



# **Surfrider Foundation & The Blue Water Task Force**

Wednesday, 7/12/23  
Noyac Civic Council Meeting

## Agenda

- Introduction to Surfrider
- Local Chapter Initiatives
- Blue Water Task Force
- How You Can Help



# Mission Statement

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.

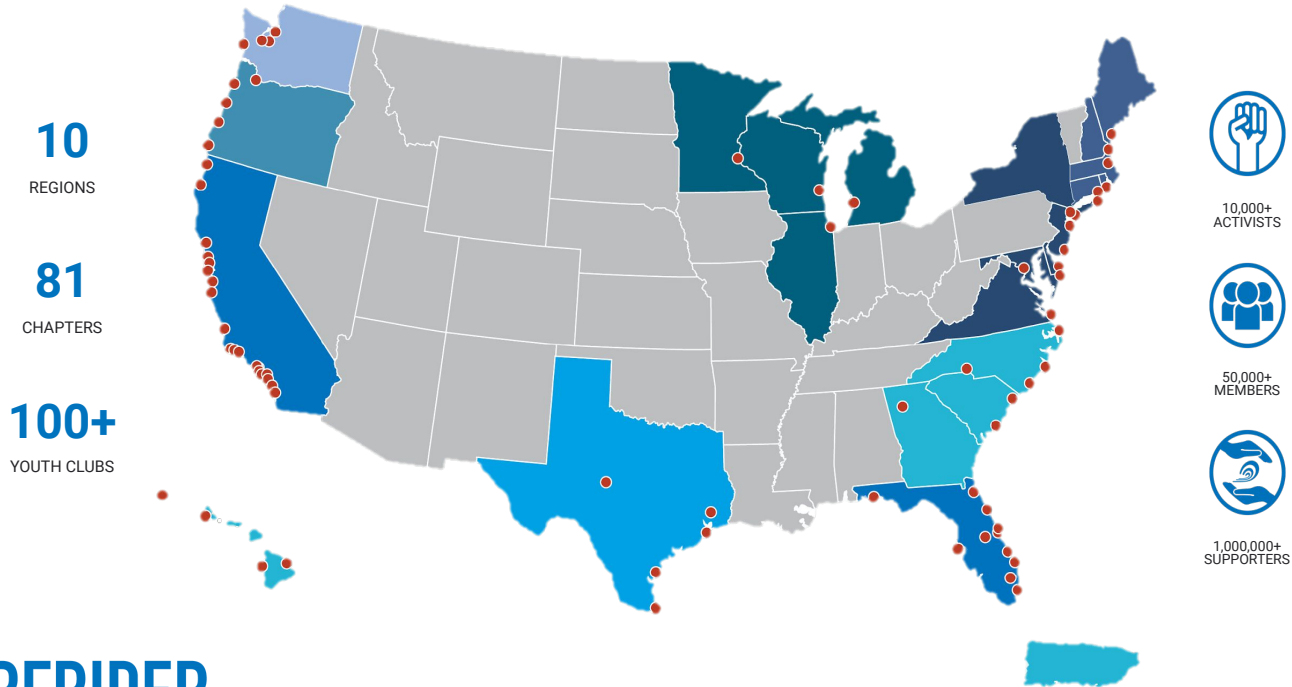
# Surfrider Foundation History

- Founded in 1984 by a group of surfers from Malibu, California
- Concern about the health risks, environmental threats, and escalating coastal development at their favorite surf spot
- Today, Surfrider has over 200 chapters and student clubs, becoming a national organization of ocean activists

[history.surfrider.org](http://history.surfrider.org)



