

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes community facilities and emergency services that are located within ½ mile of the Direct Route Alternative, including schools, libraries, fire and police services, health and human services, and other community services. Services and operations provided in the study area will be also discussed, including a description of the service districts specific to the study area. The chapter will then assess potential impacts of the Direct Route Alternative on these community facilities and services.

In addition, this chapter will provide a description of the existing open space in the study area, as well as in-place plans and programs with respect to open space acquisition and management. The open space study area comprises lands within ½ mile of the proposed transmission line. To understand open space conditions of the study area, a complete list and mapping of open space resources was developed based on field reconnaissance, existing inventories, and available policy documents. This chapter will also describe any proposed improvements or expansion to open space, including preservation of greenspace/greenways between hamlet centers to preserve community character. The Direct Route Alternative's impact on open space will then be assessed.

The Direct Route Alternative also examines the Village underground option. This option is not the reasonable worst case when considering potential community facility and open space impacts.





**B. EXISTING CONDITIONS****COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

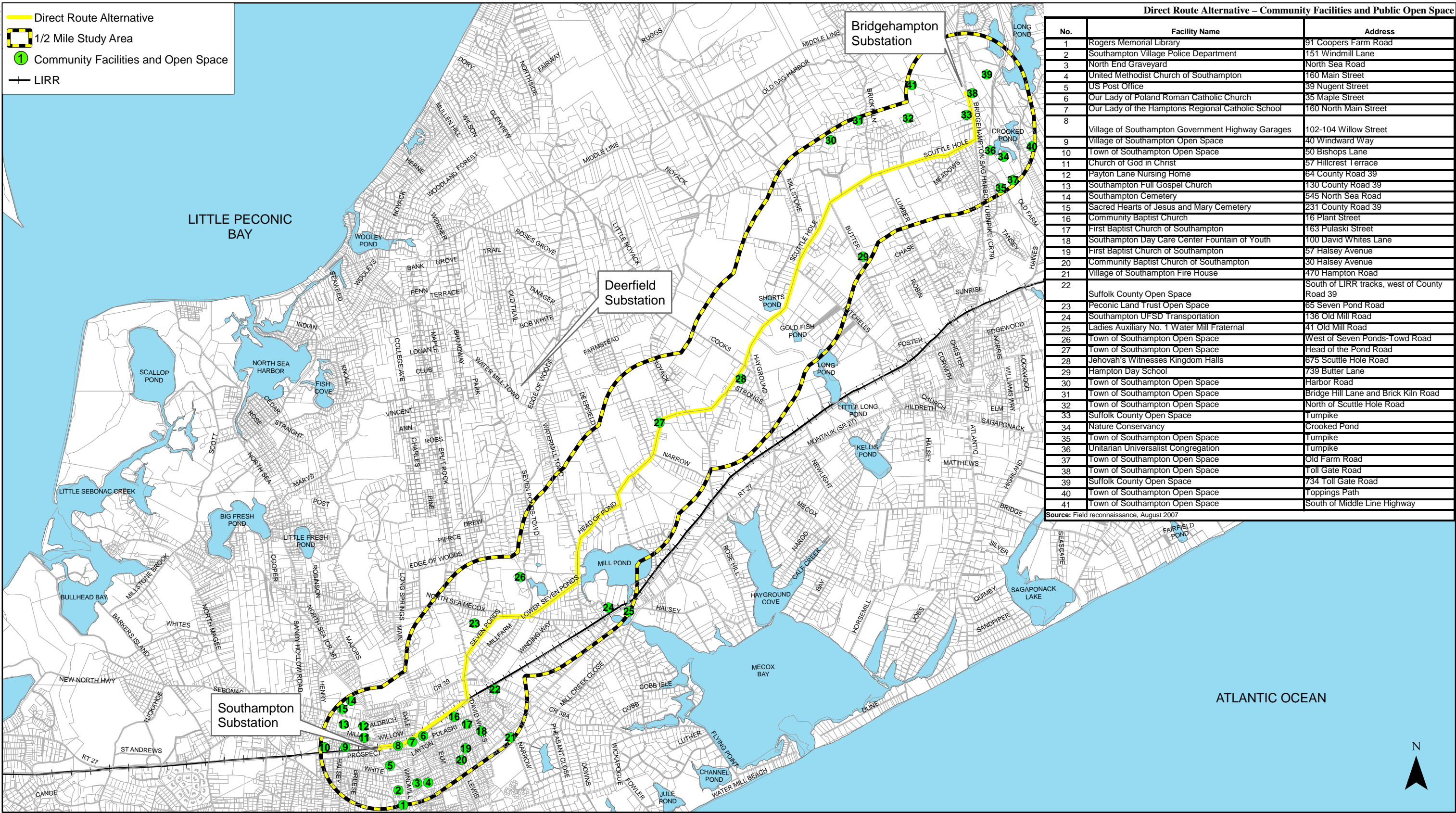
Figure 3-1 depicts the locations of all community facilities and public open space within the Direct Route Alternative study area. There are 41 facilities within the Direct Route Alternative study area that are generally located in southern portion of the ½-mile study area. The remainder of the study area, particularly in the northern portion, mainly comprises Suffolk County and Town of Southampton open space parcels. Figure 3-1 lists the name and location of each facility. These facilities and services are described below.

*POLICE*

The Town of Southampton Police Department headquarters is located at 110 Old Riverhead Road in Hampton Bays, with a substation at Bridgehampton Commons (outside of the study area). Based on correspondence with the Town Police Department (August 22, 2007), the Department employs 100 police officers throughout the Town and approximately 45 support personnel, see Appendix B for correspondence. The number of calls for service in the study area

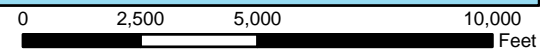
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-  Direct Route Alternative
-  1/2 Mile Study Area
-  Community Facilities and Open Space
-  LIRR



Direct Route Alternative – Community Facilities and Public Open Space		
No.	Facility Name	Address
1	Rogers Memorial Library	91 Coopers Farm Road
2	Southampton Village Police Department	151 Windmill Lane
3	North End Graveyard	North Sea Road
4	United Methodist Church of Southampton	160 Main Street
5	US Post Office	39 Nugent Street
6	Our Lady of Poland Roman Catholic Church	35 Maple Street
7	Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School	160 North Main Street
8	Village of Southampton Government Highway Garages	102-104 Willow Street
9	Village of Southampton Open Space	40 Windward Way
10	Town of Southampton Open Space	50 Bishops Lane
11	Church of God in Christ	57 Hillcrest Terrace
12	Payton Lane Nursing Home	64 County Road 39
13	Southampton Full Gospel Church	130 County Road 39
14	Southampton Cemetery	545 North Sea Road
15	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Cemetery	231 County Road 39
16	Community Baptist Church	16 Plant Street
17	First Baptist Church of Southampton	163 Pulaski Street
18	Southampton Day Care Center Fountain of Youth	100 David Whites Lane
19	First Baptist Church of Southampton	57 Halsey Avenue
20	Community Baptist Church of Southampton	30 Halsey Avenue
21	Village of Southampton Fire House	470 Hampton Road
22	Suffolk County Open Space	South of LIRR tracks, west of County Road 39
23	Peconic Land Trust Open Space	65 Seven Pond Road
24	Southampton UFSD Transportation	136 Old Mill Road
25	Ladies Auxiliary No. 1 Water Mill Fraternal	41 Old Mill Road
26	Town of Southampton Open Space	West of Seven Ponds-Towd Road
27	Town of Southampton Open Space	Head of the Pond Road
28	Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Halls	675 Scuttle Hole Road
29	Hampton Day School	739 Butter Lane
30	Town of Southampton Open Space	Harbor Road
31	Town of Southampton Open Space	Bridge Hill Lane and Brick Kiln Road
32	Town of Southampton Open Space	North of Scuttle Hole Road
33	Suffolk County Open Space	Turnpike
34	Nature Conservancy	Crooked Pond
35	Town of Southampton Open Space	Turnpike
36	Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Turnpike
37	Town of Southampton Open Space	Old Farm Road
38	Town of Southampton Open Space	Toll Gate Road
39	Suffolk County Open Space	734 Toll Gate Road
40	Town of Southampton Open Space	Toppings Path
41	Town of Southampton Open Space	South of Middle Line Highway

