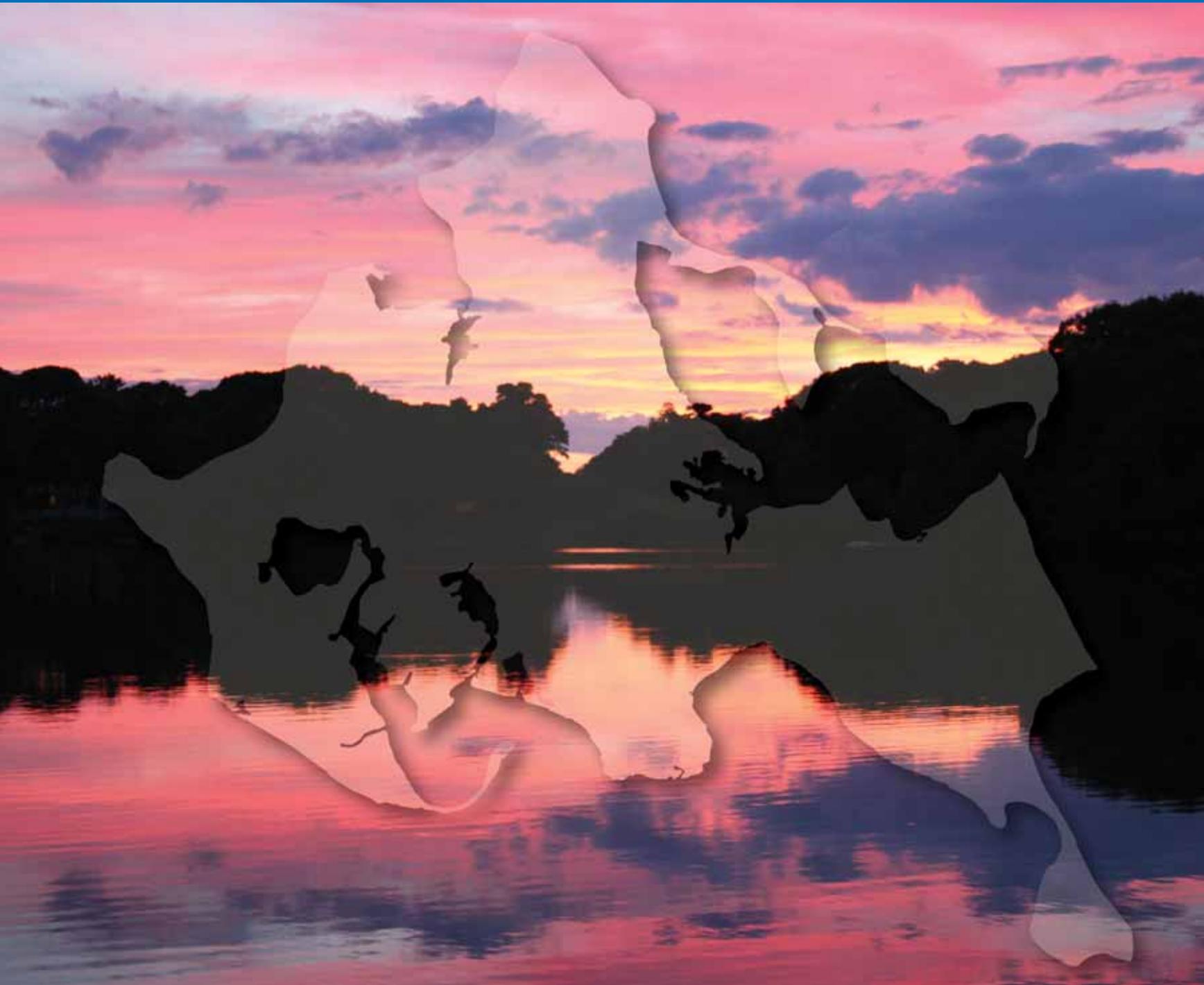


SHELTER ISLAND



CONSERVATION AGENDA



Dear Shelter Island Resident

Shelter Island boasts a wealth of natural resources – dense woodlands, rolling hills, open fields, hidden waterways, productive wetlands, beaches, and creeks that provide rich habitat for marine life. The depth of the Island’s natural beauty is surpassed only by the complexity of the natural systems which sustain the Island and its residents.

With an awareness of the importance of the Island’s diverse natural resources, Group for the East End conducted a scientific survey of Shelter Islanders in 2006 in an effort to learn what environmental issues were foremost in Islanders’ minds. In addition to concerns over the nexus between the deer population and tick borne disease, an overwhelming majority of residents voiced concern over the future quality of their drinking water, the health of local surface waters, the protection of undeveloped land, and the importance of community planning in the face of continued development pressure.

With an understanding of the environmental issues that are important to Shelter Islanders, we produced this brochure with the hope of providing the community with a well-researched overview of the Island’s key natural resources. We also sought to outline some of the top environmental management issues facing the Island and offer some ideas that could improve the environmental health of the Island for the future, which we call the Shelter Island Conservation Agenda.

It is our hope that sharing this information will invite further comment and discussion among Islanders and their elected leadership about the many initiatives that can still be undertaken to assure that Shelter Island will achieve the highest level of environmental protection for the future. A more informed public can only further assist the Town in discussing public policies to protect natural resources and balance the pressures of continued development.

Please take a few minutes to look it over, so that you have a solid understanding of the important role our natural resources play in our lives. As you review the brochure, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution and becoming a member of the Group for the East End, so that we can continue to work in the public’s interest to protect the local environment for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Robert S. DeLuca

President

Group for the East End

AQUIFER

KEY:

