



Group for the East End is a non-profit environmental advocacy and education organization, dedicated to protecting the natural environment, rural character and quality of life across the East End through public advocacy and public education. The Group is the only professionally-staffed, not-for-profit organization using public advocacy to protect our region's diverse wetlands, bays and harbors, forests, coastlines, farmlands and historic community character, since 1972.

GROUP FOR THE EAST END

GroupfortheEastEnd.org

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The Long Island Clean Water Partnership is dedicated to reducing the threats to our drinking and surface waters and to finding long-term solutions that will protect and restore water quality for the future. The Partnership is a coalition of Long Island's leading conservation organizations including Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Group for the East End, Long Island Pine Barrens Society and The Nature Conservancy. Together, we are partnering and collaborating with scientists, public officials, community members, and a number of other stakeholders in order to implement solutions to the decline in water quality on Long Island.

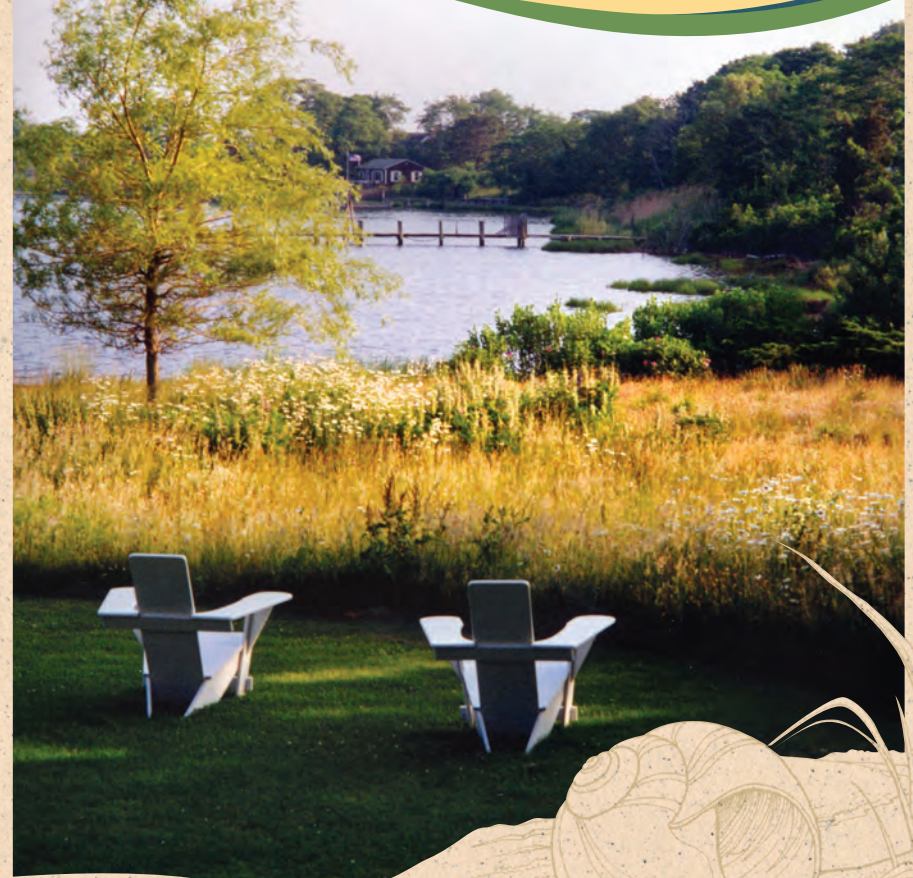
YOU CAN HELP, TOO!

Visit LongIslandCleanWaterPartnership.org to learn what you can do to improve Long Island's water!

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BAYSCAPING



FOR CLEANER BAYS & A SAFER ENVIRONMENT



BAYSCAPING: BUILDS HEALTHY SOIL, REDUCES WASTE IN THE GARDEN, CONSERVES WATER, SAVES ENERGY...

WHAT IS BAYSCAPING?

Bayscaping is about greening your landscape at home while protecting our local environment.

It incorporates design, horticulture, construction, and maintenance approaches that minimize environmental impacts from our properties, particularly pollution carried in stormwater runoff and groundwater. Most bayscaping methods can be practiced by individual property owners, and they can **enhance habitat values** as well as **benefit local water quality**. Whether or not your home is directly on the water, the landscaping and property management **decisions you make can have serious impacts on our bays and estuaries.**

You don't have to alter the natural beauty of the East End when landscaping. Instead, highlight the unique qualities of our area while protecting our precious bays through bayscaping!

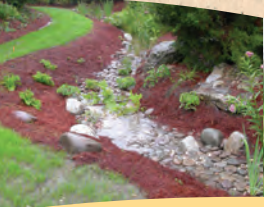
WHY BAYSCAPING?

As Long Island's population continues to grow, the pressures on our fragile coastal environments increase as well. While our individual inputs may seem small, the cumulative effect of thousands of properties in a coastal watershed can pose serious threats to the health of our bays from nutrients, pesticides, pathogens, petroleum products and sediments. These substances also threaten our famous groundwater resources – Long Island's sole source aquifer. Nutrients released from fertilizers have been responsible for algal blooms that block sunlight to valuable seagrasses and deplete oxygen in the water – oxygen that is essential to marine life in the estuary. Toxic chemicals, contained in pesticides and other household products, can concentrate in the aquatic environment and disrupt the food web or reproduction of organisms, or lead to local beach closures and fishing prohibitions. You can take steps to **help create cleaner bays and a safer environment** through bayscaping!



