



INDIAN ISLAND TIDAL WETLAND RESTORATION

Suffolk County Wetland Restoration project totaling \$1,282,933. PEP EPA320 Funds Contributed: \$65,000

Background

Wetland restoration at Indian Island was listed as a priority project in the 2020 PEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and has been listed as a high priority site for Suffolk County since 2016 through the PEP Habitat Plan. Every year, 74,200 people visit Indian Island County Park to utilize existing hiking trails, camping grounds, picnic, and recreation areas on the Peconic Estuary.

PEP has been carrying out wetland monitoring at this location for ten years through the regional “SET” program: Surface elevation and marsh accretion is monitored by PEP, NYS and the Nature Conservancy at several Surface Elevation Table (SET) benchmark locations around Long Island. These SETs are long-term monitoring devices that provide data on tidal wetlands.

Indian Island Tidal Wetland Restoration

The project site is located within Indian Island County Park in Riverhead along Terry’s Creek. The project aims to restore/re-create a high functioning 7 acre tidal wetland system by reestablishing tidal connection to Terry’s Creek. The project aims to restore the wetland/salt marsh which will bring back wetland services to the area such as nitrogen absorption, provide habitat for native species, enhance biological control of mosquito larvae, provide increased coastal protection from storm surge, and improve water quality conditions in the western Peconic Estuary.





Project Goals

- Restore the former tidal wetland to a high-functioning tidal wetland/salt marsh ecosystem with:
 - Mixed open water
 - High marsh and intertidal marsh habitat
- Enhance the cycling of organic and inorganic nutrients and pollutants
- Provide tidal flushing among other biological and physiochemical services
- Improve water quality through marsh buffering conditions in the western Peconic Estuary
- Increased coastal resiliency
- Continuous monitoring



How is a Salt Marsh Restored?

- Existing channel dredged between interior of park & Terrys Creek
- Install new culvert to enhance water exchange
- Create a new intertidal channel which will further increase the sites ability to capture and manage water
- Create a Turbidity curtain
- Install a Silt fence to minimize a sediment build-up in the marsh
- Establishment of a restored marsh system using native plants

CCMP Actions

Action 8: Increase community members' awareness of the Peconic Estuary, key issues relating to the CCMP's Goals, and the PEP as a resource to help them address the issues.

Action 28: Protect critical natural resource areas and high-priority lands in the Peconic Estuary watershed

Partners

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
- Suffolk County Department of Public Works
- Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning
- Town of Riverhead
- The Nature Conservancy