Estimated Thickness of Aquifer

76-90 ft

61-75 ft

46-60 ft

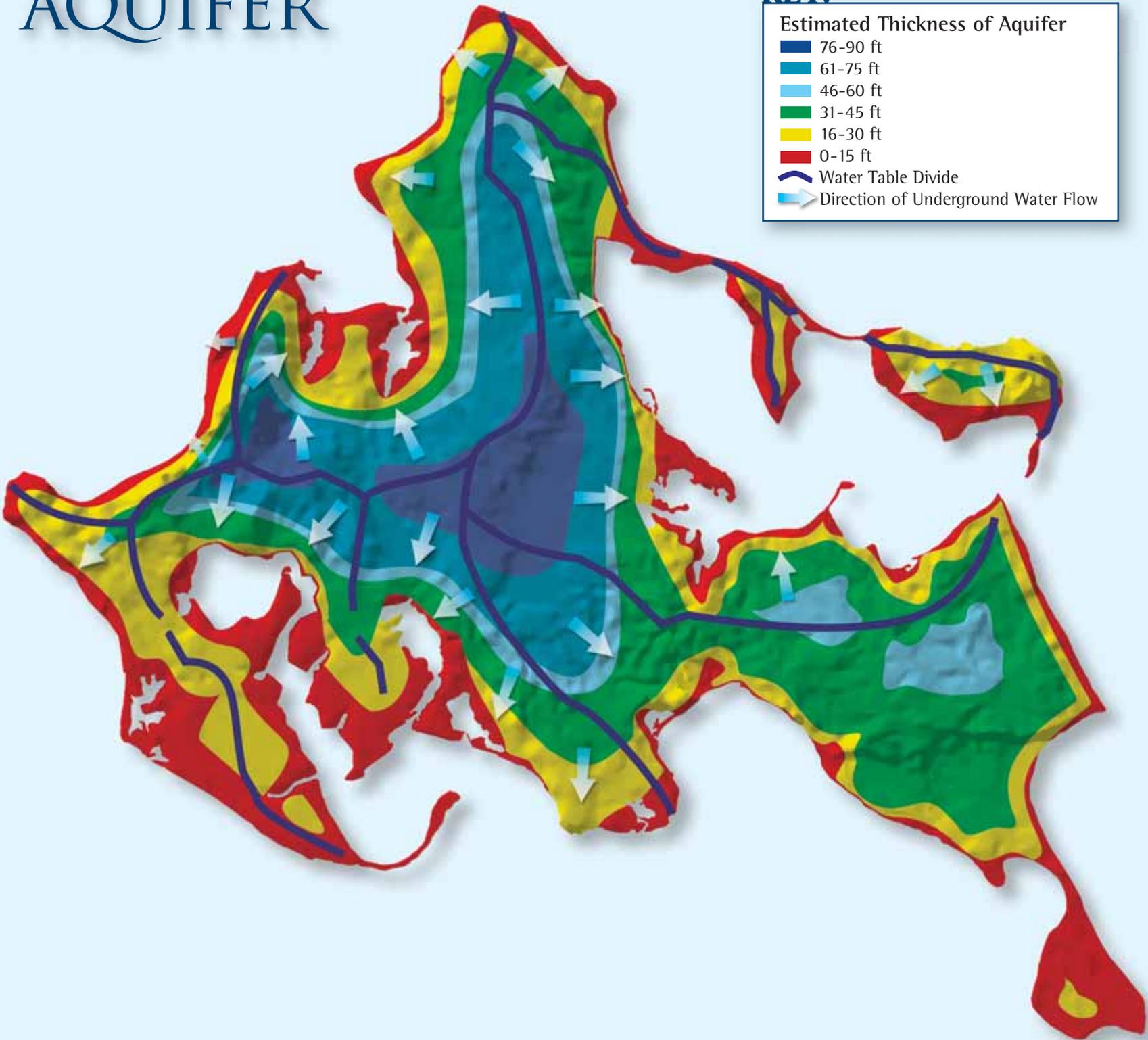
31-45 ft

16-30 ft

0-15 ft

Water Table Divide

Direction of Underground Water Flow



The Aquifer: Water Quality

An aquifer is a saturated layer of earth, gravel, or porous rock. Fill a thin saucer with sand and gravel then add fresh water. Float the saucer in a huge bowl filled with the same material, except this time, add saltwater. You have just made a model of Shelter Island's aquifer.

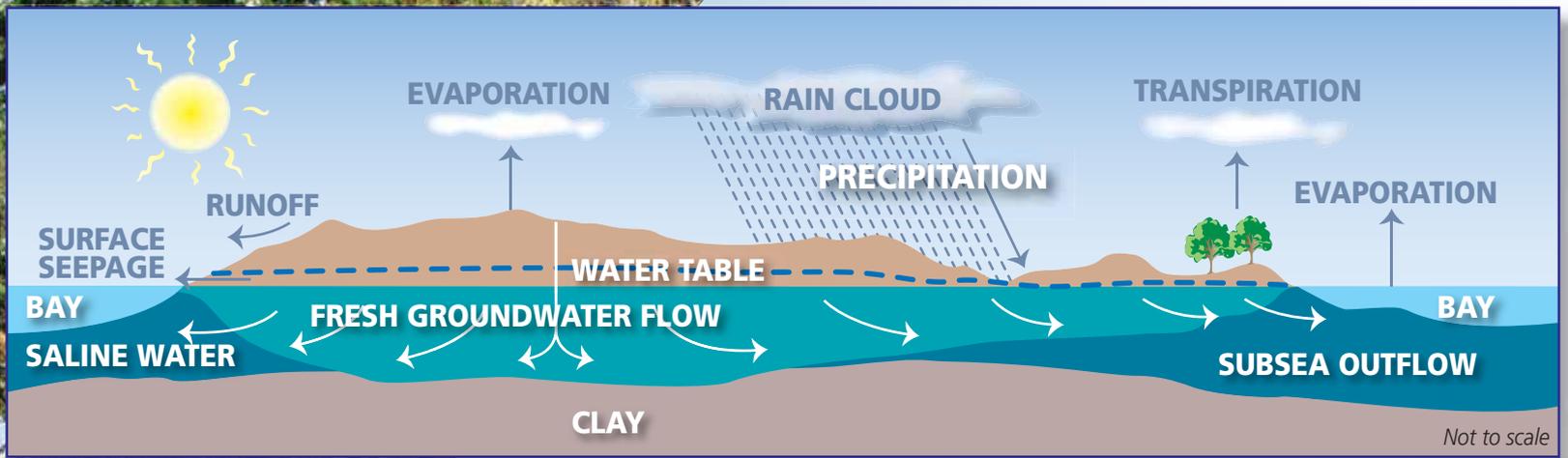
Geologists have a rule of thumb that for every foot above sea level the water table rises, there is another 40 feet of fresh water held in the ground below it. The layers of stone and earth that underlie Shelter Island limit the water table to a maximum height of 5 feet in the Center. This would allow, at best, a fresh water lens some 200 feet thick from which to draw drinking water. However, geology has further constrained Shelter Island's fresh water supply with several thick layers of nearly impermeable clay that run between 100 and 300 feet below the surface. These layers effectively create an even thinner saucer within which the Island's aquifer is contained. Below the clay is the Magothy formation. On much of Long Island this thick layer provides a deep fresh water aquifer that can reach as deep as 600 feet. Under Shelter Island, however, the Magothy layer bears only saltwater.

