Good morning & Welcome! Enjoy Coffee & Breakfast We will begin at 10:00 am

Long Island Sound Coastal Erosion Forum Nassau County



#### **Long Island Sound Study**

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound





CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Welcome & Opening Remarks

The goal of today's event is to share information on coastal erosion and shoreline protection best practices, discuss challenges, identify opportunities to increase resilience, and enhance coordination across communities. 10:00 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:10 AM Strategies to Address Coastal Erosion

11:30 AM Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas & Local Codes

12:30 PM Networking Lunch

1:15 PM Small Group Discussions & Report Out

2:30 PM Wrap Up & Next Steps

# Agenda



#### Sustainable and Resilient LIS Communities



#### NA Stakeholder Meetings

- County/COG/Regional Org
- Elected Official

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- Municipal Staff/Committee
- NGO/Nonprofit
- Watershed Organization
- Foundation
- Community Group
- Faith-Based Organization
- Indigenous Nation/Comm
- ✤ Economic Entity
- Utility/Transportation
- Other



Long Island Sound Study

#### A Regional Needs Assessment to Help Build a Sustainable & Resilient Long Island Sound

In 2022, a team of CT and NY Sea Grant Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Extension Professionals conducted an informal needs assessment of coastal Long Island Sound (LIS) communities to better understand the environmental threats and hazards that they are most concerned about, what communities may already be doing to address these issues, and what barriers they are facing when it comes to implementing projects and taking action.

The goal of the SRC team's work is to help LIS communities anticipate and overcome disturbances caused by a changing climate while achieving well being for all. Their work is guided by a Long Island Sound Study SRC Work Group and a five-year work plan. For more information, visit LISStudy.net/SRC.

This factsheet presents a brief overview of the SRC team's findings from their informal needs assessment.



The SRC team had over 300 conversations with stakeholders during 2022. This figure shows the breakdown of stakeholder entities reached for the needs assessment.



A team of five SRC Extension Professionals based in Suffolk County, NY, Nassau County, NY, Westchester County, NY, Western CT, and Eastern CT are working to advance sustainability and resilience in Long Island Sound coastal communities.

#### **Top Environmental Threats**

The SRC team identified stormwater and associated flooding as the primary environmental threat faced by communities region-wide.

The following were also identified as issues for a number of communities:

- Sea level rise/coastal flooding
- Extreme weather and storms
- Water quality
- Coastal erosion
- Habitat loss and/or degradation
- Invasive species
- Tree loss
- Impacts from development

The Long Island Sound Study, an EPA National Estuary Program, brings together local, state, and federal governments with communities, NGOs, universities, industry, and user and environmental groups to improve the health of Long Island Sound.

#### Challenges and Barriers to Implementing Sustainability & Resilience Initiatives

Four main categories of challenges/barriers were identified through the SRC team's informal needs assessment. Generalized quotes below represent common challenges the team heard.

#### Limited Capacity

Funding

- Lack of staff, technical expertise
- Limited and/or ineffective coordination across levels of government, stakeholder groups

"We are a small municipality with very few employees - there is no bandwidth to move projects along, or apply for grants."

#### Governance Challenges

Institutional Inequities

- Lack of political will, leadership, action
- Frequent leadership changes can hinder sustained momentum
- Codes and ordinances can be difficult to update and enforce

"Different interests can lead to nothing getting done."

Lack of inclusion from all communities

"Opportunities for public involvement

generally do not enable participation by

communities with environmental justice

and equity concerns."

Disconnect and/or lack of trust

between communities and

government/institutions

- Grant requirements can be burdensome and hard to navigate
- Limited opportunities for longterm funding, capacity-building, maintenance, private landowners

"We've applied to XYZ grant multiple times with no success, it's not worth the effort."

#### Next Steps from the SRC Team

Ultimately, the SRC team aims to promote the implementation of high-impact projects in communities and to educate and train community decision-makers to enable a better regionally-coordinated response to climate change and other environmental challenges.

Needs assessment findings are now being used by the SRC Extension Professionals to inform their work, including:

Training & education programs to help build capacity and provide technical guidance.

Breaking Down Barriers to implementation, including programs to reduce capacity barriers that communities may face when applying for competitive funding opportunities and implementing projects.



An online LIS Resilience Resource Hub that identifies the most relevant tools and funding opportunities for implementing projects.

💦 An annual bi-state workshop to bring together government and decision-makers across both New York and Connecticut to promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

> LISResilience@gmail.com To learn more, visit LISStudy.net/SRC



#### Save the Date Long Island Sound Coastal Erosion Forums

Nassau County Forum: Thursday May 4, 2023, Locust Valley Library. Register <u>here</u>.

Suffolk County Forum: Wednesday May 10, 2023, Port Jefferson Village Center. Register <u>here</u>.

These forums will bring together state and local decision makers, municipal staff, and other stakeholders working to address coastal erosion. The goal of these forums is to share information on best practices, discuss challenges, identify opportunities to increase resilience, and enhance coordination across communities.

Hosted by New York Sea Grant and Long Island Sound Study in partnership with Nassau and Suffolk Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Suffolk County Legislators Sarah Anker, Stephanie Bontempi, Kara Hahn, and Al Krupski.







