

TPA TIMES

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RESTORE NEW YORK SPOTLIGHT

Revitalization in Riverhead: Atlantis Marine World

Administered by Empire State Development, the Restore New York program is designed to revitalize commercial and residential property; attract residents and business; and increase tax bases, making communities economically viable. Each month the TPA Times spotlights a tourism development project partially funded by the Restore New York program.

Long Island's "full-scale Aquarium" is getting made over thanks to Restore New York. Located on Main Street in Riverhead, Atlantis Marine World is themed around the "Lost City of Atlantis," and blends science and nature with myth to create an informative and entertaining environment for visitors of all ages. Guests to Atlantis Marine World discover a rich variety of experiences, from fascinating marine life exhibits to Aquatic Adventures and educational programs.



Expansion underway at Atlantis Marine World in Riverhead.

The aquarium is also home to the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation (RFMRP), New York State's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center. RFMRP rescues and rehabilitates many species of seals, sea turtles and dolphins at this unique facility, an important scientific and educational highlight in the State of New York.

The \$24 million Atlantis Marine World project, which includes \$2.4 million in Restore NY funds, includes enhancement of the existing aquarium to a 6.5 acre site, located within a New York State Empire Zone, adding approximately 140 permanent employees and 150 construction jobs for approximately 12-18 months. Aquarium affiliated businesses (marina, restaurant) project the creation of an additional 20 jobs. These improvements are aimed at eliminating blight and revitalizing this magnificent waterfront gateway to better attract visitors (projected to increase 20 percent to 480,000 per year) from the tri-state area and beyond.



Lost City of Atlantis Shark Shark Exhibit.

The project scope also encompasses demolition, reconstruction and expansion of anchor buildings in Riverhead's downtown. It included the reconstruction of two demolished under utilized properties into a five-story, 100-room Hyatt Place hotel and the addition of a two story changing exhibit gallery (including a "Butterflies of the World exhibit) and expanding on their existing catering business with a new banquet center.

For more information on Restore NY, please contact Diane Kinnicutt at dkinnicutt@empire.state.ny.us ♥

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