



Peconic Estuary
PROGRAM

UPDATE

July 2019

PEP CCMP Revision Underway

- **PEP held CCMP Workshop Meetings monthly** November - February to gain specific feedback on the Draft CCMP Outline and Chapters.
- **March/ April 2019-** The draft CCMP document was out for review by EPA, NYSDEC, Suffolk County and Local Governments April 11th, 2019- May 31st, 2019. **Currently reviewing CCMP comments and revising CCMP.**
- **July- August 2019-** CCMP 60-day public review period.
- **December 31st, 2019-** Final CCMP complete.

The screenshot shows a calendar interface with a header for "NOVEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019". Below the header, there are four event cards for the following months:

- NOV 9 Fri:** CCMP Workshop: Water Quality Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center. Nov 9 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. This WATER QUALITY CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 4: CLEAN WATERS AND WATERSHEDS.
- DEC 5 Wed:** CCMP Workshop: Habitat and Living Resources Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center. Dec 5 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. This HABITAT AND LIVING RESOURCES CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 5: Healthy Ecosystems with Abundant, Diverse Wildlife.
- JAN 7 Mon:** CCMP Workshop: Climate Change and Resiliency Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center. Jan 7 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. This CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 7: Resilient Estuary Communities Prepared for Climate Change.
- FEB 6 Wed:** CCMP Workshop: Public Engagement and Stewardship Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center. Feb 6 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. This PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 6: Well-informed, Active Stewards throughout the Local Community.

Each event card includes a "Read more" button and a category tag "CCMP WORKSHOP MEETING".

Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

Contracting with United States Geologic Survey

Status: GIS preparation and Model Development phase. **Next project meeting on August 21st, 2019.**

Link to [PE Solute Transport Model Webpage](#)



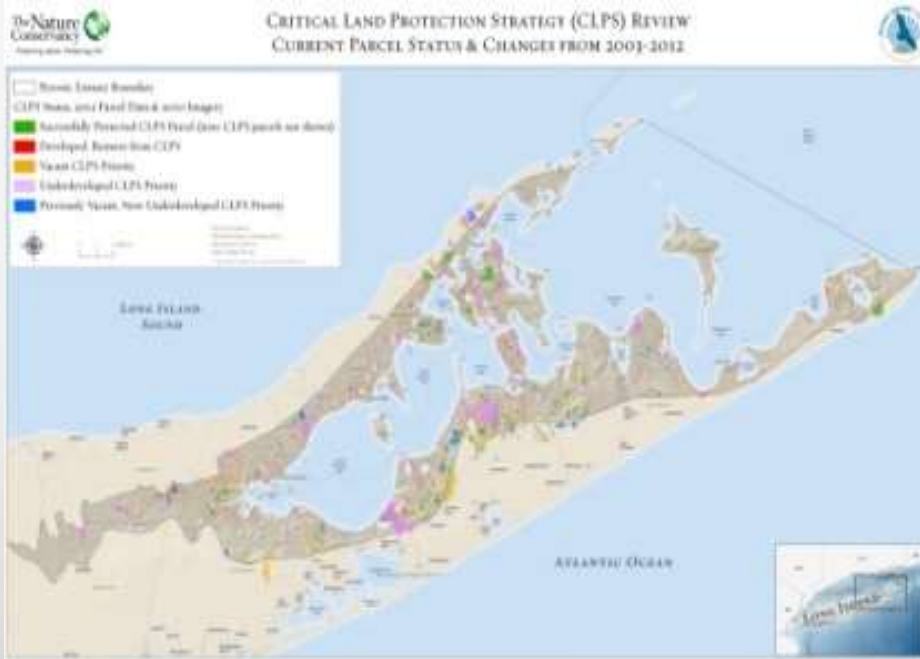
Objective: This Solute Transport Model will be a tool to estimate time-varying nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary resulting from wastewater and fertilizer inputs to the groundwater. The overall objective of the study is to apply methods that will allow for the quantitative analysis of nitrogen 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: New CLPS criteria and mapping of CLPS complete. Next Steps: Finalize mapping of CLPS and finalize Climate Vulnerability Assessment with PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation. Expected project completion August 2019.