# Welcome & Opening Remarks

#### Kathleen Fallon

Coastal Hazards and Processes Specialist, New York Sea Grant (NYSG)

#### Alexa Fournier

Restoration Planning and Policy Manager, Bureau of Marine Habitat, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

#### **Derek Betts**

District Manager, Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD)

# Strategies to Address Coastal Erosion

# Strategies to Address Coastal Erosion

#### Long Island Coastal Erosion Forum - Nassau County

May 4, 2023

Locust Valley Library

Kathleen M. Fallon, Ph.D. Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist New York Sea Grant



#### Sediment Movement

- Wave action
  - Responsible for movement of sediment and changes in beach profile
  - Sand on shorelines is constantly being rearranged
    - Moving on- or off-shore (cross shore sediment transport)
    - Moving along the shoreline (longshore sediment transport)
- However, when an amount is permanently removed from the system considered to be an erosion deficit
  - More sediment removed than replaced



- Coastal erosion: the removal of beach, dune, and/or bluff sediments by the physical forces of wave action, tides, currents, high winds, or a combination of these
- Can be very complex
- Choice of treatment depends on
  - An understanding of the cause(s) of erosion
  - Determination of what asset needs protection



### Causes of Erosion - Beaches

- Coastal storms
  - Bring large, steep waves typically on top of surges
    - Reach further inland than normal
    - Sand removed from the beach and stored offshore
    - Sand that is deposited past 'depth of closure' is lost from the system
  - Dunes are natural protective barriers
    - If they are flattened, landward infrastructure will be at risk
    - Washovers occur when waves cut away the beach resulting in breaches





### Causes of Erosion – Bluffs



- Heavy rainfall can wash sand down the face of the bluff if it is not vegetated
- Oversaturation of the ground (rainfall or sprinklers)
  - Groundwater can loosen and pick up sediments as it flows through the bluff
  - In winter, groundwater can freeze causing cracks to expand and larger areas to break away
- Wind
- Surge
  - If waves attack the base, normally protected by a beach, sediment is removed resulting in undercutting leading to instability and slumping

### Sea Level Rise on Long Island

- SLR = melting of land-based ice + thermal expansion of water
- Impacts
  - Regular flooding at high tides
  - Saltwater intrusion
  - **Erosion** occurring further up on the beach
    - Climate change impacts on storm frequency and intensity!



	Region Descriptor	Long Island				
		Low	Low- Medium	Medium	High- Medium	High
Time Interval	2020s	2	4	6	8	10
	2050s	8	11	16	21	30
	2080s	13	18	29	39	58
	2100	15	21	34	47	72





#### Mitigation Options





- Dunes/Bluff Vegetation and Reshaping
  - A stable dune or bluff has native vegetative plantings that bind sediment and reduce likelihood of erosion from wind or slumping
  - Also trap sediment and aid in growth
  - Sand fencing can also be utilized
- Beach nourishment
  - Adding sand back to an existing eroded beach
  - Typically short-term solution that needs to be repeated



### Mitigation Options

- Living shorelines
  - Constructed to mimic natural features by utilizing native, living materials
  - Provide risk reduction and ecological benefits
- Wetland restoration/protection
  - Aid in reducing wave action before reaching the shoreline





### Mitigation Options

#### • Revetments

- Slopes composed of rocks that are built to protect shorelines
- Reflect the wave action to reduce the impact on land behind the structure
- Bulkheads
  - Vertical structures placed parallel to the shoreline
  - Function to hold the land in place





### NYSG Guide to Permitting

- For permit applicants using the NYS Joint Application for shoreline modification projects
- How to use the guide:
  - Understand the process
  - Learn about the permits that may be required
  - Review relevant permit application requirements
  - Contact your regional permit office
  - Complete application
  - Appendix A: Environmental Resources Mapper Activity
  - Appendix B: Application Checklist





### MyCoast NY

- A portal to collect and analyze pictures and data related to flood and storm events
- Brings together community members, researchers, local officials, NGOs, and agencies
- 1. Download the MyCoast app or visit MyCoast.org/ny
- 2. Register
- 3. Snap photo
- 4. Submit photo report

#### **C** MyCoast New York **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Help document local flooding and storm impacts through community science

The MyCoast New York portal is used to collect and analyze photos of flooding, changing shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and waterbodies.

Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help emergency managers, local planners, residents, and state agencies understand our changing environment and make informed decisions.

REPORT TYPES





STORM REPORTER -Documenting storm damage

#### Download the MyCoast app or visit MyCoast.org/ny





#### THANK YOU!

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**



Kathleen Fallon kmf228@cornell.edu 631-632-8730





### **Permitting a Living Shoreline** DEC Requirements and Strategies for Success

#### Alexa Fournier

**Restoration Planning and Policy Manager** NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources

NISDLC DIVISION OJ WIGHNE RESOURC

alexa.fournier@dec.ny.gov

May 4, 2023

### What are Living Shorelines?

Shoreline techniques that incorporate natural living features alone or in combination with structural components such as rock, wood, fiber rolls, bagged



shell, and concrete shellfish substrate.







Demonstration site in Southold, installed by Cornell Cooperative Extension with support from Peconic Estuary Partnership, Town of Southold, & Suffolk County



### Applicability

Living shoreline installations are best suited to low or moderate energy, sheltered areas of the Marine District







### **Living Shoreline Goals:**

- Control or reduce shoreline erosion while maintaining benefits comparable to the natural shoreline such as allowing for natural sediment movement
- Use the minimum number of structural components necessary for hybrid techniques to obtain project goals
- Improve, restore, or maintain the connection between the upland and water habitats
- Incorporate habitat enhancement and natural elements ex: native re-vegetation, establishment of new vegetation



#### **NYS Living Shorelines Guidance Document**



- Released in 2017
- Encourages appropriate use of nature-based shoreline protections
- Provides info on types of LS, the permitting process, siting and monitoring considerations

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish marine pdf/dmrlivingshoreguide.pdf



### Permitting Standards (Wetlands and Waters) 6 NYCRR § 661, 6 NYCRR § 608

- Compatible with the policy to preserve and protect tidal wetlands and that the project will not cause unreasonable, uncontrolled, or unnecessary damage to the natural resources of the State.
- Compatible with and will not endanger the public health, safety, and/or welfare.
- <u>Reasonable and necessary</u>.
- Complies with the appropriate use guidelines. eg: if a proposed regulated activity is a presumed incompatible use, must demonstrate that the proposed activity will be compatible preservation, protection, and enhancement of the present and potential values of tidal wetlands.

