



**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN FOR  
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**



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*This document was produced by the Town of East Hampton Natural Resource Department per the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The information and recommendations presented in this document have been prepared by the managers and staff that collect, analyze and interpret the scientific data associated with the protected species that inhabit the Town of East Hampton’s beach and dune ecosystems. This information will be considered by Town of East Hampton, Trustees of the Freeholders and the Commonalty of the Town of East Hampton, and the Incorporated Village of East Hampton along with federal and state laws and mandates, Town policies, other scientific information and public input in developing further management policies and conservation strategies implemented in the Town of East Hampton.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Town of East Hampton Natural Resources Department's mission is to preserve, protect and conserve the Town's natural features, resources and systems, both by providing leadership and assistance to other departments, entities and individuals. Our department supports enhancing the sustainability and resiliency of our environment to protect our residents, businesses and institutions. We also hold the responsibility to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in their endangered species recovery goals in their New York/New Jersey unit as well as the protection of other protected beach-nesting birds and rare beach vegetation.

Per the request of the Town Board and the Trustees of the Freeholders and the Commonalty of the Town of East Hampton, the Natural Resources Department actively manages approximately eighteen miles of ocean and bay beaches on which several federally and state-listed rare, threatened and endangered species regularly nest during their breeding season from March through August. The management area consists of all beaches within the Town as well as the Incorporated Village of East Hampton, excluding all Federal, State and County-owned land.

Protection measures are primarily in place for the federally threatened and New York State endangered piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and the NYS threatened least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). However, East Hampton has also historically been home to the federally and NYS endangered seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*) and is currently home to the NYS listed rare seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*), both of which are protected plants found on our beaches. Additional protected species that are regularly observed in the area and have historically nested on East Hampton's beaches and dune ecosystems include the federally endangered Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), NYS threatened common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis*), and NYS species of special concern: the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) and horned lark (*Eromophila alpestris*).

## PURPOSE AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

The Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program aims to provide adequate protection of beach-nesting birds, as well as their nests and young, in order to encourage successful productivity during each breeding season. Comprehensive surveying and methodical implementation of protection measures help ensure appropriate public access and recreational use of the beaches throughout the season. This is achieved through monitoring all potential nesting habitat, accurate identification and recording of nesting dates and locations, specialized protection of individual piping plover nests and hatched young, protection and monitoring of tern colonies, and protection of rare beach vegetation.

Our efforts are focused on facilitating the earliest possible nesting successes for individual bird pairs so that public access restrictions are not prolonged. The more cooperative the public can be in respecting site-specific restrictions, the more likely individual pairs will be successful in fledging their

young as early as possible, thus limiting the length of restricted access.

In order for the management plan to be implemented successfully, participation by several local departments and officers is essential. These include the East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department, East Hampton Town Trustees, East Hampton Town and East Hampton Village Police, East Hampton Town Marine Patrol, East Hampton Town Parks and Recreation Staff, and East Hampton Town and East Hampton Village Lifeguards and Beach Staff. Cooperation with USFWS staff and NYSDEC staff and conservation officers is also necessary for the program's success.

### **NEED FOR PROTECTION**

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has developed a recovery program including criteria that must be met in order to remove the Atlantic Coast piping plover population from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Delisting will occur when 2,000 mating pairs are maintained over a 5 year period. Of the 2,000 pairs, 575 must be located within New York and New Jersey. A five-year average productivity of 1.5 chicks fledged per pair must also be met in order to achieve delisting, along with long term agreements established among cooperating agencies, organizations and land owners.

Although conservation management over the past 20 years has led to an increase in the Atlantic Coast population (totaling approximately 800 pairs, with about 200 nesting in New York), recovery goals have not yet been met, and concern is increasing over the impacts of climate change. Habitat loss and degradation is a leading threat to piping plovers and other beach-dependent species and is expected to escalate in future years due to rising sea levels, especially affecting low-lying coastal areas. In addition to sea level rise and coastal development putting pressures on existing habitat, increased human population and recreational activities in these areas reduces suitable habitat and often leads to an increase in the number of predator such as raccoons and crows threatening the survival of nests and unfledged young.

Other rare, threatened and endangered species that inhabit our beach and dune ecosystems also benefit from piping plover protection. Preserving and enhancing the functionality of these environments plays a key role in protecting beach-nesting birds and other species associated with our dynamic coastlines.