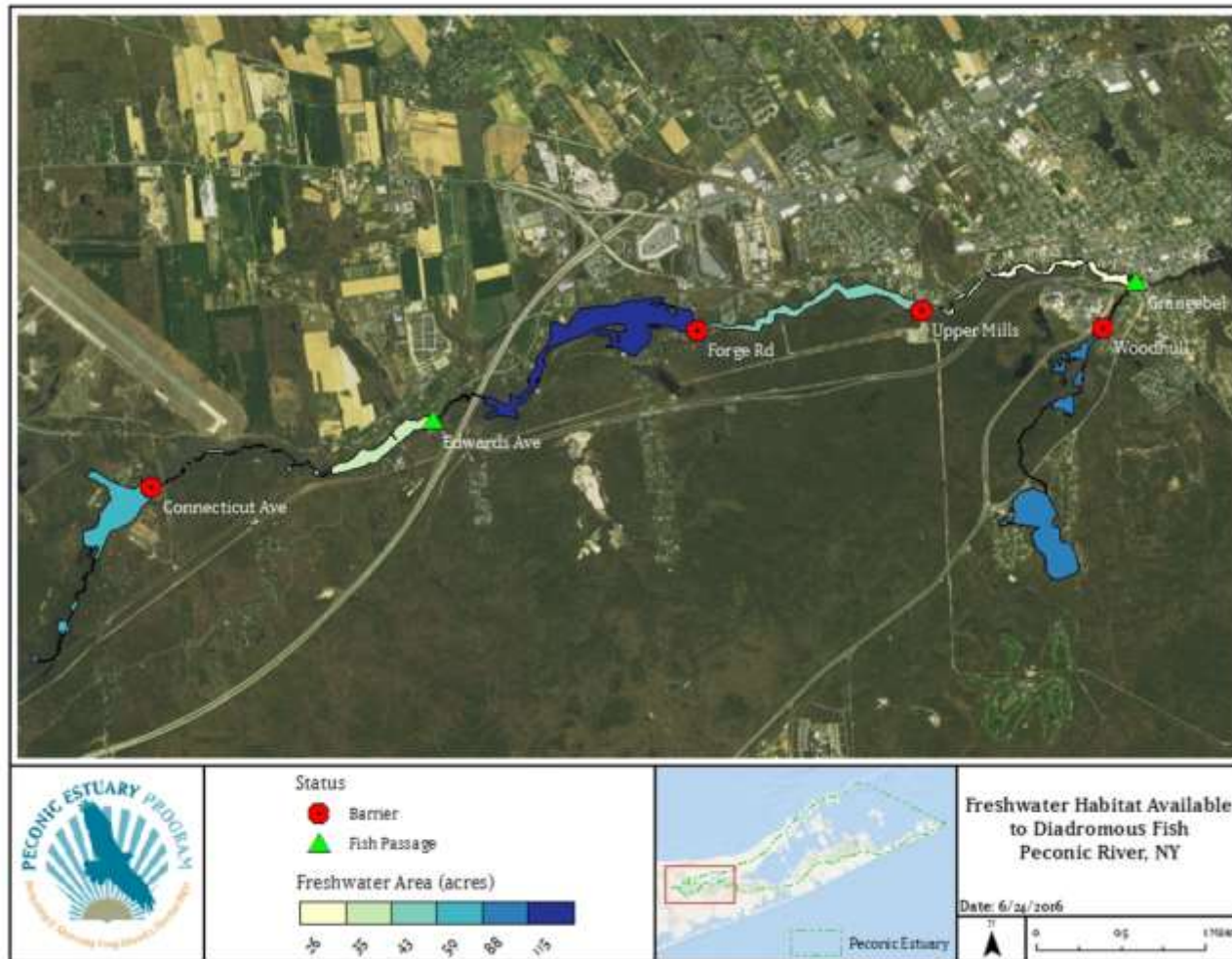
Objective:

