



Peconic Estuary
PROGRAM

UPDATE

September 2019

PEP CCMP Revision

- **October 2019**- CCMP 30-day public review period.
- 3 public meetings planned:

October 22nd, 2019

Hampton Bays Public Library

52 Ponquogue Ave, Hampton Bays, NY 11946

4:00 - 6:00 pm

October 23rd, 2019

Hallock State Park Preserve

6062 Sound Ave, Riverhead, NY 11901

6:00 – 8:00 pm

October 24th, 2019

South Fork Natural History Museum

377 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

5:00 – 7:00 pm

- **December 31st, 2019**- Final CCMP complete.

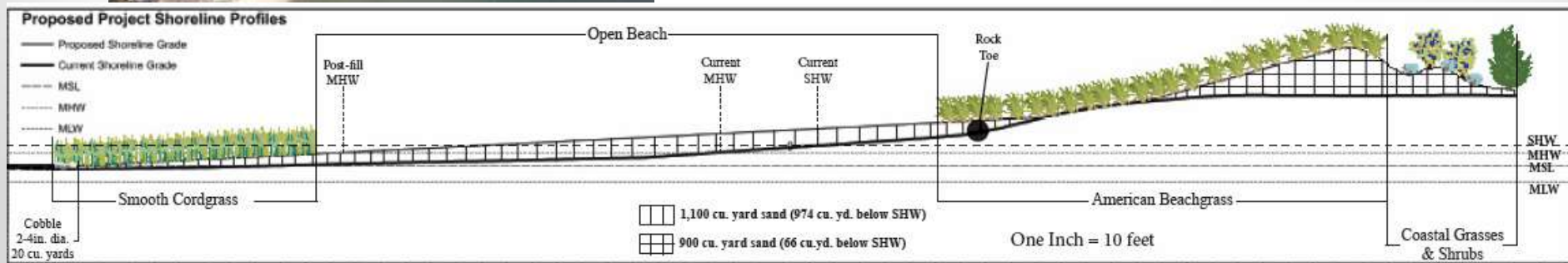
PEP's Completed Projects!

- Check out the [Priority Issues in the Peconic Estuary page](#) to view projects PEP is moving forward!
- Check out the [PEP: Making Significant Change](#) page to view PEP's impact in the region!

Living Shoreline Pilot Project- Greenport

PEP and Peconic Land Trust with Cornell Cooperative Extension

Status: Completed August 2019.



Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Planning in the Peconic Estuary

PEP and Land Use Ecological Services.

Status: Completed September 2019. Final reports will be distributed.

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

- a. Southold: Narrow River Road Wetland Restoration (additional public and Town review necessary)
- b. Southampton: Iron Point Wetland Restoration (Southampton Town to review)
- c. East Hampton: Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement (funding secure)
- d. Riverhead: Meetinghouse Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration (partial funding secured)



Seagrass Bio-optical Model

PEP and The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook

Status: Completed September 2019.

Final report released by 2020. GIS tool is being developed.



- Objective: Site specific information to inform eelgrass management and restoration programs.
- Link to project presentation at August 15th TAC meeting:
<https://www.peconicestuary.org/peconic-estuary-seagrass-bio-optical-model-project-presentation-kaitlyn-otoole-2018/>

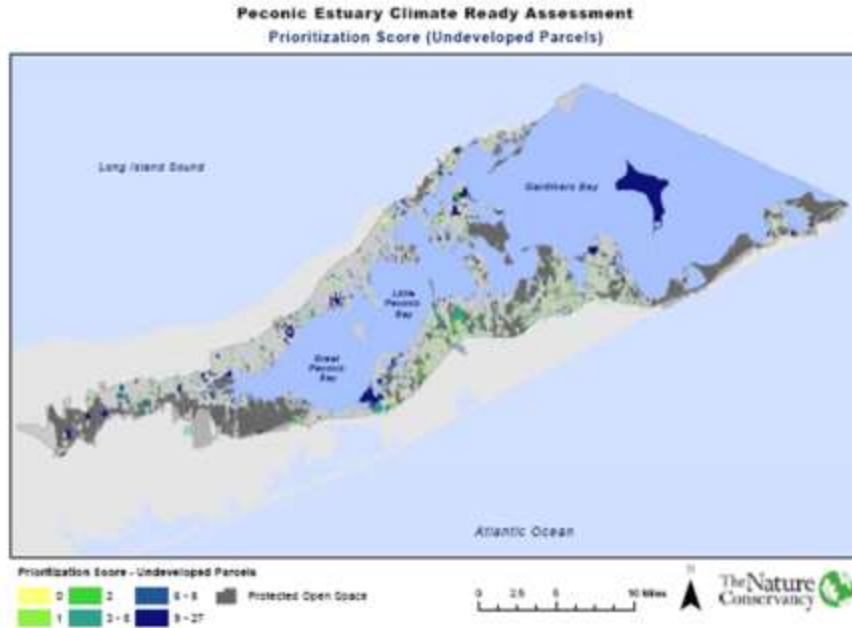
Critical Lands Protection Strategy Update and Climate Ready Assessment Services for PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation

