



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK BILL RIEBER

Like many towns in America, Thompson faces aging wastewater infrastructure. We're taking a proactive approach to upgrading these systems.

Most of the Town's current wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) were built decades ago to manage waste needs for a small population. WWTPs are responsible for collecting and cleaning wastewater so they are very important systems. Wastewater includes anything that goes down your pipes (unless you are on a septic or private wastewater system) such as sewage when you flush the toilet and whatever goes down your sink drains!

To ensure Thompson's systems can meet resident needs today, we have started upgrading our infrastructure – including major improvements to our Emerald Green and Kiamesha Lake WWTPs. These are two of the five WWTPs owned and operated by Thompson. The other three include Sacket Lake, Dillon Farms and Melody Lake. I will share more details about these plants once we begin upgrades to them.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT SEWER RENTS

Only properties that are located in a sewer district where a WWTP is sited will pay a share of the costs through "sewer rents." The Town consolidated sewer districts in 2020, resulting in lower sewer rents for most users. Sewer rents are NOT taxes: anyone who benefits from being in the sewer district pays them, even tax-exempt users.

It's not just the age of the WWTPs that is triggering these upgrades, recently issued New York State and Federal mandates require changes. For example, one way that wastewater is cleaned is through chlorination. In 2022, government mandates changed how much chlorine can be present in the water released into the environment. So, the Town is switching to a UV light disinfection process. It may sound simple, but the UV equipment costs millions! The ultimate goal is to protect our beautiful lakes and waterways, so we embrace these mandates.

As you can imagine, there is a cost involved with this undertaking. We have made it our mission to seek out as much grant funding as possible to offset costs. On the next page, I'll share what is being repaired – and the funds we've received to help minimize the cost for planned upgrades for Kiamesha and Emerald Green WWTPs.

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Rock Hill/Emerald Green Upgrades

The first part of the upgrades for this area involve rebuilding the Emerald Green WWTP which services 2,400 properties in the Emerald Green subdivision and surrounding areas plus businesses in Rock Hill. This plant was built in 1960 and last upgraded in 1993, so much of the equipment is in need of repair or replacement. Because of the new chlorine standards, new UV disinfection systems are needed as well.

The plant capacity will be increased from 410,000 to 475,000 gallons per day. And the plant will have its own on-site facility for processing waste – which is currently hauled to the Kiamesha WWTP.

To date, we've secured over \$3.8 million in grant funding. We're currently eligible for another \$6.9 million in funding this year. The estimated cost of the upgrades is \$13.5 to \$15 million. We plan to keep seeking grants to help cover costs.

The second part of the project is upgrading pump stations and collection systems at the southern end of Lake Louise Marie which were built between the 1950s and 1970s. Again, time has not been kind to these systems.

Kiamesha Lake Upgrades

The Kiamesha Lake WWTP serves over 1,000 residents along with businesses in the NYS Route 42 commercial corridor and the Resorts World Casino. Like the Emerald Green WWTP, Kiamesha Lake's plant was built decades ago in 1956. In addition, this plant includes maintenance buildings used by the Sewer Department staff – and these are in poor condition. Some will need to be demolished and rebuilt.

The Kiamesha WWTP takes in waste sludge from all of the Town's five WWTPs, then processes and disposes of it. The plant is currently struggling to keep up with the high volume of sludge it receives. The Town plans to install a cutting-edge Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion (ATAD) system that could reduce waste by up to 75%! Also, a UV disinfection system must be installed similar to the one at Emerald Green. New pumps and control systems are also needed.

The total for these upgrades is \$34 million with over \$7.4 million in grants secured to date. The Town is eligible for up to \$10.3 million in additional grant funding as well as 0% financing for whatever is not covered by grants.

Let me know if you have questions about these critical updates. Also visit www.ThompsonSewerUpgrades.com to view detailed plans, maps, and documents.



Oxidation ditches at Kiamesha Lake WWTP are in need of improvement.



A walkway over an oxidation ditch is in disrepair.



Working to remove a decades-old air pipe.



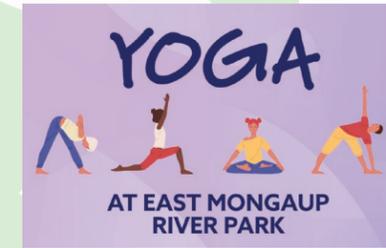
The view from the Emerald Green WWTP reminds us that these updates will protect our waterways.

