

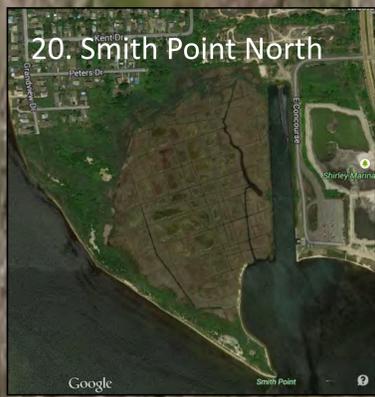
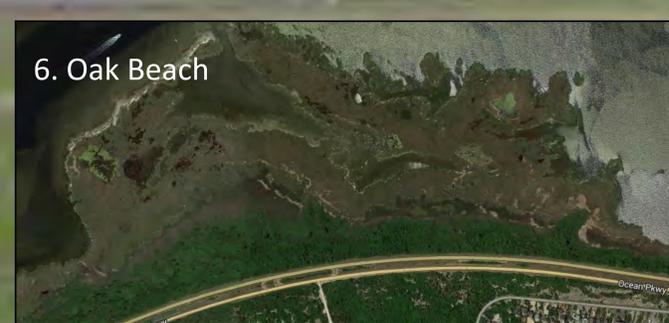
A Regional Collaboration to Assess Lessons Learned and Best Practices from Marsh Restoration Projects Across the Superstorm Sandy Impacted Region

Nicole Maher, Senior Coastal Scientist, The Nature Conservancy Cold Spring Harbor, NY (nmaher@tnc.org)

- The Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program (DOI - NFWF) is supporting a large number of marsh restoration projects across the Sandy-impacted region.
- Suffolk County, NY was awarded a grant, Coastal Resiliency Via Integrated Salt Marsh Management to evaluate approx. 1,500 acres and rehabilitate up to 400 acres of coastal saltmarsh on the south shore of Long Island, NY in order to enhance the resiliency of these coastal ecosystems and the nearby communities in the face of sea level rise and extreme storm events.
- As part of this project, The Nature Conservancy is assembling a multi-state Regional Technical Workgroup composed of restoration practitioners from across the region to ensure that standardized monitoring metrics are employed, and that collective responses, lessons learned and best practices are shared across the Sandy-impacted region. Many of these marsh restoration projects will address marsh loss through the excessive growth of unvegetated marsh pannes. Restoration techniques may include the beneficial use of dredge material to restore pannes to an elevation where they could sustain marsh vegetation.
- This regional forum will help practitioners improve the design, implementation, and monitoring of future salt marsh restoration projects. A regional approach will also allow a synoptic analysis of marsh response to similar techniques and a more comprehensive approach for implementing adaptive management. This regional effort will provide information that policy makers and funders can use to inform decisions about conservation, restoration, and management of salt marshes in the face of threats such as sea-level rise.
- This is an unprecedented collaboration of regional experts and will bring to bear the best available restoration methods for individual on-the-ground projects thereby advancing restoration science to meet our 21st century circumstances.
- **Additional partners, projects and feedback are welcome to make this regional collaboration as rewarding as possible.**



Supplemental Figure S.1.A. from Suffolk County NFWF proposal: 21 Proposed sites for Assessment and Restoration on the south shore of Long Island (Project #43006)



Partners who have already expressed interest in joining this effort include:

Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Council

If you would like to join this effort, please reach out to Nicole Maher (TNC) at nmaher@tnc.org