# Where we work: National



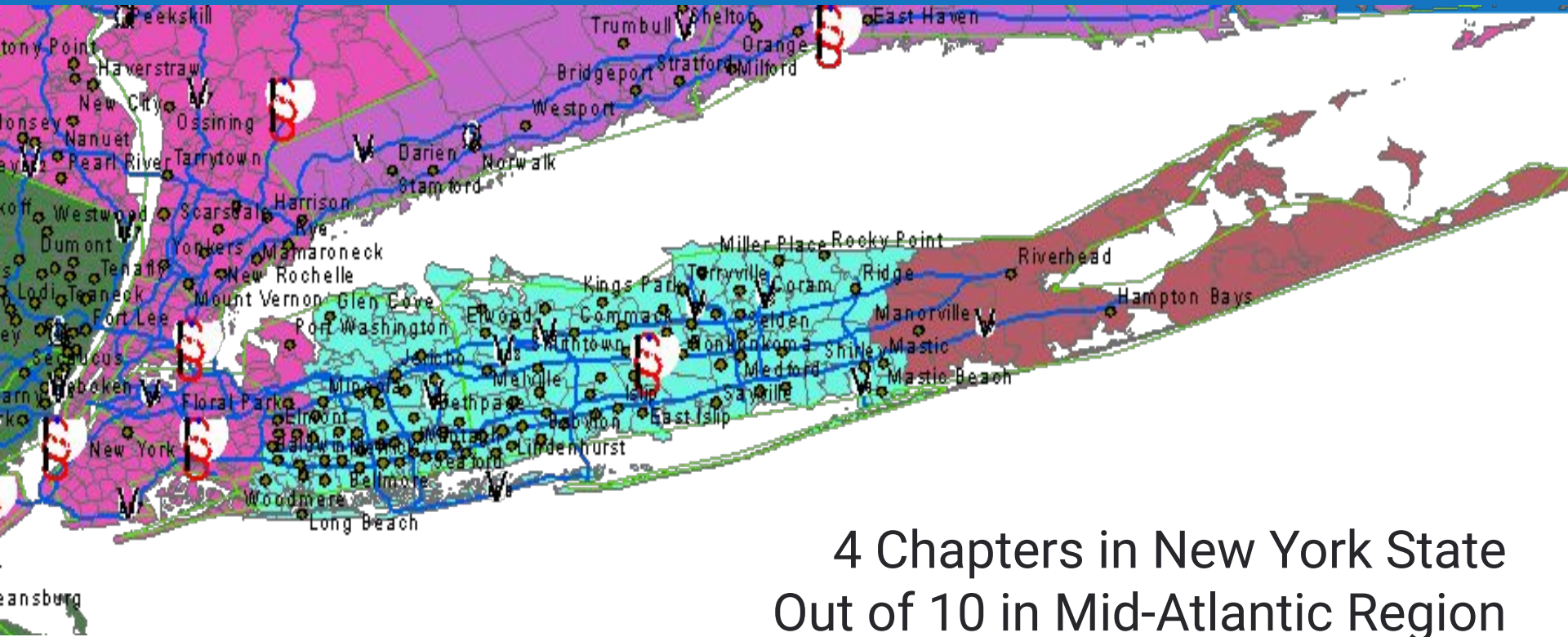
# Where we work: Local

Eastern Long Island Chapter

“Moriches out to Montauk”



# Where we work: Local



4 Chapters in New York State  
Out of 10 in Mid-Atlantic Region  
Eastern Long Island Started in 1999

# Chapter Leaders

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**Chair:** Liz Sans

**Vice Chair:** Christine Capelli

**Treasurer:** Bobby Alan Hamski

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Tree Foronjy

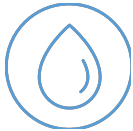
**Secretary:** Stephanie Unter





# What We Do:

## OUR SURFRIDER INITIATIVES



Clean Water



Beach Access



Coast and Climate



Ocean Protection



Plastic Pollution

[Video Link](#)



# Campaigns vs. Programs

## CAMPAIGNS

- Require a “yes” or a “no” from a decision-making body
- Well-defined beginning, middle, and end
- Outcome can result in a coastal victory



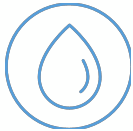
## PROGRAMS

- Ongoing initiatives
- Educate and engage community members in coastal issues



# What We Do:

## OUR SURFRIDER INITIATIVES



Clean Water



Beach Access



Coastal and Climate



Ocean Protection



Plastic Pollution

## EASTERN LI PROGRAMS



Blue Water Task Force



Ocean Friendly Gardens



Ocean Friendly Restaurants



Rise Above Plastics



Beach Cleanups



# Blue Water Task Force (BWTF)



# WHAT IS THE BLUE WATER TASK FORCE (BWTF)?

The BWTF is the Surfrider Foundation's volunteer water quality monitoring program.

We partner with two other nonprofit organizations to carry out the water quality monitoring at over 80 sites on the East End.



# WHAT IS THE GOAL OF BWTF?

- Provide critical water quality information to protect public health at the beach
- Raise awareness of local pollution problems and to bring together communities to implement solutions
- Fill in water testing gaps in the county's testing

