

# Cleanup of tainted soil to begin soon

## Under Paul Street building

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Cleanup crews will soon begin to treat and remove contaminated groundwater and soil beneath a school building on St. Paul Street in Rochester, the Department of Environmental Conservation announced Wednesday.

The work is the long-awaited final step to handle pollution caused by a former Bausch + Lomb factory. Rochester Prep High School is located in the leased building, 690 St. Paul St., and there are about 175 Rochester School District students there as well.

Old underground storage tanks leaked trichloroethene, a degreaser, into the soil and groundwater. The 4.7-acre site was designated a brownfield in 2009 and a ventilation system is in place to keep noxious vapors out of the school building.

The DEC's plan is to install similar systems beneath three other buildings on the property, to cover the remaining polluted soil with a new layer of clean soil and to pump compounds into the ground to clean the polluted groundwater, which is about seven feet underground.

The work will begin later in March and continue through the end of 2015. No disruption is expected for people who work or study at the site except for a partial closure of the parking lot.

Details of the cleanup plan were first announced in the fall. Once the work is completed, the project applicants, Genesee Valley Real Estate Co., LLC and Hartel Properties, LLC, will be eligible for brownfield tax credits to offset the cleanup costs and potentially redevelop the site.

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**Cleanup to remove contaminated groundwater and soil beneath the building Rochester Prep High School leases on St. Paul Street is slated for cleanup by the Department of Environmental Conservation.**

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