



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

LISA BOVA-HIATT  
Executive Director

### *For Immediate Release*

Contact: GOSR Press Office – 212-480-2318

[GOSRPress@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:GOSRPress@stormrecovery.ny.gov)

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING TO DEDICATE NEARLY \$330,000 IN RESILIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AT SAUGERTIES VILLAGE BEACH**

*Developed and implemented through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, the project is the first of three corresponding efforts to make local Saugerties parks stronger and more sustainable following recent storms.*

**Village of Saugerties, NY (June 29, 2017)** - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today held a ribbon cutting to dedicate nearly \$330,000 worth of resiliency improvements at Saugerties Village Beach in Ulster County, New York.

The enhancements, which were developed through GOSR's innovative NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, took place at the South-end of Partition Street at Esopus Creek and aimed to repair and upgrade the local beach, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

As part of the improvements, several tons of sand were transported into the area to restore and smooth the beach, thereby making it suitable for public use. The docks surrounding the swimming area, as well as the boat launch were also replaced, and in accordance with the State's beliefs to not just build back, but build back stronger and better, a series of erosion control measures were installed on the east and west borders of the shore.

This project is one of several efforts, collectively totaling \$806,000, to enhance and rejuvenate three Saugerties parks.

"Our beaches and parks are some of our State's most precious natural attractions that may be utilized, and thoroughly enjoyed, by locals and tourists alike," said Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. "It's for this reason that our NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program is so important: to bring local needs, knowledge and assets to the forefront of the State's planning and resiliency processes. With summer in full-swing, we couldn't be more thrilled to see this undertaking brought to fruition for the Village of Saugerties."

As a riverine community, the Village of Saugerties regularly experiences flooding from overflows from the lower Esopus Creek and its tributaries during intense rain events, as it did during Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, as a coastal community, the village absorbed the impact of

storm surges through the Hudson River. These events not only damaged the park, but also severely impacted community amenities, thereby making them unusable.

“It’s really wonderful to see the improvements to Village Beach completed just in time to kick-off the season,” said Mayor of the Village of Saugerties, Bill Murphy. “This small community beach is a favorite among both local residents and visitors looking for some relief from the heat during the summer season. I applaud Governor Cuomo and the hard working team from GOSR for their efforts to help communities, like Saugerties, not only recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy, but rebuild in a way that makes them more resilient.”

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program was designed to help storm-impacted communities throughout the State to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 local projects. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), as part of its Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. Serving to balance top-down strategies, NYRCR Program is, at its core, locally-driven and inspired, enabling residents and business owners to become actively involved with the recovery process.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program – as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Infrastructure and Rebuild By Design (RBD) programs – GOSR invests \$4.4 billion in federal CDBG-DR funding to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. *More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.*