

Nomination of South Shore Bayway Destinations and Connectors

The South Shore Bayway is envisioned as a dynamic network of recognized **Destinations** and **Connectors** where residents and visitors can enjoy, explore, and experience the heritage, natural beauty, and recreation resources of the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve. Maritime centers, parks, cultural and historic sites, museums, natural areas and waterfronts will be connected together by road corridors and trails from western Hempstead through Southampton Village.

The nomination process described here is intended to encourage open and wide participation by those people— hikers, paddlers, bikers, and explorers of natural and maritime history— who will enjoy the Bayway’s benefits. Early review of the nomination process by the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council called for an inclusive approach to creating the Bayway. The process, as proposed here, calls on diverse stakeholder groups to be active participants in the nomination of **Destinations** and **Connectors** for formal recognition and inclusion in the Bayway. The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council looks forward to and encourages expanded participation in the Bayway to include the wide array of community-based organizations on Long Island.

Bayway Destinations, Connectors, Themes, and Partners

Bayway Destinations are sites that tell the story of the cultural and natural resources of the Reserve. By experiencing the Bayway’s many facets, with the aid of the interpretive kiosks and wayside exhibits, people understand and appreciate that the health of the estuary is dependant on their efforts to respect, conserve, and restore its resources.

Bayway Connectors are trails, bike paths, roadways, water trails, ferry routes and other transportation modes traveled by pedestrians, bicyclists, boaters and motorists to and between Bayway **Destinations**.

Bayway Themes address the Reserve’s culture, natural resources, and recreation opportunities. The Bayway themes include: Maritime Heritage; Protecting the Coast; and, Enjoying the Estuary. Merrick Road/Montauk Highway serves as the major east-west roadway **Connector**. The maritime centers of Freeport, Bay Shore, Patchogue, and the Shinnecock Canal serve as initial **Destinations** to introduce people to the Reserve’s maritime heritage. Initial **Destinations** to interpret protection of the coast are located at the new Town of Hempstead Lido Beach Nature Area, Town of Oyster Bay JFK Sanctuary, Town of Babylon Oak Beach Park, and Town of Brookhaven Beaver Dam Creek.

Bayway Partners are the owners (or owner's agents) of Bayway **Destinations** and **Connectors**, and include governments and nonprofit organizations. Bayway partners voluntarily participate in the Bayway and promote the interpretation of resources that are linked together thematically or geographically. Additions to the Bayway are made as **Destinations** and **Connectors** are recognized by the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council.

Bayway Partners will have their recognized **Destinations** and **Connectors** listed on the Bayway portion of the South Shore Estuary Reserve website and in Bayway promotional literature. Visitors will be able to access a comprehensive guide of activities in the Reserve. Partners will receive technical assistance from the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office. Municipal-sponsored projects that improve Council-recognized Bayway enhancement projects are eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Fund's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program administered by the Department of State.

Implementing the Bayway

The Bayway is being implemented by all who benefit from a regional framework for a Reserve-wide coordinated interpretive system. **Destinations** and **Connectors** are eligible to be nominated for inclusion in the Bayway. The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council encourages neighborhood associations, cycling and paddling clubs, community service organizations, and others to help local governments and nonprofit organizations identify and nominate maritime centers, trails, bikeways, parks, museums, cultural and historic sites, visitor and interpretive centers, and special places for formal recognition as components of the Bayway. The owner (or owner's agent) of a facility must be a party to the nomination process. Nominations prepared by nonprofit organizations or county, non-local government agencies are strongly encouraged to inform the local government for which the proposed Bayway **Destination** or **Connector** is located of the nomination for submission.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council will expand and maintain the South Shore Estuary Reserve website as a promotional tool for the Bayway and will include participating Destinations and Connectors in the website. The Council will include the name of **Destination** or **Connector** in Bayway maps and guides as they are produced. The Council will provide the owner (or owner's agent) of **Destinations** or **Connectors** with regular updates via the South Shore Estuary Reserve website, email, or other means on development of the Bayway. The Council will include the owner (or owner's agent) of the **Destination** or **Connector** in Bayway Work Group meetings and other forums for communicating about development of the Bayway.

Becoming a Bayway Partner

Bayway **Destination** or **Connector** nominations come from nonprofit organizations, local, State, or federal government agencies and are submitted to the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office. To be considered for inclusion in the Bayway, each nomination form must have support of the owner (or the owner's agent) of a facility and be signed by the owner's chief executive (or the owner's agent).

Bayway Nomination Process

The South Shore Estuary Reserve Office reviews each **Connector** and **Destination** nomination package to verify the information, compare the proposed **Destination** or **Connector's** nomination package with the Council's guiding principles for the Bayway, and prepare a recommendation for the Council. Upon review and deliberation of the merits of the nomination package, the Council will recognize new **Destinations** and **Connectors** within the Bayway.

