

About Sylvester Manor's Clean Water System

WHAT IS SYLVESTER MANOR EDUCATIONAL FARM'S CLEAN WATER SYSTEM?

Sylvester Manor is breaking ground in September 2016 and expects to complete construction before winter on the first-of-its-kind in Suffolk County non-proprietary constructed wetland treatment system. The full system title is "Non-Proprietary Vegetated Gravel Recirculating Constructed Wetland Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment System." The system will process effluent from new, temporary kitchen and restroom facilities. These facilities will provide ADA-compliant restrooms for Manor program participants and visitors, and bathrooms, showers, laundry and kitchen facilities for Sylvester Manor resident apprentice and WWOOFer farmers who reside at the Manor each year from April through October.

The technology has proven effective in reducing sanitary system wastewater nitrogen by up to 90%, or more, in other regions of the U.S., and was engineered by Natural Systems Utilities Engineering (NSU), which has designed and installed more than 80 such systems. As the first in Suffolk County, it will be studied along with other like projects for full regulatory approval and replicability; and the pilot system requires a conventional sanitary system as back up. The Manor's system is being constructed and installed by NSU in partnership with Shelter Island Sand & Gravel, a local excavating firm, bringing the new technology and economic development opportunities into the local community.

WHO WILL MONITOR AND MAINTAIN THE SYSTEM?

Suffolk County, Natural Systems Utilities Engineering and the NYS Center for Clean Water Technology (CCWT) are collaborating on the monitoring and maintenance plan for the system which commences operation in Spring 2017. Licensed technicians will maintain the system, and extensive monitoring will be performed by County Health Department personnel, NSU engineers, and faculty and students at the NYS CCWT at Stony Brook University, again partnering with local maintenance technicians.

HOW WAS THE PROJECT FUNDED?

The complex project, involving a 2-year design and approval process, and construction of new temporary structures as well as the clean water system, is supported by funding from:

- New York State Community Capital Assistance Program, through the office of Assemblyman Fred Thiele;
- Suffolk County's Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program, and Drinking Water Protection Program, granted funds for construction, engineering and equipment;
- Long Island Community Foundation granted funds for partnerships with Group for the East End and Peconic Green Growth for related outreach and education;
- Generous private donors have contributed more than \$90,000 of a \$250,000 target.

Sylvester Manor is seeking additional contributions to offset design and planning costs and to contribute to the landscaping, accessibility and beautification of the project site in the Manor's historic core.

WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

This project would not be possible without the support of a great number of partners and of the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm board of directors and staff. We are grateful to these partners and supporters (with apologies for omissions):

- County Executive Steven Bellone
- County of Suffolk Legislator Bridget Fleming
- County of Suffolk former Legislator Jay Schneiderman
- County of Suffolk staff and elected officials too numerous to mention
- Group for the East End
- Johnston & Son Earth Movers
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Natural Systems Utilities Engineering
- NY State Assemblyman Fred Thiele
- NY State Center for Clean Water Technology
- Peconic Estuary Program
- Peconic Estuary Protection Committee
- Peconic Green Growth
- Peconic Surveyors
- Pospisil & Brown Architects
- Shelter Island Sand & Gravel
- Sherman Engineering & Consulting
- Sylvester Manor Educational Farm Clean Water System Contributors: William Geraghty, Edie Landeck, Tom Roush, Karen and Sam Seymour
- Town of Shelter Island staff and elected officials too numerous to mention
- Town of Shelter Island Supervisor Jim Dougherty

HOW CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE CLEAN WATER SYSTEM PROJECT?

Contact Sara Gordon, Planning and Conservation at Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, by email at sgordon@sylvestermanor.org, or by phone at 631 749-0626 during office hours, or 631 488-5509 at other times.