Source: Field reconnaissance, August 2007



## **Southampton to Bridgehampton Transmission Line and Expansion of Bridgehampton Substation Project**

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is approximately 3,700 per year. Police response time to emergency calls is approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

The Southampton Village Police Department is located at 151 Windmill Lane, within the southwest portion of the study area, and maintains a staff of 30 officers, 7 full-time public safety dispatchers, 3 ordinance officers, 5 school crossing guards, and 3 full-time administrative staff personnel. The department employs additional seasonal police officers and ordinance officers in the summer months as needed. The Police Department consists of a Patrol Division; an Investigations Division; Communications Section; a Canine Unit; a Community Orientated Police Enforcement Unit (COPE), which includes Beach Patrol, Bike Patrol, Highway Patrol, and Juvenile Services; and a Special Patrol Section, including an officer in the East End Drug Task Force, a K-9 Unit, and Special Response Team.<sup>1</sup>

### *FIRE PROTECTION*









The Town of Southampton has 10 fire districts, 5 of which are partially located within the Direct Route Alternative study area: Bridgehampton Fire District, North Sea Fire District, Noyack Fire Prevention District, Southampton Fire District, and Southampton Fire Prevention District. The Noyack and North Sea Fire Districts are under the jurisdiction of the North Sea Fire Department while the Southampton Fire District and Fire Prevention District are under the jurisdiction of the Southampton Fire Department. Figure 3-2 illustrates the fire district boundaries within the Town. All of the fire departments are staffed by volunteers. The large number of fire districts is a result of the Town's hamlets and villages that are spread across an extensive geographic area. The following is a detailed list of the three fire departments within the study area and a description of each department's physical needs, as described in *Southampton Tomorrow - Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Strategies* (1999 Comprehensive Plan Update), and correspondence with the districts (see Appendix B):

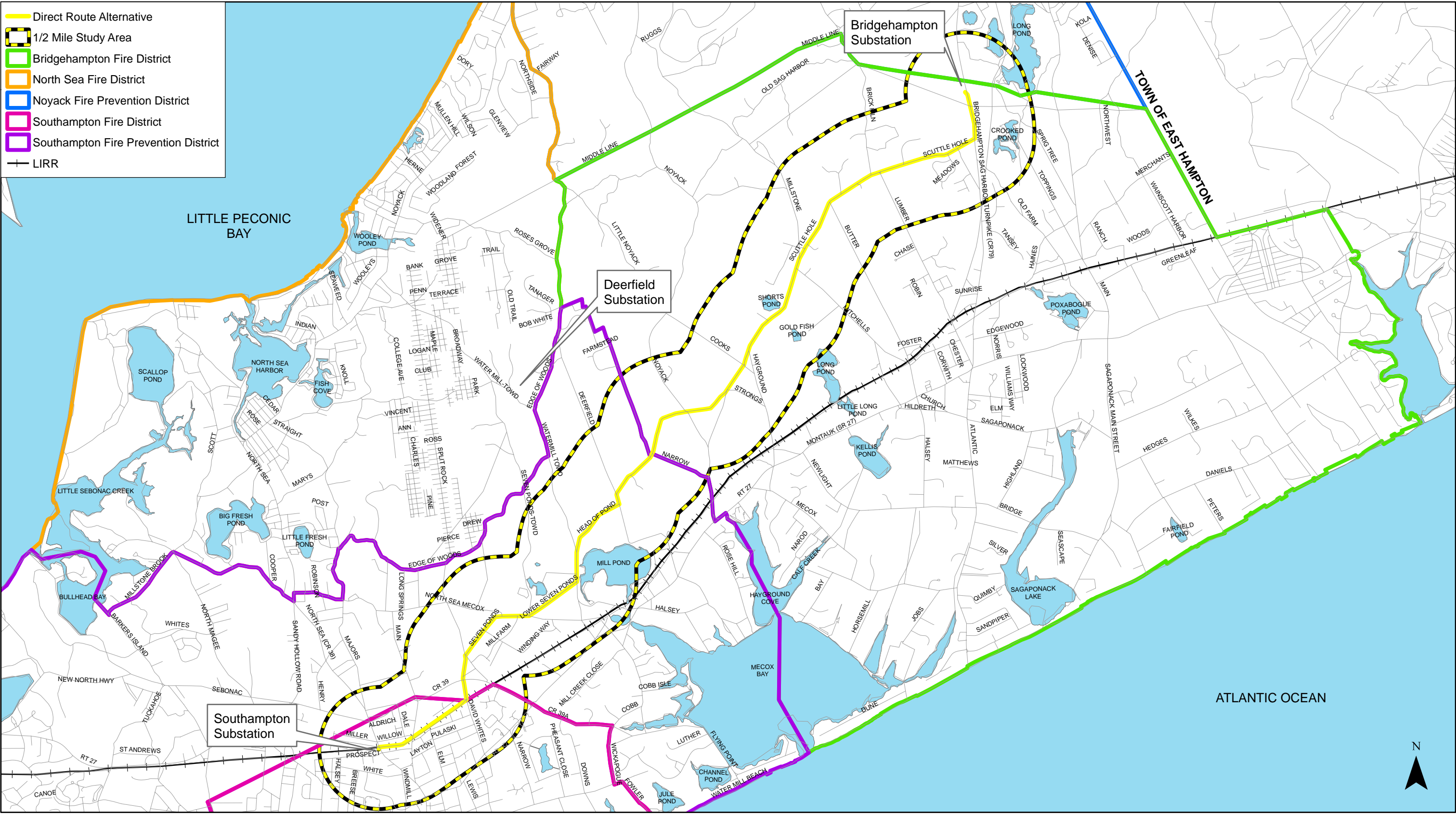
- The Bridgehampton Fire Department (Bridgehampton Fire District) has one station on School Street (outside of the Direct Route Alternative study area). According to telephone correspondence with Chief John Healey on November 21, 2007, there are no future changes planned for the department at this time.
- The North Sea Fire Department (North Sea Fire District and Noyack Fire Prevention District) has two houses: the main station at 149 Noyack Road, and a substation at 1255 Noyack Road, built in 1931. Both houses are outside of the study area.
- The Southampton Fire Department (Southampton Fire District and Southampton Fire Prevention District) has three firehouses with their headquarters located at Windmill Lane, within the study area, and two substations located at 470 Hampton Road, within the study area, and St. Andrews Lane, outside of the study area. The fire department also maintains equipment storage at an antique barn located at 35 Flying Point Road, outside of the study area. The fire department is planning on building a 10-bay headquarters in the Village. According to an August 22, 2007 correspondence with Department Manager Dennis Chuppe, there are two proposed locations, but no information can be made public at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.svpd.com/AboutUs/History>, accessed on September 5, 2007

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-  Bridgehampton Fire District
-  North Sea Fire District
-  Noyack Fire Prevention District
-  Southampton Fire District
-  Southampton Fire Prevention District
-  LIRR



0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet

## *SCHOOLS*

### *Public Schools*

The Direct Route Alternative study area is within the boundaries of three school districts—Southampton Union Free School District (UFSD), Bridgehampton UFSD, and Sag Harbor UFSD (see Figure 3-3). The Direct Route Alternative study area borders Tuckahoe Common School District to the southeast and is northwest and west of Sagaponack Common School District. However, there are no public schools located within the Direct Route Alternative study area.

