TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON TRUSTEES THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2025

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1998, the Board of Trustees of the Commonalty of the Town of Southampton has undertaken the Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program (T&E program). Throughout the years, the Board of Trustees has gained jurisdiction that was passed from various organizations like NYSDEC and The Nature Conservancy. As of 2025, the Town monitors 15 bay and 9 ocean sites for a rough total of 28 miles of coastline, from Rogers Pavilion up until Tiana's pavilion on Westhampton Island, and from Shinnecock County Park East County Line up until East Hampton Townline Road.

In 2025, the T&E program monitored 73 piping plover pairs with 109 chicks that successfully fledged, yielding a productivity of 1.49 for the species. In addition, a total of 273 least terns nesting pairs with 81 chicks that successfully fledged, giving a productivity of 0.30 per pair.

For the threatened and endangered monitored plants, there was 282 seabeach knotweed plants found at 8 ocean sites and around 3292 seabeach knotweed plants found at 11 bay areas for a total of 3574 plants monitored. 55 seabeach amaranth plants were monitored along 4 ocean sites.

Throughout the season, anthropogenic and environmental threats and disturbances were identified and addressed. Environmental threats included storm surges, strong winds, large rain events, harmful algal blooms, predator disturbance, and predation of nests. The most common anthropogenic threats and disturbances identified this season include off-leash dogs, ORVs driving around or over snow fencing, humans and off-leash dogs trespassing through symbolic fencing, litter and hazardous marine debris, illegal firework displays, kite and drone activity, open-pit recreational holes, uncontained fire pits, invasive species, unauthorized beach tractor raking near unfledged chicks, and more.

II. CURRENT SPECIES STATUS

Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

2025 Species status- Federal status: Threatened New York State status: Endangered (S3B)

Least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)

2025 Species status- Federal status: Not listed New York State status: Threatened (S3B)

Seabeach amaranth *(Amaranthus pumilus)*

2025 Species status- Federal status: Threatened New York State status: Endangered (S2)

Seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*)

2025 Species status- Federal status: Not listed New York State status: Vulnerable (S3)

III. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The program aims for conservation efforts that contribute to the recovery and protection of two migratory shorebirds species: piping plovers and least terns. These efforts also entail preserving and protecting two species of native annual seabeach plants: seabeach amaranth and seabeach knotweed. The program provides protection to the populations of T&E flora and fauna that are found in coastal habitats and rely on these zones for survival and for the continuation of their species longevity.

Conservation efforts for these flora and fauna are focused on increasing the annual productivity rate of these species which consequently aims for the recovery of their population. To achieve these efforts, the program assesses the current threats that affect each species' population and applies their findings to form protective actions that can effectively minimize the consequences of the threats for the species.

The objective of this program is to protect the endangered species that rely on Southampton's shoreline habitat while working closely with the public, as well as educating visitors that frequently use these areas.

IV. HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

Prior to 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) jointly managed threatened and endangered species recovery in the Town of Southampton. However, due to a decrease in staffing and resources provided by the NYSDEC and TNC, the Southampton Board of Trustees initiated their own threatened and endangered species program. Preceding 2011, the Board of Trustees were responsible for 13 miles of ocean beaches in addition to 16 bay sites. During the 2011 season, the Board of Trustees worked with TNC to become familiarized with the Westhampton Island sites. In 2012, the Trustees began to manage the 5.5 miles of ocean beach from Roger's Beach Pavilion in Westhampton to Tiana Pavilion in Hampton Bays. Currently, the Trustees manage a total of 18.5 miles of ocean beach sites and 15 bay sites. The remaining sites in the Town of Southampton are managed by TNC, NYSDEC, USFWS, SCDPRC, and a private consulting firm.

V. Life History, Conservation, and Recovery Efforts

Piping Plover

The piping plover is a small migratory shorebird with a grey sand upper body color sporting white underparts. They have orange legs, a single black or brown neck band which is often incomplete, and often have a black band across the forehead (USFWS). Their breeding plumage works as a camouflage on the sandy and rocky beaches where they annually spend their breeding season (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Piping plover in breeding plumage (Jeffrey Gross, 2025)

These birds usually nest on the coastline and prefer locations with open grounds or sparse vegetation, with little erosion of the dunes. They have a high nesting preference for uniform sandy shorelines with no vegetation or depleted foredune, and moderate rocky locations away from water. The species site preferences make this shorebird a 'species indicator' which reflects the conditions and health of the coastal habitats where they nest (USGS 2017).

Piping plover's exhibit nesting site fidelity, which describes the behavior of returning year after year to the same breeding locations. The high site fidelity of coastal piping plovers suggests that patches of coastal breeding habitats have remained suitable for long periods to return to, and those habitats where site fidelity starts decreasing, could indicate that habitat quality is poor or declining (Cohen, J. *et al.* 2006).

Piping plovers migrate to the southern Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf coasts to winter over. Piping plover males are typically the first to arrive at Long Island's breeding grounds around mid-March to begin establishing their nesting and territory boundaries following the arrival of the females. Intra-species sexual selection behaviors typically consist of a male on the ground, the male approaches a female, stands upright with neck stretched, and rapidly stamps feet with odd high-stepping gait (National Audubon Society) and possibly accompanied by low-calling peeps.

When the pair bond is formed, males will create multiple 'scrapes' which are shallow depressions that the female will choose as a potential nest site. Scrapes are often decorated with seashell fragments that the female will add before laying eggs and are well-camouflaged along the wrack line, near rocks or in the shadow of sparse dune vegetation.

Figure 2. A single egg nest, lightly decorated with shell fragments and surrounded by wrack debris at an ocean site with plover footprints surrounding it (Kevin Moran, 2025)

Figure 3. A two-egg nest well camouflaged within the pebble/rock/sand substrate at the Red Cedar Point Bay site (Tabitha Ferreri, 2025)

After copulation, the female will lay one egg every other day until a full clutch is formed, which is usually three to four eggs and may take 4-7 days for a full clutch once the first egg is laid (Figures 3 and 4). Once the female has laid the first egg, behaviors may vary, but the pair often can be found foraging far from the nest until a third egg is laid or full clutch is completed. Once the clutch is complete, the incubation process starts, which is shared by both sexes and lasts for approximately 25-28 days before the chicks begin to hatch (USFWS)

If a nest failure occurs, the pair will attempt to re-nest up to four times within a breeding season. Nest failure can be caused by many factors, including disturbance while incubating, exposure, predation, abandonment, infertility, vandalism, and nest washout caused by wave or tidal. In areas with a high predatory presence, a predator enclosure may be installed around the nest for protection.

Figure 4. A young piping plover chick from the Mecox cut mud flats feeding on an unknown macroinvertebrate (Donna L Schulman, 2025)

After hatching, the chicks take approximately 25-35 days to fledge, during which the brood will remain within a close distance of each other for protection. Piping Plover chicks are precocial, meaning that they will begin foraging within 24 hours of hatching, scurrying between the foredune and intertidal zones (Fig. 4). Without the ability to fly, the chicks are at risk from predation, as well as human disturbance, especially from ORVs and frequent off leash dogs. Once a chick's ability to fly for a minimum distance of 15 meters is observed, they will be considered fledged. Finally, the snow fence will be removed and ORV access will be open.

Piping plovers have different ways of defending their nest or chicks: Broken wing display is one of the most common forms of defensive behavior, as the name implies, the bird will act injured, flailing around on the ground and alarming to distract the perceived predator. When chicks hatch, piping plovers call to warn the chicks to hide if danger is nearby, the chicks respond by flattening down and the sand color of their backs makes them nearly invisible (Great Lakes Audubon Society, n.d.). After fledging, piping plovers may start congregating in small groups to prepare for their long migration departure south where they will over-winter, which starts as early as July, and as late as October.

Least Tern

The least tern is a small migratory coastal bird that utilizes Long Island's shoreline for breeding and reproduction. These colonial nesters can be found in groups ranging from 5 to upwards of 100 pairs or even just a single pair nesting alone if they are late breeders. They are identifiable by a grey back, white underside and a black capped head with a white brow band (Fig 5). Adult terns arrive at breeding grounds between late April and mid-May. Like piping plovers, least terns create scrapes, although they tend to be shallower. Least tern nesting colonies are protected with symbolic fences like other threatened and endangered shorebird species.

Figure 5. Least tern in breeding plumage preparing to dive-bomb at the sub-site Surf Club of Quogue to Quogue Village Beach in Hampton Beach (Matthew Mazzella 2025)

Least terns forage by hovering over shallow bodies of water until spotting prey, which is typically a small fish. The small fish they hunt in Southampton's tributaries and off the coast include Atlantic silversides

(*Menidia menidia),* Northern pipefish *(Syngnathus fuscus),* Mummichogs also known as Atlantic killifish *(Fundulus heteroclitus)* and striped killifish (*Fundulus majalis)*. They select similar habitats to the piping plover for nesting such as; sparsely vegetated sand flats, gently sloped foredune, and flat expanses of beach above the high tide line. Both species can be seen sharing nesting habitats, as they do not compete for food; however, competition for nesting and brooding habitat is common when one species may get too close to the other (Fig. 6). Pairs will lay a full clutch of one to three eggs per nest from late May through June. Some research suggests that disturbance by beachgoers has pushed least terns to start new colonies in the same areas where piping plovers breed, which has benefitted terns from the legal protections afforded plovers (Wasilco, M. 2008).

Figure 6. Inter-species competition for nesting/breeding habitat depicted between a nesting least tern that got too close to a defensive piping plover with two young chicks, at the Hampton Beach site (Jeffrey Gross, 2024)

During the incubation process, both least terns' parents will share the incubatory responsibilities, which lasts approximately 20-23 days, at which point the chicks will begin to hatch. Within a few days of hatching, chicks will begin to move outside of the nest. They are semi-precocial and depend on their parents for feeding and protection (National Audubon Society). Terns are loud and extremely protective of their young and nesting territories; they are known for swooping at intruders when they feel threatened, also known as 'dive-bombing' (Fig. 5). During the summer, chicks can be seen sheltering in the shade of beach debris and foliage in the upper beach.

Least tern chicks are more vulnerable than piping plover chicks due to their semi-precocial nature, as they are often seen waiting for their parents to return with food in the middle to upper beach portion. Least tern chicks have been observed by monitors running to hide in the dunes after being approached much more delayed when compared to piping plover chicks, which highlights their vulnerability to predators, human foot traffic, and ORVs. At approximately 20-25 days old, the chicks will fledge, and shortly thereafter, depart for their wintering grounds, which can happen as early as August and typically

no later than the end of September. Least tern fledglings are often seen congregating with other tern species, such as the Common Tern (NYNHP, 2016).

Least terns are threatened by flooding, coastal development, habitat degradation and loss, human disturbance, pollution, and more. Pollutants that seriously threaten least terns include PCBs, pesticides such as DDT, and heavy metals because these can accumulate in birds with a primary diet of fish (Cornell Lab, 2025). The 2010 State of the Birds report found that vegetative succession and lack of new dredge spoil are likely reasons for loss of tern colonies on the islands within the south shore bays of Long Island (North American Bird Conservation Initiative 2010).

Seabeach Amaranth

Natural population of seabeach amaranth currently occur on Long Island grounds growing in dynamic areas of the ocean beach profile on accreting shorelines between the dunes edge and the high tide line, often in the same areas as nesting shorebirds. Both the piping plover and seabeach amaranth prefer primary succession beach habitat, which lack vegetation with little cover from other plants. Germination of seabeach amaranth (Fig. 7) occurs between June and July on Long Island, coming to maturation between August and September (Fig. 8). During the maturation period, plants will continue to grow, bloom, and disperse seeds by wind. It's imperative for the plant to survive until it's mature enough to disperse its seeds. This plant is an indicator species for healthy resilient dune and upper beach habitats which help to bind the sand and minimize erosion, fortifying the beach profile.

Figure 7. Sprouting amaranth with a Seaside sandmat top left of the amaranth (Joann Smith. 2025)

Several important threats remain, with the biggest threats being habitat degradation, overpopulation of whitetail deer, ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and beach grooming. Natural threats to plants include storm surges, over wash, strong and sustained winds, and over-browsing. Degradation and erosion of foredune and upper beach areas will continue to decline the remaining populations of seabeach amaranth. Over wash events and storm surges may cause the early onset mortality of seabeach amaranths, but can also

provide future habitat by removing competing vegetation coverage (Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2025).

Whitetail deer and Northeastern cottontails are the primary browsers of Seabeach amaranth within the Town of Southampton. ORV usage and beach raking significantly alter the hydrology and geology of upper dunes which degrade potential habitat for seabeach amaranth. Invasive plant species present in the Town of Southampton such as prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and hoary mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) will continue to thrive and populate in disturbed areas, which will eventually compete with seabeach amaranth.

Figure 8. Seabeach amaranth (Amaranthus pumilus) in Southampton Beach (Joann Smith, 2025)

Seabeach amaranth plants are protected by a small flagged and signed symbolic fence to prevent ORV and pedestrians' traffic from damaging them. To be considered for delisting, seabeach amaranth must be found within a minimum of six states that fall within its historic range with plants occupying a minimum of 75% of this suitable habitat. For many years, this annual beach grown plant had been extirpated from the coastal ecosystems of Long Island, however, it was found again in 1990 when beach conditions improved and the seed bank had viable seeds dormant. Unfortunately, this plant has lost approximately two-thirds of its historic range, with Long Island being the last most northern hold-out for the species. These requirements must be met for each site for a minimum of 10 years. According to the most recent 5-year review of seabeach amaranth, it was suggested that no changes be made to the plants listing even though the plant is found within six of the states within its historical range, given that the data does not encompass the 10-year requirement (USFWS 2007).

Seabeach Knotweed

Seabeach knotweed is considered a rare plant in NYS, annually found mostly in bay area and some ocean sites within the Town of Southampton. Long Island is home to most of the existing population for

the entire species, with only 43 known populations and around half of those populations only having less than 100 plants. It is typically located in middle to upper beach areas with a preference for rocky-pebble substrate that boasts wrack lines (Fig. 9), are sparsely vegetated, and have a relatively flat topography, often within shorebird symbolic fencing.

The plant has glaucous blue-green leaves and grows outward horizontally with the beach face. Knotweed typically flowers from May to October and fruits from June to November. They disperse their seeds through wind, wave action and birds. Later in the growing season, the low growing plants may form interwoven “mats” just above the wrack-line. This type of growth habit may provide a temporarily stable environment for seedlings of various beach species to become established (Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2024).

Figure 9. Seabeach Knotweed growing out of the wrack line at the sub-site Road D to Halsey Neck Lane (Joann Smith, 2024)

In New York State, 43 existing populations are recognized, which are stable, although due to the dynamic environment these plants grow in, there are fluctuations in population numbers from year to year. Seabeach Knotweed faces similar threats as seabeach amaranth; however, knotweed is not nearly as threatened by browsing or storm surge impacts as much as amaranth is. Prickly saltwort (Fig. 10 & 11), hoary mugwort, and prostrate knotweed are both invasive threats that will continue to compete with knotweed. To determine the quantity and quality, the populations are derived from 5-year averages for species evaluation (NYNHP 2016). Seabeach knotweed no longer receives protective symbolic fencing as of the 2024 season, but is still monitored and counted.

Figure 10. Invasive prickly saltwort sprouting on top of the seabeach knotweed beneath (Joann Smith, 2025)

Figure 11. Invasive Prickly Saltwort (Right) competing with Seabeach Knotweed (Left) (Samantha Sabah, 2025)

VI. MONITORING METHODS

Symbolic protective fences are installed at the end of March before piping plovers arrive at breeding grounds. April 1st is the official start of the courtship season which is when piping plover monitoring begins. Least terns arrive later in the season, and seabeach Knotweed and seabeach Amaranth begin growing around June to July. Based on T&E programs and the data collected in previous years, symbolic fences are installed in suitable or historic locations where piping plovers have shown nesting site fidelity. Symbolic fences are made up of wooden and metal posts linked by flagged string and informative signs attached to every corner post (Fig. 12). The main purpose of the protective symbolic fence is to isolate breeding grounds to avoid any disturbances that may cause nest abandonment or destruction, and represents a buffer protection for shorebird chicks when they hatch.

Figure 12. Symbolic fencing at Sagaponack Lake made up of wooden post and flagged string with a fledgling beneath (Matthew Mazzella, 2024)

Figure 13. Snow Fence installed to protect chicks in Southampton Beach by closing access to ORV (Laura Castrillon, 2023)

Each site is visited at least once a week by coastal stewards, however, monitoring each site more than once a week is recommended. During the beginning of the season, pair bonds are identified while closely watching their behavior and possible nest sites (scrapes). Coastal stewards record all details found during the visit using a notebook log. The main data collected includes detailed location of the nest, the breeding pair's behaviors, human disturbances, potential predators, other threats, and all threatened and endangered species activity. Stewards constantly monitor any activity outside of the protected area. Stewards will report activities outside of symbolic fencing that are considered disturbances to nesting or breeding shorebirds; common disturbances adjacent to symbolic fencing includes erosion fence installation or construction of walkways which will require a stop-work-order if considered a disturbance.

If a scrape is located outside of symbolic fencing, stewards will adjust the symbolic fencing accordingly. When multiple dog prints are seen in symbolic fencing with a nest or brood nearby, double or triple string fencing the protected area at a low/medium height (1-3 feet off the ground) can minimize disturbance and is highly recommended. If a nest fails, coastal stewards will assess the loss event along with a confidence rating to determine the reason and use the guidelines in the document "Categories of Piping Plover Nest & Egg Loss" from the DEC and the division of Fisheries and Wildlife. After estimating the hatch date of a nest, snow fencing will be placed perpendicular to the dunes at a distance of 1,000 meters in either direction from the nest location, restricting vehicle access in the area (Fig. 13). This is done 3-5 days in advance of the estimated hatch date.

Additionally, stewards are heavily encouraged to engage with members of the public; visitors, homeowners, and workers. Public engagement has been shown to improve site conditions for breeding and nesting shorebirds. By speaking with members of the public or homeowners that may not be aware of how their actions cause disturbance, and educating them on the importance of leash laws, the threats the shorebirds face, and the conservation science behind it; typically, visitors will act accordingly and change their behavior when educated. In addition to this, stewards have received information from homeowners or frequent visitors about site conditions or threats members of the public witness that stewards would not have been aware of if they had not engaged in conversation. This is a crucial tool that should be utilized more often by stewards, which has been integral in discerning myths or beliefs about the program and shorebirds, and educating the public on conservation and wildlife. Therefore, coastal stewards should constantly educate the community about the importance of threatened and endangered species protection whenever given the chance.

VII. RESULTS

Over the course of 2025 breeding season, 73 piping plover pairs returned to Southampton's shorelines with 109 chicks that made it to fledge-hood. The piping plovers had a productivity of 1.49 this year, which refers to the number of chicks that reached fledge-hood from a breeding pair. The threatened and endangered species monitoring program aims for conservation efforts that promotes the piping plovers to be taken off from the endangered species list in New York State. To achieve that, a productivity of 1.5 fledges per pair for 5 years consecutively must be maintained for the entire recovery unit (NY-NJ).

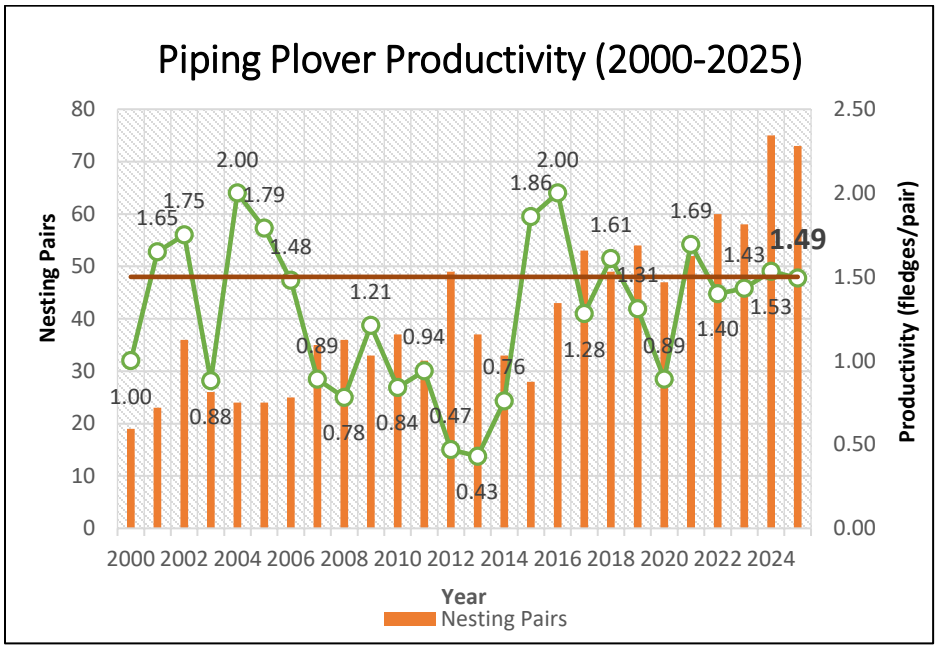


Figure 14. The productivity level this season was 1.49, falling short of the federal and state guidelines for a recovery productivity rate of 1.50 per pair. The seasons that met the goal were 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2024.

