

On Earth Day 2021, Governor Cuomo Announces Start Of Construction for Bay Park Conveyance Project

ENVIRONMENT

KEYWORDS/ENVIRONMENT

Project Supports Nassau County's Western Bays Resiliency Initiative to Improve Water Quality and Coastal Resiliency Across Long Island

Includes New Pump Station, Two New Force Main Pipes, Rehabilitation and Sliplining of Sunrise Highway Aqueduct and Connection to Existing Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant's Ocean Outfall

When Completed, Project Will Divert Up to 75 Million Gallons of Treated Water per Day from Reynolds Channel and the Western Bays Ecosystem and Reduce Up to 90% of Nitrogen Loading

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the start of construction on the Bay Park Conveyance Project in Nassau County. The project, which will redirect treated water from the South Shore Reclamation Facility — formerly the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant — to the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant's ocean outfall, is a critical component of the State's sustained efforts to reduce nitrogen pollution and restore water quality in the Western Bays and surrounding South Shore Long Island communities. The announcement of the Bay Park Conveyance Project's construction start is being made on Earth Day 2021.

"For decades nitrogen has been harming the Western Bays' waters and habitats, and on this Earth Day we are making a real difference by not just talking about the problem, but actually delivering solutions that will make a real difference for these communities," **Governor Cuomo said.** "The start of construction on the Bay Park Conveyance Project marks a critical milestone in our ambitious plan to improve water quality and environmental health on Long Island and across the state, and it will fundamentally change the entire South Shore for generations to come."

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/zIGMEzuTTaQ>

AUDIO

PHOTOS

"The revitalization of the Western Bays will improve our environment and provide greater storm resiliency to thousands of homeowners and businesses," **Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said.** "This significant investment in Nassau's environment creates jobs, spurs economic development and protects homeowners by restoring the critical marshlands that serve as vital buffers during storms. I thank Governor Cuomo for making this project a priority by employing a seamless design-build strategy that slashes the amount of time required to build out the

infrastructure needed to improve water quality and rejuvenate our environment for generations to come."

Overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Design-Build Contractor Western Bays Constructors Joint Venture started construction today on the diversion structure and the first microtunneling shaft for the project. The diversion structure will eventually direct treated water away from the current outfall in Reynolds Channel and into the new pump station being built as part of the project. This fall, the contractor will be using this first microtunneling shaft to retrieve the Microtunnel Boring Machine after it completes the first segment of the new force main. The diversion structure will also become part of the foundation of the new pump station. This innovative approach will save time off the construction schedule, as well as reduce the cost of the newly constructed pump station, exemplifying the advantages of design-build.

When completed, the Bay Park Conveyance Project will divert as much as 75 million gallons of treated water per day from Reynolds Channel and the Western Bays ecosystem and reduce up to 90 percent of the nitrogen loading. The resulting water quality response will improve regional resiliency and quality of life. The Nassau County Department of Public Works will own and operate the new facilities.



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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "This Earth Day, DEC is proud to partner with Nassau County on the ambitious and transformational Bay Park Conveyance Project that will reduce nitrogen pollution and in doing so restore water quality in the Western Bays, benefitting marine resources and providing critical storm and flood protections for Nassau County's coastal communities. The milestone we celebrate today further builds on the State's sustained commitment to strengthening coastal resiliency, improving quality of life, and restoring the environment across Long Island."

Joseph Rabito, Environmental Facilities Corporation President and CEO said, "This project is a prime example of how governments work harder and smarter when they partner together and work towards the common goals we all value, such as resiliency and healthy communities here in Long Island and across New York State. By providing grants and low-cost financing for investments like this major infrastructure project at Bay Park, EFC makes it easier for municipalities to address critical needs that ultimately result in better water quality for citizens and wildlife and stronger protections when storms threaten their vital marshlands."

Senator Todd Kaminsky, Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, said, "For decades, our waterways have been polluted with nitrogen-laden effluent, harming the South Shore's environment, economy and storm resilience. This game-changing project will protect our communities from flooding, purify our water and bolster our local ecological vitality. As Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, I was proud to work with our partners in government to foster this bold solution, and look forward to seeing its completion — as well as the economic and recreational benefits it will bring to our communities."

Senator John E. Brooks said, "I want to thank Governor Cuomo, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Nassau County Department of Public Works for moving forward with the Bay Park Conveyance Project to protect Long Island's most precious resource. This project is critical in safely and effectively improving the wastewater treatment systems currently in place as well as protecting integrity of the Western Bays. Now that construction has

begun, I want to reiterate my full support for this endeavor to build up the coastal resiliency of our shores and eliminate harmful pollution to our waters."

Assembly Member Judy Griffin said, "What a great way to start Earth Day 2021 with a groundbreaking of the Bay Park Conveyance Project! This long awaited and vital project will substantially improve the water quality of Long Island's Western Bays, protect our coastal communities from storm surges, positively impact marine life in our bays and ocean. Thank you to Governor Cuomo for his leadership and continuing to make this critical project a reality."

