. To attend the meeting virtually, register here:

https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-6spzoiGSfaTmPGUoT_YeJV1kdDPXY

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

ASSESSMENT



Discovery of



Preliminary Assessment



Site Inspection



National Priorities List
(NPL) Site Listing



Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study &
Proposed Plan

SELECTION OF REMEDY



Record of Decision



CLEANUP
Remedial Design



Remedial Action

POST-CONSTRUCTION



Operation and
Maintenance



NPL Deletion

Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process

Five-Year Reviews

Site Background

Newtown Creek is a 3.8-mile tidal water body with five tributaries that forms a portion of the North-South Brooklyn-Queens border. The tributaries are Dutch Kills, Maspeth Creek, East Branch, English Kills, and Whale Creek.

Historically, Newtown Creek drained the uplands of western Long Island and flowed through wetlands and marshes. However, due to heavy industrial development and government activities from the 1800s, formerly wet areas were filled in.

By the mid-1800s, the area next to Newtown Creek was one of the busiest industrial areas in New York City and during World War II the creek was the nation's busiest waterway. Newtown Creek has been home to oil refineries, petrochemical plants, fertilizer and glue factories, sawmills, and coal yards. In addition to the industrial use, New York City began dumping raw sewage into the water as far back as 1856. Contamination from many of these facilities has moved into the water and the sediment in Newtown Creek. Some factories and facilities still operate along the creek. The EPA added Newtown Creek to its National Priorities List in September 2010.

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Information Repositories

EPA Superfund Records Center

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(212) 637-4345

Greenpoint Public Library

107 Norman Avenue
Brooklyn, NY
(718) 349-8504

Long Island City Public Library

37-44 21st Street
Long Island City, NY
(718) 752-3700

www.epa.gov/superfund/newtown-creek

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