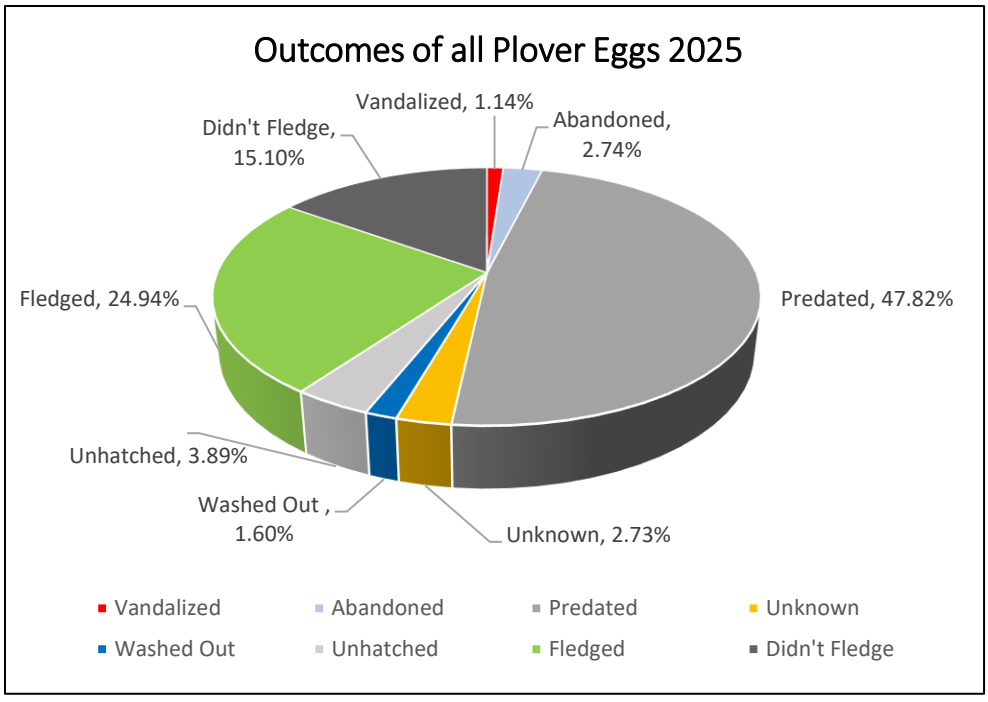


Figure 15. The chart above depicts the categories of egg outcomes for all eggs laid during the 2025 season

For the season, 122 piping plover nests were laid, 69 of them failed. During the 2025 season, the number of nest attempts and nest failures increased from the 2024 season with 102 nests laid and 49 nests failing. Overall, 437 eggs were laid, with 264 eggs that failed or were predated, and 175 eggs that hatched. As seen in Figure 15, the percentage of loss categories that took place this season for piping plovers eggs failure include: 47.8% of eggs laid were predated by wildlife or a non-native predator (dog or feral cat). 3.89% of the eggs never hatched due to non-viability or infertility, and 2.73% of the eggs were lost for unknown circumstances which refers to the situation where coastal stewards did not find predator tracks or enough evidence to determine a possible reason for the loss. 2.74% of the eggs were abandoned and 1.6% of the eggs were washed out by high tides or flooding during storms. 1.14% of eggs were vandalized.

Finally, 175 piping plovers' chicks hatched in total, with 109 fledges in total corresponding to a hatch rate of 40% and a fledge rate of 62.3%. The causes of chick's failure events were determined by carefully assessing the area for predator tracks, other shorebird behaviors/disturbances, and general site visit predator species, frequencies, and predation-intensity. A high frequency of ghost crab burrows in Westhampton Island led stewards to believe that a majority of failed chicks were predated by ghost crabs. The frequency and intensity for off-leash dogs at some sites, combined with stewards' knowledge of non-complying homeowners with off-leash dogs and missing broods, led monitors to believe that one lost brood at Gin Lane Beach was partially predated by off-leash dogs. At Squires Pond, the loss of an entire brood 6 days after hatching was attributed to the close proximity to foraging egrets and herons within Squires Pond inlet, where the chicks were last seen foraging.

273 nesting pairs of least terns used Southampton breeding grounds with 81 chicks that fledged giving a productivity of 0.30 fledges per pair. These shorebirds faced the same threats mentioned previously for the piping plovers; however, some threats were exacerbated due to their foraging and breeding behaviors. Heavy rains or human/predator disturbance is theorized for the late June and early July colony abandonment of two historically incredibly productivity least tern colony bay sites; Towd Point East and Long Beach. Least terns began to nest again at Squires Pond for the first time in over 20 years this season.

A total of 58 seabeach amaranths were found across 8 ocean sites and approximately 3574 seabeach knotweeds found across multiple bay and ocean sites. Roughly seven to ten of the seabeach amaranths counted were deer-browsed into early onset mortality following their count. Plant cages were employed this season to help prevent early onset mortality from over-browsing and may have helped many seabeach amaranths reach seed dispersal prior to the Hurricane Erin swells. Every seabeach amaranth counted was subsequently lost following the swells from passing Hurricane Erin mid-august. A majority of the seabeach knotweeds counted were buried following the swells from Hurricane Erin, however some were seen growing vertically reaching out of the sand. Seabeach plants experienced the following threats during the season: ORV drivers running over plants, pedestrian traffic, the unauthorized beach raking tractor running over emergent vegetation, over-browsing from deer and rabbits, storm surges, and invasive plant competition.

SITE AND SUB-SITES SUMMARY

Westhampton Island

Plover Activity: 16 pairs, 20 fledglings, 1.25 productivity
Terns Activity: 22 pairs, 5 fledglings, 0.22 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 53 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 199 plants

Westhampton Island consists of approximately 5.5 miles of beach extending from Roger's Beach pavilion to the Tiana Beach Pavilion. The site ranges ecologically with diverse, undeveloped dunes and ocean beach to the east and developed, narrow, and eroded dunes to the west. The site is broken down into two sites: Hampton beach and Tiana beach. Hampton Beach has three sub-sites: Rogers Pavilion to Surf Club of Quogue, Surf Club to Quogue Village Beach, and Quogue Village Beach to Dolphin Lane Beach. Tiana Beach site is broken into two sub-sites: Dolphin Lane to Triton Lane, and Triton Lane to Tiana Pavilion.

16 piping plover pairs returned to Westhampton Island to lay 31 nests, hatch 35 chicks, and successfully fledge 20 chicks for a productivity of 1.25.

22 least tern pairs nested on Westhampton Island with 5 fledges for a productivity of 0.22.

A plover chick was separated from its brood and observed with another brood during a visit to Hampton Beach in late July (data was implied when a brood lost a chick in one area and gained a chick in another similarly-aged brood). During a morning site visit on August 1st following a night of heavy rains and winds, a plover chick was seen with the adoptive brood unresponsive, shivering, and weakly calling for a parent (Fig. 16). The chick was then sent to Evelyn Wildlife Rescue Center (Fig. 17) and was released August 3rd after being supplemented with warmth and food, and fledged a week later with its adoptive brood.

Figure 16. The rescued plover chick was able to be approached this closely given its lethargic state while taking shelter from the high winds behind driftwood

Figure 17. The chick was placed in a cardboard box by volunteers then transported to the Rehabilitation center

The disturbances and challenges that these species constantly faced across the site includes off-leash dogs, people and dogs trespassing through symbolic fenced areas, ORV drivers that removed snow fencing, drones/kites, large recreational open-pit holes, and private firework displays in close proximity to protected areas. The majority of dog footprints found throughout symbolic fenced areas stemmed from beachfront homeowners as opposed to general beachgoers.

The predators observed for the site include foxes, hawks/eagles, ghost crabs, feral cats, and gulls. Evidence of a raccoon and feral cat presence was apparent throughout the site with prints found through the dunes.

53 seabeach amaranths and 199 seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. None of the seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats include: ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Hampton Beach

Plover Activity: 11 pairs, 11 fledglings, 1.00 productivity
Tern Activity: 15 pairs, 5 fledglings, 0.33 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 46 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 187 plants

The most western site of Westhampton Island extends from Roger's Beach pavilion to Dolphin Lane Beach. 11 plover pairs utilized the site with 23 nest attempts; only six re-nests successfully hatched 20 chicks with 11 that fledged, giving a productivity of 1.00 fledges per pair. Three of the six re-nests were enclosed given the higher-than-average nest predation rate for the site (Fig. 18). The site experienced an increase in nest predation this season with the same amount of nest attempts(23)for both seasons but only 6 hatching this year compared to 14 nests hatching in 2024. The most common predators for nest failure at this site were Fish crows, Foxes, and Ghost crabs. Other causes for nest failure that were identified include wash-out from high tides during storms. Chick failure is assumed to be from the large ghost crab and crow presence throughout the site accompanied by a heavy off-leash dog volume.

Figure 18. The only surviving chick from one of the three chicks that hatched from an enclosed nest and survived to fledge with its defensive parent at the sub-site Rogers Pavilion to The Surf Club of Quogue. (Jeffrey Gross, 2025)

15 breeding least terns' pairs attempted to nest in the location with 5 chicks that fledged; giving a productivity of 0.3 fledges per pair. This site experienced a decrease in nesting tern pairs compared to 2024, which may be attributed to declining habitat suitability in the area coupled with increasing human disturbance.

During the season, coastal stewards had to rearrange symbolic fences due to evidence that some homeowners were walking through their fenced areas. There are multiple repeat homeowners from years prior who continue to disrespect symbolic fencing areas at this site. These individuals have been spoken to by law enforcement, however, the situation still continues. This site experiences a high traffic of off-leash dogs from June through August. Stewards witnessed off leash dogs chase shorebirds, and would often pause their monitoring duties to speak with dog-walkers about the importance of leash laws and respecting symbolic fencing.

46 seabeach amaranths and 187 seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. None of the Seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats include: ORVs, Pedestrian traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Tiana Beach

Plover Activity: 5 pairs, 9 fledglings, 1.80 productivity
Tern activity: 7 pairs, 0 fledglings, 0.0 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 7 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 12 plants

This site starts at Dolphin Lane Beach and ends at the Tiana Beach Pavilion. This site boasts some of the most healthy and tall dunes and upper beach habitats that the Town of Southampton has to offer. Five piping plover nesting pairs returned to Tiana Beach breeding grounds to lay a total of 27 eggs amongst

eight nests. Three re-nests and one first attempt nest successfully hatched 15 chicks with 9 reaching fledge, giving a productivity of 1.80 per pair for the site.

Seven least tern pairs nested in the sub-site with no fledges yielding a productivity of 0.0 per pair.

Throughout the season, piping plover nests failure was higher than expected, with a majority of the nest failures attributed to crow and raven predation. The sub-site had a relatively moderate population and diversity of predators including foxes, fish crows, ravens, foxes, feral cats, and off-leash dogs. Additional threats reported by stewards includes, residents walking inside protected areas, dogs trespassing through symbolic fencing, ORV drivers who drove around snow fencing, firework displays near symbolic fencing, large recreational holes, kites, and drones.

Finally, seven seabeach amaranth and 12 seabeach knotweed plants were present at the site. None of the Seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats include: ORVs, Pedestrian traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Southampton Beach (Village)

Plover Activity: 16 pairs, 35 fledges, 2.19 productivity
Tern Activity: 11 pairs, 3 fledges, 0.27 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 3 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 22 plants

Located within the Village of Southampton, this site extends from the east boundary of the Shinnecock East County Park to S. Main Street. Southampton Beach Village has three sub-sites: Shinnecock County Park to Rd D (Picnic area), Rd D to Halsey Neck Lane, and Halsey Neck Lane to Gin Lane. This site ranges ecologically from extensive, diverse, and healthy dunes west of Road A, to extremely degraded and eroded dunes east from Road A to Gin Lane. 16 Plover pairs returned to the area with 27 nest attempts. A total of 35 chicks fledged giving a productivity of 2.19 fledges per pair.

11 nesting least tern pairs were observed in the site with 3 fledglings giving a productivity of 0.27 fledges per pair. This site experienced a decrease in nesting tern pairs compared to 2024, which may be attributed to declining habitat suitability in the area coupled with increasing human disturbance.

The main threats identified for the site include off-leash dogs, foxes, crows, gulls, ORV drivers driving around snow fencing, the Unauthorized Beach-raking tractor operating in protected areas, illegal firework displays, litter and general beachgoers, residents, and off-leash dogs trespassing through protected areas. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from beach going dog-walkers as opposed to beach-front residential properties.

3 Seabeach amaranths and 22 Seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. None of the Seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats include: Unauthorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Shinnecock County Park to Road D (a.k.a. The Picnic Area)

Plover Activity: 9 pairs, 19 fledges, 2.11 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 3 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 16 plants

There were nine piping plover breeding pairs and 16 nest attempts, with a total of 19 chicks that fledged giving a productivity of 2.11 fledges per pair for the sub-site. There was visiting pairs of least terns sighted in late May with scrapes, however these individuals moved to the sub-site Road D to Halsey in early June and nested there.

Seven out of the nine failed nests across the sub-site are predicted to be fox predation, an unusually high rate of nest predation. Stewards frequently documented hazardous marine debris, litter, off-leash dogs and residents trespassing through protected areas, drones/kites, the Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor operating in protected areas, and ORVs driving around snow fencing.

3 Seabeach amaranths and 16 Seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. None of the Seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats for seabeach plants include: Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Road D to Halsey Neck Lane

Plover Activity: 6 pairs, 16 fledges, 2.66 productivity
Tern Activity: 11 pairs, 3 fledges, 0.27 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 0 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 3 plants

Six piping plover pairs took up this sub-site to nest this season with nine nest attempts and 16 chicks reaching fledge with a productivity rate of 2.66.

11 pairs of least terns nested in this sub-site with 6 chicks hatching and 3 fledges yielding a productivity of 0.27 for the sub-site.

Threats reported at this site include foxes, crows, off-leash dogs, beach-front residents trespassing through protected areas, large open-pit recreational holes in front of protected areas, illegal firework displays, ORVs driving around snow fencing, and Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor operating in protected areas.

0 Seabeach amaranths and 3 Seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Threats for seabeach plants include: Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Halsey Neck Ln to S Main St

Plover Activity: 2 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0 productivity
No threatened or endangered plant species present.

Two piping plover pairs established territory in the sub-site with three nest attempts, none hatched yielding a 0.0 productivity for the sub-site. One nest was theorized to be predated from an off-leash dog given the tracks and path, the other two nests are predicted to have been predated by crows.

No least tern activity for this sub-site.

Threats identified at the sub-site include crows, raccoons, foxes, off-leash dogs, hazardous marine debris and litter, beachgoers and beach-front residents trespassing through protected areas, and garbage containers at Cooper Beach frequently overflowing attracting predators to the site. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from general beachgoers as opposed to beach-front residents.

No threatened or endangered seabeach species present. Threats include; Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and invasive prickly saltwort.

Gin Lane

Plover Activity: 2 pair, 1 fledges, 0.50 productivity
Tern Activity: 6 pairs, 1 fledges, 0.16 productivity
No threatened or endangered seabeach species present.

This site encompasses South Main Street up until Old Town Road. This site has a mix of degraded flat dunes and cliff-like dunes that yield a much narrower beach as compared to other Beach sites. This site experiences heavy pedestrian and off-leash dog traffic daily which impacts the sites nesting suitability. Two pairs attempted to nest in the area with three nests laid, two successfully hatching but only one brood survived to fledge one chick for a productivity of 0.50. An enclosure was implemented in this area given the intense frequency of off leash dogs and assumed dog predation of the first nest.

This site experiences a high volume of off-leash dogs with minimal enforcement presence. On the day of hatch for the enclosed nest, stewards witnessed the incubating adult display broken wing and lead an off-leash dog down the beach away from the freshly hatched chicks. Police was called however the beach-goer and their dog left the beach before being apprehended. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from general beachgoers. Other concerns for this site include erosion, kites, crows, foxes, feral cats, raccoons, and ORVs driving around snow fencing.

No threatened or endangered seabeach species present. Threats include; Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, ORVs, pedestrian traffic, and invasive prickly saltwort competition.

Old Town Beach

Plover Activity: 1 pair, 4 fledges, 4.00 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0 productivity
No threatened or endangered plant species present.

This site stretches from Old Town Road to Fowlers beach, and ranges from eroded densely vegetated dunes to relatively healthy dunes and upper beach near Phillips Pond. One piping plover pair attempted to nest in this area with two nests, one successfully hatched with all four chicks reaching fledge.

No least tern activity for this sub-site.

Threats for this site include feral cats, raccoons, dogs, foxes, crows, and ghost crabs. Other concerns at this site include erosion, ORVs driving around snow fencing, homeowners and off-leash dogs trespassing protected areas, and litter. Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor illegally passed the ORV fencing at least four times throughout the brood's development.

No threatened or endangered seabeach species present. Threats include; Un-authorized Beach-raking tractor running over and raking dune vegetation, wrack-line removal, pedestrian and ORV traffic, and invasive prickly saltwort.

Watermill

Plover Activity: 15 pairs, 29 fledges, 1.93 productivity
Tern Activity: 63 pairs, 25 fledges, 0.4 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 0 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 16 plants

This site begins at Fowlers Street and extends east out to Jobs Lane and incorporates three sub-sites: Fowler's Street, Flying Point Pavilion and Scott Cameron Beach within approximately 2.38 miles of coastline. This site also includes Mecox Bay, which is located between the Flying Point Road access and Scott Cameron Beach. This site features healthy to eroded dunes and beach habitat; in addition to Mecox bay, otherwise referred to as 'The Cut', these ecological features provide exceptional foraging habitat for breeding and migratory shorebirds.

The Mecox Bay sand and bay flats provide incredibly productive nesting and foraging habitat for the Piping plover and least terns (Mecox Bay Management Plan, 2019). Notably, 77.4% of chicks that hatched in Mecox cut fledged, a higher than average fledge rate when compared to other productive sites like Southampton Village Beach and Tiana. This fledge rate does not include three broods that moved from Flying Point and Scott Cameron sub-sites into the cut and fledged an additional 6 chicks from within the cut. This may be attributed to the prime foraging habitat and prey availability the cut supported this season. "Critical habitat and/or physical or biological features essential to the conservation of piping plovers within the Mecox area include adequate beach, sparsely vegetated back beach, over wash areas and undisturbed space for courting and territory establishment; sufficient foraging grounds, cover or shelter; sites for breeding, nesting and rearing of offspring; and habitats where disturbance or threats of disturbance are minimal." (Mecox Bay Management Plan, 2019)

Figure 19. A plover chick swimming across the cut, an extremely rare behavior. Young chicks may swim a short distance (less than 100 ft.) across calm waters to escape terrestrial predators. Stewards were able to record as the four-day old chick safely made it across the cut. (Sophia Cecere, 2025)

15 piping plover pairs nested in the site with 29 fledglings for a productivity of 1.93 fledges per pair.

Throughout the site, 63 least tern pairs nested, with 25 chicks that fledged giving a productivity of 0.4 fledges per pair. All tern activity occurred within the cut, with a majority of the activity occurring on the western side.

