

# ExxonMobil Progress

## Greenpoint Community News

FALL 2020



## Angels Fly to the Rescue

ExxonMobil and our contractors enthusiastically support the North Brooklyn Angels in their quest to alleviate food insecurity in our community. Last year, in addition to ExxonMobil's financial support, our employees volunteered at the Angels kitchen, and our environmental contractor, Roux Environmental donated a cargo van to the Angels to assist them in picking up food donations and delivering meals to those in need. When Covid-19 resulted in hospitals becoming overburdened, the Angels flew to the rescue of the front line heroes at Woodhull Hospital. Working with local restaurant owners Josh Cohen and Blair Papagni, the Angels began delivering meals to Woodhull on a daily basis. Once the Angels realized that our local seniors were having difficulty obtaining meals, a new program was started to deliver meals directly to their homes. The Angels are truly well-named, and ExxonMobil is proud to continue supporting this terrific organization!



## 2019 Accomplishments

- 23 recovery wells were operated under NYSDEC oversight as part of the overall product recovery efforts.
- Liquid free-product recovery is decreasing as predicted by scientific modeling.
- Recovered and treated over 280 million gallons of groundwater to Clean Water Act Standards.
- Recovered an estimated 36,658 gallons of liquid product, bringing the lifetime estimated total of product recovered by ExxonMobil to over 9 million gallons.
- The total amount of product recovered by all parties (ExxonMobil, BP and Texaco) is over 13 million gallons.
- Significant modifications and upgrades were made to the off-site groundwater treatment plant in an effort to extract as much liquid product as feasible and improve upon longevity of equipment.
- Operation of the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) System removed an estimated liquid equivalent of 9,065 gallons of product.
- Continued evaluation of new techniques for enhancing liquid product recovery, including Vacuum-Enhanced Recovery (VER) and Pressure-pulse water-flooding technology. In accordance with the March 1, 2011 Consent Decree, numerous reports and progress updates were provided to the NYSDEC and made available for review by the public.
- Held meeting for local residents and environmental organizations in order to report on the remedial progress being made and the path forward.

## 2020 Updates

- We continue to operate the product recovery system, and have gained NYSDEC approval to shut down wells that no longer recover significant amounts of product, as noted below.
- On-going soil vapor monitoring efforts, sampling permanent soil vapor points both on and off site.
- On-going groundwater monitoring efforts, sampling monitoring wells both on and off site.
- Implemented pressure-pulse water-flooding technology as an interim remedial measure in an effort to enhance liquid product recovery at recovery wells located within Operable Units 4 and 5.

## Project Progress Towards Completion

The Greenpoint Petroleum Remediation Project continues to make good progress towards completion, with a strict focus on the protection of human health and the environment.

- The System continues to exhibit excellent reliability, with run-time performance above 90%, and the petroleum plume continues to shrink in area as well as thickness.
- Monitoring data confirm that groundwater is hydraulically controlled and moves towards the recovery wells.
- Recovery well RW-J met the criteria for well shutdown with approximately 90 percent runtime and reduced recovery over time. The recovery well was decommissioned with approval from NYSDEC.
- Remedial Action Work Plan to be submitted in 2021 with ExxonMobil's recommended remedy for Operable Unit 3.

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## An Oyster Update!

**T**he mission of the Billion Oyster Project is to restore oysters to New York waters through public education initiatives. It looked like Covid-19 was going to upset BOP's plans this year, but through tenacity and creative planning, the BOP is on track to have its best year yet! A new partnership with Red Hook Terminals will allow BOP to increase its oyster restoration capacity by 500% by this Fall.

**How ExxonMobil helps:** The oyster shells used in the program begin their return to the water at local restaurants, where the shells are gathered and then delivered to the former Mobil facility in Brooklyn, NY. Our facility acts as a way station for collection and storage of the oyster shells prior to their being delivered to the Harbor School on Governor's Island, where the shells are inoculated with juvenile oysters (called spat), and then finally placed into NY waters.

**Cleaning our waters:** Oysters are filter feeders and play a key role in water quality as well as attracting life. They earn their nickname as "ecosystem engineers" because biodiversity levels increase dramatically surrounding oyster reefs. Oyster reefs can help to protect New York City from storm damage—softening the blow of large waves, reducing flooding, and preventing erosion. Restoring oysters and reefs will, over time, restore the local marine ecosystem's natural mechanisms for maintaining itself, resulting in cleaner water and greater biodiversity.

**Environmental Education:** The NY Harbor School, a maritime high-school located on Governors Island, is the flagship school of the Billion Oyster Project, and its students contribute to Billion Oyster Project as part of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) experience—growing oysters, designing and building oyster reef structures, diving to monitor reefs, operating boats, performing marine biology research, and more.

## Open Letter to Residents

Welcome to the 12th issue of the ExxonMobil Greenpoint Progress newsletter. We hope that all of our neighbors in the community are safe and healthy. Although the year has been a challenging one for us all, we have continued to progress our remediation project while keeping our employees and contractors protected and maintaining social distance. We publish this newsletter to keep you informed about the progress of the Greenpoint Petroleum Remediation Project, as well as our efforts at supporting local schools and community organizations, including:

PS 34	Go Green! Brooklyn Festival
PS 110	St. Nick's Alliance
MS 126	Big Brooklyn Holiday Toy Drive
IS 318	Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
North Brooklyn Angels	The Billion Oyster Project
Evergreen Exchange	North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
People's Firehouse	
North Brooklyn Neighbors	
YMCA Strong Kids	

As always, if you have any questions about our work or the programs we support, please feel free to contact me.

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