

Just the Facts: Binghamton Plaza Environmental Status

Background

- The plaza was built on a former city landfill used from the 1940s–1960s.
- Waste remains buried beneath the site under pavement and buildings.

Cleanup Status

- In 2015, New York State approved the cleanup and issued a Certificate of Completion, meaning the site was cleaned up properly and long-term protections are in place.

What Cleanup Work Was Done

- A protective cap (pavement or clean soil) now covers the entire site.
- Systems were installed in several buildings to keep underground vapors from entering indoor air.
- A legal agreement called an Environmental Easement requires work on the site to be performed safely and ensures that all protections stay in place.
- A long term Site Management Plan guides inspections, monitoring, and any future construction or site work.

Ongoing Safety Requirements

These protections must remain in place:

- Limits on land use and rules around digging
- No use of groundwater from the site
- Continued operation of vapor systems under buildings
- Regular testing of groundwater and indoor air
- Periodic reports to the state confirming everything remains safe

Allowed Future Uses

The site can be safely reused for:

- Commercial development
- Light industrial uses
- Some residential uses (not single-family homes)
- Limited parks and recreation

Bottom Line

- The cleanup is complete, and the site is safe for redevelopment as long as the existing protections are maintained. This positions Binghamton Plaza for a new phase of revitalization that can benefit the neighborhood and the region.