#### **Evaluate the Standards**

<u>Suitability to overall conditions</u> - fetch, soils, erosion, adjacent conditions and habitat. <u>Avoid Impacts</u> - ecological, physical, recreational uses- how can living shorelines enhance function.

-Designed to provide erosion control while enhancing the area involved: water quality, habitat, adaptability (SLR) and sand movement.

Public health and safety - How will project effect adjacent landowners?

sediment movement, shellfish?, navigability, access.

<u>Reasonableness</u> - Is there an erosion problem, alternatives analysis.

<u>CLCPA</u> - Consider factors related to climate change



#### **Evaluate the Standards, Continued**

<u>Some projects will be PIP (Presumptively Incompatible – Prohibited)</u> Not all fill is created equal.

Provide alternative consideration.

Is project reasonable? Is there erosion? What is at risk?

Does project type fit the need?

Will the project likely provide ecological uplift?

When in doubt—consider a Pilot Project!

Small scale = less risk



### **Proper Siting Considerations**

Understand all erosive forces and rates wave characteristics, boat wakes, runoff, ice.

Habitat- plants animals, water quality, sunlight

Other physical info:

- tidal range
- datums
- SLR projections
- existing site conditions: slope, soil type





#### **Consider Factors Related to Climate Change**



Higher mean and spring tide levels, Higher storm surges and larger areas of inundation,

Extreme precipitation rates and greater storm water runoff,

Greater frequency and intensity of storms,

Wetland migration inland, Changes in salinity and migration of the salt wedge, and permanent inundation of coastal properties.



#### **Adaptive Management:** Maintenance, Monitoring and Adjusting As Needed



**Crucial to Successful establishment** of a living shoreline

-plant survival or protection

-removal of invasive species/debris

-opening channels to drain ponding water -measuring erosion and accretion patterns

-replacing / removing sediment

-assuring structural materials stay in place

e.g. replacing stakes, moving fiber rolls, adding larger rock



**Department of** 

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#### **Tips for Success**

. Engage with regulators early

#### 2. Choose your design carefully

#### 3. Build a strong case for your selected design

4. Be Flexible! Something will change—that's OK.

#### **Resources for the applicant:**

- Pre application meetings
- Division of Environmental Permits- Coordinate with other state agencies and municipalities
- Joint applications for permits (DEC and USACE) http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6222.html
- Application checklists
- Uniform Procedures Act- Laws speak to fairness in review procedures and time frames for review. 15 day review, 45-90 days for decisions.
- Regulated area maps
- One stop waterfront permit planner <a href="https://waterfrontnavigator.nyc/">https://waterfrontnavigator.nyc/</a>

  (NYC, DOS, DEC, EDC)

#### **Other Resources**

Living Shoreline Techniques in the Marine District of New York State - DEC guidance doc, released 2017

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\_marine\_pdf/dmrlivingshoreguide.pdf

Using Natural Measures to Reduce the Risk of Flooding and Erosion - 2020 guidance doc from DOS/DEC

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\_pdf/crranaturalmeasuresgndc.pdf

Living Shorelines: Background, Benefits, and Use http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/#/storyTemplate/11/1/1

Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience – Guidance from DOS https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/resilience/index.html

## THANK YOU!

Contact Info: Alexa Fournier, Restoration Planning and Policy Manager, NYSDEC alexa.fournier@dec.ny.gov


Long Island Coastal Erosion Forum – Nassau County May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### **Presenters:**

Derek Betts – District Manager, NCSWCD Olivia Calandra – Conservation Technician, NCSWCD



### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# An Introduction to the NCSWCD Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District is one of 58 NY County Districts
- Soil and Water Districts are political subdivisions of the state
- Began with an Act of the President in 1937 called the "Standard Soil Conservation Districts Law"
- The Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District was formed and authorized by the county in 1977, and there are over 3,000 conservation districts in the United States.
- Our purpose is to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance natural resources through education and technical assistance. We provide programs and technical services to all Nassau County residents and municipalities to manage our precious natural resources. We help foster coordination among municipalities, schools, protection committees and county residents.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### How we're working to combat Coastal Erosion

- Stormwater Management Programs
- Erosion & Sediment Control Trainings
- Nassau County SEPTIC Grant

Program

- Beach Cleanups
- Green Infrastructure Installations



### What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater or snowmelt that flows from rooftops, paved areas, bare soil and lawns, picking up litter, sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria from animal waste, chemicals from automobiles and other pollutants and carrying it all to our streams, rivers, lakes and ocean.







## Why is Stormwater a Concern?



Polluted runoff is one of our nation's greatest threats to clean water Untreated stormwater runoff can create significant environmental and public health and safety problems.





# Stormwater Impacts from Erosion and Sedimentation

Property Damage Damage to Roads and Bridges Beach & Shell fishing Closures





Loss of Aquatic Habitat Drinking Water Contamination Streambank Erosion



#### Where does all the eroded soil go?







# Bottom Line: We need to modify the ways that storm water is mitigated.





Conservation





Stormwater runoff is a natural part of the hydrologic cycle ... but as land use changes, runoff can increase, resulting in erosion, pollutant transport, sedimentation, loss of aquatic habitat, & other damages. **Department of** NEW YORK STATE OF Environmental

OPPORTUNITY

Conservation

### **Stormwater Runoff from Construction**







# District Impacts on Soil Erosion & Water Quality

Bayville Community Center Raingarden and Permeable Pavement



Restoring the riparian buffer around Baxters Pond

Funding Cornell Cooperative Extension's collection and analysis of water quality data within Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor

A Day in The Life of a South Shore Estuary Reserve; community outreach and education about protecting our coastal ecosystems







A type of bio-retention system comprised of native plants that help filter nonpoint pollution source

Comprised of native plants, drought and flood resistant.

Strategically located in a depression or in the pathway of runoff from an impervious area.