### *Higher Education*

Two institutions of higher education serve the Town of Southampton:

- 1) Stony Brook Southampton Campus is located on Montauk Highway in the Village of Southampton. It is a small college associated with a major research university (i.e., the State University of New York at Stony Brook). Currently, approximately 200 students are taking courses at Stony Brook Southampton, including those already enrolled in the existing undergraduate Marine Sciences program that Stony Brook absorbed from Long Island University in 2006. About 2,000 students are expected to enroll within the next five years. In addition to the Marine Sciences program and programs related to the environment, Stony Brook Southampton will offer a Master of Fine Arts creative writing program.<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Suffolk Community College Eastern Campus in Riverhead is a two-year school that enrolls over 2,000 students who generally commute to school. The college offers a broad range of liberal arts and business courses, and specialized programs in Graphic Design, Dietetic Technology, Culinary Arts, Horticulture and Interior Design.

### *Private Education*

There are two private educational facilities located within the Direct Route Alternative study area.

Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School is a private, Catholic elementary school located at 160 North Main Street, in the southwest portion of the study area, south of the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) tracks. The school serves grades kindergarten to 8. Our Lady of the Hamptons is attended and supported by three parishes: Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Southampton), Our Lady of Poland (Southampton), and St. Rosalie's (Hampton Bays).

The Hampton Day School in Bridgehampton is a private educational facility located on Butter Lane, west of Lumber Road, east of Mitchell's Lane, and south of Scuttle Hole Road within the northwestern portion of the Direct Route Alternative study area. This alternative school serves grades pre-kindergarten to 8.









## *LIBRARIES*

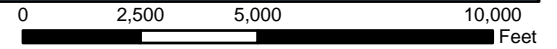
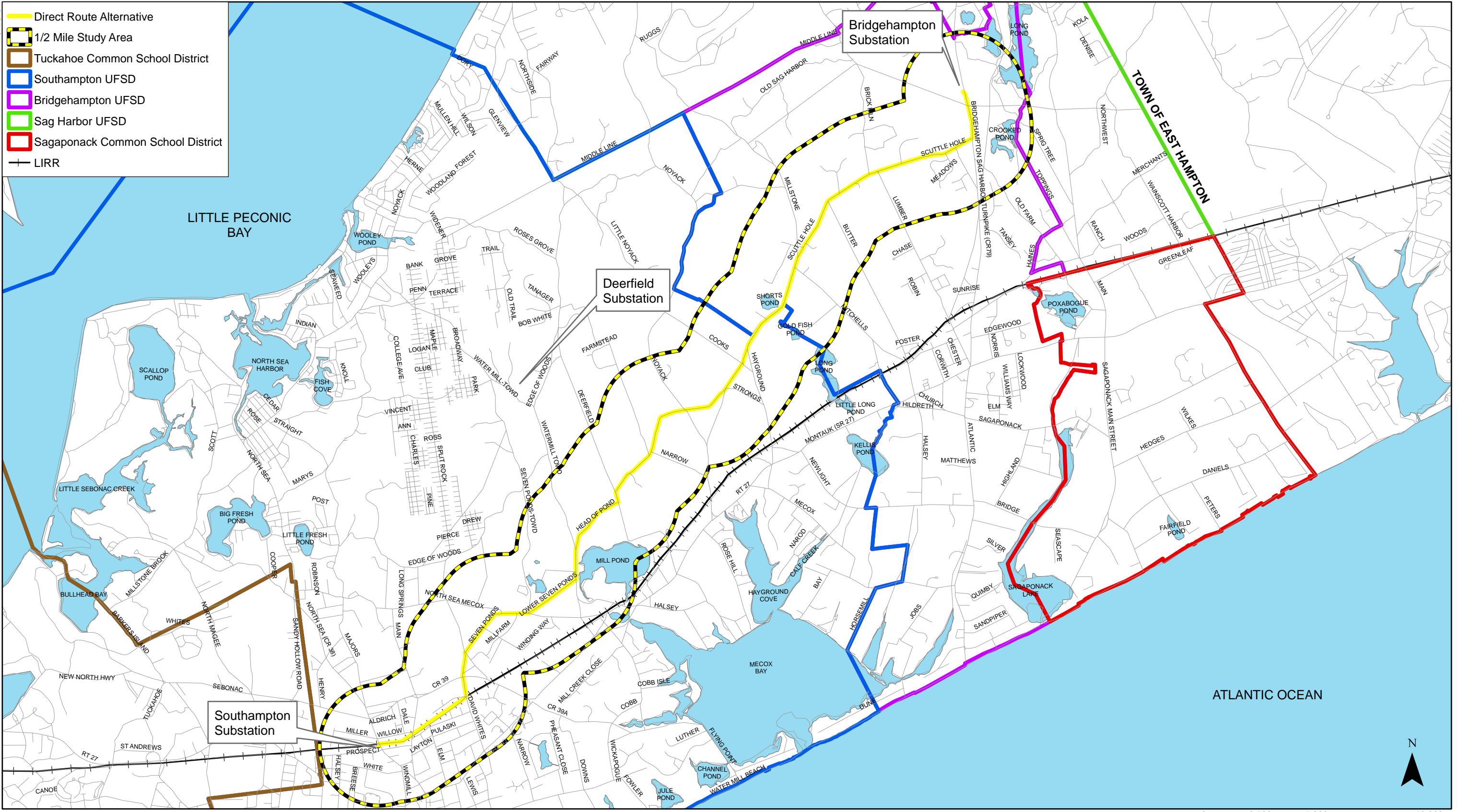
There is one public library within the study area, the Rogers Memorial Library in the Village of Southampton, located at 91 Coopers Farm Road, which is in the southwesternmost portion of the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/southampton/mission>, accessed on September 5, 2007

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-  Tuckahoe Common School District
-  Southampton UFSD
-  Bridgehampton UFSD
-  Sag Harbor UFSD
-  Sagaponack Common School District
-  LIRR



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study area. The following excerpt from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update describes the Town's libraries:

*“The boundaries of the library districts in the Town of Southampton are the same as the school districts; however, since only six of the eleven library districts actually possess libraries, the remaining districts must contract out for library services, typically with adjoining districts. Four of the six libraries are in the incorporated villages: Quogue, Sag Harbor, Southampton, and Westhampton Beach. The other two libraries are in Bridgehampton and Hampton Bays.”*

### *HEALTH SERVICES*

There are two major medical facilities located within or in the immediate vicinity of the Town, with additional satellite offices scattered throughout Eastern Suffolk. However, these facilities are not located directly within the ½-mile study area. Each is described below:

#### *Southampton Hospital*

Southampton Hospital is located on Meeting House Lane in the Village of Southampton, and is the only hospital within the Town borders. The hospital offers services in several areas, including 24-hour emergency services, intensive care, cardiac care, drug and alcohol abuse, rehabilitation, obstetrics, pediatrics, radiology, outpatient facilities, dialysis, and skilled nursing. The hospital also has satellite offices in East Hampton, Hampton Bays, Greenport, Southampton Village, and Westhampton Beach.