In order to ensure the protection of future beach habitat, management needs to promote naturally occurring habitat changes and must discourage any actions that have the potential to hinder natural beach migration. When new habitat areas are created by storm events such as dune overwashes and other natural processes, these changes should be embraced and the newly created habitats protected accordingly. Habitat migration can be encouraged by minimizing development adjacent to current and potential future breeding habitat. This not only provides for future habitat availability for beach-dependent species, but it allows for a more resilient coastline and encourages structures be

maintained well out of the way of the hazards associated with coastal processes.

### **PIPING PLOVER STATUS, BREEDING ECOLOGY AND PROTECTION MEASURES**

The Atlantic coast population of the piping plover is designated as threatened which means that the population may become endangered and face extinction without protection through the Endangered Species Act. In New York State, it is listed as endangered. Atlantic coast piping plovers nest on coastal beaches, sandflats, sand spits, barrier islands, sparsely vegetated dunes and overwash areas cut into or between dunes.

Piping plovers arrive on East Hampton Town beaches beginning in early to mid-March. At this time, string-fencing is installed to protect historic nesting sites where pairs tend to return each breeding season. The purpose of the string-fencing is to preserve their nesting habitat from foot and vehicular traffic while pairs set up their territories.

Their inconspicuous nests consist of shallow scrapes in the sand or in the sandy/pebbly conglomerate found on ocean and bay beaches and are often lined with small pieces of shell. Piping plover nests are located above the mean high tide line on open beaches, dune overwashes, or dredge spoil sites, often containing sparse vegetation. Locating piping plovers and their nests can be challenging as they are often inconspicuous and well camouflaged within the beach and dune landscape. Their territories can be quite expansive and sometimes may reach into the upper dunes or areas that have been recently over-washed during coastal storm events.

Depending on beach conditions, some bay beaches may be quite narrow and not allow adequate space for vehicles to drive a safe distance from nesting areas. Driving restrictions on these beaches may extend from late March when plovers arrive until all young are fledged by mid July to August. As ocean beaches are relatively wide, driving is only restricted once nests have hatched and the young are actively foraging the beaches.

Once most piping plover territories have been established in late April or early May, the females begin to lay eggs, one every other day, until four eggs complete their first clutch. If nests are found outside of string-fenced areas, the fenced area is adjusted to protect each nest. The circumstances surrounding each nest is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if conditions are deemed appropriate, a 10-foot diameter wire enclosure is installed surrounding the nest to protect the eggs from predators such as crows, gulls, foxes, raccoons, cats and dogs. The design of the enclosure allows the birds to move freely to and from the nest during incubation. The male and female share incubation responsibilities for 25-28 days until the eggs hatch. If a nest is unsuccessful early in the season, pairs often re-nest within close proximity to their original nest site. However, second and even third nest attempts will likely contain a decrease in the number of eggs. Nest failure and re-nest attempts can occur as a result of predation, abandonment, infertility, tidal inundation, or the loss of chicks at a young age.

Piping plover young are precocial, meaning they are not fed by their parents and must forage on their own within a few hours of hatching. They often travel extensively between the dune and tidal areas numerous times a day while foraging. Camouflage is their main defense, and young chicks often crouch in the sand when predators (including humans and vehicles) approach. Most chicks are able to fly at 25-35 days old. Once a piping plover chick is 35 days old or able to fly 15 meters, it is considered fledged and counted toward successful productivity for the site. Most piping plover pairs and their fledged young leave East Hampton beaches by late August, heading south to their wintering habitats.

### **OFF-ROAD VEHICLE MANAGEMENT**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Guidelines for Managing Recreational Activities In Piping Plover Breeding Habitat On The U.S. Atlantic Coast To Avoid Take Under Section 9 Of The Endangered Species Act* states that the use of motorized vehicles on beaches is a serious threat to piping plovers and their habitat. Vehicles may degrade the habitat and forage by crushing wrack materials into the sand (making it unavailable as cover or forage substrate). Disruption of normal behavior may occur, such as preventing plovers from using habitat that would otherwise be suitable and creating ruts that may trap or impede the movement of chicks. Vehicles that drive too close to the toe of the dune may destroy vegetation that is an integral part of the plovers' nesting and foraging habitat.