As shown in the Aquifer Map and the Geologic Cross Section, the aquifer is thickest under the Center and other elevated areas of the Island. Conversely, the aquifer is thinner and more vulnerable to salt water intrusion in outlying peninsulas such as Silver Beach, South Menantic and Montclair, Shorewood, and the Rams (shown in red on the Aquifer Map).

As precipitation recharges the water table throughout the winter, the effects of this rising "mound" of fresh water in the Center can be seen in the rising levels of ponds around Shelter Island. The sheer pressure of the fresh water pushing outward against the saltwater interface along the Island's shores and peninsulas ensures the health of the Island's aquifer, keeping the estuary at bay and preventing saltwater intrusion into wells near the shore. In times of plenty, fresh water seeps from springs below and along the Island's shoreline, flowing into creeks and harbors, helping to balance salinity in the tidal wetlands that serve as nurseries for fin and shell fish. In times of drought, the pressure from the freshwater mound is reduced and the process is reversed: the saltwater interface moves shoreward. At best, well pressure drops. At worst, wells become spoiled and must be abandoned while salinity levels spike in tidal wetlands.

Stresses on the aquifer correspond directly to uses. With full build out bringing a potential for 850 additional houses to the Island (not including "knockdowns" on developed lots), even moderate drought pressures will magnify impacts to water quality. Unfortunately, pressure to build is greatest in the most sensitive areas: along the shoreline and outlying peninsulas.

Estimates of daily water use during the dry summer season on Shelter Island put consumption at six times that of daily use in the winter. Impacts to water quality quickly compound one another. Increased water use in the summer dramatically slows flushing of contaminants from the water table. A decades long process can slow even further, leaving pesticides, fertilizers, and chemical contaminants to languish even longer in the water table.



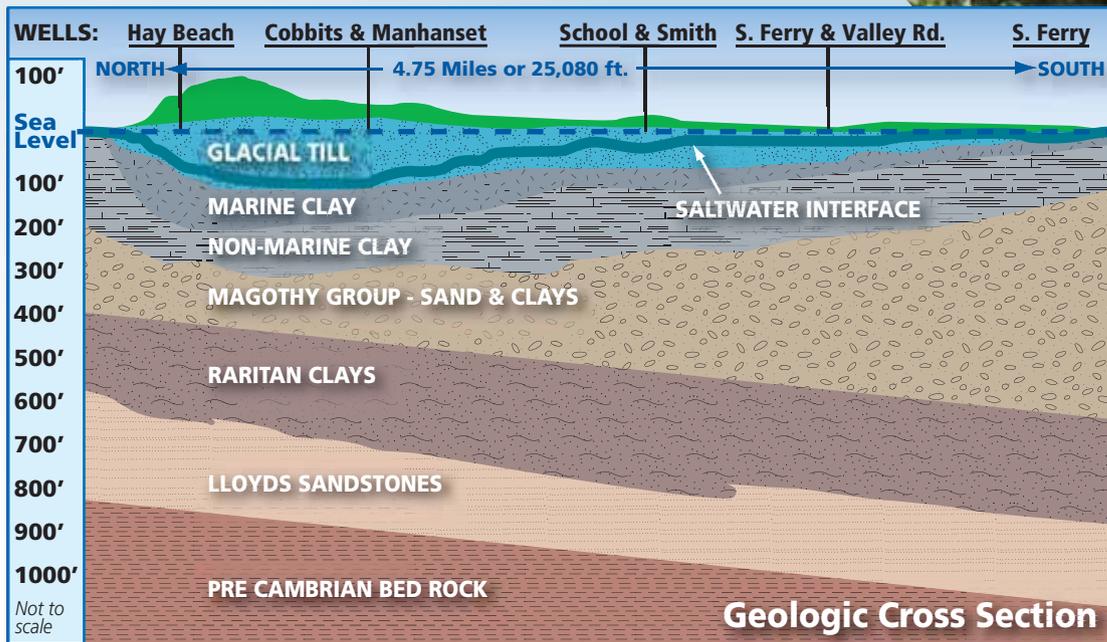
The Water Cycle: Water Quantity

Virtually every drop of the Island's water, whether from private wells or local water boards, comes from rain and melted snow and ice that percolate through the earth to the water table. Once absorbed, rainwater flows downhill towards our creeks, bays, and harbors. This process of replenishing, also called recharging, is a part of the water cycle. Understanding the water cycle is critical to understanding our groundwater resource.

Average annual precipitation on Shelter Island is approximately 47 inches, or, measured another way, 9 billion gallons. Just over half, approximately 4.7 billion gallons, percolates into the water table. From there it begins what can be a decades long underground migration toward the saltwater interface. For example, rainfall in Goat Hill has been shown to take up to 15 years to reach West Neck Bay. Another 1 percent, or 90 million gallons, of Shelter Island's annual precipitation flows directly into surface waters as runoff. Whether absorbed into the water table or traveling as runoff through structures such as storm drains, water carries with it whatever oils, antifreeze, animal waste, fertilizers, and pesticides it picks up along the way. Flow rates depend on a variety of factors: soil composition, water table height, and the steepness of slopes. On average, however, water absorbed into the aquifer travels only about one foot per day.

The remaining precipitation, approximately 47 percent, is recycled into the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration, the process by which plants lose water through pores called "stomata." Collectively these processes are called evapotranspiration. While evaporation occurs year-round, it is greatest during the summer. This is also when most transpiration occurs. Seasonal variations in rainfall and evapotranspiration result in far greater aquifer recharge in the fall, winter, and early spring. Accordingly, strain on the aquifer comes when it is at its most vulnerable – a drier summer following a dry winter.

Once in tidal waters, winds and tides mix fresh water with bay waters reducing the salinity of our creeks, bays, and harbors, encouraging an environment of tidal wetlands, sea grasses, and algae, vital for the development of fin and shell fish stocks. Closing the circle and completing the water cycle, water vapor from evaporation from bays and harbors combines with water vapor formed by transpiration and evaporation from land to produce clouds and, under the right circumstances, another round of rainfall.