#### *Peconic Bay Medical Center (Central Suffolk Hospital)*

Located in Riverhead, New York, the Peconic Bay Medical Center (PBMC) serves nearly 120,000 residents on the East End of Long Island from Wading River to Orient on the North Fork and from Moriches to Hampton Bays on the South Fork. With 800 employees and 160 medical staff, PBMC provides comprehensive healthcare services to the East End.<sup>1</sup> Since 1951, this facility has been known as Central Suffolk Hospital, which changed its name to PBMC in 2006. PBMC is a facility with 214 beds, including a 60-bed skilled nursing facility and a certified home care agency. The medical center is the regional provider of dialysis, orthopedics through the Hamptons Orthopedic & Rehabilitation Institute, and home to the Center for Bariatric Surgery. Through a unique partnership with Stony Brook University Hospital—Long Island's only academic medical center—PBMC has trauma-trained specialists staffing its Emergency Center.

### *OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES*

#### *Churches and Cemeteries*

- North End Graveyard, North Sea Road
- Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Cemetery, 231 Country Road 39
- Southampton Cemetery, 545 North Sea Road
- Church of God in Christ, 57 Hillcrest Terrace
- United Methodist Church of Southampton, 160 Main Street

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.peconicbaymedicalcenter.org/aboutus-overview>, accessed on September 5, 2007

- Our Lady of Poland Roman Catholic Church, 35 Maple Street
- First Baptist Church of Southampton, 57 Halsey Avenue
- Community Baptist Church, 16 Plant Street
- Community Baptist Church of Southampton, 30 Halsey Avenue
- Southampton Full Gospel Church, 130 County Road 39
- Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Halls, 675 Scuttle Hole Road
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 977 Bridgehampton Sag Harbor Turnpike

*Post Office*

The United States Post Office of Southampton is located on 39 Nugent Street, directly west of North Sea Road in the southwest portion of the study area, within the Village of Southampton.

*Child Care*

According to the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update, Southampton has 10 child care facilities listed in the Town's *Human Services Resources Guide*. Of those 10, the Southampton Day Care Center Fountain of Youth is located at 100 David Whites Lane and is located within the southeast portion of the ½-mile study area.

*Senior Citizen Residential Facilities*

The Payton Lane Nursing Home, located on County Road 39, is the only senior citizen residential facility in the study area. The home has 280 beds, and is located on an 8.8-acre site on the border of the Village of Southampton and the Town of Southampton,<sup>1</sup> in the southwest portion of the study area.

**OPEN SPACE**

Preserving open space is of paramount importance to the Town of Southampton. Beginning with the *Town of Southampton Master Plan (1970)*, the Town is committed to preserving open space, protecting local natural features, groundwater, agricultural resources, and wetlands. The Town is also committed to meeting the recreational needs of its residents.

This section will provide a description of the existing open space within ½ mile of the Direct Route Alternative as well as summarize in-place plans and programs with respect to open space acquisition and management. Public open space within the study area is described, as is any proposed or planned changes to open space, for the purpose of determining potential impacts.

**EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN STUDY AREA**

Public open space includes State-, County-, Town-, and Village-owned parks and recreational areas, lands that are preserved for natural resources, and private land that is in general use by the public or preserved in perpetuity, such as cemeteries.

Many parks can be found in Southampton, including State, County, and Town-owned parks. These parks function as recreational resources for the community. State and County parks can be found in Hampton Bays (Sears Bellows County Park, Sears Bellows Stables, Long Island Pine

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<sup>1</sup> *Southampton Tomorrow-Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Strategies*, 1999

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Barrens Trail, Munn's Pond County Park, and Shinnecock West County Park); Sagaponack (Poxabogue County Park); Sag Harbor (Barcelona Neck State Park); Bridgehampton (New York State-Southampton Town Long Pond Greenbelt); and Southampton (Shinnecock East County Park). Portions of the Long Pond Greenbelt are located within the Direct Route Alternative study area.

The Town of Southampton Department of Parks and Recreation manages and owns parks and picnic areas throughout the Town. Some of these parks include Red Creek Park and Foster Park (Hampton Bays); Emma Rose Elliston Park (North Sea); Trout Pond (Noyack); Hampton West (Westhampton); Ludlum Park and Flanders Memorial Park (Flanders); Thomas Sullivan Park (East Quogue); Sagg Swamp Preserve (Sagaponack); and Sayre Park, Berwind Memorial Green, and Long Pond Greenbelt (Bridgehampton). The only Town-owned park/preserve within the study area is Long Pond Greenbelt.

Approximately 401 acres (or 7 percent) of the Direct Route Alternative study area are dedicated to open space uses with approximately 232 acres (or 58 percent of the total open space land) under public ownership (see Figure 3-4). This acreage includes land set aside by the County, Town, or Village for open space conservation, land preserved by the Nature Conservancy and Peconic Land Trust, and cemeteries, as well as privately held lands that have been preserved. Generally, most of the open space within the Direct Route Alternative study area is located in the northeast portion and is associated with the Long Pond Greenbelt.

The Direct Route Alternative study area also includes three cemeteries, two of which are located on North Sea Road (North End Graveyard and Southampton Cemetery) and one on County Road 39 (Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Cemetery) in the southwest portion of the study area. Cemeteries represent about 13 acres of the study area, or 3 percent of the total open space.

### *OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES*

#### *Overview*





Over the past 30 years, the Town of Southampton has demonstrated a commitment to the preservation of open space through a series of plans and policy initiatives. Beginning with the first *Town of Southampton Master Plan* (1970), and most recently with the *Community Preservation Project Plan* (2005), the Town has sought to preserve its wealth of open space through the voluntary acquisition of land and transfer of development rights in targeted areas. This section examines the Town's open space plans, programs, and policies.

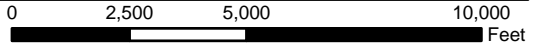
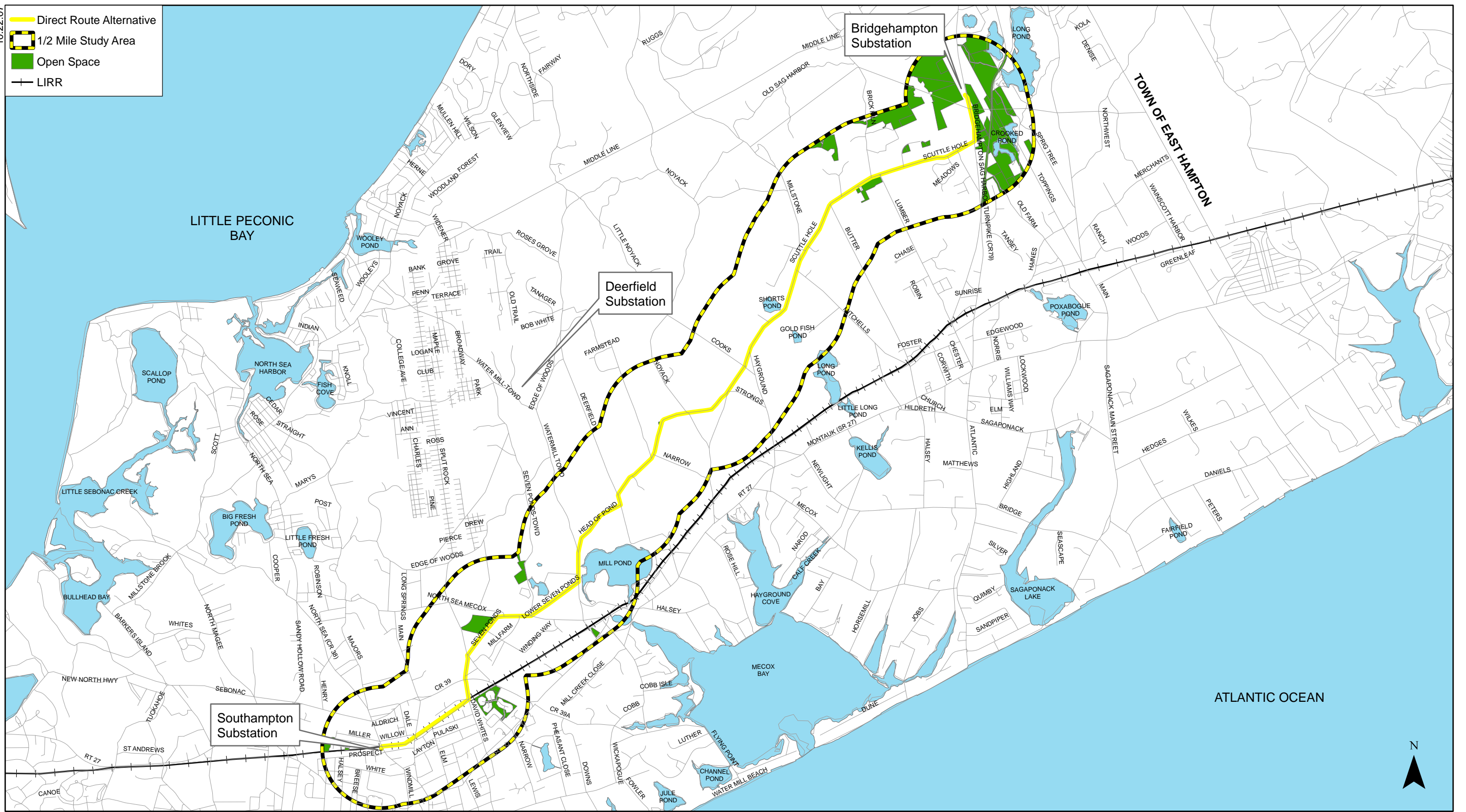
#### *Town of Southampton Master Plan (1970)*

