



2011 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT: HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN



Staundinger's Pond Weir, East Hampton, NY. Installed 2011.

Submitted to:

Peconic Estuary Program Management Committee
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Prepared by:

Peconic Estuary Program Natural Resources Subcommittee
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INTRODUCTION

The updated and revised “Peconic Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Plan” was adopted and finalized in November 2009. This plan resulted from the Peconic Estuary Program Natural Resources Subcommittee’s intensive effort to fully assess the prior “Habitat Restoration Plan for the Peconic Estuary” (2000), and to identify new candidate restoration sites. In an effort to ensure the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP) and our partners undertake the necessary planning and implementation steps to enhance and restore the 71 sites outlined in the Plan, the PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee (NRS) has committed to track its implementation. The NRS will develop and submit annual Implementation Progress Reports (IPRs) to the PEP Management Committee. This will ensure proper accounting and tracking of implementation progress and will provide an adaptive and timely mechanism for notifying the Management Committee of new priorities, needs, and recommendations. What follows is a brief assessment of actions taken from November 2010 to November 2011. In summary, even with staff and program changes, several projects have moved forward. Work on five (5) conceptual habitat restoration designs are commencing. Two (2) fish passage projects are very near completion.

2011 Status of the Peconic Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Plan (2009)

STATUS	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE
Not Initiated	32	44%
Planning	18*	25%
In-Progress	14	19%
Partially Completed	5	7%
Attempted	1	1%
Completed	3*	3%
Total	73*	99%

**While the 2009 Plan lists 71 projects 2 additional projects have commenced and warrant listing.*

It should also be noted here, that the PEP and its stakeholders are involved in numerous habitat restoration related efforts that are not described in this report and not included in the PEP Habitat Restoration Plan. These efforts include, but are not limited to: eelgrass management and monitoring efforts; invasive *Ludwigia* monitoring and maintenance control programs; various shellfish and aquaculture initiatives; wetland monitoring; and, land acquisition programs of town, county, and state governments and the private sector.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. CONCEPTUAL HABITAT RESTORATION DESIGN PLANS:

At the recommendation of the PEP NRS, the PEP Management Committee approved use of \$80,000 of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 PEP National Estuary Program (NEP) funding to secure conceptual habitat restoration design plans for 5 sites in the Plan; one in each Town. Land Use Ecological Services was selected as the contractor for these projects. A contract was issued in the summer of 2011. The sites include:

- Silver Lake/Moore’s Drain Alewife Access, Southold
- Ligonee Brook Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration, Southampton
- Napeague Harbor Circulation Enhancement, East Hampton
- Shell Beach Revegetation, Shelter Island
- Forge Road/Peconic Lake Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase III), Riverhead

As reported last year, at the recommendation of the PEP NRS, the PEP Management Committee approved the use of \$100,000 of FFY 2010 PEP NEP funding to produce an additional round of conceptual habitat restoration design plans. An RFP for this round has not been released yet. The sites will include:

- Arshamomaque Preserve Phragmites Eradication, Southold
- Iron Point Wetland Restoration, Southampton
- Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement, East Hampton*
- Sposato Property Phragmites Eradication, Shelter Island*
- East Creek Phragmites Eradication, Riverhead

* There may be additional Suffolk County Capital Funds for these projects to be added to the current contract with Land Use Ecological Services.

2. \$2,200,428 OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS SECURED

A. Breakdown of Planning/Design Funds (\$350,000 for 12 projects):

- **\$80,000 FFY2009 PEP NEP:** Silver Lake/Moore's Drain Alewife Access, Southold; Ligonee Brook Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration, Southampton; Napeague Harbor Circulation Enhancement, East Hampton; Shell Beach Revegetation, Shelter Island; and, Forge Road/Peconic Lake Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase III), Riverhead.
- **\$100,000 FFY2010 PEP NEP:** Arshamomaque Preserve Phragmites Eradication, Southold; Iron Point Wetland Restoration, Southampton; Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement, East Hampton; Sposato Property Phragmites Eradication, Shelter Island; and, East Creek Phragmites Eradication, Riverhead.
- **\$100,000 Suffolk County ¼%:** Woodhulls Pond/Wildwood Lake Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration, Southampton.
- **\$70,000 FFY08 PEP NEP:** Upper Mills Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase II), Phase 2 Final Design, Riverhead.

