



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Mount Marion Park Dam Replacement in the Town of Saugerties

Project Improved Structural Integrity of the Dam and Reestablished Adequate Water Supply for Mount Marion Fire Company

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of the Mount Marion Park Dam Project, a \$278,000 effort to replace a dam on Plattekill Creek in the town of Saugerties. The project addressed several breaches in the original structure which sustained damage during Hurricane Irene. The improved dam reestablishes an adequate water supply in the Plattekill Creek that will support the full capacity of the nearby Mount Marion Fire Company. The project was carried out in partnership with the town of Saugerties.

"When the Mount Marion Dam was first constructed 100 years ago, few could have predicted the modern-day realities of increasingly frequent storms, rising seas and climate change," said Alana Agosto, executive director of the community reconstruction and infrastructure programs for GOSR. "As we've seen in recent years with Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, New York's infrastructure must evolve to prepare for these challenges."

During Hurricane Irene, trees and other debris flowed downstream, weakening the 100-year-old dam's structural integrity and making it susceptible to further destabilization. This damage caused water levels to drop by six-to-eight inches. The Plattekill Creek is the main water source for the Mount Marion Fire Company which serves 210 nearby homes and the Mount Marion Elementary School. The damage meant the creek could no longer support the full operations for the Fire Company.

As part of the project, 165 linear feet of cast-in-place concrete dam was installed with rock anchors at the site, located at 19 Park Circle. Related activities also involved erosion and sediment control measures, stream protection measures and selective demolition.

Saugerties Town Supervisor Fred Costello said, "Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee were life-changing events for our community that we never want to relive. The Mount Marion Dam Project, which will protect the water supply for the local fire department, demonstrates how we are working with the State of New York to be better prepared for emergencies."

Senator George Amedore said, "Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc in so many communities, and caused damage to our aged infrastructure. The damage done to the Mount Marion Dam had a ripple effect, as it drastically reduced the water supply available to the fire department in the case of an emergency. This project was not only a smart investment to rebuild and strengthen our infrastructure, but it will improve public safety as well, and I congratulate everyone involved on its completion."

Assemblyman Chris Tague said, ““Seeing this project come to completion for a community devastated by Hurricane Irene is inspiring. It also demonstrated that when local and state officials work together we can accomplish great things. Residents can take comfort that the dam is finally stabilized and clean, safe and reliable water has returned to Mount Marion Fire Company and their community.”

Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan said, “The completion of the Mount Marion Dam Project marks the start of a new and more resilient chapter for the Town of Saugerties, which several years ago was so profoundly affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through this critical investment— made possible by New York State— Saugerties will be better equipped to respond to future emergencies and deliver services when they are needed most.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR planning committees across the State and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired by the unique needs and assets of their regions. Collectively, NYRCR committees have held 650 planning meetings and 250 large-scale public engagement events as they have worked to rebuild more sustainable communities, reinforce infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and spur revitalization.

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

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 (CDBG-DR) funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

###