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The Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan

Latest News: September 16, 2019

The public comment period for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the recommendations of the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP) has been extended. Comments will be accepted through October 16, 2019. [Click here for the Notice of SEQRA Public Comment Period Extension](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/DGEIS%20Notice%20of%20Extension%20of%20Public%20Comment%20Period.pdf) (<https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/DGEIS%20Notice%20of%20Extension%20of%20Public%20Comment%20Period.pdf>).

Press Release: [Comment Period on Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Management Plan Has Been Extended](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/News/comment-period-on-suffolk-county-subwatersheds-wastewater-management-plan-has-been-extended) (<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/News/comment-period-on-suffolk-county-subwatersheds-wastewater-management-plan-has-been-extended>).

For more headlines, [click here](#).

[Download the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan \(https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-ar](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-ar)

The Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan - A Roadmap to Reclaim Our Water

Turning the tide on nitrogen pollution

Suffolk County is taking an historic step forward in ongoing efforts to better protect both groundwater and surface water through the development of a countywide wastewater upgrade strategy. In a recent press release, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services announced the long-awaited release of the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP). The SWP is a rigorous, science-based roadmap for transitioning away from reliance on conventional cesspools and septic systems, which are the primary source of nitrogen pollution that has fouled local bays.

A Reclaim Our Water initiative, the strategy documented in the Suffolk County SWP was developed in partnership with the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) and in collaboration with numerous project partners, stakeholders, and technical experts. The SWP is the product of years of intensive research, documentation, modeling, and evaluation of all of Suffolk County's water resources and provides a parcel-specific roadmap on how to address the nitrogen crisis through wastewater upgrades and other nitrogen pollution mitigation strategies. The plan seeks to arrest and reverse the existing trend of degrading water quality over a 10 year period.

“Scientists have warned that continued reliance on primitive wastewater disposal systems is a mounting threat to both our environment and our economy. Now, for the first time, there is a long term plan to diminish nitrogen pollution and put Suffolk County on a path to cleaner, healthier water resources.”

— - Health Commissioner James M. Tomarken

"The strength of this plan is the incredibly strong and sound science on which it is based. The County has taken what may be the largest and most comprehensive water quality data set generated by any county in the country and has generated a robust, comprehensive, and forward thinking plan to restore Suffolk County's most vital resource: Its drinking water and surface waters. While I have spent my career documenting the degradation of Long Island's fisheries and aquatic habitats, it is inspiring to finally see a plan designed and implemented that will reverse course on decades of negative trajectories. The citizens of Suffolk County will reap the benefits of this plan for decades to come."

— Christopher J. Gobler, Ph.D., Endowed Chair of Coastal Ecology and Conservation School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Director, New York State Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University

[Click here to see what other people are saying about the new plan. \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/SubwatershedWastewaterPlanQuotes.aspx\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/SubwatershedWastewaterPlanQuotes.aspx)

Headlines

Date: September 9, 2019

Two public hearings were completed for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the recommendations of the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan on September 5, 2019 in Riverhead and on September 6, 2019 in Brentwood. [Information on the completed public hearings is available here. \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/EventsAndMeetings.aspx\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/EventsAndMeetings.aspx)

Date: August 16, 2019

[Click here for the SEQRA Notice of Completion and Public Hearings \(https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CEQ/2019/DGEIS%20Notice%20of%20Completion%20and%20Public%20Hearings.pdf\)](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CEQ/2019/DGEIS%20Notice%20of%20Completion%20and%20Public%20Hearings.pdf) for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the recommendations of the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan.

Date: July 30, 2019

Press Release: [Suffolk Health Officials Release Historic Water Quality Plan \(https://suffolkcountyny.gov/News/suffolk-health-officials-release-historic-water-quality-plan\)](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/News/suffolk-health-officials-release-historic-water-quality-plan)

Downloads

[Click here to download the draft SWP, including the Executive Summary and Appendices. \(https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Regulatory-Review/Council-on-Environmental-Quality#swsp\)](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Regulatory-Review/Council-on-Environmental-Quality#swsp)

A draft General Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the actions proposed in the SWP has also been prepared, [and is available for public review by clicking here](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CEQ/2019/DGEIS%20for%20SWP_August%202019_Public%20Posting.pdf?ver=2019-08-16-131340-510)

[\(https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CEQ/2019/DGEIS%20for%20SWP_August%202019_Public%20Posting.pdf?ver=2019-08-16-131340-510\)](https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CEQ/2019/DGEIS%20for%20SWP_August%202019_Public%20Posting.pdf?ver=2019-08-16-131340-510).

A brief overview of the problem and the County's proposed solution, [and what you can do is summarized here. \(https://reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/SWP%20Public%20Overview_25Sep2019.pdf\)](https://reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/SWP%20Public%20Overview_25Sep2019.pdf)

Frequently Asked Questions

[What is the problem?](#)

[What is a cesspool or conventional septic system?](#)

[Why is it a problem?](#)

[What's the Solution?](#)

[How will the plan be implemented?](#)

[What are the proposed costs to the homeowner?](#)

[What is a subwatershed?](#)

[Which subwatershed and priority area am I located in?](#)

[What does this mean to me?](#)

[How can I view the plan and get involved?](#)

[What can I do to help Reclaim Our Water?](#)

[Who can I contact if I have further questions?](#)

[Upcoming Events and Previous Meetings \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/EventsAndMeetings.aspx\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/EventsAndMeetings.aspx)

[References and Related Studies \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/ReferencesandRelatedStudies.aspx\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/ReferencesandRelatedStudies.aspx)

Project Partners and Related Programs

[Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program \(/septicimprovementprogram.aspx\)](/septicimprovementprogram.aspx)

[Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan \(https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/103654.html\)](https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/103654.html)

[Peconic Estuary Program \(https://www.peconicestuary.org/\)](https://www.peconicestuary.org/)

[South Shore Estuary Reserve \(https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/sser/\)](https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/sser/)

[Long Island Sound Study \(http://longislandsoundstudy.net/\)](http://longislandsoundstudy.net/)

In The News

["We Can Turn The Ugly Tide" - Newsday Editorial 08/04/19 \(https://reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/NewsdaySWPEditorial8419.pdf\)](https://reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/NewsdaySWPEditorial8419.pdf)

["Suffolk Posts Sweeping Plan For Overhauling Septics With Water Quality In Mind" - The Southampton Press 08/02/19 \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/SouthamptonPress_8-2-19.pdf\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/SouthamptonPress_8-2-19.pdf)

["Long Term Plan to Tackle Wastewater" - The East Hampton Star 08/01/19 \(https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/TheEastHamptonStar_8-1-19.pdf\)](https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Portals/60/docs/TheEastHamptonStar_8-1-19.pdf)

["County unveils 'significant' \\$4B plan to address nitrogen pollution" - Riverhead News-Review 08/12/19 \(https://riverheadnewsreview.timesreview.com/2019/08/94926/county-unveils-significant-4b-plan-address-nitrogen-pollution/\)](https://riverheadnewsreview.timesreview.com/2019/08/94926/county-unveils-significant-4b-plan-address-nitrogen-pollution/)

[\(/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fthesubwatershedswastewaterplan.aspx\)](/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fthesubwatershedswastewaterplan.aspx)