Without sufficient protection measures, piping plover chicks are extremely susceptible to death and injury due to off-road vehicles. Because they must forage for themselves and cannot yet fly, chicks are extremely vulnerable to disturbance during the 25-35 day period between hatching and fledging. Their frequent movements between the dune, beach and inter-tidal areas often place them directly in the paths of vehicles driving on the beaches. Chicks sometimes travel and rest along tire ruts and sometimes have difficulty crossing or climbing out of them. As camouflage is their main defense, chicks will freeze and crouch when vehicles pass or may not have the ability to move quickly enough to get out of the way.

The magnitude of this threat is particularly significant because vehicles extend impacts to remote stretches of beach where human disturbance would be much less if access was limited to pedestrians. Scientific studies have shown the vehicles can and do crush eggs, adults and chicks. A study conducted by the Town of East Hampton in 1993 demonstrated that plover territories where vehicles were prohibited had double the fledge rate when compared to territories where vehicles were allowed access.

In order to protect foraging hatchlings, temporary snow-fences or similar restrictive fences are installed (just prior to a nest hatch date) to restrict vehicles and dogs from areas where broods are located. As a general rule this restricted area is erected approximately 1,000 meters on either side of a nest site and extends from the toe of the dune to the mean high water mark. Broods are monitored frequently to be sure that the temporary fencing provides an adequate area of protection. Restricted areas are modified as necessary if broods are found to have moved significant distances along the beaches. Please see accompanying Piping Plover Management Maps which depict general locations

of fencing for specific beaches. When all hatchlings in a given area have fledged, vehicle access within those areas is resumed. Initial monitoring of nests to determine hatch and fledge dates is essential in determining the required dates to begin and end vehicle access restrictions for each site.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- ❖ Carry out and enforce the provisions of the Management Plan, the East Hampton Town Code and the USFWS piping plover recovery guidelines governing the protection of nesting sites on East Hampton Town beaches.
- ❖ Reduce predation of nests through the use of exclosures when practicable.
- ❖ Encourage return-nesters and additional pairs to nest on East Hampton Town beaches through protection of existing habitat as well as the promotion of future habitat expansion and migration through the preservation of adjacent upland area to allow for the natural migration of beaches and dune areas.
- ❖ Incorporate educational programs and outreach activities to build cooperation between regulatory agencies, monitors, beach managers and staff, lifeguards, enforcement officers, volunteers and the general public.
- ❖ Maintain appropriate public use of beaches and shores by various stakeholders while minimizing disturbance to breeding pairs and their young throughout the nesting season from April through August.

### **MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **Staff and Materials**

- ❖ Hire additional staff as necessary to effectively carry out the Management Plan.
- ❖ Inventory, repair and maintain existing supplies and equipment each season. Purchase new supplies and equipment when needed.

#### **Data Management**

- ❖ Upon each site visit, keep a record of the status and location of all breeding pairs, nests, broods and protected vegetation.
- ❖ Obtain Latitude/Longitude Coordinates for each nest using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) and transfer each nest location to the Management Map on the Town Geographic Information System (GIS).
- ❖ Maintain a current Management Map for each season on the Town GIS with weekly updates on breeding habitat, tracks and sightings, fencing installations and nest and brood locations.
- ❖ Keep a record of the estimated and actual hatch and fledge dates for each pair.

- ❖ Make a note of all breeding birds' reactions to pedestrians, dogs, vehicles and other disturbances within the vicinity of nests and broods.
- ❖ Keep detailed records of predators observed or tracks found within close proximity to breeding habitat. Potential predators can include crows, gulls, foxes, raccoons, cats and dogs.
- ❖ Incident Report Forms must be completed to report any disturbance to or "take" regarding nests, adult birds, chicks, nesting habitat or protective fencing.
- ❖ Keep a record of all staff and volunteer time monitoring sites and installing fencing and enclosures.
- ❖ Each season, complete and return *NYSDEC Long Island Colonial Waterbird and Piping Plover Surveys* and *NYSDEC Piping Plover Productivity Survey Site Summary Forms* for each site by the requested date.