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

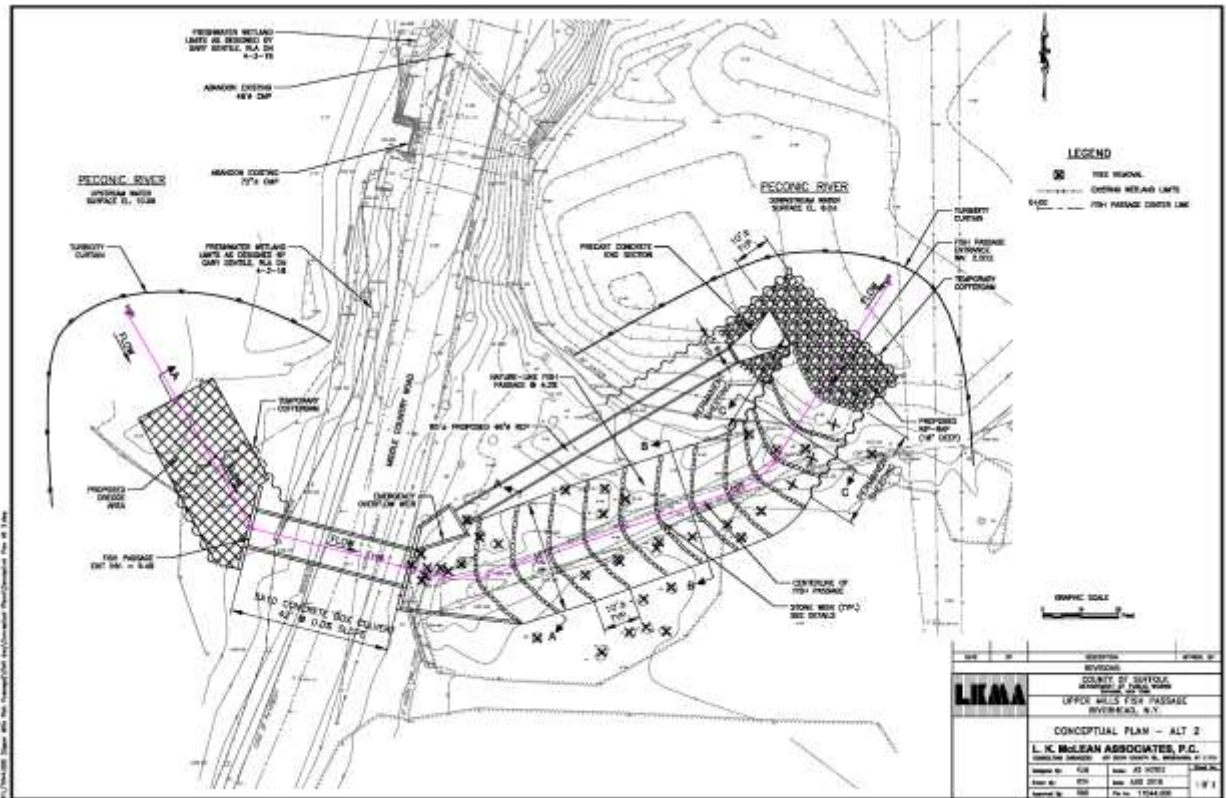
The Peconic Estuary Program is working with its partners to restore critical freshwater spawning and maturation habitat for diadromous fish on the Peconic River.



