

Suffolk County, New York

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

July 31, 2022

Note: The Recovery Plan Performance Report will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects that recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. While this template includes the minimum requirements for the Recovery Plan, each recipient is encouraged to add information to the plan that they feel is appropriate to provide information to their constituents on efforts they are taking to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

Each jurisdiction may determine the general form and content of the Recovery Plan, as long as it meets the reporting requirements, and recipients are encouraged to tailor this template to best meet their needs. Use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements are encouraged.

Suffolk County, New York
2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Suffolk County was severely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and allotted \$286.8 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) through State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), approximately \$277 million of which is eligible for use under the Government Services from Revenue Loss category of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The County originally obligated \$71.3 million of ARP funding to restore budget cuts that were included in the 2021 Adopted Budget due to pandemic related expenditure constraints however only \$6.9M of ARP funds were needed. The County will use the remaining funds to stimulate the economy and create jobs by using the monies as follows in this report.

During the pandemic the County stood up several vaccinations POD's in the community with a special focus on underserved communities. The County provided vaccination clinics at churches, senior citizen centers, libraries, firehouses and various other centers of the community in order to reach as many residents as possible. This year when the vaccine was approved for children under 12 the County once again ramped up its effort and provided vaccination clinics throughout the county.

As of July 28, 2022 source: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
Suffolk County Residents:

Fully Vaccinated Total Population:	77.0%
Population 12yrs and older:	86.1%

The County obligated \$42 million of ARP funds for the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative – Forge River Watershed Sewer Project.

- Water Forge River Watershed Sewer Project \$42 million. On Jan. 27, 2022, Suffolk County commenced with the ground breaking of the Forge River Watershed Sewer project in Mastic/Shirley, marking the start of a \$224 million Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative (SCCRI) project that will bring much needed economic and environmental benefits the Mastic/Shirley communities. Construction of the entire project is estimated to take four years. ARP funds are being used for the first 4 contract steps of the project, the last of which is estimated to begin in fall of 2022.

The new sewer district will include a wastewater treatment plant that will serve residents and businesses in nearby Mastic-Shirley. This project also includes individual sewer connections and a new conveyance system for approximately 1,900 parcels. This new infrastructure will replace existing septic systems that have been identified as the primary source of the nitrogen that is polluting the Forge River, marshlands, and the local bay.

Planned uses for the remaining ARP funds are for non-recurring infrastructure and economic development projects that invest in the growth and resiliency of the County in accordance with the Revenue Loss guidance provided by the US Treasury. Currently, planned programs include:

- The Water Infrastructure program \$125 million. This program's mission is to fund projects whose aim is to reduce nitrogen pollution by eliminating old cesspools and septic systems through sewer connections and the installation of Innovative Alternative Wastewater Systems. These projects will strengthen the resilience of the County's shoreline and improve water quality throughout the County in accordance with the [Suffolk County 9E Subwatersheds Plan](#). Planned uses include:
 - Sewer expansion project in downtown Huntington - \$22.2 million
 - Sewer planning project in Central Islip - \$ 3 million
 - Innovative Alternative Wastewater systems - \$ 6 million
 - Coastal resiliency planning funds - \$1 million
- Main Street Recovery program \$ 35 million. This program will fund projects to preserve and strengthen the vibrancy of downtown business areas which are key to the County's economic recovery. Potential programs include funding for arts and cultural anchor programs and a downtown vacancy reduction program.

Uses of Funds

(EC 6) Revenue Replacement (EC 6) General Government services \$ 7 million. The County used \$6.9 million in 2021 to restore budgetary reductions, an additional \$45 thousand was spent in the 1st half 2022 for General Government services related to the water infrastructure program.

(EC 5) Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5): Forge River Sewer Project: The American Rescue Plan Act provided the much needed funding to get this \$224 million initiative back on track after construction was delayed due to the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the County. The delays due to the pandemic resulted in cost increases that could have derailed this critical infrastructure project. Instead, with the receipt of ARP funds, the project was able to break ground on January 27, 2022. To date, three project contracts have been awarded to local Long Island contractors, which together total over \$33 million dollars in direct economic investment. The economic impact of the entire project is projected to exceed \$342 million and employ over 500 construction and other related service jobs.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The Forge River Sewer Project will deliver climate and economic equity to the Mastic/Shirley community. Decades of nitrogen pollution from outdated, poorly functioning or broken septic systems and cesspools have contributed significantly to polluting the Forge River and groundwater in the Mastic-Shirley area. Hurricanes, nor'easters, and other significant rain events that have led to flooding, as well as an unusually high water table that contributed to the problem.

The Census information for the Mastic/Shirley communities that will directly benefit from the ARP funded leg of the Forge River Sewer District project:

Census Tract	Tract Income Level	Median Family Income %	2021 Est Median Family Income	Tract Population	Tract Minority %	Minority Population
1594.04	Low	47.56%	129,900	7635	44.83%	3423

ffiec.gov

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken for this project:

- Suffolk County has held numerous community events to educate Mastic and Shirley area residents about the Forge River Watershed Sewer Project. Events include:
- Numerous Open Houses and Public Information Sessions utilizing display boards and County/State personnel. Each event allowed residents to ask questions about the project and have an open dialect about their needs.
- Environmental Review study with a Public Hearing
- NYS Governor's Office of Storm Recovery solicited public comments
- In 2019 the County put a referendum vote to the residents in Mastic/Shirley who voted 414 to 71 to create the Forge River Watershed Sewer Project.
- There is a project website to keep stakeholders and the public-at-large up-to-date: <https://www.forgewatershedsewers.com/>

Labor Practices

- New York State Labor Law requires public work contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers, or mechanics employed in the performance of a public work contract not less than prevailing rate of wage and supplement (fringe benefits) in the locality where the work is performed.
- The County is committed to strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects, while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers.
- The County has entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to guide construction of the treatment facility for the Forge River Sewer District, which will be funded in part using ARP funds. This will ensure that this important infrastructure project will utilize strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality sewers, while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The County will follow all applicable Federal rules for labor practices when using ARP funds for the projects.

