

Year in Review: Town Projects

Highlights from 2022



East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc

Councilman David Lys

Deputy Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez

Councilwoman Cate Rogers

Councilwoman Sylvia Overby

Environment

Land Preservation:

26 parcels acquired and preserved using money from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF), Total 72.8 acres preserved in 2022, at a cost of \$51.4 million

Notable acquisitions completed in 2022 include 33 acres of prime farmland in the heart of Amagansett and 10 acres of farmland in East Hampton, which will help maintain our rural character and provide opportunities for our next generation of farmers.

<http://ehamptonny.gov/165/Land-Acquisition-Management>

Septic Improvement Grants:

\$2.6 million in Town grants from the CPF ((revenue from a 2-percent real estate transfer tax)) approved for upgrades to low-nitrogen, “innovative-alternative” (I/A) systems that keep nitrogen emissions, which can pollute our ground and surface waters, low.

149 low-nitrogen systems installed in 2022; 187 approved in 2022, 444 low-nitrogen systems installed using Town grants since the program’s inception in 2017

<https://ehamptonny.gov/584/Septic-Incentive-Program>

Water Quality Improvement Project Grants:

\$1.5 million in Town grants from the CPF awarded to 7 applicants for projects including Fort Pond floating wetlands, constructed wetland wastewater treatment at Accabonac, expansion of Sag Harbor sewer service area, and commercial low-nitrogen septic systems.

\$4.5 million in water quality grant awards issued since program's inception in 2019

<https://ehamptonny.gov/691/Water-Quality-Improvement-Plan-Projects>

Additional Water Quality Protection and Restoration projects:

Municipal building septic systems upgrades to low-nitrogen systems: Comfort stations, other Town-owned buildings

Stormwater abatement projects including the first injection permeable reactive barrier designed to keep pollutants out of Three Mile Harbor

https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14353/Tanbark-PRB-Fact-Sheet_MGredline?bidId=

Montauk Community Wastewater Treatment System: Planning/Siting ongoing

<https://ehamptonny.gov/1844/Montauk-Community-Wastewater-Treatment>

South Lake Montauk Park Revitalization Plan

<https://ehamptonny.gov/819/Proposed-South-Lake-Montauk-Park-Revital>

Louse Point Restoration

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15586/LousePointRestorationPresentation?bidId=>

Aquaculture

<http://ehamptonny.gov/149/Aquaculture>

2.9 million two-inch oysters seeded in Town waters in 2022

3.3 million oyster culls sold to LI farmers

3.5 million 3/8" clams seeded in Town waters

15 million nursery and field clam culls seeded in Town waters

300,000 3/8" clams given to NY State Shellfish Restoration Project in return for our grant

180,000 oysters in the form of spat on shell given to NY State Shellfish Restoration Project in return for grant awarded to EH

First oyster reef in Trustee waters established in Accabonac Harbor with the assistance of South Fork Sea Farmers, EHHS seniors & Springs School 6th grade

Oyster gardening program continued in 5 harbors with 100 gardeners/public participants as well as an additional half dozen growing off their own dock/bulkhead

Successful bay scallop harvest in Town waters as a result of our seeding program

Educational tours with individuals & families as well as South Fork Natural History Museum's Young Environmentalist Society, Project MOST, LVIS, Surfrider's East Hampton Middle School Chapter

Successful screenings of films on several educational topics by local experts on LTV conducted by South Fork Sea Farmers

Participated in bay scallop disease diagnostic survey with Stony Brook University's Marine Animal Disease Lab

Grew sugar kelp seedlings in the hatchery for outplanting in town waters for pilot projects

Contributed to NY's first Shellfish Restoration Plan with Pew Charitable Trusts & Due East Partners

Community Housing

Overviews: <https://ehamptonny.gov/823/Community-Housing>

<https://ehamptonny.gov/206/Housing-Community-Development>

"All Hands on Housing" initiative announced in January, 2022 to address the housing crisis -- which continues to be one of the most serious and immediate threats to the well-being and sustainability of our community -- as fast as possible.

