



# LONG ISLAND PINE BARRENS SOCIETY

Protecting Land & Water

To their everlasting credit, the State of New York, Suffolk County, and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead, and Southampton have, over the past half-century, acquired tens of thousands of acres of open space in the Long Island Pine Barrens. Some of these acquisitions such as Suffolk County's Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve and New York State's large Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area preceded the passage and implementation of the 1993 Pine Barrens Protection Act. With the passage of this seminal law, government stepped up its acquisition efforts, partially in response to the property rights concerns and claims of landowners in the Core Preservation Area where development is almost entirely prohibited.

Today, Long Islanders are the beneficiaries of this sustained and targeted effort. More than 50,000 largely contiguous acres of the Central Pine Barrens have been acquired, creating Long Island's "Central Park." This "park" represents the full breadth of the ecosystem's diversity: river and stream systems, former cranberry bogs, Atlantic White Cedar and Red Maple swamps, vernal pools, coastal plain ponds, pine dominated forests, oak woodlands, scrub oak savannas, and grasslands. Yet, the Pine Barrens has not reached its full ecological, hydrological, or recreational potential. There are still thousands of acres of undeveloped properties in and adjacent to both the Core Preservation and Compatible Growth Areas whose protection would safeguard our drinking water resources along with benefiting the species and natural communities contained therein.

# *the* Best *of the* Rest

Preservation will also enhance landscapes of the larger Pine Barrens ecosystem and the public's enjoyment of this natural resource. Specifically, the additional acquisitions proposed in the "Best of the Rest" campaign will:

- Help to safeguard groundwater and surface water quality including the Carmans and Peconic Rivers. Preservation of 3,000 acres will assure the recharge of approximately 1.7 billion gallons of clean water to surface water features and the underlying drinking water aquifers on an annual basis;
- Enhance the viability of area-dependent wildlife species such as whip-poor-wills by reducing the effects of habitat fragmentation and other wildlife species through the preservation of additional habitat and buffering of existing habitat;
- Enhance opportunities for ecological management activities such as invasive species control and prescribed burns; and
- Enhance recreational opportunities by providing access to new landscapes and facilitating trail creation and connections.

The following is a breakdown of the primary properties that comprise the "Best of the Rest" campaign. It is important to note that many of these parcels are included in the 2016 iteration of the New York State Open Space Plan, either as specifically identified parcels or are located within eligible landscapes or Priority Project Areas. Some are also included in the Master Open Space List approved by Suffolk County:

(1)  
The Shoreham Forest property assemblage consists of 800+ acres of forests and tidal marshland. A variety of forest types occur in here, ranging from upland Pine Barrens woodlands to richer beech-hickory-hornbeam forests. The area contains nearly a mile of intact shoreline along Long Island Sound. A vernal pool and surrounding forest provide productive habitat to a variety of amphibian species

(2)  
A set of five parcels along and adjacent to the Peconic River, totaling about 58 acres, contain upland forest and wetland vegetation along the river. These properties are sandwiched between parcels owned by the NYSDEC which contain endangered species habitat.

(3)  
A set of nine parcels Hogan and CCP LLC properties in Hampton Bays, adjacent to Sears-Bellows County Park, totaling 100 acres in size, include upland Pine Barrens forests of pitch pine and oak-pine forests situated on the Ronkonkoma Moraine. The rolling topography provides scenic views.

(4)  
Approximately 60 acres are adjacent to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area, primarily located in the southern portion of the property. Two properties, totaling 20 acres, belong to the Longwood School District. Another is the undeveloped portion of the former K-Mart, north of Artist Lake.

(5)  
A number of small properties totaling about four acres are adjacent to the Pine Trail Preserve in Manorville. Acquisitions will help maintain the scenic quality of this recreational asset.

# ALL 850 ACRES IN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS (DEC)



**67+ ACRES EYED**  
(Town of  
Southampton)



**19 ACRES UNDER  
CONSIDERATION**  
(DEC)



(6)

Many hundreds of acres of undisturbed, ecologically significant grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands are located at the Town of Riverhead-owned EPCAL property. The diversity of natural communities occurring on site provide habitat to hundreds of plant and animal species. Given the size of the EPCAL property, there is an opportunity to preserve significant portions of the property for conservation while simultaneously providing for desired development.



(7)

Approximately 700 acres of Rose-Breslin properties are situated between the Brookhaven Airport and the Long Island Expressway. Due to their size, these properties and the numerous different natural communities occurring here provide habitat for a large number of plant and animal species. The northern portion experienced a wildfire several years ago, promoting the growth of fire adapted plant species.



**152 ACRES**

**SECURED**

*(Town of Brookhaven)*

**548 ACRES  
UNDER  
CONSIDERATION**  
*(Town of Brookhaven)*

(8)

Several key properties along the Carmans River include the Szuster Farm, the Johnston parcel, and those embedded within and adjacent to the "Camp Olympia Open Space" complex.



