



New York Field Office

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Partners for Fish & Wildlife



The Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative

Accomplishments

- 2,230 Acres of wetland habitat restored
- 116 acres of grassland habitat were restored on 8 sites
- One Roseate tern nesting island was restored under the Endangered Species Act

Project Highlights

The Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative (Initiative) is made up partner agencies and organizations working together to restore tidal saltmarshes and native grassland habitat. One of the major partners is the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Refuge Complex oversees Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects on the Island. This year the Initiative restored 110 acres of saltmarsh at the prized Flanders County Parklands on Peconic Bay. This project involved a large measure of collaboration, with Ducks Unlimited responsible for project planning, and Suffolk County Department of Public Works contributing their staff and equipment to the project.

The amphibious excavator was a key piece of equipment in a sand replenishment project in Shinnecock Bay. The excavator was floated across a quarter mile stretch of open water to an island that serves as one of two nesting colonies for the endangered Roseate tern. The excavator off-loaded sand from a barge and aided in the deposition of sand on the eroding island. Without the excavator, the work for the endangered bird could not have been accomplished.

Upcoming Projects

The Initiative is in the process of restoring eight formerly connected saltmarshes on the south shore. The first project, Beaver Dam Creek, has had 8 acres of tidal marsh restored by removing spoil that had been placed on the marsh. Also, the Service and U.S. Geological Survey are collaborating on a study of Open Marsh Water Management on Long Island. Data collection has begun on four sites as part of this investigation.

Partners

New York Department of Environmental Conservation
Six Town governments (Babylon, Southold, Oyster Bay, Huntington, Brookhaven, and East Hampton)
Audubon Society
The Nature Conservancy
Post-Morrow Foundation
National Park Service
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Ducks Unlimited

New York Department of State
South Shore Estuary Reserve
Peconic Estuary Program
US Geological Survey
Suffolk County Parks
Suffolk County Department of Public Works