PEP MINI GRANT: NINEVAH BEACH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION & STORMWATER ABATEMENT




BACKGROUND

Like most of Long Island, the Village of Sag Harbor has experienced increases in stormwater runoff and pollutants being washed into the bays. This has led to water quality impairment in surface waters, including Sag Harbor Bay, which is listed on the New York State Part 303d Impaired Waterbody List. This pollution has led to the closure of areas that were previously open to shellfish harvesting.

Ninevah Beach is in a critical area, bordered by Sag Harbor Bay to the north and Little Northwest Creek to the east. Ninevah Beach Property Owners' Association (NBPOA) has taken on this challenge by procuring and working to build out a green infrastructure plan for their community.

PROJECT DETAILS

This PEP-funded portion of NBPOA's ongoing project will focus on implementing a bio-infiltration rain garden system to improve water quality. Rain gardens provide natural treatment of pollutants, including solids, metals, nutrients, and hydrocarbons, before the water can recharge the groundwater. The plants help reduce pollution in storm water runoff by filtering water, stabilizing soil, and supporting nutrient uptake and habitat creation. Their roots trap sediments and pollutants, while dense foliage slows water flow allowing contaminants to settle before reaching the Creek.

By preventing contaminated water from flowing directly into Little Northwest Creek, the project helps protect this critical environmental resource.

METHODS

- Installation: 625 square foot (SF) Rain Garden along the right-of-way (ROW) and road end of Harding Terrace
- Infrastructure Retrofit: Replace pavement on the road end with the raingarden and reset the invert of the catch basin so that it acts as an overflow for large storms, rather than directing discharge to the creek.
- Functionality and Plants: The rain garden uses bio-infiltration, which means it uses a conditioned planting soil and plantings to manage and treat stormwater runoff. Stormwater will temporarily pool in the garden and slowly seep into the soil over one to two days. Eastern Long Island native plants will be used for added biodiversity and habitat benefit.

CCMP ACTIONS

Action 21: Expand non-point source subwatershed management plans to all pathogen-impaired waterbodies and continue to use existing plans.

PARTNERS

STATUS

Funded by 2025 Peconic Estuary Partnership Mini Grant Program. Project construction is completed and maintenance will continue.