



Peconic Estuary
PROGRAM

UPDATE

September 2018

First Inaugural Estuary Day was a Success!



Photo Credit:
Seatuck Environmental
Association

- About 75 people attended the first annual Long Island Estuary Day Event hosted by Long Island Sound Study, Peconic Estuary Program, and South Shore Estuary Reserve at Seatuck Environmental Association in Islip, NY on Saturday, September 15.
- Participants took part in Nature hikes, wildlife photography hikes, kids scavenger hunt nature hike, seining, shell painting, fish press painting, visiting tables from our local environmental partners, and listening to presentations on Nitrogen pollution in our estuaries, invasive species, organic lawn care, rain gardens, and Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program.

PEP CCMP Revision Underway



- Held CCMP Workshop on August 9th to review draft CCMP mission statement, visions, objectives and actions with the Management and Policy Committee members. Feedback collected and used to refine CCMP outline.
- CCMP outline due to EPA on **September 30th, 2018**.
- Draft CCMP expected to be sent to EPA for review in February 2019.

SUMMARY: NEP FY2009-2012 Grant Extension Progress Tracking Table

Milestone reached		Milestone not yet reached		Milestone not obtained	
NEP Grant and Workplan Year	Task/Contractor/ Services	Total Budgeted	Not yet Expended	Contract Status	Meeting Milestones?
NEP 2010 CE99200217-1	National Atmospheric Deposition Program Monitoring/ University of Illinois	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	Tasks completed and grant funds drawn-down.	YES
	Living Resources, CCMP Tasks/Land Use Ecological Services, Inc./ Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Services	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	Contract executed. Work in progress.	NO, but contract executed. Work in progress.
NEP 2011 CE99200217-2	Habitat Restoration Plan Implementation/ Peconic Land Trust	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	Work underway. Contract executed: April 1, 2017- March 31, 2020.	NO- off schedule
	Nitrogen Mitigation Pilot Assessment/ Cornell Cooperative Extension	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00	Contract being finalized.	NO
	Public education Mini-Grants/ 4 Contractors	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	All contracts executed (4). Grant draw-down.	YES
	Eelgrass/Bio-Optical Study/ The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook	\$82,000.00	\$82,000.00	Work Underway - project period extended until October 31, 2018.	YES
NEP 2012 CE99200217-3	Climate Ready Estuaries CLPS Updates/ Anchor QEA/ Climate Ready Assessment Services	\$63,363.00	\$63,363.00	Work underway. Contract executed: October 1, 2017- September 30, 2019.	NO, but contract executed. Work in progress.

Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

Contracting with United States Geologic Survey

Status: GIS preparation and Model Development phase. **Next project meeting on November 14th, 2018.**

Link to [Solute Transport Model Workplan](#)



Objective: This Solute Transport Model will be a tool to estimate time-varying nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary resulting from wastewater and fertilizer inputs to the groundwater. The overall objective of the study is to apply methods that will allow for the quantitative analysis of nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary resulting from wastewater and fertilizer inputs to groundwater in Suffolk County.

Specifically, the objectives of the investigation are to

- 1) develop data sets representing current and historic land uses relevant to nitrogen loading in coastal watersheds

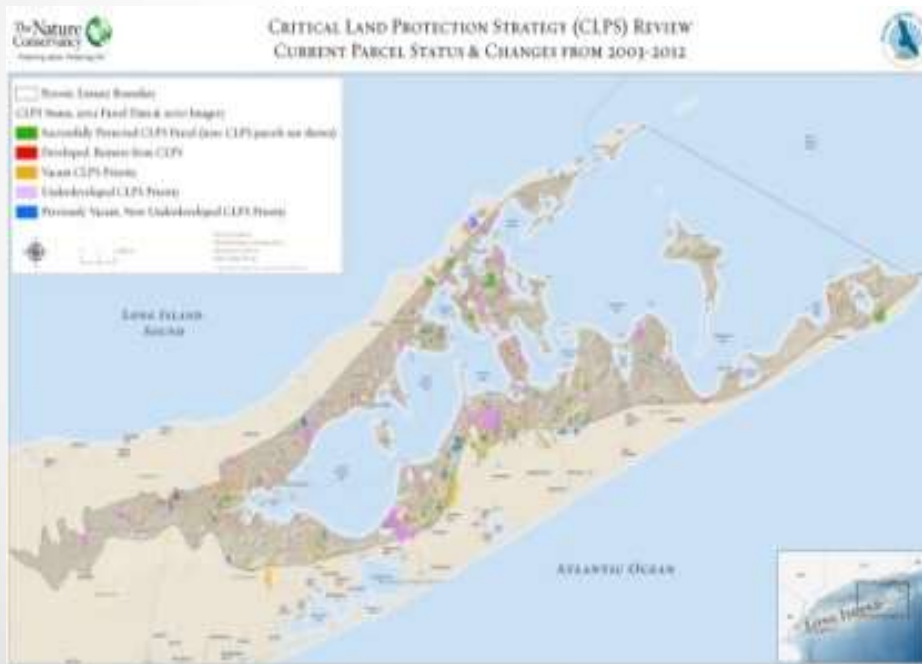
- 2) incorporate these data as source terms in models capable of simulating transport processes to estimate current estuarine loading rates and nutrient concentrations in the aquifer, and

