

Moving Forward 2055

Connecting Communities, Creating Opportunities

APPENDIX F

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND NEW CONSULTATION



NYMTC Regional Transportation Plan
Adopted on September 5, 2025

MOVING FORWARD 2055

APPENDIX F: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND NEW CONSULTATION

prepared by

THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BOA	Brownfield Opportunity Area
FAST Act	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
MAP Forum	Metropolitan Area Planning Forum
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NYMTC	New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
OPRHP	(New York) Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act

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ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND NEW CONSULTATION

Moving Forward 2055, the long-range regional transportation plan of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), is a product of extensive coordination and collaboration between NYMTC's member agencies, its partners in the public and private sectors, and the public. One of the key objectives described in this appendix was to reconcile long-term transportation planning with region-wide environmental concerns.

This appendix describes the consultation process and focuses on environmental considerations and current or potential environmental mitigation activities. The underlying data and maps in this appendix provide a foundation of information that can be a resource for identifying environmental stewardship and mitigation considerations for future transportation planning activities in the region.

1.1 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Since the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and subsequent surface transportation bills, federal planning regulations require that the development of long-range transportation plans include consultation with federal, state, local, tribal, wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies. Additionally, NYMTC is required to consult with neighboring MPOs to ensure consistency in planning across regional boundaries.

In keeping with this Plan's Shared Vision for Regional Mobility, as well as NYMTC's operating policies and federal requirements, NYMTC is committed to protecting and enhancing the region's natural resources, promoting energy conservation, improving the quality of life, and promoting consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth. The mitigation of potential environmental, social, and cultural effects of specific transportation improvement projects is managed through the federal and New York State environmental review processes required of each implementing agency. Specific to the development of *Moving Forward 2055*, environmental stewardship and mitigation are consistent with the Plan's Shared Vision and goals and the Plan's goal of reducing environmental impacts.

1.2 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

NYMTC maintains formal and informal relationships with federal, state, and local partner agencies who provide feedback on environmental and other issues related to transportation plans, programs, projects, and studies in the region planning area. NYMTC established a consultation process with partner agencies for its previous long-range plan, *Moving Forward*, to receive input on environmental initiatives and conditions in the region. As part of *Moving Forward*, NYMTC sought to consult with various county, state, and federal agencies, as well as with the neighboring MPOs and the federally recognized tribal nations in the region. These consultation efforts were reviewed and updated for *Moving Forward 2055* to identify resource and conservation concerns and issues that informed the development of the Plan. The work on *Moving Forward 2055* builds upon this previous work by providing an updated compendium of the available information on natural and cultural resources and environmental mitigation and planning activities.

Table 1.1 identifies the partner agencies and their websites, which provide links to information on natural and cultural resources and environmental mitigation and planning activities.

Table 1.1 Partner Agencies**New York City**

Bronx County—Bronx Borough President's Office, Planning and Development

<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/planning-development/>

Kings County—Brooklyn Borough President's Office <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/>

New York County—Manhattan Borough President's Office, Land Use & Planning

<https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/resources/land-use/>

Queens Borough President's Office <https://www.queensbp.nyc.gov/>

Richmond County—Staten Island Borough President's Office <https://www.statenislandusa.com/>

Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice <https://climate.cityofnewyork.us/>

Department of City Planning <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/index.page>

Department of Environmental Protection <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/index.page>

Department of Parks & Recreation <https://nycgovparks.org/>

Department of Transportation <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/home/home.shtml>

Long Island

Nassau County Planning Division <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/2856/Planning-Division>

Suffolk County Division of Planning and Environment

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/>

Lower Hudson Valley

Putnam County Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/planning-department/>

Rockland County Department of Planning <https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/planning>

Rockland County Department of Public Transportation

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/public-transportation>

Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources>

Westchester County Department of Planning <https://planning.westchestergov.com/>

New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation <https://www.dec.ny.gov/>

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation—State Historic Preservation Office

<https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/>

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation—Environmental Management Bureau

<https://parks.ny.gov/environment/environmental-management.aspx>

Department of State—Smart Growth Program <https://dos.ny.gov/nys-smart-growth-program>

Department of Agriculture and Markets <https://www.ny.gov/agencies/departments-agriculture-and-markets>

Federal

US Army Corps of Engineers—New York District <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/>

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/new-york>

Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration—Fisheries New England/Mid-Atlantic Region <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/new-england-mid-atlantic>

Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2
<https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-2>

Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service—Northeast Region
<https://www.fws.gov/about/region/northeast>

Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey, Groundwater and Streamflow Information
<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/new-york-water-science-center>

Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Region 1 <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1651/index.htm>

Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/nydiv/>

Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Region 2
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/regional-offices/region-2/region-2>

Environmental Protection Agency—Region 2 <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-2>

Tribal Nations

Shinnecock <https://www.shinnecock-nsn.gov/>

Unkechaug <https://nativelongisland.com/listing/unkechaug-indian-reservation/>

Metropolitan Area Planning Forum

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission <https://lvpc.org/>

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority <http://www.njtpa.org/Home.aspx>

Orange County Transportation Council <https://www.orangecountygov.com/961/Transportation-Council>

Western Connecticut Council of Governments <https://westcog.org>

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments <https://nvcogct.gov/>

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments <https://ctmetro.org/>

South Central Regional Council of Governments <https://scrcog.org/>

Capital Region Council of Governments <https://crcog.org/>

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments <https://rivercog.org/>

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NEW CONSULTATION

Per [23 CFR 450.324 \(f\) \(10\)](#), consultation with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities that are affected by transportation within the NYMTC planning area is required in the development of a Regional Transportation Plan. These planning activities include State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, and freight movements. In general, this means that NYMTC's development of *Moving Forward 2055* considers other related planning activities within the metropolitan area as it develops strategies and projects to meet regional goals and objectives. In the NYMTC planning area, this also includes consultation with Tribal governments and Federal land management agencies. This chapter summarizes the consultation activities during the development of *Moving Forward 2055*, consistent with its established metropolitan planning procedures and agreements and its current [Public Involvement Plan](#).

2.1 CONSULTATION AND COMPARISON PROCESS

Environmental mitigation information from the consultation process was collected and analyzed using the following methodology:

- » The list of partner agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection and conservation, and historic preservation was reviewed and updated.
- » Research was conducted through partner agency websites and other online sources such as the New York State GIS Clearinghouse. The identified environmental mitigation considerations and activities were categorized as either subregional or applicable to the entire planning area.
- » NYMTC researched partner agency planning documents and compared environmental goals and objectives with those of NYMTC member agencies. All data and information references are listed in this appendix. For more information on the data and resources described, refer to the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#). Historic, environmental, and redevelopment areas identified through *Moving Forward* were reviewed and updated as needed using the New York State GIS Clearinghouse (<https://gis.ny.gov/>) and partner agencies' resources (see Table 1.1). This information is available for the development of programmed transportation projects in proximity to these resources and areas. NYMTC's member agencies responsible for the development of individual projects can make use of this information and, if needed, undertake further analysis and review as part of project planning and development.



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ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

Environmental mitigation is a major consideration in transportation planning activities throughout the NYMTC planning area. NYMTC's members who develop projects engage in environmental stewardship and mitigation activities at the planning and project level through the Transportation Conformity process under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; and through Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) studies and/or through meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related State or municipal environmental regulations. Taken together, these planning approaches and requirements ensure that projects are developed with consideration for affected communities and in a manner that accounts for the environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and natural resource values of the area in which they are located. This chapter presents the available resources that support interagency consultation on environmental stewardship and mitigation considerations in the planning and development of transportation improvements.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL HABITATS

This appendix describes the information, analysis, and resources available to inform the environmental review process for programmed transportation improvement projects at the planning and project level. The NYMTC planning area includes sensitive areas such as watersheds, fish and wildlife habitats, and other ecosystems (see the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#) for more information). Plans and activities have been compiled and environmental and community assets identified. Environmental support activities include strategies, policies, programs, and actions that, over time, will serve to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate harming environmental resources associated with Plan implementation. A key element of this work was to prepare maps of key natural and cultural resources that provide information for agencies developing transportation projects on features such as water resources, ecological resources, historic and cultural resources, and redevelopment areas.

3.2 AREAWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL HABITAT PLANS, INITIATIVES AND DATABASES

The NYMTC planning area encompasses varied and diverse communities and development patterns, geography, history, topography, and landscapes. Regardless of the variations, certain common broad environmental stewardship considerations have been identified. Table 3.1 lists these common considerations along with related overarching plans, programs, and initiatives to be applied, as appropriate, in transportation project planning, design, and environmental review. Certain considerations also pertain to environmental project construction and transportation system operation and maintenance. The corresponding referenced plans, databases, and initiatives provide a basis for integrating transportation and environmental stewardship into member agencies' planning, projects, development, construction, operations and maintenance.

Table 3.1 Regional Environmental Plans, Initiatives and Databases

Air Quality Improvement

New York's Scoping Plan <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/scoping-plan/>

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/rggi.html>

New York State Energy Plan, 2015 <https://energyplan.ny.gov/>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Air Quality Initiatives
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/281.html>

NYSERDA, Clean Energy Fund, Clean Transportation Program
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Funding/Clean-Energy-Fund>, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Transportation-Program>

New York State Climate Smart Communities Program <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

Ecosystem Restoration / Wetlands Preservation / Species Recovery

DEC, New York's Endangered Species Regulations

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/biodiversity-species-conservation/endangered-species/regulations>

DEC, Animals, Plants, Aquatic Life <https://dec.ny.gov/animals-plants-aquatic-life>

DEC, State Wildlife Action Plan <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7179.html>

DEC, Environmental Resource Mapper

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/biodiversity-species-conservation/biodiversity-mapping/environmental-resource-mapper>

DEC, Hudson River Estuary Management Program

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program>

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Invasive Species <https://www.fws.gov/initiative/invasive-species>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), New England & Mid-Atlantic Geographic Strategic Plan 2020-2023

<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-01/NE-MA-geographic-strategic-plan.2022-AIP.pdf>

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Ecosystem Restoration

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Ecosystem-Restoration/>

USFWS Migratory Bird Program

<https://www.fws.gov/partner/migratory-bird-program-administrative-flyways>

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Review Toolkit, Implementing the Eco-Logical Approach https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/eco-logical.aspx

DEC, Pollinator Protection Plan https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/nyspollinatorplan.pdf

3-3

Fair Environmental Policy

USDOT

<https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/civil-rights-awareness-enforcement/environmental-justice>

DEC, Policies and Regulations <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/36929.html>

