



LONG ISLAND SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE

An estuary is a sheltered coastal waterbody where ocean water meets and mixes with fresh water—both surface and ground water—draining from the estuary's watershed. Estuaries are among the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth, and each estuary is unique.

Long Island's South Shore Estuary was formed during the last 10,000 years by the interaction of rising seas with the glacially-deposited material that makes up Long Island. Wind, currents, tides, and coastal storms continue to re-shape Long Island's shoreline, tidal marshes, and the barrier

islands that shelter the five major shallow bays included in this diverse estuary.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve was created in response to Long Islanders concerned with the future health of the estuary and the many small businesses that depend upon its natural and cultural resources. The Reserve's bays and marshes are highly vulnerable habitats that support the largest concentration of water-dependent businesses in the State. Commercial and recreational fishing depend upon the health and abundance of the estuary's wildlife, which, in turn, depend upon clean water and available habitat.

The restoration and stewardship of the Reserve's natural resources and maritime traditions are guided by a comprehensive management plan that was completed in 2001.

The health of the Reserve depends upon the actions and stewardship of the millions of people that live, visit, work, and play in the estuary's bays and watershed. Learn more about the South Shore Estuary Reserve and make a difference!

Visit: www.estuary.cog.ny.us from home or your library or call: 1-516-470 BAYS today!



A fishing trawler at a Bay Shore dock.



Lighthouse at Fire Island National Seashore.



A Great Egret on the watch for dinner.



Examining the length of a local flounder.



Pleasure boats in the Bay Shore marina.





Bay Shore

A Historic Community on the Great South Bay

Bay Shore and the surrounding area, were called Penataquit, meaning "crooked creek," by the Secatogue Indians. In 1708, Queen Anne of England validated John Mowbray's purchase of the area from the Secatogues. Mowbray, a tailor and teacher from Southampton, is said to have paid for the land with "several eel spears." Early colonists earned their living harvesting fish, oysters, and salt hay. By 1776, area artisans had earned a reputation for building excellent boats, many of which were used against the British in the Revolutionary War.

In 1862 regular Bay Shore to Fire Island ferry service began. Soon afterward, Bay Shore became known as the "Garden Spot of Long Island" with the start of rail service in the 1880s carrying throngs of tourists to this seaside community of hotels, horse-drawn carriages, gas-lit streets, summer estates and sailing boats. Briefly, from 1915 to 1916, Bay Shore was a silent film industry center. After World War II, Bay Shore's summer tourists were replaced with permanent residents, as families fled the crowded city for the suburbs.

Today, Bay Shore is enjoying a renaissance with Touro College's new campus, an expanded YMCA and the revitalization of its downtown. Watchogue Creek Park is a new community gathering place for concerts and events. Three centuries later, this hamlet, located on the widest part of the Great South Bay, maintains its rich maritime heritage and architectural charm. Its a place for residents and visitors to enjoy a stroll, savor the catch of the day at a local restaurant, take a boat ride or simply gaze across the bay at the historic Fire Island Lighthouse.



Watchogue Creek Park in Bay Shore.