- 3) use these current-condition models to simulate the response of estuarine loading rates to possible wastewater-management actions.

CLPS Update and Climate Ready Assessment Services for PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation

Contracting with Anchor QEA

Status: QAPP approved by EPA, CLPS criteria meeting on September 21st.

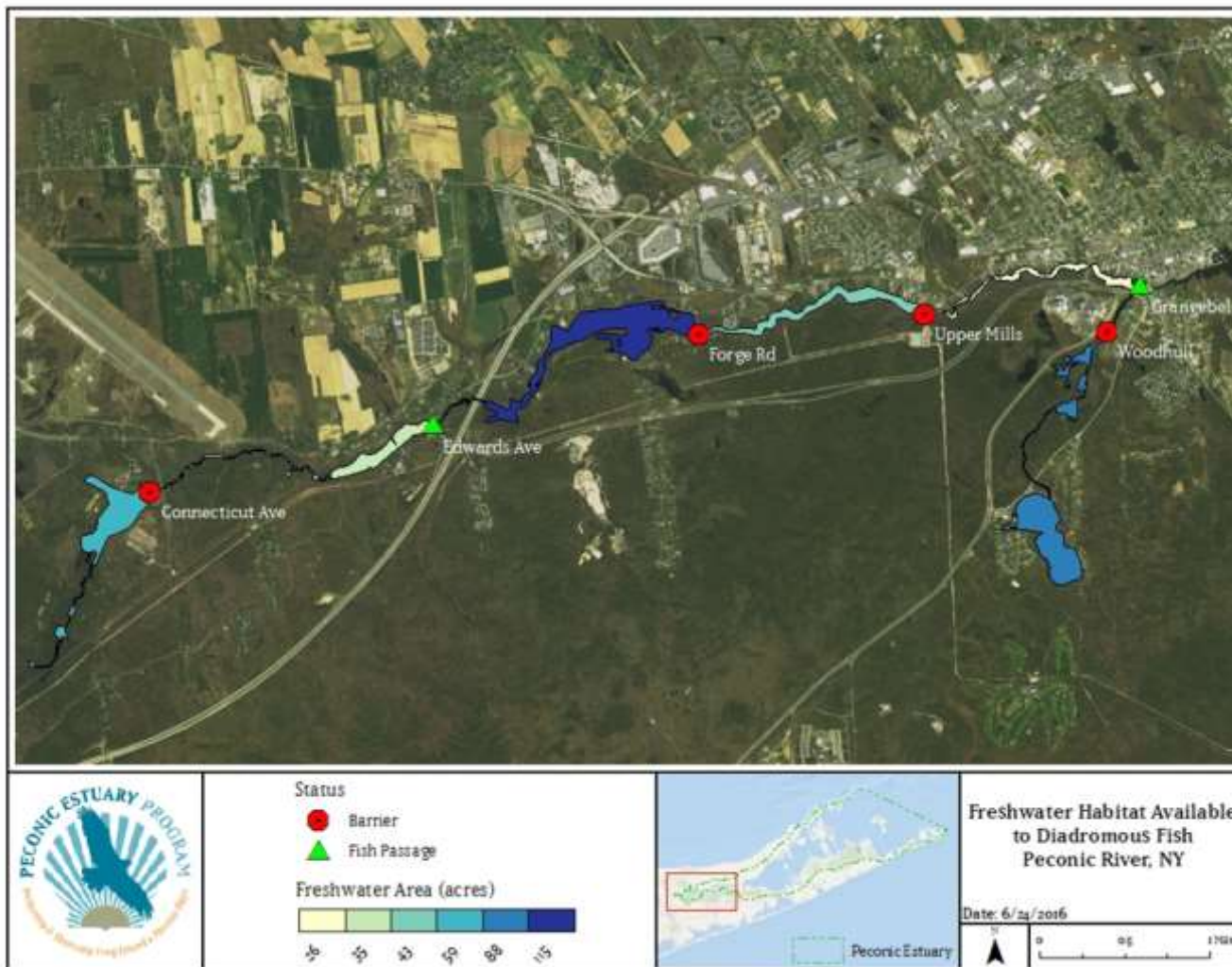


Objective:

- 1) Re-evaluation of the original prioritization of the Critical Lands Protection Strategy (CLPS).