Holds several inches of storm water, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the ground. Preventing flooding and overloading storm drains.



Rain Gardens Root Systems can absorb up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals from stormwater runoff





Rain gardens remove runoff pollutants before they can drain into our bays and waterways helping safeguard local shellfish

#### What is a Rain Garden?

A bio-retention "living" system designed to filter nonpoint stormwater pollution.

Filled with native plants that are drought and flood resistant.

Strategically located in a depression or in the pathway of runoff from an impervious area.

Native plants root systems can absorb 90% of nutrients and chemicals from stormwater

runoff.





#### **Benefits of having a Rain Garden**

- Provide food, shelter, and nesting resources for pollinators, birds, small mammals, and a variety of wildlife species (migratory birds, chipmunks, etc..)
- Adds color and volume to an area.
- Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow for 30% more water to soak into the ground.
- Low maintenance requirements.





# Green Infrastructure for preventing Coastal Erosion

#### **Living Shorelines**

Vegetation helps anchor sediment in place against waves by absorbing and dispelling wave energy, helping accumulate sand and creating a more stable natural barrier. Restoring habitats like dune vegetation, seagrass beds and oyster reefs is also a more cost-effective and creates healthier shoreline ecosystems that can support critical wildlife for coastal vitality and protection.

# Erosion Prevention for our coastlines is critical for both the environment and economy.



Living shoreline retrofit of a bulkhead seawall in Mobile Bay, Alabama (The Nature Conservancy)

# Suggested plants for coastline areas

#### **Trees/Shrubs**

- Pitch Pine Pinus rigida
- Canadian Serviceberry– Amelanchier canadensis
- Northern Bayberry– *Myrica pennsylvanica*
- Staghorn Sumac Rhus typhina
- Swamp White Oak– Quercus bicolor
- Common Baldcypress *Taxodium distichum*
- Eastern Red Cedar Juniperus virginiana
- Inkberry Ilex glabra

#### Groundcover

- Beach Heath Hudsonia tomentosa
- Creeping Juniper Juniperus horizontalis
- Smooth Cordgrass Spartina alterniflora



Pinus rigida the Pitch Pine, native to Long Island

# **Educational Resources**

• Cornell Woody Plants Database – Salt tolerant plants database

• Long Island Sound Study – Coastal Habitat Restoration

• NY Natural Heritage Program – Guides for maritime ecosystems

• The Nature Conservancy – Our Living Shorelines





New York

Program

Natural Heritage





# THANK YOU!

# QUESTIONS?



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# **Q&A for Panelists**

Kathleen Fallon New York Sea Grant (NYSG) Alexa FournierDerek BettsNew York State Department of Nassau County Soil and WaterEnvironmental ConservationConservation District(NYSDEC)(NCSWCD)

#### **Ryan Porciello and Eric Star**

CEHA Program, Division of Water, Region 1, NYSDEC

#### Sarah Schaefer-Brown

LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professional, NYSG

#### Barbara Kendall

Coastal Resources Specialist 3, Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure, New York State Department of State (NYSDOS)

#### Mark Lowery

Assistant Director, Office of Climate Change, NYSDEC

#### **Derek Betts**

District Manager, Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD) Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas & Local Codes



Department of Environmental Conservation

# Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas (CEHA)

Ryan Porciello Environmental Program Specialist NYSDEC - Division of Water Stony Brook

# **Permits Required for Shoreline Work**

- NYSDEC
  - Article 34 Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas
  - Article 25 Tidal Wetlands
- US Army Corps. of Engineers (USACE)
  - Required if work extends below Mean High Water (MHW)
- Joint Application Form (JAF) covers all of the above
- Permits may also be required at the Local Town/Village level in some cases



ARTICLE 34 Environmental Conservation Law

#### COASTAL EROSION HAZARD AREAS

#### Chapter 841, Laws of 1981 Effective Date July 27, 1981

(including 1985 amendments)



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

COASTAL EROSION MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

> 6 NYCRR Part 505 (as amended March, 1988)



Statutory Authority: Environmental Conservation Law Article 34

State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation

ECL Article 34

Title 6 of New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 505





SAMPLE CEHA MAP

CEHA Line is mapped 25' landward of the receding edge of bluff



# **CEHA – Purpose and Intent**

- To promote and preserve the Natural Protective Features (NPFs), such as dunes, bluffs, and beaches of coastal areas.
- Minimize or prevent damage or destruction to NPFs, other natural resources, man-made property, and to protect human life.
- Site new construction or placement of structures a safe distance from active erosion and storm impacts.
- Ensure that erosion control structures are properly built.



# **CEHA Program Administration**

- Local Delegation: Local Governments may regulate CEHA within their jurisdictions by adopting a local program that has been certified by DEC
- Approximately 70% of Long Island coastal communities have a DEC-certified local program. NYSDEC administers CEHA in the remaining communities
- NYSDEC monitors the local administration of CEHA by requiring annual reports and conducting periodic audits of the local programs



# Activities Within CEHA – 6 NYCRR Part 505.8

- <u>Exempt Activities</u>: No CEHA permit needed. Normal maintenance, native plantings, private elevated walkways, etc...
- <u>Prohibited Activities</u>: All development is prohibited unless specifically listed in Part 505.8
- <u>Regulated Activities</u>: CEHA permit required. Construction or modification of structures, erosion protection structures, etc...
  - Must meet permit issuance standards. Permit not guaranteed



# **Erosion Protection Structures**

- Every site/application extremely unique
- Applicants must first articulate issue they are trying to solve
- Hierarchy of solutions from "do nothing" to seawalls/steel bulkheads
- Recession Analysis
- Alternatives Analysis
- Must document real need for measures beyond "soft" or "nature-based"





