

DEQ and Environmental Stewardship



The City of Rochester's new comprehensive plan, "Rochester 2010: The Renaissance Plan" contains eleven campaigns to guide the City to a vital and vibrant future. Campaign 4 establishes a policy of "Environmental Stewardship":

"It is the policy of our city to maintain and enhance, through individual and collective efforts of our citizens, businesses and governments, the overall quality of our environmental assets and resources (air, land and water quality), our community's three great waterways (Lake Ontario, the Genesee River and the Erie Canal), our unique and historic parks system, our open space areas and urban forest and our clean neighborhood environments."

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City of Rochester Division of Environmental Quality



Service Information



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Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Services

Environmental Management

DEQ implements the environmental compliance program for City of Rochester facilities. This program includes:

- Hazardous and non-hazardous waste management
- Spill prevention and response
- Storage tank management
- Waste minimization
- Facility environmental compliance and technical assistance



DEQ characterizes and properly disposes of wastes abandoned on city property or in the right of way, and wastes generated at city facilities and city remediation projects.

Site Investigation and Cleanup

DEQ performs site investigations and cleanup projects to assess potential environmental liabilities associated with the purchase or sale of properties, and to remediate environmental problems to allow for site development. Typical industrial and commercial sites include:

- Gasoline stations
- Landfills
- Scrap yards
- Service and collision shops
- Former industrial/manufacturing facilities



Contamination from a former gasoline station was remediated as part of the site preparation for the 19th Ward Community Garden on Thurston Rd.

Remediation Systems Operation

DEQ performs routine operation and maintenance on a variety of soil and groundwater remediation systems at sites around the City. This program includes:

- Air, soil and water sample collection and lab analysis
- Contaminant source removal
- Routine maintenance of systems

Brownfields Redevelopment

Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized commercial and industrial properties that may have environmental problems. DEQ supports all other City departments in a collective effort to clean up and re-use urban land. DEQ is working on over two dozen investigation, clean up and ongoing monitoring Brownfield projects. Projects include:

- Bausch and Lomb Corporate Headquarters and Court St. Garage
- Former Hallman Chevrolet site on East Ave. (currently Chevy Place)
- Corn Hill Landing development
- Former Emerson St. Landfill
- Former Apco contractor yard (currently Newcroft Park)



The former APCO brownfield site has been cleaned up and redeveloped into the award-winning Newcroft Park residential subdivision.

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