PEP and Anchor QEA

Status: Completed September 2019.

Final report and products will be distributed.

Figure 13: Undeveloped Prioritization with protected



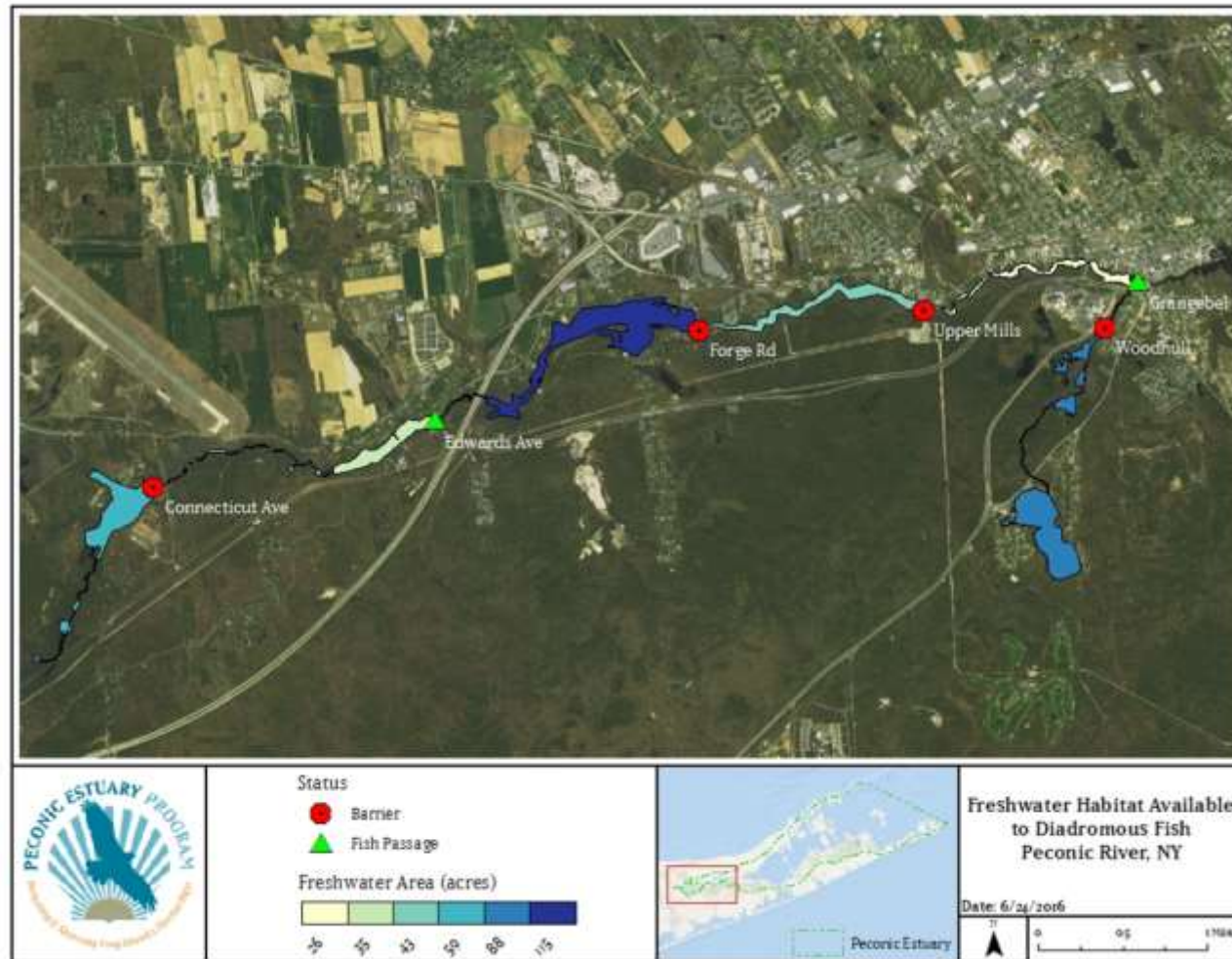
Objective:

