

Town of Southold
LWRP Monitoring Report
December 2012

Community Background:

The Town of Southold is located at the eastern extreme of Long Island, at the end of the northern peninsula known as the North Fork. It is the eastern-most township on the North Fork and is bordered to the west by the Town of Riverhead and to the south by the Town of Shelter Island. The incorporated Village of Greenport lies within the Town of Southold. The entire Town, including Fishers, Plum and Robins islands, is approximately 54 square miles in size with approximately 163 linear miles of coastline. It is long and narrow in shape, with the mainland extending 21 miles from the Riverhead town line east to Orient Point.

The Town is surrounded by the marine waters of the Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Gardiners Bay, and the bays of the Peconic Estuary. There are five islands located within the municipal jurisdiction of the Town. Fishers Island (approximately 3200 acres) is located 13 miles northeast of the mainland of Southold and 3 miles south of the Connecticut coastline on Fishers Island Sound. Plum Island and the Gull Islands are owned by the Federal government. Plum Island (847 acres), located 0.5 miles east of Orient Point, is utilized for government research and access is restricted. Great Gull Island (25 acres) and Little Gull Island (5 acres) are uninhabited islands serving primarily as bird nesting refuges. They are located between Plum Island and Fishers Island. Robins Island (435 acres), presently a largely undeveloped island in private ownership, lies approximately 1.25 miles southwest of Little Hog Neck, in the Great Peconic Bay.

The Town of Southold developed as a series of discrete traditional hamlets separated by expanses of agricultural land. These hamlets include Laurel, Mattituck, Cutchogue, New Suffolk, Peconic, Southold, East Marion and Orient. There is also a small hamlet on Fishers Island. These hamlets are the main centers of residential development and commercial activity within the Town of Southold and form the community framework of the Town with which its residents identify. The importance of the historical development of the hamlets and their crucial role in the current development patterns within the Town are a recurring theme throughout the LWRP and highlighted by the Town of Southold LWRP Hamlet Study.

Collaborations with Department of State:

Upon completion of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) in 2004, the Town of Southold has worked to advance its implementation. The Town's grants partnership with the Department began in 1994 with two grants funded under Title 11 of the New York State Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP) – one to

prepare an erosion management plan and another to prepare a Harbor Management Plan. Building on those initial grants, the Town was subsequently awarded 26 other grants. The total amount awarded to the Town through the EPF LWRP grants program since 1994 has been \$2.78M. (Please see list of projects at the end of this document).

Additionally, the Town has worked with the Department to prepare an amendment to the Town's LWRP to update the Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat (SCFWH) narratives for those SCFWHs within Long Island Sound and also to update the Town Local Waterfront Consistency Review Law to exempt certain minor actions that have minimal impact on the Town's waterfront. The Town is currently adopting local laws to implement the LWRP; once that is complete, the New York Secretary of State will be able to approve the LWRP amendment.

LWRP Monitoring Process:

The goal of the monitoring process is for the Department of State-Division of Coastal Resources (DCR) to assess a community's consistency with its LWRP and to understand implementation activities and decision-making procedures related to the LWRP. Additionally, this process provides a forum for the community to highlight successes, and request technical and financial assistance for program implementation.

The DCR began the Town of Southold's LWRP monitoring process with a phone call to the Town's LWRP coordinator to describe that the Town had been selected by DCR to participate in the LWRP monitoring project. A follow-up letter was sent to provide information relating to what the process would involve, and a list of survey questions was attached. The letter indicated that a conference call would take place between DCR representatives and key municipal officials to answer the (survey) questions; a follow-up site visit/meeting would be arranged to review the responses provided in the survey.

The conference call to discuss the Town's answers to the survey questions was informative and provided the details necessary for DCR to make its assessment. Mark Terry, the Town's LWRP Coordinator, participated in the call and provided further explanation to his responses to the survey questions.

As a follow-up to the call, DCR's Local and Regional Programs Staff met with Mark Terry to discuss the status of some of the Town's ongoing projects and to discuss impacts to the Town from Hurricane Sandy. A tour of the Town's waterfront and projects will be conducted in the Spring of 2013.