Predators documented across the site include gulls, egrets/herons, feral cats, dogs, crows/ravens, ghost crabs, eagles/hawks, foxes, and raccoons. Another pressing issue this entire site faces is misaligned dog laws and unenforced leash laws. Scott Cameron beach has a 'No dogs after April 1st' sign, while Flying Point Beach has a 'No dogs after July 1st sign'. These two beaches are less than 200 meters from each other and experience dozens of off-leash dogs every morning throughout the season. Many dog-walkers and homeowners have been spoken to by monitors but continue bringing their off-leash dog to the beaches every day. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, likely stemming from beach going dog-walkers.

0 seabeach amaranth plants and 16 seabeach knotweed plants were found in this area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Fowlers Beach

This site was inactive for both endangered birds and plants, however there is nesting and brooding potential habitat for piping plovers throughout the sub-site. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Flying Point Pavilion

Plover Activity: 8 pairs, 18 fledges, 2.25 productivity
Tern Activity: 34 pairs, 14 fledges, 0.41 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 0 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 16 plants

This site extends from the Flying Point Pavilion to the west side of the Cut (Mecox Bay) and is partially eroded with steep tall dunes. Eight pairs of piping plovers nested in the area with ten nest attempts, 18 chicks reached fledge for a total productivity of 2.25 fledges per pair for the sub-site.

34 pairs of least terns nested on the flying point side of the cut with 14 chicks that fledged, giving a productivity of 0.41 fledges per pair.

The majority of the breeding grounds are concentrated to the west side of Mecox Bay. Throughout the season, there were multiple human activities reported during the visits, including off-leash dogs and beachgoers trespassing through protected areas, paragliders, kites/drones, vehicles running down ORV fencing, and large gatherings next to and within protected areas. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from general beachgoers as opposed to beach-front residents.

Predators documented at the site include ghost crabs, egrets/herons, gulls, feral cats, dogs, raccoons, foxes. These repeated off leash dogs' events were reported to law enforcement and beach attendants, but the situation remained the same throughout the season.

0 seabeach amaranth plants and 16 seabeach knotweed plants were found in this area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Scott Cameron

Plover Activity: 7 pairs, 11 fledges, 1.57 productivity
Tern Activity: 29 pairs, 11 fledges, 0.37 productivity
No threatened or endangered plant species present.

This site extends from the end of Dune Road to Jobs Lane, starting from the East side of Mecox Bay which attracts various shorebirds and waterfowl. Shorebirds in this location faced the same threats that were mentioned above for the Flying Point sub-site on the west side of Mecox Bay. Seven pairs of piping plovers nested in the areas with ten nests attempts, and 11 chicks that fledged giving a productivity of 1.57 fledges per pair.

29 pairs of least terns were able to nest within the Scott Cameron cut with 18 chicks hatching and 11 fledges giving a productivity of 0.37 for the sub-site.

Threats and predators identified in the area were foxes, ghost crabs, egrets/herons, crows, seagulls, off-leash dogs, raccoons, and feral cats. This site experiences a high traffic of off-leash dogs throughout the entire season regardless of posted signage. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from general beachgoers as opposed to beach-front residents. Coastal stewards reported the disturbances but the situation remained the same throughout the season with multiple visits by the Town of Southampton Animal Control, Marine Constables, and the Town of Southampton Police.

No threatened or endangered seabeach species present. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Sam's Creek/Mecox Beach

This site encompasses from Mecox Beach to Ocean Road and is eroded with heavy pedestrian and off-leash dog traffic on a narrow-eroded beach.

This site was inactive for both endangered birds and plants. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Sagaponack Pond

Plover Activity: 4 pairs, 4 fledges, 1.00 productivity
Tern Activity: 14 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 1 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 38 plants

This site stretches from Ocean Road to Gibson Lane. Sagaponack Pond, one of Southampton's Salt Ponds, lies in the middle of this site which provides a critical foraging and breeding ground for both migratory and breeding shorebirds. The site is divided into two sub-sites; Sagaponack Lake West (Ocean Road to Surfside Drive/the West side of Sagg cut) and Sagaponack Lake East (Sagg main street/the East side of Sagg cut to Gibson Street).

Four nesting pairs of piping plovers visited the area during breeding season, with eight nests attempts and four chicks that fledged, giving a productivity of 1.00 fledges per pair. The high rates of nest predation this season is associated with the amount of litter, food scraps, and garbage left at sites or in the parking lot which attracted predators such as crows, gulls, and raccoons. This site experiences a high traffic of off-leash dogs throughout the entire season regardless of posted signage. Dog footprints were documented in a majority of protected areas at this site, with most prints stemming from general beachgoers as opposed to beach-front residents.

14 least terns pairs nested in total within the site with 0 fledges, giving a productivity of 0.0 fledges per pair. Flooding, intense nest predation, or human disturbance, is theorized as to why no chicks hatched at the site.

Threats and predators such as foxes, raccoons, crows, seagulls, ghost crabs, dogs, and feral cats were identified in the area. The majority of these predator tracks were found in the portion of Sagaponack Pond. Other threats include people and dogs trespassing through protected areas ignoring restricted signs.

1 seabeach amaranth and 38 seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. None of the seabeach amaranth counted were seen following Hurricane Erin's swells in Mid-August. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Fairfield Pond Beach

Plover Activity: 3 pairs, 1 fledges, 0.33 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0 productivity
Seabeach Amaranth: 0 plants
Seabeach Knotweed: 5 plants

This site is located between Gibson Lane and Townline Road and contains two sub-sites; Fairfield Pond Lane Beach West (Gibson Lane to Peters Pond) and Fairfield Pond Lane Beach East (Peters Pond to Townline Road). The site varies ecologically from moderately healthy dunes to eroded and degraded cliff-dunes with a narrow beach. Three piping plover pairs nested in the area, six nests were laid with one successfully hatching producing one fledge, which gave a productivity of 0.33 for the site. Due to the extremely high rates of nest predation, coupled with the low productivity of the site and heavy traffic of off-leash dogs, an enclosure was installed to protect the last remaining nest for the site.

No least tern activity for this sub-site.

Predators such as raccoons, foxes, dogs, crows, gulls, ghost crabs, and feral cats were documented in this area.

0 seabeach amaranth plants and 5 seabeach knotweed plants were found in this area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and invasive prickly saltwort competition.

BAY SITES

Red Cedar Point

Plover Activity: 4 pairs, 7 fledges, 1.75 productivity
Tern Activity: 112 pairs, 36 fledges, 0.27 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 14 plants

Red Cedar Point extends out into the Great Peconic Bay, boasting an intertidal salt flat that attracts a diverse plethora of both waterfowl and shorebird visitors. Four pairs of piping plovers visited the area with seven nests and seven chicks that fledged, giving a productivity of 1.75 fledges per pair.

112 nesting pairs of least terns were present in the area with 36 chicks that fledged, giving a productivity of 0.27 fledges per pair. This bay site hosts the largest least tern colony in the Town of Southampton.

The predators that inhabit this site includes predators like raccoons, an outdoor cat, crows, gulls, egrets/herons, and off-leash dogs. Additionally, boats, kayaks, and jet skis landed in the area, with a light presence of pedestrians.

14 seabeach knotweeds were found in this area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian traffic, and invasive prickly saltwort competition.

Red Creek Pond

This site was inactive for both endangered birds. **Seabeach Knotweed**: 5 plants

This site was inactive for both endangered birds. This site was previously utilized by piping plovers and least terns for breeding, predator pressure and site suitability may be factors as to why the site was not utilized for breeding purposes this season.

The main disturbances these species faced during the season include predators such as raccoons, foxes, dogs, and ospreys. This site is being overtaken by Japanese Knotweed which will continue to degrade breeding and nesting potential for both piping plovers and least terns as the invasive species rapidly colonizes the native dune ecosystem, which is too dense of vegetation to nest nearby and outcompetes the threatened native seabeach species (Fig. 20).

Figure 20. Japanese Knotweed rapidly spreads at Red Creek in areas where plovers and terns would typically nest, if left unmanaged, this will eliminate T&E species nesting and breeding habitat, and outcompete native seabeach species. (Joann Smith, 2024)

5 seabeach knotweeds found in the area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and Japanese knotweed and prickly saltwort competition.

Squires Pond

Plover Activity: 3 pairs, 1 fledges, 0.33 productivity
Tern Activity: 9 pairs, 4 fledges, 0.44 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 0 plants

Squires pond sits on the Great Peconic Bay in Hampton Bays, nestled on a salt pond with dunes and wetlands tucked within. This site experiences intense pedestrian and ORV usage, with off-leash dogs frequent at the site regardless of posted signage. Two pairs of piping plovers utilized the area with 3 nest attempts, 2 hatched and 1 chick reached fledge for a productivity of 0.50 for the site.

9 least tern pairs visited the area with 4 fledglings giving a productivity of 0.44 fledges per pair.

The site was inactive for seabeach knotweed plants. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Towd Neck

Plover Activity: 7 pairs, 1 fledges, 0.14 productivity
Tern Activity: 18 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 3166 plants

This site encompasses an area with an inlet that separates the location into two sites; Towd Neck West and Towd Neck East. The western area has a large eroding bluff dune which may be a cause for the lack of nesting attempts on this side. The eastern area is a popular location for piping plover and least tern colonies to breed, with a flat grade rocky site and dune vegetation swaddled by tidal wetlands. In total, seven piping plover pairs returned to breed, 12 nest attempts with only one hatching and one chick reaching fledge producing a productivity of 0.14 for the site.

There was an increase in nest predation as compared to seasons prior which may be attributed to increasing predator populations. Although not typically considered a threat or predator, a whitetail deer

trampled a plover nest at the East site in May which destroyed the nest. Threats and predators documented at the site include deer, ospreys, foxes, raccoons, crows, drones/kites, and dogs.

This site has the most seabeach knotweed plants found throughout the Town of Southampton, with a combined total of 3166 plants. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Towd Neck West

Plover Activity: 1 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.00 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 683 plants

This site extends east from the boundaries of Elizabeth Morton National Wildlife Refuge at North Sea Road to the West side of the North Sea Harbor inlet. It is primarily composed of tall and steep bluffs with dunes levelling off to the undeveloped eastern section of the site. The non-bluff section of the site is where a plover pair re-nested after losing their first attempt to fox predation, however the re-nest was unfortunately lost to an unknown predator just days before the estimated hatch date.

683 seabeach knotweeds were found in the area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort and hoary mugwort competition.

Towd Neck East

Plover Activity: 6 pairs, 1 fledges, 0.17 productivity
Tern Activity: 18 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 2463 plants

Six piping plover pairs nested in the area with 11 nest attempts, four chicks hatched and one chick fledged, giving a productivity of 0.17 fledges per pair.

18 least tern pairs visited the area with 0 fledglings giving a productivity of 0.0 fledges per pair.

This site experienced higher than average nest predation this season with 11 nests laid and only one hatching. Fox, crow, and raccoon predation has most likely increased at the site due to natural processes or from litter and food attraction to the site. Threats and predators to the site include foxes, crows, off

leash dogs, deer, drones, and ORVs driving through fencing were identified as potential threats in the area.

2463 seabeach knotweed plants were found across the sub-site. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian and ORV traffic, and prickly saltwort competition.

Long Beach

Plover Activity: 2 pairs, 5 fledges, 2.50 productivity
Tern Activity: 18 pairs, 4 fledges, 0.22 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 48 plants

Long beach is a 1.08 mile stretch of bay beach tucked between Noyac Bay and Sag Harbor Cove; with two pairs of piping plovers nesting at the site hatching seven chicks with five reaching fledge giving a productivity of 2.50 per pair.

18 pairs of least terns nested in the area with 4 chicks that fledged giving a productivity of 0.22 fledges per pair.

Long Beach is a popular area during the summer season and has a share of threats and predators. With a high traffic of pedestrians, off leash dogs, litter, drones, parasailers, and kites are frequent at this site and also disturb the nesting ospreys within the Long Beach parking lot. ORV access is not permitted here, however, ORV tracks were found while a brood was present, and no chicks were harmed. Predators identified include ospreys, dogs, and raccoons.

48 seabeach knotweed plants were found in the area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian traffic, and invasive hoary mugwort and prickly saltwort competition.

Figure 21. The Atlantic Flyway Initiative's report on working with beach recreationists on minimizing human disturbance cover photo taken at the Long Beach site (Atlantic Flyway Initiative).

Short Beach

Plover Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Tern Activity: 3 pairs, 2 fledges, 0.7 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 49 plants

This site became active following the least tern colony abandonment at Long Beach in late June. A majority of the terns at Long Beach moved to Short beach and nested here in early July with a total of 3 pairs and 2 chicks reaching fledge giving a productivity of 0.7 for the site.

49 seabeach knotweed plants were found in this area. Threats for seabeach plants include: Pedestrian traffic, and invasive hoary mugwort and prickly saltwort competition.

Canoe Place Beach

Plover Activity: 1 pair, 0 fledges, 0.0 productivity
Tern Activity: 0 pairs, 0 fledges, 0 productivity
Seabeach Knotweed: 1 plant

Canoe Place had its first piping plover nest since the T&E program was commenced and was most likely predated by an off-leash dog or buried by humans that trespassed into the protected area. This pair attempted at Canoe Place after their first nest attempt was predated by crows and/or grackles at Squires East Landing, Unfortunately, the pair was unable to successfully nest this season.

Pine Neck/Mill Creek

The site was inactive for endangered birds.
Seabeach Knotweed: 3 plants

Pine Neck was historically the most productive least tern colony site on Long Island, with 225 least terns reported in 1985 according to The Noyack Bay Beaches Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat Assessment form. Increased pedestrian traffic, ORV usage, and frequent off-leash dog presence has most likely declined the habitat suitability of the site.

Wooley Pond E & W

The site was inactive for endangered birds.
Seabeach Knotweed: 17 plants

Genet Creek

The site was inactive for endangered birds.
Seabeach Knotweed: 6 plants

Middle Pond

The site was inactive for endangered birds.
Seabeach Knotweed: 3 plants

Fish Cove/North Sea Harbor

The site was inactive for endangered birds and plants.

Roses Grove

The site was inactive for endangered birds and plants.

Meschutt Beach

The site was inactive for endangered birds and plants.

Fresh Pond

The site was inactive for endangered birds and plants.

VIII. DISCUSSION

The Town of Southampton is blessed with some of the most biologically productive coastal grounds located on the South Shore of Long Island. Long Island is the #1 most human-populated island in the United States, that continues to boast biodiverse coastlines, and a unique ecology and geology molded from the retreat of the Lauren tide ice sheet roughly 150,000 years ago. The sandy and rocky beaches along Southampton's Ocean shoreline consists of heavy minerals in a mixed-substrate from glaciation processes that is primarily Garnet, Magnetite, and Zircon (U.S. National Park Service 1996). The ecoregion of the Towns coastline is primarily Atlantic Coastal Pine Barren Barrier Islands, Coastal Marshes, and Coastal Lowlands, which influences the ecology and topology of the coastline.

According to the 2025 State of the Birds Report, Shorebirds are the most imperiled group of birds with the most tipping point species of any group of birds in North America. Piping plovers and least terns are listed as Orange Alert tipping point species, which are species that are showing long-term population losses and accelerated recent declines within the past decade. Frustratingly, almost 3/4ths of declining shorebird species are suffering continued losses despite conservation efforts. As both anthropogenic and climate change impacts continue to modify the Town of Southampton's shoreline, potential breeding and nesting habitat diminishes each year. This program is effective at protecting natural resources, such as threatened and endangered wildlife, due to the rigorous monitoring, outreach, and education performed by both the coastal stewards and the Board of Trustees.

i. Anthropogenic Influence

Human disturbance to nesting and breeding shorebirds within the Atlantic Flyway poses a significant threat to species recovery. Throughout the program, the need for constant environmental education that include the important role the communities play in conservation programs and mitigation plans, was seen as a necessity for these popular locations to support the integrity of the coastal structure.

Within the human activities reported in the 2025 T&E program, litter across the coastal ecosystems was present at every site regardless of human presence. Stewards recorded the presence of litter at multiple

sub-sites, particularly Sagg Main Beach (Fig. 22), Squires Pond, Flying Point, and the Picnic Area. Stewards also recorded dangerous litter and marine debris that is hazardous for both humans and wildlife (Fig. 23) such as derelict crab cages, gill nets, fishing line/rope, metal and wooden boards with nails, and uncontained burning coal from uncontained fires. The most common marine debris or litter found during monitoring was single-use plastics (food, drink, containers, wrapping), fishing line/nets/lures, balloons, firework debris, food leftovers, uncontained fire pit charcoals, and garbage from social gatherings or parties. Another concerning find was rubber fishing lures in tern habitat that may be getting mistaken for food as they hunt close to the shoreline.

Figure 22. Garbage overflowing from the trash-bins at Sagg Main Beach in Sagaponack. (Joann Smith, 2025)

Figure 23. A dead Northern Gannet washed up at the Fairfield Pond site with rope-like material entangled in its beak. (Kevin Moran, 2025)

Figure 24. Garbage overflowing from trash-bins at Fowlers Beach in the Village. (Samantha Sabah, 2025)

In order to protect our wildlife and beaches, a more effective litter management program is necessary for Southampton's coastal ecosystems which must involve community education and law enforcement for beachgoers that do not practice correct garbage disposal. Efficient and frequent garbage removal is needed by the Village and Town of Southampton's departments to minimize nest and chick predator attraction to sites. More yellow bins that are designated for collecting litter is needed at Town and Village beaches.

Providing limited ORV access, when feasible, helps mitigate human-wildlife conflicts over the use of mixed-purpose natural resources like Southampton's Ocean beaches. A small minority of the public who struggle with protected shorebird ORV regulations and run down or drive around ORV fencing for recreational enjoyment seriously threaten the lives of unfledged chicks given it may be a frequent occurrence for a specific site (Old Town Beach). Stewards were also present two separate times when a vehicle was on a walk-on only beach given the unfledged chicks in the area. At Mecox cut, marine constables were able to apprehend an ORV driver that ran over our fencing and dispersed tickets for putting the unfledged chicks in the cut at risk in July. To deter people from removing or running down snow fencing at access roads, staggering two snow fences one meter from each other has shown to be effective. On multiple occasion's un-authorized beach-raking tractor entered No-Vehicle areas with unfledged chicks in close proximity.

Interruption of incubation was noted multiple times by monitors who witnessed incubating plovers stop incubating and begin defending their nest against off-leash dogs. Disturbance involves situations where dogs harass or scare other animals without causing death or injuries, leading to behavioral changes and energetic/reproductive costs for the animal. This was the most common form of human-shorebird disturbance documented by stewards for the 2025 season, and was commonly reported to authorities. Several off-leash dog owners continued bringing their dog off-leash to sites even after being educated by stewards about the law, highlighting the need for law enforcement to be present on the beaches.

Figure 25. An unsupervised dog inside symbolic fencing that came from a homeowner's boardwalk at Towd Point East. (Tabitha Ferreri, 2025)

Figure 26. A highway of dog footprints from a beachfront homeowner's walkway through symbolic fencing with an enclosed nest a few feet away at the Tiana site. (Joann Smith, 2025)

Hampton Beach, Watermill Beach, and Southampton Beach Village were sites with an overwhelming amount of off leash dogs and very little to no law enforcement present to enforce leash laws. Coastal stewards would constantly witness numerous dogs running inside symbolic fences where chicks were present, causing broods to move further from their hatch site. Some locations with extensive dunes (Road D to Halsey, Picnic Area, and sections of Hampton Beach), coupled with a large beach area, provided an extra buffer protection to the nesting shorebird pairs and chicks during these types of events which possibly increased the chances of remaining unharmed from off-leash dogs. Cortes, E. *et al.* 2021 emphasizes how domestic dogs become direct predators and a major source of disturbance for shorebirds and chicks.

SOUTHAMPTON LOVES DOGS AS MUCH AS YOU DO!

WHEN & WHERE ARE DOGS PERMITTED ON SOUTHAMPTON TOWN BEACHES, PARKS AND TRAILS?

* SEE SOUTHAMPTON TOWN CODE CHAPTER 111 AND CHAPTER 150 FOR FULL TEXT OF LOCAL ORDINANCES

DOGS ARE ALLOWED ONLY BETWEEN OCTOBER 1ST AND APRIL 1ST

DOGS MUST BE LEASHED AND UNDER IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.

DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT ALL TOWN-OWNED BEACH RECREATION FACILITIES UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- All dogs must be under immediate supervision and control at all times.
- All animal waste must be removed.
- Dogs are not allowed within 50 feet of any areas posted for protection of piping plovers and other endangered species.

