

PROJECT APPLICANT: Peconic Estuary Program/Suffolk County Parks

PROJECT TITLE: Woodhull Dam Fish Passage & Peconic River

PROJECT TYPE: Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Pollution Prevention

SCALE: Neighborhood/Watershed

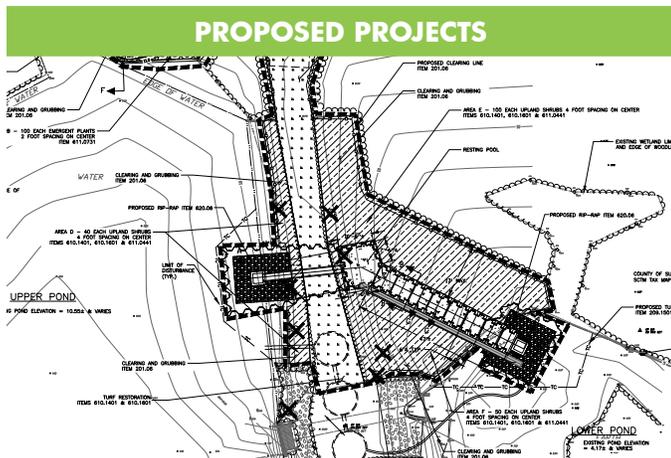
APPROACH: Aquatic Habitat Restoration

DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is a collaboration between the Peconic Estuary Program and the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, to construct a fish passage through the Woodhull Dam to provide diadromous fish access to two miles of river and further access to 95 acres of critical freshwater habitat within the Wildwood Lake, Sweezy Pond and Cedar Pond watercourse, which was previously impassible for these types of fish. This project will provide permanent fish passage at Woodhull Dam and restore aquatic connectivity and access to the freshwater habitat for River Herring and American Eel, which is anticipated to result in increased spawning.

Woodhull Dam is located in The Little River, a tributary to The Peconic River, which starts at the head waters of Wildwood Lake, flows downstream through the lands of Suffolk County Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve towards the Peconic River. Previous surveys have shown that river herring use the Grangebel Fishway and then end up below the Woodhull Dam, which currently prevents an estimated 30,000 to 60,000 river herring from reaching the 95 acres of freshwater spawning and maturation habitat areas.

The Wildwood Lake tributary areas are located within the High Priority Area and are mainly fed by groundwater, with the majority of the groundwater tributary area reaching the lake within 1 to 10 years. Wildwood Lake is listed as a 303(d) NYS DEC Impaired waterbody. The project will improve and increase the access of diadromous fish to their natural habitat, support biodiversity, restore river connectivity, and balance the freshwater and tidal stream corridor, with long-term ecological and enhanced water quality, and ecosystem resiliency benefits. The River Herring and American Eels provide environmental and water quality advantages, as they filter water, consume plankton, export nutrients from freshwater ecosystems to the ocean, help to reduce freshwater algae blooms, provide marine, freshwater, terrestrial, and avian predators a food source and, therefore, can at times protect other prey species from such predators. This project will restore freshwater and coastal habitats, and restore key finfish spawning, nursery and feeding habitats.



REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$260,904