### **Education and Outreach**

- ❖ Recruit and train volunteers each season to monitor active beaches and nesting sites.
- ❖ Meet with East Hampton Town Trustees, East Hampton Village Police, Traffic Control Officers, Beach Staff and Lifeguards and East Hampton Town Marine Patrol and Lifeguards in the beginning of each season to provide an overview of the East Hampton Town's Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program and fencing protocol.
- ❖ Notify appropriate departments, officers and user-groups of significant installation of and changes to fencing locations and access restrictions throughout the season.

### **Monitoring and Fencing Protocol**

- ❖ Post and install "symbolic" string-fencing around traditional piping plover and least tern breeding areas prior to April 1 of each year. These beaches may include but are not limited to parts of Sammy's Beach, Gerard Point, Maidstone Beach, Kings Point, Louse Point and Georgica Pond.
- ❖ Continually survey all potential habitat, especially early in the season, to effectively identify all breeding bird nest sites.
- ❖ Keep detailed notes regarding predator species and other potential disturbances within the vicinity of nests or potential nesting habitat.
- ❖ Immediately install additional string fencing where territorial or breeding behavior is observed outside of already protected areas.
- ❖ Identify all potential breeding sites, nests, fencing and disturbances on the Management Map.
- ❖ Each active site must be monitored by a qualified monitor or biologists at least once per week throughout the entire season or until all birds have fledged.



- ❖ Exclose individual piping plover nests as soon as a full clutch is established, provided that the location and circumstances are appropriate.
- ❖ Prior to nests hatching, install snowfencing and signage on either side of the nest site to restrict vehicular traffic and dogs within the designated Restricted Area. Approximate fencing locations should be installed in accordance with the accompanying Site Management Maps or in accordance with the USFWS recommendations.
- ❖ Areas where vehicles are prohibited include all dune, beach, and intertidal habitat within the chicks' foraging range. Each Site Management Map depicts the location of string and snow-fencing installed which has adequately protected broods at each site in past years.
- ❖ The size and location of the protected area must occasionally be adjusted in response to the observed mobility of the brood, but in no case should it be reduced to less than 100 meters on each side of the brood, unless they are located adjacent to a road end, where the width of beach is not 100 meters.
- ❖ If a brood is located near a road end ORV access, snow-fencing or a police blockade must be placed at the road end, preventing vehicles from accessing the beach at that location until the brood moves or the chicks fledge.
- ❖ Maintain all snow-fencing as long as viable eggs or unfledged chicks are present in the restricted area. Be sure to monitor all fencing, especially after storms, and repair as necessary.
- ❖ Remove all string-fencing and snow-fencing on each site when all chicks on that site have been observed flying or reached 35 days old.
- ❖ Sections of beaches where unfledged piping plover chicks are present are temporarily closed to all vehicles not deemed “essential”. *Essential vehicles* may be required for:
  - Safety of pedestrians and recreationists
  - Law enforcement
  - Maintenance of public property
  - Private property not otherwise accessible

### **Essential Vehicle Procedures**

- ❖ Travel only if absolutely necessary, and if no other reasonable routes are available.
- ❖ Consider other feasible means of transportation (by foot or water).
- ❖ Minimize the number of trips through chick habitat areas. Travel should be infrequent enough to avoid creating deep ruts that could impede chick movement.
- ❖ Travel only during daylight hours.
- ❖ Speed of vehicles should not exceed 5 miles-per-hour.
- ❖ Avoid driving on the wrack line, dunes or on any beach vegetation.

- ❖ All vehicles should be guided through the restricted area by a qualified monitor who has first determined the current location of all unfledged piping plovers in the area.
- ❖ Use of open 4-wheel drive motorized all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or non-motorized, all-terrain bicycles is recommended because of the improved visibility.
- ❖ A log should be maintained to record the date, time, vehicle number, operator and purpose of each trip through restricted areas.
- ❖ Monitors maintain a log and map of the locations and numbers of unfledged chicks on each beach. Drivers of essential vehicles should always be aware of the most recent information when traveling through a restricted area.
- ❖ Vehicles in the vicinity of broods should be avoided whenever possible. However, it is understood that life-threatening situations on the beach may require Emergency Vehicle response.