Safe Yield: The Big Question

Islanders' annual water consumption has not outpaced the natural "recharging" process. The annual recharge, however, does not eliminate seasonal concerns over stresses to the aquifer. The big question is how much fresh groundwater can we use without adversely impacting the aquifer? Or, put in terms used by hydrologists: what is the "safe yield" for the Island's groundwater? No one really knows.

At least half of the water pumped from the aquifer is recycled through septic systems. While this water is not the same quality as that drawn from wells, as long as we recharge it back into the aquifer, some would argue, the problem is one of water *quality*, not water *quantity*. This may prove to be true. However, outlying shoreline areas such as the Rams, Silver Beach, and Montclair can have water supply issues despite septic recharge. These situations are reminders that our water supply is a finite resource and point to the need for a groundwater protection plan that looks conservatively at the Island's future water needs.

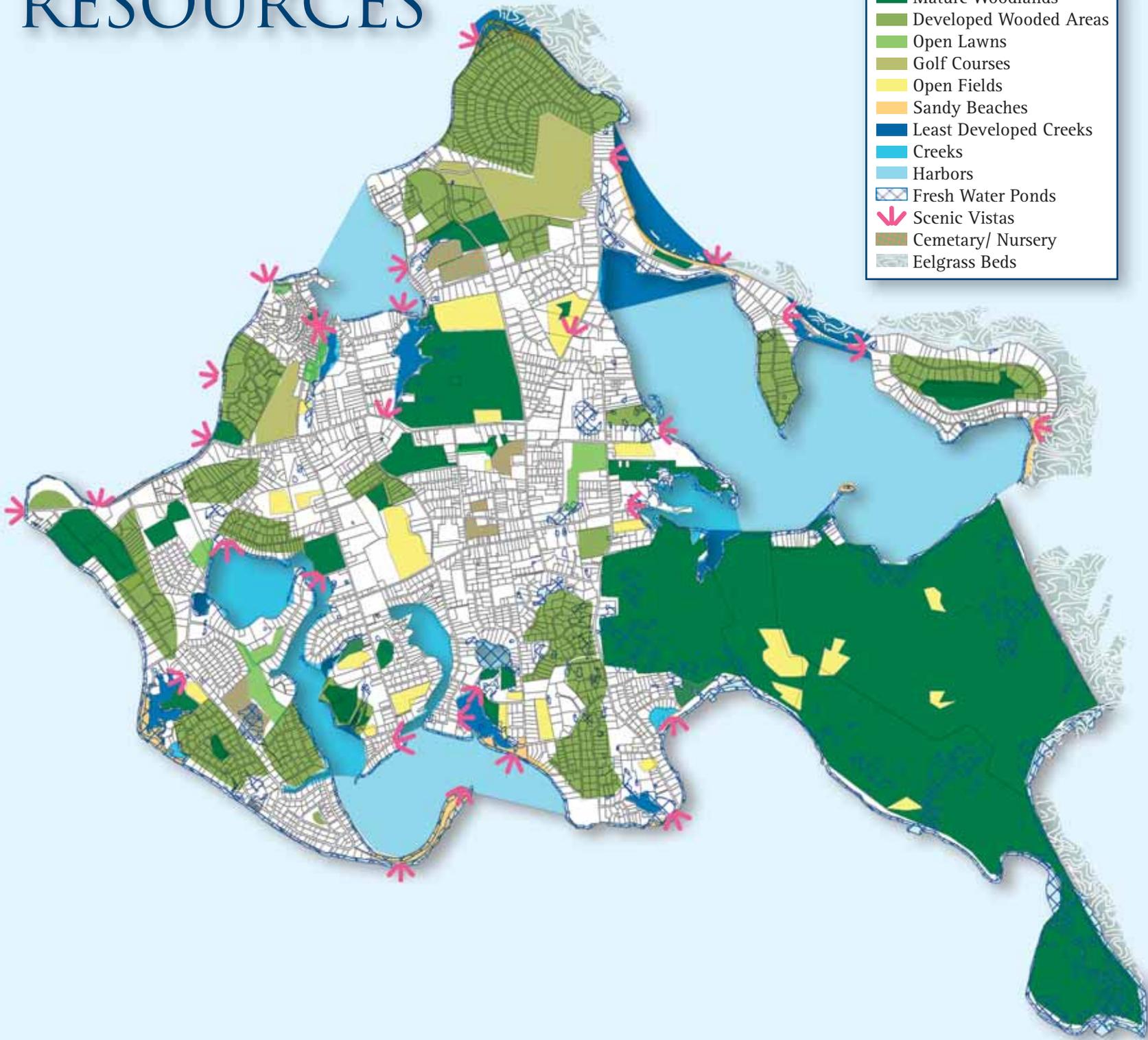
Groundwater Divides & Management:

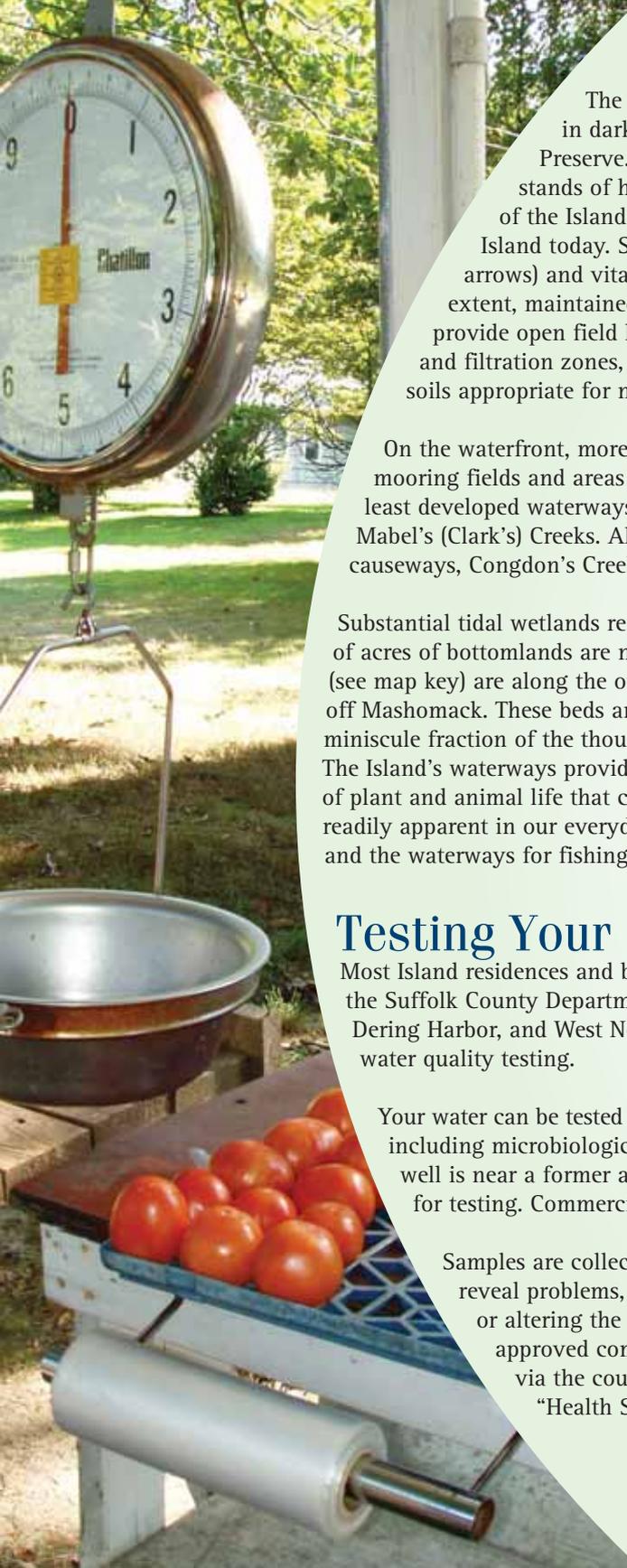
Shelter Islands has 10 distinct groundwater divides that determine the general direction of underground water flows. For example, precipitation falling around Cartwright Road percolates into the water table, flowing toward the saltwater interface along the edge of Coecles Harbor. The arrows in the Water Cycle illustration (above, top) show general groundwater flows. However, this system is complex and interconnected, affected by the layers of stone, clay, and soil below the earth's surface. Some water flows horizontally toward the Island's shores while the rest flows down into the deepest freshwater portion of the aquifer. Flow patterns have profound implications for groundwater management. Pesticides, fertilizers, and other toxic agents carried in the water can spread and pollute large areas of the aquifer before discharging into the estuary. The results can be disastrous for residents with affected wells.

RESOURCES

KEY:

- Mature Woodlands
- Developed Wooded Areas
- Open Lawns
- Golf Courses
- Open Fields
- Sandy Beaches
- Least Developed Creeks
- Creeks
- Harbors
- Fresh Water Ponds
- Scenic Vistas
- Cemetery/ Nursery
- Eelgrass Beds





Resources

The Natural Resources Map (above) highlights undeveloped oak and beech forest (shown in dark green), including 2,000-plus acres within The Nature Conservancy's Mashomack Preserve. Developed areas where mature trees remain are shown in olive green. Among these stands of hardwoods are large areas of sizable northern white pines. While 50 years ago much of the Island was cultivated for agriculture, there is no large-scale commercial agriculture on the Island today. Still, numerous open fields remain (shown in yellow), providing scenic vistas (pink arrows) and vital wildlife habitat, particularly for migrating songbirds and birds of prey. To a lesser extent, maintained grasslands (shown in lime green) such as the Klenawicus and Westmoreland airfields provide open field habitat. Together these woodlands and fields serve as vital habit, deepwater recharge and filtration zones, capturing precipitation, reducing evaporation and runoff, and fostering healthy native soils appropriate for native plant species.

On the waterfront, more heavily developed creeks and bays are shown in light blue. Active harbors (including mooring fields and areas with denser dock concentrations) are shown in a lighter shade. Dark blue marks the least developed waterways, including Chase, Crab, Dickerson, Gardiners, Barnyard, Mare's Neck, Foxen, and Mabel's (Clark's) Creeks. Also shown in dark blue are portions of West Neck Bay and Creek, along the Ram causeways, Congdon's Creek, Coecles Harbor, and Mashomack Bay.

Substantial tidal wetlands remain in these areas, however, the extensive eelgrass beds that once covered hundreds of acres of bottomlands are now almost completely lost. Presently, Shelter Island's only substantial eelgrass beds (see map key) are along the outer eastern shore between Hay Beach and the Rams, with lesser beds further south, off Mashomack. These beds are among the largest and most productive in the Peconic Estuary but represent a miniscule fraction of the thousands of acres that once blanketed bottomlands between the North and South Forks. The Island's waterways provide immeasurable benefits, acting as nurseries and feeding grounds for the multitudes of plant and animal life that compose the complex food web to which our own needs are inextricably linked. More readily apparent in our everyday lives are the quality of life benefits we enjoy from these resources: the scenic vistas and the waterways for fishing, boating, and swimming. Collectively, they define the Shelter Island way of life.

Testing Your Drinking Water

Most Island residences and businesses rely on private wells. If your water comes from a well on your property, the Suffolk County Department of Health recommends you test it every two years. Residents in the Heights, Dering Harbor, and West Neck are serviced by local water boards that maintain the wells and perform routine water quality testing.