Guiding Principles

The Council, in giving recognition, will encourage the owner (or owner's agent) of the **Destination** or **Connector** to adhere to the following guiding principles:

1. Bayway Destinations and Connectors should be open to the general public.
2. Bayway partners should promote stewardship of estuary resources through interpretive material, exhibits, and programs that tell the South Shire Estuary Reserve's story.
3. Public access at recognized Bayway Destinations should be an appropriate level for the facility, compatible with natural resource values, and enhanced through the development of new access opportunities, where needed.
4. Bayway partners should seek to link programs with one another through common themes or geographical location.
5. Bayway partners are encouraged to provide information about their Destination or Connector for inclusion in the Bayway website and establish a link with the site. Periodic and timely updates should be provided to the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office on programs and events.
6. Bayway partners are encouraged to promote efforts to sustain and enhance the economic viability of the estuary-related economy.
7. Bayway partners are encouraged to develop opportunities to engage volunteers in resource restoration or conservation activities to build broader involvement in conservation and stewardship of the estuary.
8. Bayway partners are encouraged to improve watershed health by using best management practices, such as reduced or eliminated use of fertilizers and using native plants for landscaping, to the maximum extent practicable.
9. Bayway partners should display and maintain Bayway signage in a prominent location at the site entry and/or main visitor facility.
10. Bayway partners should include the Bayway logo (when available) or graphics in brochures, maps, guides, interpretive exhibits, and signs which they produce.

Promoting the Bayway

The Bayway will be promoted on the South Shore Estuary Reserve website which will host a virtual exploration of places, activities, and events and will be complemented by printed maps and guides. Bayway visitors will be able to develop their own tour of the estuary based on a theme or a specific geographic area.

Submitting Nomination Forms

Before submitting a nomination form, preparers are encouraged to become familiar with the following documents: Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan; and New York State Coastal Resources Interpretive Program (NYSCRIP). These documents can be accessed from the Reserve website at: www.estuary.cog.ny.us or obtained from the Reserve Office.

Nomination forms should be submitted 30 days prior to a Council meeting.

Nomination preparers should attach any letters of support or other information that will aid in the review of the nomination form. Completed nomination forms should be submitted to:

South Shore Estuary Council
South Shore Estuary Reserve Office
300 Woodcleft Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 378-2879 (fax)

For questions regarding the preparation of a nomination form, please contact the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office at (516) 378-2825.

18. Name of owner's (or owner's agent) Chief Executive:
19. Signature of owner's (or owner's agent) Chief Executive: _____ Date Signed: _____

For a Bayway DESTINATION, please provide brief answers to the following questions:

20. Destination Attributes

What are the South Shore Estuary Reserve features associated with the proposed **Destination**? Why is the **Destination** important? Why is your site an appropriate site to be included along the Bayway? Provide website links and/or samples of brochures, maps, and photographs. Is there currently any special designation (e.g., historic, conservation area) for the proposed **Destination**? Describe any capital improvement needs at the proposed **Destination**.

21. Interpretive Themes

Which Bayway interpretive theme(s) does the proposed **Destination** best exemplify? Describe existing interpretation offered at the proposed **Destination**. What theme(s) is currently being interpreted and what media and/or programming currently exists? Describe any planned improvement and interpretive materials to be used. Be specific.

22. Visitor Information

What is the primary target audience (e.g., school-aged children, families, senior citizens)? What is the annual schedule of operation (e.g., year-round, seasonal)? What is the current visitation level? How will the proposed **Destination** accommodate increased use? Describe existing or proposed visitor amenities (e.g., access to the shore, rest facilities, handicapped accessible features, on site refreshments, distance to business area).

23. Site Management

Who is responsible for the daily and long-term operation of the site?

24. Proposed **Destination**'s relation to the South Shore Estuary Reserve

How does the proposed Bayway **Destination** currently relate to other places in the region? What potential exists to cooperate or link with other regional sites?

25. Meeting South Shore Estuary Reserve Guiding Principles

How is stewardship of the estuary emphasized? In what ways would your inclusion in the Bayway promote South Shore Estuary Reserve education and outreach efforts or other Bayway guiding principles?

26. Supporting Documentation

Please provide any statements supporting this information.

For a Bayway CONNECTOR, please provide a brief answer to the following questions:

27. **Connector** Attributes

What are the South Shore Estuary Reserve features associated with the proposed **Connector**? Why is the **Connector** important? What South Shore Estuary Reserve **Destination(s)** or feature(s) will be physically linked by the proposed connecting route? Is there currently any special designation(s) (e.g. scenic roadway) for the proposed **Connector**? What physical access is available for the visitor to use along the connector route (e.g., trail heads, boat launch, picnicking)? Describe any capital improvement needs at the proposed **Connector**.

28. Interpretive Themes

What Bayway theme(s) will be featured along the **Connector**? Why is the **Destination(s)**/feature(s) being linked important? Describe any interpretation currently offered along the proposed connector route. Provide website links and/or samples of trail maps, trail guides, brochures, and photographs of interpretive signage.

29. User Information

What user group(s) (e.g., pedestrian, bicyclist, boater, driver, public transportation user) will be primarily served by the connecting route?

30. Site Management

Who is responsible for the daily and long-term maintenance and operation of the **Connector**?

31. Supporting Documentation

Please provide any statements supporting the nomination.