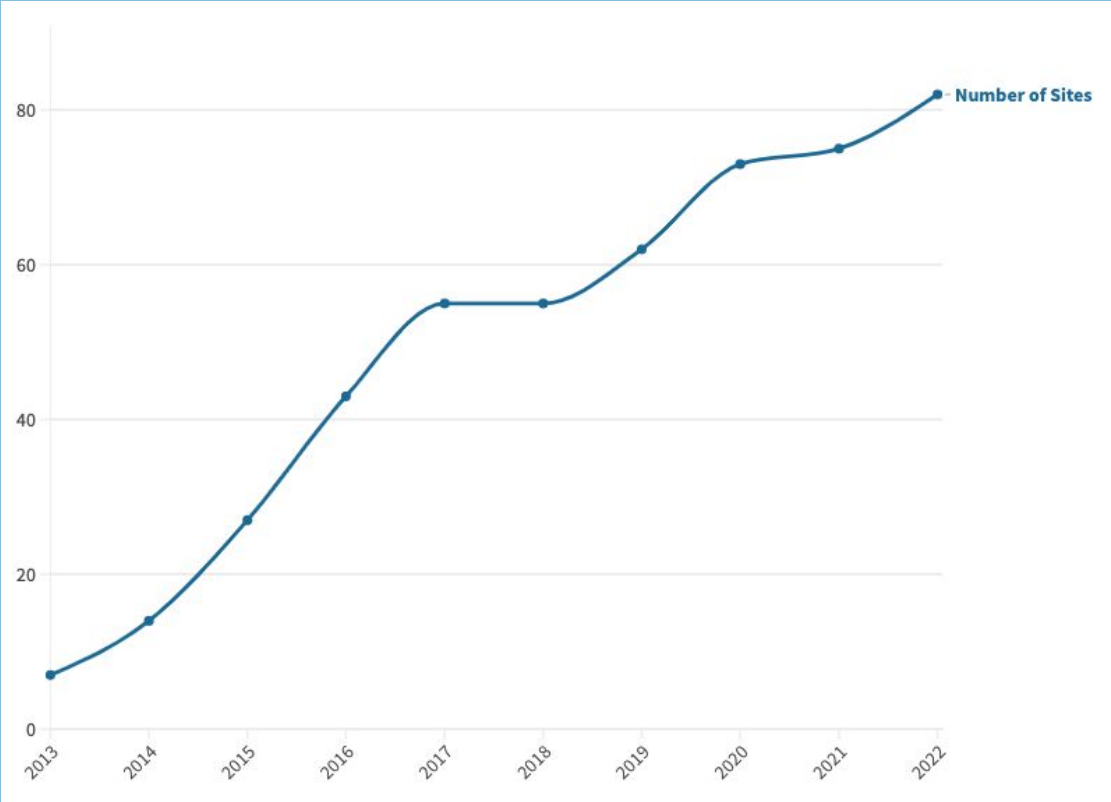




## Background and Fun Facts:

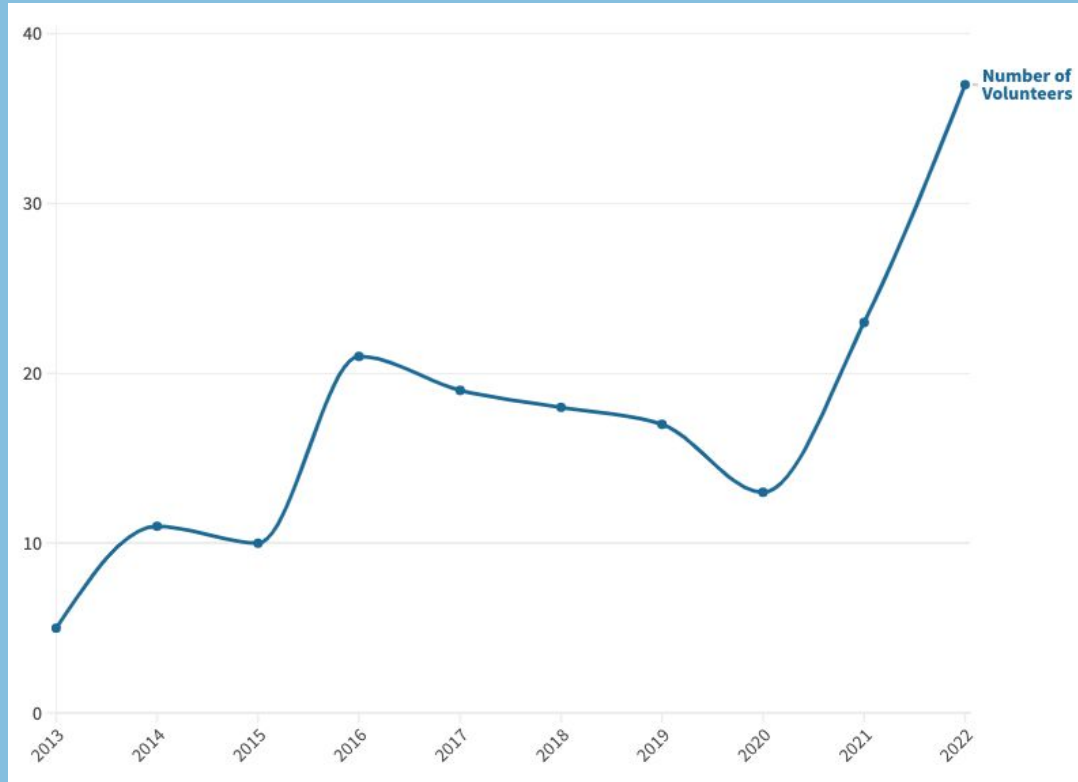
- Surfrider first launched BWTF in 1994
- Our program started in Montauk in 2013 with CCOM
- First sample from Lake Montauk: West Creek on June 6, 2013
- Peconic Baykeeper entered the picture in October 2016
- In 2020, we built a lab at Peconic Baykeeper
- In 10 years, we've experienced a lot of growth!