BEACH RECREATION FACILITIES

- Tiana Beach, East Quogue
- Tiana Bayside, East Quogue
- Ponquogue Beach, Hampton Bays
- Elliston Park, North Sea (unprotected)
- Foster Memorial Beach (Long Beach), Noyac
- Flying Point Beach, Water Mill
- W. Scott Cameron Beach, Bridgehampton
- Mecox Beach, Bridgehampton
- Sagg Main Beach, Sagaponack
- Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes
- Sand Bar Beach, Hampton Bays (unprotected)
- Wildwood Lake Park, Northampton (unprotected)

DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON TOWN ACCESS ROAD BEACHES (UNPROTECTED WATERFRONTS) UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- All dogs must be under immediate supervision and control at all times.
- Dogs are allowed on Ocean and Bay Beach areas within 150 feet of an Access Road regulated as "Parking -by-Permit Only" **area before 9am and after 6pm. July 1 - Labor Day**
- Dogs are not allowed within 50 feet of any areas posted for protection of piping plovers and other endangered species.
- Town Trustees or Town Parks Superintendent may from time to time enact further restrictions on permitting dogs at access road beaches such as enacting a "Leash Law" if required. Signs are posted at any such location to advise of additional restrictions due to Special

TOWN ACCESS ROAD BEACHES (including Town Trustee Access Roads)

- Cold Spring Rd, Tuckahoe
- Dolphin Ln, East Quogue
- East Landing Rd & West Landing Rd, Hampton Bays
- Flying Point Rd, Mecox Inlet
- Hot Dog Beach, East Quogue
- Mermaid Ln, Hampton Bays
- Ocean Rd, Bridgehampton
- Peters Pond Ln, Sagaponack
- Roads H, I, L, and K, Hampton Bays
- Sunset Ave, Hampton Bays
- Triton Ln, East Quogue
- Long Neck Blvd, Flanders
- Beachdale Rd, Hampton Bays
- Sebonac Inlet Rd, Tuckahoe
- North Sea Rd, North Sea
- Towd Point Rd, North Sea
- Circle Beach, Noyac

ETIQUETTE

- Always clean up after your dog. IT'S THE LAW!
- Do not let your dog visit with other beach/park users or dogs, unless welcomed.
- If your dog is permitted to be off-leash, your dog needs to be well-behaved and must listen to your verbal commands.
- Always be responsible and pay attention to your dog's actions.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE COMMON SENSE WHEN BRINGING YOUR DOG TO THE BEACH:

- Make sure you bring plenty of fresh water for your dog to drink. Try to keep your dog from drinking salt water as it can lead to medical problems.
- Keep your dog out of dune areas and away from wildlife, especially areas posted for the protection of endangered species.
- When you have to take your dog on the beach, DO NOT let your dog stay in the car when the weather is warm. Interior temperatures can quickly rise to dangerous levels even on moderately warm days.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SOUTHAMPTON TOWN
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL
631-702-2915 OR
SOUTHAMPTON TOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Figure 27. The Town of Southampton Dog rules flier

ii. Native and Non-native threats

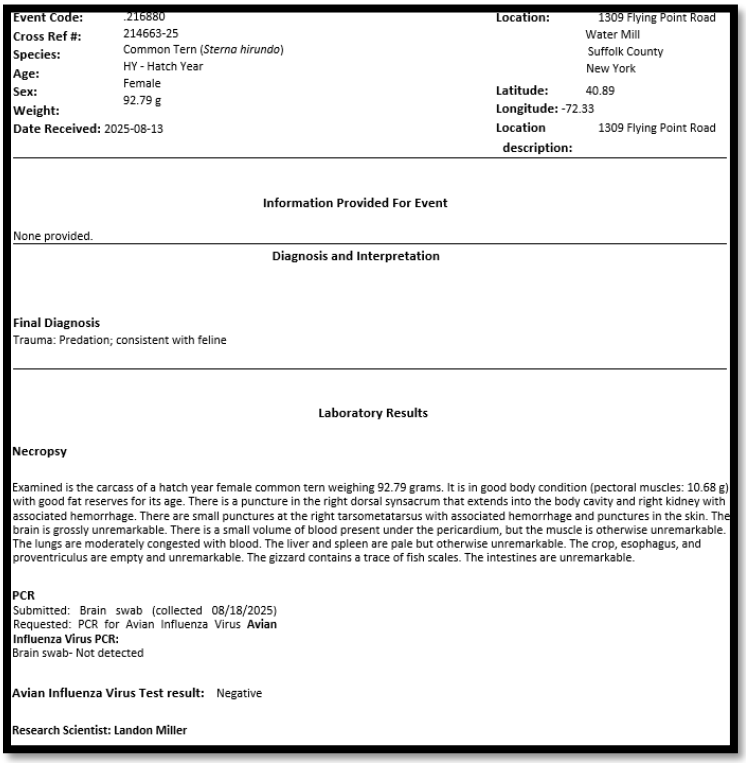
Figure 28. Ghost Grab (Ocypode quadrata) predating a plover egg in the 2023 season at the Hampton Beach site (Jeffrey Gross, 2023)

Figure 29. Red Fox in a parking lot adjacent to the Quogue Village Beach to Dolphin Lane sub-site, where ¾ nests laid were lost to fox predation. (Joann Smith, 2025)

Avian raptors and mammals are considered direct predators of eggs during the incubation stage (Ivan, J & Murphy R. 2005). These predators represent a threat from the egg stage into adulthood, and have been recorded predating a nest on the estimated hatch date (Southampton Beach Village). Sites like Southampton Village Beach, Fairfield Pond, and Hampton Beach, and Towd Point, all faced an increase in nest predation by crows, ravens, foxes, and raccoons. Ghost crabs were also a commonly documented nest and chick predator across multiple ocean sites. Westhampton Island has a high frequency and

intensity of ghost crab burrows and tracks throughout the sites, and are most likely responsible for the 'unknown' nest and chick losses in some areas (Fig. 31).

Corvids, egrets, herons, gulls, foxes, raccoons, dogs, and feral cats were documented as confirmed or potential nest and chick predators for the 2025 season across multiple bay and ocean sites. A female common tern fledgling was found deceased following Hurricane Erin that was predated by a feral cat (Fig. 21). Although no common terns nested within Mecox cut this year, fledglings and non-breeding adults are a common sight in the Cut early and late into the breeding season. Feral cats are a notoriously successful predator on avian species, specifically ground nesting birds. This highlights the need for effective TNR and feral cat management throughout the south shore.



Event Code: .216880
Cross Ref #: 214663-25
Species: Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
Age: HY - Hatch Year
Sex: Female
Weight: 92.79 g
Date Received: 2025-08-13

Location: 1309 Flying Point Road
Water Mill
Suffolk County
New York
Latitude: 40.89
Longitude: -72.33
Location description: 1309 Flying Point Road

Information Provided For Event

None provided.

Diagnosis and Interpretation

Final Diagnosis
Trauma: Predation; consistent with feline

Laboratory Results

Necropsy

Examined is the carcass of a hatch year female common tern weighing 92.79 grams. It is in good body condition (pectoral muscles: 10.68 g) with good fat reserves for its age. There is a puncture in the right dorsal synsacrum that extends into the body cavity and right kidney with associated hemorrhage. There are small punctures at the right tarsometatarsus with associated hemorrhage and punctures in the skin. The brain is grossly unremarkable. There is a small volume of blood present under the pericardium, but the muscle is otherwise unremarkable. The lungs are moderately congested with blood. The liver and spleen are pale but otherwise unremarkable. The crop, esophagus, and proventriculus are empty and unremarkable. The gizzard contains a trace of fish scales. The intestines are unremarkable.

PCR
Submitted: Brain swab (collected 08/18/2025)
Requested: PCR for Avian Influenza Virus **Avian Influenza Virus PCR:**
Brain swab- Not detected

Avian Influenza Virus Test result: Negative

Research Scientist: Landon Miller

Figure 30. Necropsy results for the feral cat-predated common tern fledgling found at Mecox cut.

Invasive species identified during monitoring can provide insight into local population dynamics, threats to native species, and illuminate the impacts climate change will have on the local ecology.

Invasive species currently present in the Southampton Township that were identified during monitoring: Asian shore crab (*Hemigrpsus sanguineus),* Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Common chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Common mullein (*Verbasum Thapsus*), Feral cats (*Felis Catus*), House sparrows (*Passer domesticus)*, Hoary Mugwort (Artemisia stelleriana), Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula),*

Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*), Prostrate Knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare),* Common reed *(Phragmites australis)*

iii. Climate change

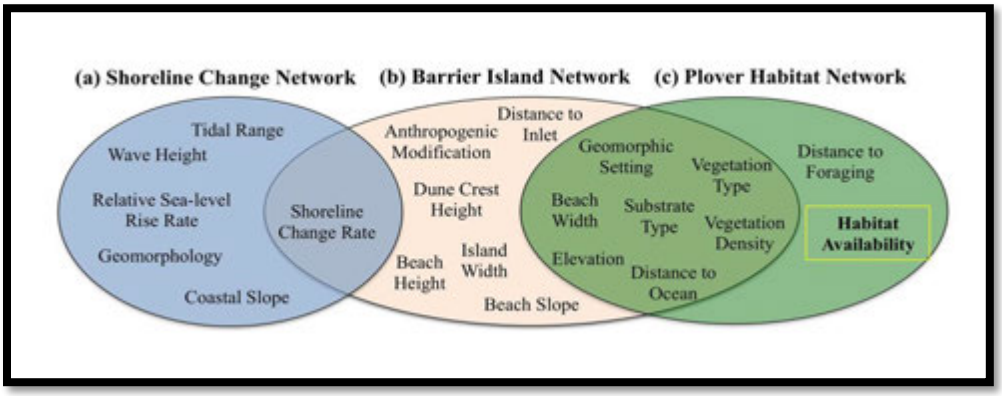


Figure 31. USGS 2017

Climate change coupled with human interventions presents a great concern for the reduction in quality of shorebirds nesting sites, forcing the birds to nest in less desirable areas, such as smaller, busier beaches with limited options for foraging (DEEP CT. 2021). Beach and dune erosion was recorded throughout the season at various sites. In the beginning of the season, significant sections of Fairfield Beach, Hampton Beach, Southampton Beach Village, including Road D to Gin; had large portions of beach missing, eroded dunes, and dangerous tide/sandbar patterns that have the potential to wash away mid-beach nests. Towards late July and early August, strong storm surges coupled with a new moon led to parts of the lower beach being swept away, creating cliff like edges that posed a serious threat to foraging plover chicks.

Climate change will bring about increased precipitation, which is a serious threat to least terns that typically nest in flood prone areas. In addition to increased precipitation amounts, climate change may also increase frequency and intensity of storm surges throughout the breeding season, which threatens all T&E species currently monitored under the program. Climate change related impacts to benthic organisms and baitfish that the T&E shorebirds rely on may also threaten the productivity and abundance of these species within the region.

iv. Umbrella Species Effect

The Umbrella species effect refers to a species with large area requirements for which protection offers protection to other species that share the same habitat. This season, stewards recorded numerous species of shorebirds, songbirds, mammals, reptiles, and insects utilizing symbolic fencing areas at various sites. A vagrant American White Pelican took up Mecox cut in early June, far from the Central flyway the species occupies (Fig. 35). American Oystercatchers were reported with nests at Tiana and Red Cedar however

the nests most likely failed, predated, or abandoned. At Squires Pond, Towd Point, Red Cedar, and Red Creek, the state special concern Northern Diamondback Terrapin was documented nesting within the protected shorebird areas (Fig. 36). Sub-sites including Scott Cameron, Triton to Tiana pavilion, and Peters Pond to Townline, experienced extreme erosion early in the season which created large cliff-dunes. These recently eroded dunes provided nesting habitats for cliff swallows, a species listed as least concern, however is currently rapidly declining to presumed insect population declines. The Nine-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella novemnotata)*, a Critically Imperiled insect in New York, was seen within symbolic fencing at Long Beach (Fig. 38). The Lost Ladybug Project reported a single known location in New York with 21 nine-spotted lady beetles from an organic farm in Amagansett in 2011, prior to this discovery, the species was assumed to be extirpated from the state (Cornell University 2013). Seabeach sandwort, a rare, vulnerable (S3) plant was also observed within symbolic fencing in Westhampton alongside a Seabeach amaranth plant (Fig. 40). Overall, hundreds of species were documented within protected shorebird areas this season, highlighting the benefits of protected shorebird areas and their Umbrella protection effect on other species.

Figure 32. A vagrant American White Pelican spotted in early June resting near the symbolic fencing within Mecox Bay Cut for two weeks before departing (Sophia Cecere, 2025)

Figure 33. A Northern Diamondback Terrapin nesting within symbolic fencing at Towd Point East (Tabitha Ferreri, 2025)

Figure 34. A juvenile harbor seal resting in symbolic fencing with a small injury on its neck (Ryan Butler, 2025)

Figure 35. The critically imperiled and official New York State insect, the Nine-Spotted Lady Beetle (C9), mating on a milkweed plant within symbolic fencing at Long Beach (Joann Smith, 2025)

Figure 36. Evidence of beach mice species within symbolic fencing at the sub-site, Dolphin to Triton, from a tunnel formation in the upper beach is a common sight on healthy beaches. (Joann Smith, 2025)

Figure 37. Seabeach amaranth and Seaside Sandwort (S3, Rare) growing in symbolic fencing in Westhampton. Both were washed out during Hurricane Erin (Joann Smith, 2025)

IX. CONCLUSIONS

The Threatened and Endangered species program this year identified areas of concern for future seasons that must be addressed to effectively execute the programs objectives; environmental and conservation education, public engagement, and the enforcement of regulations.

- In order to maintain Southampton's coastal ecosystem's integrity; it is crucial to support conservation efforts that pursue the protection of the threatened and endangered flora and fauna species that inhabits its ecosystems.
- Environmental education and outreach are highly encouraged by monitors to general beach goers, beachfront property owners, and beach managers.
- Increasing voluntary compliance of local codes and State/Federal regulations is crucial to minimize incubation/brooding disturbance or harassment of breeding shorebirds and chicks.
- Providing limited access is important for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts over mixed-use natural resources
- Responsive and educated enforcement of village and town codes is needed. Law enforcement must be willing to patrol areas by foot during 4x4 closures if necessary.

X. GALLERY

These photos are from the 2025 monitoring season, submitted by stewards, two wildlife photographers, and a former steward. All photographs featured were taken within the Town of Southampton; and showcase the productivity and biodiversity of our coastlines.


Jeffrey Gross, 2025


Tabitha Ferreri, 2025


Jeffrey Gross, 2025


Sophia Cecere, 2025


Jeffrey Gross, 2025


Matthew Mazzella, 2025

XI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The staff of the Southampton Town Trustees Threatened and Endangered Species program would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who supported our program during the 2025 season. Thank you, Board of Trustees; President Scott Horowitz., Edward Warner Jr., and Richard Maran, Joseph McLoughlin and Matthew Parsons for all of your continued support. Thank you Trustee Office Staff Jessica Feldman, James Duryea, Shakira Fothergill, Lisa Koehne, and Charlotte Dickinson, Stephanie Shea, Charlotte Van Houten, Theresa Cannone, Laura Parmigiani; Tim Wilson and the Marine Maintenance staff; Joe Jannsen of the Nature Conservancy, Steve Sinkevich of the USFWS, Michelle Gibbons, Sophia Brown of the NYSDEC, the Southampton Town GIS Department, Southampton Village Trustees, Village Department of Public Works Superintendent and the public that had patience, understanding and respect towards the work that we perform. We also would like to thank the Suffolk County Threatened and Endangered Species program consisting of Diana Lynch and her endangered species staff, for collaborating and monitoring Southampton's Picnic Area. Thank you, Quogue Beach Club, Surf Club of Quogue, and Quantuck Beach Club, for allowing our stewards to utilize their private access points and restrooms while monitoring on Westhampton Island. Thank you to members of the community whom had patience, understanding, and those who offered assistance to stewards. None of this work would have been possible without all of you, your hard work and dedication, Thank you.

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Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025

0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet

CANOE PLACE BEACH

Hampton Bays

Successful

Unsuccessful

2024 Successful

2023

2022

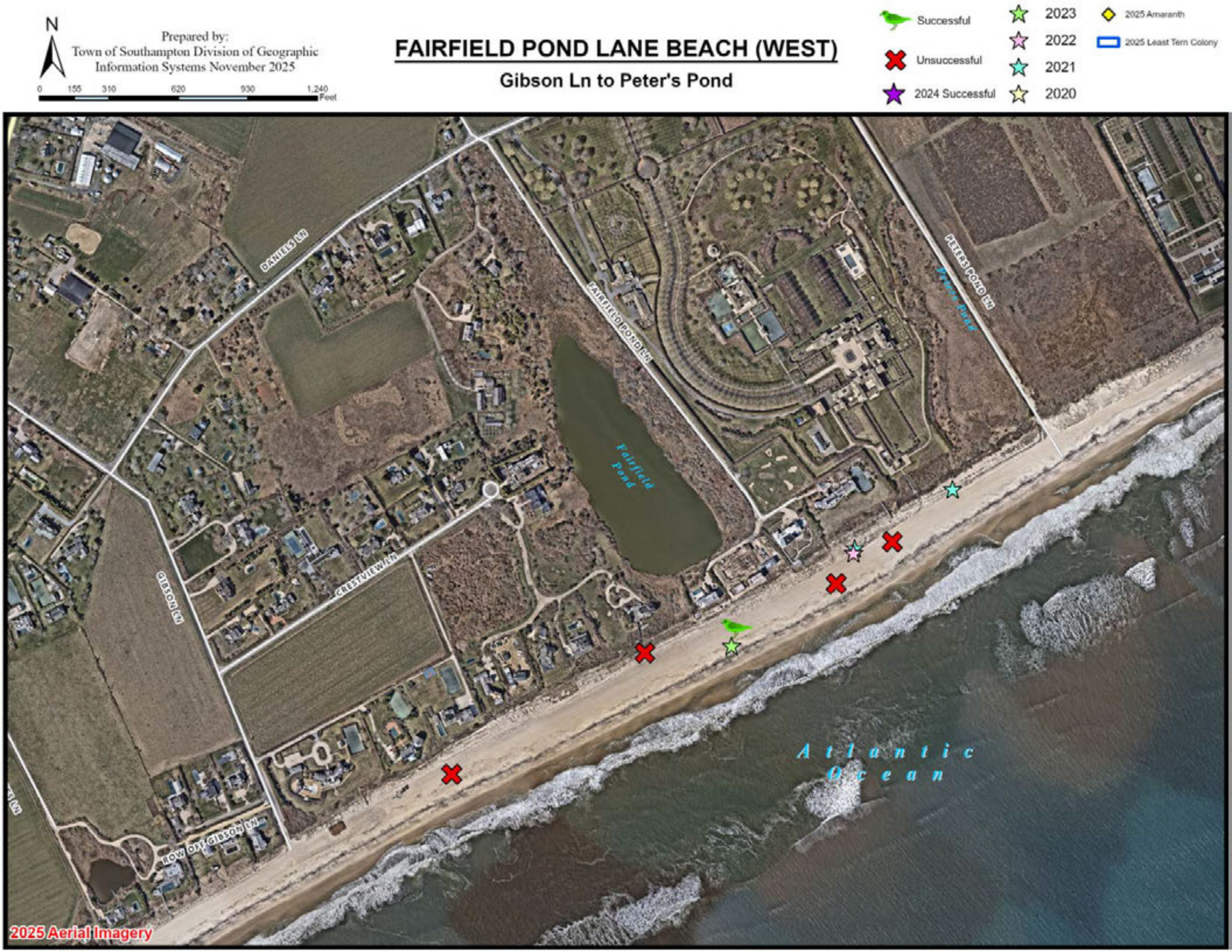
2021

2020

2025 Amaranth

2025 Least Tern Colony


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 155 310 620 930 1,240
Feet
FAIRFIELD POND LANE BEACH (EAST)
Peter's Pond Ln to Town line Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
ERICKSON CT
DANIELS LN
POTATO RD
PRIVATE RD
POTATO LN
TOWN LINE RD
PETERS POND LN
Peters Pond
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery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FAIRFIELD POND LANE BEACH (WEST)
Gibson Ln to Peter's Pond
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
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2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
DANIELS LN
FAIRFIELD POND LN
PETERS POND LN
Peters Pond
Fairfield Pond
GIBSON LN
CRESTVIEW LN
ROW OFF GIBSON LN
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery

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Prepared by:
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0 287.5 575 1,150 1,725 2,300 Feet

FISH COVE / NORTH SEA HABOR

North Sea

Successful

Unsuccessful

2024 Successful

2023

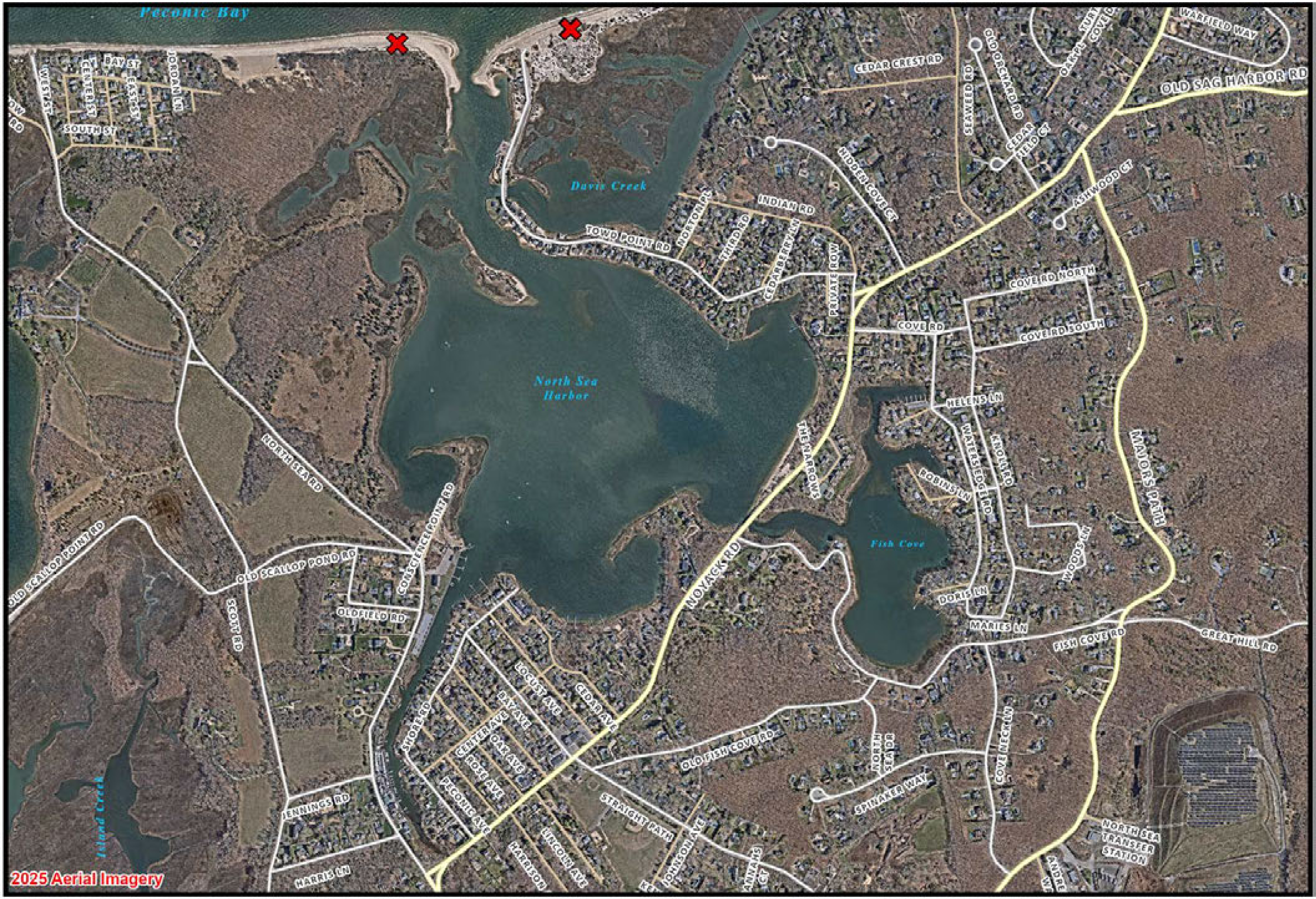
2022

2021

2020

2025 Amaranth

2025 Least Tern Colony



Peconic Bay
Davis Creek
North Sea Harbor
Fish Cove
Island Creek
WEST ST
CENTER ST
BAY ST
EAST ST
JORDAN LN
SOUTH ST
CEDAR CREST RD
OLD ORCHARD RD
SEAWEED RD
WARFIELD WAY
OLD SAG HARBOR RD
HIDDEN COVE CT
ASHWOOD CT
INDIAN RD
TOWD POINT RD
NOSTON PL
THIRD RD
CEDARBERRY LN
PRIVATE ROW
COVE RD NORTH
COVE RD
COVE RD SOUTH
HELENS LN
WATERS EDGE RD
KNOLL RD
ROBINS LN
THE NARROWS
MAJORS PATH
NORTH SEA RD
CONSCIENCE POINT RD
OLD SCALLOP POND RD
OLD SCALLOP POINT RD
SCOTT RD
OLDFIELD RD
NOYACK RD
WOODS LN
DORIS LN
MARIES LN
FISH COVE RD
GREAT HILL RD
LOCUST AVE
CEDAR AVE
BAY AVE
CENTER AVE
OAK AVE
ROSE AVE
PECONIC AVE
SHORE RD
OLD FISH COVE RD
NORTH SEA DR
COVE NECK LN
SPINNAKER WAY
STRAIGHT PATH
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HARRIS LN
NORTH SEA TRANSFER STATION
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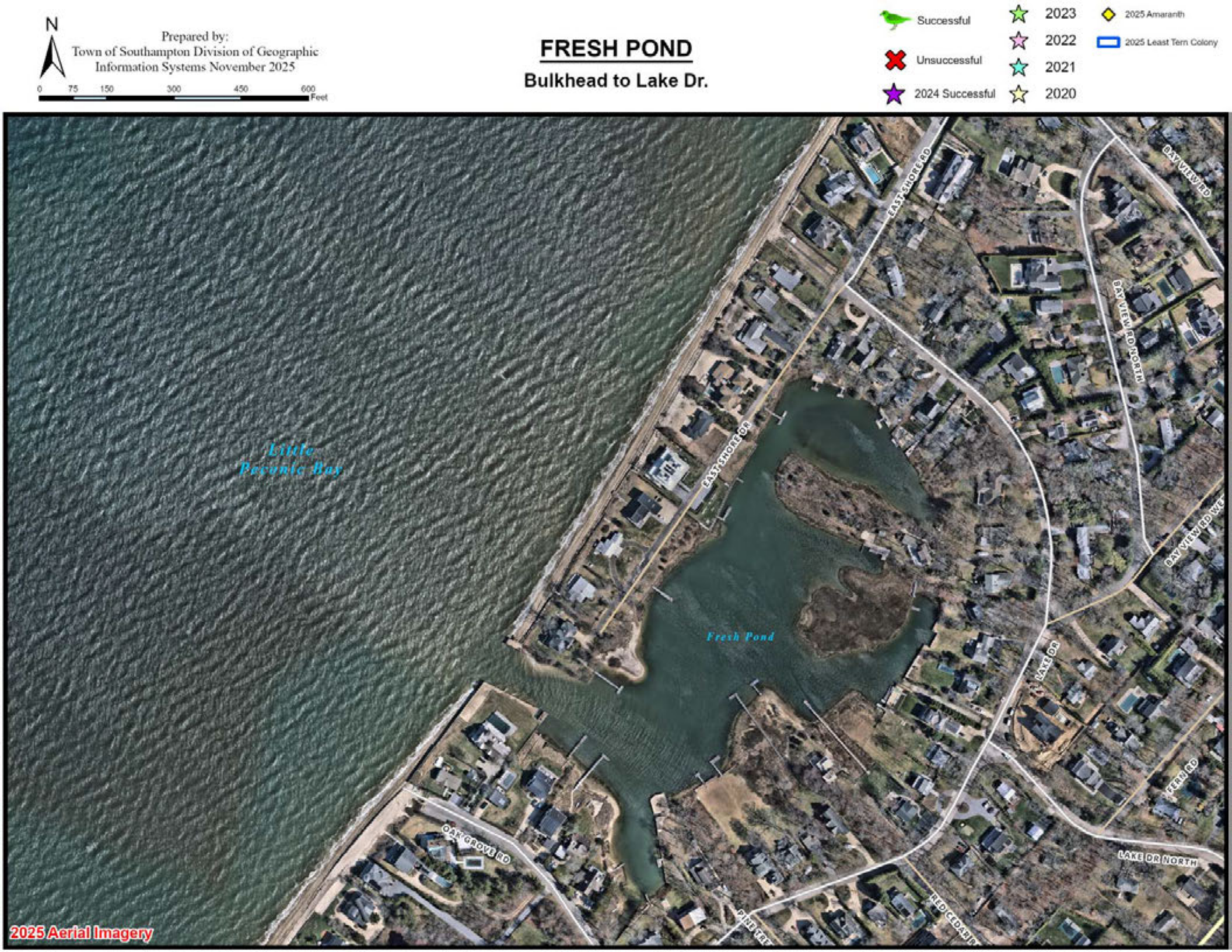
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Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
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2025 Least Tern Colony
Little Peconic Bay
Fresh Pond
EAST SHORE RD
EAST SHORE DR
BAY VIEW RD
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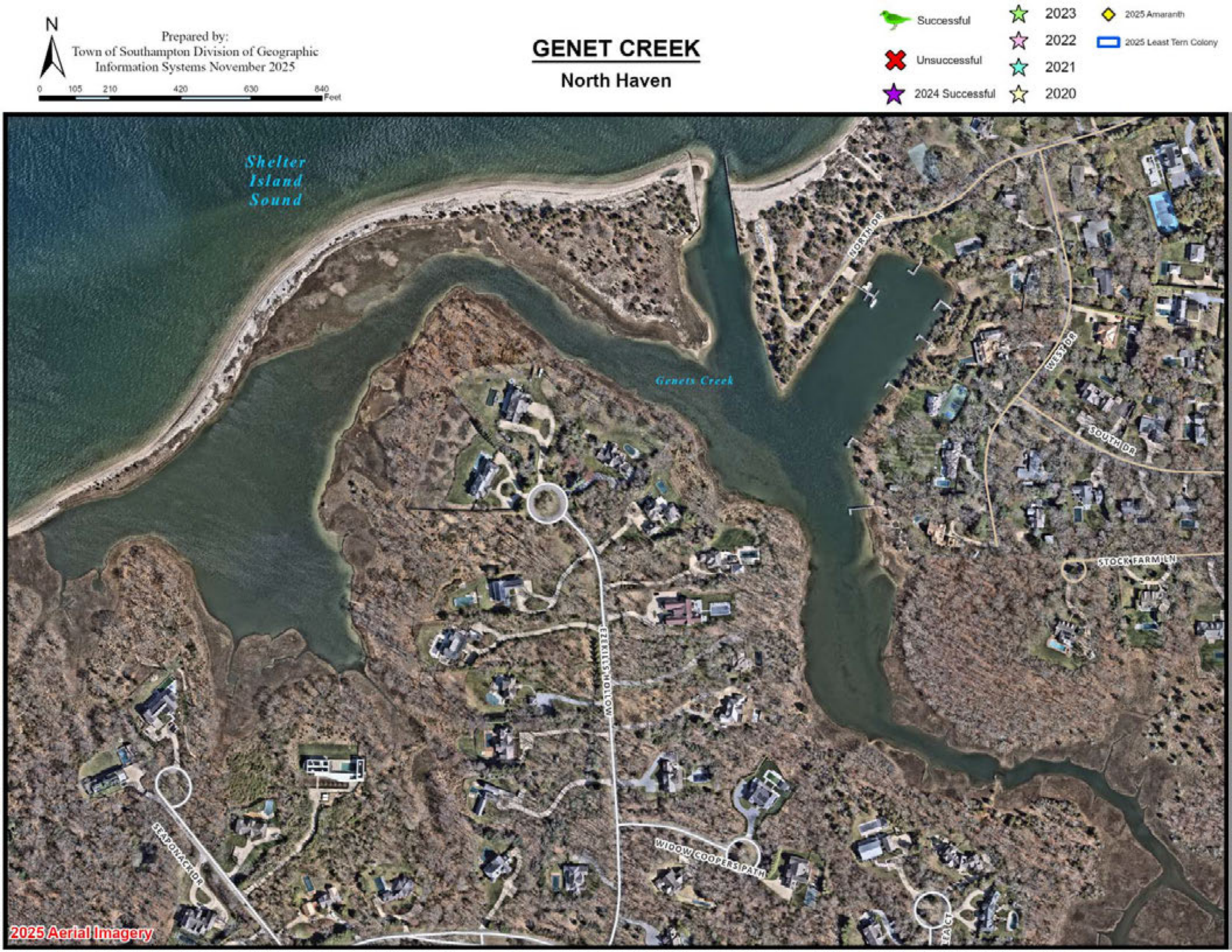
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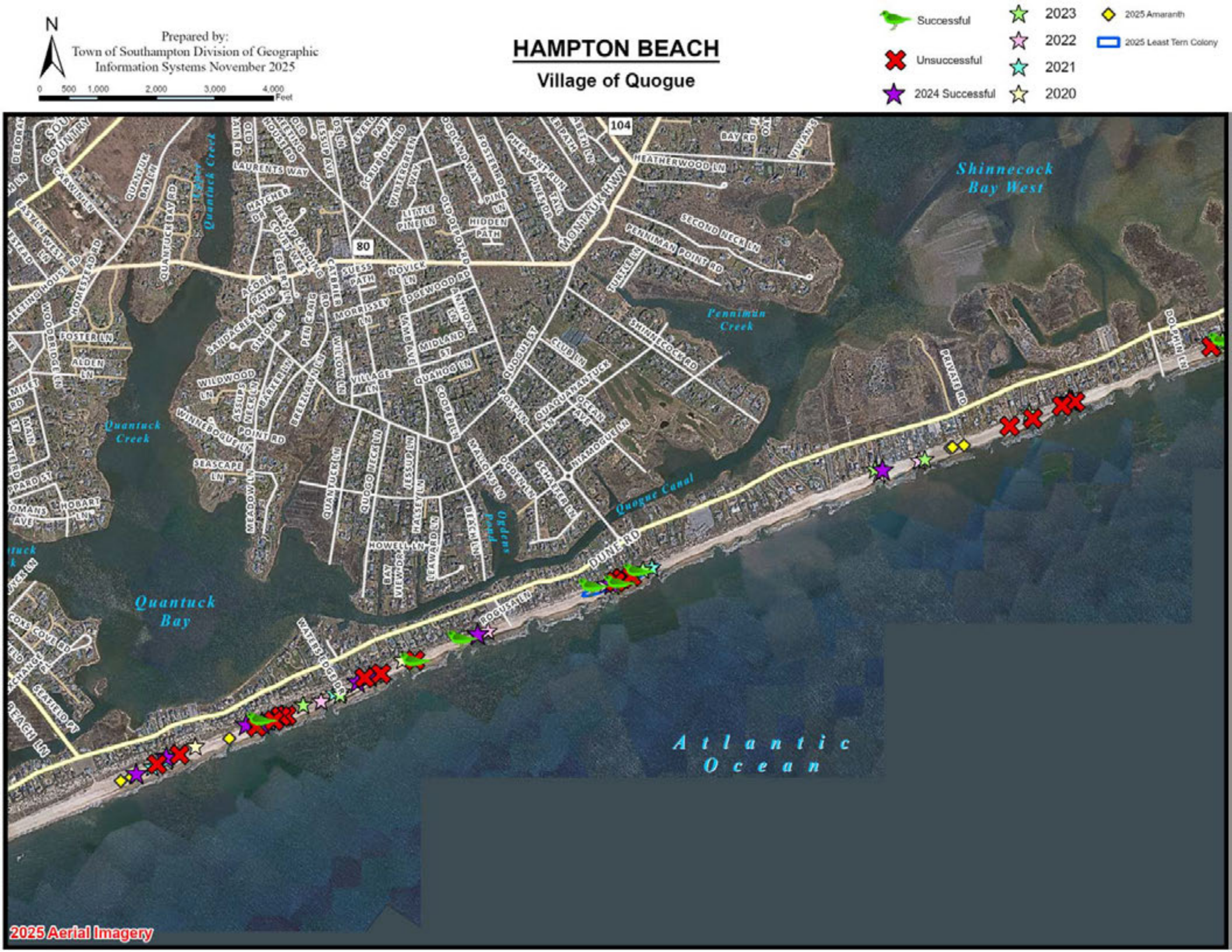
GENET CREEK
North Haven
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Shelter Island Sound
Genets Creek
NORTH DR
WEST DR
SOUTH DR
STOCK FARM LN
FERRIES HOLLOW
WIDOW COOPERS PATH
STADONACH DR
TACY CT
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 210 420 840 1,260 1,680 Feet
GIN LANE BEACH (VILLAGE)
South Main St to Old Town Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
LINDEN LN
TOYLSOME LN
HUNTTING ST
PIERPONT ST
CHRISTOPHER ST
WYANDANCH LN
OLD TOWN RD
MURRAY LN
Town Pond
Wickapo
S MAIN ST
FOSTER CROSSING
LITTLE PLAINS RD
PRIVATE RD
GIN LN
FARRAR RD
PRIVATE RD
Agawam Lake
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery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Prepared by:
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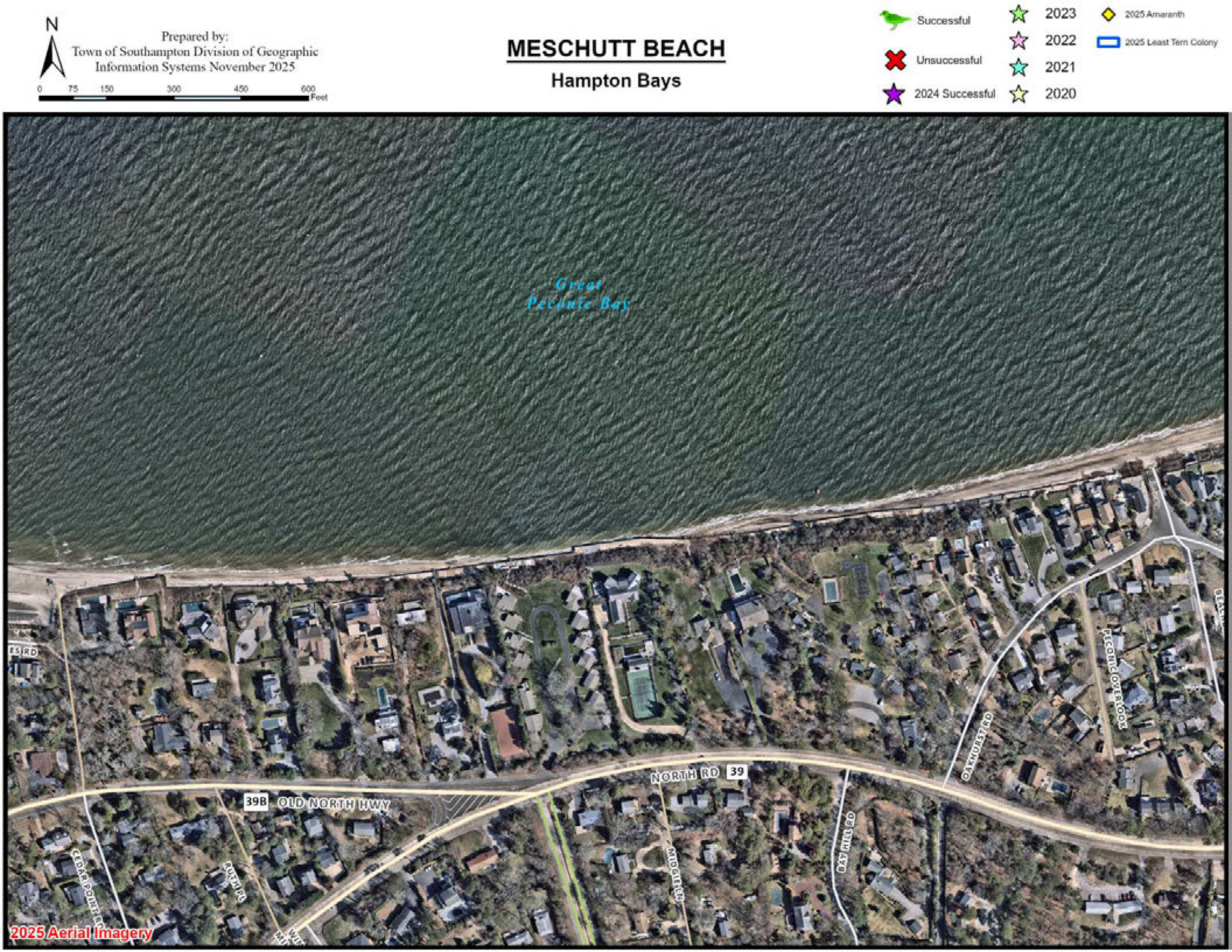
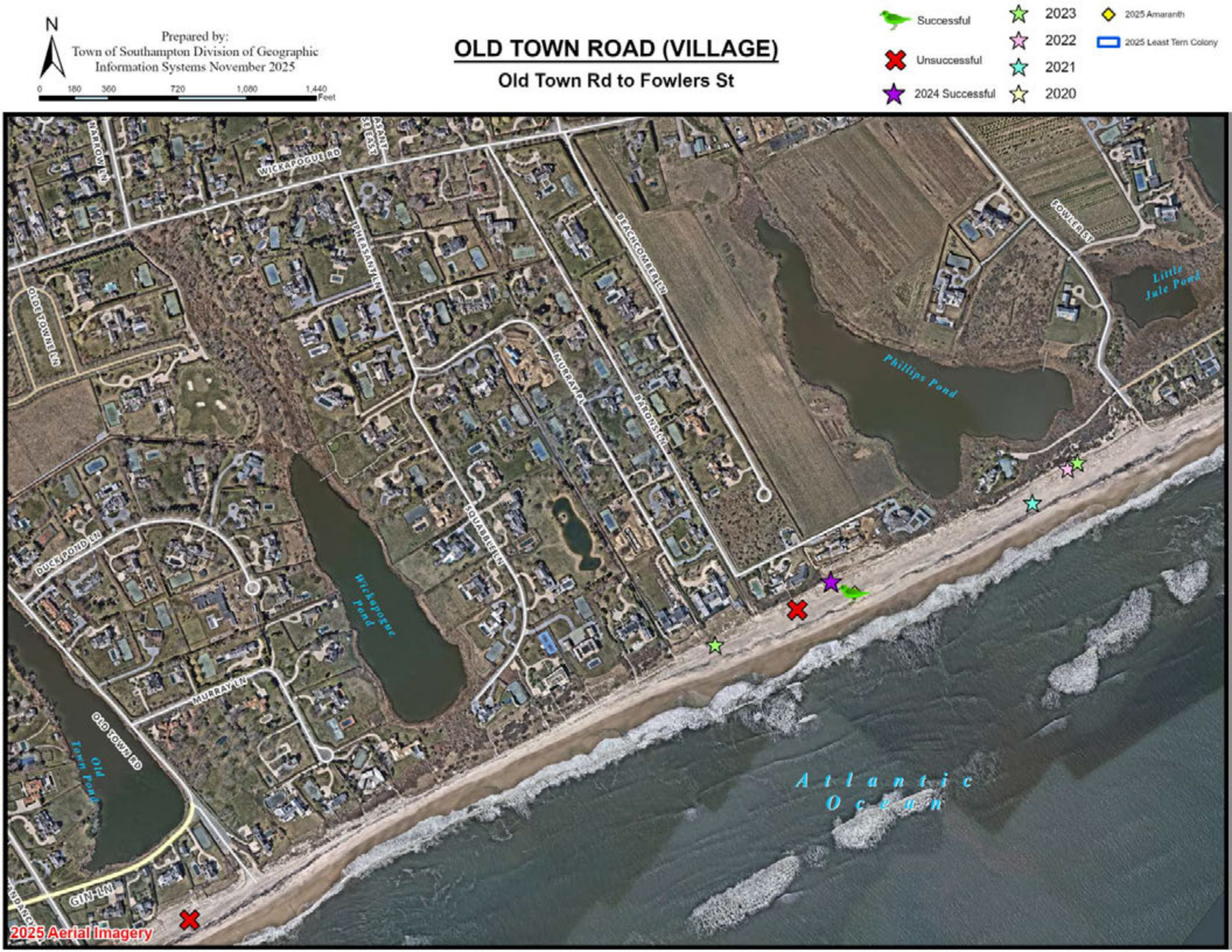
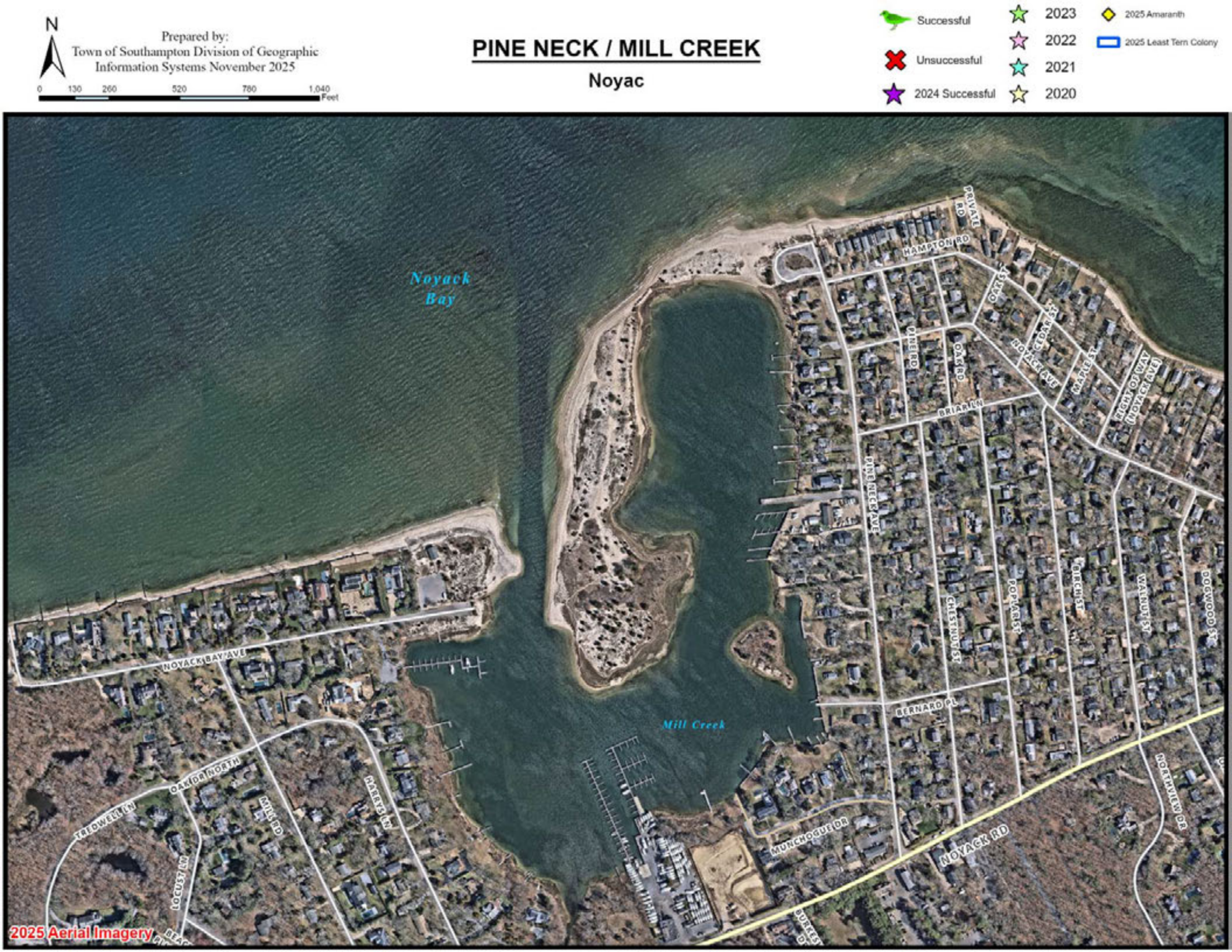
HAMPTON BEACH
Village of Quogue
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Shinnecock Bay West
Pennimun Creek
Quantuck Creek
Quantuck Bay
Quogue Canal
Ogden's Pond
Atlantic Ocean
104
80
MONTAUK HWY
DUNE RD
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 210 420 840 1,260 1,680
Feet
LONG BEACH
Noyac / Sag Harbor
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Noyack
Bay
LONG BEACH RD
60
PARK ACCESS RD
HARBOR DR
CLIFF DR
RIDGE DR
WINDEMERE DR
SUNSET DR
COVE DR
BAY VIEW DR EAST
DARTMOUTH RD
REDWOOD RD
AMHERST RD
PRINCETON RD
NOTRE DAME RD
Sag Harbor
Cove
Staff
Paynes
Creek
2025 Aerial Imagery

