

Project Background

The Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration Project is being supported with funding obtained by Sen. Charles Schumer and funding obtained through a competitive grant proposal submitted to NY State Energy Research and Development Authority. Total project funding is approximately \$435,000, plus some in-kind commitments from the Water Authority and several municipalities. In addition, the Town of Blooming Grove obtained state member items from Sen. William Larkin and Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun that will be used for related work. The federal funding is being administered by US EPA's Region 2 office in NY City.

The overall focus of this project is to identify promising approaches for remediating wastewater problems in communities served by inadequate or failing septic systems. Most of the work is planned to take place in Greenwood Lake, with a smaller portion of the project devoted to the Mountain Lodge park community in Blooming Grove. In both Greenwood Lake and Blooming Grove, the project will include a wastewater needs assessment to map septic systems, soils, groundwater, proximity to water bodies, and other key parameters and to use this information to prioritize areas for remediation activities. In Greenwood Lake, the project will also include design, construction, and monitoring of several demonstration systems to assess innovative technologies for wastewater management in sensitive watersheds, such as areas adjacent to lakes and reservoirs. A key focus for the Greenwood Lake project is removal or management of phosphorus, a key pollutant that causes significant water quality problems in freshwater systems and that has been identified as a primary source of the existing problems in Greenwood Lake. The demonstration systems will also include a focus on energy conservation and monitoring to meet the goals of the funding obtained from the Energy Research and Development Authority.