

EXPANSION OF MOSQUITO CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM IN THE PECONICS

Background



Salt marshes are under threat due to overdevelopment, hardening of shorelines, dams, and other systems that interfere with natural hydrology. This causes marsh plants to be drowned, creates standing pools of water, and increases mosquito breeding habitat.



Suffolk County Vector Control and Public Health

In addition to being a pest to humans, mosquitos carry and spread diseases, impacting human health. Suffolk County Vector Control (SCVC) works to protect public health across all areas, including treating mosquitos through marsh restoration, and aerial larvicide applications in breeding areas to kill the mosquito larvae in the water.

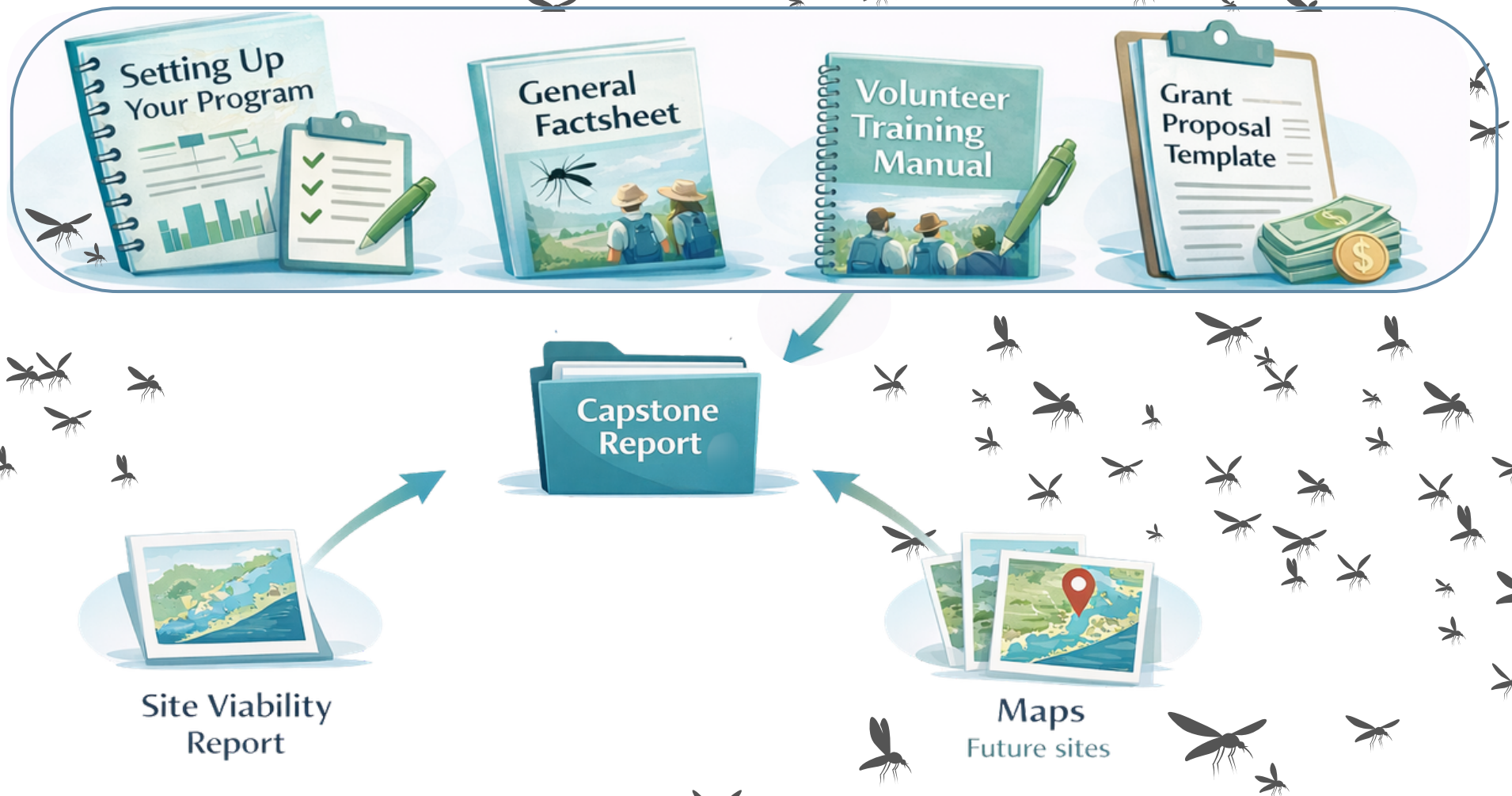
Accabonac Mosquito Sampling Program

This citizen science program launched in 2017 by The Nature Conservancy, East Hampton Town, and Trustees. The goals of this sampling program are to recruit volunteers to actively map mosquitos in salt marshes for Suffolk County Vector Control to specifically treat these mosquito hotspots. This reduces time, effort, overall pesticide use, and increases clarity with the public on how these decisions are made.



EXPANDING THE SUCCESS AT ACCABONAC

Toolkit: 1a-1d



Accabonac Success

Program has been able to:

- Identify true active breeding hotspots
- Significantly lower acreage of treatment application
- Lower operational costs
- Reduce human/wildlife chemical exposure

Identifying Future Sites

The Site Viability Report used public access and existing spray activity to identify five areas across the Peconic Estuary watershed for future program expansion.

Toolkit: Supporting Future Coordinators

A collection of resources:

- Identification of needed materials
- Fact sheets to recruit volunteers
- Training manual
- Surveying protocols (collection of larval presence, abundance, and development stages).
- Grant proposal template for site coordinators to secure future funding.

Full report including maps and Toolkit can be found here.