- 2) Assessment of climate change vulnerabilities of the environmental restoration and protection programs for both the Peconic Estuary Program and Shinnecock Indian Nation.

Habitat Restoration Updates

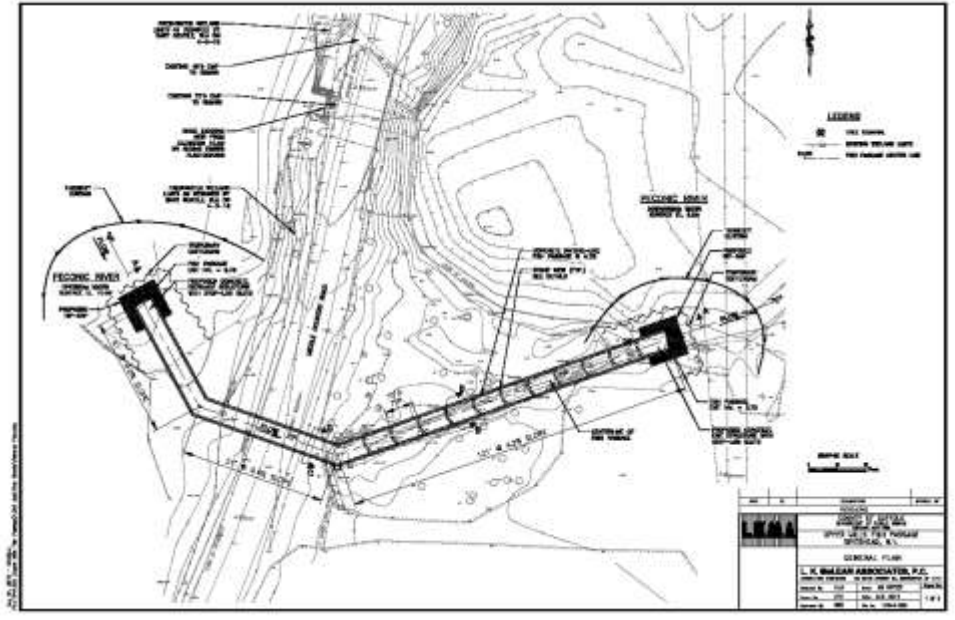
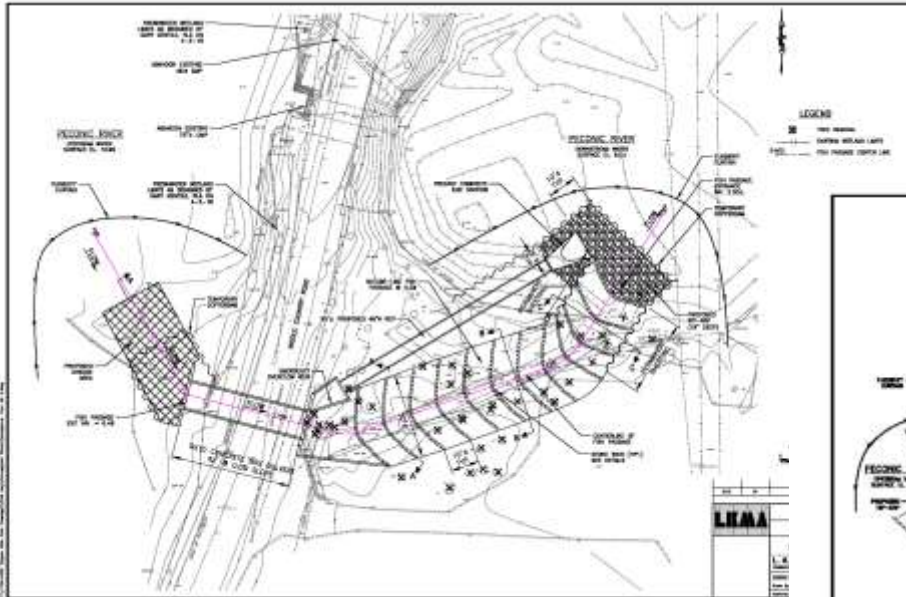
The Peconic Estuary Program is working with its partners to restore critical freshwater spawning and maturation habitat for diadromous fish on the Peconic River.



Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage Project

Contracting with L.K. McLean Associates for engineering design/permitting services

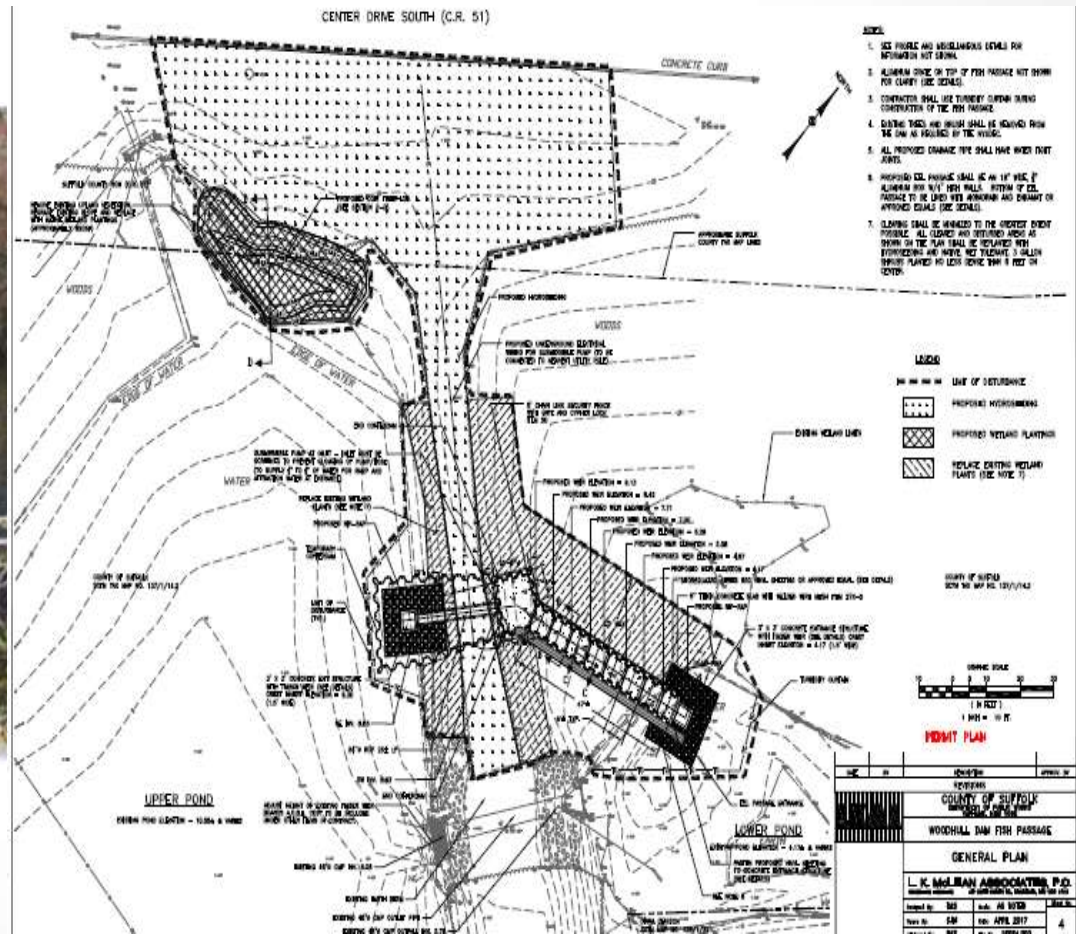
Status: QAPP has been approved, Site Survey is Complete, 2 Conceptual Designs developed for stakeholder meeting.