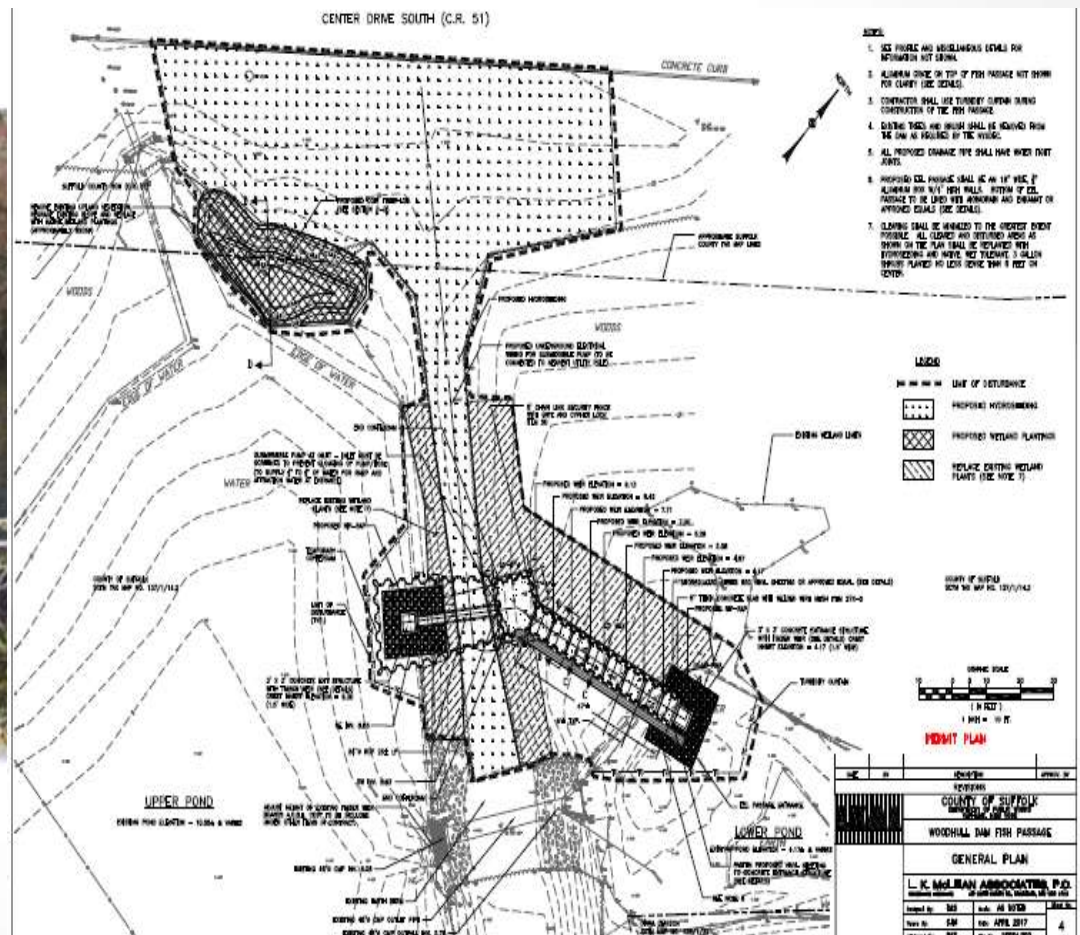
Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage Project

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

Status: Preferred preliminary design alternative selected at April 9th, 2019 stakeholder meeting. Developing engineering designs for selected design alternative.



Status: NYSDEC WQIP Funding awarded for fish passage construction. Permit complete. Construction RFP under development with DPW- scheduled to advertise late July/ early August 2019.



Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Planning in the Peconic Estuary

Peconic Estuary is contracting with Land Use Ecological Services.

Status: Final stakeholder meeting held June 28th, 2019 to review conceptual designs. Expected project completion August 2019.

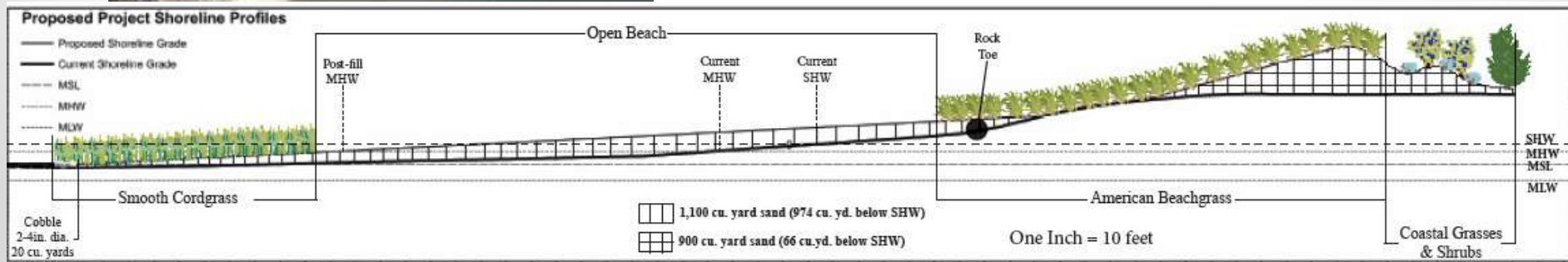
Conceptual habitat restoration designs will be developed for the following identified priority sites:

- 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: Meetinghouse Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration
 - 2016 Suffolk County Capital funds have been secured for implementation of the Lake Montauk project.
 - PEP secured 2018 EPA Funds (\$173,719) for implementation of the Meetinghouse Creek project.



Living Shoreline Pilot Project- Greenport

PEP is contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Peconic Land Trust
Status: Construction is underway. Beachgrass plantings and Spartina plantings complete. Expected project completion August 2019.



