



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Flood Resiliency Improvements in the Hudson Valley

\$3 Million Investment in Stormwater Upgrades Will Reduce Flood Risk in City of Middletown

Middletown, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced completion of a \$3 million project to improve resiliency and reduce flood risk in the Hudson Valley city of Middletown. The project included stormwater drainage improvements along the Monhagen Brook and Draper Brook culverts.

GOSR Executive Director Katie Brennan said, "We are proud that this project will strengthen resiliency and protect Middletown residents from flooding. This investment is part of our grassroots locally-driven process to helping communities adapt to a changing climate and ensure they are better prepared for the next major storm."

Both the Monhagen Brook and Draper Brook culvert systems were overwhelmed during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. These undersized culverts caused the drainage channels to be clogged and overrun with storm water, which led to structural failures. As result, nearby home and businesses were flooded and emergency vehicles were hampered by inundated roadways.

As part of the project, the West Main Street bridge at the Monhagen Brook culvert was replaced with a steel beam bridge that is double the width of the original structure, and repairs were made to the Draper Brook culvert at Grant Street. These upgrades allow additional storm water to flow through, which improves drainage and minimizes flooding impacts along the roadways.

The improvements also allow first responders and public vehicles to maneuver to critical locations, strengthening Middletown's emergency preparedness.

Assemblymember Aileen Gunther said, "I'm happy that this project was completed and opened just in time for the holiday season. I want to thank the workers for completing this project quickly and safely. The work on these culverts will ensure that storm water can safely flow through the culverts without causing flooding to the homes and businesses along the brook. Projects like this ensure safety and access for first responders and residents."

"Safe and reliable infrastructure is important to Orange County residents and these improvements will keep Middletown residents safe. The project will also limit damage to homes and businesses during a major storm. I want to thank the Office of Storm Recovery for funding these important initiatives and taking an interest in our County," said **Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus**.

About GOSR

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. More recently, GOSR is also coordinating recovery and resiliency efforts for Hurricane Ida.

In October 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the creation of the Office of Resilient Homes and Communities, which will assume GOSR's portfolio.

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 (CDBG-DR) funding to help New Yorkers recover from and better prepare for extreme weather events. The agency is also leveraging Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds to implement resiliency initiatives. 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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