



# TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MONTAUK BEACH TO BE RESTORED AND REPLENISHED WITH SAND BY ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**Contractor selected for downtown Montauk section of Army Corps Fire Island to Montauk Point coastal restoration project (FIMP); Work in Montauk slated to immediately follow Fire Island beach restoration, which is scheduled to begin this fall**

**The \$11.2 million sand-only beach refurbishment at full federal cost will create a wider, more resilient beach in downtown Montauk; is expected to take several months and be completed prior to the 2024 summer season**

After more than six decades of review and planning, the Army Corps of Engineers' Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation project, known as FIMP, a coastal restoration and protection effort covering the 83 miles of shoreline from Fire Island to Montauk Point that includes beach renourishment, is slated to begin in Montauk in the coming months.

The work in Montauk has been approved and authorized as part of a Fire Island/Moriches Inlet contract, and the bid awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company on Friday. After completing the work at Fire Island, which is expected to take several months, the contractor will turn to Montauk. An estimated Montauk start date will be calculated by the Army Corps based on the timing and progress made at Fire Island.

A full replenishment of the Montauk beach was not initially included in the federal FIMP project plan but town officials, led by then-Supervisor Larry Cantwell, negotiated its inclusion, with support from regional and Congressional elected representatives.

In addition, the scheduled beach renourishment in Montauk was recently accelerated by approximately a year following recent successful lobbying efforts by East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc and town staff to have the work included as part of emergency work being conducted on Fire Island.

Approximately 450,000 cubic yards of clean sand compatible with the existing downtown Montauk beach will be dredged and pumped from an offshore “borrow site” off Napeague, and placed on a length of beach between the Benson Reservation on the west, to just east of Surfside Place.

The additional sand will extend the beach area both above and below sea level to create a wider beach that is more resistant to future erosion and storms.

To manage the risk of coastal storm damage along Long Island’s Atlantic coast the Army Corps began consideration in the 1950s of the Fire Island to Montauk Point comprehensive, long-term plan of protection known as FIMP, for areas prone to flooding, erosion, and other storm damage, such as downtown Montauk.

The impacts of Superstorm Sandy in 2012 precipitated some emergency measures that were undertaken in advance of the start of the full FIMP project. In 2016, the Army Corps completed the Downtown Montauk Stabilization Project, reinforcing approximately 3,100 feet of shoreline with sand-filled geotextile bags to protect downtown Montauk businesses left vulnerable after severe erosion caused by Sandy. Since then, according to an agreement with the Army Corps and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, East Hampton Town and Suffolk County have shared the cost of annually replenishing the sand covering the bags.

Public access to the beach will be maintained during the beach restoration process, though active work areas will be blocked off for safety. The Town parking lot at Kirk Park will be used by the contractor as a staging area. East Hampton Town will keep residents informed by posting information on its website, at <http://ehamptonny.gov/531/ACOE-Fire-Island-to-Montauk-Point-FIMP-P> and with periodic updates through press releases and social media.

After completion of the upcoming work in Montauk, periodic beach renourishment with 400,000 to 450,000 cubic yards of sand is expected to take place every four years, for three decades following the initial project. The cost of that work will be shared between the Army Corps, New York State, and the local municipalities, pursuant to a future agreement.