

OUTCOME 11: RESERVE-WIDE ACTIONS ADVANCED THROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESERVE OFFICE EFFORTS



The success of the Reserve Council's efforts to implement the Reserve CMP is based on the formation of successful new partnerships and the strengthening of existing partnerships, as well as the Reserve Office's effectiveness at promoting, coordinating, and monitoring implementation efforts.

Establishment of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office

Located in the heart of the Village of Freeport's Nautical Mile, the Reserve Office was established in late 2002 by the Reserve Council and the NYS Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources (DCR). The Reserve Office provides a clearinghouse for Reserve-related information, and provides logistical coordination, administrative and technical support to the Council, its committees, workgroups and a growing array of CMP implementation partners.

The Reserve Office advances implementation of the CMP by identifying and strengthening strategic partnerships between Reserve Council members and implementation partners focused on topic-based CMP goals and objectives. Reserve Office staff also conduct Reserve-wide education, outreach, and stewardship programs to expand public awareness and appreciation of the Reserve's diverse resources and maintain continued support for CMP implementation.

The Reserve Office is staffed by a Director, two Program Implementation Specialists and a Science Coordinator who focus on coordinating and monitoring Reserve-wide implementation of CMP recommended actions to improve estuary water quality, restore living resources, expand public use and enjoyment, improve knowledge for ecosystem management, and sustain the water-dependent economy and maritime cultural traditions. In addition, the Reserve Office partnered with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to provide office estuary steward internships for five SCA members interested in obtaining career experience in coastal resource management.

Since August 2003, Reserve-wide implementation actions have been advanced through Reserve Council partnerships and the following Reserve Office efforts:

Supporting Efforts to Improve Water Quality

- Reviewed and prepared comments for the Town of Southampton on CMP conformance with: proposed stormwater mitigation projects at Weesuck Creek; implementation of Phase II stormwater regulations; and partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Marine Science Research Center at SUNY Stony Brook to establish a hard clam spawner sanctuary in Quantuck Bay and to evaluate water quality impacts and the occurrence of brown tide.

- Reviewed proposal and prepared CMP conformance comments for the Town of Babylon on proposed partnership with Village of Babylon for Suffolk County Water Quality program funded stormwater mitigation projects on Carlls River.
- Prepared comments on CMP conformance for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County on proposed project to develop and implement Phase II MS4 education and outreach program for Suffolk County.
- Assisted the NY Sea Grant Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program to expand NEMO staff to include additional water quality educators to work with Reserve municipalities on MS4 phase II implementation.
- Facilitated convening of the Reserve Council stormwater workgroup in February 2004 to focus on the development of watershed action plans for Reserve municipalities in conjunction with implementation of Phase II MS4 stormwater regulations.
- Assisted the Towns of Islip, Oyster Bay, and Brookhaven with preparation and development of watershed management plans supported through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for Brown's River/Green's Creek, Massapequa Creek, and Swan River, respectively.
- Worked with DCR, Cashin Associates, and Reserve local governments to conduct assessments of nonpoint source control practices for twenty-nine Reserve villages. Assessments were provided to each of the villages and a workshop for municipalities was conducted in July 2004.
- Developed request for proposals to conduct an inventory and analysis of the status of drainage infrastructure mapping by Reserve local governments. Assembled technical review committee and assisted with evaluation process and selection of contractor.
- Facilitated convening of Reserve Council western bays water quality workgroup to investigate water quality issues and provide recommendations to Reserve Council on research and monitoring needs.
- Assisted Forge River Task Force with identification of technical issues and potential funding sources for preparation of watershed plan and provided administrative support for development of meeting summaries.
- Assisted Village of Freeport with planning for pilot project to install storm drain filter treatment systems at various locations to reduce nonpoint source pollution from roadway drainage.
- Assisted local Freeport business (Rohm and Haas) with planning for installation of stormwater drain filter inserts in parking areas.
- Assisted Nassau County with development of Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act applications for stormwater remediation projects including pond restoration, sediment traps, and stormwater catchbasin treatment systems.



The Reserve Office supports efforts to improve water quality in Reserve tributaries and bays.



Reserve partners work together to initiate stormwater treatment pilot projects.

Supporting Living Resource Protection and Restoration

- Participated as a member of the Bluepoints Bottomlands Council in the development of a restoration and management strategy for shellfish and eelgrass on the 13,000 acres of Great South Bay bottom lands acquired by TNC.