Seagrass Bio-optical Model

PEP is contracting with The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook
Status: Final tasks underway.



- 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.
- Link to project presentation at August 15th TAC meeting: <https://www.peconicestuary.org/peconic-estuary-seagrass-bio-optical-model-project-presentation-kaitlyn-otoole-2018/>

Expansion and Monitoring of the Town of Southold Living Shoreline Demonstration Project

Peconic Estuary Program is contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension
Status: Work is underway. Expected project completion in August 2020.



Figure 2. Location of proposed living shoreline project on Southold Town Trustee land near Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center.

- Expansion to an existing Town of Southold Living Shoreline Demonstration Project contract with the Town of Southold Trustees and the Suffolk County DEDP.
- Establish a larger geography of the project and monitoring services to run in tandem with the existing project to enable the quantification of nitrogen and pathogen uptake results and assessment of the effectiveness of the living shoreline to mitigate nitrogen pollution in the Peconic Estuary-
Spartina alterniflora and ribbed mussels.

Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping Project

Status: An overview of the Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping Project presented at the PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting on June 28th, 2019. A final report will be produced in the summer 2019.

With the help of two interns, PEP completed 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.



WQ Monitoring Assessment Services

Status: Contracting through NEIWPCC with CoastWise Partners. Held workshops on May 29th, 2019 with the PEP Technical Advisory Committee and WQ Monitoring Program leads to review WQ monitoring programs in Peconic Estuary. Assessment will continue through out the year.

- Review and update the existing water quality monitoring strategy. The goal of this project is to create a PEP Monitoring Strategy that will be relevant for approximately ten years and will be part of the CCMP Update.
- The purpose of this project is to develop appropriate indicators of estuarine health, ensure appropriate parameters are collected on a temporal and spatial scale to assess these indicators. The results of the project will be an updated monitoring strategy that is implementable given the programs human and financial resource constraints.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.



Organizational Assessment Services

Status: Contracting through NEIWPCC with CoastWise Partners. Assessment will continue throughout the year and PEP and Coastwise will be reaching out to our Committee members and partners for their help in our Assessment process.

- Examine the relationships between all groups in the Management Conference and provide recommendations about how they can work together more effectively.
- The purpose of this project is to develop a set of guiding policies for the Management Conference and sub-groups. The results of the project will be a set of documents to be reviewed and approved by the Management Conference.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.

Peconic Estuary QAPP Services for a Supplemental Water Quality Sediment Data Collection Project

Status: Contracting with Tetra Tech, Inc. Held kick-off call with Peconic Estuary Protection Committee on June 5th, 2019. Technical Advisory Committee to be developed over next month with a meeting planned for late summer.

- A NYSDEC and EPA approved QAPP will be developed to enable the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee (PEPC) and partners to quantify water quality parameters so that equally comparable data can be collected and shared for uses such as to identify and prioritize subwatersheds in the Peconic Estuary that should be targeted for water quality improvement activities; ensure water bodies are properly listed on the NYS Impaired Waters list; and help the PEPC members and partners, including the Peconic Estuary Program, assess the current baseline in water quality, and effectiveness of water quality improvement interventions over time.

Successful Septic Improvement Program Workshop held on June 20th!



PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM'S
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 20th

2:00 - 4:00 pm
Hallock State Park Preserve
6062 Sound Ave, Riverhead, NY 11901

Our meeting will feature a workshop on the
SUFFOLK COUNTY SEPTIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM!

Questions about the application process? Suffolk County representatives will provide everything you need to know about how to upgrade your cesspool or septic system through the program. For success stories, go to: <https://www.reclaimourwater.info/Homeowners.aspx>

Contact: peptalk@peconicestuary.org



Education and Outreach Highlights

- Terrapin Monitoring at Northwest Harbor County Park in East Hampton began on June 2nd with two interns. Program will run until early August. Data will be compared to 2018.
- Horseshoe crab monitoring season is ending. All tags were distributed for Hampton Bays site, higher quantity of crabs this year vs. last year.
- Native Plant Workshop with Long Island Native Plant Initiative was held at our demonstration gardens at the Big Duck. Volunteers learned about the benefits of native plants for our water quality.
- [Spring 2019 Newsletter](#)