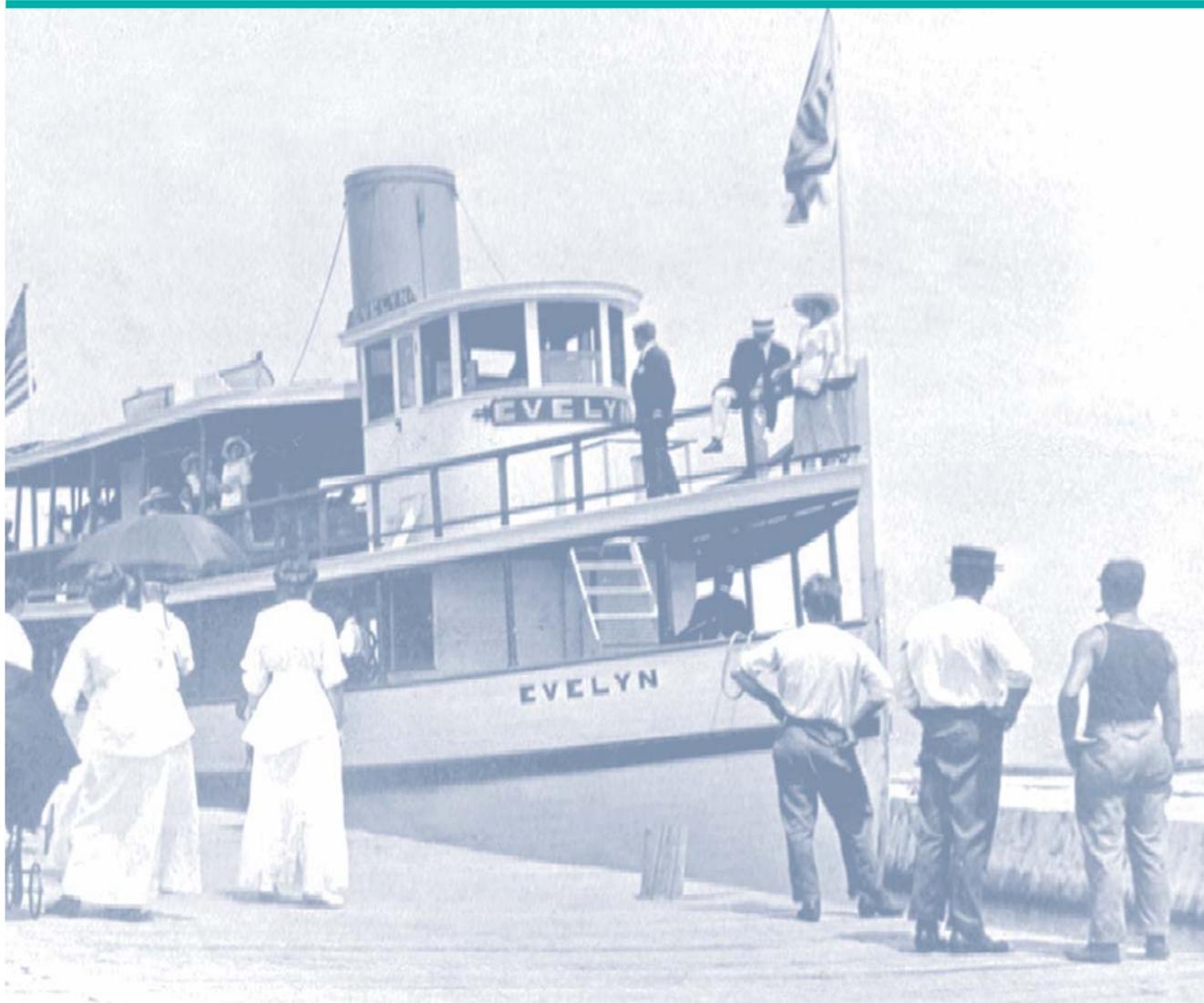
Bay Shore Ferry to Fire Island, Zee White.



The Bay Shore Band Shell at Dr. George King's Park.



The Vitagraph Studio.





New York State Coasts and Waterways

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES

George E. Pataki
Governor

Randy A. Daniels
Secretary of State

With 5,000 miles of coast and shoreline, New York State has been endowed with a great legacy. The Atlantic Ocean, Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, the vast lakes of Erie, Ontario, and Champlain, the Finger Lakes, the Adirondack lakes, and the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Niagara, Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers, all contribute to the state's quality of life. Each has played an important role in our history – home to Native American settlements, as gateways for immigration, and as highways for commerce and transportation. They provide food for the body, recreation and inspiration for the soul. In many ways, for many peoples, our coasts and shores have been and continue to be priceless treasures well worth our protection.

Through voluntary partnerships with local governments and community groups the State of New York supports coastal economies and protects ecosystems. By providing technical expertise and financial assistance, it helps to revitalize waterfront communities, safeguard estuaries, provide recreation, sustain historic maritime communities, and continually strives to improve New York's invaluable coastlines.



