

Beach Park Road / Hammock River

Project Updates -- December 2025

Project Purpose

The Beach Park Road Bridge and Tide Gate replacement project will replace the aging bridge and tide gate system. These improvements will reduce local flooding, improve road safety, and strengthen the health and longevity of the Hammock River marsh system. The project will replace the aging and undersized existing bridge with a 70-foot, storm-resilient structure and install a modern, standalone tide gate system that improves water management during high tides and storms. These upgrades will enhance roadway safety, protect surrounding neighborhoods, and support the long-term health of Clinton's coastal wetlands and wildlife.

Beach Park Road Construction Updates

Anticipated Project Timeline: May 2025 - July 2027

Work Completed (as of November 2025)

- Site preparation
- Initial excavation

Winter 2026 Milestones

- Continue cofferdam installation/work
- Structural excavation
- Tide gate concrete installation.

How are water levels being monitored /adjusted during the project?

Water levels within the project area are being monitored with real-time water level monitoring equipment. These devices allow the Project Team to receive alerts when preset thresholds are reached, so timely management actions can be implemented. The construction team will also use the existing and newly installed tide gates to control water levels in the construction zone and upstream marsh to prevent flooding.

What is the difference between the new and old tide gates?

The project will replace the old, broken wooden tide gates with two self-regulating tide gates and two flap gates that more than doubles the opening for tidal flow. This increase will allow for improved drainage of the upstream marsh and the new gates will allow for easier management of upstream water levels.

Self-regulating tide gates work through counterbalance with a float that results in the gate being open more often, and for longer periods of time. The gate closes when the water levels on the downstream side rise enough to push the float up, which closes the gate.

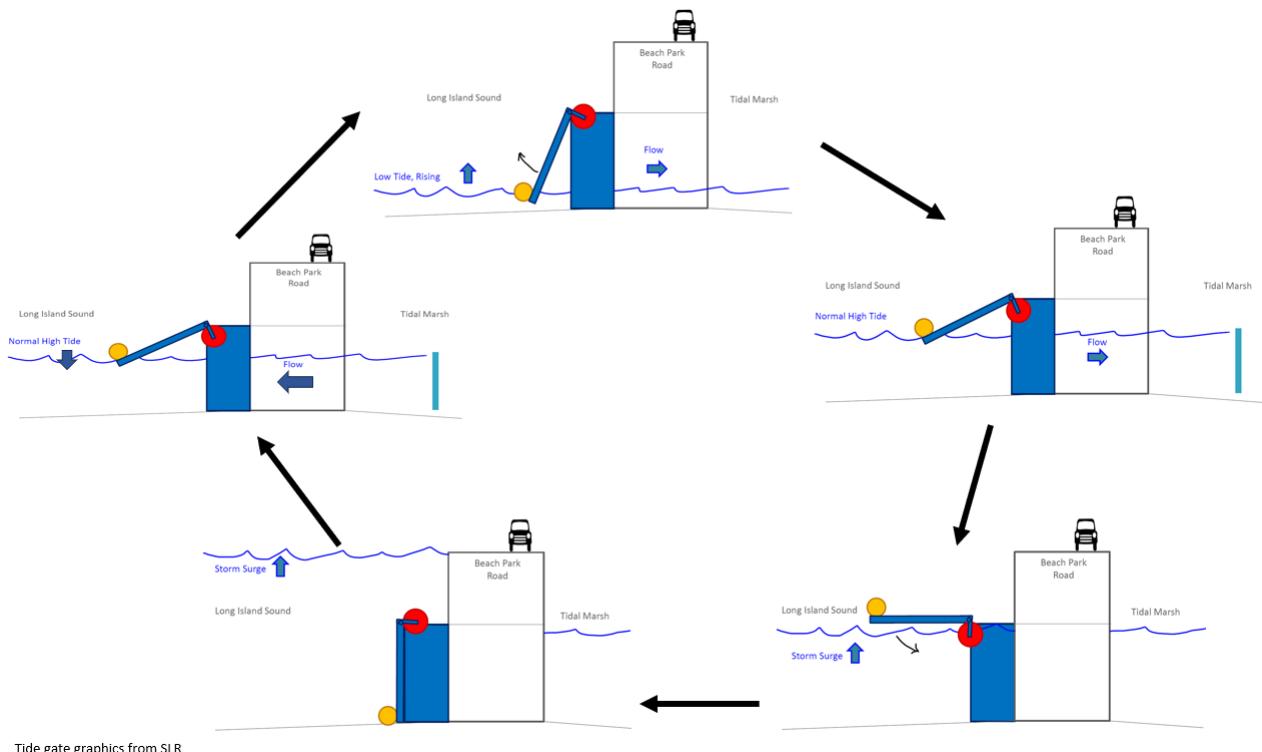


Diagram of the self-regulating tide gate operations under normal high tide and storm surge conditions.

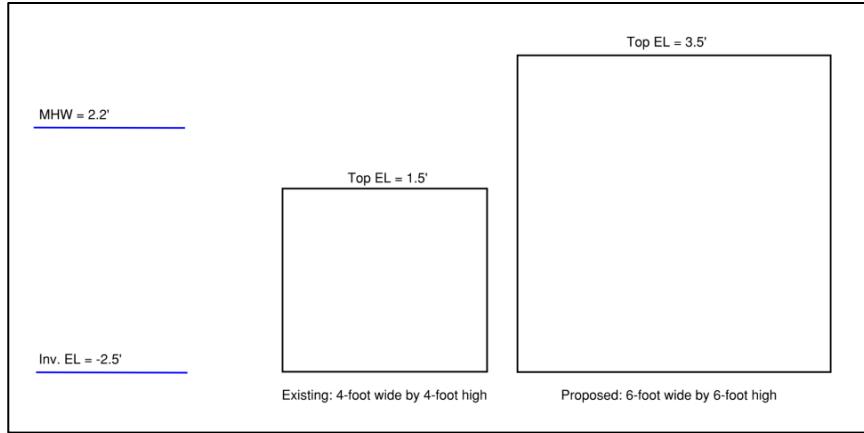


Diagram of the existing and planned tide gate openings.

The existing tide gate configuration is comprised of four 4-foot by 4-foot wooden flap gates, and the proposed configuration includes four 6-foot by 6-foot tide gates, which was determined by a two-dimensional unsteady hydraulic model developed to advise the design of the tide gate structure under various hydraulic conditions and to inform the tide gate type selection.

Will there be more flooding downstream of Beach Park Road when the gates are closed?

The water levels downstream of the tide gate are directly influenced by the tidal levels of Long Island Sound (LIS). The lower marsh downstream of the tide gates will fill to a maximum elevation of high tide regardless of whether the gates under Beach Park Road are open or closed.

When tides in LIS start rising, the lower marsh will begin to rise on a bit of a delay as the waters rush in beneath the Waterside Lane / Clinton Town Beach bridge and start filling the lower marsh. If the tide gates are open, then the rising tide will push water upstream beneath Beach Park Road and start filling the upper marsh. In this case, more water will rush in from LIS more quickly to take its place.

If the gates are closed, the water will stop flowing upstream of the road and water will simply slow down and stop entering the lower marsh from LIS.

In both cases, water levels in the lower marsh will stop rising once they reach the maximum level of tide in LIS and will not go higher than that.