Woodhull Dam Fish Passage Project

Suffolk County contracted with L.K. McLean Associates for engineering design/permitting services

Status: NYSDEC WQIP Funding awarded for fish passage construction.
Awaiting permit. Construction RFP under development.



Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Planning in the Peconic Estuary

Peconic Estuary is contracting with Land Use Ecological
Status: QAPP approved by the EPA. Site surveys underway.

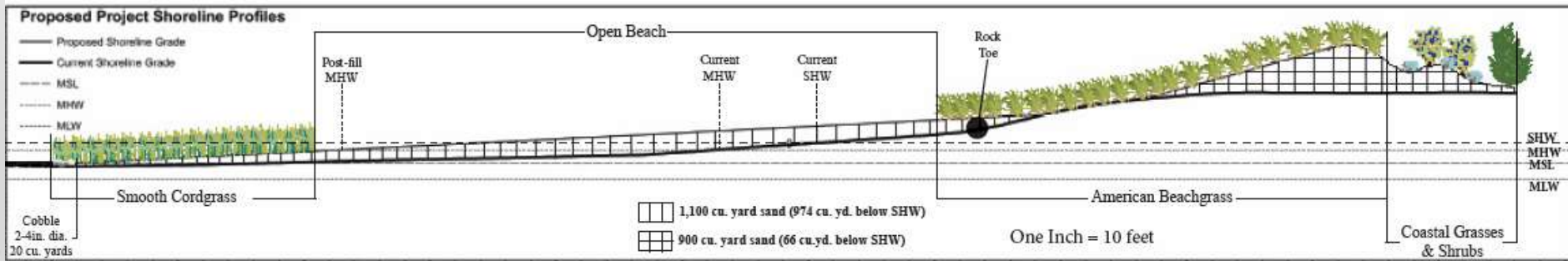
**Conceptual habitat restoration designs
will be developed for the following
identified priority sites:**

- a. Southold: Narrow River Road Wetland Restoration
 - b. Southampton: Iron Point Wetland Restoration
 - c. East Hampton: Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement
 - d. Riverhead: Meeting House Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration
- 2016 Suffolk County Capital funds have been secured for implementation of the Lake Montauk project,
 - PEP requested 2018 NEP Funds (\$173,719) for implementation of the Meeting House Creek project



Living Shoreline Pilot Project- Greenport

PEP is contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Peconic Land Trust
Status: All permits in hand, except Village of Greenport Wetland Permit.



Seagrass Bio-optical Model

PEP is contracting with The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook

Status: QAPP approved by the EPA. Final tasks underway.

Presentation on project held August 15th TAC meeting.



Objective: Site specific information to inform eelgrass management and restoration programs. This project will lead to a better understanding of specific light and temperature requirements for eelgrass in the Peconic Estuary (PE). This is the critical next step towards understanding the threats to the eelgrass community and where restoration projects have the best probability of success.

2017 Habitat Restoration Plan Finalized

Link to [2017 Habitat Restoration Plan](#)

- Interactive GIS Map of Habitat Restoration Projects is under development.
 - Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting held July 12th to discuss implementation of the Habitat Restoration Plan.
- 164 acres of land were protected between September 2017 – September 2018 in the Peconic Estuary watershed.

2017 PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN



Prepared by:

Elizabeth Hornstein, Peconic Estuary Program State Coordinator



Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping Project

With the help of two interns, PEP is undertaking a GIS mapping project to quantify the amount of hardened shoreline in the Estuary. This supports Action 3, under Objective 9 in the Habitat Restoration Plan. The last survey was in 2003.



Stormwater Updates

- NYSDEC plans to rescind the pathogen TMDL and will work on developing new TMDLs over the next several years.
- The DEC has issued the draft 303(d) list of Impaired/TMDL waterbodies. The response deadline to submit comments was **July 30**.
- Many of the waterbodies within the Peconic have been moved to the Part 2C list (Waterbody Segments Impaired due to Shellfishing Restrictions), which "reflects that implementation of the existing TMDLs are not expected to achieve the water quality goals." This reclassification has implications for the municipalities regarding implementation of MS4 programs.
- The Protection Committee submitted comments on the 303(d) list.
- NYSDEC Division of Water is giving a presentation about the development of the new TMDLs at the next Protection Committee Meeting- **October 3rd**.