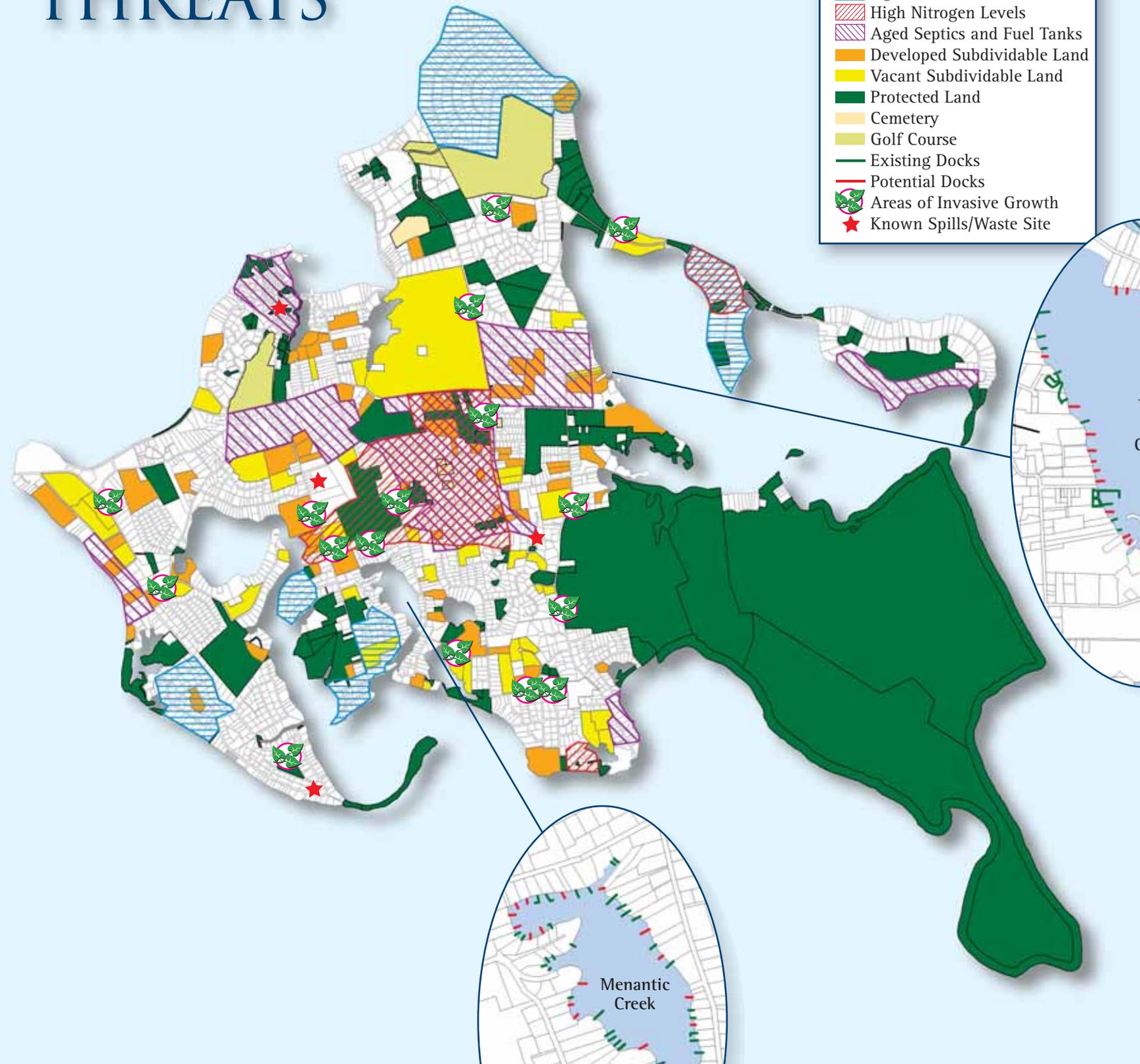
Your water can be tested by the county or a commercial lab. The county tests for over 100 potential contaminants, including microbiological substances, inorganic chemicals, volatile organics, and petroleum derivatives. If your well is near a former agricultural area, they may also test for carbamate pesticides. The county charges \$100 for testing. Commercial labs charge over \$300 for equivalent tests.

Samples are collected according to set protocols and must be collected by a professional. Should testing reveal problems, the health department recommends possible remedies. These might include relocating or altering the depth of your well. Call (631) 852-5810 to request a county test or a list of state approved commercial laboratories. You can obtain a "Request Form" and "List of Approved Labs" via the county website: www.co.suffolk.ny.us. Click on "Departments" at the top of the page, select "Health Services" and then "Environmental Quality" from the left hand side.

THREATS

KEY:

- Aged Pools
- High Nitrogen Levels
- Aged Septics and Fuel Tanks
- Developed Subdividable Land
- Vacant Subdividable Land
- Protected Land
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- Existing Docks
- Potential Docks
- Areas of Invasive Growth
- Known Spills/Waste Site



Environmental Threats

The Environmental Threats Map (above) highlights documented and potential threats to water and soil quality. Contamination arises from various sources – illegal dumping, chemical spills, fertilizer and pesticide applications, leaking septic systems and fuel storage tanks, and swimming pool discharge.



In the Group's survey, Islanders identified buried home fuel tanks as a major issue of environmental concern. Areas highlighted in purple show concentrations of older homes where informed estimates based on public records indicate between 33 percent and 50 percent of septic systems or fuel storage tanks may be out of date. Areas highlighted in blue show concentrations of older pools (pre-1992), of which more than 1/3 may still use outdated filtration and discharge systems. The fact that many Islanders responding to the Group's survey indicated concerns about leaking fuel tanks and outdated septic systems suggests these threats are real and remediation should be taken.

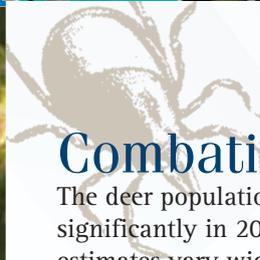
Nitrates from fertilizers and leaking septic systems are a major problem known to have significant adverse impacts on groundwater and surface waters. A 2003-2004 analysis by the Suffolk County Department of Health showed a 73 percent spike in nitrate levels in developed parts of the Island from 1980 to 2002. The highest concentrations were found in the Center, Little Ram, and Shorewood, and are highlighted red on the Threats Map. Numerous sources are believed to have contributed to the higher readings, among them the school's septic system, a concentration of older homes, the old town dump, now-closed plant nurseries, and abandoned farms. Red stars on the map mark documented spill sites where remediation has been recommended.

Some areas infested with invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet, wineberry, and multiflora rose are indicated on the map. These plant invaders, along with Russian olive and black locust threaten to "out-compete" and overwhelm the native trees and shrubs that have helped define the Island's ecology. Potential development impacts along the inner waterways are shown in the close-ups of Menantic Creek and the western side of Coecles Harbor. Full dock build-out on inner waterways would nearly double the number of docks from 289 to more than 570. Build-out along the outer shoreline could more than quadruple with a potential for the existing 49 docks to become more than 200 structures. Impacts to water quality, wetlands, and other marine resources, particularly along the inner waters, would be significant.

