



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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EAST HAMPTON TOWN WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO MONTAUK WASTEWATER ISSUE

The Town of East Hampton remains concerned about the lack of adequate septic systems and sewage treatment in densely developed areas of Montauk, and the environmental impacts to surrounding surface waters and human health.

The decision yesterday by the Suffolk County Parks Commission not to recommend that county officials move forward with a land swap that would have provided the Town with property where a wastewater treatment site could be placed, but would require alienation of a parcel of County parkland, was disappointing.

The land in question, 14 acres adjacent to the former town landfill, was identified as the only viable location for the wastewater treatment after a thorough analysis of Montauk parcels.

Working with engineering consultants and an appointed citizens' advisory group, the Town has been discussing preliminary plans for a proposed centralized wastewater treatment plant. The plant would be initially designed to accommodate a downtown sewer district but could be expanded to include other areas of Montauk, collecting and treating an estimated half-million gallons of waste from the four areas identified in a wastewater study – the Montauk docks area, vicinity of the LIRR station, and Ditch Plains, in addition to downtown.

Effective sewage treatment through a centralized system would allow long-range planning goals for the hamlet, such as coastal adaptation in response to sea level rise and eroding shorelines, as outlined in the Montauk hamlet plan and East Hampton Town's comprehensive plan, to move forward.

According to initial plans for the proposed treatment plant, clearing of 2.8 acres would be required, with 4.7 cleared acres needed at full buildout. In exchange for the County land, the Town had proposed giving the County an 18.8-acre parcel on East Lake Drive, adjacent to Third House County Park.

The Town will continue to seek solutions to the ongoing wastewater problem in Montauk, where inadequate individual septic systems on properties in areas such as the downtown business district result in a release of raw sewage that exceeds Health Department standards.