



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

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Executive Director

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY AND PARTNERS HOST FREE FAMILY WATER FAIR IN FREEPORT ON MAY 20TH**

#### ***OFFERING KIDS' ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION ON LIVING WITH THE BAY, THE STATE'S COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE MILL RIVER CORRIDOR***

***The Living with the Bay program is designed to improve and protect the communities of  
Hempstead, Malverne, Rockville Center, Lynbrook, East Rockaway, Oceanside, and Bay Park***

**Freeport, NY (May 17, 2017)** – On **May 20, 2017**, the New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), Operation SPLASH, Seatuck Environmental Association, Hempstead Lake State Park, and Tetra Tech will host a free Family Water Fair along Freeport's Nautical Mile at the SPLASH Environmental Education Center located at 202 Woodcleft Avenue in Freeport. While children play, adults can learn about the Living with the Bay (LWTB) program, its flood reduction measures, planned green space, improved waterfront access, and stormwater management plans. LWTB staff will be on hand to supervise activities and answer questions.

**Event:** Family Water Fair: Operation Splash and Living with the Bay

**Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2017

**Time:** 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Rain or shine

**Location:** 202 Woodcleft Avenue, Freeport, NY 11520

**Admission:** Free

**Contact:** Operation SPLASH, 516-378-4770

For more information, visit <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>.

Visitors to the Family Water Fair can examine maps showing where LWTB projects are currently proposed, and get answers to questions about how this comprehensive post-Sandy resiliency program for the South Shore of Nassau County will affect and benefit the communities. People will have the opportunity to learn more about the factors that contributed to choosing project sites, and how the proposed projects align with increasing community resilience, preserving quality of life, restoring and protecting environmental health, improving public access to the waterfront, and educating people about water resources. There will be a five-minute presentation on the LWTB program at the top of every hour.

While the parents are learning about LWTB, kids of all ages can enjoy fun, interactive games and activities that teach about water and our ecosystem. Bird bingo, a groundwater demonstration, and an Alewife balance beam challenge are just a few of the kids' activities planned.

### **About Rebuild by Design–Living with the Bay**

Based in Nassau County, Long Island, the \$125 million Living with the Bay project (devised by the Interboro Team as part of the Rebuild by Design contest) aims to increase the resiliency of communities along the Mill River and around the South Shore's bays. The undertaking proposes to mitigate damage from storm surges by strategically deploying protective measures such as constructed marshes and dikes; manage stormwater to mitigate the damages from common rain events; as well as improve the water quality in the bay. As part of Living with the Bay, green and grey infrastructure improvements will be made along the Mill River, thereby benefitting the communities of Hempstead, Malverne, Rockville Center, Lynbrook, East Rockaway, Oceanside, and Bay Park. The project will reduce inundations and pollution, and create publicly accessible greenways that connect the South Shore's communities.

Rebuild by Design: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/rbd>

Living with the Bay: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>

### **About the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery**

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program—as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Infrastructure, and Rebuild By Design programs—GOSR invests more than \$4 billion made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events.

### **About The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

The Office oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, which are visited by 69 million people annually. A recent study found that New York State Parks generates \$1.9 billion in economic activity annually and supports 20,000 jobs. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com), connect on [Facebook](#), or follow on [Twitter](#).

### **About Seatuck Environmental Association**

Seatuck Environmental Association is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving Long Island wildlife and the environment. The organization pursues its mission by employing a multi-pronged approach to various wildlife conservation projects and offering high-quality environmental education opportunities for Long Islanders of all ages. Seatuck's educational outreach includes work at three nature-based public education facilities in Suffolk County.

### **About Operation SPLASH**

Operation SPLASH a member-supported, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Long Island's shores. SPLASH partners with industry businesses,

nonprofit organizations, government agencies and academic institutions to promote comprehensive understanding of local water quality issues through hands-on training, identification and problem solving.

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 and Infrastructure programs, GOSR invests more than \$4 billion made available through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG-DR Program 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/>

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