

PROJECT APPLICANT: Board of Trustees of the Commonality of the Town of Southampton

PROJECT TITLE: Mecox Bay Inlet

PROJECT TYPE: Aquatic Habitat Restoration

SCALE: Neighborhood/Watershed

APPROACH: Restoration

DESCRIPTION:

The project proposes inlet opening at Mecox Bay for sustaining and improving the water quality of Mecox Bay. Mecox Bay is listed as a water body of statewide and national significance and is comprised of roughly 1,100 acres, and is the largest barrier pond east of the Shinnecock Canal that supports an aquatic, coastal and wildlife habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NYS Department of State. Mecox Bay currently experiences water quality impairment; HABs, has experienced historic loss of natural wetlands, and reduction in native vegetative buffers. The Bay has been further impacted by shoreline erosion from adjacent farming, shoreline hardening from nearby roads and residential development, and has experienced impacts from significant storm damage and climate change. The Bay has been degraded due to the effects of excess nutrients, sediment, fertilizer and pesticide application on adjacent properties, septic effluent and storm water runoff. Because of the above-mentioned impacts, the Bay's oxygen levels have been effected, and it has experienced algal blooms, and the health of the overall ecosystem has been declined. Mecox Bay is listed by the NYS DEC as a 303(d) impaired waterbody and is surrounded by the Town's High Priority Water Quality Improvement area. The management of the inlet by the Trustees has allowed the bay to drain and the opening of the inlet helps to improve water quality by flushing out the impaired water, returning the level of the bay to mean tide levels, increasing the dissolved oxygen level and increasing the salinity to create brackish conditions ideal for aquatic wildlife



REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$1,708,293.12