

**EARLY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN WETLANDS**

**WALLKILL CHANNEL DAYLIGHTING PROJECT
TOWN OF WALLKILL, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK
MARCH 11, 2019**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), has received an application from the Town of Olive to use Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program to implement Wallkill Channel Daylighting Project in the Town of Wallkill, Orange County, New York (hereinafter, the "Proposed Activity") and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations (24 CFR Part 55).

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity, including alternative locations outside of wetlands. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about wetlands facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the Proposed Activity will be provided by the HUD CDBG-DR program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

The Town of Wallkill, Orange County, New York, is proposing to improve the drainage way between commercial properties along SR 211 (Wickham Avenue) near the intersection of Lloyds Drive and directly adjacent to Middletown High School as well as the area along Fitzgerald Drive across from the Crestwood Apartments. An unnamed creek that flows through this area is the primary water source for Silver Lake. During the urbanization of this area from 1970 to 2010, part of this unnamed creek, just northwest of the Middletown High School football field was culverted. This culvert is now partially collapsed/obstructed and the grade is incorrect, so that there are low spots where water stagnates and does not flow toward Silver Lake. The proposed project would remove the existing headwall along Fitzgerald Drive, approximately 436 linear feet of chain link fence, 8,540 square feet of parking lot, and the existing catch basin on the northern portion of the project area. Two detention/infiltration basins will be constructed on the south side of Fitzgerald Drive behind the businesses on the north side of SR 211, and 137 feet of HDPE pipe would replace the catch basin. Approximately 185 feet of the existing collapsed culvert between the Shoprite Plaza and Middletown High School, the adjacent 160 feet of concrete curb, and a portion of the wing wall at the east side of the stadium would be removed in the southern portion of the project area. The project would construct an open channel in its place.

A Freshwater Forested/Shrub National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland area is within the northern portion of the Project area, surrounding the proposed detention/infiltration basins. Although this wetland area currently is vacant, it already has been disturbed by development along Fitzgerald Drive and in the surrounding area. The Project will disturb less than one acre of this wetland (it is approximately 0.5 acres), and the detention/infiltration basin that will cover it will

perform many of the same functions as the wetland (filtering and slowing the flow of water). A wetland field delineation on July 18, 2018, identified a much smaller wetland area in the northern portion of the project (approximately 0.05 acres). An additional wetland area was delineated in the southern project site. Approximately 0.69 acres of this wetland extend throughout the southern project site. The open channel that would be created by the project also will perform many of the same functions as the wetland (filtering and slowing the flow of water). These delineated areas also have been disturbed by development along Fitzgerald Drive, Wickham Avenue, Certified Drive, and Stratton Avenue, including residential and commercial development and Middletown High School.

Wetlands maps based on the NWI and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) data and the July 18, 2018, delineation maps have been prepared and are available for review with additional information at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Activity or request further information by contacting Lori A. Shirley, Certifying Officer, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, NY 12260; email: NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Standard office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. For more information call 518-474-0755. All comments received by March 26, 2019, will be considered.