# BLUE WATER TASK FORCE GROWTH - SITES

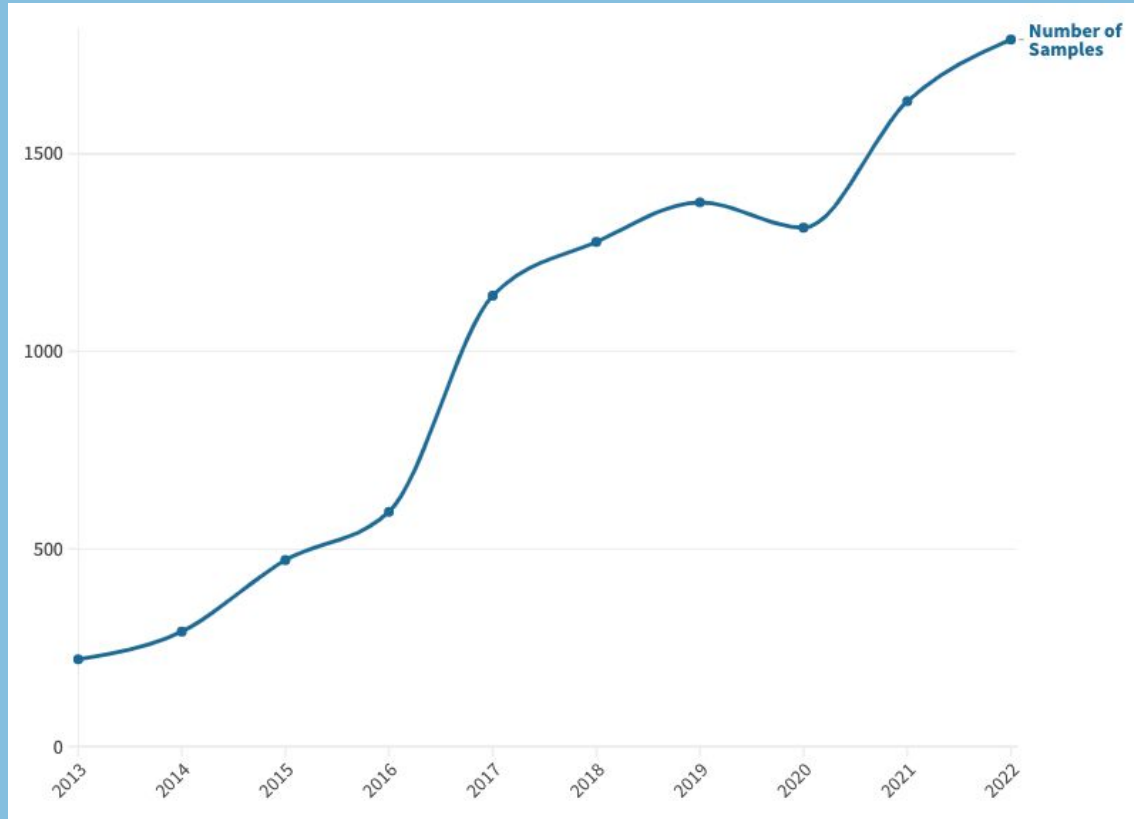


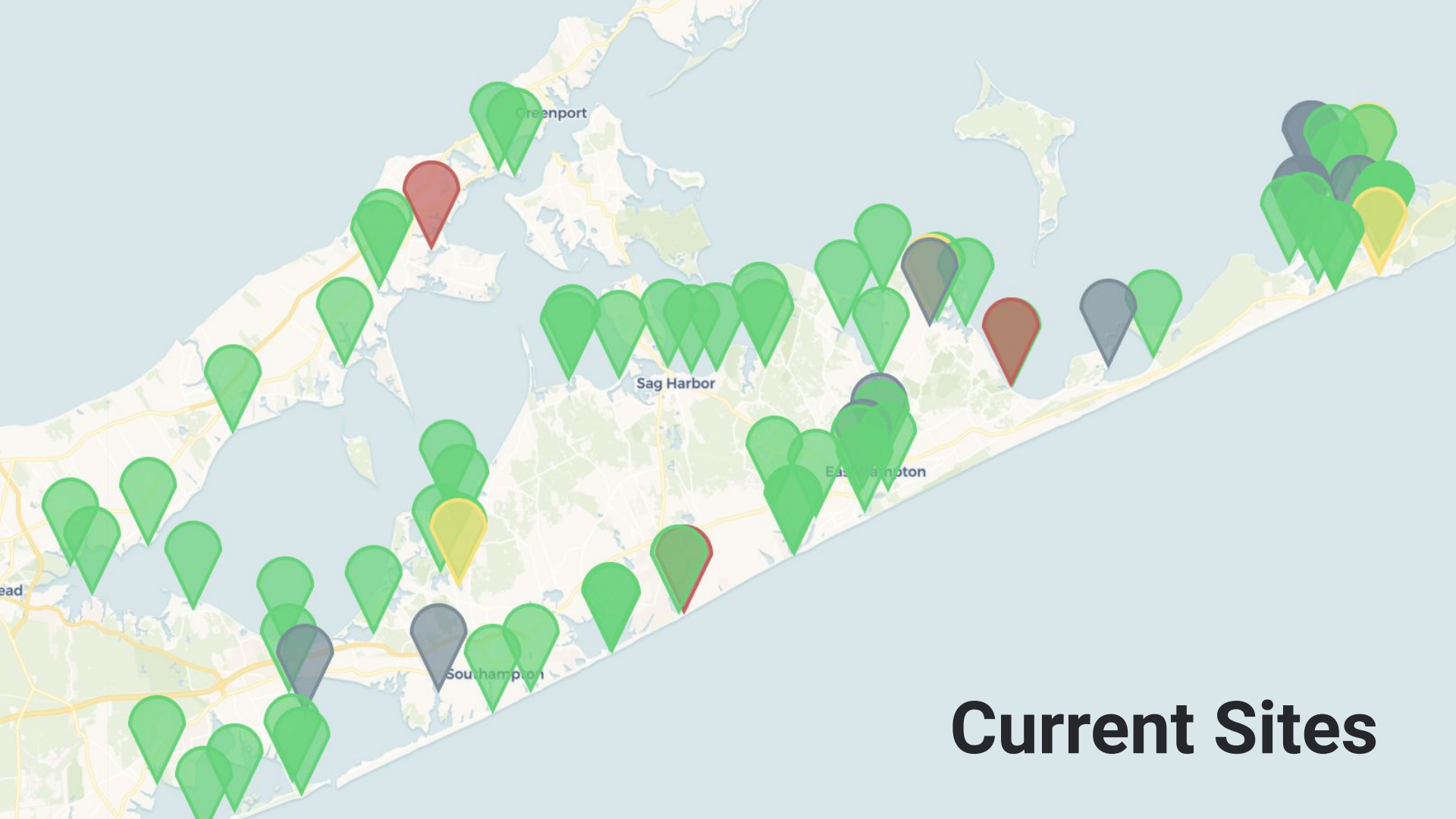


# BLUE WATER TASK FORCE GROWTH - VOLUNTEERS



# BLUE WATER TASK FORCE GROWTH - SAMPLES





Greenport

Sag Harbor

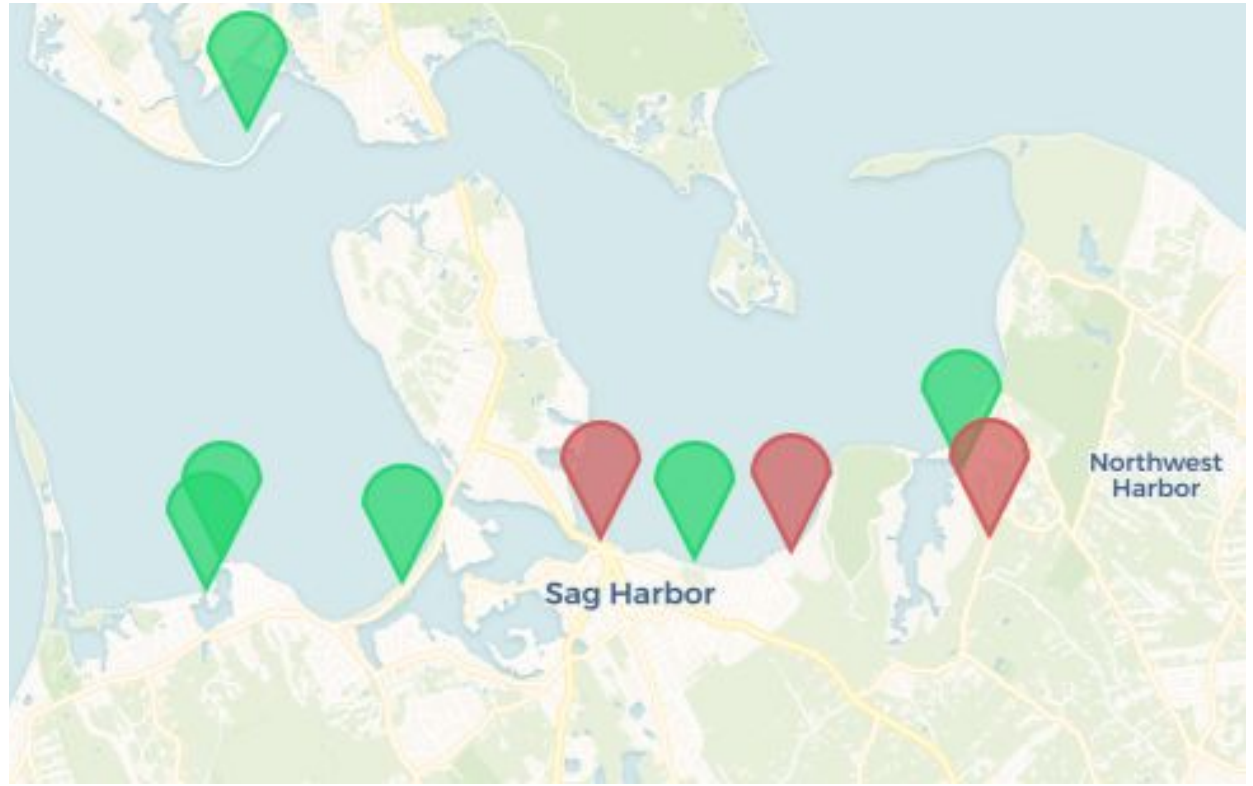