# **Erosion Protection Structures**

- Must have a long-term maintenance program which includes specifications for normal maintenance and periodic replacement of materials
- All materials used must be durable and capable of withstanding inundation, wave impacts, storm conditions
- Must not be likely to cause an increase in erosion at the development site or other locations
- Must minimize, and if possible prevent, adverse effects to NPFs and other natural resources or habitats

# **Contact Information**

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Municipal Coastal Erosion Code Review for the Long Island Sound

Sarah Schaefer-Brown LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professional, NYSG

#### Summer 2022 NY Coastal Resilience Law and Policy Fellow

Angelica Austrich, J.D. Candidate '23, CUNY School of Law

**Goal:** Review existing municipal code and note potential improvements and examples

#### Reviewed Municipal CEHA Code

- Reviewed current municipal CEHA code.
- Noted differences and similarities to NYSDOS Model Local Laws for Resilience.
- 1) Model Law from NYSDEC meeting the minimum standards established.
- 2) Alternative CEHA Management Model (based on Town of Brookhaven Law).

### CEHA Certified Municipalities

Most Coastal Municipalities on the North Shore of Nassau County in the CEHA are administered by the State.

The 4 below are the only CEHA Certified Communities on the North Shore of Nassau County:

- Village of Bayville
- Village of Kings Point
- Village of Lattingtown
- Village of Sands Point

#### NYSDEC CEHA Code

#### **Nearshore area restrictions:**

The following restrictions apply to regulated activities in nearshore areas:

a. All development is prohibited in nearshore areas unless specifically provided for by this local law.

b. Excavating, grading, mining, or dredging which diminishes the erosion protection afforded by nearshore areas is prohibited, except construction or maintenance of navigation channels, bypassing sand around natural and man-made obstructions and artificial beach nourishment, all of which require a Coastal Erosion Management Permit.

c. Clean sand or gravel or an equivalent or slightly larger grain size is the only material which may be deposited within nearshore areas. Any deposition will require a Coastal Erosion Management Permit.

#### **Beach area restrictions:**

a. All development is prohibited on beaches unless specifically provided for by this local law.

b. Excavating, grading, or mining which diminishes the erosion protection afforded by beaches is prohibited.

c. Clean sand or gravel of an equivalent or slightly larger grain size is the only material which may be deposited within bench areas. Any deposition will require a Coastal Erosion Management Permit which may be issued only for expansion or stabilization of beaches.

d. Active bird nesting and breeding areas must not be disturbed unless such disturbance is pursuant to a specific wildlife management activity approved in writing by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

e. [Location for insertion of optional section allowing restoration of existing structures, damaged by non-erosion or flooding related causes, without a permit. See Addendum for specific language.]

#### Village of Bayville

#### **NYSDEC CEHA Code Additions**

# Focus on wetlands as natural protective features & restrictions on use of gabions for erosion control.

#### **Nearshore area restrictions:**

Any debris which might effect erosion and deposition patterns is to be removed for proper disposal, if the owner can be identified.

#### **Beach area restrictions:**

- Steepening of bluffs and other slopes along the shore for construction or development purposes shall not increase, by more than 20% or beyond the angle of repose, the gradient of slopes presently exceeding 20%.
- Seawall repairs or improvements shall be approved by permit from the administrator. Wood, concrete
  or large stone stabilizing structures shall be employed as sea walls to control erosion. Gabion sea walls
  are not permitted. Emplacement of slope and beach stabilizing cribbing timbers of wood or concrete
  are permitted. Nonstructural plantings to stabilize the bluffs will also be used.

#### Village of Bayville

#### **NYSDEC CEHA Code Additions**

Focus on wetlands as natural protective features & restrictions on use of gabions for erosion control.

#### **Beach area restrictions:**

- Adequate mitigating measures to combat the effects of erosion are required when permitting any
  development or construction adjacent or proximate to the tidal wetlands, particularly when spartina is
  in the bay. Shoring up of eroding shorelines will be employed to protect tidal wetlands.
- Loosening or removal of stones along the slope of the beach, which results in subsequent erosion onto the wetlands, is prohibited.
- Use of motorized recreational vehicles, including trail bikes and four-wheel-drive vehicles, is prohibited on beaches.
- New permanent or temporary buildings or sheds will not be permitted to be constructed or erected on the water's edge side of existing waterfront roads or rights-of-way, except when they are to be installed for public purposes for beach and adjacent water body uses by government agencies.

#### Village of Lattingtown

#### **NYSDEC CEHA Code Additions**

Additional restrictions on nearshore area & beach, development and alteration.

#### Nearshore/Beach area restrictions:

 All development, including construction, alteration, restoration, reconstruction of any structure or appurtenance, except an approved erosion protection structure, or removal of any erosion protection structure or appurtenance, is prohibited in nearshore areas/on beaches unless otherwise specifically provided by this article.

APPURTENANCE - A minor or accessory structure attached to, placed near, or used in conjunction with a structure.


# Using Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience

# Long Island Coastal Resilience Forums

An Office of the New York Department of State

Barbara Kendall, Coastal Resources Specialist

May 2023

#### Model Local Laws: Local Implementation of Community Risk and Resiliency Act (2014) as amended by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2019)

Models created from:

- Existing model laws
- Good examples of current local laws
- Combining sections from various laws using professional expertise

Adapt for local use

- Plug in sections to update existing laws OR
- Use entire model law for topics not currently addressed





Go to: https://dos.ny.gov/model-local-lawsincrease-resilience

May 2023 9 categories of local land use tools from: Climate Adaptation Toolbox -	1. Incorporate wetland migration and sensitive critical natural areas into zoning	MLLS SECTION
Peconic Estuary	Minimum Lot Size	1.2.1
Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan 2019	Maximum lot coverage; Nonconformance of impervious surface coverage;	1.2.3 1.3.2
	Wetland Conservation Overlay District	2.1.3
DARTAR	Maximum Disturbance Area (T. Southampton)	3.3.2
	Limit Development in 100-year or 500-year Floodplain	4.1