CREATES WILDLIFE HABITAT, PROTECTS LOCAL WATERSHEDS & BAYS AND CONTRIBUTES TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

BAYSCAPING: WHAT YOU CAN DO!



Restore natural landscapes. This will reduce runoff, provide important wildlife habitat, supply great exploration areas for children, and drastically reduce your maintenance-needs. Use native plants of varying heights to provide the best habitat and aesthetics. Don't clear leaves that fall on the forest floor or collect beneath your bushes because they provide valuable habitat as well.

Minimize your lawn area! Let any remaining lawn grow longer (at least 3 inches) before mowing. Learn to appreciate clover and dandelions. A lawn with a variety of species demands less maintenance than a monoculture of turf grass, and provides the same open area to play games or have a picnic.

Incorporate swales and berms onto your property to divert runoff into depressions where the water has more time to infiltrate the soil.

Create buffers. If your property abuts the water, make sure you have a large natural buffer area (at least 100-feet wide). Native wetland plants are the best choice.

Minimize impermeable surfaces. Replace these hard surfaces with ones that let rain seep into the ground, such as walkable plants, permeable pavers, gravel, bricks or other porous surfaces.

Use "green roofs." Incorporating plants on your rooftops can help reduce runoff and promote a bay friendly property. See GreenRoofs.org.

Use rain barrels to collect rainwater from gutters (and reduce runoff). Reuse this water to care for plants, wash your car, etc. See RainBarrelGuide.com.

Plant rain gardens at the base of gutters, paved surfaces, or other areas where water runs off your property. These are planted depressions designed to absorb rainwater runoff. See RainGardenNetwork.com.

Plant wisely. On Long Island, native evergreen trees and shrubs on the north side of your property can help block winter wind. Avoid putting evergreens on the south side, as they will shade the house from the warming winter sun. Planting native shrubs and bushes about a foot away from the house will create a dead air space to trap heat in winter.

Consider yard conditions. Shade, sun, moisture, salt spray, and soil conditions such as pH, dictate which plants will thrive in your yard. Before planting, test the soil to better understand these conditions (soil test kits are sold at many nurseries). Promoting healthy soil and beneficial insects should eliminate your need to fertilize, use pesticides or irrigate.

Make your own compost! Composting lawn clippings and kitchen scraps can make good use of your waste by creating excellent soil for your gardening needs. See CompostGuide.com.

Eliminate fertilizers. If absolutely necessary, use slow release, low nitrogen, organic fertilizer or compost and only use minimum amounts at appropriate times of the year (NEVER between November 1st and April 1st.)

Eliminate pesticides and herbicides. When you have a pest problem, use organic non-toxic remedies, such as beneficial insects. See OrganicLawnCareTips.com.

Avoid overwatering. It wastes water, flushes nutrients toward our waterways, and can actually hurt your plants and grasses.

Don't harden the shore. Structures such as bulkheads, jetties, and groins can negatively impact our coastline by reducing nearshore environments, increasing erosion, and providing direct flow of runoff into our bays.

Keep a watch for ticks! Unfortunately on Long Island ticks and the diseases they carry are a fact of life. You can pick them up anytime you go outside. The best way to protect yourself is to be vigilant about checking for ticks every day. The sooner you find them the less likely it is that they can pass diseases on to you.





WHICH EAST END ENVIRONMENT IS YOUR HOUSE IN?

Variety is the spice of life! Below are a few common house settings on the East End and some great bayscaping ideas for these environments. You may want to combine some of these elements depending on your specific property needs.

Home on the Coast

You have even greater responsibility to protect this precious resource. The first thing your yard needs is a large, healthy, natural buffer area! The native plants you use may need to be salt tolerant and hardy enough to grow well in sandy soils. Some examples include: beach plum, seaside goldenrod, and beach grass. For riparian (riverside) areas, use native plants that help stabilize the shoreline, provide shade for wildlife, and don't need sandy soils.

Home Beside a Wetland

Whether your home is adjacent to a salt marsh or freshwater bog, these unique areas provide myriad benefits to our environment and our lives. Develop a large, native, chemical-free buffer zone to protect this critical resource. Some examples of native plants that may be suitable for this environment include: swamp red maple, bog andromeda, groundsel bush, swamp azalea, New York fern and emoryi sedge.

Home in the Forest

Beautiful trees surround your property and help keep your drinking water clean. Forests are naturally vertical systems, so it is very important to provide plants at varying heights for this habitat. Leaf litter also provides habitat and nutrients, so leave it where it lies. Some native plants that thrive in Long Island forest-soils include: eastern red cedar, northern bayberry, butterfly weed, pitch pine, and bushy aster.

Home Near the Village

Close proximity to a downtown area often means there are more impermeable surfaces and possibilities for contaminants to flow into waterways. It may be even more important to put in rain gardens, rain barrels and green roofs, and replace hard surfaces with porous ones here. Be aware of where storm drains are and what they connect to. If they dump to the bay, you should be especially careful to reduce flow of water into them, and eliminate possible contaminants. Know your flow!

“Most [bayscaping] practices are cheaper to install and maintain than conventional ones. So, in many instances this is about doing and maintaining less and saving lots of money in the process.”

RESOURCES

Local Nurseries

- **Fort Pond Native Plants** (Montauk) NativePlants.net
- **Peconic River Herb Farm** (Calverton) PRherbfarm.com
- **Long Island Natives** (Eastport) LongIslandNatives.com
- **Ornamental Plantings** (Southold) OrnamentalPlantings.com

Regional Partners

- **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County** CCESuffolk.org/gardening
- **Long Island Native Plant Initiative, Inc.** LINPI.org
- **Perfect Earth Project** PerfectEarthProject.org