

GOWANUS CANAL

What Is a Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan?

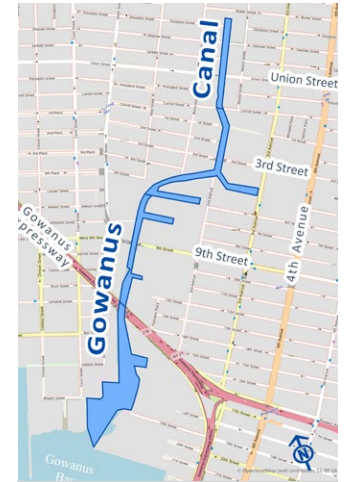
Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, New York supports industrial, municipal, and public activities. It plays a vital role in the economy and culture of the surrounding communities. However, decades of contamination have negatively impacted the Gowanus Canal natural environment. To compensate the public for these impacts, the Gowanus Canal Natural Resource Trustees are conducting natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) activities for the site.

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PLAN?

The Assessment Plan describes the Gowanus Canal Natural Resource Trustees' proposed approach to conducting the NRDAR and helps the Trustees make reasonable decisions about assessment activities. The Plan summarizes existing data, including information on Gowanus Canal natural resources, human uses, and contaminants. The Plan also outlines potential analyses and studies that may be used to evaluate contaminants and their effects on natural resources and the services those resources should provide. Trustee considerations for selecting analyses and studies include:

- Relevance of new information to injured resources and lost services.
- Technical feasibility and cost.
- Use of results to quantify injury and determine damages (money) and restoration.

The Plan also describes how the Trustees intend to coordinate with the cleanup (remedial) process and parties potentially responsible for the contamination as well as communicate with the public.



The goal of NRDAR is to compensate the public for natural resource losses.


THE NRDAR PROCESS

Assessment Plan development occurs during the Planning and Assessment phase.

PRE-ASSESSMENT

- Determine whether to proceed with an assessment

PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

- Assessment Plan
Public comment 
- Determine and quantify injury
- Determine damages

DAMAGES CLAIM

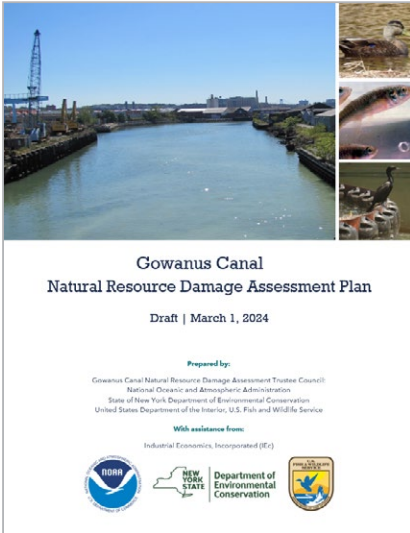
- Court filing
Public comment 

RESTORATION

- Restoration Plan
Public comment 
- Implement and monitor restoration

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NRDAR PHASE: PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

INJURY DETERMINATION Did injury to natural resources occur?

INJURY QUANTIFICATION How severe is that injury over time?

DAMAGE DETERMINATION What projects or amount of dollars are needed to restore natural resources and resource services that will compensate the public for natural resource losses?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Trustees), have shared the Draft Assessment Plan for the Gowanus Canal NRDAR. You are encouraged to review and provide written comments on the Plan through **June 14, 2024**.

The plan is available on Trustee websites:

<https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/nrd/major-ongoing-nrd-assessments>

<https://darrp.noaa.gov/hazardous-waste/gowanus-canal>

www.fws.gov/media/gowanus-canal-nrda

Physical copies can be accessed at:

Brooklyn Public Library
Park Slope Branch
431 6th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215
Tel: (718) 832 1853

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Region 2
4740 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
Tel: (718) 482 4900

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the Trustees to submit comments, ask questions, and find out more:

NYSDEC Natural Resource Damages Section
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1500

Email: nrd@dec.ny.gov