Flood Protection / Infrastructure Resiliency

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

[Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants)

MTA, Climate Resilience Roadmap

<https://www.mta.info/climate/resilience>

NYS DOS The Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure

<https://dos.ny.gov/resilience-planning>

Historic / Landmarks Preservation

New York State Historic Preservation Plan

<https://parks.ny.gov/documents/inside-our-agency/FinalStateHistoricPreservationPlan20212026.pdf>

Invasive Species

New York State Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/iscmpfinal.pdf

Open Space Preservation / Improvement / Access and Connectivity

New York State Open Space Conservation Plan

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/open-space/2016-open-space-conservation-plan>

New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Master Plans

<https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan <https://parks.ny.gov/documents/inside-our-agency/20202025StatewideComprehensiveOutdoorRecreationPlan.pdf>

Shoreline Protection / Coastal Resiliency

Community Risk and Resiliency Act <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/climate-change/new-york-response/crra/crra-provisions>

Coastal Resilience Mapping Tools and Apps <https://coastalresilience.org/mapping-tool-apps/>

New York State Coastal Management Program <https://dos.ny.gov/state-coastal-management-program>

Shinnecock Indian Nation Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan

<https://www.peconicestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Shinnecock-Indian-Nation-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-and-Action-Plan.pdf>

Sustainable Development / Redevelopment / Revitalization

Approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning Process

<https://dos.ny.gov/local-waterfront-revitalization-planning-process>

NYS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program <https://www.nyc.gov/site/oercommunity/planning/nys-brownfield-opportunity-area-boa-program.page>

USEPA Smart Sectors Program <https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>

Clean Air Northeast <https://cleanairnortheast.epa.gov/>

Water Quality Improvement / Water Supply Protection

DEC Water Initiatives <https://www.dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water>

DEC Groundwater Initiative <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/groundwater>

Watershed Initiatives <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/watersheds>

USEPA Urban Waters Federal Partnership <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners>

Healthy Watersheds Protection <https://www.epa.gov/hwp>

These plans, initiatives, and databases are applicable to the entire NYMTC region (also see Table 3.2). NYMTC's organization includes three geographical Transportation Coordination Committees—New York City, Long Island, and Lower Hudson Valley—which provide subregional forums for various planning efforts. The following section describes the main environmental resources and current natural resource conservation planning activities applicable to each of NYMTC's three subregions: the Lower Hudson Valley, suburban Long Island and New York City.

3.3 SUBREGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PLANS, INITIATIVES AND DATABASES

3.3.1 NEW YORK CITY

The New York City subregion comprises of New York City's five boroughs situated on three islands and the mainland. The subregion is characterized by medium- and high-density urban development intermixed with open space, natural areas, and extensive waterfronts and shorelines. The subregion contains many former manufacturing and industrial areas and is rich in historic cultural resources from its history as a site of native human habitation, which grew into a global center of commerce, finance, shipping, transportation engineering and construction, design, and the performing arts. For more information on the islands and mainland comprising the New York City subregion, refer to the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#).

WATER RESOURCES

The subregion contains a variety of waterbodies that drain to the New York–New Jersey Harbor Estuary, also known as the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. Waterbody types include rivers and streams, the most prominent being the Hudson River; tidal straits such as the East and Harlem rivers; and bays, inlets, marshes and coves (see Figure 3.1). Much of the land surrounding Jamaica Bay is designated as a Critical Environmental Area (see Figure 3.2). Major wetland complexes are found on Staten Island and around Jamaica and Little Neck Bays (see Figure 3.3). The harbor opens to the New York Bight in the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast and Long Island Sound to the northeast. The subregion also contains the Kings-Queens Counties (Brooklyn-Queens) Aquifer System Sole Source Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to portions of eastern Queens.

Efforts are underway to improve water quality and restore the essential fish habitat of protected species in these waters. Environmental opportunities related to this important resource include applying stormwater best management practices and reducing combined sewer overflows. Coastal flooding and coastal erosion from storm surges also pose risks (see Figure 3.4). Environmental opportunities related to flooding and erosion include implementation of best management practices in design and maintenance to protect infrastructure and nearby communities from these risks.

OPEN SPACE

The subregion contains many City parks, covering approximately 30,000 acres (14 percent of the city). The largest City parks are Pelham Bay Park, Greenbelt, Van Cortlandt Park, Flushing Meadows/Corona Park, Central Park, Inwood Hill Park, Freshkills Park, Marine Park, Bronx Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt Park and Beach, Alley Pond Park, and Forest Park. Meanwhile, the subregion is home to portions of the Gateway National Recreation Area and the Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Parkland in the subregion is mapped on Figure 3.5. Many parks contain natural areas and shoreline, water, wetlands, marshes, forest, and wildlife habitat which are shown on the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#).

Environmental opportunities related to parkland include avoiding or minimizing breaking up habitats while improving parkland connectivity and access. Right-of-way maintenance best management practices are used to mitigate the potential introduction of invasive species to habitats in parks and other open spaces.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

An emphasis of comprehensive planning in the subregion is on increasing the supply of housing for everyone, including through rezoning and redevelopment. New York City has an adopted Waterfront Revitalization Program, and several communities have been designated as [Brownfield Opportunity Areas \(BOAs\)](#), including the following list broken out by borough:

- » The Bronx: Port Morris-Harlem Riverfront, Harlem River
- » Brooklyn: Sunset Park, Bushwick, Cypress Hills, North Brooklyn
- » Manhattan: Bradhurst BOA
- » Queens: Flushing-Willets Point, Jamaica
- » Staten Island: West Shore, Port Richmond-Mariners Harbor, Richmond Terrace

Environmental opportunities related to sustainable development include deploying adaptive land use and zoning tools to reduce the vulnerability to flooding and higher water levels; maximizing the benefits derived from economic development, environmental conservation, and public use of the waterfront (through the Waterfront Revitalization Program), while minimizing potential conflicts among these objectives; promoting sustainable communities throughout the city by supporting transit- oriented development, alternatives to automobile ownership and use, improved access to healthy, fresh foods, stormwater management, and streetscape enhancements; and facilitating energy efficient building design to help reduce energy consumption and chemical use.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The New York City subregion is rich in archaeological and historic resources, and many properties are listed on or are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (see Figure 3.6), including certain railroad and subway stations, bridges, and parkways. Many communities served by transportation

infrastructure contain historic districts and individually designated historic properties. Environmental opportunities related to cultural resources include early consultation in the planning of projects.

Table 3.2 New York City Environmental Considerations and Plans

Air Quality

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Strategic Plan <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/about/strategic-plan.page>

Staten Island Fast Ferry Planning

https://www.statenislandusa.com/uploads/8/9/8/7/89877849/01_fastferry.pdf

Ecosystem / Wetlands / Species

NY-NJ Harbor and Estuary Program <https://www.hudsonriver.org/estuary-program>

US Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Wildlife Conservation

<https://www.fws.gov/program/urban-wildlife-conservation>

Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-Raritan-Estuary/>

Hudson River Habitat Restoration <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-River-Habitat-Restoration/>

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficient Buildings <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/builttolast/index.page>

Open Space / Improvement/ Access and Connectivity

Bronx River Greenway <https://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/bronx-river-greenway/then-and-now>

South Bronx Greenway Plan <https://edc.nyc/sites/default/files/2019-11/NYCEDC-South-Bronx-Greenway-plan.pdf>

Shoreline / Coastal Areas

New York City Resiliency & Sustainability Initiatives

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/dcp-priorities/resiliency-sustainability.page>

PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done

<https://climate.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/PlaNYC-2023-Full-Report.pdf>

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project <https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/index.page>

Environmental Development/Redevelopment/Revitalization

OneNYC 2050 <http://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program

<https://docs.dos.ny.gov/opd-lwrp/LWRP/New%20York%20City/Amendment2/Final/NYC%20WRP%202015.pdf>

NYC Planning, Sustainable Communities

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/sustainable-communities/sustainable-communities.page>

Bronx Sustainable Development Policy

<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/sustainabledevelopmentpolicy.pdf>

Designated NYS Brownfield Opportunity Area

<https://a002epic.nyc.gov/community/areas/?category=Designated%20NYS%20Brownfield%20Opportunity%20Area>

Special Harlem River Waterfront District

<http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/2014/03/20/the-special-harlem-river-waterfront-district/>