Division of Coastal Resources Findings:

Overview

Overall, the *Town of Southold Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)* (adopted November 30, 2004) is the primary document that guides waterfront revitalization within the Town and identifies a variety of projects for its implementation. In 2010, the Town and the Department prepared an amendment to the Town's LWRP to update the Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats (SCFWHs) within the Town – which included the amendment of two SCFWHs and the addition of three new SCFWHs. The amendment also included recent amendments to the Town's Waterfront Consistency Review Law to exempt minor actions that have minimal impact on the Town's waterfront resources. Additionally, the Town is preparing an update to the Town's comprehensive plan to incorporate goals and strategies from the Town's LWRP and Hamlet Study (funded through the EPF LWRP).

LWRP Implementation

The Town has undertaken many of the implementation projects identified in the LWRP - funded by the EPF LWRP grants program. Most recently the Town has received EPF LWRP funding to prepare a Comprehensive Plan Update, storm water controls, mapping and code re-drafting, watershed management and Town code amendments that meet or further the polices of the LWRP. Specific projects to implement the LWRP are listed in the table at the end of this report.

LWRP Document Accessibility

Paper copies of the LWRP document are kept in the Town Clerk's office and in the Planning Board office. The document is also available electronically on the Town and Department of State's website. Town Board members, residents, and consultants that do work in the Town are aware of the LWRP requirements.

Local Consistency Review

Consistency review is conducted by the LWRP Coordinator for the Board of Trustees, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and the Town Board. Although the consistency review process is generally understood within the Town, the number of actions subject to review is too broad. Currently the Town issues approximately 25-35 consistency review decisions a month. The Town has amended the Local Consistency review law in an attempt to reduce the number of actions (with little to no impacts on the waterfront) subject to review, but it could go further.

The Town Board formed the LWRP Coordinating Committee which is made up of the heads of all Town Departments involved with decisions that the LWRP could affect. The LWRP Coordinating Committee has made numerous recommendations to improve the program at the local level; including expanding the Minor Exempt Action List to include additional minor actions and amending the narrative of the program to address citizen concerns on dredging.

Grants Awarded			
Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program			
Town of Southold			
Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
1994	\$25,000	<p>Erosion Management Plan</p> <p>Developed a draft Local Erosion Management Program for the Town of Southold. This program focused on a town-wide study of flooding and erosion.</p>	Closed
1994	\$25,000	<p>Harbor Management Plan</p> <p>This grant was for the preparation of a Harbor Management Plan to address boating congestion and completion of uses of the surface water within and adjacent to the town. The plan provides guidance in managing boat traffic, general harbor uses, docks, piers, moorings, pump-out facilities, special anchorage areas, and identification of navigation channels.</p>	Closed
1995	\$15,000	<p>Street End Access and Stormwater Mitigation</p> <p>The Town of Southold developed plans for natural resource restoration and protection projects at pre-selected road-ends throughout the Town. The goal of the plan was to enhance the natural and scenic resources of these areas; to expand recreational use and enjoyment of the coastal area at appropriate road-ends; to protect, maintain and increase public access at appropriate road-ends; and to prevent or mitigate pollution by controlling stormwater runoff into coastal waters from these road-ends.</p>	Closed
1996	\$42,000	<p>Street-end Access Improvements</p> <p>This project implemented improvements identified in the plan. The goal of the improvements was to enhance the natural and scenic resources of the areas; to expand recreational use and enjoyment of the coastal area at appropriate road-ends; to protect, maintain and increase public access at appropriate road-ends; and to prevent or mitigate pollution by controlling stormwater runoff into coastal waters from these road-ends.</p>	Closed
1996	\$40,000	<p>Mattituck Inlet Stormwater Plan</p> <p>This project was broken into two phases, the planning and design phase and the implementation phase. Based on the amounts of sediments, nutrients and pollutants that are contained in the runoff, stormwater systems were designed to handle the runoff entering the Inlet. The planning and design phase was intended to enable the Town to establish an implementation timetable and budget based on the design recommendations.</p>	Closed
1996	\$4,800	<p>Seed Clam Grow-out Program</p> <p>This grant provided for the construction of grow-out rafts for seed clams. The</p>	Closed

