



Watershed Restoration Planning at Six Sub-Embaysments

Peconic Bay National Estuary Program

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) is currently working with the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program and the Town of Southold, New York to address stormwater pollutant loading and management in six selected subwatersheds. These six subwatersheds represent the second group of Peconic Estuary subwatersheds for which HW has conducted watershed assessments and stormwater management planning. All of the projects were designed to address several goals of the Peconic Estuary Program’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, including improving water quality and opening currently impacted shellfish beds.

HW is currently in the process of creating detailed subwatershed management plans for each of the six current subwatersheds. The plans focus on addressing stormwater concerns and identifying alternatives to remediate those specific concerns rated as the highest priorities. The planning begins with an intensive mapping exercise using the most updated GIS data to target priority areas for stormwater retrofits and identify potentially limiting factors. The completed base maps are then used as guides for conducting rapid field assessments of each subwatershed. The field assessments identify and prioritize areas for stormwater improvements, following the Unified Subwatershed Site Reconnaissance (USSR) procedures detailed in the Center for Watershed Protection’s Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual.

The USSR includes specific field observational techniques such as the Retrofit Reconnaissance Inventory, the Neighborhood Source Assessment, and the Pervious Area Assessment. Information from all of these procedures is tabulated into a ranking matrix to help guide watershed managers in selecting the most cost effective (i.e. maximum pollutant reductions for minimum cost) project locations for implementation.

The most promising stormwater retrofit locations are designed on a conceptual level suitable to identify any significant implementation limitations, apply for relevant permits, and apply for grant funding for construction.

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