SUMMER FUN AWAITS! PARKS & RECREATION UPDATES FOR 2023



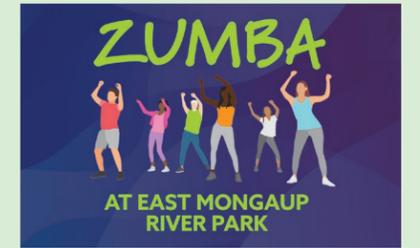
Join Us! July 21st Zoo Trip!

For just \$15, Thompson youth can hop on a bus provided by the Town and head to the Bronx Zoo. One adult per group of youth. Hurry! Spots are filling up fast so purchase your ticket today at our website or on Facebook.



Free Yoga July 1 & Aug. 5

Our first Yoga in the Park event in June was a success. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and join us again on July 1st and August 5th in the upper pavilion at East Mongaup River Park, noon - 1pm. All experience levels welcome.



Every Tuesday & Thursday Now Through September

Free for Town residents! Kick start your summer fitness with Zumba dance in the evenings at East Mongaup River Park from 5:30-6:30 pm. Just wear comfortable clothes and bring water to stay hydrated.



Saturdays and Sundays From Noon Until 3pm

Boys and girls of middle and high school age can join this free & fun league starting in July, indoors at Monticello H.S. Instruction provided; all skill levels welcome.



It's Back! Starting in July

Our free flag football league for boys and girls ages 5-18 returns on Saturdays from 9am until noon outdoors at Monticello H.S. All skill levels welcome. Instruction is provided.

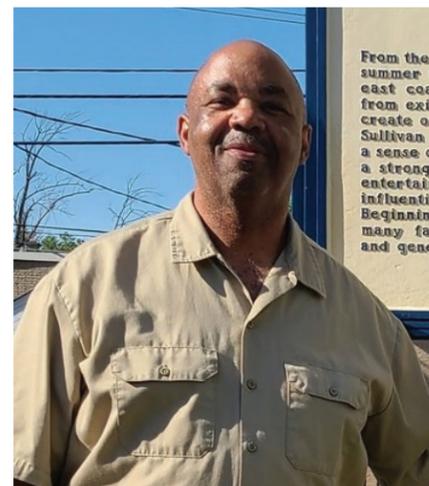


Explore Our 3 Town Parks

There are now 3 parks open which are run by the Town! Check out East Mongaup River Park (formerly Town of Thompson Park), Neversink River Access Park, and Lake Ida Park!

MEET NEW TOWN HISTORIAN AL DUMAS

As a lifelong resident of Thompson, Al Dumas looks forward to bringing Town history to life. Al credits his father for playing a big role in developing his love for local history. And Al's roots run deep in the area, as his family has been in Thompson for 96 years! Al retired from the Village of Monticello in 2020, and is involved in organizations including the Monticello Fire Department, the Sullivan County Human Rights Commission, and as a Sullivan County Sheriff Liaison. He graduated from Monticello Central School District and received an Associate Degree from SUNY Sullivan. Al is excited to pay it forward by sharing Thompson history with you at our website and on social media.





THE FUTURE OF THOMPSON IS GUIDED BY A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND IT'S BEING UPDATED!

The Town of Thompson's Comprehensive Plan (also called a master plan) was last revised in 1999. A great deal has happened since then, and an update to the plan is needed to help local officials develop policies and implement projects that guide future growth in a positive and proactive way, while preserving qualities that make the Town unique and special.

The planning process is being led by Town Planner Helen Budrock of Delaware Engineering, working collaboratively with Jim Carnell and Jill Weyer (Town Staff) and a 13-member volunteer committee. The committee is comprised of two members each from the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, and seven (7) members representing the community-at-large. Many members of the team are pictured above.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AS THOMPSON UPDATES ITS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Your participation is important as we shape the Town's future. There are a series of Community Conversations that you can join in. The first event was held in May and participants started a SWOT analysis for the Town. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Additional events will be held throughout the year. Some are virtual events - others are in person. You can also get involved by taking a short survey online right now at www.thompsonstogether.com. Your ideas and input are very important so please share them!

SHARE YOUR IDEAS! TAKE THE SHORT SURVEY NOW!



6 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THE TOWN OF THOMPSON

1. **Sign up** for our e-newsletter "Talk of the Town" by visiting bit.ly/thompsonemail
2. **Get text alerts** for weather and other important information by visiting bit.ly/thompsonalerts
3. **Join us** on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/TownofThompson
4. **Follow us** on Instagram at www.Instagram.com/TownofThompson
5. **Call us** at 845-794-2500
6. **Stop in and see us!** The Town Hall is open daily M-F from 8:30-4:30 at 4052 Route 42 in Monticello