On land, there is a high correlation between the numerous large parcels open for development and areas of mature woodlands or large open fields that could instead be set aside for resource protection and preservation. Loss of these areas to development could significantly alter Shelter Island's ecological character and special sense of place. Full build-out could add up to 850 houses to the Island. Parcels shaded orange are developed lots that can be subdivided, those in yellow are vacant lots, most of which can be subdivided. In all, total build-out would increase density on Shelter Island from roughly 2,400 houses to approximately 3,200 houses. Such increases would expand overall density by a third and do not include "knock-downs" for redevelopment. Any density increases will bring corresponding increases in traffic, water consumption, waste disposal, and population, as well as demands for services such as fire protection, policing, ferry capacity, parking, and governmental programs.

Finally, the Community Preservation Fund, known locally as the "2 percent transfer tax," is the primary funding source for town open space preservation programs, along with contributions from the county. The transfer tax program has set aside more than 250 acres since its adoption in 1998. Separate preservation efforts by private organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and Peconic Land Trust have aided this municipal program by preserving more than 2,300 acres on the Island through land purchases, conservation easements, purchase of development rights, and deed restrictions. Preserved open space is shown in green on the Threats Map.





Combating Ticks

The deer population, a prime vector for ticks on Shelter Island, was reduced significantly in 2006. Still, exact deer population figures are unknown and detailed estimates vary widely. Some long-time observers and scientific surveys suggest the deer population on the Island has been reduced from an estimated density of between 80 and 100 individuals per square mile in recent years to an estimated minimum of 30 animals per square mile today. Still, such densities remain higher than other areas along the east coast.

Officials are combating the tick population and the corresponding threats to public health by attempting to disrupt the tick life cycle before ticks can breed. Two adult ticks produce between two and three thousand larvae. Only a third of those grow to the nymph stage. By the time they molt into adult ticks, approximately 200 individuals remain. This natural “bottleneck” in the lifecycle coupled with the fact that adult ticks are readily found feeding on deer before they breed, has led officials to conclude that applying the insecticide permethrin to deer will significantly reduce the tick population and create a lasting public health benefit. Permethrin is applied mechanically by a four poster system which treats deer with small, topical doses of the insecticide as they feed on bait at feeding stations. The life span of ticks can be three to four years meaning the four posters will need to be deployed for a similar time before impacts will be significant.

Permethrin remains effective for between 15 and 30 days, during which it is lethal to fish and aquatic organisms, particularly arthropods including horseshoe crabs and lobsters. Shoreline areas are particularly sensitive to chemical applications. For this reason, Town officials and wildlife experts have worked hard to place the four posters 300 feet from wells, waterways, and buildings, hopefully limiting possible human exposure and runoff or seepage of toxic agents into wetlands, creeks, and harbors. For the latest information go to www.shelter-island.org/deerandtick/, www.aldf.com, or www.co.suffolk.ny.us and search “ticks.”

Management Connections

Resource managers have long advocated that policies protecting open space, fisheries, land clearing, surface water, and groundwater be treated as interdependent pieces of the stewardship puzzle. A recent study by Suffolk County determined that runoff is one of the largest external sources of nitrogen in the Peconic Estuary system – 21 percent of total nitrogen load. Precipitation picks up nitrogen from fertilized areas and septic systems, carrying it into the water table and then surface waters. Nitrogen increases promote excessive plant growth, reduce water clarity, and lower dissolved oxygen levels. Such shifts adversely impact marine life, including eelgrass beds, scallops, and juvenile fish. Ultimately, nitrogen spikes could trigger a return of the devastating Brown Tides of the 1980s and 1990s.

The western portion of the Peconic Estuary and several bays further east are already exhibiting dissolved oxygen stresses due to high nitrogen levels. The Peconic Estuary Program has set improved groundwater quality as a key goal for estuary protection. However, only integrated and effective resource management will reverse the environmental degradation going on around us.

STEPS TO RESOURCE CONSERVATION

*What you can do to protect
local resources and your property*

1 Know Your Well

Get the facts. Find out where your drinking water comes from. If you have a private well, have it tested every two years (see “Testing Your Drinking Water”).

2 S.T.O.P. Stop Throwing Out Pollutants

NEVER discard toxic products like gasoline, oil, paint thinners, and degreasing agents into the soil or your house drains. Call the Shelter Island Recycling Center at 749-2033 for dates for the next S.T.O.P. Day. There are five days each year.

3 Upgrade Oil Tanks

Replace any buried home heating oil tank with an indoor or vaulted tank (which provides protection for an above-ground tank that is located outdoors).

4 Clean Your Pipes

Have your septic system pumped out every two to three years and replace older, failing cesspools with new systems.

5 Promote Environmentally Sensible Landscapes

- Keep native soils and vegetation
- Minimize lawn area
- Go organic: use only natural pest and weed controls
- If you absolutely must fertilize, use “slow release”
- Use compost to improve plant and soil health while reducing runoff
- Cut grass to three inches to discourage weeds and promote drought resistance
- Irrigate early or late in the day to prevent loss from evaporation

6 Green Boating

- Use only biodegradable boat soap (NEVER use dish soap)
- Anchor only in designated areas and always avoid eelgrass beds
- Honor no wake zones
- Switch to chemical-free antifreeze (the pink stuff)
- Remember the Peconic Bay is a designated No Discharge Zone so have your boat waste pumped out by an authorized pump-out station or pump-out boat.

7 Reduce Shore Hardening

- Consider removing shore-hardening structures such as bulkheads, seawalls, or revetments that can contribute to the loss of beaches and may cause additional erosion on neighboring properties
- Replant native beach grasses and encourage wetlands restoration to minimize flooding and erosion

8 Participate in Planning

Each phase of the planning and approval process must include careful consideration of both the localized and the cumulative impacts of further development. Every year, dozens of land use decisions are made by elected and appointed boards. The collective impact of these decisions determines what Shelter Island will become. The vast majority of Planning, Zoning, and Town Boards welcome and value regular public input from concerned citizens as part of the review process. Become an informed participant in the public process and speak up for the issues and concerns that are important to the future of Shelter Island.

9 Support the Bigger Better Bottle Bill

Help prevent two billion pieces of garbage from polluting our beaches, parks, and neighborhoods while also providing an estimated \$179 million for environmental protection in New York State. Funds from the Bottle Bill can help provide additional state funding for land protection, water quality protection, and pollution prevention. Support the New York State Bigger Better Bottle Bill. Click on the “Action Alerts” tab at www.eastendenvironment.org or go to www.nypirg.org/enviro/bottlebill/ for more details.