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Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
		coastal waters of Southold had traditionally supported a large clamming fishery. Declining water quality has closed many clamming areas and reduced the amount of clams that can be harvested, creating economic hardships. These grow-out rafts were to be placed in clean waters to provide a more plentiful and stable supply of hard clam stocks.	
1997	\$160,000	South Erosion Mitigation Studies The Town studied a severe erosion problem in the vicinity of Mattituck Inlet and Goldsmith Inlet to determine the cause of the erosion and the best means of mitigating damages.	Closed
1997	\$60,000	Establish GIS Database for Growth Management The Town established a GIS database to support a growth management planning initiative to implement the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The grant was used to acquire data, train staff and begin analysis of data. Additionally, the Town embarked on a master plan initiative that furthers the local program, with an emphasis on water supply issues and their relationship to growth management.	Closed
1997	\$3,500	Ferry Impact Workshop The Town sponsored a workshop to discuss ferry related impacts on Long Island coastal communities, with a particular emphasis on the north shore and east end. Communities are concerned about increased vehicular traffic generated by ferries serving Connecticut casinos.	Closed
1998	\$18,300	GIS Implementation The Town of Southold used this grant to continue its program to implement a GIS to augment planning decision-making. The town had made excellent progress in developing its databases, and proposed to use this grant to hire a full time staff person to operate and maintain the town's GIS to ensure better use of this information resource.	Closed
1998	\$35,000	Road Ends Public Access and Stormwater Control Improvements The Town of Southold continued to implement its Natural Resources Restoration and Protection Plan by constructing public access and stormwater control improvements at five road ends in the coastal area. This project expanded recreational enjoyment of the coastal area and reduce nonpoint source pollution.	Closed

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Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
1999	\$90,000	<p>Southold Erosion Mitigation Project</p> <p>The Town of Southold completed a study, begun with previous EPF grants, to develop and implement a strategy to address erosion problems around the jetty at Goldsmith's Inlet. The Town retained consulting services to manage the SEQRA process, conducted modeling of coastal processes and hydrology to select an alternative, and prepared final design plans for the selected alternative.</p>	Closed
1999	\$53,000	<p>Eelgrass Culture Facility for the Peconic Estuary</p> <p>The Town of Southold designed, constructed, and operated an eelgrass culture facility for the Peconic Estuary. The facility used seeds and stranded robust shoots to produce transplant stock rather than removing stock from existing beds. Refinement of this culture technology will have far-reaching effects on eelgrass restoration science.</p>	Closed
2000	\$50,000	<p>Implementation of priority LWRP projects</p> <p>The Town implemented a series of priority projects that were identified in the Town's draft LWRP. Projects included the preparation of a capital budget for stormwater remediation, mooring plans for the Peconic Estuary and associated creeks, the development of sedimentation and erosion management measures, an analysis of marine zoning districts and public education.</p>	Closed
2002	\$75,000	<p>Implementation of the Town of Southold's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program</p> <p>The Town implemented several key recommendations of the Town of Southold Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Attention focused on developing a public education program, improving and preserving surface water quality and shoreline habitat, and implementing a natural resource protection and enhancement program.</p>	Closed
2003	\$50,000	<p>Planning for Stormwater Management in Town of Southold Creeks</p> <p>In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, the Town of Southold developed a database, including a digital inventory and visual assessment of existing stormwater infrastructure in the most populated western hamlets of the Town. The database and inventory will be used for the development of a maintenance prioritization and schedule for stormwater infrastructure to further a recommendation of the Town's approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to enhance water quality in the Peconic</p>	Closed

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Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program			
Town of Southold			
Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
		Estuary and Long Island Sound.	
2006	\$400,000	<p>Construction and Sand-Bypassing for Goldsmith's Inlet Erosion Management</p> <p>The Town of Southold will address erosion at Goldsmith's Inlet on Long Island Sound by shortening the stone jetty, implementing jetty fillet material bypassing, constructing a secondary dune system with beach grass plantings, maintenance dredging in the jetty inlet, reconstructing or replacing the existing stone rip-rap revetment adjacent to the town road and parking area, and re-vegetating the project site.</p>	Closed
2006	\$260,000	<p>Planning, Design and Construction for 11 Stormwater Management Projects</p> <p>The Town of Southold implemented stormwater management projects identified in its inventory of run-off locations. Work included preparation of design drawings, engineering plans and specifications, permitting and construction for these projects.</p>	Closed
2006	\$7,822	<p>Preparation of Southold Waterfront Documentary</p> <p>The Town of Southold filmed an educational public television program to explain the value of Long Island estuaries and the need for shoreline regulations.</p>	Closed
2006	\$150,846	<p>Planning and Development of Southold Town Code Revisions</p> <p>The Town of Southold is evaluating the Town Code and proposing amendments to implement the goals and objectives of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Work is focusing on revising code definitions, chapter language, zoning districts and their associated permitted and special exemption uses.</p>	Open
2006	\$25,000	<p>Revision of Town Code to Implement Stormwater Management</p> <p>The Town of Southold is revising the Town Code by drafting and incorporating a new section of Town Law entitled "Storm Water, Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control Code." This will help ensure protection of water quality and prevent environmental deterioration, erosion, and flooding.</p>	Open
2007	\$195,000	<p>The Bittner Preserve Improvement Project</p> <p>The Town of Southold, in partnership with Suffolk County, is acquiring and constructing improvements on the 58-acre Bittner Preserve parcel, located on Long Island Sound between Goldsmith Inlet and Peconic Dunes County Park. The project will provide new public access to 1,400 linear feet of waterfront,</p>	Open