### **SITE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT FOR PIPING PLOVERS**

Several sections of bay and ocean beaches in East Hampton are string-fenced early in the season to prevent disturbance on the upper beach where pairs return each season to nest. These historic nesting sites include Sammy's Beach, Gerard Point, Louse Point, Maidstone Beach and Georgica Beach. At these sites, string-fencing is installed by April 1, and is removed at the end of the season between July and September, when all chicks have fledged (depending on each pair's nesting success). Snowfencing is installed to prevent driving during the chick-rearing period, specific to the time and location of each pair's brood. In some cases, areas of string fencing may be altered and remain on the beach through October in order to protect rare beach vegetation. This section outlines management guidelines for specific beaches. Please see individual site management maps for reference.

#### **Bay Beaches**

***Sammy's Beach*** is located on the west side of Three Mile Harbor inlet and separates Three Mile Harbor to the south from Gardiners Bay to the north. Surplus dredge material from Three Mile Harbor Inlet has historically been deposited over a large section of Sammy's Beach which helps maintain a vast area of ideal nesting habitat for piping plovers, least terns and other beach nesting species such as the diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*). As a public beach, pedestrian use on this site is moderate during the week, but can be heavy during weekends, holidays and firework events. String-fencing is installed around the entire surplus dredge material area early in the season, when the first plovers arrive. This section has historically nested seven pairs of piping plovers and a large colony of least terns. An additional area of string-fencing is installed in front of the residential homes where an additional pair returns to nest. Snow-fencing is installed at the east access adjacent to the inlet as well as the two western accesses to protect the birds from vehicles and dogs when chicks are due to hatch. Dogs tend to be the major problem at this site, and vandalism of fences and

“NO DOG” signs is common. Snow-fencing is removed when all chicks from the site have fledged. With approval from the East Hampton Town Trustees, some areas of string fence should be left up to protect vulnerable colonies of seabeach knotweed through September or October, until a majority of the plants go to seed. This site has hosted an abundant population of seabeach knotweed in recent years.

***Maidstone Beach/Park*** is a public beach located on the east side of Three Mile Harbor inlet with Gardiners Bay to the north. A small area of string-fencing is installed pre-season to protect a returning pair near the inlet. If additional nests are located outside of the protected area, additional string fence is installed. A second pair usually nests just west of the lifeguarded area. The section of beach from the inlet to Flaggy Hole Road is designated in the Town Code as a non-driving beach year round, so off-road vehicles are generally not an issue at this site, but pedestrian activity can be especially heavy near to the inlet and picnic area. If broods travel in front of Flaggy Hole Road, this access should be closed to vehicles until the brood relocates or fledges. Dog restriction signs are installed at all pedestrian beach accesses and at the permanent snowfence prior to the hatch date and are removed once all birds fledge. This site has hosted an abundant population of seabeach knotweed in recent years.

***Lionhead Beach*** is owned by the Lionhead Beach Association and is primarily used by members of the association. When Hog Creek inlet is dredged, the eastern section of Lionhead Beach adjacent to the picnic area is occasionally used as an excess dredge material disposal site, which has historically hosted one nesting pair that has nested at the point in recent years, along with several least terns. Off-road vehicles are not permitted on the beach at any time, so vehicle disturbance at this site is not an issue. Pedestrians with dogs are the major concern, and signs to restrict dogs from the nesting area are installed at all pedestrian access points prior to the expected hatch date. This site has hosted a healthy population of seabeach knotweed in recent years.

***Kings Point Beach (Clearwater Beach)*** is owned by the Clearwater Beach Association and is primarily used by members of the association. Dogs and off-road vehicles are not allowed on the beach, but pedestrian activity can be heavy at times. Pre-season fencing is installed at this site to reduce impacts from pedestrians where one pair returns each year to nest, along with a small colony of least terns. Additional signs to restrict dogs are installed at each pedestrian access prior to chicks hatching. This site has historically hosted a decent population of seabeach knotweed.

***Gerard Point/Gerard Park*** is a peninsula located on the east side of Accabonac Inlet and separates Accabonac Harbor to the West from Gardiners Bay to the East. This site is a public beach that allows off-road vehicle access throughout the year and is popular among dog-walkers. A large area of nesting and foraging habitat is available, but due to the rocky and expansive nature of the beach, monitoring can be difficult. If intensive monitoring is not feasible early in the season, it is recommended that off-road vehicles be restricted once birds arrive by installing snow-fencing at beach accesses at Gerard Park and Gerard Point while pairs set up their territories. The section of beach adjacent to Gerard Point is a historic nest site and is string-fenced pre-season. Additional

individual nests are protected with string fencing if located outside of the pre-fenced area. The snow-fencing to restrict dogs and vehicles during the chick-rearing period is installed perpendicular to the shoreline in order to allow direct access to the water for vehicles. This site has hosted a decent population of seabeach knotweed in recent years.