B. Breakdown of Implementation Funds (\$1,850,428 for 8 projects):

- **\$100,000 Suffolk County ¼%:** Napeague Harbor Bay Scallop Restoration and Three Mile Harbor Bay Scallop Restoration, East Hampton.
- **\$265,312* New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program:** Napeague Harbor Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration and Three Mile Harbor Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration, East Hampton (* \$132,656 from NYSDOS and \$132,656 matching funds from Town of East Hampton).
- **\$60,000* Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP):** Alewife Brook/Scoy Pond and Staudinger's Pond Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement, East Hampton (*includes \$30,000 from ACFHP and \$30,000 matching from Town of East Hampton). Note: Staudinger's Pond was not included in the 2009 Plan.
- **\$18,450 East Hampton Town Trustees:** Fresh Pond Circulation Enhancement, East Hampton.
- **\$1,406,666 Mixed Sources:** Indian Island Tidal Wetland Restoration, Riverhead

~ \$1,050,666* Round 10 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)/Aquatic Habitat Restoration (AHR) (*includes \$788,000 from NYSDEC and \$262,666 matching from Suffolk County in-kind).

~ \$300,000 Suffolk County 1/4%

~ \$56,000 FY00 NYSDEC WQIP/AHR.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Re-evaluate Riverhead Phragmites Control Sites** – The Town of Riverhead has suggested that nine (9) out of the fifteen (15) phragmites removal sites be removed from the list (Sawmill Creek, Tidal Peconic, Reeves Creek, Terry Creek, Bay Woods, Brown's Point, Broad Cove, Gravel Pit and Linus Pond) because of cost and time constraints. Invasive species have only become more of an issue but phragmites control is labor intensive, expensive and even harder to eradicate.
- 2. Evaluate the Success of Prior Completed Projects** – As suggested in prior reports, a more concerted effort must be made to fully assess the short and long term success of past projects. This will ultimately help us to adopt and modify restoration objectives and strategies. These projects may be found in the Completed Habitat Restoration Project Inventory (see attached). This is consistent with a recommendation made at the 2010 Peconic Estuary Call to Action Conference.
- 3. Increase Short and Long Term Monitoring of Initiated Projects** – As suggested in prior reports, many habitat restoration funding programs will not cover the costs of intensive pre and post project monitoring, and prioritize funding on-the-ground implementation. Monitoring is an essential step, which is often overlooked, and inhibits our ability to implement adaptive management and restoration techniques. This is consistent with a recommendation made at the 2010 Peconic Estuary Call to Action Conference.
- 4. Use Peconic Community Preservation (CPF) Funds to Restore CPF Acquired Properties** - Set aside 1% of annual CPF generated revenue for habitat restoration/stewardship projects on CPF acquired sites. Potential candidate sites listed in the PEP Habitat Restoration Plan meeting this criterion include, but are not limited to: Arshamomaque Pond Preserve, Southold; Arshamomaque Preserve*, Southold; Pipes Cove, Southold; Iron Point*, Southampton; and, Sposato Property*, Shelter Island. This is consistent with a recommendation made at the 2010 Peconic Estuary Call to Action Conference. * *Denotes projects the PEP is funding/ developing conceptual restoration design plans.*
- 5. Long-Term Local Sustainable Funding Source for Habitat Restoration** - Many municipalities do not have funds to undertake habitat restoration project, yet, most habitat restoration grant programs require anywhere from 25-50% of local match. Development of a new funding source must be investigated and discussed. This is consistent with a recommendation made at the 2010 Peconic Estuary Call to Action Conference.
- 6. Citizen Education Efforts** - PEP must continue to provide information on the ecological dangers that invasive species present to terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats. This should include efforts to encourage maintenance of areas of native vegetation, and the reduction of lawn areas and re-establishment with native species. Efforts should also be made to ensure compliance with local vegetation preservation requirements and the Suffolk County law that prohibits the sale, introduction and propagation of invasive plants.