East Hampton

Southampton

# Current Sites

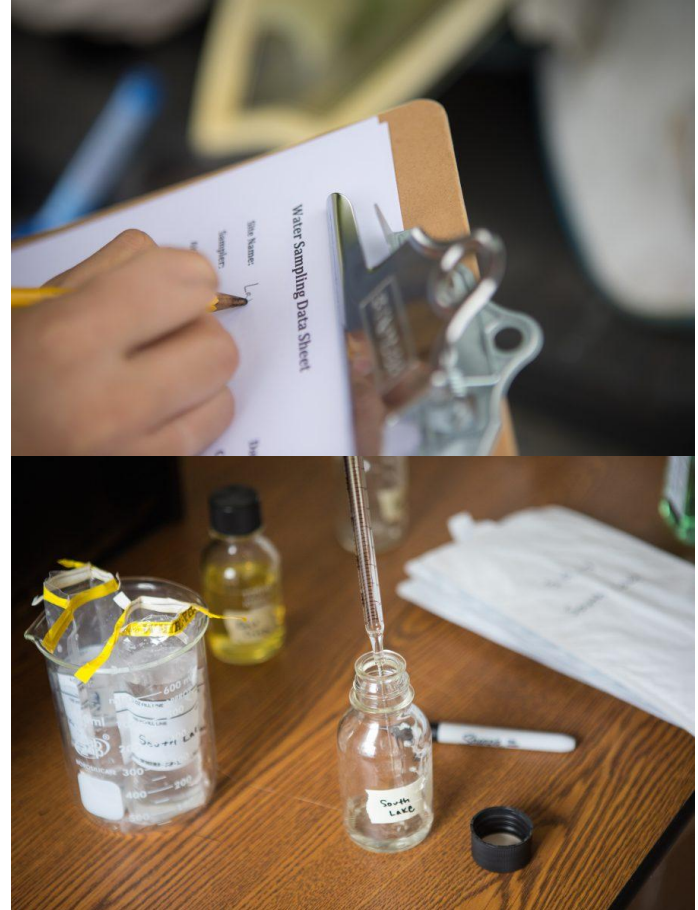
## From West to East:

- Circle Beach Estuary
- Circle Beach
- Long Beach
- Windmill Beach
- Haven's Beach
- Little Northwest Creek
- Northwest Creek:  
Ramp
- Northwest Creek:  
Culvert



