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# Wreck Pond Phase 2 Restoration Project Groundbreaking

*U.S. Representative Chris Smith (NJ-04)  
Spring Lake, N.J.  
January 19, 2016*

Today's Wreck Pond Phase 2 Restoration Groundbreaking is cause for celebration and hope. I remember well joining Mayor Byrne and county officials looking at the water and contaminated mud in people's homes, after strong rains and after Spring Lake was moved into my district in 2003.

So in 2005 at my request, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved a resolution authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study of Wreck Pond.

Two years later at my invitation, Chairman Jim Oberstar—a Democrat and close friend—travelled to Spring Lake to personally assess the situation. He came away convinced that Wreck Pond flooding posed serious dangers and told me how impressed he was with Mayor Naughton, Council and local environmental leaders and I agreed.

Two years after that—in 2009—we secured funding for the Army Corps to expand its role in mitigating flooding and environmental hazards.

The Army Corps Wreck Pond recon study was completed in 2010.

In 2011, Commissioner Bob Martin's bold and effective leadership produced an action plan. In the ensuing year, he has forged consensus among disparate agencies and local, county, state and federal elected officials and stakeholders to make it all happen. The American Littoral Society, especially Tim Dillingham, has been amazing.

Ironically, it took the devastation of Superstorm Sandy to secure the requisite federal funds, combined with state and local dollars, totaling \$7.4 million, to finally dredge and build what will be a sustainable remedy to Wreck Pond flooding including a box culvert, berm and

living shoreline. The state-of-the-art outfall system is designed to improve tidal ocean flows and aquatic connectivity.

This has been a team effort from start to finish. The people of Spring Lake and adjacent communities deserve no less.