



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

The Long Island Sound Office

of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jane MacLellan, Fish and Wildlife Service Liaison
with the EPA LIS Office, (203) 977-1541

LISS Identifies Significant Coastal Areas for Stewardship

Stamford, CT, June 10, 2005 -- The Long Island Sound Study Stewardship Initiative is working to identify places along the Sound's coast with significant ecological, scientific, or recreational values. Now, the LISS will present to the public a list of areas around Long Island Sound that best exemplify those values (attachment).

A series of public meetings sponsored by the Study's Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative are scheduled between June 13 and June 22 in several Connecticut and New York locations. Public input is being sought on the draft list of inaugural stewardship areas. Each area includes sites of natural habitat important for wildlife or sites that support recreation activities and access to Long Island Sound. Each meeting will feature a local expert who will talk about the values of a specific local site and specific opportunities for improved stewardship. Information on the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act legislation that has been introduced in Congress will also be provided.

Based on recommendations of the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the 2003 Long Island Sound Agreement, the Stewardship Initiative is a collaborative effort to identify places with significant ecological or recreational value throughout the Sound and develop a strategy to protect and enhance these special places. Technical support is provided by: Audubon New York; the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Save the Sound; Regional Plan Association; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Priorities for the Stewardship Initiative include: identifying places with significant recreational value and ecological value; providing a link to technical support and assistance for improved management of these valuable resources; and collaborating with public and private entities to improve the ecological health of the Sound and increase public access and recreational opportunities around the Sound.

Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152
Phone: (203) 977-1541
Fax: (203) 977-1546



Marine Sciences Research Center
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000
Phone: (631) 632-9216
Fax: (631) 632-8216

“New York, Connecticut, and the federal government are spending millions of dollars to improve water quality and restore habitat,” said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound office. “At the same time, the most effective strategy is to be good stewards of existing, high-quality coastal resources.”

Stewardship tools include land acquisition, land conservation agreements, site planning, plan implementation, land and habitat management, public access improvements, site monitoring, and other activities designed to enhance and preserve natural resource-based recreation and ecological health and function.

The meetings are scheduled for:

- June 13** Norwalk City Hall, Council Chambers
125 East Ave, Norwalk, CT

- June 14** Sage Hall, Yale University
205 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT

- June 15** East Lyme High School
30 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme, CT

- June 20** New Rochelle City Hall
515 North Ave, New Rochelle, NY

- June 21** North Hempstead Town Hall
220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY

- June 22** Endeavor Hall, Marine Sciences Research Center
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Directions to the meeting sites can be found by visiting www.longislandsoundstudy.net and clicking *meeting dates* under **Stewardship Initiative**.

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) is a cooperative effort created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the states of Connecticut and New York to protect and improve the health of the Sound. It involves researchers, regulators, user groups and other concerned organizations and individuals.

ECOLOGICAL AND COASTAL RECREATION AREAS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION
IN THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

The Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative is highlighting the following areas for the ecological and/or recreational values that they support. Though focused on publicly-owned areas, these proposed complexes provide opportunities for other partners – such as land trusts, nonprofit organizations and individuals – to opt in to this voluntary program.

PROPOSED AREAS IN CONNECTICUT

1. Barn Island – Stonington, CT
2. Bluff Point – Groton, CT
3. Charles Island – Milford, CT
4. Duck Island – Westbrook, CT
5. Hammonasset Beach – Madison, CT
6. Falkner Island – Guilford, CT
7. Great Meadows – Stratford, CT
8. Great Neck & Goshen Point – Waterford, CT
9. Lower Connecticut River – Old Saybrook, Essex, Deep River, Lyme and Old Lyme, CT
10. Milford Point – Milford, CT
11. Norwalk River – Norwalk, CT
12. Quinnipiac River – New Haven, CT
13. Rocky Neck – East Lyme, CT
14. Sandy Point – West Haven, CT
15. Sherwood Island – Westport, CT
16. Watts Island – East Lyme, CT
17. West Rock Ridge – Hamden and New Haven, CT

PROPOSED AREAS IN NEW YORK

1. Alley Pond – Queens, NY
2. Crab Meadow – Huntington, NY
3. Fishers Island Coastline – Southold, NY
4. Huckleberry & Davids Islands – New Rochelle, NY
5. Jamesport State Park -Mattituck Inlet – Southold, NY
6. Lloyd Neck – Huntington, NY
7. Manhasset Bay – North Hempstead, NY
8. Marshlands – Rye, NY
9. Mt. Sinai - Port Jefferson Harbor – Brookhaven, NY
10. Nissequogue River – Smithtown, NY
11. Oyster Bay (Mill Neck) – Oyster Bay, NY
12. Pelham Bay – Bronx, NY
13. Plum, Little and Great Gull Islands – Southold, NY
14. Shoreham – Baiting Hollow – Riverhead, NY
15. Stony Brook Harbor – Brookhaven/Smithtown, NY