The first *Town of Southampton Master Plan* (1970 Master Plan) focused on the balance between development and natural features protection, groundwater management, protection of agricultural resources, and wetlands preservation. It was recommended in that plan that areas where growth should occur are the historically populated hamlets and villages within the Town, while recognizing that open spaces and neighborhood parks are essential components of future development.

The 1970 Master Plan also put forward a general concept for the development of parks and recreation areas to have a "system of largely interconnected parks and open spaces." Greenbelts are proposed as the links between various focal points. Additionally, the plan discussed Town park needs as they relate to population, using the national standard of 10 acres per 1,000

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-  Open Space
-  LIRR



residents to set targets for new parks. In addition, the plan recommended the establishment of an advisory committee to evaluate and establish acquisition priorities for recreational sites, including representatives from the Town Board, Planning Board, Natural Resources Commission, and Town Recreation Department. Decades later, a large amount of land suitable for parks was acquired — largely through the Community Preservation Fund.

#### *Town of Southampton Master Plan Update (1984)*

The *Town of Southampton Master Plan Update*, published in 1984, aimed to re-evaluate the development density recommended in the 1970 Master Plan, and to further establish a balance between preservation of the natural environment and development, while providing for a mix of land uses and adequate open space that would meet the needs of a diverse group of people. This update also encouraged the Town to further pursue the preservation of lands through the purchase of development rights and to reduce density in the subdivision process.

#### *Southampton Tomorrow - Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Strategies, 1999*

A comprehensive update of the 1970 and 1984 master plans was released by the Town in 1999. The 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update focused on land management, growth, and environmental protection, and is now guiding land use and zoning decisions throughout the Town. As stated in the adopted plan, “all Town land use regulations must be in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan” and the underlying purpose of the plan is “the control of land uses for the benefit of the whole community.”

The Town’s vision in preparing this 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update was to protect existing natural and cultural resources, promote community spaces, encourage economic growth, and provide alternative transportation options for residents. With the adoption of the plan relative to the protection of open space, the Town set the following goals for greenways and open space:

- Maintain and preserve existing open space;
- Provide an interconnected system of greenways, walkways, and bike paths linking destinations and resources throughout the Town;
- Encourage the preservation and expansion of existing trails and open space through the subdivision process; and
- Provide increased access to trails and greenways for all residents of and visitors to the Town.

A Comprehensive Greenways System allows for an integration of critical resources and open space protection with requirements for public access for alternative modes of transportation and active and passive recreation. The creation of such a system can also serve as a vehicle for protecting the natural aesthetics and resources of the Town.<sup>1</sup> The term greenway can be used to describe a whole range of protected land areas in the Town of Southampton. A greenway includes parks, nature preserves, cultural features, and/or historic sites and the open space connectors that link them.

The Town further created a greenway classification system, where three distinct types of greenways are suggested: Public Access Greenways, for active and passive recreation and alternative modes of transportation; Resource Protection Greenways, including wetlands, significant fish and wildlife habitat areas, and existing agricultural lands; and Scenic Protection

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<sup>1</sup> *Southampton Tomorrow-Volume 1b: Technical Reports, 1997*

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Greenways, which include historic structures, historic landscapes and natural landscapes.<sup>1</sup> Within in the study area, scenic corridors have been identified around areas where continuous tracts of agricultural land are present, as well as along Bridgehampton Sag Harbor Turnpike, within the same area as the Long Pond Greenbelt.

The Long Pond Greenbelt is the only designated greenbelt area in the Town. It was officially designated for preservation in 1985 through the Town's adoption of the Long Pond Greenbelt Action Plan. This greenbelt begins in Sag Harbor in the north and continues south to the Atlantic Ocean. The Long Pond Greenbelt consists of coastal plain ponds and wetlands. It is recognized as the area that harbors the highest concentration of rare species in the State. The Long Pond Greenbelt is also considered a priority area by The Nature Conservancy and a core area for the Peconic Bioreserve Initiative. A portion of the greenbelt has also been designated as a "Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat Area" by the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS).<sup>2</sup>

### *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Fund*

The Town of Southampton Community Preservation Fund (CPF) represents the funding mechanism which most of Southampton's open space preservation and management procedures follow. Enacted by New York State on June 22, 1998, and adopted by the Town of Southampton along with all East End towns on April 1, 1999, the CPF is supported through a 2 percent real estate transfer tax, and generates revenue on the sale of vacant land valued at more than \$100,000 and on improved property valued at more than \$250,000. In November 2006, the voters of the Town of Southampton approved a 10-year extension of the tax to the year 2030.

The Town of Southampton has preserved the largest amount of acreage of all the East End towns through land acquisition and preservation of open space. In its effort to protect its rural heritage and natural resources, Southampton has spent \$161 million on conservation with \$152 million generated from the CPF. As of December 2004, the Town had purchased over 1,944 acres of open space with an additional 300 acres in contract.<sup>3</sup>

### *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Project Plan (2005)*

The *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Project Plan, 2005* (2005 Project Plan) serves to build upon the *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Project Plan 1998-2001* (1998-2001 Project Plan) and its update, the *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Project Plan 2001-2003* (2001-2003 Project Plan). These plans promote new initiatives, including regulatory techniques; subdivision, zoning, and wetland protection laws; and a multitude of private conservation strategies that have been adopted by the Town.

Both the 1998-2001 Project Plan and the 2001-2003 Project Plan present the Town's planning policy efforts to preserve and manage existing open space. As part of the Town's vision for preserving open space as one of the area's natural resources, Southampton seeks to expand its open space areas "outside of the Pine Barrens through cooperative efforts with non-profit agencies and private landowners; and target open space acquisition funds to the protection of

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<sup>1</sup> *Southampton Tomorrow-Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Strategies*, 1999

<sup>2</sup> *Southampton Tomorrow-Volume 1b: Technical Reports*, 1997

<sup>3</sup> *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Fund -Community Preservation Project Plan*, 2005

significant habitat areas, endangered species habitats, and the protection of the Town's aquifer recharge areas.”