50 affordable apartments under construction on Three Mile Harbor Road in East Hampton by EH Town Housing Authority, with EH Town as partner

16 affordable single-family homes on 12-acres of Town property on Pantigo Road in EH in planning/development

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12816/395-Pantigo-Affordable-Homes-Project>

50 more affordable rental units on Town property on Route 114 in Wainscott in planning/development

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15482/Route-114-Community-Housing-Reco-1262022>

Manor Houses – Town-built affordable condominium project on Accabonac Road in EH fully occupied

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4109/manor-house-ribbon-cutting-pr-rel?bidId=>

Town code changes: Increase of density for affordable single-family homes approved; Revisions to Affordable Accessory Apartment regulations under discussion

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15506/Affordable-Accessory-Apartments>

Review of land potentially available for additional affordable housing

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12818/Town-Owned-Land-Opportunities-for-Community-Housing>

Community Housing Opportunity Fund approved; Housing Plan created – 69 percent of voters approved new ½ percent real estate transfer tax to fund community housing initiative

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13311/Draft-Community-Housing-Fund-Project-Plan>

\$1.2 million in rental subsidies provided through Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

Two affordable housing program homes renovated using HUD Home Investment Partnerships federal block grant program

Affordable Housing program home sales – closed on one resale and one Manor House condominium; two additional houses in contract

Community Character, Neighborhood Protection, Health and Safety

Juneteenth Celebration: First Town of East Hampton Juneteenth commemoration; dedicated Amagansett youth park as Lt. Lee A. Hayes Youth Park in honor of the late Mr. Hayes, an East Hampton resident who served as a Tuskegee Airman, commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth

<http://ehamptonny.gov/818/Lieutenant-Lee-A-Hayes>

<http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13464/Press-Release---Juneteenth-event-June-2022-002?bidId=>

Ordinance Enforcement, Fire Code, Building Safety, Site Plan/ Planning Department and Natural Resources, coordinated enforcement of Town and state zoning and safety codes to address illegal uses, neighborhood disruptions, overcrowded bars and restaurants, illegal short-term rentals of residences. Achieved cooperation from Airbnb on tracking and prosecuting listed illegal rentals.

Preservation of community's agrarian roots: Concluded town's largest single acquisition/preservation of farmland to date (33 acres in Amagansett) as well as 10 acres in East Hampton; leased town-owned farmland to active farmers through Request for Proposals process

EH Town Human Services Department – new wellness programs offered in Springs, added to EH Senior Center and Montauk Senior Nutrition Program offerings

Senior Citizen case management services offered monthly by appointment in Montauk

COVID-19—Free home test kits available at Town Hall; PCR testing available at EH Town Center for Humanity in Wainscott; continued public safety messages, testing and vaccination information provided on website and social media

Town Fiscal Oversight and Town Management

EH Town's top Aaa bond rating reaffirmed by Moody's Investors Service

<http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13936/Moodys-Aaa-rating-Aug-2022?bidId=>

2022 spending on budget; tax increases below NYS 2-percent cap

2023 adopted budget tax increases below NYS 2-percent cap

Retirement of long-term debt service -2022 approved capital plan spending at levels below debt service retirement

Capital spending policy enacted to avoid additional issuance of long-term debt for smaller projects, in cases where fund balance can be used instead

Outside financial auditors and Office of State Comptroller again issue clean opinion/audit to East Hampton Town

Employee Recruitment and Staff retention: One-time supplemental payment made to full-time town employees in 2022 and annual salary increases in 2023 in order to remain competitive within the job market. Significant growth in our year-round community has increased demand for services, while a shortage of affordable housing couple with inflation has impaired the ability of local businesses, schools, and municipalities such as East Hampton to hire and retain staff.