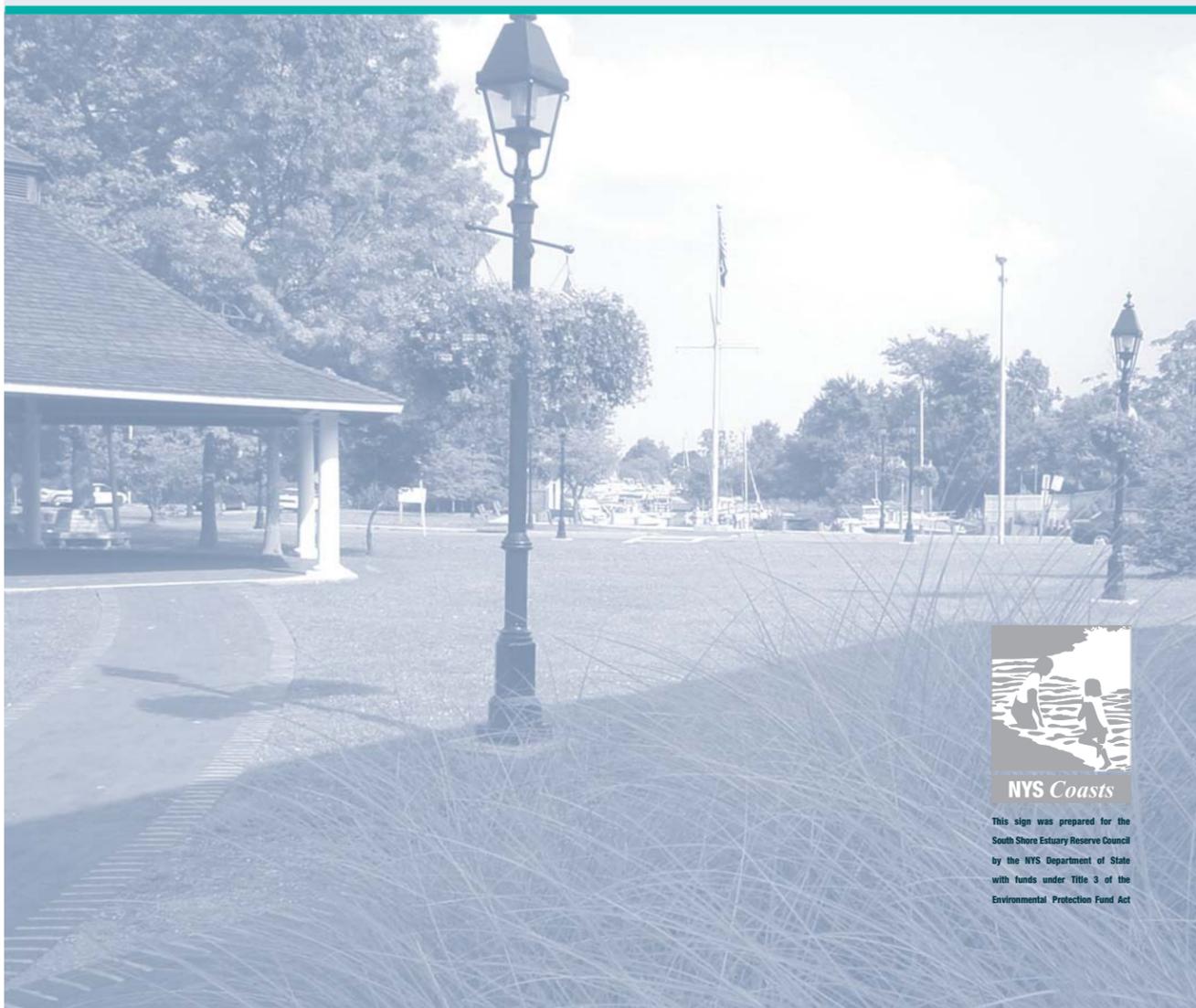
The world-famous Niagara Falls.



The George Washington Bridge spans the Hudson River.



Seneca Lake landing is located in the Finger Lakes region.



NYS Coasts

This sign was prepared for the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council by the NYS Department of State with funds under Title 3 of the Environmental Protection Fund Act