1. Incorporate wetland migration areas and sensitive critical natural areas into zoning	MLLS SECTION
Setbacks	1.2.4
Simple Wetland Setbacks and Wetlands Buffer	2.1.1 2.1.2
Simple Watercourse Setbacks	2.2.1
Stream-related zoning standards	2.2.2
Coastal Vegetative Buffers	3.3.1



2. Create/Amend Overlay Districts	MLLs SECTION
Waterfront Overlay District	1.1.2
Waterfront Bluff Overlay District (Coordinate w/CEHA)	1.1.3
Watercourse Overlay District	2.2.3
Shoreline Protection Outside of Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas	3.1.3



Models from NYS DEC – ways to amend the standard FEMA Flood Damage Prevention Law to incorporate these provisions

3. Impose More Stringent Building Regulations	MLLs SECTION
Sale of land in regulated floodplain must disclose environmental constraints	1.5.7
Require dry land access to new buildings	4.3.8
Establish design flood elevation to reflect flood levels higher than shown on FIRMS and capture lands that flood adjacent to 100- yr floodplains	4.3.2

### **Replace BFE with Design Flood Elevation (DFE)**



- NYS Uniform Code required freeboard (2 ft.) based on BFE (100 yr FP)
- DFE can be <u>higher</u> than BFE
- Examples of basis for DFE:
- 500-yr flood elevation
- Extra height added to BFE
- Historical deficiencies
- Climate-informed science (ex. future conditions hydrology)

May 2023	3. Impose More Stringent Building Regulations	MLLs SECTION
	Prohibit new critical facilities in flood zones (amend flood damage prevention law)	4.3.6
THE REPORT OF TH	Design requirements for elevated buildings	1.4.4.1
An Office of the New York Department of State	Non-conversion agreements: under elevated buildings	1.4.4.2



#### NYSDEC photo

4. Increase Coastal Setbacks	MLLS SECTION
Fixed mandatory setback (Brookhaven)	3.1.1
Erosion-based setback	3.2.3
Tiered Setback - Setback distance increases with lot size (East Hampton)	3.2.2



Example Cluster Development *Randall Arendt* 

5. Subdivision and Open Space Development	MLLs SECTION
Cluster, open space & conservation development	1.5.6
Subdivision in flood-prone areas; Safe building envelopes	1.5.1 1.5.2
Drainage improvements	1.5.3
Lot yield calculations	1.5.5
Design Standards to Protect Natural Features; Subdivision Woodlands	1.5.4.1 1.5.4.2



6. Site Plan Controls and Special Use Permits	MLLs SECTION
Encroachment on Drainageways	1.6.2
Wetland Conservation Overlay District	2.1.3
Stormwater Site Design Plans	5.4
Many of the other model local laws have provisions for site plan review and special use permits.	



7. Vegetation Protection Ordinance	SECTION
Simple wetland setbacks	2.1.1
Wetlands Buffer	2.1.2
Local Freshwater Wetland Law (Adapted from T. Brookhaven and T. Southampton)	2.1.4
Watercourse Overlay District; Local Watercourse Law	2.2.3 2.2.4
<ul><li>3.3.1 Coastal Vegetative Buffers;</li><li>3.3.2 Maximum Disturbance</li><li>Area (T. Southampton)</li></ul>	3.3.1 3.3.2



8. Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management	MLLs SECTION
Prohibit encroachments on drainage ways (e.g. fences)	1.6.2
DEC Model Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Laws – Two: 1. Impaired waters 2. Community resiliency	5.4.1 5.4.2
Steep slope and erosion control performance standards	5.1.2
Stormwater utility program to fund stormwater management	5.5



NYSDEC photo

9. Prohibit New Shoreline Structures or Replacement	MLLs SECTION
<ul> <li>Shoreline Management</li> <li>Alternatives</li> <li>Non-structural and</li> <li>Natural features</li> <li>Nature-based measures</li> <li>Structural measures</li> </ul>	3.4
Special Use Permit Alternatives Analysis	3.4.1
Shoreline reach analysis to designate overlay zones (next slide)	3.4.2

### **Shoreline Reach Analysis**

- Study shoreline characteristics
- Establish overlay zones
- □Use to guide shoreline management decisions
  - No erosion control structures
  - Permit required to alter existing structures
  - Limited repair of existing structures



### **NYS Shoreline Monitoring Framework**

- Released 2018-Phase I
   Updated 2022-Phase II
- Measure resilience performance of shoreline features: *Ecological, Structural/Hazard Mitigation, Socio-Economic*
- 25 past/active sites across the state monitored by DOS and partners
- ArcGIS online portal for data

Do you know of a shoreline site that should be monitored?





Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure

Division of Local Government Services

### www.dos.ny.gov/opd (518)474-6000

# www.dos.ny.gov/LG (518)473-3355

# **Questions & Discussion**

Office of Planning and Development

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NEW YORK<br/>STATE OF<br/>OPPORTUNITYDepartment of<br/>Environmental<br/>Conservation

# 6 NYCRR Part 490 Projected Sea-level Rise 2023 Update

### **Community Risk and Resiliency Act (2014)**

as amended by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2019)

- Requires sea-level rise projections (DEC; adopted 2017)
- Requires consideration of climate change by applicants for major permits and in DEC facility-siting regulations
- Requires model local laws to increase resilience (DOS, DEC; released 2019)
- Requires applicants demonstrate consideration of sea-level rise, storm surge and flooding in specified funding programs
- Adds mitigation of sea-level rise, storm surge and flooding to Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act criteria
- Authorizes DEC require mitigation of significant climate risks to any natural resource, public infrastructure or services, disadvantaged communities, or private property not owned by the applicant.
- Requires guidance on implementation (DEC, DOS)
- Requires guidance on use of natural resilience measures to reduce risk (DEC, DOS)

http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html 2

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Environmental Conservation

# **2017 Sea-level Rise Projection Rulemaking**

Downscaled from IPCC CMIP5 models RCPs 4.5, 8.5

Projection outputs reported as percentiles





ape Hatteras

Miami

80° W 70° W 60° W

Sallenger et al., 2012

Sea Level Rise Components Included:

- Global
  - Thermal expansion
  - Greenland and Antarctic ice sheet melt
  - Glacier and ice cap melt
  - Land water storage
- Local

, mm yr<sup>-1</sup>)

- o Ocean height change
- o Ice loss effects
- Glacioisostatic adjustments









Department of Environmental Conservation

Horton, R., D. Bader, C. Rosenzweig, A. DeGaetano, and W.Solecki. 2014. Climate Change in New York State: Updating the 2011 ClimAID Climate Risk Information. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Albany, New York. (<u>http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/climaid</u>)

### 6 NYCRR Part 490, Projected Sea-level Rise, 2017

Inches of rise relative to 2000-2004 baseline

	Region	n Long Island						New York City/Lower Hudson					Mid-Hudson				
	Descriptor	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	
erval	2020s	2	4	6	8	10	2	4	6	8	10	1	3	5	7	9	
	2050s	8	11	16	21	30	8	11	16	21	30	5	9	14	19	27	
Time In	2080s	13	18	29	39	58	13	18	29	39	58	10	14	25	36	54	
	2100	15	21	34	47	72	15	22	36	50	75	11	18	32	46	71	



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Department of Environmental Conservation

# **NY State Sea-level Rise Projections**

### 2017

Source: ClimAID Baseline: 2000-2004 Time intervals:

- 2020s
- 2050s
- 2080s
- 2100

Scenarios:

- Low
- Low-medium
- Medium
- High-medium
- High

### 2023 Update

Source: IPCC Baseline: 1995-2014

Time intervals:

- 2030s
- 2050s
- 2080s
- 2100
- 2150
- Additional Scenarios:
- "Very High" low probability, high consequence rapid ice melt for 2080s, 2100
- 2150





West Antarctic Ice Sheet. photo: NASA





Department of Environmental Conservation

# AR6: Drivers of Sea Level Change and Projection Sources

### Sum of the components

#### Energy Budget Emulator:

- Thermal expansion
- Greenland ice sheet mass balance
- Antarctic ice sheet mass balance
- Glacier mass balance

Relationship to population:

• Land water storage

CMIP6 relationships:

• Ocean dynamic sea level

Tide gauge data:

Isostatic adjustments
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# **NYS Scenario Development**

- SSP2-4.5 consistent with Paris Agreement NDCs
- SSP5-8.5 medium confidence additional amplifying feedback mechanisms
- SSP5-8.5 low confidence includes some rapid ice melt
- Distribution of model outputs adjusted for consistency with Part 490
- Mid-Hudson projections based on NYC projections, adjusted for glacial isostatic rebound
- Very high (RIM) scenario based on potential acceleration of ice mass loss and ice cliff instability



http://climatestate.com



Department of Environmental Conservation

### Proposed 6 NYCRR Part 490, Projected Sea-level Rise, 2023

	Region	Long Island							New York City/Lower Hudson							Mid-Hudson						
	Descriptor	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High			
Time Interval	2030s	7	8	10	12	14	NA	6	7	9	11	13	NA	5	7	8	10	12	NA			
	2050s	13	15	18	21	25	NA	12	14	16	19	23	NA	11	12	14	17	21	NA			
	2080s	23	26	32	41	48	83	21	25	30	39	45	83	18	21	26	35	41	83			
	2100	27	32	39	54	69	114	25	30	36	50	65	114	21	25	32	46	60	114			
	2150	42	50	63	94	185	NA	38	47	59	89	177	NA	32	41	52	82	171	NA			

Inches of rise relative to 1995-2014 baseline



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### Percentage Differences 6 NYCRR Part 490, 2017/2023

	Region	Long Island						New York City/Lower Hudson							Mid-Hudson						
	Descriptor	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High	Low	Low- medium	Medium	High- medium	High	Very High		
	2030s	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
terval	2050s	63%	36%	13%	0%	-17%	NA	50%	27%	0%	-10%	-23%	NA	120%	33%	0%	-11%	-22%	NA		
Time In	2080s	77%	44%	10%	5%	-17%	NA	62%	39%	3%	0%	-22%	NA	80%	50%	4%	-3%	-24%	NA		
	2100	80%	52%	15%	15%	-4%	NA	67%	36%	0%	0%	-13%	NA	91%	39%	0%	0%	-15%	NA		
	2150	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		



### To comment:

Email:

climatechange@dec.ny.gov, include "Sea Level Rise" in subject line.

Postal Mail:

Sea Level Rise Office of Climate Change New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-1030

Pre-proposal comments due by May 12, 2023

Request for comments and additional information: <u>https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/102559.html</u>



Department of Environmental Conservation

### **CWCAGJ Environmental Bond Act \$4.2 Billion**

Centers on equity and justice by committing significant resources directly to communities most affected by pollution and climate change.

#### Next steps:

Inter-agency working group to identify needs for environmental funding across the state and conduct stakeholder outreach on new program development.

<u>Statewide listening tour</u> for the public and potential funding applicants to learn about the Bond Act and weigh in on draft criteria to identify potential projects.