10 Contact Your Representatives

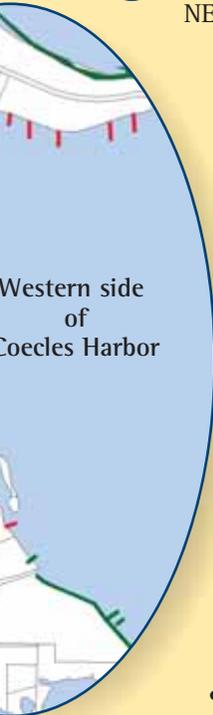
Write or call members of the Shelter Island Town Board, Conservation Advisory Council, Water Advisory Commission, and Waterways Management Committee to tell them to protect vital natural resources and open space through development of a comprehensive conservation plan for Shelter Island.

11 Join Group for the East End

For 35 years Group for the East End’s professional staff has helped community members understand and address environmental and planning concerns in their local community.

- Call us: (631) 537-1400 ext. 23
- Stop by and see us: 2442 Main Street in Bridgehampton
- Visit us online: www.eastendenvironment.org
- Send a contribution: P.O. Box 569, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

Western side
of
Coecles Harbor



SETTING A CONSERVATION AGENDA

What we can do together to protect local resources

Develop Fuel Tank and Septic System Rebates: An estimated 250 to 500 aged home fuel tanks and septic systems are spread around Shelter Island, adding unwanted nutrients to the groundwater and increasing the possibility of well and surface water contamination. Group for the East End has helped other local communities address these problems by developing incentive programs that provide cash rebates to property owners who close or remove buried fuel tanks and failing septic systems. Creating cash incentives for septic system replacements or periodic pump outs of existing systems coupled with fuel tank replacement rebates can help every homeowner do their part to improve the health of our local environment.

Manage Protected Resources: Up to 10 percent of Shelter Island's Community Preservation Fund (2 percent transfer tax) may be used for stewardship of preserved parcels. The ecological character and viability of protected lands must be preserved through stewardship. Just as with resources protected by federal, state, and county governments, open space on Shelter Island must be monitored and managed to protect the ecological resources that warranted its initial protection. Initial plans have been adopted for Ice Pond, Wades Beach, Shell Beach, Sachem's Wood, and Garcia Wood but implementation is still needed to care for these protected lands. Support efforts to provide proper management of protected lands.

Subdivide Wisely: The way in which land is divided into individual lots has a lasting impact on the future appearance and environmental health of the community. On Shelter Island 10 percent of land can be set aside as open space in major subdivisions, assuring some land is protected as part of the development process without additional cost to the public. This combined with clustering requirements and clearing limits (similar to those in place in wetlands areas on Shelter Island), can protect open space as part of the development approval process. Encourage the Town Board to join their neighbors on the North and South Forks by adopting clustering requirements and clearing restrictions.

Vote "Yes" for Stormwater Management: Runoff remains the largest source of pollution in the Peconic Estuary. Increasing our investment in stormwater management structures requires funding. Support local, county, and state initiatives that provide funds for upgrading stormwater management. In 2007, Suffolk County will offer a ballot proposition to extend its existing 1/4 percent sales tax to increase funding for land protection and stormwater management. The current measure has been highly effective but is set to run out of funds in early 2008. Additional funding sources are needed. Vote "yes" to extend the funding stream and support local, state, and county ballot initiatives for funds to buy undeveloped land for preservation.

Review and Enforce Pesticide Regulations: Although Shelter Island's Town Code prohibits the use of any sod, turf, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or other pollutants, within 100 feet of the wetlands, the law is difficult to enforce. A full review of municipal and private chemical application regulations is needed. Just as with building contractors, chemical applicators could be licensed at the town level, and a major educational program undertaken to spread the word about the potential impacts of chemical pollution and the need for increased responsibility and awareness by applicators and homeowners.

Water Management: Shelter Island Town limits watering and sprinkler use during times of drought and requires the filling of pools with imported water. These smart ideas are part of the wider effort to monitor test wells to determine water table and contaminant levels. For the long-term, a town-wide water management plan would also help the Town plan for the future protection and distribution of its limited supply of fresh water.

Waterways Planning: While Shelter Island has a mooring plan, there is no long-term plan for waterways development. Given that the number of docks on the relatively undeveloped inland waterways could double in coming years, serious consideration should be given to the creation of a Waterways Master Plan. Such a plan could coordinate expansion of waterways development, identify where dredging would be most effective, refine guidelines for dock construction, and provide incentives for removal of aging and ineffective bulkheads.

Woodlands Reclamation: Woodlands throughout the Island are being overrun by invasive plants. Invasives often out compete native species and reduce the health and diversity of natural ecosystems. Volunteer efforts have been effective in limited areas but an aggressive town-sponsored woodlands reclamation program is required. At present, there is no town plan to combat this worsening threat. A successful program should involve various community stakeholders encouraging property owners to remove smaller invasives along roads and property boundaries while the town provides labor, equipment, and coordination for stewardship of larger areas. Mature stands of trees should be regarded as a special resource and preserved during the subdivision or permitting processes.

Preserve Scenic Vistas: Encourage the protection and maintenance of scenic vistas, local resources that currently have no designation or protection under the town code. A scenic corridors and vistas study should be undertaken to identify Shelter Island's most beloved views and explore the opportunities for protecting and maintaining these views for the future.

Education: Over the years, the Town's Conservation Advisory Council and the Waterways Management Committee have produced valuable educational materials on resource protection. These efforts should continue to highlight individual actions that generate the greatest resource protection and should continue to be made available to all residents at Town Hall and through the Town's website, www.shelterislandtown.us.

*For more information,
or to become a member:*

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P.O. Box 569, 2442 Main Street
Bridgehampton, NY 11932
(631) 537-1400
www.eastendenvironment.org



GROUP FOR THE EAST END

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P.O. Box 569, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

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This brochure was prepared by Group for the East End, a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting natural resources in Southampton, Shelter Island, Southold, Riverhead, and East Hampton Towns.

For more information about Group for the East End, call (631) 537-1400 or visit our website at www.eastendenvironment.org

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