**4 ACRES  
SECURED  
(DEC)**

**14.4 ACRES IN  
ACTIVE  
NEGOTIATION**  
*(Suffolk County)*

(9)

Ehler Real Estate Holdings are extensively wooded pine barrens properties adjacent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Middle Island Conservation Area and containing upland habitat for state endangered species. These two parcels total 44 acres and are situated northwest of the SR 25 x William Floyd Parkway interchange.



**ALL 45 ACRES IN  
NEGOTIATIONS  
(DEC)**

(10)

Several key parcels are in the "Spinney Hills", involving forested pine barrens properties adjacent to extensive Town of Southampton-owned land (including "The Hills" complex).



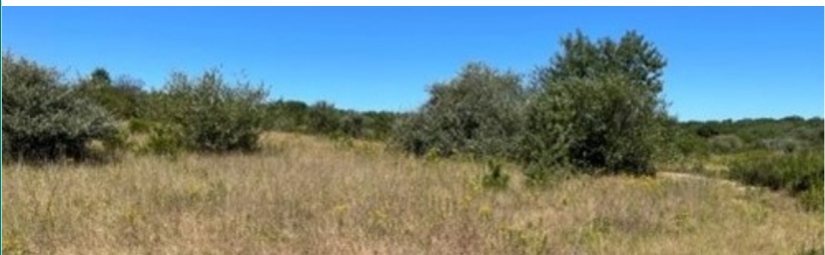
(11)  
 SC Lizem LLC properties- two properties of 65 acres and 111 acres – are densely wooded with a large old field existing in the eastern parcel. These properties are adjacent to NYSDEC property in Calverton.

**65 ACRES  
 SECURED**  
*(Suffolk  
 County)*

**111 ACRES  
 ACQUISITION IN  
 PROGRESS**  
*(Suffolk County)*



(12)  
 Approximately 150 acres of federally-owned grassland and forest located along the eastern edge of Calverton Cemetery property and north of EPCAL.



(13)  
 A number of stand-alone parcels and some in an old file subdivision in a forest complex formed by the extension of County Route 111. They are forested Pine Barrens properties that form a portion of the watershed of Seatuck Creek.

**17 ACRES UNDER  
 CONSIDERATION**  
*(Suffolk County)*



(14)  
 The Swan Pond Golf Course in Manorville is a critically positioned parcel, within the Peconic River watershed. Recently, it almost became publicly-owned open space through a purchase by Suffolk County. The county should purchase a “right-of-first-refusal” to ensure the County has an opportunity to acquire the parcel if the property owner wishes to sell in the future.



(15)  
 Numerous properties situated within numerous “Old File Residential Subdivision Maps” scattered through the Pine Barrens at Warbler Woods (Brookhaven), Ashton Road (Brookhaven), Manorville Hills (Brookhaven), Twin Ponds (Brookhaven), Calverton Ponds (Riverhead), the southwest and northwest quadrants (Southampton) of the Dwarf Pine Plains; and at Spinney Hills (Southampton).

**18.4 ACRES  
 SECURED**  
*(Various)*



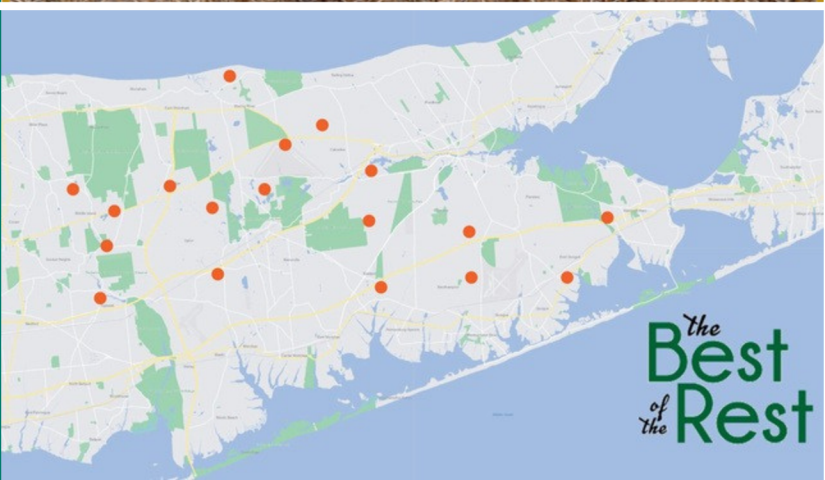
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THE BEST OF THE REST IS SUPPORTED BY NEW YORK  
 COMMUNITY TRUST, LONG ISLAND



*the*  
**Best  
 of  
 the  
 Rest**