Cybersecurity: EH Town IT Department increasing already robust protections; \$865,000 bond approved December, 2022, for additional measures

Purchasing Department – Completed utility audit for financial savings

Public Infrastructure, Town Facilities and Services:

Emergency Communications

The final links in a townwide upgrade of the Town emergency communications system are being completed. An emergency communications tower at Camp Blue Bay in Springs, which will also improve cellular companies' service, has been issued approvals from the Town Planning and Architectural Review Boards.

To boost the emergency communications system in the Springs area until the new tower is erected and equipment installed, the Town has had a "cell on wheels," or COW, located at the Town dock at Gann Road since June, 2022.

<https://ehamptonny.gov/617/Emergency-Communications-System>

Wireless Communications

Private wireless cellular service is provided by independent private corporations but the Town is doing what it can to encourage wireless providers to improve service. By engaging CityScape, a communications consulting firm, we've identified the areas where there are issues with both coverage and capacity. Pending updates to the Town Code and our Wireless Master Plan are designed to make it easier and more efficient for cell phone carriers such as Verizon or AT&T to add equipment sites in "dead zones," filling coverage gaps. These changes include revisions to the process by which approvals for cell sites can be obtained, removing a number of those procedures from Planning Board review, and making them administrative where appropriate.

Changes implemented in the minimum required setbacks from adjacent property lines, which recently went into effect, will give the town and providers more flexibility in the siting of these services which we know are in great demand.

An updated Town draft wireless communications plan will be publicly presented and discussed in the first months of 2023.

<https://ehamptonny.gov/742/Personal-Wireless-Communications>

Recreation

Overview: <https://ehamptonny.gov/248/Recreation>

Reinstituted winter basketball and wrestling programs following pandemic shutdown, to record enrollment

New pickleball courts in Montauk - Planning completed, construction bids to be issued early 2023

Rehab of Town basketball and tennis courts at Springs School – New hoop system installed, resurfacing and installation of pickleball court lines scheduled for spring 2023

New Park opened at Buckskill Meadows Preserve in Wainscott, offering multi-use, handicapped-accessible trail; dedicated in memory of Zachary Cohen, a community advocate and longtime Nature Preserve Committee chairman

Construction begun on two new baseball fields at the Town's Stephen Hand's Path recreational property to replace Pantigo Place ballfields displaced by the new Stony Brook Southampton Hospital satellite emergency room. Hospital to contribute \$1.75 million for the new field construction in exchange for the long-term lease of the Pantigo site.

Lars Simenson Montauk Skatepark reconstructed through public-private partnership resulting in a world-class skating facility

More handicapped-accessible trails, with a pavilion and bathrooms, at former Boys and Girls Harbor property on Three Mile Harbor in planning/development

Historic Preservation

Carl Fisher House in Montauk acquired and preserved; licensed for Montauk Historical Society administration

Second House Museum property in Montauk under reconstruction/restoration

Brooks-Park property in Springs – Michael Devonshire, a historic preservationist, engaged to advise on future use/ potential preservation of artists' house and studios

Updated Town list/ survey of historical buildings

Historic cemetery restoration

Infrastructure

New Senior Center – Plans under development for first EH Town “net zero” building, which will produce as much energy as it uses. Building site secured on Abraham’s Path in Amagansett; Designs prepared by R2 Architectural and Engineering following public engagement process to fully assess the needs of seniors and community in order to inform design. Final design choice under way. <https://ehamptonny.gov/610/New-East-Hampton-Senior-Center>

Reconstruction of West Lake comfort station begun

Springs Library/ Parsons Anderson House building repairs/improvements: new bathroom, handicapped parking, Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant ramp

Road infrastructure projects: Road and sidewalk repaving at various locations; Drainage projects ongoing at Stephen Hand’s Path in EH and Flamingo Road as well as Industrial Road in Montauk to address chronic flooding; Rough Riders area road improvement district