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		and protect mature woodland, secondary dune, shrubland, and freshwater pond and wetland habitats. Work will include removal of existing structures, contamination mitigation, dune vegetation plantings, and construction of a parking area and nature trail.	
2007	\$80,000	<p>Stormwater Management in the Town of Southold Phase II</p> <p>The Town of Southold will complete Phase 2 of its GIS database development geared toward improving stormwater management in creeks. Work will include digital inventory of stormwater structures for all areas not previously covered; training for municipal staff in database use; and stormwater mitigation project implementation based on full database roll-out.</p>	Open
2007	\$335,250	<p>Town of Southold LWRP Hamlet Study</p> <p>This contract will support the Town of Southold's ongoing planning for a Comprehensive Hamlet Revitalization Program for the Town's nine hamlets. To date, hamlet stakeholder groups have been formed, presented hamlet stakeholder reports to the Town, and identified priority projects. Grant funding will also support completion of the program, and implementation of several short-term priority projects. These include planning for traffic calming, gateway signage, and affordable housing; lighting and pedestrian movement analyses; development and implementation of site-plan design standards; and a hamlet centers economic study.</p>	Open
2007	\$341,000	<p>Hashamomuck Pond Watershed Management Plan Implementation</p> <p>The Town of Southold will implement the Hashamomuck Pond Watershed Management Plan by undertaking identified high priority Best Management Practices (BMPs). The project will include installation of grass channels, bioretention systems, dry swales, sediment forebays, oil separators, low flow outlets and site restoration at identified BMP sites. Work will be conducted by a combination of municipal staff and contractual services.</p>	Open
2008	\$55,000	<p>Developing Priority Impaired Waterbody and SGA Subwatershed</p> <p>To advance implementation of the Peconic Estuary Program's 2006 Subwatershed Management Plans, the Town of Southold will develop watershed management plans for the Town/Jockey, Goose, and Richmond Creek complexes that address water quality impairments, closed shellfishing waters and point and non-point pollution. Work will include watershed assessment, identification and cost benefit analysis of alternative management strategies, and preparation of recommendations.</p>	Open

Grants Awarded			
Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program			
Town of Southold			
Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
2009	\$68,568	<p>Implementation of the Town of Southold Hamlet Study – Phase II</p> <p>The Town of Southold will update its Comprehensive Plan by updating underlying data and analysis and integrating long-term planning goals identified in its 2007/2008 Hamlet Revitalization Plan.</p>	Open
2009	\$111,441	<p>Restoration of Goldsmith Inlet</p> <p>The Town of Southold will assess, mitigate and restore the ecological functions and values of Goldsmith Inlet off the Long Island Sound to address the accretion of sand, loss of use due to degraded water quality, loss of littoral habitat and loss of low and high marsh habitat. The Town will undertake a pollution source tracking analysis; a flush rate analysis; restoration of the littoral zone; non-native species removal; development of a Storm Water Pollution Plan; design and implementation of storm water volume reduction measures between the Town and the County; and installation of four catch basins as stormwater control retrofits.</p>	Open
2012	\$67,910	<p>Southold Watershed and Sewershed Mapping</p> <p>The Town of Southold will implement the final phase of multi-component stormwater infrastructure identification and mapping project that will include the mapping and modeling of all watersheds and subwatersheds within the Town. Sewersheds would also be mapped to determine contributions and conveyances to the MS4 system in an effort to enable the Town to develop watershed management plans for each watershed in the future.</p>	Not yet under contract