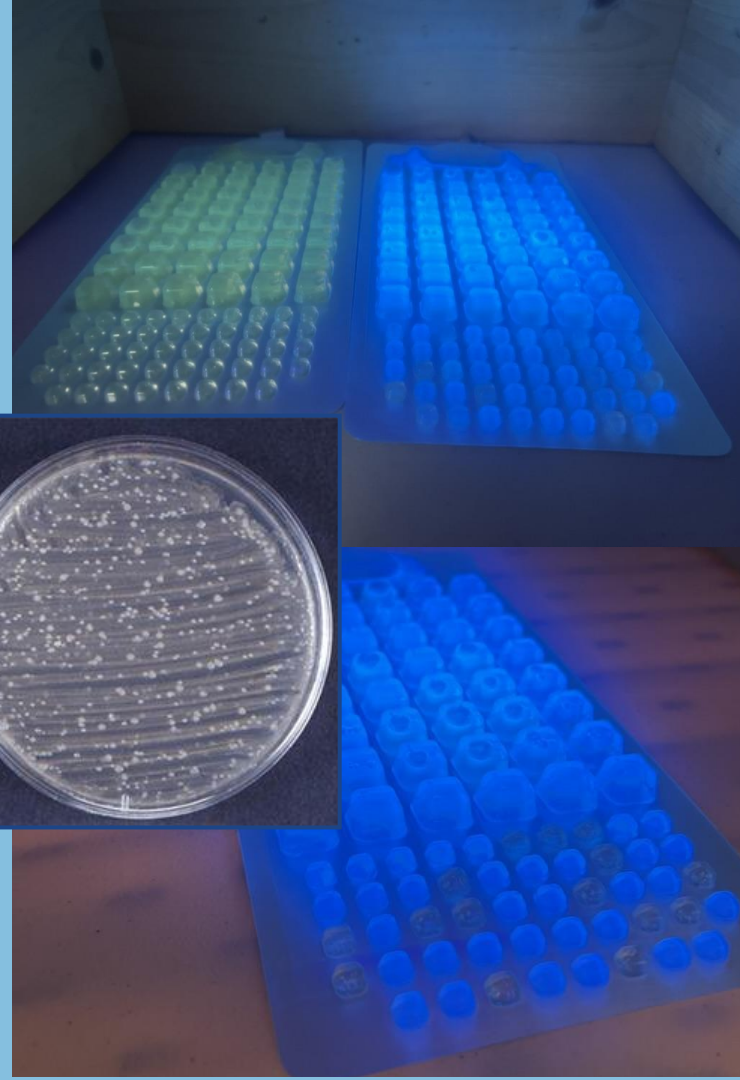
# IN THE LAB

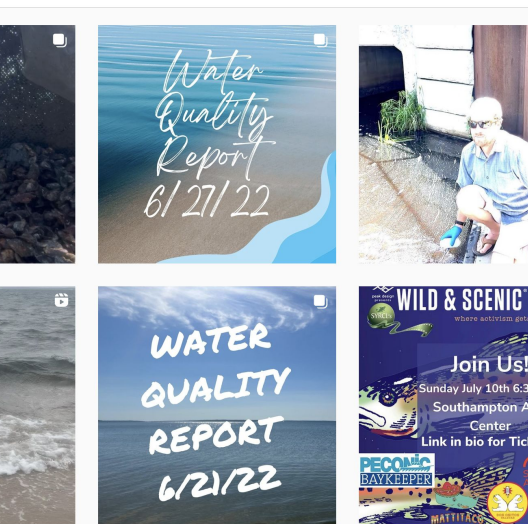
- We use the same EPA-approved procedure and protocol that many coastal states use
- We use Enterolert, which is a reagent that makes the bacteria glow under black light
- Staff must process all samples within 6 hours from their collection.



# THE RESULTS

- After 24 hours of incubation, samples are removed and read.
- In the top picture, the left is the control and the right is a high samples.
- We count the small and large wells (squares) and use a chart from IDEXX to determine the number of colony forming units (cfu) per 100 ml.
- Reported as Most Probable Number (MPN)





**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

@peconic.baykeeper @surfridreasternli @preservemontauk

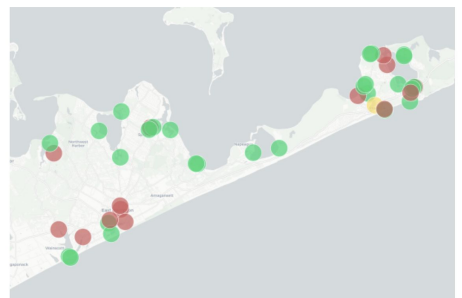
# REACHING THE PUBLIC



## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island  
 7.5.22

This week's results are what we would expect from a summer day, with a few more hits in creeks and ponds. All ocean sites remain clean. We'd also like to share that our [2021 Blue Water Task Force Report](#) was released this week! Thanks to our volunteers, we will be continuing our weekly sampling schedule on Mondays for the rest of summer. Stay safe and healthy this weekend!

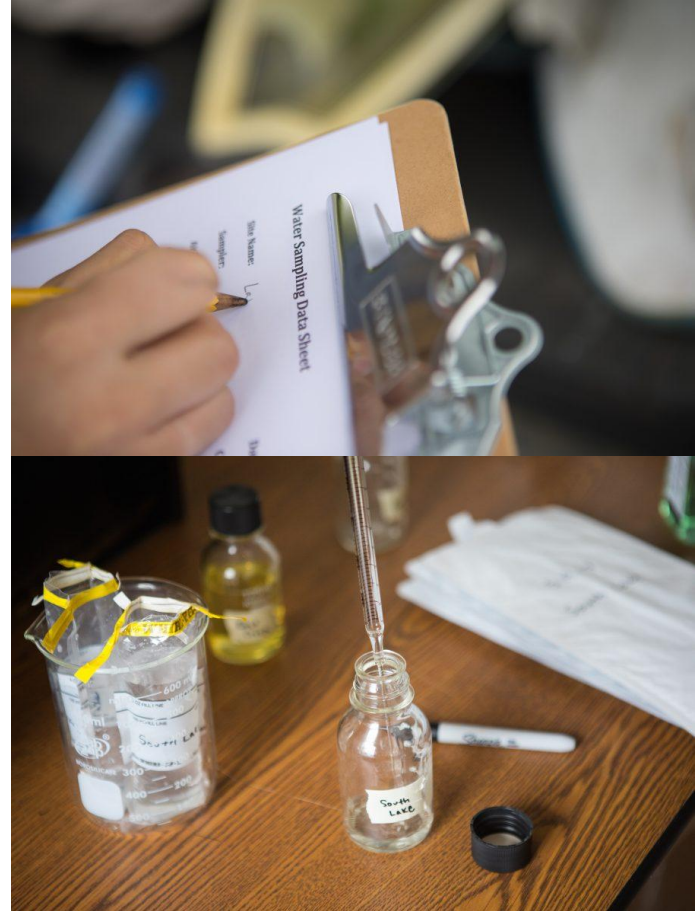


@ELIBlueWaterTaskForce  
 Eastern Long Island Water Quality Data at your fingertips #BWTF

- Latest Results for North Fork, Hampton Bays, Southampton and East Hampton
- Latest Results for Montauk
- Map and Results for North Fork/Southampton Sites
- Map and Results for East Hampton/Montauk Sites
- Suffolk County Beach Monitoring Program
- Learn More About the Program!

# GENERAL RESULTS

- High bacteria levels are seen more frequently in more enclosed water bodies: ponds, creeks, and culverts.
- Ocean sites almost always clean.
- High samples more frequent in the summer, especially after the rain.