<http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/departments/EnvironmentandEnergy/DivisionofWaterQualityImprovement/WaterandLandInvasiveSpeciesAdvisoryBoard.aspx>

ATTACHMENT A:

IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING TABLE

An Implementation Tracking Table can be found hereafter. It reports and details the status of each site currently listed in the 2009 Peconic Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Plan.

ATTACHMENT B:

UPDATED COMPLETED HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT INVENTORY

Peconic Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Plan: Implementation Tracking Table: Progress Made From Nov 2010- Nov 2011

HABITAT TYPE	SITE NAME	STATUS						DETAILS ON NOV '10- NOV '11 PROGRESS
		Not Initiated	Planning Stage	In-Progress	Partially Completed	Attempted	Completed	
Southold								
Diadromous Fish Passage	Silver Lake/Moore's Drain Alewife Access		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '09 NEP funds. Land Use Eco. Services in contract for conceptual design.
Eelgrass	Hallock's Bay Eelgrass Sanctuary		x					Town staff, Trustees and CCE had been discussing. Eelgrass no longer present due to lack of action.
Phragmites Control	Arshamomaque Pond Preserve Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Arshamomaque Preserve Phragmites Eradication		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '10 NEP funds. RFP is expected to be released 2012
Phragmites Control	Cedar Beach Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Downs Farm Preserve and Downs Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Husing Pond Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Lake Marion Phragmites Eradication				x			Project approximately 90% complete. The lake has been chemically treated. The will need to be one more treatment and cut. Native plantings will occur in Spring 2012.
Phragmites Control	Narrow River Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Pipes Cove Phragmites Eradication		x					This project is no longer occurring. Town has returned the funds for the first phase to DEC. The plan for the first phase is still valid.
Shellfish	Southold Shellfish Spawner Sanctuary Network	x						
Wetland	Budds Pond Wetland Restoration	x						
Wetland	Fleet's Neck Wetland Restoration	x						
Wetland	Nassau Point Wetland Restoration	x						
Wetland	TGA Easement Wetland Restoration	x						
Southampton								
Diadromous Fish Passage	Ligonee Brook Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '09 NEP funds. Land Use Eco. Services in contract for conceptual design.
Diadromous Fish Passage	North Sea/Alewife Creek Diadromous Fish Passage Enhancement	x						
Diadromous Fish Passage	Woodhulls Pond/Wildwood Lake Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration		x					Suffolk County 1/4% Committee approved \$100,000 for design work. Led by Suffolk County Parks.
Grassland	Shinnecock Grassland Restoration				x			
Wetland	Davis Creek Wetland Restoration	x						
Wetland	Iron Point Wetland Restoration		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '10 NEP funds. RFP is expected to be released 2012
East Hampton								
Diadromous Fish Passage	Alewife Brook Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement				x			Project near completion. Estimated completion by winter 2012.
Diadromous Fish Passage	Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '10 NEP funds. RFP is expected to be released 2012
Eelgrass	Lake Montauk Eelgrass Restoration			x				
Eelgrass	Napeague Eelgrass Restoration				x			
Eelgrass	Three Mile Harbor Eelgrass Restoration					x		
Flushing/Circulation	Fresh Pond Circulation Enhancement						x	Completed January 2010- added to the PEP Completed Habitat Restoration Project Inventory.
Flushing/Circulation	Napeague Harbor Circulation Enhancement		x					PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '09 NEP funds. Land Use Eco. Services in contract for conceptual design.
Grassland	Culloden Grassland Restoration				x			
Phragmites Control	Accabonac Harbor Phragmites Eradication			x				
Phragmites Control	Barnes Meadow Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Fort Pond Phragmites Eradication			x				NCTE submitted for NYSDEC grant (C303078) through 8.1.2010.
Phragmites Control	Fresh Pond Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Lake Montauk Phragmites Eradication			x				
Phragmites Control	Little Northwest Creek Phragmites Eradication			x				
Phragmites Control	Napeague Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Northwest Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Three Mile Harbor Phragmites Eradication			x				

