



For Immediate Release

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES SUPPORT
FOR HOWARD BEACH STORM MITIGATION**

*Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Approves \$250,000 for Howard Beach Committee
Proposed Project Aimed at Restoring 11 Acres of Salt Marsh and 16 Acres of Coastal
Upland in Queens, New York*

New York, NY (June 26, 2014) - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the allocation of \$250,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to support the Upper Spring Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project. The initiative, which was embraced by the Howard Beach NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee, would provide additional funding to complement the broader restoration and resiliency efforts of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC DPR). The NYC DPR undertaking will include berms and other important protection measures at key locations that contributed to flooding in the Lindenwood area of Howard Beach during Superstorm Sandy. This mitigation strategy will reduce risk to Lindenwood during future storm events and enhance the resiliency of the overall project.

“Every day, New York State strives to apply lessons learned from recent storms, and lay the foundation for a better, stronger future,” said State Director of Storm Recovery, Jamie Rubin. “The Upper Spring Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project serves as a great example of these efforts, and demonstrates the outstanding results of key partnerships, as we work together to make our communities safer and more resilient.”

“Jamaica Bay is one of the City's greatest natural assets and can play a major role in buffering adjacent communities from the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events,” said Daniel Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency. “Under the leadership of Mayor de Blasio, the City has adopted a comprehensive climate resiliency plan. Thanks to a strong partnership with the Governor, the New York Rising's Howard Beach committee, and our Federal partners, the City is eager to invest in Spring Creek to promote resiliency and restore natural ecosystems.”

The Howard Beach NYRCR Planning Committee submitted this project in its final reconstruction plan, which was announced at the NY Rising Spring Conference in April 2014. NYC DPR was awarded a \$4.27 million Coastal Resilience Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) on June 16, 2014, to support the Spring Creek Park project. The State's NYRCR contribution will cover a portion of the \$6.97 million needed to match the DOI grant award.

"I am very excited about what this project means to the future of Howard Beach as we work together to make Howard Beach a stronger, more resilient community," said Frances Scarantino, Co-Chair of the Howard Beach NYRCR Planning Committee.

NYC DPR's planned Spring Creek Park project will restore 11 acres of salt marsh and 16 acres of coastal forest and scrubland. The restoration will significantly increase ecosystem function in the area by restoring and enhancing a site that has been degraded by historical dredge and fill operations in the project site. Additionally, the project will improve storm water capture and reduce runoff to the combined sewer system. The project will also provide the surrounding community with passive recreation space.

The NYRCR Program is a grassroots process designed to empower communities that suffered significant damage from Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. The program was established in April 2013 by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and is funded almost entirely by more than \$650 million of federal funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. In 50 community planning areas across New York State, the NYRCR Program has produced community reconstruction plans that include locally driven projects aimed at recovery and long-term resiliency.

This summer, GOSR will embark on "Round 2" of the NYRCR program, welcoming 16 new Committees from across the State.

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery 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 is investing more than \$4 billion made available through HUD CDBG-DR funds to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. Leveraging CDBG-DR funding with additional federal funding that has been awarded to other State agencies, GOSR enables homeowners, small businesses, and entire communities to build back even better than before.

For more information go to www.stormrecovery.ny.gov

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