



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

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### **Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Yonkers Flood Mitigation Measures**

*Stream Rehabilitation and Berm Repair Will Enhance Resiliency and Improve Drainage*

*Improvements Along the Saw Mill River, Bronx River, Sprain Brook Watersheds*

Yonkers, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of a \$3 million flood mitigation project in Yonkers. Stream reconstruction, berm repair, and other drainage improvement measures were implemented in the areas surrounding the Saw Mill River, Bronx River, and Sprain Brook watersheds.

GOSR Executive Director Katie Brennan said, "GOSR is pleased to work with our partners in Westchester, and throughout New York, to create resilient communities and keep residents safe during emergencies. The improved berms and restored river banks will ensure that Yonkers' vital waterways are better able to withstand the next emergency. This project exemplifies how our grassroots, neighborhood-driven process brings projects from planning to fruition."

For decades, Yonkers residents have experienced flooding along the Saw Mill and Bronx Rivers. Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy only exacerbated these issues when storm surges as high as 14 feet during Sandy led to flooding at record levels. This endangered residents and public infrastructure as flooded roadways resulted in submerged cars and street closures.

The flood mitigation measures included:

- Improving the berms at Odell Avenue and Clunie Avenue by adding fill to prevent flooding of an up to 100-year storm. The berms divert water runoff from depositing debris along rivers as a result of flooding.
- Stream reconstruction along the Bronx River between Midland Ave and the Bronx River Parkway, along the Sprain Brook between Palmer Road and Pondfield Road W, and along the Saw Mill River between Executive Blvd and Nepperhan Ave. These river banks were regraded to increase floodplain capacity.
- Removing dams along the Bronx and Saw Mill Rivers to eliminate constrictions and give the rivers more access to natural features like floodplains.

This project is the result of a study that GOSR conducted in 2017 that identified the need for these mitigation and resiliency measures. The study analyzed stormwater runoff and flooding conditions at various locations that were severely impacted by flooding during Sandy and Irene.

"Every year we see our communities are hit with more frequent storms and dealing with the destruction in their wake. The completion of the Yonkers flood mitigation project will provide our residents with

more resilient infrastructure to help manage stormwater and mitigate destructive flooding," said New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "It is critically important for New York to shore up our infrastructure to better deal with the impacts of climate change and I am proud to have secured \$3 million in funding to bring this project to fruition. I thank Governor Kathy Hochul and my partners in government for their partnership in this timely investment in our infrastructure that will better prepare Yonkers for the next big storm."

Assembly Member Sayegh said, "For decades, chronic flooding has impacted Yonkers families and businesses along the banks of the Saw Mill River. As adverse weather events become stronger and more frequent, we must confront the reality of Climate Change head-on with decisive action. Thanks to the extraordinary work by New York State, the Yonkers Flood Mitigation Project will help ensure that families, homes, and businesses in this flood-prone area will remain safe for years to come."

Yonkers Mayor Spano said, "Thank you to Governor Hochul and GOSR for the invaluable investment in Yonkers, particularly in our city's most vulnerable flood zones. This project will certainly save taxpayer dollars, property and provide peace of mind for our residents. Climate change is here and with the help of New York State, we can better prepare and navigate devastating storms that continue to plague our region."

#### **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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