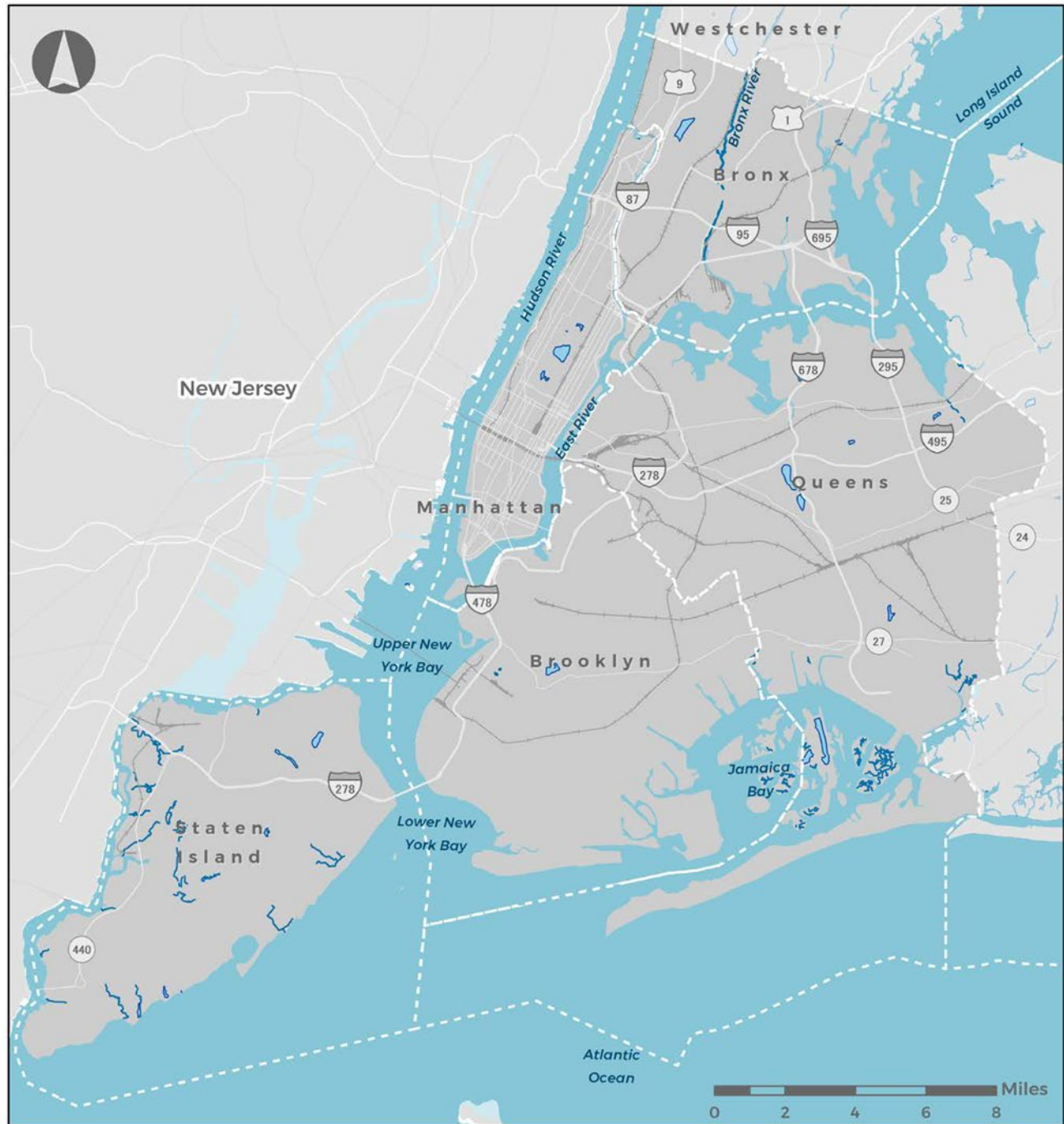
Water Quality / Water Supply

US Environmental Protection Agency, Urban Waters Federal Partnership <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters>

Mid-Island Bluebelt Drainage Plans

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/about/mid-island-bluebelt-drainage-plan.page>

Figure 3.1 New York City Water Resources

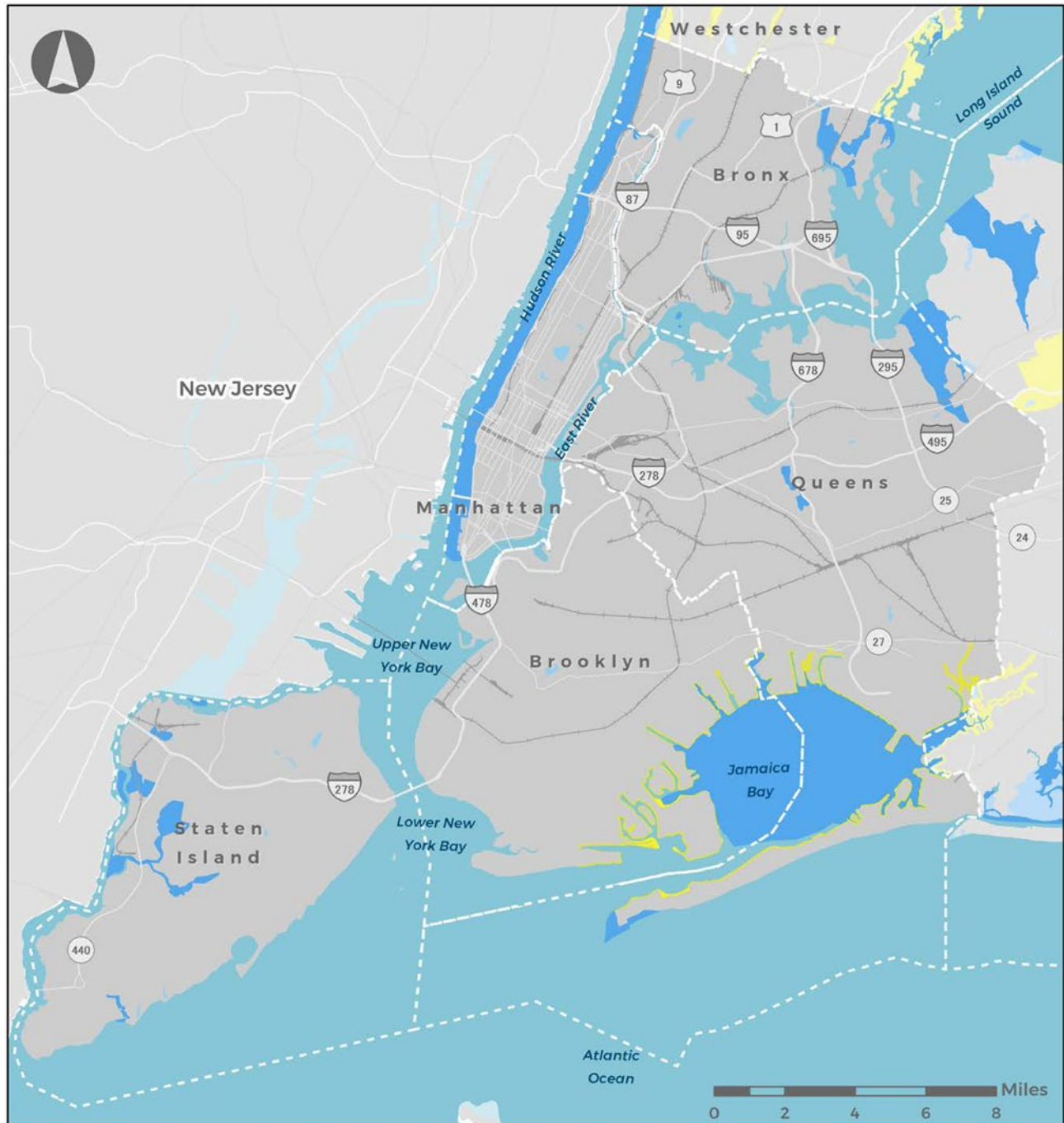


Legend

- River/ Stream
- Lake and Reservoir
- Estuary and Open Water

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Figure 3.2 New York City Critical Environmental Areas

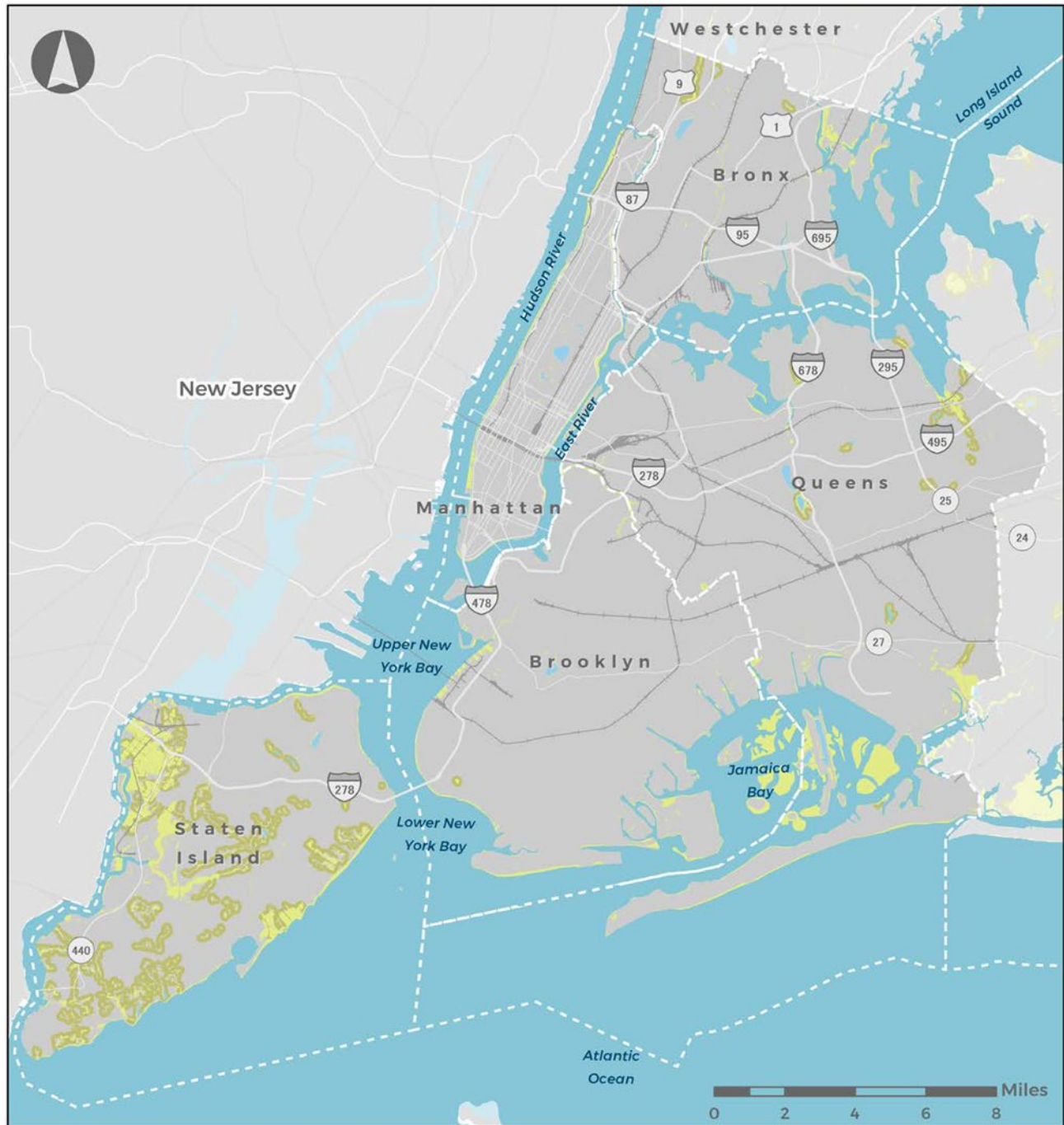


Legend

- Critical Environmental Area
- Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Boundary
- Waterbody