***Louse Point*** is a peninsula located on the west side of Accabonac Inlet and separates Accabonac Harbor to the West from Gardiners Bay to the East. The site contains an expansive area of surplus dredge material which provides ideal nesting habitat for returning piping plovers and a large colony of least terns, most of which is string-fenced pre-season to allow pairs to adequately set up their territories. Off-road vehicles are allowed access to the beach throughout the year, and the beach is popular among pedestrians and dog-walkers. Snow-fencing is installed to protect the birds from vehicles and dogs during the chick-rearing period at the end of Louse Point Road and on either side of the new access at an overwash area where the peninsula narrows to the southeast. This site has hosted a very small population of seabeach knotweed in recent years. It is recommended that once all birds fledge and snow-fencing is removed, string-fencing be adjusted to accommodate the small population of seabeach knotweed into September or October when a majority of the plants set seed.

***Lazy Point*** is a peninsula located on the West side of Napeague Harbor, just southeast of Hicks Island. This site contains a small area of potential nesting and foraging habitat on the north side, adjacent to Gardiners Bay, but no piping plovers or least terns have been observed nesting at the site in recent years. The site is heavily used by pedestrians and off-road vehicles, likely causing too much disturbance to the small area.

## **Ocean Beaches**

***Wainscott Pond*** includes the stretch of ocean beach from the Town Line Road beach access in the Town of Southampton, to the Beach Lane beach access in Wainscott. This section also includes an overwash area adjacent to Wainscott Pond that was breached during Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012. The breach created a vast area of ideal nesting and foraging habitat adjacent to the pond. This area was inaccessible to the public due to the presence of an artificial dune and fencing that was installed after the storm by private landowners. The ocean side of the site is string-fenced when the birds arrive, and snow-fencing is installed at Town Line Road and Beach lane to protect unfledged young. This site has historically hosted several breeding pairs. This section of beach is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol.

***Georgica Pond*** extends from Beach Lane in Wainscott to the westernmost groin in East Hampton Village closest to Georgica Pond in East Hampton Village. The East Hampton Town Trustees have historically dredged a channel to open Georgica Pond to the Atlantic Ocean each spring. It is recommended that this be completed before the breeding birds arrive in mid-late March. The east side of the pond contains expansive habitat and is string-fenced pre-season as it has historically hosted several breeding pairs of piping plovers and a large colony of least terns. The west side of the pond is not pre-fenced and is heavily used by pedestrians and vehicles. Snow-fencing is installed at

the centerline of Georgica Pond and at the second groin closest to Georgica Pond to restrict vehicles and dogs during the chick-rearing period. Depending on the location of broods, snow-fencing locations may need to be adjusted accordingly throughout the season. Additional possible fencing locations are identified on the Management Map. A section of this beach is lifeguarded by Georgica Association and is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol year-round and East Hampton Village Traffic Control Officers (TCOs) between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Georgica Beach*** extends from the westernmost groin in East Hampton Village (closest to Georgica Pond) to the access and parking lot at East Hampton Village's Georgica Beach. String-fencing is installed as soon as breeding pair territories are located. During the chick-rearing period, snow-fence is installed to restrict vehicles and dogs but is often disregarded by off-road vehicles driving around at low tide or moving the fence to gain access to the beach. Georgica Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Village, and Traffic Control Officers patrol this beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Lily Pond Beach*** extends from the Georgica Beach parking lot to the Main Beach pavilion at the end of Ocean Avenue. This section of beach tends to be severely eroded, especially in the beginning of the season. However, this site has historically hosted one breeding pair. Nest sites are string-fenced as soon as breeding pairs are located. Snow-fencing is installed to restrict vehicles during the chick-rearing period. East Hampton Village Traffic Control Officers patrol this beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Main Beach*** is a small section of beach, extending from the Main Beach pavilion to the Hook Pond access road at the groin separating Main Beach from Wyborg Beach. This section of beach is string-fenced as soon as breeding pairs are located. Snow-fencing is installed at each beach access during the chick-rearing period. This site has historically hosted one breeding pair and several least terns. Main Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Village, and Traffic Control Officers patrol this beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Wiborg Beach*** extends from the Hook Pond access to the Wiborg Beach access at the end of Highway Behind the Pond in East Hampton Village. This section of beach is fenced as soon as breeding pairs are located. Snow-fencing is installed at each beach access to restrict vehicles and dogs during the chick-rearing period. This site has historically hosted one breeding pair and several least terns. East Hampton Village Traffic Control Officers patrol the beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Egypt Beach*** contains a small section of beach between the Wiborg Beach access and the Egypt Beach access at the end of Old Beach Lane. This section of beach is string-fenced if breeding pairs are located. Snow-fencing is installed at each beach access during the chick rearing period to restrict vehicles and dogs. This site has not hosted any breeding pairs in recent years. A section of beach is lifeguarded by Maidstone Club, and East Hampton Village Traffic Control Officers patrol this beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Two Mile Hollow Beach*** extends from the access at Old Beach Lane to the eastern boundary of the East Hampton Village, just east of the Two Mile Hollow Beach access. Once breeding pairs are located, their territories are string-fenced, and snow-fencing is installed at each beach access during the chick-rearing period to restrict vehicles and dogs. This site has historically hosted several breeding pairs and several least terns. Two Mile Hollow Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Village, and Traffic Control Officers patrol this beach several times daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

