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**OGS RECEIVES CIVIL ENGINEERS' AWARD FOR RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION
PROJECT IN YONKERS**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced that OGS was awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers Lower Hudson Valley Branch's Ward House Award (Small Project of the Year Award) for the Old Croton Aqueduct Retaining Wall Reconstruction Project in Yonkers. The project involved the repair of a historic stone retaining wall that collapsed and resulted in the evacuation of a senior housing complex and the closing of a portion of the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park Trail.

"Governor Cuomo's decision to declare a State Disaster Emergency enabled the OGS Design and Construction team and State Parks to engage emergency contractors and expedite the stabilization and repair of the aqueduct retaining wall," Commissioner Destito said. "The core mission of OGS is to provide services to state and local governments, and we are very pleased to have our efforts recognized with an award from the Lower Hudson Valley Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers."

Commissioner Rose Harvey said, "We are grateful for the collaboration and creativity of our sister agency, OGS, our State Parks staff, and the engineering and construction contractors on the team. All the partners worked together seamlessly along with the City of Yonkers making this project a success by many measures."

The Ward House Award, named after the historic William E. Ward House in Rye Brook, Westchester County, is presented for minor yet complex civil engineering projects in the Lower Hudson Valley.

On March 11, 2015 a portion of the historic stone retaining wall along the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park Trail collapsed in a landslide, sending mud and debris against a senior housing complex operated by the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers on Walsh Road. Officials evacuated the building.

Within a few hours of the landslide, OGS and Parks engaged an emergency contractor — Ciccone Construction — to stabilize the site and assigned McLaren Engineering to the project. In the ensuing days, the site was stabilized and monitored by the emergency contractor.

Before the end of March, Governor Cuomo enacted an executive order, declaring a State Disaster Emergency, which allowed OGS to solicit bids from a list of prequalified emergency contractors to construct a long-term solution for repairing the 320-foot stone retaining wall, which runs parallel to the nine-story housing complex. Moretrench was selected as the contractor and McLaren as the engineer of record for the project.

OGS, Parks, and the contractors worked collaboratively to further stabilize the site and build a new retaining wall. Particular emphasis was focused on the aesthetics of the wall, with Parks selecting a precast concrete panel with a stone form liner and column covers that would create a stone wall visual effect. The precast concrete was supplied by Lower Hudson Valley Precast.

The site was landscaped with indigenous plants, and the trail was reopened to the public.

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