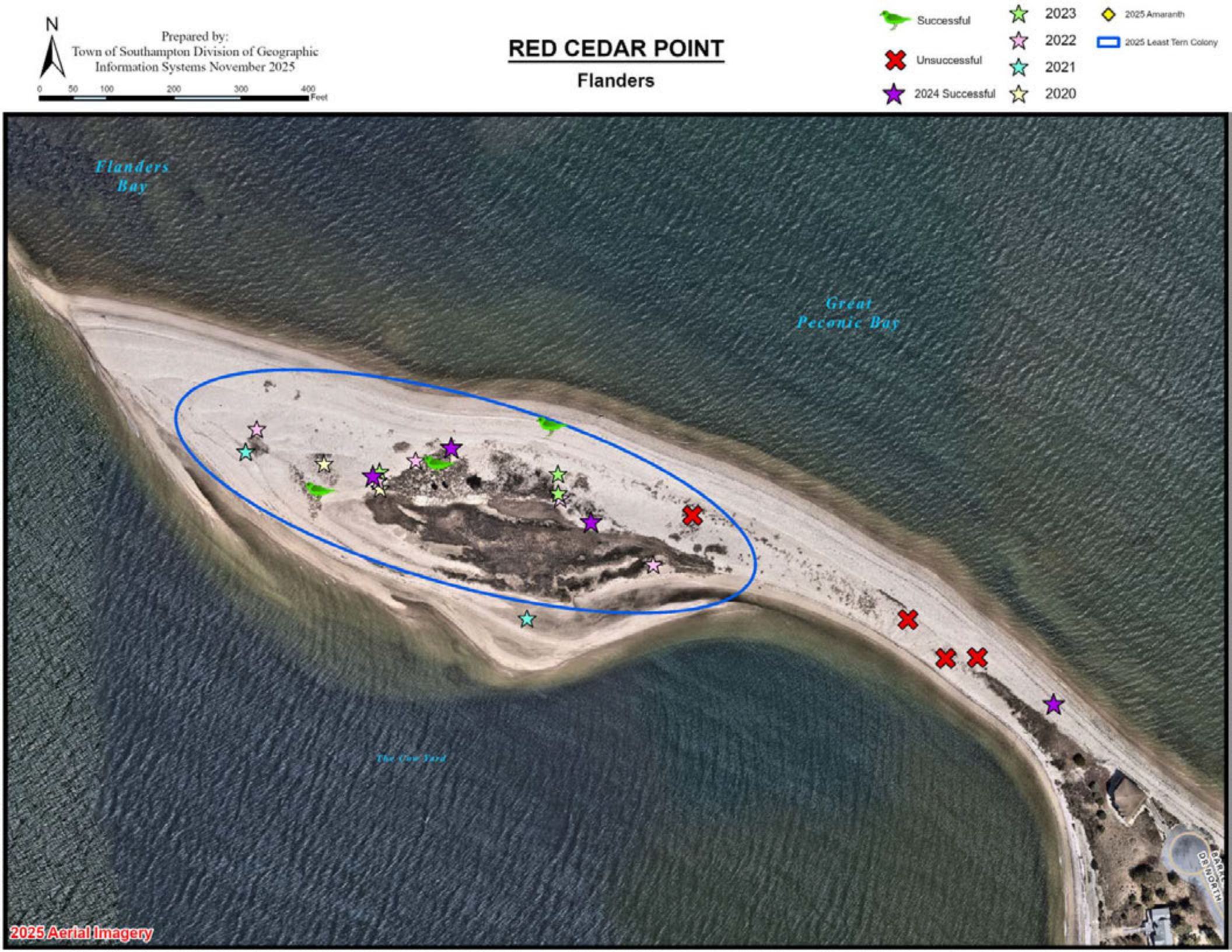

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 75 150 300 450 600 Feet
MESCHUTT BEACH
Hampton Bays
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Great Peconic Bay
NORTH RD
39
39B
OLD NORTH HWY
OAKHURST RD
PECONIC OVERLOOK
BAY HILL CO
MIDGEON
CEDAR POINT
RUTH PL
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet
MIDDLE POND
Shinnecock Hills
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
BAYBERRY COVE LN
FARIPOND RD
Far Pond
Honey Pot
Middle Pond
Shinnecock Bay East
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 180 360 720 1,080 1,440 Feet
OLD TOWN ROAD (VILLAGE)
Old Town Rd to Fowlers St
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
NARROW LN
WICKAPOGUE RD
PHEASANT LN EAST
PHEASANT LN
BEACHCOMBER LN
FOWLER ST
Little Jule Pond
Phillips Pond
OLDE TOWNE LN
MURRAY PL
RAINBOW DR
SQUABBLE LN
DUCK POND LN
Wickapogue Pond
MURRAY LN
OLD TOWN RD
Old Town Pond
GIN LN
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 130 260 520 780 1,040 Feet
PINE NECK / MILL CREEK
Noyac
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Noyack Bay
Mill Creek
HAMPTON RD
PRIVATE RD
OAK ST
TOWER ST
NOYACK AVE
MAPLE ST
RIGHT OF WAY (NOYACK AVE)
PINE RD
OAK RD
BRIAR LN
PINE NECK AVE
CHESTNUT ST
POPLAR ST
BIRCH ST
WALNUT ST
DOGWOOD ST
BERNARD PL
NOYACK BAY AVE
OAK DR NORTH
TREDWELL LN
MILL RD
HARRYS LN
LOCUST LN
MUNCHOGUE DR
NOYACK RD
NORTHVIEW DR
CURRIES
2025 Aerial Imagery

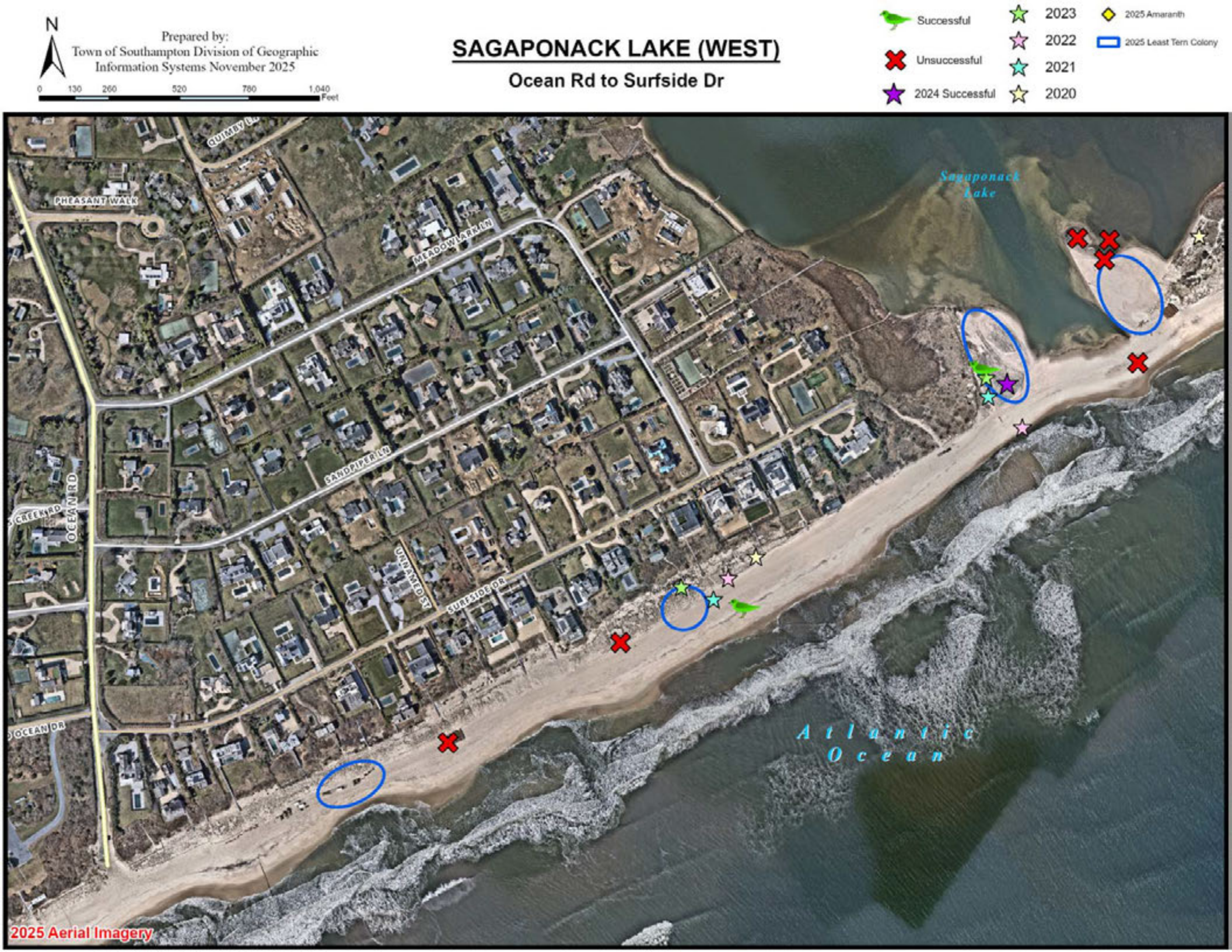

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 155 310 620 930 1,240
Feet
PONQUOGUE BEACH
Hampton Bays
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Shinnecock
Bay East
PONQUOGUE BRIDGE
32B
Shinnecock
Bay West
OLD PONQUOGUE BRIDGE
ROAD I
DUNE RD
ROAD K
Atlantic
Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 50 100 200 300 400
Feet
RED CEDAR POINT
Flanders
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Flanders
Bay
Great
Peconic Bay
The Cow Yard
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 75 150 300 450 600
Feet
RED CREEK POND
Hampton Bays
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Great
Peconic Bay
Fourniers
Pond
Red
Creek
Pond
RED CREEK PARK
GATHERING ROCKS RD
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 105 210 420 630 840 Feet
ROSES GROVE
Peconic Bay Ave to Oak Grove Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Fresh Pond
Little Peconic Bay
OAK GROVE RD
LAKE DR
HERMES DR
EDGEMERE DR
HAMPTON RD NORTH
ROSE HILL RD
NOYACK RD
BAY WOOD DR
DORSET RD
BEACH RD
WEST SHORE DR
BAY VIEW DR
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 180 360 720 1,080 1,440 Feet
SAGAPONACK LAKE (EAST)
Sagg Main St to Gibson Ln
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
BRIDGE LN
SAGAPONACK MAIN ST
SAGG POND CT
SEASCAPE LN
SAGAPONACK MAIN ST
TREES LN
GIBSON LN
CRESTVIEW LN
ROW OFF GIBSON LN
SANDUNE CT
Sagaponack Lake
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 130 260 520 780 1,040 Feet
SAGAPONACK LAKE (WEST)
Ocean Rd to Surfside Dr
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
PHEASANT WALK
QUIMBY LN
MEADOWLARK LN
SANDPIPER LN
OCEAN RD
CREEK RD
OCEAN DR
UNNAMED ST
SURFSIDE DR
Sagaponack Lake
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery

N

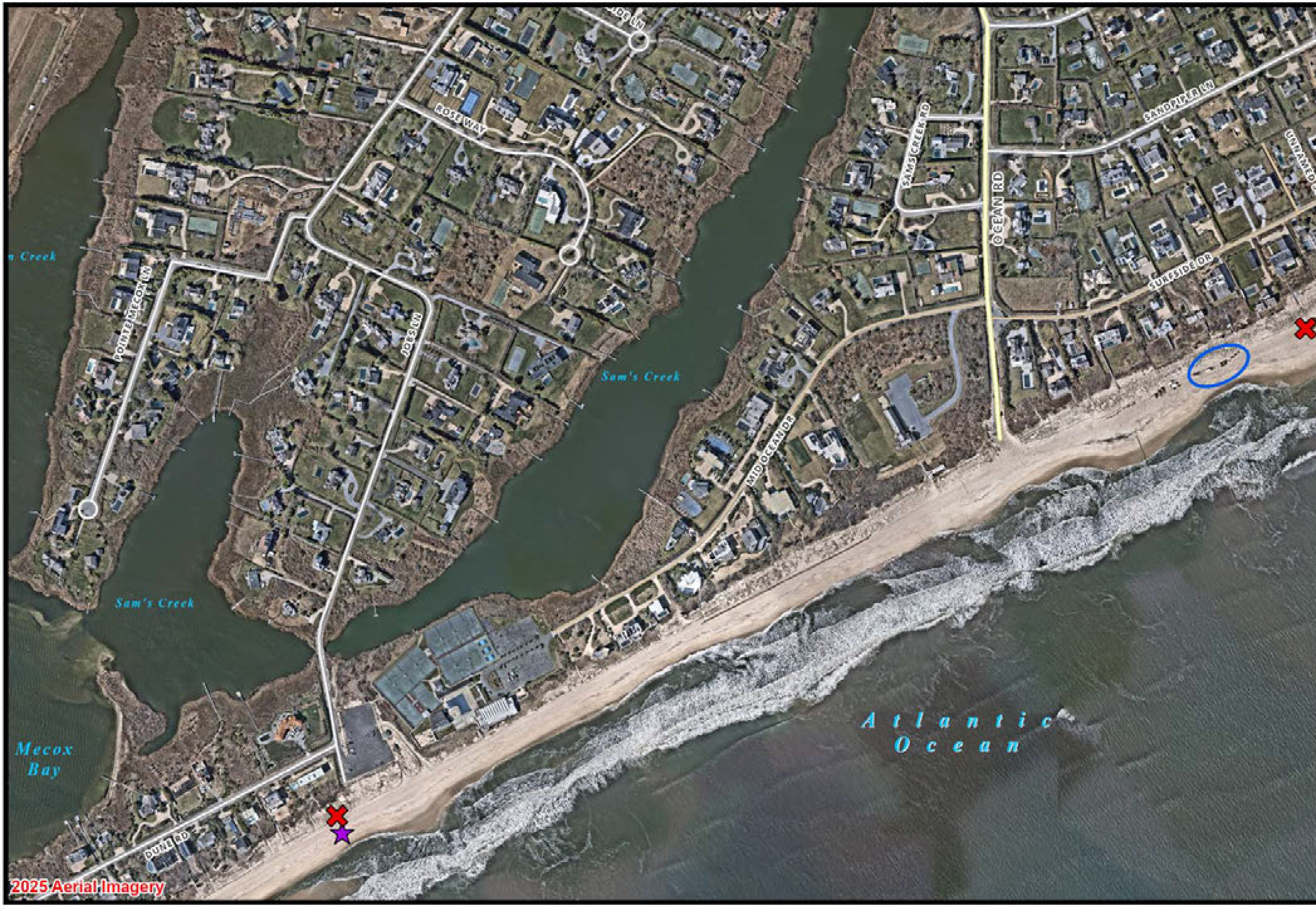
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025

0 155 310 620 930 1,240 Feet

SAM'S CREEK / MECOX BEACH

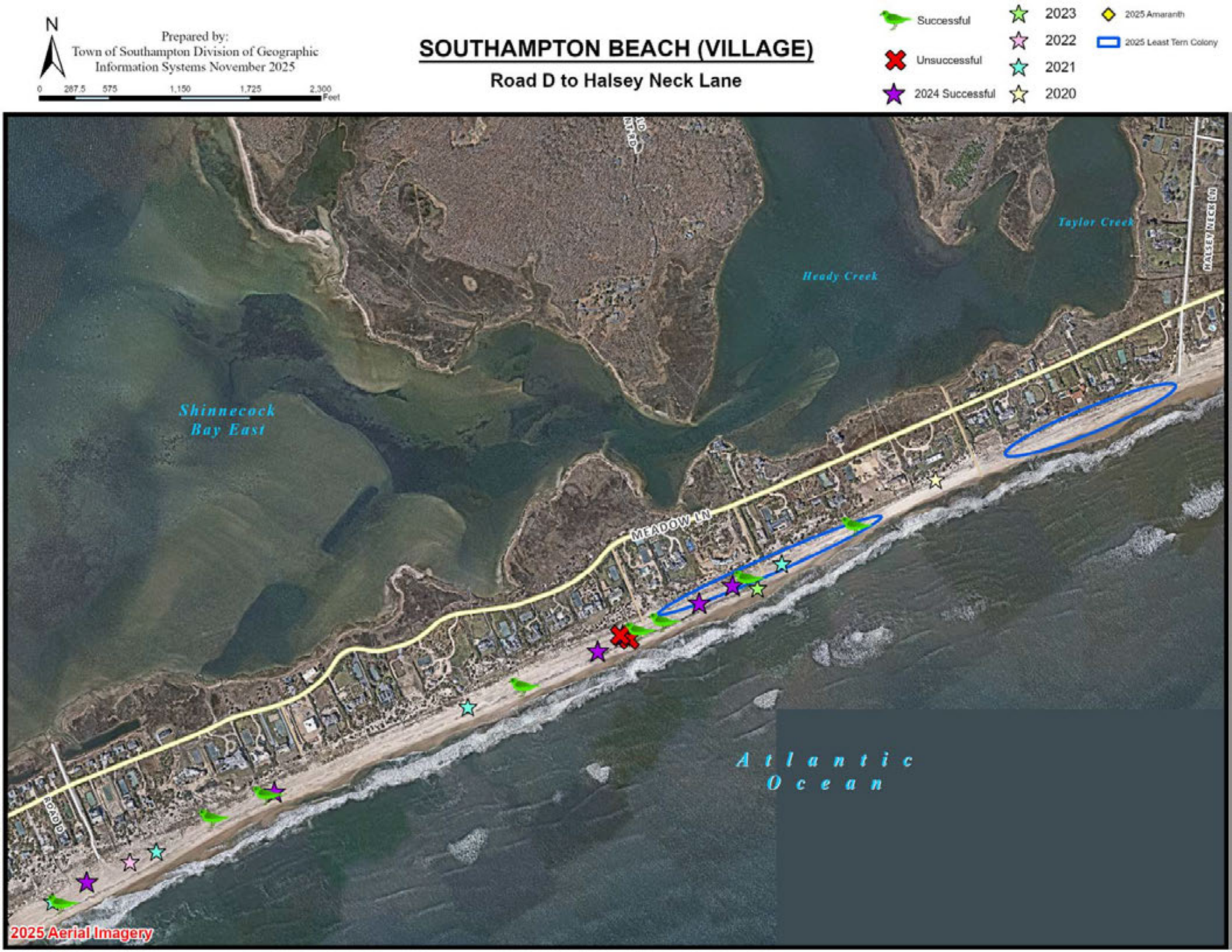
Jobs lane to Ocean Rd

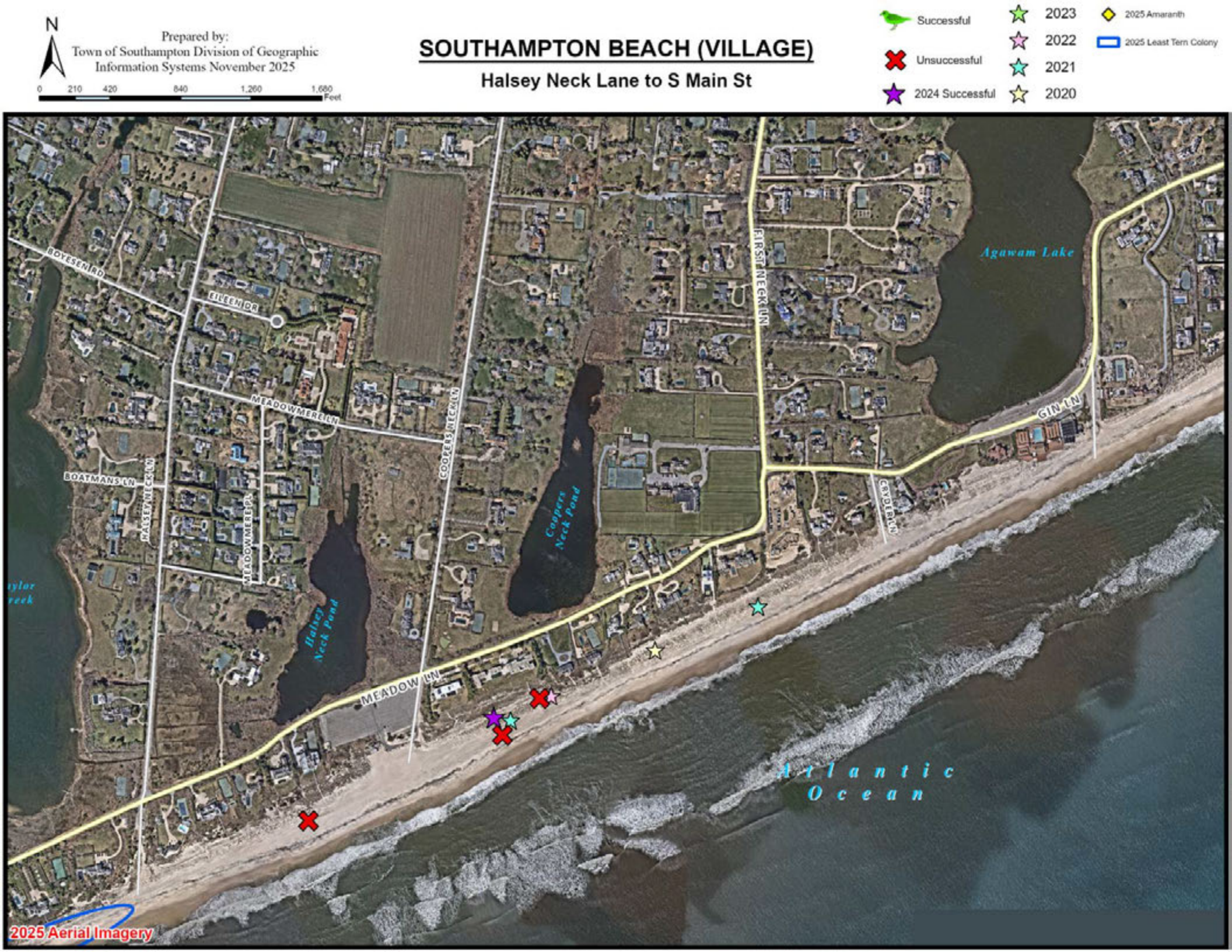
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony

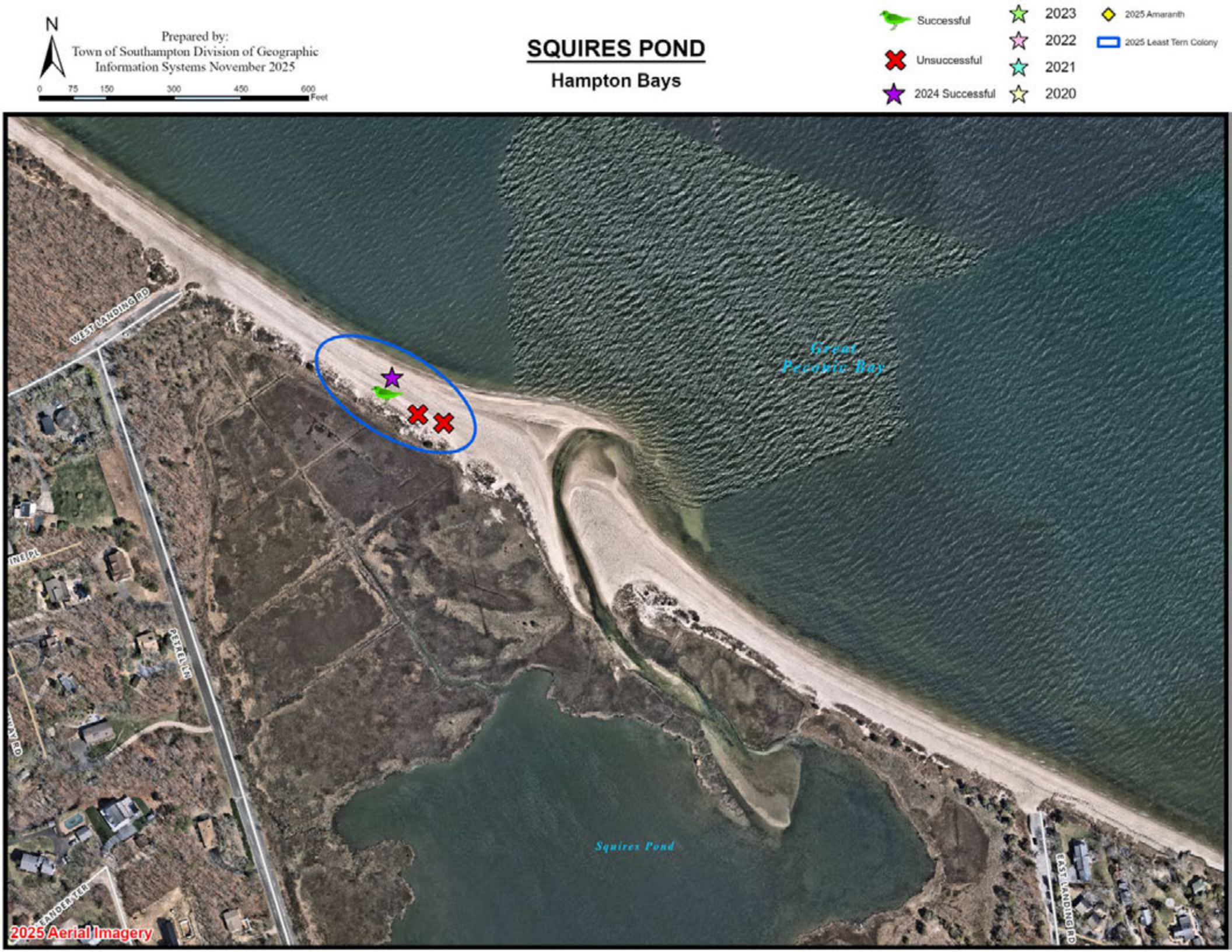


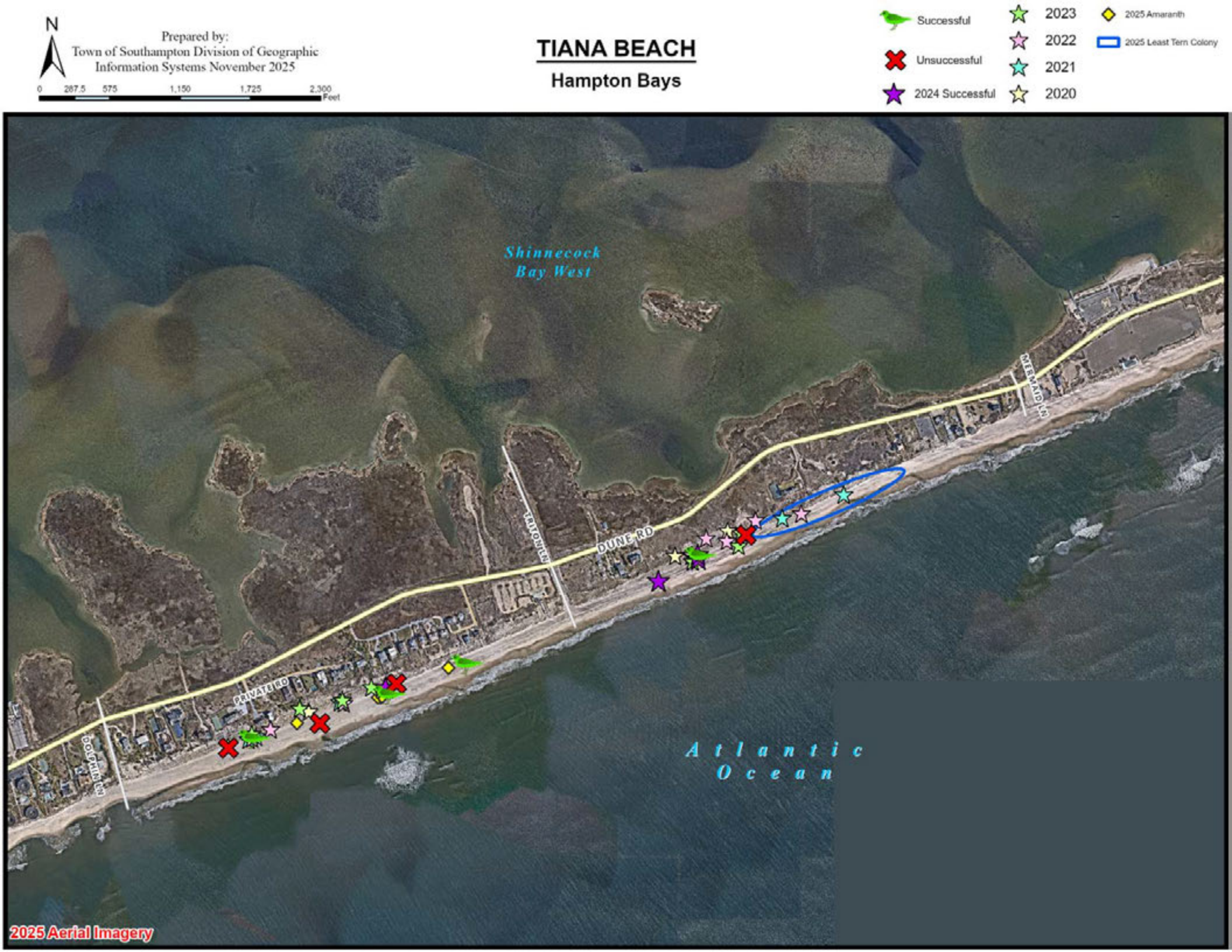

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 105 210 420 630 840
Feet
SHORT BEACH
North Haven / Noyac
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Poules Creek
Noyack
Bay
Sag Harbor
Cove
SHORT BEACH RD
SEA GULL HILL RD
COVE RD
COVE VIEW CT
COVES END LN
LONG BEACH RD
1ST ST
2ND ST
3RD ST
114
60
2025 Aerial Imagery

