



**TOM CILMI**  
**Suffolk County Legislator**  
**10th District**

**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** January 8, 2016

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## **Champlin Creek Dredging Yields Far-Reaching Benefits**

### **Improved salt marsh conditions at Seatuck Wildlife Refuge**



Legislator Cilmi is shown with County Executive Steve Bellone, Enrico Nardone, Executive Director of Seatuck Environmental Association and Michelle Potter from the National Wildlife Refuge Complex to announce a collaborative effort to dredge Champlin Creek and restore salt marshes at Seatuck

Legislator Tom Cilmi joined County Executive Steve Bellone, Enrico Nardone, Executive Director of Seatuck Environmental Association and Michelle Potter, Refuge Manager for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex to announce a joint project between Suffolk County and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made possible, in part, with funds from the Federal Government.

The project involves dredging Champlin Creek and placing some of the dredged material at the Seatuck Wildlife Refuge in Islip.

Cilmi explained, “The benefits to this project are truly remarkable. With respect to the dredging itself, it doubles the width of the usual dredge channel at Champlin Creek from 50’ to 100’. That means much more navigable water for much longer for folks who use the Creek. It also means that the County will not have to dredge as frequently thus saving money. I believe it will also improve water quality as flow is increased.”

“Then there are the benefits associated with the marsh restoration,” Cilmi continued. “The sand from the dredging is being deposited at the Seatuck Wildlife Refuge on the east side of South Bay Avenue in Islip just across the way from the Suffolk County Environmental Center operated by Seatuck Environmental Association. Sand deposited will raise the level of the salt marsh there to facilitate a constant flow of water in and out with the tides, as opposed to the ponding that is currently happening. There will also be some planting there. This improved condition will be conducive to much healthier plant growth and robust animal life, including mosquito-eating fish. A similar project in Yaphank reduced the mosquito population by 70%! That obviously improves our quality of life naturally and reduces the need to use chemicals to kill mosquito larvae. Additionally, the improved condition at the marsh will mean increased storm protection or “coastal resiliency” in the area as it will allow for better absorption of storm surges and therefore reduced mainland flooding.”

“As if all of that isn’t enough, it works in conjunction with another project we’re working on to increase flow to the west side and improve the salt marshes at the Environmental Center,” Cilmi said. “This is really great news all around.”