Conscious of the need to preserve its wealth of open space, the Town of Southampton adopted the 1998-2001 Project Plan and the 2001-2003 Project Plan with new initiatives of open space preservation, including regulatory controls, subdivision, zoning, and wetland protection laws. In the 1998-2001 plan, a total of eight target areas, comprising 28,668 acres in the Town, were identified as the highest priority for preservation, including:

- Unprotected prime agricultural land contained within the “Agricultural Overlay District”;
- Twenty-two open space and greenbelt areas defined by previously adopted open space plans and the Town's 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update;
- The core area of the adopted Central Pine Barrens Plan;
- Ten critical resource areas identified in the adopted Central Pine Barrens Plan;
- Critical freshwater and tidal wetlands;
- Significant opportunities to establish trails;
- Significant parcels identified within villages and hamlets to create traditional greens, parks, recreation opportunities, and other forms of open space.
- Historic places and properties defined as Town landmarks or listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places; and

The 2001-2003 Project Plan included an additional target area as follows:

- Significant parcels identified within an Aquifer Recharge Area to provide potable groundwater and to assure clean surface water.

The most recent project plan report, published in 2005, increased the total acreage to be preserved to over 30,000 acres in nine target areas. The 2005 plan further builds upon the previous two plans and has identified nearly 360 parcels (approximately 1,230 acres) of land within the study area that boast natural features worth preserving. Figure 3-5 shows the priority parcels listed in the 2005 update that are within the Direct Route Alternative study area. The northeast portion of the study area contains a concentration of open space identified in the 2005 Project Plan, which is part of the Long Pond Greenbelt. As previously discussed, the Long Pond Greenbelt encompasses the north-south corridor of the interconnected ponds and woodlands stretching from the Village of Sag Harbor to Sagaponack to the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>1</sup> This greenbelt encompasses a diverse range of plant, mammal, reptile, bird, amphibian, and insect life. There are as many as 85 different bird species found in this area.<sup>2</sup> Another special feature of this greenbelt's ecology is the collection of coastal ponds and pondshore communities that are a part of its system.<sup>3</sup> Another notable CPF area within the study area is the Eastern GEIS/Great Swamp area. Located north of Bridgehampton, this target area lies between the Bridgehampton Sag Harbor Turnpike and Scuttle Hole and Brick Kiln Roads.<sup>4</sup> This area is known best for the “finest collections of inland freshwater wetlands remaining east of the Shinnecock Canal.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Fund -Community Preservation Project Plan, 2005*

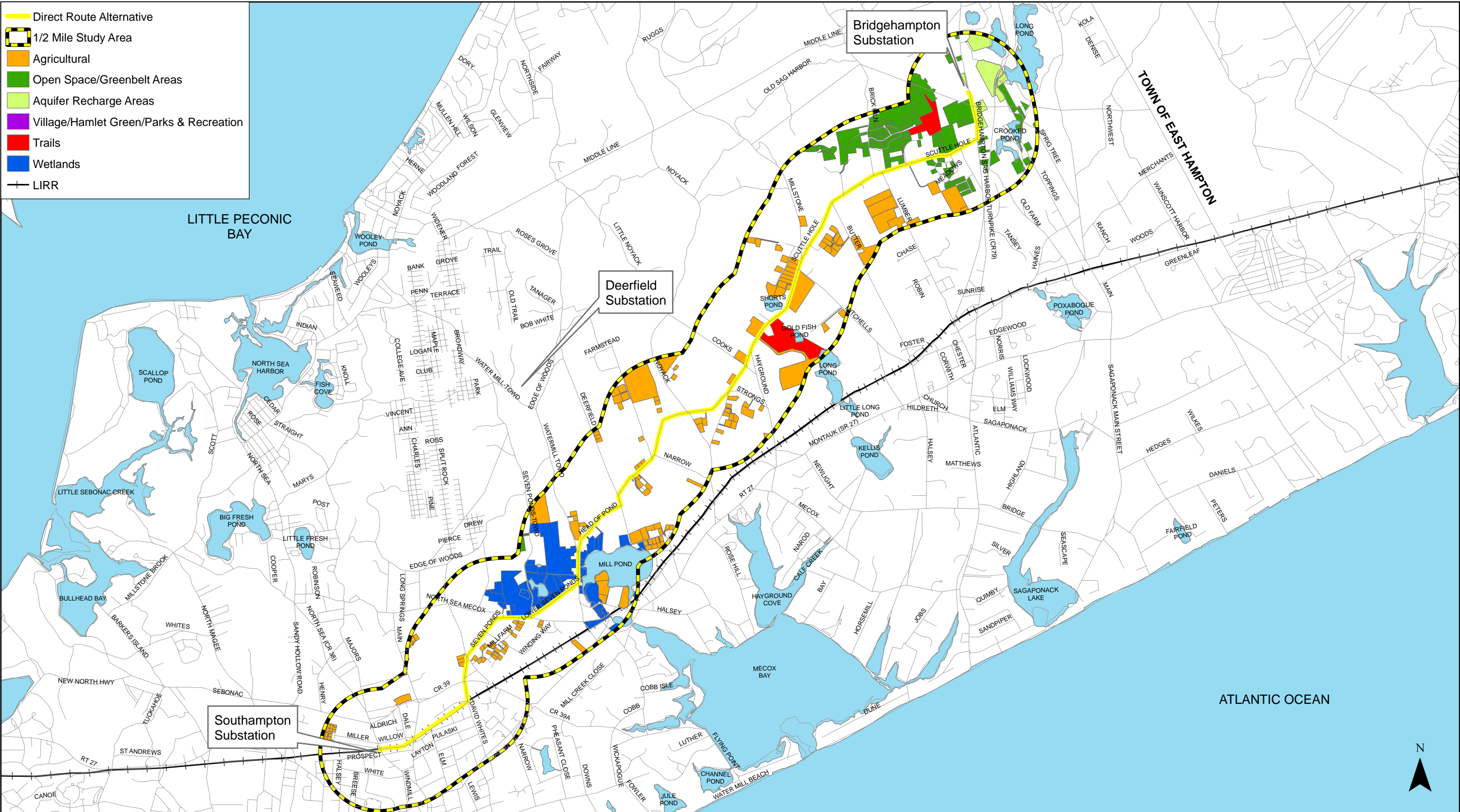
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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-  Direct Route Alternative
-  1/2 Mile Study Area
-  Agricultural
-  Open Space/Greenbelt Areas
-  Aquifer Recharge Areas
-  Village/Hamlet Green/Parks & Recreation
-  Trails
-  Wetlands
-  LIRR



Source: Town of Southampton Community Preservation Project Plan (2003-2005)

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In addition, there are pockets of agricultural lands, trails, open space, wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas throughout the study area proposed for preservation as part of the 2005 Project Plan. These include parcels surrounding Shorts Pond, Gold Fish Pond, Mill Pond, Great Swamp, and the Long Pond Greenbelt.