Use of Evidence

The Forge River project as well as the other SCCRI sewer projects and numerous other wastewater projects, guidance and regulations are all part of the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP) which was approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as Nine Element (9E) Plan.

The 9E program is designed to encourage municipalities to develop watershed based plans for improving water quality including [nine key elements \(refer to the NYSDEC website for more details on 9E plans\)](#). “The County’s 9E Plan is the first of its kind, as it addresses nitrogen pollution throughout an entire county.” said James M. Tierney, Deputy Commissioner of the NYSDEC. This historic first will open the County’s watersheds up for additional State and Federal funding opportunities to advance water quality improvement initiatives.

The final SWP incorporating minor revisions to the February 2020 revised SWP to satisfy the requirements of the 9E Watershed Plan program was published in July 2020, and is [available here](#).

The SWP is a rigorous, science-based roadmap for transitioning away from reliance on conventional cesspools and septic systems, which are the primary source of nitrogen pollution that has fouled local bays.

A Reclaim Our Water initiative, the strategy documented in the Suffolk County SWP was developed in partnership with the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) and in collaboration with numerous project partners, stakeholders, and technical experts. The SWP is the product of years of intensive research, documentation, modeling, and evaluation of all of Suffolk County’s water resources and provides a parcel-specific roadmap on how to address the nitrogen crisis through wastewater upgrades and other nitrogen pollution mitigation strategies. The plan seeks to arrest and reverse the existing trend of degrading water quality over a 10 year period.

"The strength of this plan is the incredibly strong and sound science on which it is based. The County has taken what may be the largest and most comprehensive water quality data set generated by any county in the country and has generated a robust, comprehensive, and forward thinking plan to restore Suffolk County's most vital resource: Its drinking water and surface waters. While I have spent my career documenting the degradation of Long Island's fisheries and aquatic habitats, it is inspiring to finally see a plan designed and implemented that will reverse course on decades of negative trajectories. The citizens of Suffolk County will reap the benefits of this plan for decades to come." - Christopher J. Gobler, Ph.D., Endowed Chair of Coastal Ecology and Conservation School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Director, New York State Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University

Performance Report

All project performance information including, maps, timelines, construction status and past and future steps can all be found on the project management website:

<https://www.forgewatershedsewers.com/>

Upon project completion, water quality monitoring will continue and results such as nitrogen levels will be tracked against baseline levels.

Project Inventory

Project CP8134: Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative - Forge River

Funding amount: \$41,955,242

Project Expenditure Category: 5.2 (Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance)

Project overview

- Forge River Watershed Sewer Project \$42 million. On Jan. 27, 2022, Suffolk County commenced with the ground breaking of the Forge River Watershed Sewer project in Mastic/Shirley, The Forge River project will bring much needed economic and environmental benefits to the Mastic/Shirley communities where the project is being constructed and will increase the climate resiliency of the County overall. Construction of the entire Forge River project is estimated to take four years. The ARP funded leg of the project is estimated to be completed in 2 years.
- Link to the website: <https://www.forgewatershedsewers.com>
- *How project contributes to addressing climate change (for infrastructure projects under EC 5) Website:* [Suffolk County Reclaim Our Water 9E Subwatershed Plan](#)

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Additional Projects: Not Applicable at this time

Performance Report

- *For the Project Inventories in Section 8, include key performance indicators for your jurisdiction's major SLFRF funded projects. Report key performance indicators for each project, or group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. Jurisdictions may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators. Include both output and outcome measures. See Section C(9) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.*
- *In addition, you must include the mandatory performance indicators if your jurisdiction has projects in the relevant areas (this information may be included in each recipient's Recovery Plan as they determine most appropriate). Provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, if possible. Data should be presented in a table and each annual report should include updated data for the performance period as well as prior period data.*
 - a. *Household Assistance (EC 2.2 & 2.5) and Housing Support (EC 3.10-3.12):*
 - *Number of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)*
 - *Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed*
 - b. *Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):*
 - *Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs*
 - *Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs*
 - *Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs*
 - c. *Education Assistance (EC 3.1-3.5):*
 - *Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs*
 - d. *Healthy Childhood Environments (EC 3.6-3.9):*
 - *Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3- 5)*
 - *Number of families served by home visiting*

See Section C(10) on page 27 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision (States and territories only)

For the initial reporting year, States and territories will report the following items related to the Tax Offset Provision 31 CFR 35.8. Baseline revenue or revenue-increasing covered charges are not required at this time.

Item	Amount
a. Revenue-reducing Covered Changes	\$

See Section C(11) on page 28 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Additional guidance will be forthcoming for reporting requirements regarding the tax offset provision.