Roundabout at Stephen Hand’s Path/Long Lane in Montauk in planning/development to address congestion and safety concerns at one of our most heavily traveled roads

Cove Hollow stormwater and road runoff drainage pipe improvements to capture pollutants <http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9142/WQCoveHollowEngineeringRecsFinal-003?bidId=>

Montauk Gateway underground utilities project – burial of utility lines at entrance to downtown Montauk to improve scenic vistas along Old Montauk Highway and Route 27, and build resilience to storms that threaten the electrical grid

Harbors and Docks: Star Island dock improvements under way; pump-out tank replacements at Star Island and Gann Road; Montauk Inlet and East Jetty dredging; ongoing repairs and maintenance; improved fisheries gear storage

East Hampton Town Airport – Ongoing effort to respond to community concerns about aircraft noise and environmental impacts and implement local controls; Town’s implementation of “prior permission required” system regulating airport operations blocked by ongoing litigation; new SEQRA environmental review process begun on changes to the type or quantity of operations at the airport, as well as possible permanent closure, in response to court decision

<https://ehamptonny.gov/745/Airport-Public-Engagement-Process>

Airport tree obstructions removed, engineering work completed on Runway 10 precision approach path lighting replacement, new rotating beacon procured and scheduled for installation

EH Town Police Department headquarters – capital projects to upgrade/repair

Town Information Technology Infrastructure: Ongoing file digitization of all town departments; hardware and software upgrades; completed initial steps for new public access portal for online applications and payments and internal staff workflow automation; secured funding for cybersecurity upgrades in 2023

Services

Local bus shuttle service provided by Hampton Hopper expanded to assist workforce train commuters using LIRR South Fork Commuter Connection service; additional bus added, routes expanded and modified in response to commuter needs

<http://www.ehamptonny.gov/623/South-Fork-Commuter-Connection-SFCC>

Free summer Montauk shuttle continued; in-hamlet transportation provided to ease traffic, parking issues

Police Services

Townwide emergency communications system upgrade continued – portable and mobile radio programming completed for all fire departments; tower site locations upgrades nearing completion

East Hampton Town Police Department successfully completed a five-year assessment through NYS Division of Criminal Justice Accreditation Council, achieving highest standards and NYS recognition

Green, Renewable Energy and Community Sustainability

Coastal Assessment Resiliency Plan (CARP) completed, assessing East Hampton Town’s vulnerabilities and recommending plans and procedures to increase resilience and ability to adopt to the impacts of climate change

<https://ehamptonny.gov/574/Coastal-Assessment-Resiliency-Plan>

Solar Roof installed at Parks Dept. building, with battery energy storage system

Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling program grant to educate and inform the community of the Town's recycling program and encourage more residents to separate their recyclable materials

Clean Water East Hampton program: Water quality projects oversight including pilot permeable reactive barrier project at Tanbark Creek

<http://ehamptonny.gov/640/Clean-Water-East-Hampton-Program>

http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14353/Tanbark-PRB-Fact-Sheet_MGredline?bidId=

South Fork Peak Savers – continued participation grid peak load reduction program to avoid need for use of diesel-powered “peaker” plants to augment electric grid

<http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5046/pr-rel-energy-load-relief-program-July-2020?bidId=>

Energize East Hampton and Solarize East Hampton– educational webinars, public information on electric vehicles, green heating and cooling, home energy audits, green building, solar energy, etc.; Incentive programs providing consumer savings

<https://energizeeh.org/> , <https://energizeeh.org/solar/>

Replaced furnace at Springs Library building with a heat pump

Conducted feasibility study regarding HVAC systems at town buildings to evaluate transition from fossil fuel systems to clean energy for heating and cooling systems (heat pumps)

Living Shorelines design grant -- \$350,000 federal grant for planning flood mitigation project

<http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15617/Living-Shorelines?bidId=>