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository

Figure 3.3 New York City Wetlands

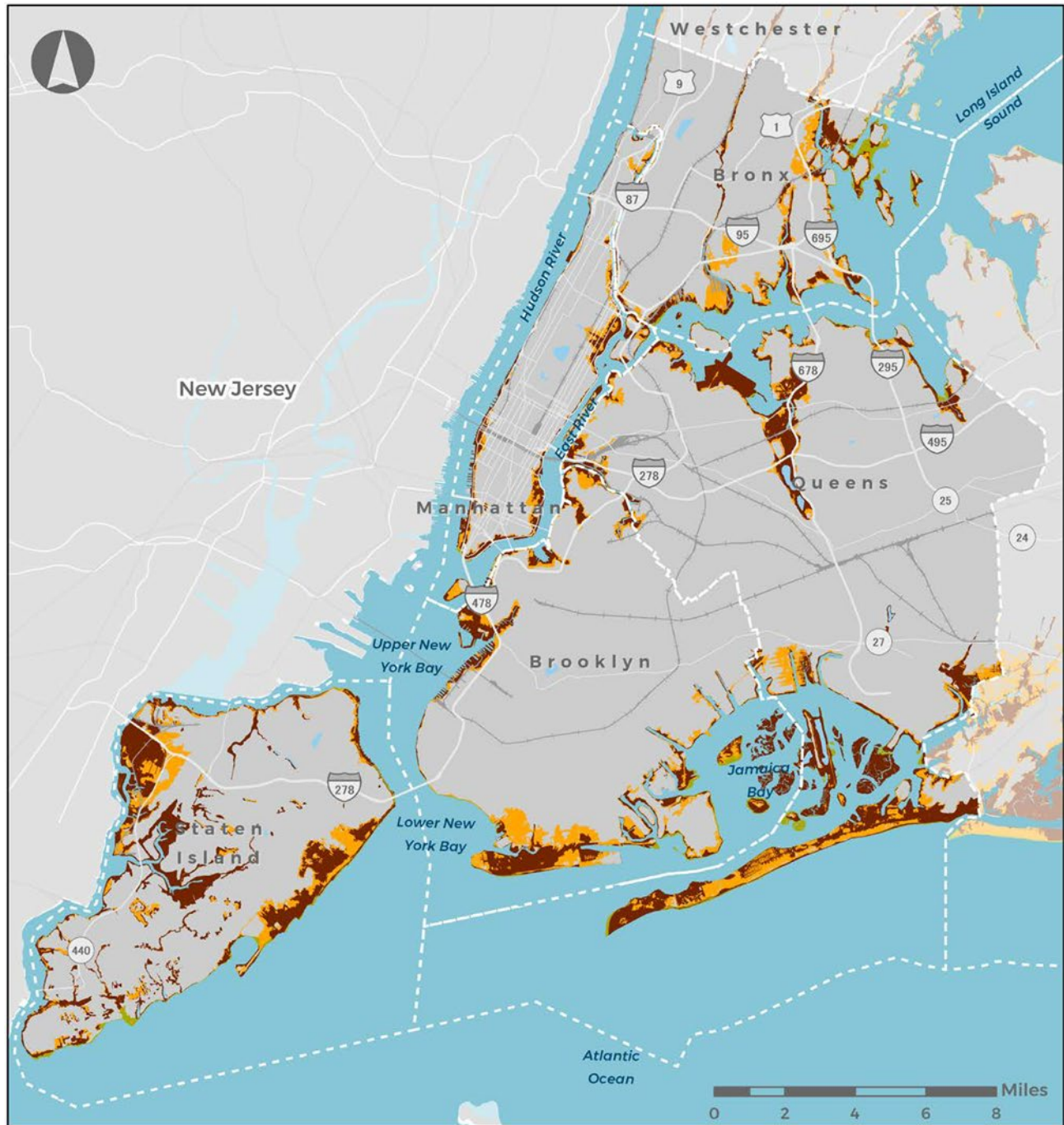


Legend

- Tidal Wetlands
- Waterbody
- State-regulated Wetlands
- State-regulated Freshwater Wetlands Checkzone

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository

Figure 3.4 New York City Floodplains

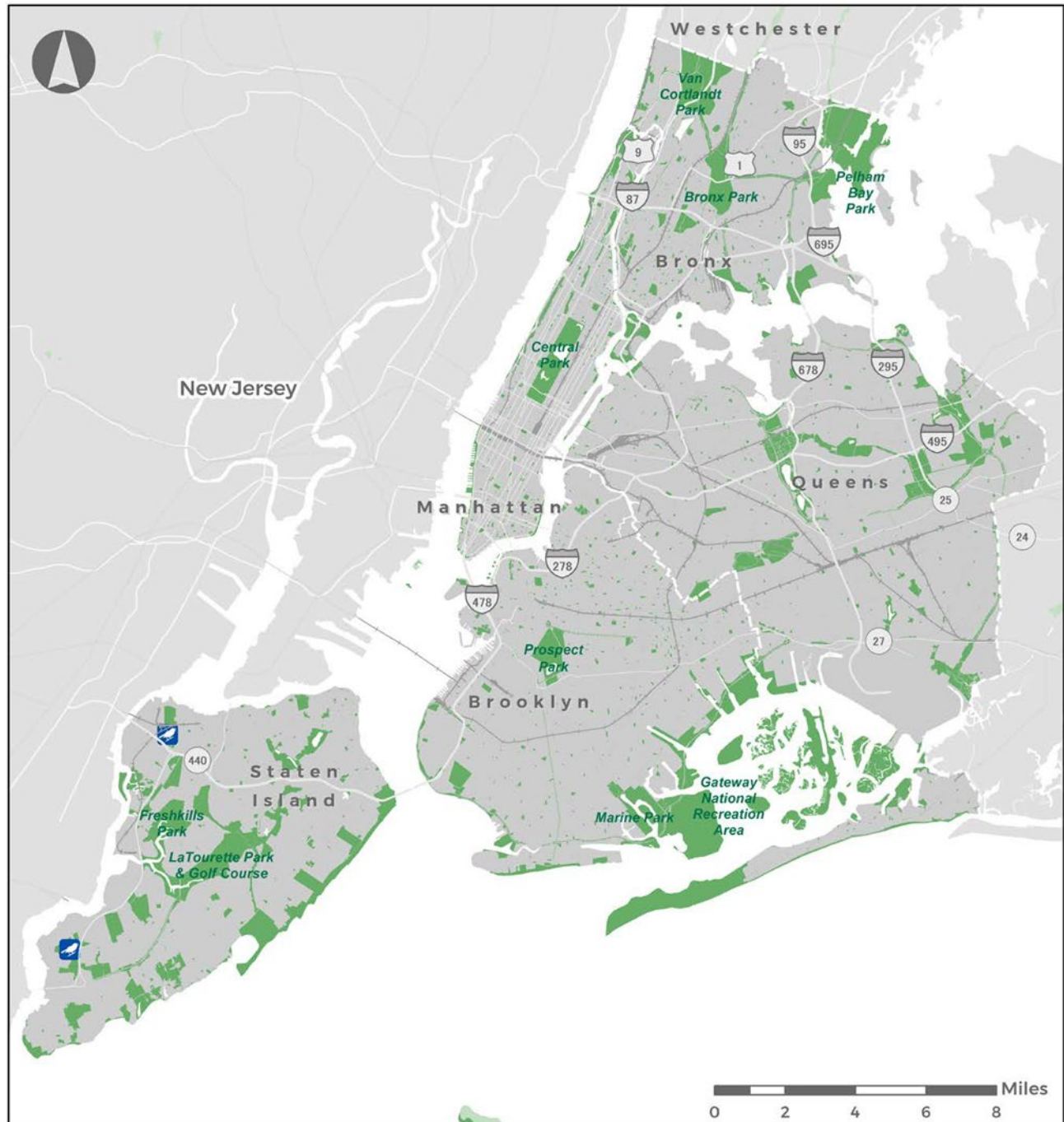


Legend

- Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA, 100-year floodplain)
- Moderate Flood Hazard Area (500-year floodplain)
- Coastal Risk Area - High Risk

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; Federal Emergency Management Agency

Figure 3.5 New York City Parks and Recreational Areas

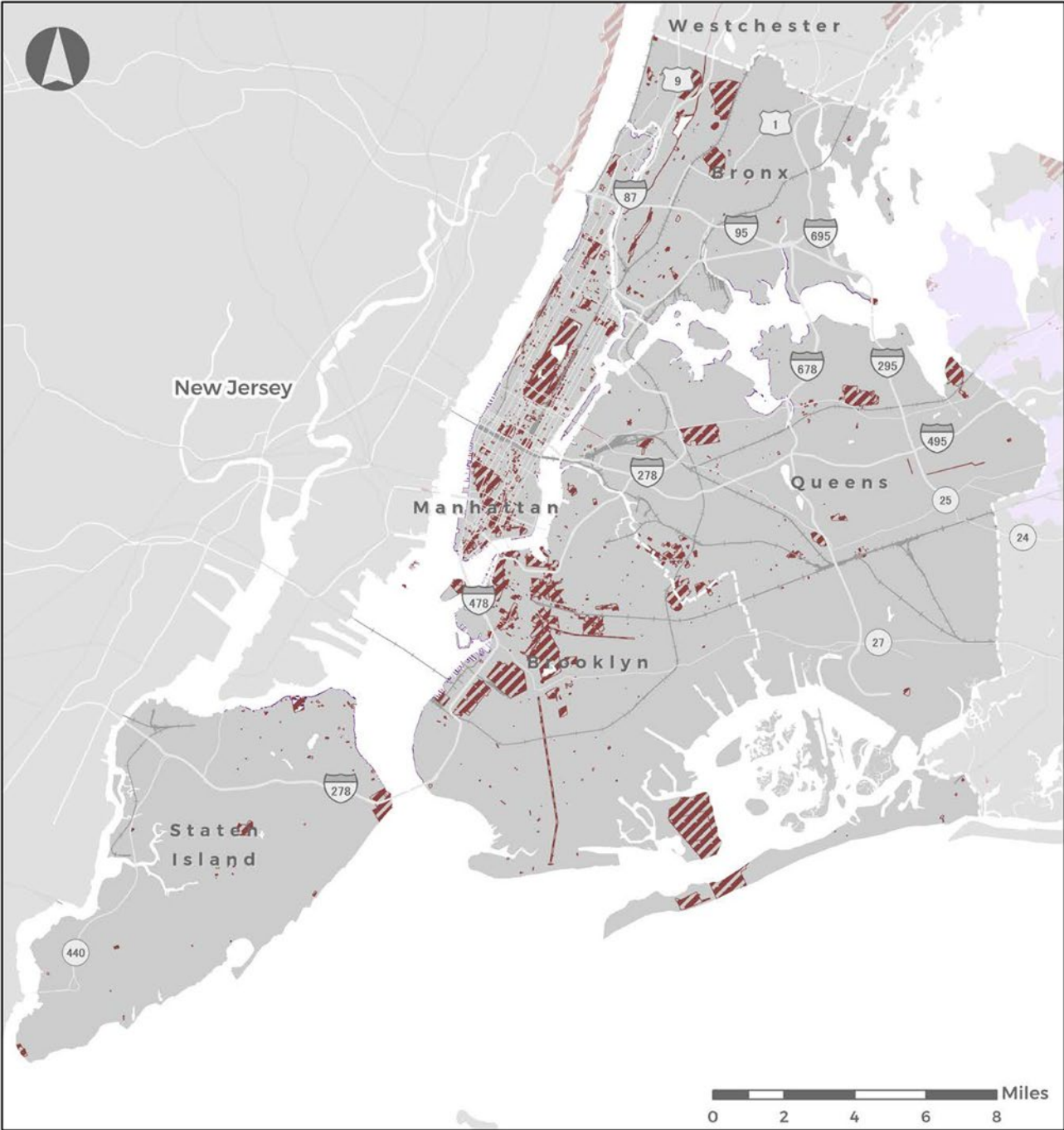


Legend

-  Bird Conservation Area
-  Parks and Recreational Area

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; U.S. National Park Service; U.S. Geological Survey; NYC Open Data

