

# Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Bonner Announce Town Purchase of Open Space at Lake Panamoka

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*Aerial view of the Lake Panamoka property (outlined in red) which was recently purchased by the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County. Other parcels that the Town and County have acquired are outlined in green and yellow.*

**Farmingville, NY** - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner have announced a joint purchase by the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County of a .41 acre parcel of wetland open space in the northeastern corner of Lake Panamoka. The preservation of this piece of land provides a safe habitat for eastern tiger salamanders, which are currently on the New York State Endangered species list. It also supplements and completes an important open space acquisition project for the Town and County that has preserved a total of 9 parcels totaling nearly 4 acres in and around the lake. The cost of the recently purchased property is \$150,000, which is shared equally by the Town and County. Prior to this acquisition, the parcel was subject of a one lot development application to construct a single family house.

"The Town of Brookhaven has successfully acquired hundreds of acres of open space over the past two years. The acquisition of this property near Lake Panamoka will go a long way to protecting this jewel of a natural resource," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "I commend the Town Board for their support of open space preservation and thank the County for their participation on this and other acquisitions throughout the Town."

"Suffolk County is always happy to partner with municipalities like Brookhaven Town to further our mutual efforts to preserve and protect our environment and waterways," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy.

"The Town of Brookhaven and I share the resident's concerns about the protection of Lake Panamoka," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "This acquisition is just the latest effort to help protect water quality and the ecology of the lake. I'm proud to be a part of this effort."

Over the course of 2010, the Town preserved over 140 acres of open space and farmland development rights and over 200 acres are currently in contract for purchase.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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