



Village of Southampton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southampton Village Nears the Finish Line on Clean Water Project, Marking Major Environmental and Community Milestone

Southampton Village, NY — Southampton Village approaches a critical milestone in its Clean Water Project, utilizing a Village-owned site on Windmill Lane for a new, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility. This represents significant progress toward improving water quality, protecting public health and strengthening the village's commitment to the environment. The Southampton Village Board will hold a public hearing at the February 12th Board of Trustees Meeting at 6pm at the Southampton Cultural Center Auditorium, 25 Pond Lane.

This solution will utilize Village-owned property for the location of the treatment facility directly behind the ambulance barn. The underground, leaching fields will be located to the north, under what is now Southampton Dog Park. The dog park will move a mere football field's distance to the south, closer to the village center and next door to the library.

The majority of the system will be located underground; treatment equipment will be entirely contained within a landscaped, enclosed, barn-style building designed to minimize visual impact. The fully enclosed structure and underground treatment systems eliminate odor.

Community Preservation Fund (CPF) resources will be used to acquire the Southampton Press site, where the building will be demolished and open space

preserved in perpetuity.

The new sewer system will support smart growth in the Village center, allowing for increased wet use options in the downtown business district (which include medical offices, restaurants and more). This will also afford the possibility for workforce housing in second-story apartments.

The advanced facility is designed to dramatically reduce nitrogen levels entering local waterbodies, replace aging septic systems and improve groundwater and water quality. The project aligns with Suffolk County and the Town of Southampton's initiatives which include strategic land acquisitions in Hampton Bays and Riverside and ongoing wastewater planning efforts in Water Mill and Bridgehampton.

The project advances the strong goals and recommendations of Suffolk County's 2020 Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. The site has been reviewed and approved by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and has been developed in collaboration with The Town of Southampton, Assembly Member Tommy John Schiavoni, County Legislator Ann Welker and Stony Brook University's Center for Clean Water Technology.

As part of the project, recreational amenities will be enhanced, including the relocation and improvement of the dog park to a Village-centric location, adjacent to the Rogers Memorial Library, ensuring continued community benefit.

The Clean Water Project will:

- Replace outdated septic systems to reduce nutrient toxic nitrogen load and other nutrient pollutants that causes harmful algal blooms
- Significantly improve groundwater and water quality in local lakes and ponds, such as Lake Agawam
- Protect critical natural resources, including drinking water, wetlands and coastal habitats
- Utilize cutting-edge treatment technology to remove pollutants before water reenters the environment
- Advances local, county and statewide clean water objectives

Infrastructure and Design Highlights

- Village Character: A single, landscaped, enclosed barn-style building, designed to blend into its surroundings
- Low-Impact Design: All leaching systems will be located underground

- Odor Control: Fully enclosed system and underground leaching fields eliminate odor
 - Compatible Location: Adjacent to municipal facilities, including the Police Station and Ambulance Barn on existing Village property
- Community and Economic Impact
- Improves public health and overall quality of life through cleaner water and modern infrastructure
 - Expands sewer capacity to support responsible growth and downtown business vitality
 - Represents a generational investment in our community and environment to improve water quality now and in the future
 - Enhances recreation and civic connectivity through the relocation of the village dog park next to the Rogers Memorial Library
 - An increase in green space in the business district by demolishing The Southampton Press building and converting it to green open space for the dog park in perpetuity

About the Site

- 2.4 acres for leaching fields; approximately 1 acre for the treatment facility
- Public access to parkland will not be reduced, with properties swapped to ensure public recreational space, and green open space
- Co-locating with existing Village municipal buildings eliminates costly and disruptive construction through Village neighborhoods

Key Takeaways

- Advances Southampton Village's Comprehensive Plan priorities of environmental protection, sustainability and economic vitality
- Aligns with Suffolk County Department of Health Services and New York State's Clean Water Infrastructure Act goals
- Southampton Village joins neighboring communities in modernizing wastewater systems
- Establishes a model for regional water quality improvement through coordinated, intergovernmental action