The Town has also identified additional remaining unprotected parcels whose acquisition is important in securing and completing existing trails. These parcels are critical linkages for trail systems such as: the Paumanok Path; Tuckahoe Woods; Oak Ponds-to-Peconic Bay Trail; Morton-to-Kellis Pond Trail; Trout Pond-to-Brick Hill Trail; Brick Kiln Woods (also known as Great Swamp); and Bay-to-Ocean Trail. Within the study area, the following trails have been identified:

- Paumanok Path: This is a hiking trail project of regional significance. The plan is for the path to ultimately extend 125 miles from Rocky Point to Montauk Point. It is recognized as the most significant trail project on Long Island.<sup>1</sup> When completed, the Path will serve as the connection to Southampton's trail system. Only a 30-mile section in eastern Southampton remains to be completed within the area between Red Creek Park and Sagaponack. Within the study area, the portion remaining to be completed is located between Brick Kiln Road and Widow Gavits Road.
- Morton-to-Kellis Pond Trail: A linear north-south trail project that intends on incorporating the Atlantic Golf Club's trail easement, located northwest of the Direct Route Alternative and Long Pond (Bridgehampton), which is located in the northwest portion of the ½-mile study area, as well as other ponds and parks in the vicinity.
- Brick Kiln Woods: Also known as Great Swamp, this trail path includes an interior loop from the Paumanok Path on one side and trails from each of the four roads that border the area (i.e., Brick Kiln Road to the north, Brick Kiln Road to the west, Bridgehampton Sag Harbor Turnpike, and Scuttle Hole Road).<sup>2</sup>
- The Bay-to-Ocean Trail: Another north-south linear trail corridor that includes the Long Pond Greenbelt, which is within the study area; this trail is intended to intersect with the Paumanok Path in the Long Pond Greenbelt.

Moreover, based on correspondence dated October 1, 2007 with Town of Southampton Department of Land Management's Community Preservation Division's manager, Mary C. Wilson, (see Appendix B) the following properties are impending community preservation parcel acquisitions:

- Suffolk County Tax Map #900-49-1-8.6 and 8.7: Agricultural lands located west of Shorts Pond within the Direct Route Alternative study area.
- Suffolk County Tax Map #900-87-1-9 and 10: Agricultural lands located adjacent to the east of Kellis Pond, outside of the study area.

*Town of Southampton Recreation Plan (2003)*

The *Town of Southampton Recreation Plan* (2003 Recreation Plan) provides a comprehensive approach to recreation within the Town and includes a compilation of recommendations from

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> *Town of Southampton Community Preservation Fund -Community Preservation Project Plan, 2005*

the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update that concern recreation. These recommendations constitute a set of goals and objectives as follows:

- Develop a comprehensive picture of Southampton recreational needs and wants;
- Identify potential locations for new and/or expanded recreational facilities within the Town;
- Facilitate access to recreation resources in the Town for all residents and visitors;
- Incorporate greenway and trail development into the overall recreation planning process;
- Make the Town's recreation management function self-sustaining;
- Enhance the use of Southampton's recreational resources as a tool for economic development;
- Review and refine Town regulations and policies concerning recreational areas to reduce conflicts between natural resource protection and recreational uses;
- Review and refine Town land use and zoning regulations to facilitate the preservation and expansion of greenway and open space areas;
- Support local marinas through review and refinement of Town land use, zoning, and other regulations, and technical assistance;
- Pursue partnerships among the Town, school districts, local colleges, and private resources to maximize opportunities for recreation use; and
- Explore and advance planning concerning recognized needs for specialized recreation.

The 2003 Recreation Plan not only builds upon the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update, but also puts forth recommendations to include the CPF priority properties to expand the Town parks and recreation system and control the use of sensitive lands. These recommendations capitalize on the CPF properties with potential for recreational use, which are acquired through the Town:<sup>1</sup>

- Adopt a Town policy for utilizing CPF properties to expand the Town's park system;
- Evaluate CPF properties for their recreational potential;
- Formalize CPF participation in Southampton's recreation management function; and
- Include CPF properties in a Town-wide system of recreation signage.

According to the 2003 Recreation Plan, the Town has approximately 169 acres of active recreation parkland or about 1.85-acres per 1,000. This number is substantially under the national standard of 10 acres per 1,000. There are two new parks discussed in the 2003 Recreation Plan, which would add substantial acreage to the Town's park system. One will be located on the former North Sea Landfill site and will be named North Sea Park. North Sea Park is anticipated to encompass 50 acres around the new Southampton Town Recreation Center. The other park has been purchased under the CPF program. Iron Point in Flanders is a 138-acre property, which intends on adding 22 acres to Southampton's active park acreage. However, both of these proposed parks are outside the Direct Route Alternative ½-mile study area.

The Direct Route Alternative ½-mile study area is located within the following community districts: Tuckahoe-Southampton District, including the hamlets of Shinnecock Hills, Tuckahoe, Water Mill, North Sea, and the Village of Southampton and the Bridgehampton-Sagaponack District, including the hamlets of Bridgehampton and Sagaponack.

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<sup>1</sup> *Town of Southampton Recreation Plan, 2003*

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Currently, the only Town-owned park and/or preserve located within the Direct Route Alternative ½-mile study area according to the 2003 Recreation Plan is the Long Pond Greenbelt, which encompasses over 600 acres. The greenbelt is partially located in the northeastern most portion of the Direct Route Alternative study area, north of Crooked Pond.

### *Southampton Town Code*

#### Chapter 247: Open Space

Chapter 247 of the Southampton Town Code focuses on existing provisions designed to protect open space within the Town. The purpose of Chapter 247 of the Southampton Town Code seeks

*“to enable and encourage flexibility of design and development of land in such a manner as to promote the most appropriate use of land, to facilitate the adequate and economical provision of streets and utilities and to preserve the natural and scenic qualities of open lands in order to provide larger areas of open space, both for recreational and conservation purposes, and in order to implement objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.”<sup>1</sup>*

#### Chapter 295: Trails

In accordance with the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update, Chapter 295 of the Town Code recognizes the significance of a trail system to the Town’s residents and visitors alike. With this chapter, the Town set up the Trail Advisory Board to identify existing and potential trails. The establishment of this chapter made it the Town’s policy to identify and protect existing trails, as well as to develop and maintain new linking trails to secure various social, economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits necessary to the health, safety, and general welfare of present and future residents of Southampton. There are limited trails found within the study area generally associated with Long Pond Greenbelt.

### *Village of Southampton Comprehensive Plan (May 2000)*

The Village of Southampton drafted and adopted the *Village of Southampton Comprehensive Plan* (Village Comprehensive Plan) in May 2000. The Village Comprehensive Plan puts forth several recommendations regarding open space and community facilities.

One of the primary planning goals set forth in the plan is “to preserve and enhance the Village’s quality of life elements, seen to be open space, the natural environment, and the historic character and small-scale buildings.”

Relative to the Direct Route Alternative, the plan places emphasis on preserving large open space and/or agricultural parcels through joint partnerships with the organizations such as the Peconic Land Trust Fund. Other options the plan looks at to preserve open space are clustering residential lots, and the purchase of land or development rights, using the 2 percent Real Estate Transfer Tax proceeds. The plan also addresses the use of open space. It set forth a recommendation that “unbuilt land would be deeded to a public or non-profit entity as permanently protected open space.” Within the Village portion of the study area, there are limited vacant and agricultural lands, and the area is mostly built. Further, there are few open space parcels located within the Direct Route Alternative study area. These open space parcels

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<sup>1</sup> Code of the Town of Southampton, Local Law No. 39-2001

are located north and south of the LIRR tracks and comprise about 17 acres or 0.3 percent of the study area.

#### *Bridgehampton Hamlet Plan (February 2004)*

The Town of Southampton published the plan that focused on improving the downtown area of Bridgehampton hamlet as well as some general hamlet issues. The plan put forth general recommendations on issues such as parks and recreational spaces. One of the several recommendations made in the plan, also relevant to the Direct Route Alternative, is the recommendation to improve the visual quality of the hamlet gateway and preserve open space, views, and streetscapes throughout the hamlet center.