Consultants hired to complete Town of East Hampton 100 Percent Renewable Energy roadmap to outline strategies and steps needed to achieve Town's sustainability goals of meeting community-wide energy consumption through renewable sources by 2030 – including request for proposals for a Community Choice Aggregation program, energy benchmarking for municipal buildings, fleet electrification, and many other energy sustainability initiatives

Endangered species management including piping plover protection

<http://ehamptonny.gov/244/Endangered-Species-Management>

Electric Vehicle Fleet and Public EV charging stations: Per EH Town Fleet Efficiency Policy, continued replacement of internal combustion engine vehicles with electric vehicles; Town awarded a \$250,000 NYS grant toward the installation of 20 additional electric vehicle charging stations on the Town Hall campus to augment 22 already installed by Town in public parking lots (expected completion 2023)

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2022-Announcements/2022-01-19-Governor-Hochul-Adds-12-Million-to-Program>

<https://ehamptonny.gov/717/Electric-Vehicles>

Green landscaping – New pollinator garden begun on Town Hall campus

<http://ehamptonny.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=610>

Free Energize East Hampton webinars continued

<https://energizeeh.org/outreach-events/>

Smart streetlighting – Replacement of streetlights with energy and cost-saving LED bulbs. Plans finalized, installation scheduled for spring 2023

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13921/NYPA-LED-Street-Light-Conversion-Presentation-822022?bidId=>

Town of East Hampton awarded a Certificate of Clean Energy Leadership by the LI Clean Energy Leadership Task Force and the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College

Public Outreach, Information, and Advocacy

Town website “Current Town Projects” sections created and regularly updated to provide public information: Airport Public Engagement Process, Community Housing, Emergency Communications System Upgrade, New East Hampton Senior Center, Personal Wireless Communications, and Montauk Community Wastewater Treatment

<http://ehamptonny.gov/>

New Town website “Current Town Projects” section launched: “Green East Hampton” compiles accomplishments and initiatives in energy and sustainability, green energy, water quality improvement, coastal planning, etc.

<https://ehamptonny.gov/840/Green-East-Hampton>

“Town Board Work Session Presentations and Documents” section of “Current Town Projects”: Relevant materials posted weekly on website for each Town board meeting

<http://ehamptonny.gov/710/View-Materials>

“News and Announcements” website section continually updated with current news and information <http://ehamptonny.gov/>

“Ask the Supervisor” live weekly LTV channel 22 cable show with Supervisor Van Scoyoc

“Diversity Show” – LTV channel 22 cable show sponsored by Anti-Bias Task Force

New Anti-Bias Task Force brochure created to provide information on community resources

Press releases issued as needed

Information flyers and Frequently Asked Questions created/ distributed/ posted on topics of import, including the Community Housing Fund referendum and the Montauk Community Wastewater Treatment project

QR codes utilized on public outreach materials to link to additional information

Letters written to state officials, etc., to address issues of import and concern to EH residents; support initiatives and legislation that benefit EH Town, including support of revised State Liquor

Authority regulations to benefit off-site caterers, and local jurisdiction over minimum speed limits on town roads

Social Media: Town of East Hampton posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter 4 to 6 times per week

<https://www.facebook.com/townofeasthampton>

<https://twitter.com/EastHamptonTown>

<https://www.instagram.com/townofeasthampton/>

Legislative/Administrative

Bureau of Administrative Adjudication established; streamlined administrative procedures for processing of tickets for certain kinds of infractions, freeing Police, Harbor Patrol, and Ordinance Enforcement officers for more patrol time

Town littering laws amended to prohibit “drag-out” of dirt, gravel, etc. onto public roads and to require the covering of yard waste being transported in vehicles

Zoning code amendment regarding outdoor dining at restaurants and takeout food stores, creating an administrative permit process to allow for ease of approval under a pilot program

Building Department online services launched: Online Rental Registry applications and information requests