Figure 3.6 New York City Historic and Cultural Resources



Legend

-  National Register Site
-  State Heritage Area - Urban
-  State Heritage Area - Other
-  Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse

3.3.2 SUBURBAN LONG ISLAND

The suburban Long Island subregion comprises Nassau and Suffolk counties and is characterized by suburban, semi-rural, and agricultural environments. The prominent natural resources of the subregion include an extensive coastline which includes barrier islands and abutting bays and estuaries as well as the Long Island Pine Barrens. The subregion has many parks and open spaces, and it is also rich in prehistoric and historic cultural resources, especially those that evoke the subregion's historical reliance on fishing, farming, water mills, aviation, and recreational tourism. For more information on the islands and mainland comprising suburban Long Island, refer to the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#).

WATER RESOURCES

The subregion's water resources serve both human consumption and aquatic habitat needs. The Nassau-Suffolk Counties Long Island Sole Source Aquifer provides water for the entire subregion. Surface waters are dispersed across the island and primarily flow either south to north into Long Island Sound or north to south into the Great South Bay (Figure 3.7). Efforts are underway to improve water quality and restore fish habitats for protected species across associated bays and estuaries. Meanwhile, specific natural resources and habitat identified for protection include Critical Environmental Areas (Figure 3.8) and wetlands (Figure 3.9).

Environmental opportunities related to the aquifer and surface waters include minimizing adding new impervious surfaces where possible and applying best management practices to control stormwater runoff and chemicals, especially the application of nitrogen-based fertilizers. The subregion also faces risks from flooding and erosion from storms (see Figure 3.10). Environmental opportunities related to flooding and erosion include implementing best management practices in design and maintenance to protect infrastructure and nearby communities from these risks.

OPEN SPACE

The subregion contains numerous state parks and preserves, primarily along the coastline (namely, Jones Beach, Bethpage, Caumsett, Gilgo, Robert Moses, Belmont Lake, Heckscher, Connetquot River, Wildwood, Hither Hills, and Orient Beach). Many of these parks are connected by a system of parkways with abutting trails that were developed by the state in conjunction with the parks. Meanwhile, the subregion is home to the Fire Island National Seashore and the Seatuck and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuges, as well as many county and municipal parks and preserves. The subregion's parkland is mapped in Figure 3.11. The larger parks contain dunes, shoreline, marshes, wetlands, water, forest (including unique pine barrens), and other habitats for wildlife. Environmental opportunities related to parkland include avoiding or minimizing breaking up parkland. Meanwhile, right-of-way maintenance best management practices are used to mitigate the potential introduction of invasive species to habitats in parks and other open spaces.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Much of the emphasis of comprehensive planning in the subregion—at the county and local municipal levels—is on seeking to concentrate future development in developed areas to preserve open spaces, coastal areas, and farmland. Many communities, including Bayville, East Hampton, Greenport, Head of the Harbor and Nissequogue, Lloyd Harbor, Ocean Beach, Sag Harbor, Smithtown, and Southold, have approved local waterfront revitalization plans. Portions of several towns have approved Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) plans, which contain incentives for redevelopment. Approved BOAs include Riverhead, Huntington Station, New Cassel, Northwest Hicksville, Riverside, Southeast Hicksville, The Orchard, Glen Cove, Hempstead and Wyandanch Downtown. Meanwhile, some farmland is protected through agricultural districts (see Figure 3.12). Environmental opportunities related to development include planning projects to be consistent with the policies of approved waterfront revitalization plans and agricultural districts and locating projects within BOAs, where applicable.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Long Island subregion is rich in archaeological and historic resources, and many properties are listed on or are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (see Figure 3.13). Transportation has played a vital role in the development of the subregion (e.g., Long Island Rail Road and parkways), and transportation infrastructure such as railroad stations, bridges, and parkways are historic resources. Additionally, many communities served by transportation infrastructure contain historic districts and individually designated historic properties. Environmental mitigation opportunities related to cultural resources include early consultation in the planning of projects with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)—State Historic Preservation Office, as well as on the appropriate preservation or adaptive reuse of historic properties. The Long Island subregion also includes tribal territories of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and Unkechaug Nation (Poospatuck Reservation).

Table 3.3 Long Island Environmental Considerations and Plans**Ecosystem / Wetlands / Species**

Long Island Sound Study, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/ccmp-revision-updates/>

Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan
<https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/09/2022-sser-cmp.pdf>

Peconic Estuary Conservation & Management Plan
<https://www.peconicestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PEP-DRAFT-Comprehensive-Conservation-and-Management-Plan-for-Public-Review.pdf>

Long Island Regional Planning Council, Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan
<https://lirpc.org/our-work/long-island-nitrogen-action-plan/>

Farmland

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Farmland Protection
<https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/farmland-protection>

Agricultural Districts <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/agricultural-districts>

Soil & Water Conservation <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-committee>

Suffolk County, Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan
<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/portals/0/formsdocs/planning/Publications/AgFarmProtectPlanr.pdf>

Invasive Species

New York State Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan
https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/iscmpfinal.pdf

Shoreline / Coastal Areas

Nassau County Implementation of GOSR Community Reconstruction Program
<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/3886/NYS-GOSR-Community-Reconstruction-Program>

Western Bays Resiliency Initiative <https://www.bayparkconveyance.org/about>

Shinnecock Indian Nation Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan
<https://www.peconicestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Shinnecock-Indian-Nation-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-and-Action-Plan.pdf>

Coastal Resiliency and Water Quality in Nassau and Suffolk Counties
https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/lireportoct14.pdf

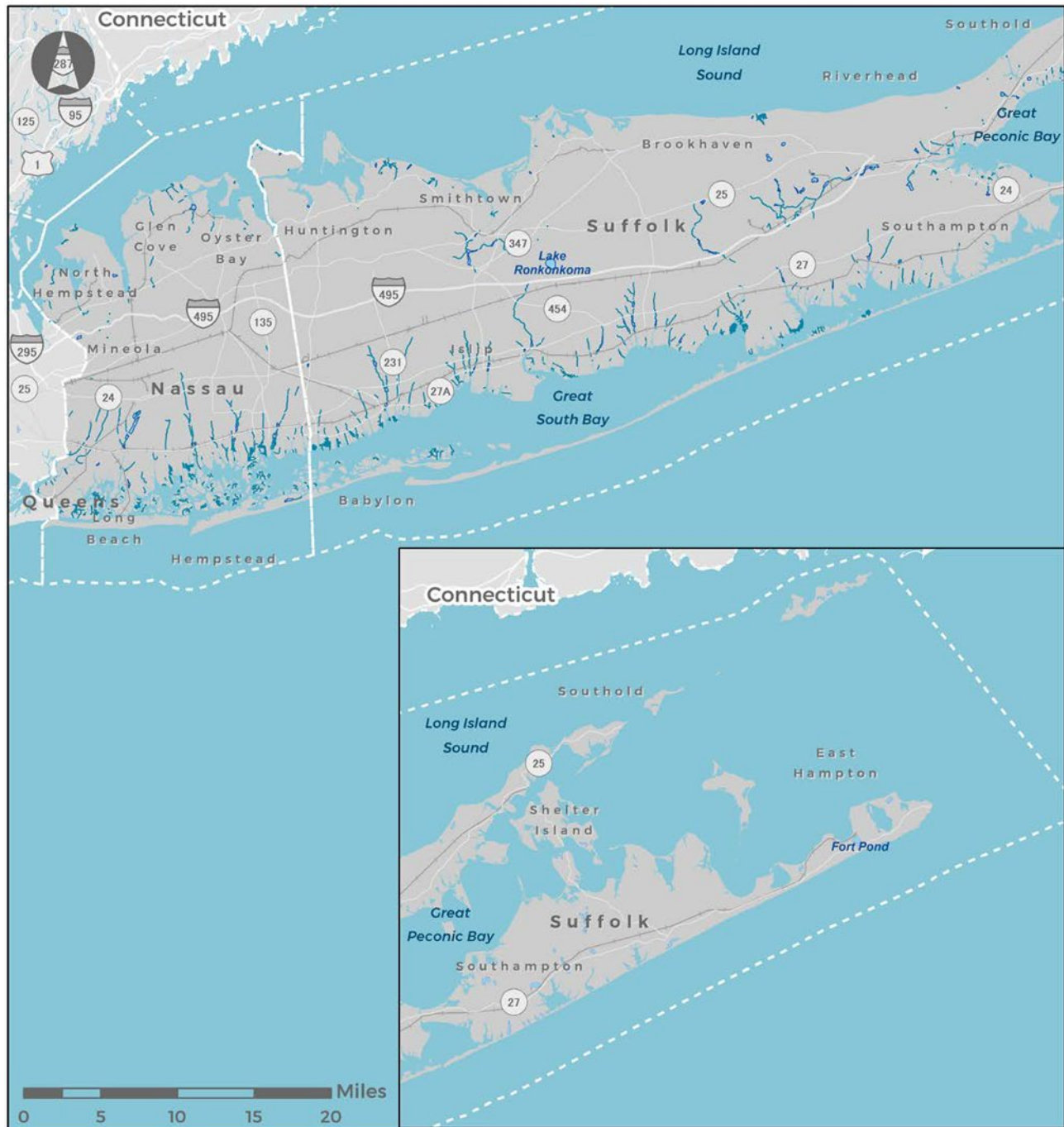
Environmental Development / Redevelopment / Revitalization

Nassau County Master Plan <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/2872/Master-Plan>

Nassau County Climate Smart Communities <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/>

Suffolk County Comprehensive Master Plan
https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/portals/0/formsdocs/planning/CompPlan/Comp%20Master%20Plan%202035/ADASuffolkCounty_MasterPlanFINAL_07282015.pdf