***Atlantic Double Dunes Beach West*** extends from the eastern border of East Hampton Village, just east of Two Mile Hollow Beach access to Indian Wells Beach. String-fencing is installed to protect individual breeding pair territories as soon as they are located, and snow-fencing is installed at each beach access during the chick-rearing period. This site has historically hosted several piping plover pairs and a small colony of least terns. Indian Wells Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Town between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the entire beach is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol year-round.

***Atlantic Double Dunes Beach East*** extends from Indian Wells Beach to Atlantic Avenue Beach. String-fencing is installed to protect individual breeding pair territories as soon as they are located, and snow-fencing is installed at each beach access during the chick-rearing period. Atlantic Avenue Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Town between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the entire beach is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol year-round. This site also contains a section of beach managed and monitored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This site has historically hosted several breeding pairs and a small colony of least terns.

***Napeague Beach West*** extends Atlantic Avenue Beach to the western boundary of Napeague State Park. This section of beach is also known as Beach Hampton, a dense residential development and is heavily used by pedestrians. This site has historically hosted breeding pairs but not in recent years. Atlantic Beach is managed and lifeguarded by East Hampton Town from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and the entire beach is patrolled by Marine Patrol year-round.

***Napeague Beach East*** and extends from the eastern boundary of Napeague State Park to the western boundary of Hither Hills State Park. This site contains several hotels and sections of this beach can become crowded with pedestrians during the peak summer season. String-fencing is installed as soon as breeding pairs are located, and snow-fencing is installed for protection during the chick-rearing period. This site has historically hosted several pairs of piping plovers and several small colonies of least terns. It is recommended that educational meetings be held with hotel manager regarding management activities adjacent to hotel properties. This beach is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol year-round.

***Montauk Beach*** extends from the eastern boundary of Hither Hills State Park to the “downtown” section of Montauk at the Eton Road beach access. A majority of this site contains bluffs and does

not provide suitable nesting habitat due to yearly fluctuations in beach width. The small sections of suitable habitat that do exist are in close proximity to motels and clubs on the beach which host a high density of pedestrians during the nesting season. This site has historically hosted one breeding pair and several least terns, but not in recent years. String-fencing is installed when breeding pairs are located, and snow-fencing is installed for protection during the chick-rearing period. This beach is patrolled by East Hampton Town Marine Patrol year-round.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For more information regarding the Town of East Hampton's Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program or for volunteer/community service opportunities, please contact Juliana Duryea at the Natural Resources Department by telephone at (631) 324-0496 or by email at [jduryea@eamptonny.gov](mailto:jduryea@eamptonny.gov). To view past reports and maps, please visit the Department's website at <http://www.town.east-hampton.ny.us/HtmlPages/NaturalResources/NaturalResourcesHome.htm>.

You can also visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7181.html> or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/us-species.html> for more information on rare, threatened and endangered species.