1) Critical Lands Protection Strategy (CLPS)

2) Assessment of climate change vulnerabilities for both the Peconic Estuary Program and Shinnecock Indian Nation.

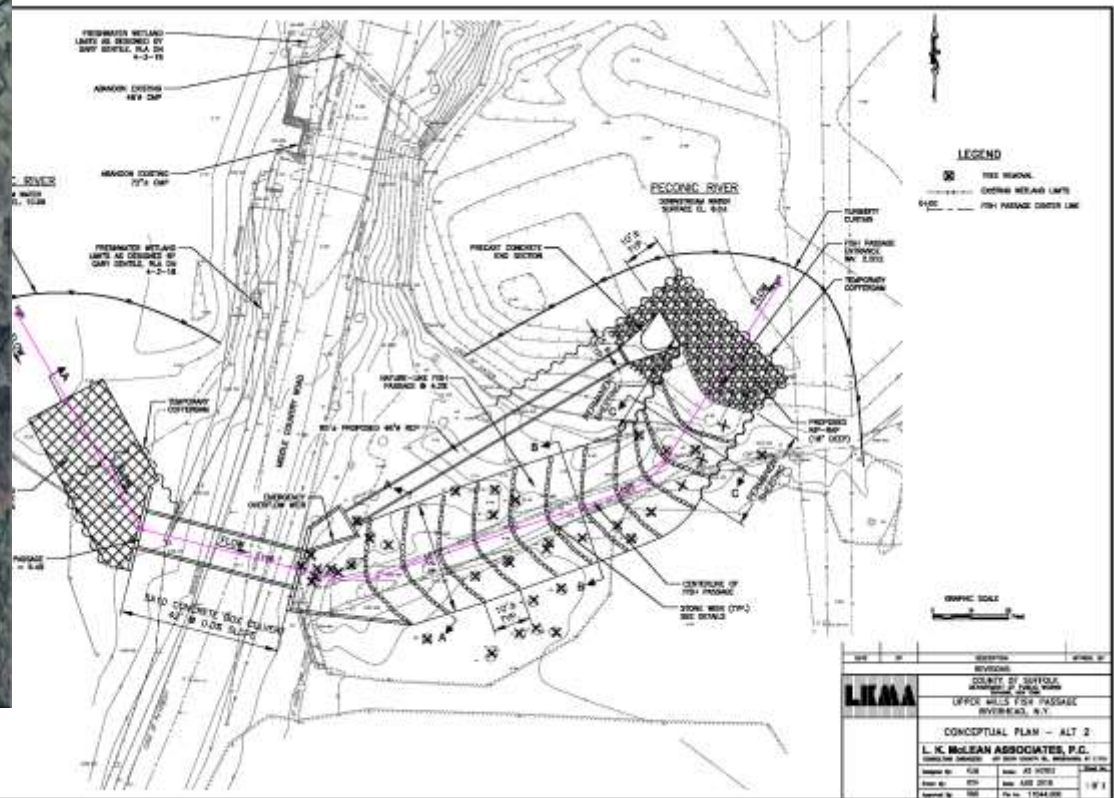
Habitat Restoration Updates

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

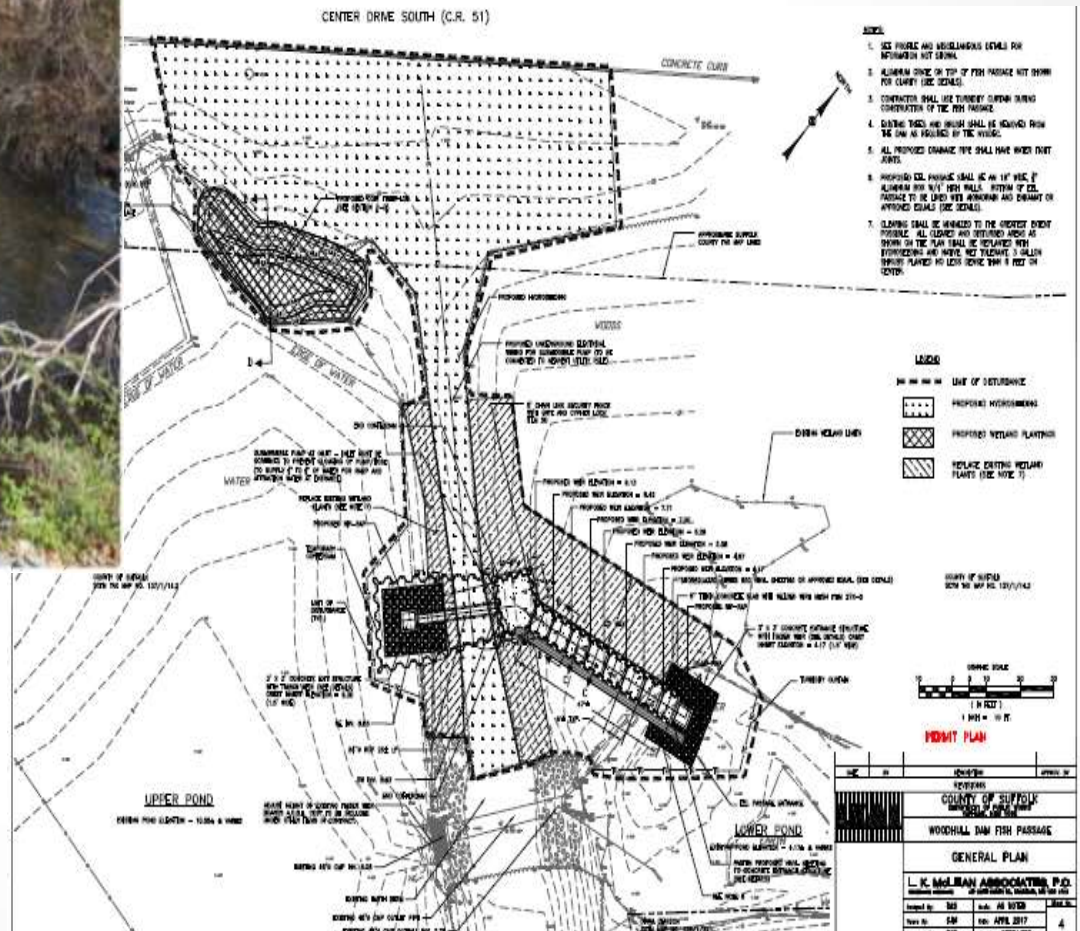


Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage

PEP and L.K. McLean Associates for engineering and permitting services
Status: Design alternative selected at April 9th, 2019 stakeholder meeting.
Developing engineering designs.



PEP and Suffolk County contracted with L.K. McLean Associates
Status: Partial funding secure - PEP is securing additional funds with a goal of
completing construction in 2020.



Expansion and Monitoring of the Town of Southold Living Shoreline

PEP and 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.
- Goal is to establish a larger project area and the addition of monitoring services at the project site.
- Enable the quantification of nitrogen and pathogen uptake of *Spartina alterniflora* and ribbed mussels.

Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

PEP and United States Geologic Survey

Status: Model Development phase and scenario development.

Next project meeting on December 4th, 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

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) estimate current estuarine loading rates and nutrient concentrations in the aquifer, and
- 3) use these current-condition models to simulate the response to possible wastewater-management actions.

Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping

Status: Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping Project was presented at the PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee on June 28th, 2019.

Final report is anticipated in 2020.

- PEP completed a GIS mapping project to quantify the amount of hardened shoreline in the Estuary. The last survey was in 2003 using maps from 2001.
- The preliminary results are being reviewed and ground-truthed in advance of final report distribution.