Figure 3.7 Long Island Water Resources



Legend

- River/ Stream
- Lake and Reservoir
- Estuary and Open Water

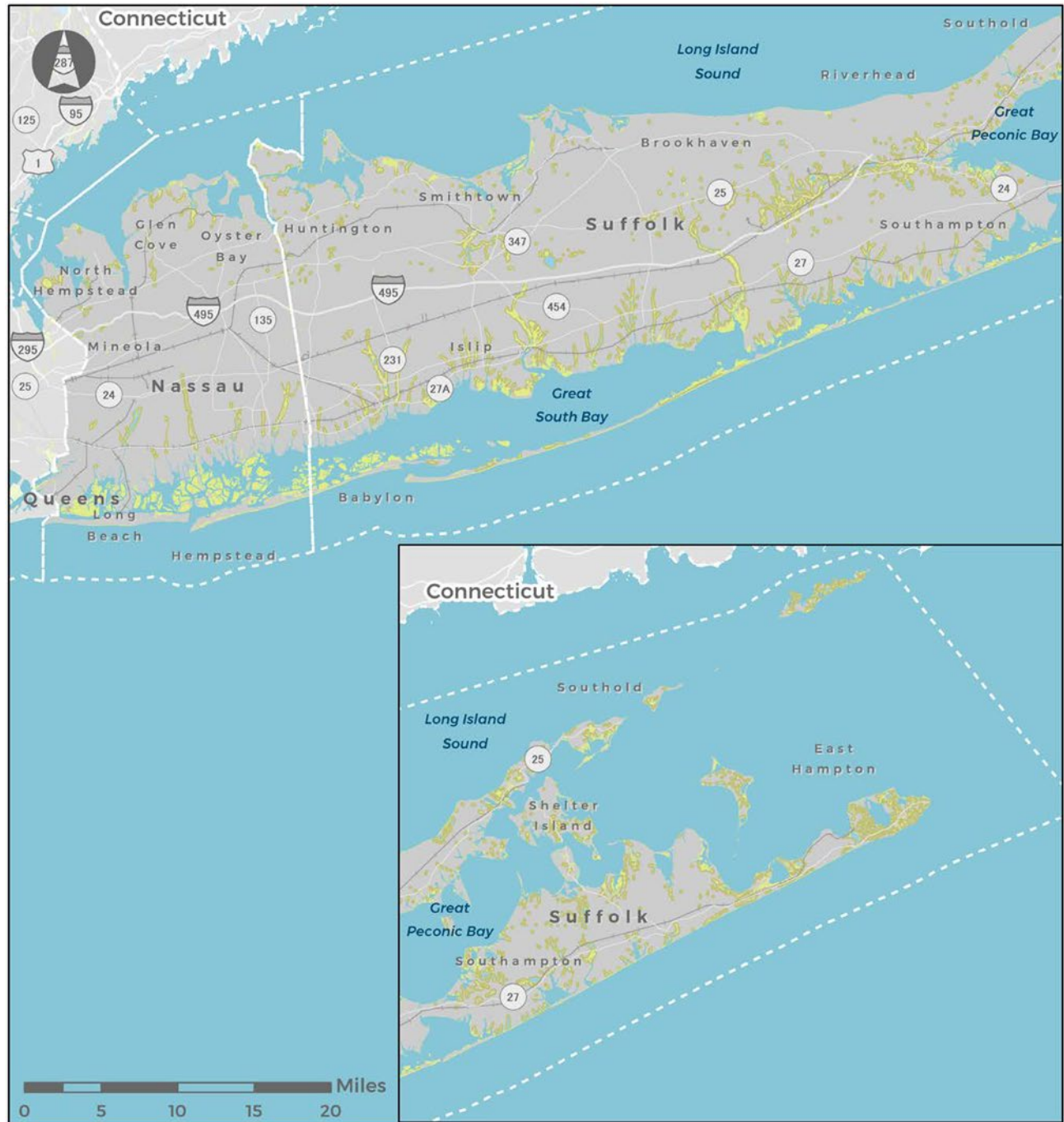
Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

This map displays the Long Island Sound region, including parts of Suffolk County, Nassau County, and Queens. Key locations shown include Southold, Riverhead, Brookhaven, Smithtown, Huntington, Islip, Babylon, Hempstead, and Great South Bay. The map also shows the Great Peconic Bay and the Long Island Sound. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances in miles (0 to 20).

 Critical Environmental Area
 Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Boundary
 Waterbody

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository

Figure 3.9 Long Island Wetlands

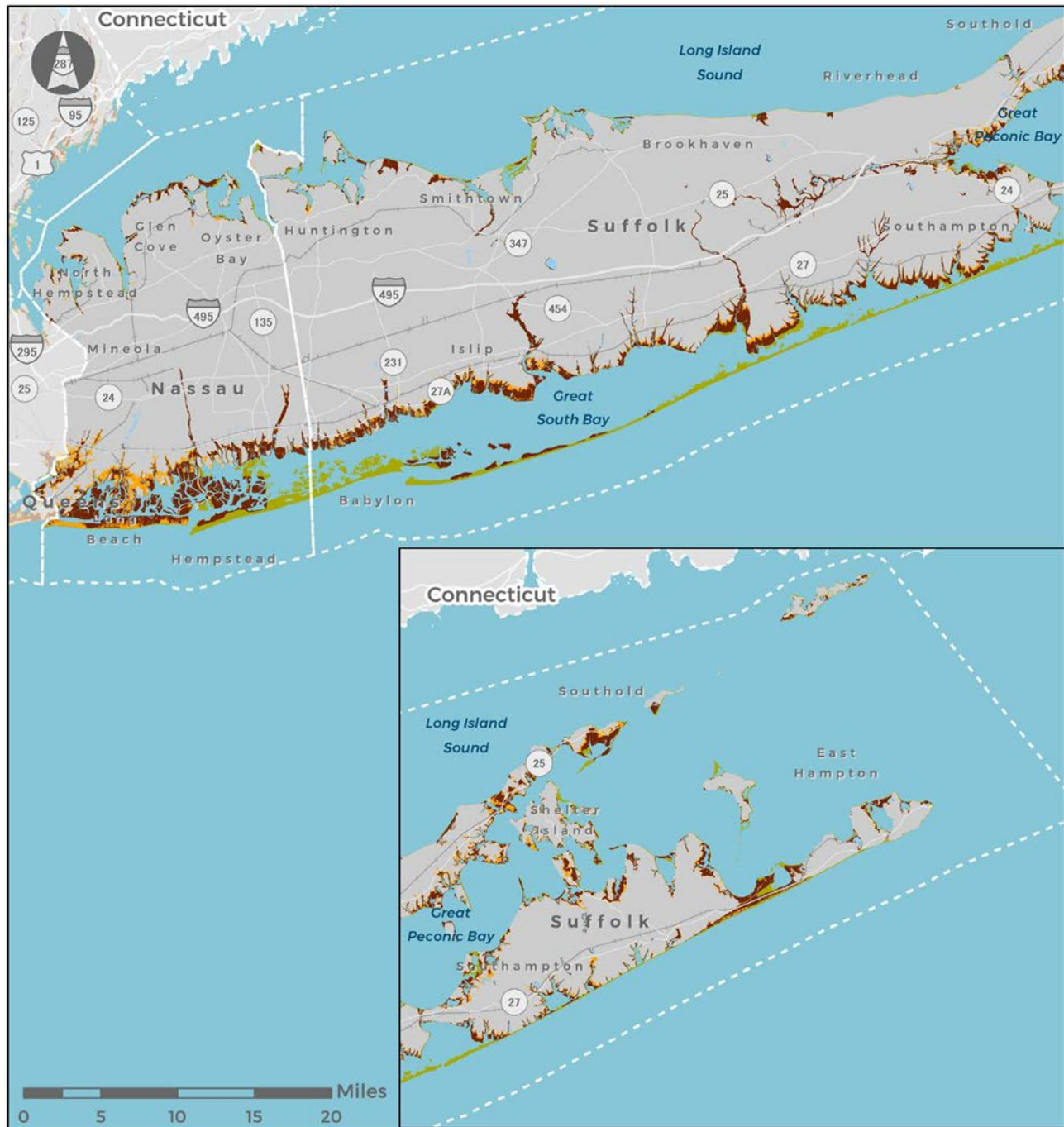


Legend

- Tidal Wetlands
- Waterbody
- State-regulated Wetlands
- State-regulated Freshwater Wetlands Checkzone