#### *Master List and Maps of Proposed County Open Space Acquisition*

In 2004, Suffolk County drafted a *Master List and Maps of Proposed County Open Space Acquisition*. The list of Proposed County Open Space Acquisitions was prepared for Introductory Resolution No. 1338-2004. The document provides maps that identify 60 proposed open space sites totaling 3,812 acres. Within the ½-mile study area, there were no sites identified as priority parcels for preservation.

#### *New York State Open Space Conservation Plan*

In November 2006, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and New York State Department of State and the Office of State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) released *New York State Open Space Conservation Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (2006 Open Space Plan)*. According to the 2006 Open Space Plan, during the past several years, the State has conserved nearly one million acres of land with an investment of more than \$658 million. This is the current adopted Statewide plan for open space acquisition and protection. Preparation of a Statewide open space conservation plan was initiated by an act of the State legislature in 1990, and the first plan was approved in November 1992. It is required by the act that the plan be updated every three years. Subsequent plans were completed in 1995, 1998, and 2002. The 2006 Open Space Plan, which builds upon the previous studies, was expanded to include the State's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan, which is a requirement for coastal states to qualify for federal funds through the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). This fund gives priority to lands that can be effectively managed and have significant ecological value. Another change from the 2002 plan was the expansion of priority projects that should be included as part of the plan, including major resource areas, areas of statewide significance, and linear corridors.

The 2006 Open Space Plan contains a description of programs and policies affecting the conservation of the State's open space resources; major conservation successes accomplished under the plan; a list of priority projects; evaluation and criteria used to determine Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) spending priorities; and recommendations by the Regional Advisory Committee, local governments and partnerships, the public, NYSDEC, NYSOPRHP, NYSDOS staff, and the Governor's Quality Communities Task Force to improve New York's open space conservation program.

The goals of the plan include:

- To protect water quality in New York State, including surface and underground drinking water supplies, and lakes, streams, and coastal and estuarine waters needed to sustain aquatic ecosystems and water-based recreation;

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- To provide high quality outdoor recreation, both land and water-based, accessible to New Yorkers regardless of where they live, how much money they have, or their physical abilities;
- To protect and enhance those scenic, historic, and cultural resources readily identifiable as valued parts of the common heritage of New York's citizens;
- To protect habitat for the diversity of plant and animal species to ensure the protection of healthy, viable, sustainable ecosystems and biological diversity within the state;
- To protect habitat to sustain and enhance populations of endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern;
- To protect habitat, to sustain the traditional pastimes of hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing;
- To maintain the critical natural resource based industries of farming, wood products, commercial fishing, and tourism;
- To provide places for education and research on ecological, environmental, and appropriate cultural resources, yielding a better understanding of the systems from which they derive; and
- To preserve open space, particularly forest lands, for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

Within the NYSDEC, the Bureau of Real Property is responsible for land acquisition. The 2006 Open Space Plan is not limited to public recreation but recognizes the benefit of private land stewardship and identifies sites that are priorities for preservation for a number of reasons, among them the protection and preservation of farmland, historic and archaeological resources, water quality, natural and scenic environments, and open space/recreational opportunities. There is an evaluation process that leads to the identification of priority sites. That process considers regional plans and needs, resource values, and alternative mechanisms for protection. To assist in developing the plan, there are nine Regional Advisory Committees that provide input. An important part of the 2006 Open Space Plan is the identification of priority conservation project areas that have been identified through the work and input of the Committees. Through this process, which involves an extensive analysis of each region's open space resources, the committees have identified a series of projects, many of them large geographic areas, deserving of conservation attention.<sup>1</sup>

The Town of Southampton lies within Region 1, which covers Long Island. Within the study area, the Long Pond Greenbelt has been identified under the new South Fork Critical Wildlands and Groundwater Protection Area, which is also on the 2006 Priority Projects List under the Peconic Pinelands Maritime Reserve for open space acquisition. The South Fork Critical Wildlands and Groundwater Protection Area is known for its "1,100 acres of mostly contiguous forest in the Tuckahoe Woods, Great Hill, Noyack Hills, and Long Pond Greenbelt regions of the South Fork, including pristine deep flow recharge areas and watershed lands critical to preserving the health of Peconic Bay."

### *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2003)*

New York State's *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* identifies a recreation policy framework of seven policies. The following five provide direction for natural,

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<sup>1</sup> *New York State Open Space Conservation Plan, 2006*

cultural, and recreation resources: preserve and protect natural and cultural resources; improve recreation and historic site operation, maintenance and resource management practices; improve and expand water-oriented recreation opportunities; develop comprehensive recreationway, greenway and heritage trail systems; and support compatible recreation and interpretive programs. The two remaining policies support the others in that they encourage improved cooperation and coordination, and promote recreation research techniques and management practices. A number of action strategies for implementation have been identified for each policy. Funding sources, programs, and partnerships that help implement SCORP are also identified.

The overall focus of SCORP and its recommendations is to improve the use of open space recreation. Some of the recommendations are, however, relevant to this project. Specifically, SCORP recommends the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources, including the protection of important open space, scenic, historic, and ecologically sensitive areas and identification of threats to natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Additionally, SCORP also recommends the development of comprehensive recreationways, greenways, and heritage trail systems, including trail uses within highway, abandoned rail, and utility corridors.

## **C. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

The Direct Route Alternative would not result in any significant adverse impacts on community facilities and emergency services regardless of the configuration selected (above ground, underground, or a combination of overhead and underground). In fact, the Direct Route Alternative could improve emergency responsiveness by ensuring a stronger transmission infrastructure. In addition, the Direct Route Alternative would replace pre-existing distribution lines and therefore would not introduce a new use to the area and would therefore not impact community facilities. By utilizing an existing distribution route, LIPA would avoid disturbing existing community facilities and services. In addition, the expanded substation would be sited on the same lot as the existing Bridgehampton Substation and therefore not significantly increase the demand on community facilities and emergency services.

The Direct Route Alternative transmission line and the Bridgehampton Substation expansion would be consistent with current and anticipated land use conditions and would have no significant adverse impacts on the health, safety, and/or welfare of the community or residents, nor would it result in an undesirable change in the environmental conditions of the surrounding area or nearby properties. The transmission line would be constructed along the same route as the existing distribution lines, with about 50 percent of the line constructed underground. The expanded substation would be sited on the same lot as the existing Bridgehampton Substation. Therefore, the Direct Route Alternative would continue a pre-existing use that has coexisted with community facilities, as well as agricultural, residential, and commercial lands for more than 80 years. Moreover, the new transmission line and expanded substation would provide for future growth and increase reliability of electric service for area residents and businesses.

Any underground portions of the transmission line, including the Village underground option, would not result in significant adverse impacts on community facilities and emergency services.

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**OPEN SPACE**

The preservation of open space parcels would not be affected by the proposed transmission line or expanded substation whether the transmission line is overhead, underground, or hybrid. The preservation of these properties has occurred in the past and would be expected to occur in the future with the Direct Route Alternative. The proposed Direct Route Alternative transmission line would follow a pre-existing utility route, which has coexisted with agricultural use and open space qualities of the area. The Direct Route Alternative would follow existing roadways on the most direct route between the Southampton and Bridgehampton Substations, with about 50 percent of the route constructed underground. In addition, the expanded substation would be located on the same parcel as the existing Bridgehampton Substation.

The Direct Route Alternative would not conflict with State, County, and local open space policy goals and objectives and would not have a negative impact on any identified parcels for preservation that are identified in these policy documents.

The Direct Route Alternative would not have any significant adverse impacts with regard to preservation of open space or complying with open space acquisition plans.

Any underground portions of the transmission line, including the Village underground option, would not result in significant adverse impacts on open space. \*