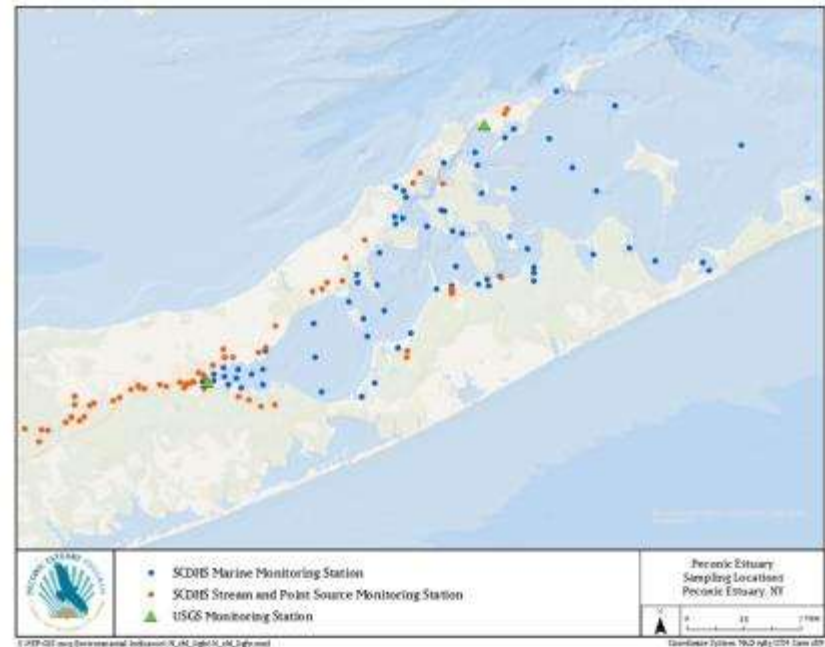


WQ Monitoring Assessment

PEP and CoastWise Partners.

Status: Held workshops to review WQ monitoring programs in Peconic Estuary.
Assessment will continue through out the year and is to be incorporated into CCMP.

- Goal of this project is to create a PEP Monitoring Strategy that will be relevant for all decision makers.
- The purpose of this project is to develop appropriate indicators of estuarine health, and 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 with the end goal of annual water quality reports.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.



Organizational Assessment

PEP and CoastWise Partners.

Status: On-going.

- 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.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.



Quality Assurance Project Plan Development for Supplemental Water Quality Sediment Data Collection


PEP and Tetra Tech, Inc.

Status: A project Technical Advisory Committee has been developed.
Anticipated completion September 2020.

- A NYSDEC and EPA approved QAPP will be developed;
- 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;
- Help the PEPC members and partners assess the current baseline in water quality, and effectiveness of water quality improvement interventions over time.

Education and Outreach Highlights

CAC Meeting: Wildlife Monitoring & Citizen Science September 23rd!



PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM'S
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

———— **Monday, September 23rd** ————

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 East Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901

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WILDLIFE MONITORING & CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE
PECONIC ESTUARY

Guest Speakers:

River Otters - Mike Bottini, Long Island Nature Organization
Diamondback Terrapins - Seatuck Environmental Association

What wildlife monitoring is currently being done? How can you be involved?
Are there other species we should consider? Join us in this important
discussion. Through wildlife monitoring we can determine action for
conservation and learn more about the health of our bays.

Contact: peptalk@peconicestuary.org




Photo: 27 years Mike Bottini

Education and Outreach Highlights

- 2nd Annual Estuary Day 2019 at Theodore Roosevelt Park in Oyster Bay was a success!



Photo Credits: NYSDEC



Education and Outreach Highlights

- Summer Newsletter published!

<https://www.peconicestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Summer-Newsletter-Digital-2019.pdf>



Education and Outreach Highlights

- Produced the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) summer long social media campaign (#NitrogenActionLI) in collaboration with Long Island Regional Planning Council.
- Goal of campaign: spread awareness about what LINAP is, informed people about nitrogen, provided examples of what is being done in our community, and ultimately encouraged nitrogen reduction Island-wide.
- Campaign reached ~6,900 Facebook Users and counting. 683 engagements thus far.



Education and Outreach Highlights

- 2nd year of Terrapin Monitoring at Northwest Harbor County Park in East Hampton concluded in early August.
 - 3 days a week, interns surveyed at high tide following the 1st quarter, 3rd quarter, new moon and full moon cycles.
 - 1 live terrapin was found on land during monitoring. 98 predated nests along with tracks, hatched out eggs that overwintered, and 7 test holes were documented.
 - In 2018, 36 predated nests were found and 6 live terrapins amongst other evidence.
 - Both years displayed ample terrapin activity to prove that Northwest Harbor County Park is a preferred habitat and location for terrapin nesting.
 - Report and conclusions are currently being formalized.