Assembly Member Melissa Miller said, "I am very happy to hear that work on the Bay Park Conveyance Project is ready to move forward. When completed, this project will result in cleaner water, greater storm resiliency and an improved quality of life in Nassau County for years to come."

Assembly Member Taylor Darling said, "The Bay Park Conveyance Project is a positive step in protecting Long Island's water quality. Restoring the marshlands and cleaning the waters of the South Shore will have a lasting impact on the future of Long Island."

Nassau County Legislator Kevan M. Abrahams, District 1, said, "Sewer infrastructure is the backbone of any municipality's efforts to stimulate our regional economy, manage waste, safeguard public health and protect our waterways and environment. We are excited to witness the launch of a key infrastructure project that will serve us well for years to come in so many ways, and we thank New York State for their leadership on this crucial initiative for Nassau County's future."

Nassau County Legislator Denise Ford, LD4, said, "This is a significant project which will greatly improve the quality of life along the south shore, especially those located along Reynolds Channel. The project will help restore the marshlands, providing cleaner water which will help regenerate the fish and wildlife to our waterways. I would like to thank the State of New York for its continued attention on getting this plan completed."

Nassau County Legislator Debra S. Mulé, District 5, said, "Launching the Bay Park Conveyance Project truly makes this an Earth Day to remember for south shore residents. I am truly excited about how this project is designed to protect and enhance the ecological health of the Western Bays and Reynolds Channel - bodies of water that are integral to the nautical lifestyle Freeport residents cherish. We are all grateful for the tireless efforts of New York State leadership and the local stakeholders who made this possible."

In March, the Governor [announced \(https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-formal-notice-proceed-bay-park-conveyance-project-improved-water\)](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-formal-notice-proceed-bay-park-conveyance-project-improved-water) the formal Notice to Proceed with this project with final design and construction to Western Bays Constructors Joint Venture, the Design-Build contractor for the project. The contract was approved by the Nassau County Legislature in November 2020, and then approved by the County Finance Control Board, County Comptroller, and County Executive Laura Curran. DEC then signed the contract and submitted it to the New York State Attorney General and Comptroller for final approval.

Design-Build is a cost-saving procurement approach that incentivizes the private sector to accelerate the completion of large-scale infrastructure projects. By utilizing this approach, the Bay Park Conveyance Project will support the ecological recovery of the Western Bays at a substantially lower cost and shorter construction schedule than other options, which would have cost more than \$600 million and taken nearly a decade to construct. In addition, with treated water no longer discharged into the Western Bays of Nassau County, nearby communities will experience cleaner water, improved quality of life, and restored vital marshlands that protect communities from wave action and coastal surge during severe storms.

Built in 1949, the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant serves more than 500,000 Nassau County residents and discharges an average of 52 million gallons of treated water into Reynolds Channel each day. This discharge impacts nearly 10,000 acres of water and tidal marshland in the Western Bays, from Atlantic Beach to Point Lookout, including Hewlett and Baldwin harbors. Due in large part to nitrogen in treated water from this plant, the Western Bays are impaired by macro algal blooms and other water quality issues, such as low dissolved oxygen. Peer-reviewed scientific studies have linked excess nitrogen to the damage and ultimate disintegration of coastal marsh islands that serve as a resilient barrier to storm surge and associated waves.

The project will convey fully treated water by: constructing a two-mile, 72-inch force main north from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to the County-owned aqueduct that runs under Sunrise Highway; rehabilitating and lining a 7.3-mile stretch of the abandoned aqueduct; and constructing a 1.6-mile, 72-inch force main from the aqueduct to the existing Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant's ocean outfall pipe, which is seven miles long and will carry treated water three miles out into the Atlantic Ocean. The new force main segments will be constructed using microtunneling 20 to 60 feet below the ground surface.

This Bay Park Conveyance Project builds on \$830 million in State and federal funds previously invested in the multi-year resilient rebuild of the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant. These projects, combined along with other State and County investments in resiliency, support the restoration of the Western Bays, protect important marine resources, and boost local economies with the added benefit of better protection to coastal communities against future damage from storms.

EFC will assist the county with more than \$395 million in funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Storm Mitigation Loan Program during the initial phase of the project. This includes \$362 million in low cost loans and \$33.9 million in grant funding. It is anticipated EFC will provide additional support as the project progresses.

Western Bays Resiliency Initiative

The Bay Park Conveyance Project is part of the larger Western Bays Resiliency Initiative. Nassau County is leading a series of region-wide resiliency and sustainability projects that will improve the water quality of the degraded Western Bays. Nassau County is pursuing the following Projects under the Western Bays Resiliency Initiative — the Bay Park Conveyance Project, the Long Beach Consolidation Project, and the Point Lookout Sewer Feasibility Study.