Brookhaven Completes Swan Lake Greenbelt with Demolition of Last Commercial Building On Waterfront
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EAST PATCHOGUE, NY - Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei and Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington were joined by East Patchogue residents and community leaders to witness the demolition of the last remaining commercial structure located on the shore of Swan Lake in East Patchogue.

"This is the last piece in the puzzle, completing this open space park along Swan Lake for our residents," said Councilman Mazzei, who sponsored the resolution to acquire the property. "When I was growing up, it was all but impossible to see Swan Lake from Montauk Highway, hidden behind car lots, repair shops and other stores. Now, our residents will be able to fully enjoy the beauty of this lake, whether they are taking advantage of the park here, or just passing by. I want to thank Legislator Eddington for working so closely with me to make this long-anticipated project a reality."

"The demolition of this building today will be a great improvement to the Montauk Highway corridor in East Patchogue, improving the quality of life for our residents and allowing us to expand this park for our families to enjoy," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

Brookhaven acquired the building in June for $280,000 with funds from the Clean Water Open Space Bond Act of 2004. This is the last in a series of purchases of buildings on the lakefront, which have been demolished to create a park along the shore - revealing sweeping views of Swan Lake from Montauk Highway for the first time in over 50 years. Once the property has been cleared, it will be maintained as parkland by Suffolk County.

"Removal of this building will allow us to have one continuous and beautiful park. It has been a pleasure working with Councilman Mazzei, and this project is a terrific example of how the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County have been able to work together to deliver for East Patchogue," said Legislator Jack Eddington.

Located in East Patchogue just north of Montauk Highway and south of Sunrise Highway, Swan Lake is a key source of freshwater for the South Shore Estuary. Swan River is one of only a few free-flowing, spring-fed streams on Long Island that have remained in a relatively natural state. The lake is one the few lakes on Long Island that provide year round trout habitat, and is also home to a several warm water species. Fish found in Swan Lake include Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, Yellow Perch, Brown Bullhead, Brown Trout, and Rainbow Trout.

Last August, Councilman Mazzei sponsored legislation to provide funding for watershed management projects in the areas surrounding Swan Lake and Swan River in East Patchogue.

"This river is a key source of freshwater for the South Shore Estuary," said Councilman Timothy Mazzei. "By studying these watershed areas, and taking the appropriate actions, we can protect the environment of our rivers and coastal areas, so that our residents can enjoy them for generations to come."

Historically, the Swan Lake watershed area has provided important habitat for many freshwater and estuarine species and the river has provided recreational opportunities for boaters. Land use in the watershed areas is mostly residential, but there are also commercial, industrial and agricultural uses.

The Swan River project, which has completed its study, received $300,000, will include implementing non-point source pollution mitigation, constructing catch basins in the area, and installing storm water infiltration devices.