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Conservation

Long Island Coastal Erosion Forum – Nassau County May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### **Presenters:**

Derek Betts – District Manager, NCSWCD Olivia Calandra – Conservation Technician , NCSWCD



#### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program – Project Team

#### **NASSAU SWCD DIRECTORS & STAFF:**

#### **NCSWCD Board of Directors**

- Tara Schneider-Moran Chair
- Meagan Fastuca Vice Chair
- Eric Swenson Treasurer

#### **NCSWCD Staff**

- Derek Betts District Manager
- Olivia Calandra Conservation Technician
- Sean Rooney Conservation Technician
- Tom Parisi Conservation Technician

#### **PROGRAM PARTNERS:**

#### Nassau County Support

- Joe Cuomo Nassau County DPW
- John Capece Commissioner Consumer Affairs

#### **NCSWCD IA Consultant**

Justin Jobin – Environmental Scientist

#### **The Nature Conservancy**

Nicholas Calderon – Marine Scientist









#### **What is Nitrogen Pollution?**

- 78% of atmosphere comprised of harmless, unreactive N<sub>2</sub> gas
- Excess reactive nitrogen: CH<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O, NH<sub>3</sub>, and NO<sub>3</sub>
- Too much of a good thing







#### Effects of Excess Nitrogen on the Long Island Sound

- Fish Kills
- Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB)
- Invasive Seaweed
- Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)





#### **Distribution of Nitrogen to North Shore of Long Island**



#### Hempstead Harbor, Manhasset Bay, and Little Neck Bay

Cold Spring Harbor, Oyster Bay, and Long Island Sound

Data from Stony Brook University's Nitrogen-Loading Modeling for Nassau County Subwatersheds.






*"Innovative Advanced (I/A) OWTS" or "Clean-Water" septic tanks can reduce nitrogen outputs into groundwater by up to 95%.* 



**CONVENTIONAL SEPTIC TANK** 

NITROGEN-REDUCING IA SEPTIC TANK

#### Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program – Overview

- Nassau County Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness (S.E.P.T.I.C.)
- Provides State and County grant funding of up to \$20,000 to eligible property owners
- Program is administered by the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Provide support and program modifications to streamline the upgrade from traditional Cesspools and Septic Systems to nitrogen reducing IA OWTS
- Program grant funds are considered nontaxable income.

#### Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program – Accepted Technologies



Hydro-Action AN Series







Norweco HydroKinetic



Typical backyard configuration of an AdvanTex® Treatment System. The system has five main functional parts: VeriComm® web-based monitoring system\* Processing tank Biotube® pumping package AdvanTex filter

> 5 Recirculating splitter valve † MVP digital programmable panels available as an option in some markets.

Other configurations and models available.



Orenco Advantex AX-20

SeptiTech STAAR

#### **Average S.E.P.T.I.C. Installation Costs**

Note: These numbers are representative of installations completed within our program to date.

# Average Cost - \$27,950.59

NOTE:

- This reflects only eligible reimbursable costs for the program. Does not include site beautification, O&M or abandonment fees.
- Grants are meant to offset and incentivize I/A systems over conventional systems and cesspools.
- There will be out-of-pocket expenses



#### Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program – Bayville Case Study

- Conventional septic system would have cost a minimum of \$16,000.00
- The total Design, Material, and Installation costs of the FujiClean CEN Series Clean-Water septic system was \$21,867.31.
- The Property Owner received \$20,000 in combined grants from Nassau County and New York State
- 'out-of-pocket' cost to Property Owner was \$1,867.31





'Our system is better than we could have hoped, and we have peace of mind knowing we are doing our part in keeping Bayville's water clean'



#### Nassau's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program – Program Statistics



# THANK YOU!

# QUESTIONS?



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# Q&A for Panelists

Ryan Porciello and Eric Star CEHA Program, NYSDEC Barbara Kendall New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) Mark Lowery Office of Climate Change, NYSDEC Derek Betts NCSWCD







# Lunch

Available in several configurations

- Best warranty in the industry
- Easy installation and maintenance
- Cost effective nitrogen removal



Attendees can explore outdoor SEPTIC Program vendor — Hydro-Action!

Please be back by 1:15 PM

## Welcome back!

## Small Group Discussions

#### Left Side of the Room – 2 Stations

**Question 1:** 

How can we better educate private property owners who live on the shore or who are buying property on the shore? What educational materials/outreach is needed?

Secondary Question: Can we agree on a set of best practices for addressing shoreline erosion? How do we implement these? How do we encourage more nature-based shoreline solutions?

Right Side of the Room – 2 Stations

**Question 2:** 

What support do municipalities/communities need from county, state and federal agencies/entities to help address shoreline erosion issues?

Secondary Question: What are the barriers to updating local codes?

Small Group Discussions

#### **Question 1**

Station 1: Kathleen Fallon & Elizabeth Hornstein

How can we better educate private property owners who live on the shore or who are buying property on the shore?

Question 1

Station 2: Derek Betts & Olivia Calandra

Question 2 Station 3: Mark Lowery

Switch Groups after 25 minutes

What support do municipalities/communi ties need from county, state and federal agencies/entities to help address shoreline erosion issues?

## Small Group Discussions

#### **Question 2**

**Station 4:** Barbara Kendall & Sarah Schaefer-Brown



# Group Report Out

2 main points from each group



# Wrap Up & Next Steps

# Thank you!



#### Contact Us:

Sarah Schaefer-Brown Nassau County, NY New York Sea Grant sarahschaefer-brown@cornell.edu

Elizabeth Hornstein Suffolk County, NY New York Sea Grant elizabeth.hornstein@cornell.edu

**Kathleen Fallon** New York Sea Grant kmf228@cornell.edu



#### Save the Date Long Island Sound Coastal **Erosion Forums**

Nassau County Forum: Thursday May 4, 2023, Locust Valley Library. Register here.

Suffolk County Forum: Wednesday May 10, 2023, Port Jefferson Village Center. Register here.

These forums will bring together state and local decision makers, municipal staff, and other stakeholders working to address coastal erosion. The goal of these forums is to share information on best practices, discuss challenges, identify opportunities to increase resilience, and enhance coordination across communities.

Hosted by New York Sea Grant and Long Island Sound Study in partnership with Nassau and Suffolk Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Suffolk County Legislators Sarah Anker, Stephanie Bontempi, Kara Hahn, and Al Krupski.