# LIMITATIONS

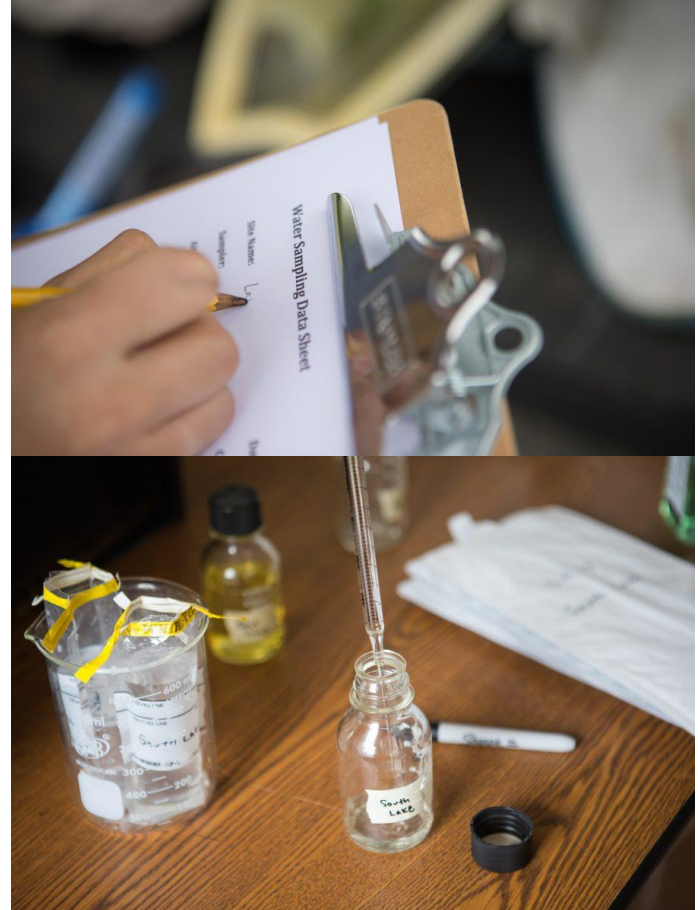
- We do not have the power to close beaches, creeks, or any other testing site.
- In the event of consecutive high readings at a public bathing beach, we will contact the Department of Health and they will investigate and conduct further testing.
- We cannot identify a source of *Enterococcus* with our tests. It is a common digestive tract bacteria found in many animals including humans.
- It takes 24 hours to get results.

# CAUSES

- Sewage pollution
- Stormwater runoff

# SOLUTIONS




- We need to upgrade septic and sewer systems.
- We need better landscaping practices.



# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Homeowners should apply for septic improvement rebates.
- Pick up your pet's waste.
- Use Ocean Friendly Gardening practices to maintain your yard. Skip chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Plant more natives.

**EAST END SEPTIC INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**  
East Hampton and Southampton property owners are eligible for non-taxable incentives to upgrade to a low-nitrogen sanitary system on their property. Additional incentives may also be available through Suffolk County and New York State grants. To find more information about the rebates available in your town or area, or to submit your application, follow the links and QR codes below.

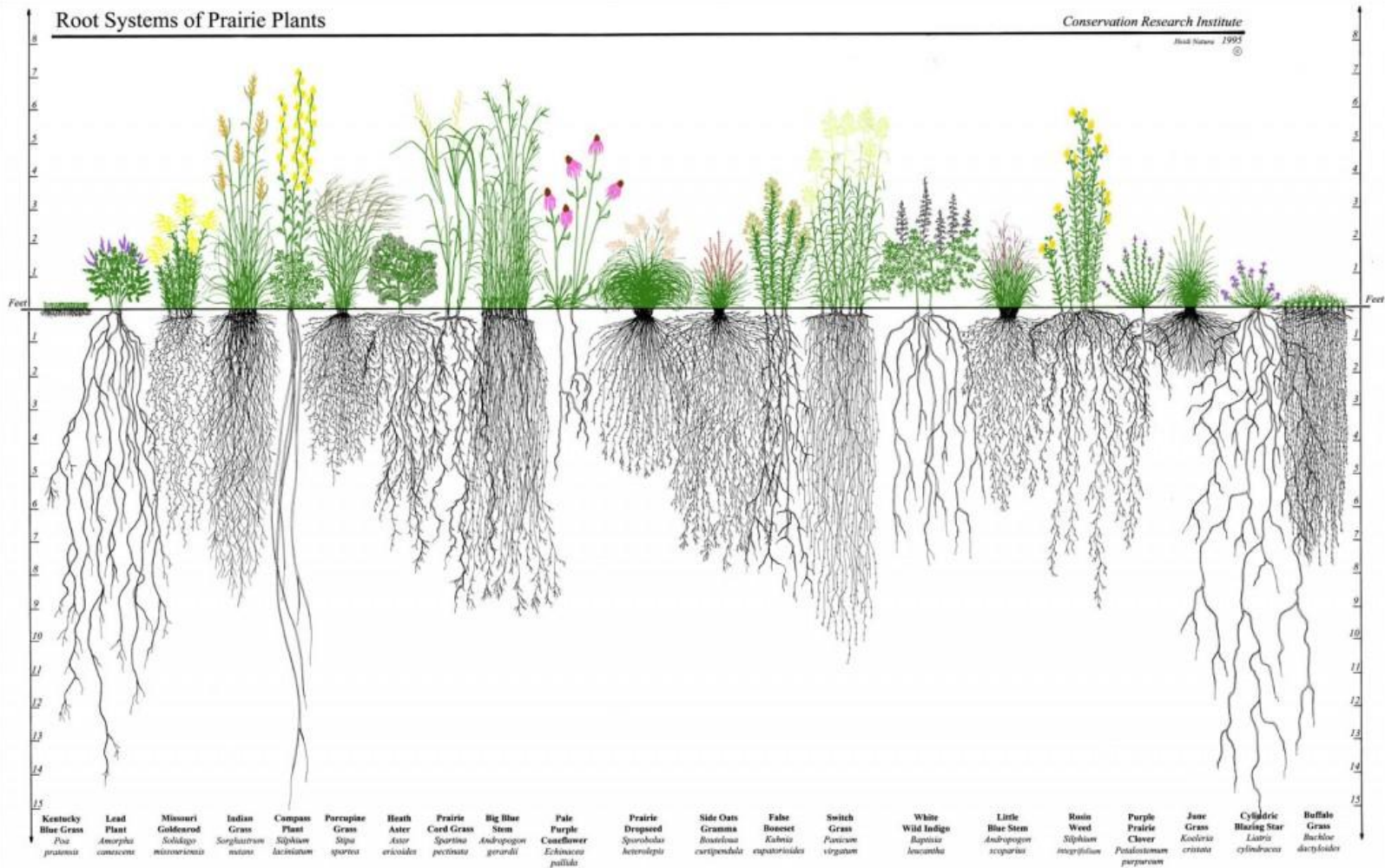
EAST HAMPTON	SOUTHAMPTON	COUNTY AND STATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incentives up to <b>\$20K</b> are available for properties located inside the Water Protection District</li></ul> <p><a href="http://hamptony.gov/587/Details-and-Forms">http://hamptony.gov/587/Details-and-Forms</a></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rebates up to <b>\$25K</b> are available for homes within the priority areas shown in the Water Quality Improvement Project Plan</li></ul> <p><a href="https://southamptonny.gov/1083/1A-DWTS-Rebate-Program">https://southamptonny.gov/1083/1A-DWTS-Rebate-Program</a></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suffolk County's Septic Improvement Program grant may be available up to <b>\$20K</b></li><li>• NYS Septic Replacement Fund grants may be up to <b>\$10K</b></li></ul> <p><a href="http://suffolkcountyny.gov/SIP.html">http://suffolkcountyny.gov/SIP.html</a></p>  

