

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Closure Memo**

To: Lynn Dwyer
From: Parthena Kydes
Date: January 12, 2010

Project: Mattituck Inlet Stormwater Mitigation (NY)
Number: 2008-0065-020
Grantee: Group for the East End

Project Description: Replace the current surface of a public boat ramp with permeable pavement, construct a small treatment wetland, and develop public education materials about the project keyed to reducing nonpoint source pollution into Mattituck Inlet.

Final Products:

- Design a stormwater reduction and education project using a vegetated swale and permeable pavers to reduce direct storm-water pollutants from entering the water body, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, hydrocarbons and fecal coliform. *The general public, after being educated about the project, was very interested and learned how efficient the permeable glass pavement was at absorbing rainwater and runoff; there has been more interest in completing similar projects throughout eastern Long Island and New York.*
- Aerate an existed impacted gravel substrate parking area, plant a 20' by 50' vegetative swale with warm weather grasses, install interpretive signage, pavers, dark skies lighting fixtures, and Aldo Leopold benches. *A vegetative swale was installed to filter road runoff from County Road 48. Native marsh grasses were restored and growing where scouring had previously occurred. The impermeable parking area was re-graded and replaced with a permeable recycled glass pavement surface.*
- Protect significant shellfish and bird habitat currently polluted by stormwater runoff and buffer an area of wetland open space owned by Southold Town. *The continued cutting will inhibit the re-growth of Phragmites in the vicinity of the project area and enable native Spartina grasses to re-establish along the shoreline. These native species will increase the presence of beneficial habitat for local shellfish and bird populations (primarily waterfowl). The installation of a new vegetated swale also provides a naturalized buffer to the wetland area, where native plants are being re-established and affords additional cover for local wildlife while limiting human activity and disturbance adjacent to the restoration area. The vegetated swale, permeable glass surface and significant addition of gravel in the main parking area will substantially reduce the direct flow of stormwater into Mattituck Creek. Most importantly, the reduction in the direct flow of road runoff into to the creek over time is anticipated to reduce the levels of pathogens, toxic contaminants and nutrients entering the creek, and support improved water quality in the near-shore environment. It is expected that these water quality improvements will also improve the overall quality and health of the*

- nearby marine environment and ultimately provide a more productive habitat for those species that rely upon the near-shore environment for their survival.*
- Demonstrate water quality improvement over the long term. Significant improvement would allow the southern end of Mattituck creek/inlet to be open in the winter months as the rest of the inlet is now. *The DEC Shellfish Division has conducted baseline and ongoing testing for fecal coliform levels at an appropriate sampling location near the site. In the past, shellfish closures have resulted from inappropriately high levels of fecal coliform, but we hope the project will improve these conditions over time and allow local baymen to harvest shellfish at least seasonally in the southern end of Mattituck Creek. Group for the East End will monitor the data from the DEC Shellfish division and will conduct independent water quality tests quarterly over the next three years to determine whether an improvement in water quality can be measured over the long term.*
 - Design effective signage that will communicate all the activities present in the project to a wide range of ages and levels of knowledge. *Signs and benches invite the public to learn about and enjoy the area.*
 - Create community partnerships for educational outreach between Southold town government, local residents, and other environmental stakeholders such as the Group for the East End, and the North Fork Audubon. *Partnerships were formed between Mattituck stakeholders, Mattituck Park District, Mattituck Chamber of Commerce, Mattituck High School and Southold High School.*
 - Engage support from technical advisors who have visited the site such as Allan Connell, NRCS, Heather Young, DEC restoration, Robert Wilkinson, storm-water engineer, and John Bredemeyer, Suffolk County Department of Health, Office of Ecology Public Health Sanitarian. *Support came from DEC, Shellfish Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Peconic Baykeeper, North Fork Environmental Council for volunteer outreach, and Glover Perennials for advice.*

NFWF award: \$40,000

NFWF funds spent: \$40,000

Match requirement: \$48,101

Match spent: \$48,101

I recommend closing this grant.