Shellfish	Lake Montauk Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration			x				Round 10 NYSDEC WQIP AHR grant application submitted- Decisions not yet announced.
Shellfish	Accabonac Creek Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration			x				Round 10 NYSDEC WQIP AHR grant application submitted- Decisions not yet announced.
Shellfish	Napeague Harbor Bay Scallop Restoration			x				Currently funded by Suffolk County through 2010. Suffolk County 1/4% Committee re-approved as part of 3 yr \$100,000 scallop restoration project. Led by East Hampton Dept. of Aquaculture.
Shellfish	Napeague Harbor Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration			x				Funded: Part of NYSDOS LWRP \$132,656- Total: \$265,312. Led by East Hampton Town Aquaculture.
Shellfish	Three Mile Harbor Bay Scallop Restoration			x				Currently funded by Suffolk County through 2010. Suffolk County 1/4% Committee re-approved as part of 3 yr \$100,000 scallop restoration project. Led by East Hampton Dept. of Aquaculture.
Shellfish	Three Mile Harbor Hard Clam/American Oyster Enhancement/Restoration			x				Funded: Part of NYSDOS LWRP \$132,656- Total: \$265,312. Led by East Hampton Dept. of Aquaculture.
Wetland	Accabonac Harbor Wetland Restoration			x				
Wetland	Lake Montauk Wetland Restoration			x				
Wetland	Fort Pond Wetland Restoration			x				
Shelter Island								
Beach/Dune	Shell Beach Revegetation			x				PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '09 NEP funds. Land Use Eco. Services in contract for conceptual design.
Eelgrass	Coecles Harbor Eelgrass Revegetation	x						
Phragmites Control	Sposato Property- Phragmites Removal			x				PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '10 NEP funds. RFP is expected to be released 2012
Riverhead								
Diadromous Fish Passage	Edwards Ave Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase IV)			x				Design completed, but NYSDEC waiting for approval to use funds to pay design firm before they can obtain final design plans and apply for the necessary permits.
Diadromous Fish Passage	Forge Rd/Peconic Lake Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase III)			x				PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '09 NEP funds. Land Use Eco. Services in contract for conceptual design. Town of Brookhaven will be replacing the culvert in the near future and is coordinating with fish passge design.
Diadromous Fish Passage	Grangebels Park Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase I)						x	Completed Feb 2010- added to PEP Completed Habitat Restoration Project Inventory.
Diadromous Fish Passage	Upper Mills Diadromous Fish Passage Restoration (Peconic River, Phase II)			x				Town contracted \$25,000 Phase 1 Design to Inter-fluve and is initiated in Summer 2010. NYSDEC in single source contracting process to provide up to \$70,000 of FY08 PEP funds to Inter-fluve for Phase 2-Final Design.
Phragmites Control	Bay Woods Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Broad Cove Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Browns Point Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	East Creek Phragmites Eradication			x				PEP is funding conceptual design w/ '10 NEP funds. RFP is expected to be released 2012
Phragmites Control	Gravel Pit (Dog Ponds) Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Grumman Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Linns Pond Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Peconic Edwards Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Peconic Seep Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Reeves Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Terry Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Tidal Peconic Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Tidal Sawmill Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Upper Sawmill Creek Phragmites Eradication	x						
Phragmites Control	Warner Duck Farm Phragmites Eradication	x						
Riverine	Peconic Upper Mills Riverine Restoration	x						
Wetland	Indian Island Tidal Wetland Restoration			x				\$1,406,666 allocated. Includes \$1,050,666 NYSDEC WQIP AHR (\$788,000 award & \$262,666 match), \$300,000 SC 1/4%, \$56,000 FY00 NYSDEC WQIP/AHR.

Other:

Bullhead Bay Eelgrass Sanctuary Established by Southampton Town Trustees in Dec 2009- added to PEP Completed Habitat Restoration Project Inventory.
 Staundinger's Pond Alewife Access and Habitat Enhacement Funded- Included as part of ACFHP \$30,000 grant for Alewife Brook/Scoy Pond.