- Assisted DCR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center with development of a strategy for conducting education and outreach to estuary stakeholders on results of Reserve benthic mapping project. Prepared and posted Reserve benthic mapping information on the Reserve Council website.
- Assisted partners with development and facilitation of a Reserve Council diadromous fish workgroup. Provided administrative and staff support for development of a restoration strategy for identified priority Reserve tributaries.



The Reserve Office assists Reserve partners with implementation of CMP recommendations to protect and restore living resources in the Reserve.

- Assisted with development of partnerships between non-profit organizations, Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven to prepare successful Clean Water/Clean Air Bond act applications for aquatic habitat restoration projects.
- Participated in meetings of the Beaverdam Creek Task Force to advance restoration of native tidal wetland vegetation along the east and west shorelines of the creek.
- Assisted with development of protocol for Spring 2006 alewife spawning run survey in 13 selected Reserve tributaries.
- Participated as a member of the State Regional Open Space Advisory Committee. Provided recommendations for revisions and addition of Reserve open space preservation projects and policy actions identified in the *New York State Open Space Conservation Plan*.

Guiding Development of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs

- Provided technical assistance to the Villages of Lindenhurst, Patchogue and Freeport with development of local waterfront revitalization plan components including: inventory and analysis; implementation of maritime center action plans; development of consultant request for proposals; and design of public access amenities with assistance from NYS EPF Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grants.
- Participated as a member of the Town of Oyster Bay Harbor Management Plan (HMP) Advisory Committee to provide technical assistance for development of South Oyster Bay HMP with support from EPF LWRP grant.
- Assisted NYS DOS with preparation and implementation of annual Quality Communities/ Waterfront Rediscovery Conference for local governments and non-profit organizations.
- Researched and developed *Bay Flooding and Erosion in the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve: Findings and Recommendations* report.

Development of Greenway and Blueway Trail Systems (South Shore Bayway)

- Assisted NYS DOS and consultant with development of Reserve Scenic Resources Inventory and Landscape Assessment report. Assisted with design and implementation of a landscape assessment visual image preference poll for Reserve stakeholders.
- Participated in development of *A Vision for the South Shore Bayway* report to identify elements and priorities for the establishment of the Bayway including: process for recognition of Bayway Destinations and Connectors; development of a program implementation and promotion strategy; establishment of a virtual bayway on the internet; and the design and installation of interpretive signage and exhibits.

- Organized and facilitated Reserve Council Bayway stakeholder workshops in March and September 2004.
- Provided presentations on Bayway development to local organizations and at NYS DOS regional heritage corridors conference held on Long Island in October 2005.
- Assisted Long Island Traditions with securing support for development and implementation of a pilot Reserve cultural resources survey and report for the Oakdale to Brookhaven hamlet portion of the Reserve.
- Reviewed nominations for Bayway Destinations and Connectors and prepared findings statements for Reserve Council consideration for recognition.
- Assisted Reserve local government partners with development of interpretive signage and exhibits supported by EPF LWRP grants consistent with Reserve interpretive themes and NYS Coastal Resources Interpretive Program guidelines.

Coordination of Education, Outreach and Stewardship Activities

- Re-designed and maintained Reserve Council website (www.estuary.cog.ny.us) to provide Reserve partners and the general public with information about: the Reserve CMP; Reserve Council priorities; Reserve partner CMP implementation activities and progress; Reserve events; educational, public access, and scientific resources; and stewardship opportunities.
- Organized and implemented annual Coastal Clean Up in 2004 and 2005 at Town of Oyster Bay beaches and tidal marshes in cooperation with American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy.
- Worked closely with the Reserve Council's Citizens Advisory Committee to identify and implement education, stewardship, and outreach activities including:

Establishment and implementation of an Reserve Council Stewardship Award Program;

Distribution of educational outreach materials, including Reserve fact sheets and *Preserve the Reserve* nonpoint source pollution control practices for homeowners brochure;

Design and distribution of *Salt Marshes in the South Shore Estuary Reserve* fact sheet;

Design and distribution of *Tributaries of the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve* map and brochure;

Assisting Suffolk County Department of Public Works with continued implementation of tributary identification signage program; and;

Staffing of Reserve photo exhibit and outreach table display at Reserve-related events including fairs, festivals, community meetings and conferences.



The Reserve Office participates in education and outreach activities throughout the Reserve.