# Root Systems of Prairie Plants

Conservation Research Institute

David Nansen 1993

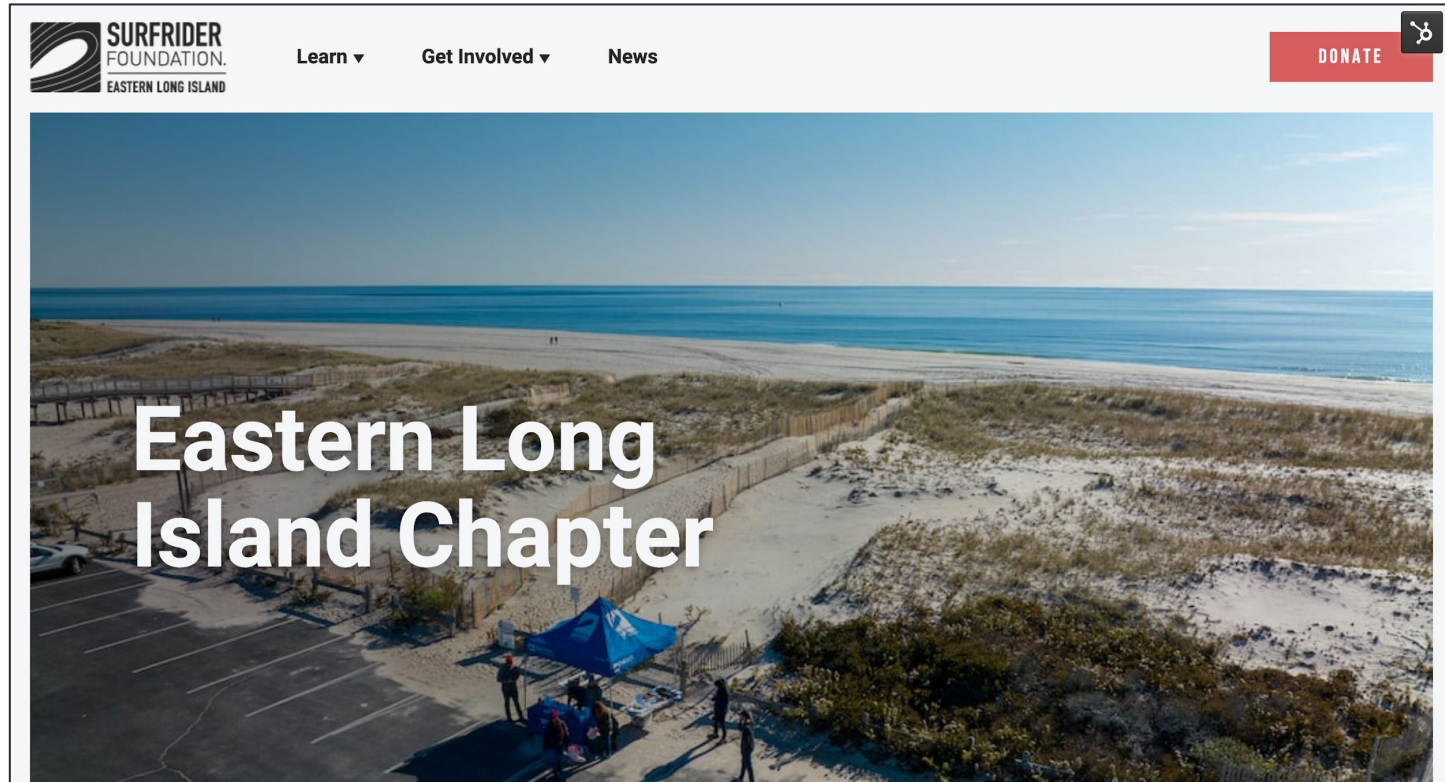
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# Ocean Friendly Gardens



# Membership - How To: [easternli.surfrider.org](http://easternli.surfrider.org)



# Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 8/2

6 pm to 7:30 pm

General Chapter Meeting in East Hampton

Saturday, 8/5

5 pm to 9 pm

One Ocean fundraiser in Montauk

Friday, 9/15

4 pm to 9 pm

Surf Movie Night Fundraiser at the Southampton Arts Center

**THANK YOU!**