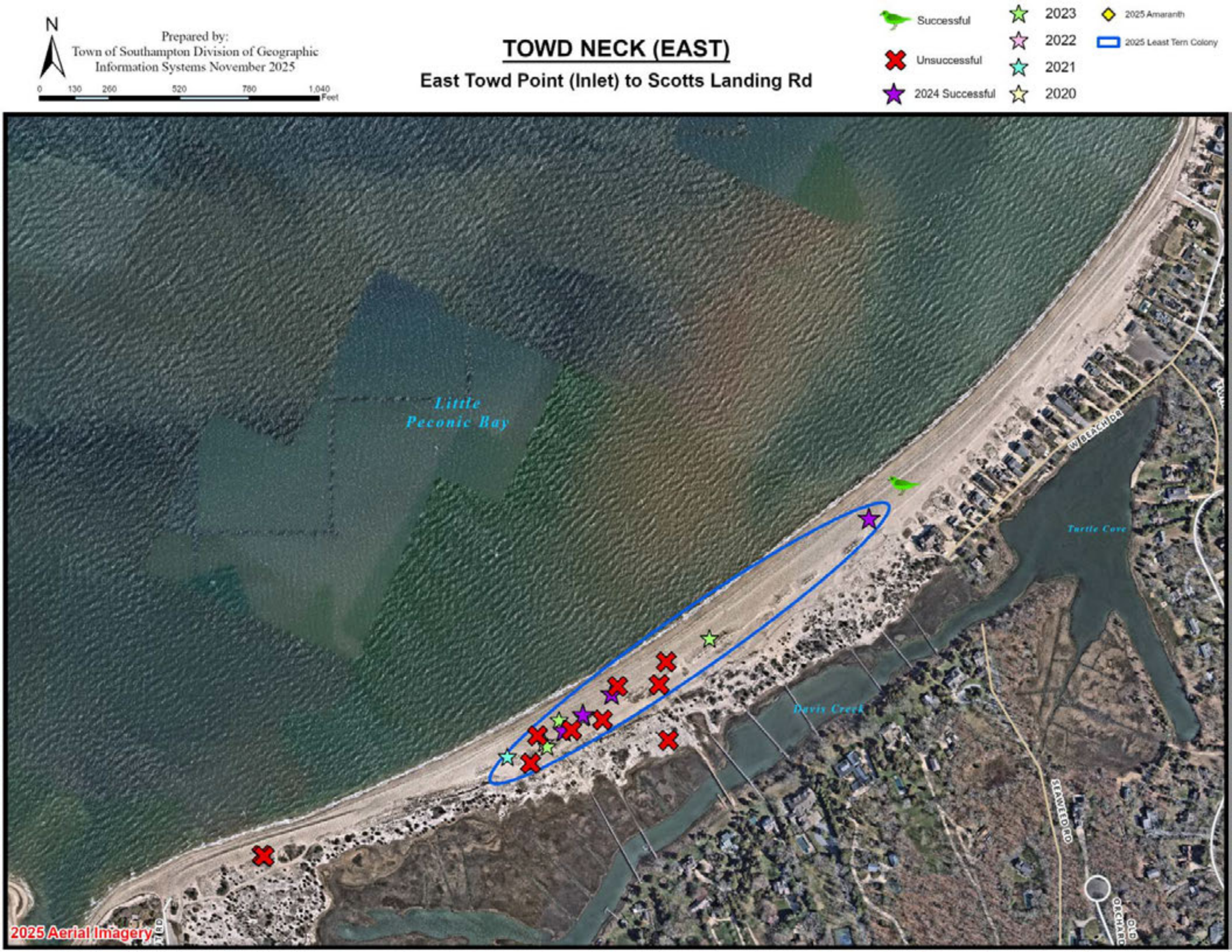

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 287.5 575 1,150 1,725 2,300 Feet
SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE)
Shinnecock East to Road D
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Shinnecock Bay East
MEADOW LN
ROAD D
County Parkland
Atlantic Ocean
Inlet
2025 Aerial Imagery

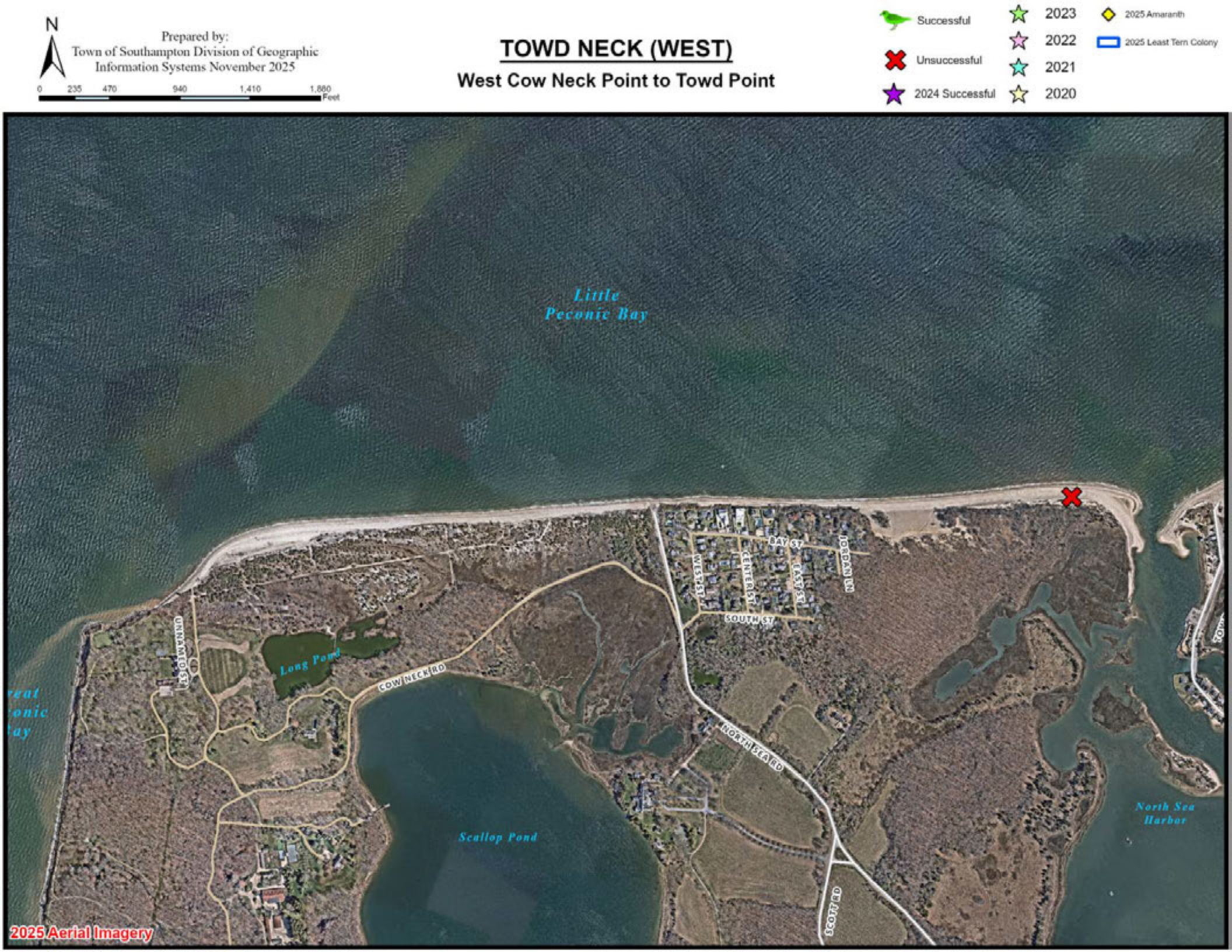

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 287.5 575 1,150 1,725 2,300 Feet
SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE)
Road D to Halsey Neck Lane
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Taylor Creek
Heady Creek
Shinnecock Bay East
MEADOW LN
HALSEY NECK LN
ROAD D
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 210 420 840 1,260 1,680 Feet
SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE)
Halsey Neck Lane to S Main St
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
BOYESEN RD
EILEEN DR
MEADOWMERE LN
COOPERS NECK LN
FIRST NECK LN
Agawam Lake
GIN LN
BOATMANS LN
HALSEY NECK LN
MEADOWMERE PL
CRYDER LN
Coopers Neck Pond
Halsey Neck Pond
MEADOW LN
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery

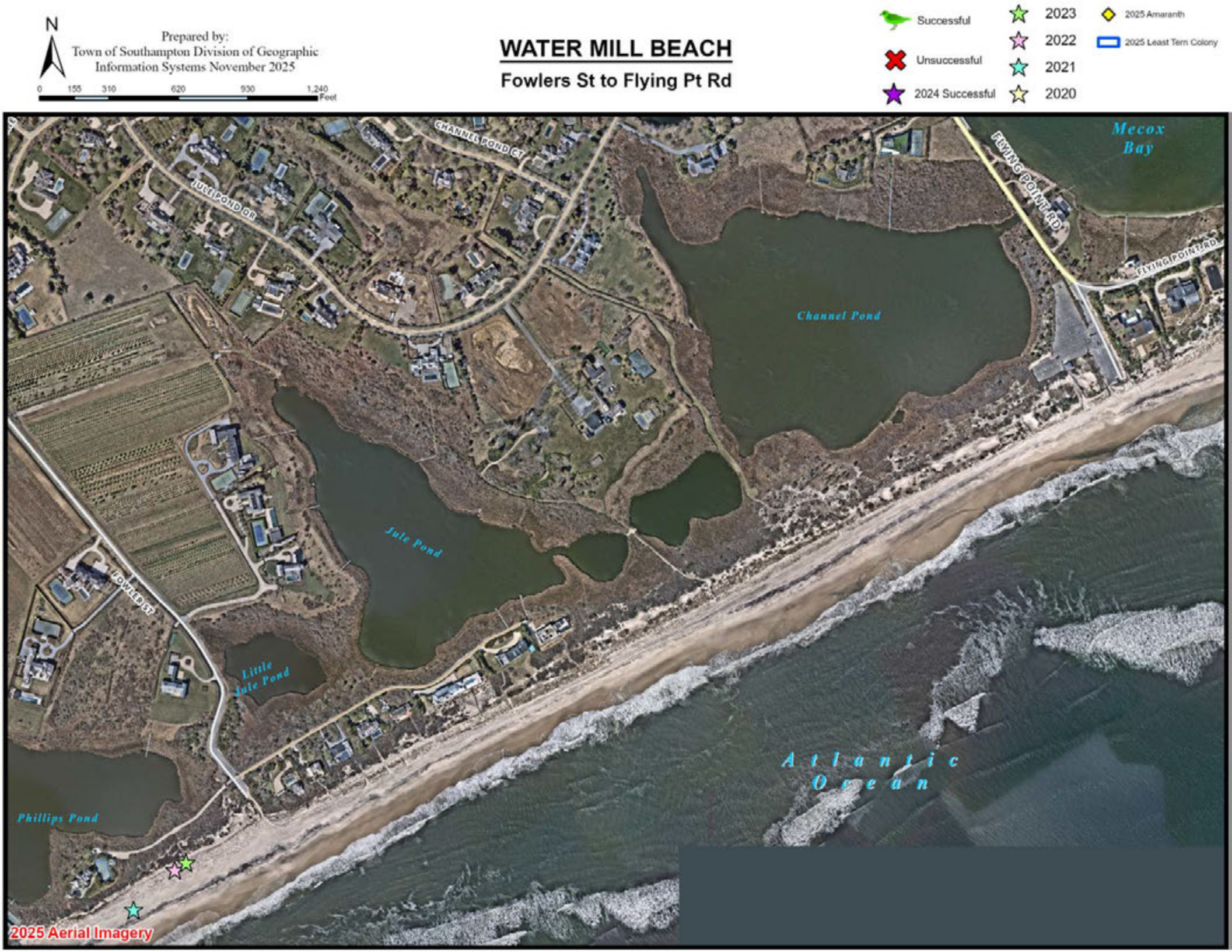

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 75 150 300 450 600
Feet
SQUIRES POND
Hampton Bays
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
WEST LANDING RD
PETERS LN
LANDER TER
EAST LANDING RD
Great
Peconic Bay
Squires Pond
2025 Aerial Imagery

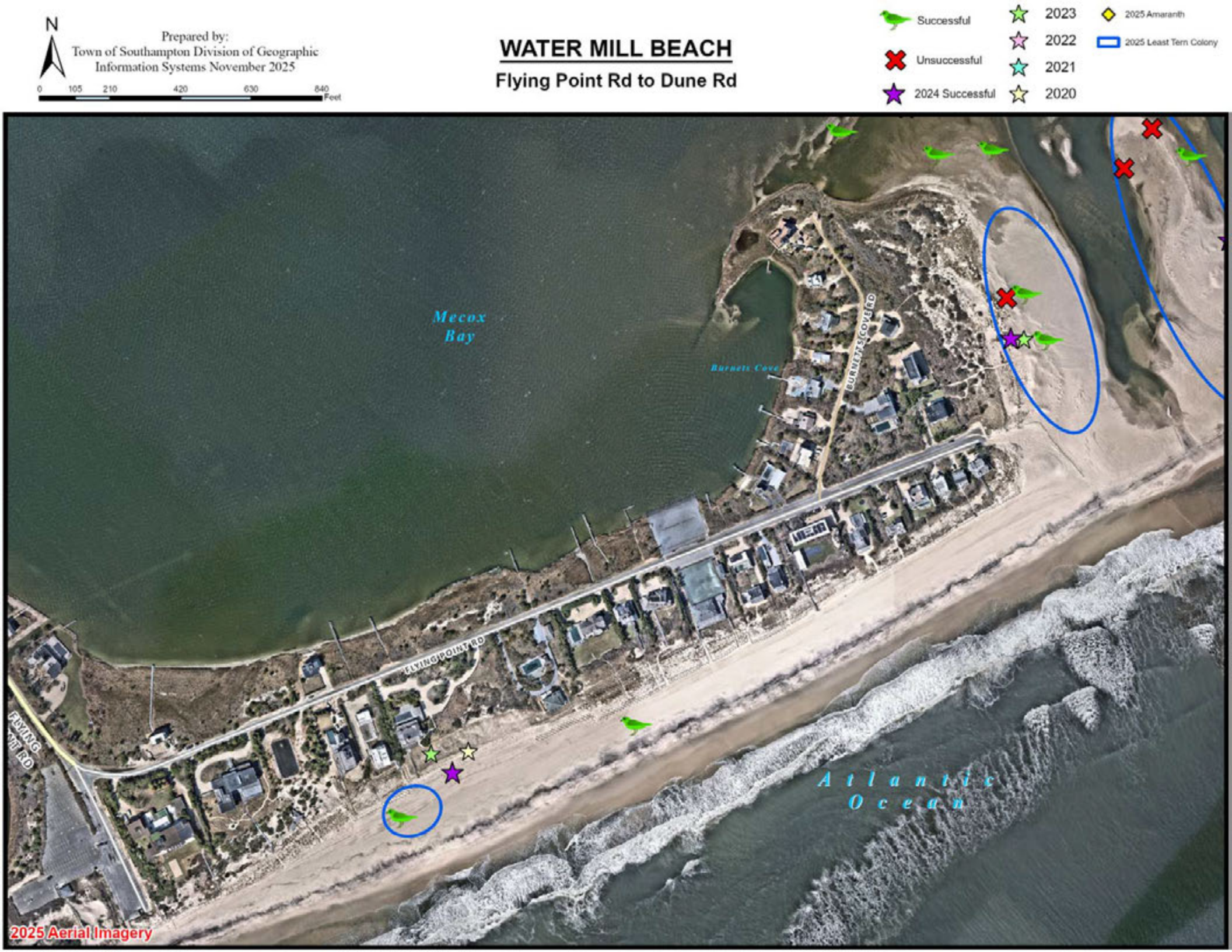

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 287.5 575 1,150 1,725 2,300 Feet
TIANA BEACH
Hampton Bays
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Shinnecock Bay West
TAYLOR LN
DUNE RD
MERMAID LN
PRIVATE RD
DOLPHIN LN
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery

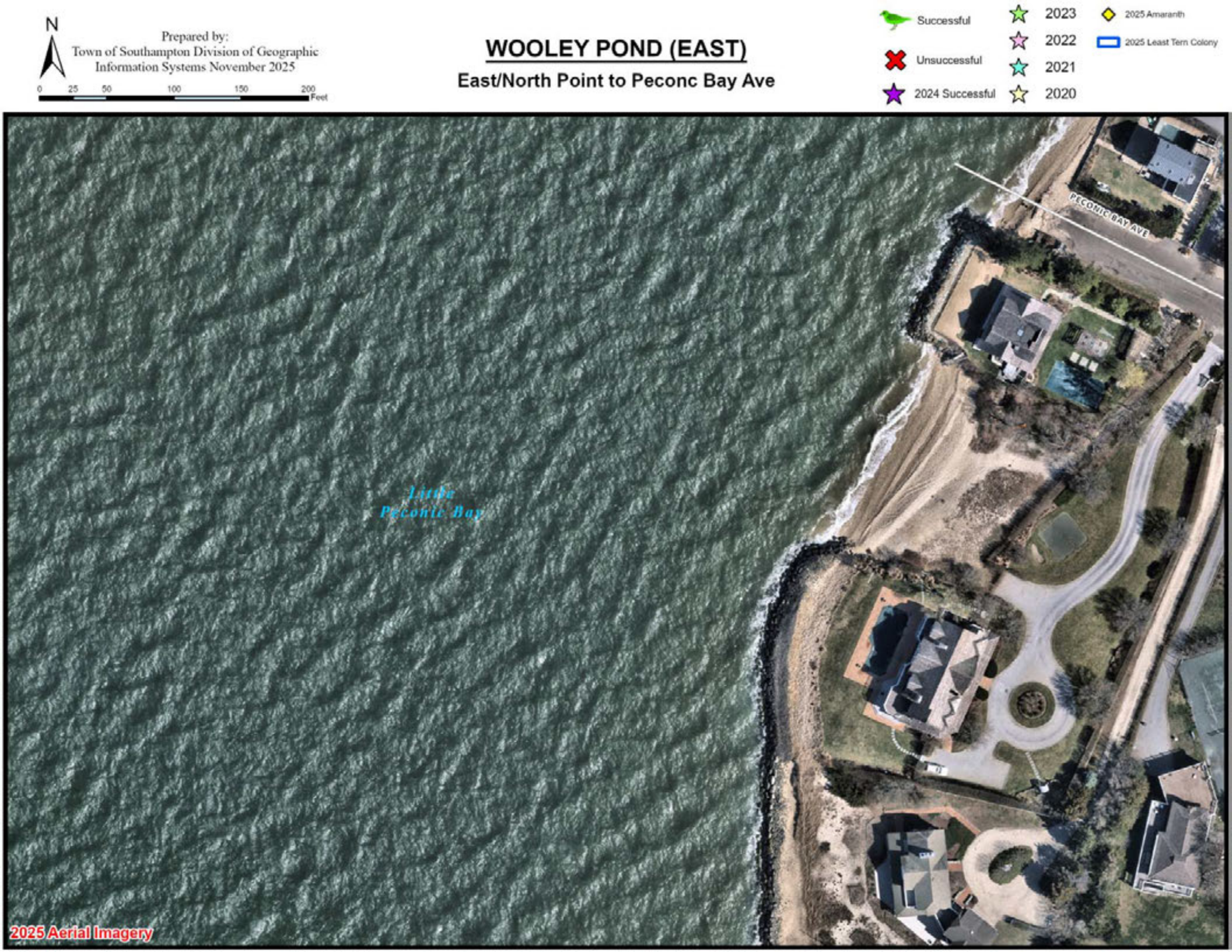

N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 130 260 520 780 1,040 Feet
TOWD NECK (EAST)
East Towd Point (Inlet) to Scotts Landing Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Little Peconic Bay
Turtle Cove
Davis Creek
W BEACH RD
SEAWEED RD
OLD ORCHARD RD
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 235 470 940 1,410 1,880
Feet
TOWD NECK (WEST)
West Cow Neck Point to Towd Point
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Little
Peconic Bay
Long Pond
Scallop Pond
North Sea
Harbor
COW NECK RD
NORTH SEA RD
SCOTT RD
SOUTH ST
BAY ST
WEST ST
CENTER ST
EAST ST
JORDAN LN
CINNAMON ST
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 155 310 620 930 1,240 Feet
WATER MILL BEACH
Dune Rd to Jobs Ln
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Sam's Creek
Mecox Bay
DUNE RD
JOBS LN
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 155 310 620 930 1,240 Feet
WATER MILL BEACH
Fowlers St to Flying Pt Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
CHANNEL POND CT
JULE POND DR
FLYING POINT RD
FLYING POINT RD
Mecox Bay
Channel Pond
Jule Pond
FOWLER ST
Little Jule Pond
Phillips Pond
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic Information Systems November 2025
0 105 210 420 630 840 Feet
WATER MILL BEACH
Flying Point Rd to Dune Rd
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Mecox Bay
Burnetts Cove
BURNETTS COVE RD
FLYING POINT RD
FLYING POINT RD
Atlantic Ocean
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 25 50 100 150 200
Feet
WOOLEY POND (EAST)
East/North Point to Peconc Bay Ave
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
PECONIC BAY AVE
Little
Peconic Bay
2025 Aerial Imagery


N
Prepared by:
Town of Southampton Division of Geographic
Information Systems November 2025
0 75 150 300 450 600
Feet
WOOLEY POND (WEST)
West Scotts Landing to Bulkhead
Successful
Unsuccessful
2024 Successful
2023
2022
2021
2020
2025 Amaranth
2025 Least Tern Colony
Little
Peconic Bay
EAST BEACH DR
SCOTTS LANDING
Wooley Pond
2025 Aerial Imagery