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository

Figure 3.10 Long Island Floodplains

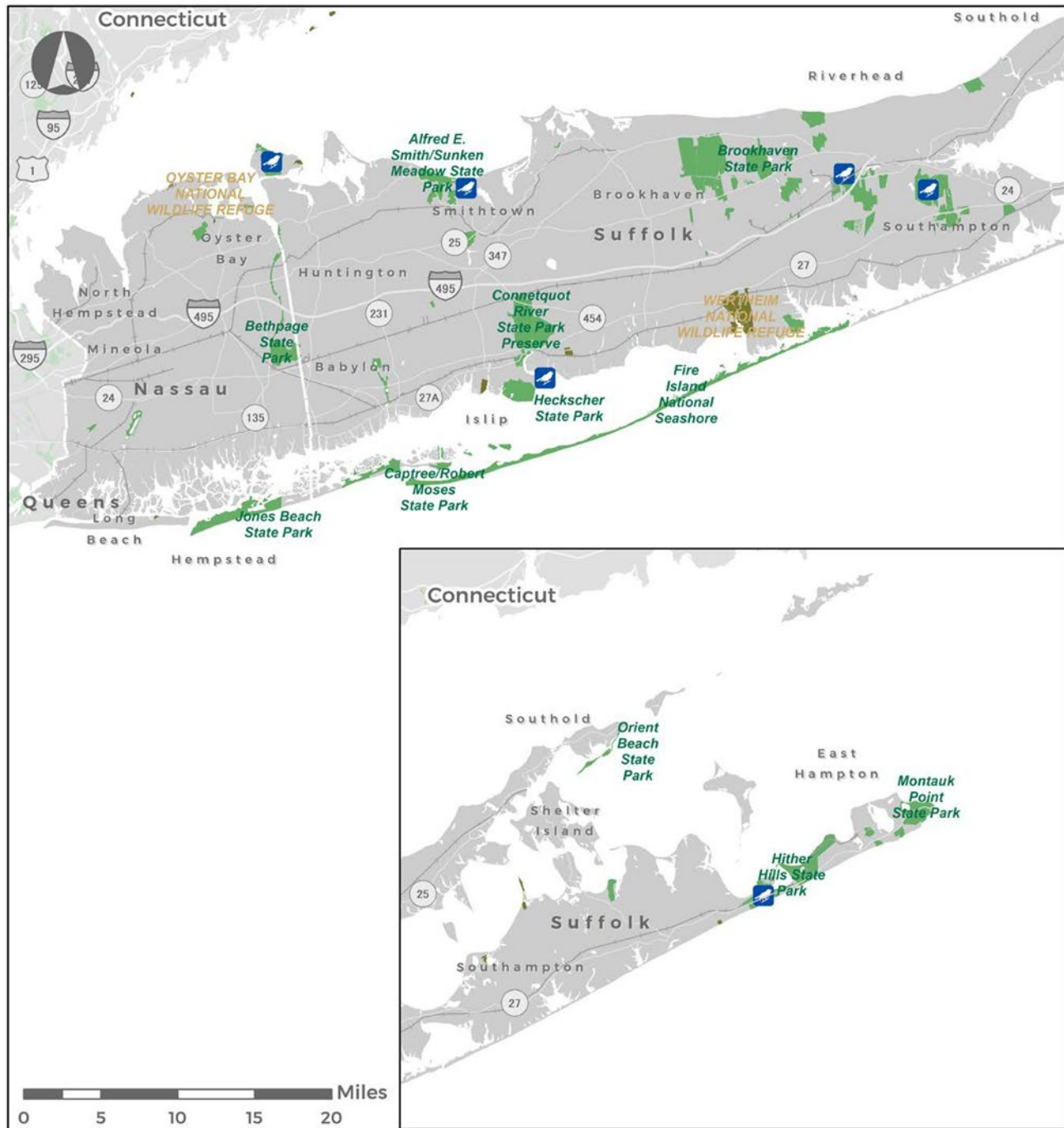


Legend

- Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA, 100-year floodplain)
- Moderate Flood Hazard Area (500-year floodplain)
- Coastal Risk Area - High Risk

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; Federal Emergency Management Agency

Figure 3.11 Long Island Parks and Recreational Areas

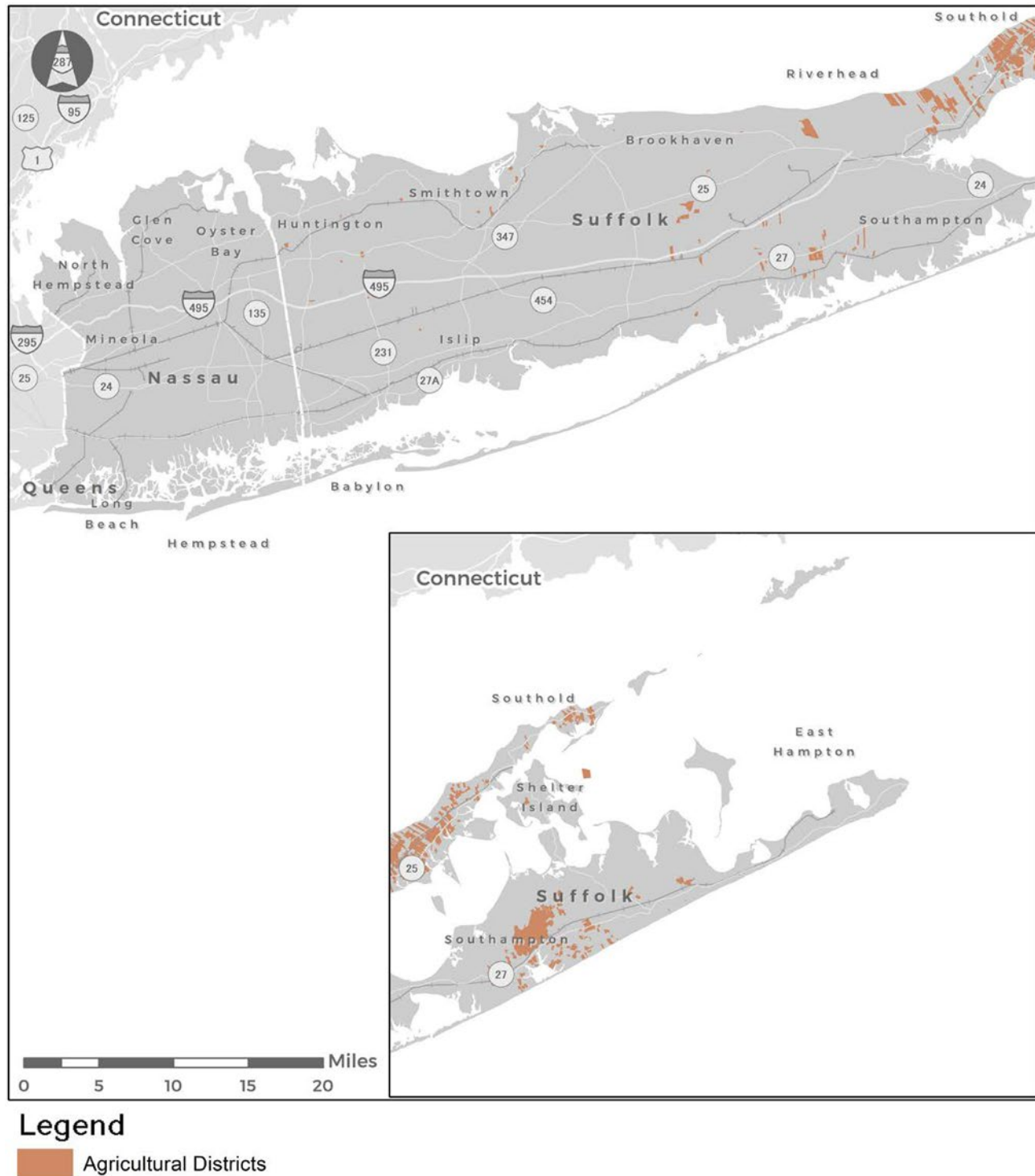


Legend

-  Bird Conservation Area
-  Parks and Recreational Area
-  National Wildlife Refuge

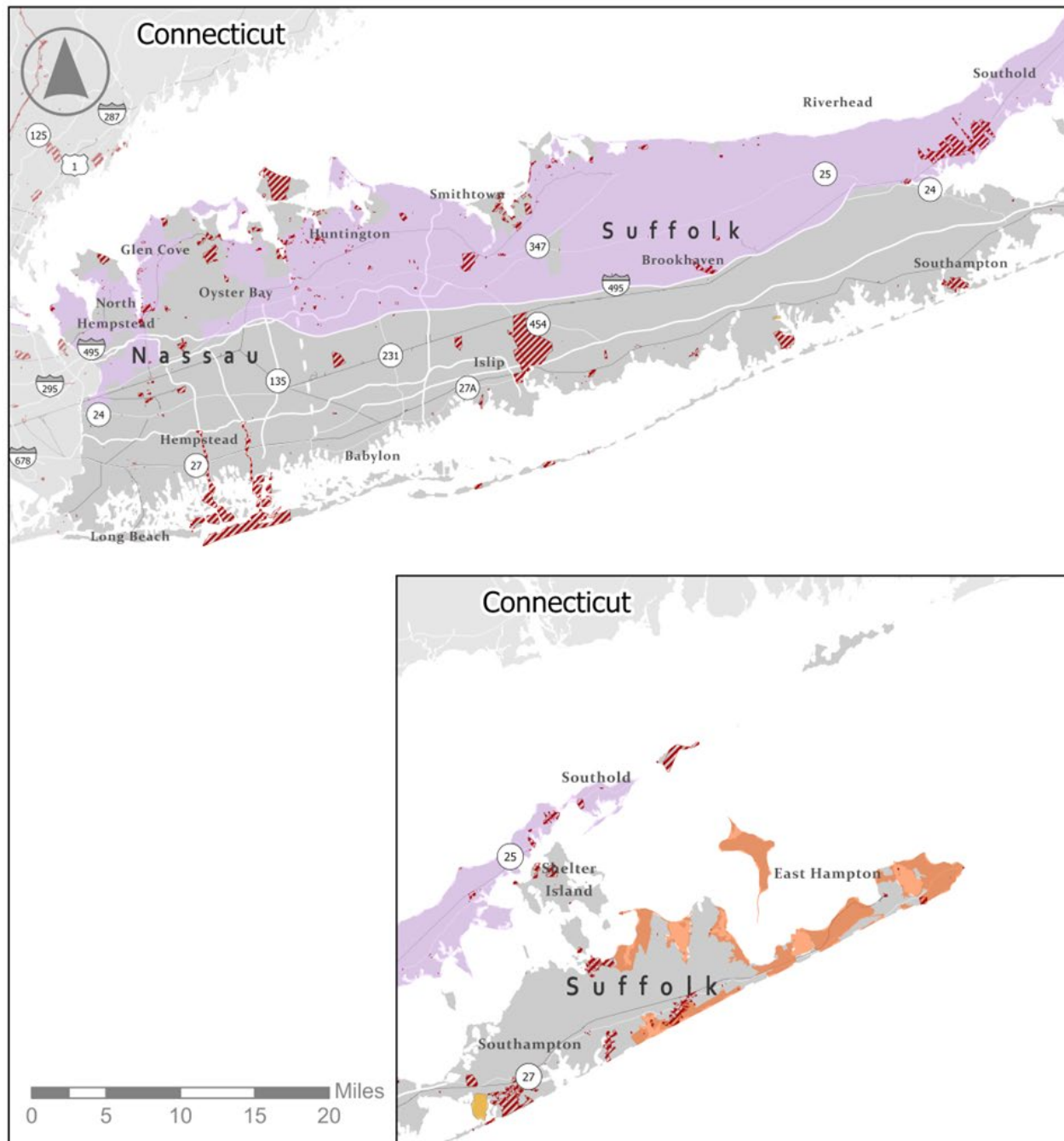
Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; U.S. Geological Survey

Figure 3.12 Long Island Agricultural Districts



Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse

Figure 3.13 Long Island Historic and Cultural Resources



Legend

-  National Register Site
-  Native American Territories
-  State Heritage Area - Urban
-  State Heritage Area - Other
-  Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; NY State Geographic Information Gateway; NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; NY State Department of State; NYC Open Data

3.3.3 LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

The Lower Hudson Valley subregion is comprised of Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. The subregion is a mix of urban areas such as the cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, and White Plains; suburban and semi-rural and agricultural environments. Natural resources of the subregion include waterways, reservoirs, shorelines, parks, and open spaces. The subregion is also rich in prehistoric and historic cultural resources, especially near Native American trails and lands in Rockland County, settlements along waterways that evolved into many of the early roads and then railroads, and the locations of mills and early European settlements. For more information on the islands and mainland comprising the Lower Hudson Valley, refer to the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#).

