NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
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August 12, 2024

Peter Weppler
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jackb K. Javits Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Re: Fire Island to Montauk Point Coastal Storm Risk Management Study Nonstructural Pilot Project
County: Suffolk Town/City: Babylon, Brookhaven

Dear Peter Weppler:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the Frederick Shores and Mastic Beach Pilot Areas.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the pilot areas.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the NYS DEC Region 1 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r1@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Conrad
Information Resources Coordinator
New York Natural Heritage Program

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The following state-listed animals have been documented in the vicinity of the Pilot Study Areas.

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed.

For information about any permit considerations for the project, contact the NYSDEC Region 1 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, at dep.r1@dec.ny.gov.

The following species have been documented in the vicinity of the Mastic Beach Pilot Area.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*FEDERAL LISTING*	
Piping Plover *Breeding*	*Charadrius melodus*	Endangered	Threatened	1224
Common Tern *Breeding*	*Sterna hirundo*	Threatened		12085
Least Tern *Breeding*	*Sternula antillarum*	Threatened		5389

The following species have been documented at several locations within 1.25 miles of the Mastic Beach Pilot Area, and at more locations within 3 miles. Individual animals may travel 3 miles from documented locations. The main impact of concern for bats is the removal of potential roost trees.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*FEDERAL LISTING*	
Northern Long-eared Bat *Maternity colony and Nonbreeding locations*	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered	Endangered	15849

No state-listed animals are documented in the Natural Heritage database in the vicinity of the Federick Shores Pilot Area.

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.

The following rare plants and significant natural communities have been documented in the vicinity of the Pilot Study Areas.

Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following significant natural communities are considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. They are either occurrences of a community type that is rare in the state, or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers these community occurrences to have high ecological and conservation value.

COMMUNITY NAME — *HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*

Vicinity of Mastic Beach Pilot Area

Marine Back-barrier Lagoon — High Quality Occurrence of Rare Community Type

Moriches Bay, including Narrow Bay just offshore of the Mastic Beach Pilot Area: This is a very large marine back-barrier lagoon that is in good condition within a fair quality, but mostly developed landscape. 15456

Marine Eelgrass Meadow — High Quality Occurrence of Rare Community Type

Moriches Bay, including Narrow Bay between the Marine Back-barrier Lagoon and the north shore of Fire Island: This is large patch of eelgrass in good condition within a fair to poor quality landscape setting. 15042

Maritime Beach — High Quality Occurrence of Rare Community Type

Fire Island: This is a 32-mile long maritime beach along the south shore of Fire Island, 7 miles of which is designated as Federal Wilderness Area where driving is not allowed for most of the year. Natural processes are affected by stablization and nourishment in some areas. 5364

Vicinity of Frederick Shores Pilot Area

Marine Back-barrier Lagoon — High Quality Occurrence of Rare Community Type

Great South Bay, including just offshore of the Frederick Shores Pilot Area: This is a very large marine back-barrier lagoon that is in good condition within a fair quality, but mostly developed landscape. 15454

The following plants are listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*	
Annual Saltmarsh Aster	*Symphyotrichum subulatum var. subulatum*	Threatened	Imperiled in NYS	13745

Johns Neck Creek, about 250 yards north of the northwest corner of the Mastic Beach Pilot Area, near the intersection of Forest Road West and Maywood Drive, 2011-09-26: The plants occupy an eroding sandy bank at approximately the high-tide line in a small, disturbed estuarine common reed marsh. There is a small path, possibly used by people fishing, which has created an opening in the Phragmites. The site is severely disturbed by Phragmites and human activity.

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org.

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to www.nynhp.org/ecological-communities/ for Ecological Communities of New York State.