

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Final Programmatic Report**

**Project Name and Number:** Mattituck Inlet Stormwater Mitigation (NY), #2008-0065-020

**Recipient Organization/Agency:** Group for the East End, Inc.

**Recipient Organization Web Address:** [www.eastendenvironment.org](http://www.eastendenvironment.org)

**Date Submitted:** December 18, 2009

**1) Summary of Accomplishments**

A stormwater retention swale was constructed and planted with native species, *Phragmites australis* was removed from the high marsh, and a drainage field of permeable crushed glass pavement was constructed. In addition, informational signs and benches were installed on site for public outreach and education. The signs cover topics including Stormwater Solutions, Native and Invasive Plants, and Wildlife Habitat through a series of "filmstrips" designed to attract viewers who may not normally read such signage. Educational outreach took place on site with volunteers and the general public.

**2) Project Activities & Results**

**Activities:**

A vegetated swale was constructed to naturally filter road runoff from County Road 48, which was previously draining directly into Mattituck Creek via the impermeable parking surface and municipal boat ramp. Clean fill from the site was used to rebuild the gully west of the boat ramp, which was formed by volumes of water flowing down and along the side of the ramp. Native *Spartina* marsh grasses were restored and are beginning to grow in places where the scouring previously occurred. Removal of *Phragmites australis* within the high marsh has improved the health and view of the creek.

The impermeable parking area was re-graded and replaced with a permeable recycled glass pavement surface. The permeable surface allows water to drain through the sand substrate and into the vegetated swale for filtering before returning to the surface waters of Mattituck Creek, which connects to Long Island Sound. The post-consumer recycled glass that was used to construct the permeable surface was provided from within 500 miles of the site, qualifying the project for LEED certification.

Educational signage and benches invite the public to learn about and enjoy the area. Members of the public are also challenged to be "part of the solution" by implementing these same concepts in their own homes.

**Results:**

Community partnerships were created with the following groups: Mattituck Stakeholders, Mattituck Park District, Mattituck Chamber of Commerce, Mattituck High School and Southold High School.

Technical advisors included: Melissa Albino (Department of Environmental Conservation, Shellfish Division), Allan Connell (Natural Resources Conservation Service), and Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper) for advice on water quality testing; North Fork Environmental Council for volunteer outreach; and Glover Perennials for advice on appropriate plantings for the swale.

During the project's construction and after its completion, we found that the general public was very interested. As a result, we were able to educate passersby about the concepts involved. Word traveled quickly that this was an innovative process and reuse of materials. Many community members and project participants have observed the efficiency with which the permeable glass pavement absorbs rainwater and runoff. There has been much interest in completing similar projects throughout eastern Long Island and New York State, with inquiries from contractors, engineers, and public and municipal entities. One such example is the Mattituck Park District, which adjoins the parcel where WATERWASH™ was completed.

Baseline and one subsequent testing by the Department of Environmental Conservation Shellfish Division show stable fecal coliform levels. We hope continued testing will confirm improvements over time.

### **3) Lessons Learned**

Group for the East End was initially written into this grant to provide matching funding for plantings as well as to conduct educational outreach. When the Town of Southold was unable to meet their responsibilities as the grant recipient, Group for the East End stepped in to take over as fiscal sponsor. Lillian Ball remained the lead agent and project manager. Though this process did not represent the most efficient method of securing the grant, Group for the East End proved itself a worthy partner, which could administer future grants with ease.

Any future grants for this type of project would include stewardship funding (removal of Phragmites, annual vacuum of permeable surface, etc.). This planned maintenance, which was to be completed by the Town of Southold according to the original grant, was lost when the grant was transferred to Group for the East End.

Some outreach for volunteers was done through local schools (Mattituck and Southold High Schools), but initial interest was difficult to transform into eventual follow through. In the future, it may be beneficial to devise a program where students are given more incentive to participate, such as community service credits.

Water quality testing proved to be the most difficult component of the project, after planned testing through the Town of Southold became unavailable. In an effort to secure a proper testing facility, we found that none were willing to take on the project in such a short time frame. In future grants, the testing should be included in the budget so a university lab or equivalent could be hired. Since we already have a responsible collector from DEC Shellfish Division, who is qualified to collect extra samples in appropriate time periods after a rain event, we only need an appropriate lab to conclude the testing. We have reached out to Larry Swanson and Chris Gobler of Stony Brook University, regarding the possibility of conducting water quality testing for this and future projects. Our request is being processed and we are hopeful for a positive outcome.

For the future, we would propose a larger grant be secured to fund projects throughout the area, improving water quality in multiple locations and throughout Mattituck Creek.

### **4) Dissemination**

Group for the East End publicized the project through its electronic newsletter, web site, and social networking sites. Extensive e-mail invitations were sent to the organization's membership and outside contacts (over 2,000 received). A media alert and press release were sent to all relevant contacts and coverage of the project communicated its relevance to the public. Lillian Ball also dedicated a portion of her web site to the project.

The Suffolk Times covered the project both before and after construction, also producing an excellent video that was posted on YouTube and The Suffolk Times web site.

Group for the East End plans to use the site as an educational tool when teaching students about local surface water quality and the issue of stormwater runoff. This will ensure that dissemination of project results continues into the future.

### 5) Project Documents

See attached for the following items:

- Representative Photos
- Media Alert
- Press Release
- Media Coverage
- Group for the East End E-Mail

Visit the following sites for additional items:

Lillian Ball's Web Site: <http://waterwash.info>

Group for the East End Blog: <http://blog.eastendenvironment.org/post/2009/11/12/NEWS-WATERWASHe284a2-Draws-a-Crowd.aspx>

YouTube Video of Opening Event: [http://www.youtube.com/groupfortheeastend#p/f/0/Sg0\\_9cSgHv8](http://www.youtube.com/groupfortheeastend#p/f/0/Sg0_9cSgHv8)

Group for the East End on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Group-for-the-East-End/205481021977>

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12/18/09

Robert S. DeLuca, President

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