



Governor's Office of  
Storm Recovery

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

## **Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of \$1 Million Flood Mitigation Project in Broome County**

*Fuller Hollow Creek Stabilization in Vestal Will Improve Drainage and Reduce Flooding*

Vestal, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of a nearly-\$1 million infrastructure project to improve drainage and reduce flooding at Fuller Hollow Creek in the town of Vestal in Broome County. The project included regrading, elevating, and stabilizing the creek to increase water flow and mitigate flooding during future extreme weather events.

**Executive Director of GOSR Katie Brennan** said, "As New York continues to adapt to our changing climate, these types of projects help to both build the community's resilience and to protect our waterways. GOSR is proud that our grassroots and neighborhood-driven process will reduce flooding and protect the Vestal community."

In 2011, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flooded the already-saturated watershed in communities across the Southern Tier. Both storms damaged homes and infrastructure, caused significant road closures, and led to stream bank erosion. The erosion and flooding caused rocks, debris, and slumps to get into the channel, which blocks water from flowing through Fuller Hollow creek.

The GOSR project formed a new channel bed that will make Fuller Hollow Creek more resistant to erosion and reduce sediment build-up. It also regraded the creek to create a more stable stream of water. These upgrades will improve the flow of water through the creek and decrease erosion.

**Senator Fred Akshar** said, "Flood mitigation is an essential part of helping revitalize our community's neighborhoods and keeping our residents safe and secure from future weather events."

**Assemblymember Donna Lupardo** said, "After years of creek erosion that led to flooding and damage to property, I am glad steps were taken to stabilize Fuller Hollow Creek. The recently completed project will reduce the risk of future flooding and address further erosion. I'd like to thank Gov. Hochul and the Office of Storm Recovery for their ongoing efforts to protect our communities."

**Broome County Executive Jason Garnar** said, "Each rain storm we get leaves Broome County residents who live near our waterways worrying whether or not they'll be flooded yet again. Maintenance of our creeks and streams helps them have peace of mind that their properties will be safe. Thank you to the Governor and the Office of Storm Recovery for their ongoing commitment to making our community more flood resilient."

The project was completed in partnership with the **Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**. Its District Manager Wendy Walsh said, "Tioga County SWCD was happy to coordinate the

project and support the work that was completed on Fuller Hollow Creek. We have worked for several years with the Town of Vestal, the Broome County SWCD, and GOSR staff to develop and complete a plan that established grade control and reduced sediment contribution from eroding banks of the Fuller Hollow Creek.”

**Vestal Town Supervisor John Schaffer said,** “The Town of Vestal is grateful for the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery funding and thanks the many entities and agencies involved in completing this important project.”

#### **About GOSR**

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) and Infrastructure Programs, the State takes on a variety of initiatives developed during its bottom-up community planning process to improve resiliency, protect critical infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reduce hardship.

Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county, and non-profit partners to bring hundreds of locally devised proposals to fruition.

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