WATER RESOURCES

The subregion's water resources serve human consumption and aquatic habitat needs. Reservoirs in the subregion supply drinking water to many of the subregion's residents and much of New York City and Bergen County, New Jersey. In addition, the subregion contains the Ramapo River Basin Aquifer System Sole-Source Aquifer (see Figure 3.14). Specific natural resources and habitat identified for protection include Critical Environmental Areas (Figure 3.15) and wetlands (Figure 3.16). The subregion's waterways drain to the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, both of which are the subject of efforts to improve water quality and restore essential fish habitats.

Environmental opportunities related to water resources and wetlands include avoiding and minimizing the placement of fill in such resources, restoring previously degraded resources, minimizing adding more paved surfaces around reservoir watersheds where possible, and applying best management practices to control stormwater runoff chemicals and sedimentation, especially in areas of steep slopes. Flooding and flood risks are a concern along the many routes where transportation infrastructure is proximate to waterways for reasons of topography (see Figure 3.17). Environmental opportunities related to waterways and flooding include implementing best management practices for the design and maintenance of drainage infrastructure and waterway structures.

OPEN SPACE

The subregion contains all or portions of several relatively large state parks (namely, Harriman, Bear Mountain, and Hudson Highlands), and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, as well as many county and municipal parks (see Figure 3.18). The larger parks contain forested areas and other habitats for wildlife. Environmental opportunities related to parkland include avoiding or minimizing the fragmentation of parkland habitat while improving parkland connectivity and access. Meanwhile, right-of-way maintenance best management practices are used to mitigate the potential introduction of invasive species to habitats in parks and other open spaces and provide opportunities for habitat for grassland birds and pollinators.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Much of the emphasis of comprehensive planning in the subregion is on concentrating future development in already developed areas to preserve open spaces and farmland and to promote sustainability. Many communities, including Croton-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Haverstraw, Village of Mamaroneck, Nyack, Ossining, Peekskill, Piermont, Port Chester, Rye, Sleepy Hollow, and Stony Point, have approved local waterfront revitalization plans. Farmland in portions of the subregion is protected through agricultural districts (see Figure 3.19). Environmental opportunities related to sustainable development include planning projects to be consistent with the policies of approved waterfront revitalization plans and agricultural districts, where applicable.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The subregion is rich in archaeological and historic resources, and many properties are listed on or are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (see Figure 3.20). Transportation has played a vital role in the development of the subregion (e.g., the New York Central Railroad and parkways), and transportation infrastructure such as railroad stations, bridges, and parkways are historic resources. Additionally, many communities served by transportation infrastructure contain historic districts and individually designated historic properties. Environmental stewardship opportunities related to cultural resources include early consultation in the planning of projects with OPRHP—State Historic Preservation Office, as well as on the appropriate preservation or adaptive reuse of historic properties. This also includes archeological sites in Rockland County associated with the Ramapough Lenape Nation (tribal nation recognized by New Jersey but not federally or by New York State).

3-26

Table 3.4 Lower Hudson Valley Environmental Considerations and Plans

Air Quality

Putnam County Climate Smart Communities Initiative

<https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/climatesmart#/find/nearest?fuel>

Rockland Climate Smart Program <https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/planning/sustainability-program/climate-smart-communities-program>

Westchester County Office of Energy Conservation and Sustainability

<https://www.westchestergov.com/office-of-energy-conservation-and-sustainability>

Ecosystem / Wetlands / Species

Westchester County Aquatic Restoration

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/environment/aquatic-restoration>

NYS DEC, Hudson River Estuary Program <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>

US ACE, Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-Raritan-Estuary/>

Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Hudson-Raritan Estuary

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Comprehensive-Restoration-Plan-for-the-Hudson-Raritan-Estuary/>

Hudson River Habitat Restoration <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-River-Habitat-Restoration/>

Rockland County Environmental Management Council

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources/boards-committees/environmental-management-council>

Add Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources/boards-committees/soil-water-conservation-district>

Farmland

An Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan for Putnam County

https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/images/Departments/Soil_Water_Conservation/Keep%20Putnam%20Farming/PDF_Documents/Final-Plan-08-04.pdf

Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

<https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/keepputnamfarming/>

Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/reports/wcagplan.pdf>

Stormwater / Infrastructure Maintenance

Westchester County Flood Management

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/flooding-and-recon-plans>

Flooding and Land Use Planning: A Guidance Document for Municipal Officials and Planners

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/images/stories/reports/FLOODGUIDE.pdf>

Westchester County Hazard Mitigation Planning

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/hazard-mitigation-planning>

Westchester County Hazard Mitigation Plan

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/environment/2016-01-28-16-16-46/hazard-mitigation-plan>

Rockland County Hazard Mitigation Plan <https://rocklandhmp.com/>

Parkland Preservation / Improvement / Access and Connectivity

Putnam County, Keep Putnam Green [KeepPutnamGreen—Putnam County, New York](#)

Rockland County, Hudson River Valley Greenway

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/planning/land-use/hudson-river-valley-greenway>

Rockland County Open Space Acquisition Program

<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources/open-space-acquisition-program>

Rockland County Environmental Education <https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources/environmental-education>

Westchester County Greenprint for a Sustainable Future <https://planning.westchestergov.com/land-use-development/greenway-compact/sustainable-future-greenprint>

Westchester County Open Space Policy <https://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/open-space/policy>

Shoreline / Coastal Areas

Climate-adaptive Communities in the Hudson River Estuary <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/39786.html>

Environmental Development / Redevelopment / Revitalization

Putnam County Main Street Partnership Planning Study
<https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/planning-department#currentstudies>

Rockland County Comprehensive Plan
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/planning/comprehensive-plan>

Westchester 2025: A Partnership for Westchester's Future
<https://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/westchester-2025>

Water Quality / Water Supply

Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District
<https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/soil-water-conservation-district>

Westchester County Watershed Protection <https://planning.westchestergov.com/watershed-protection>

Croton Plan <https://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/croton>

Bronx River Watershed Coalition <https://planning.westchestergov.com/bronx-river>

Long Island Sound Watershed Program <https://planning.westchestergov.com/long-island-sound>

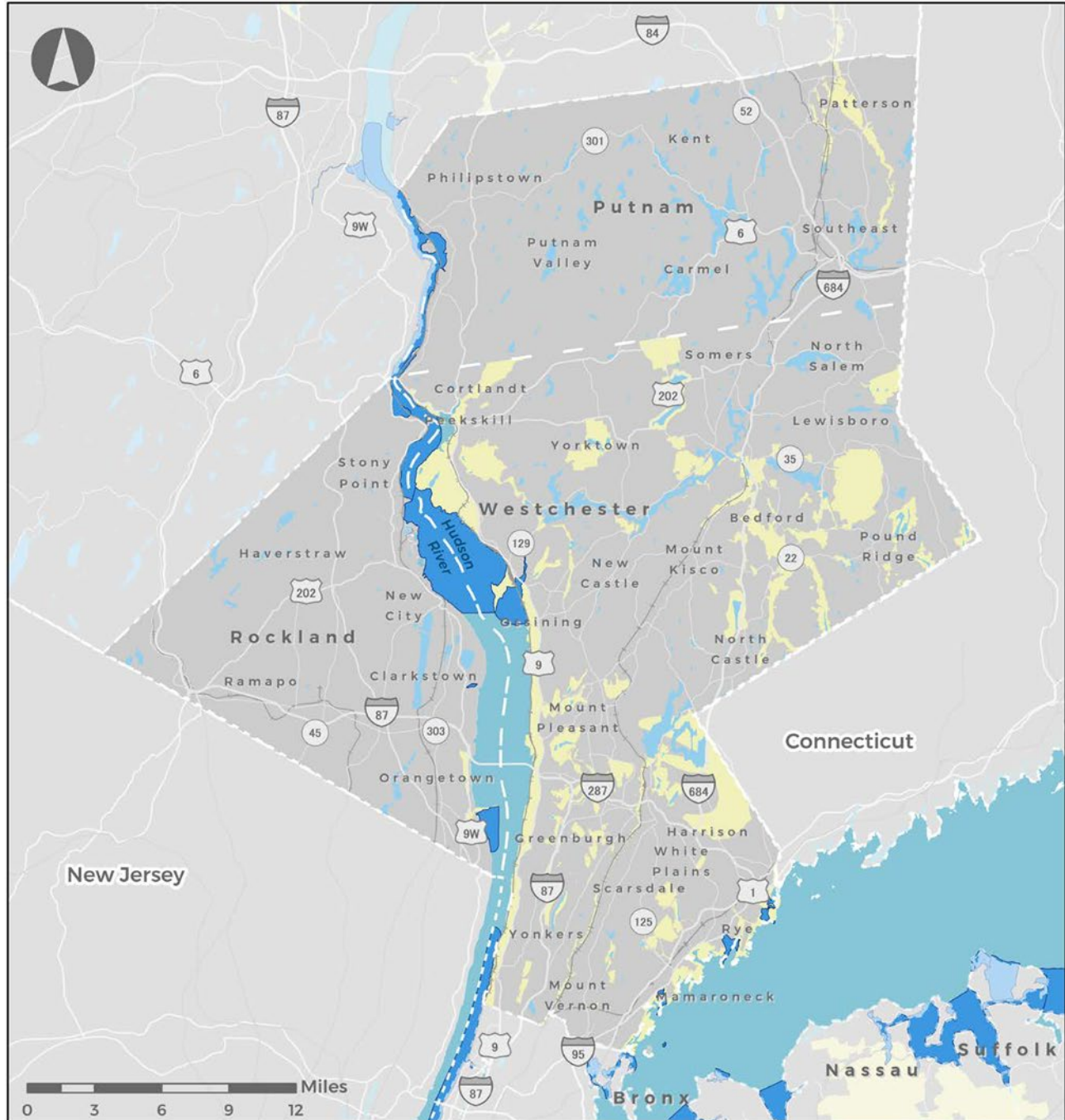
Rockland County Protecting our Streams & Waterways
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/environmental-resources/protecting-our-streams-waterways>

Rockland County Comprehensive Water Conservation and Implementation Plan
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1600/638216457160400000>

Rockland County Drainage Agency
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/highway/drainage-agency>

Rockland County Department of Health
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/departments/health/environmental-health>

Figure 3.15 Lower Hudson Valley Critical Environmental Areas

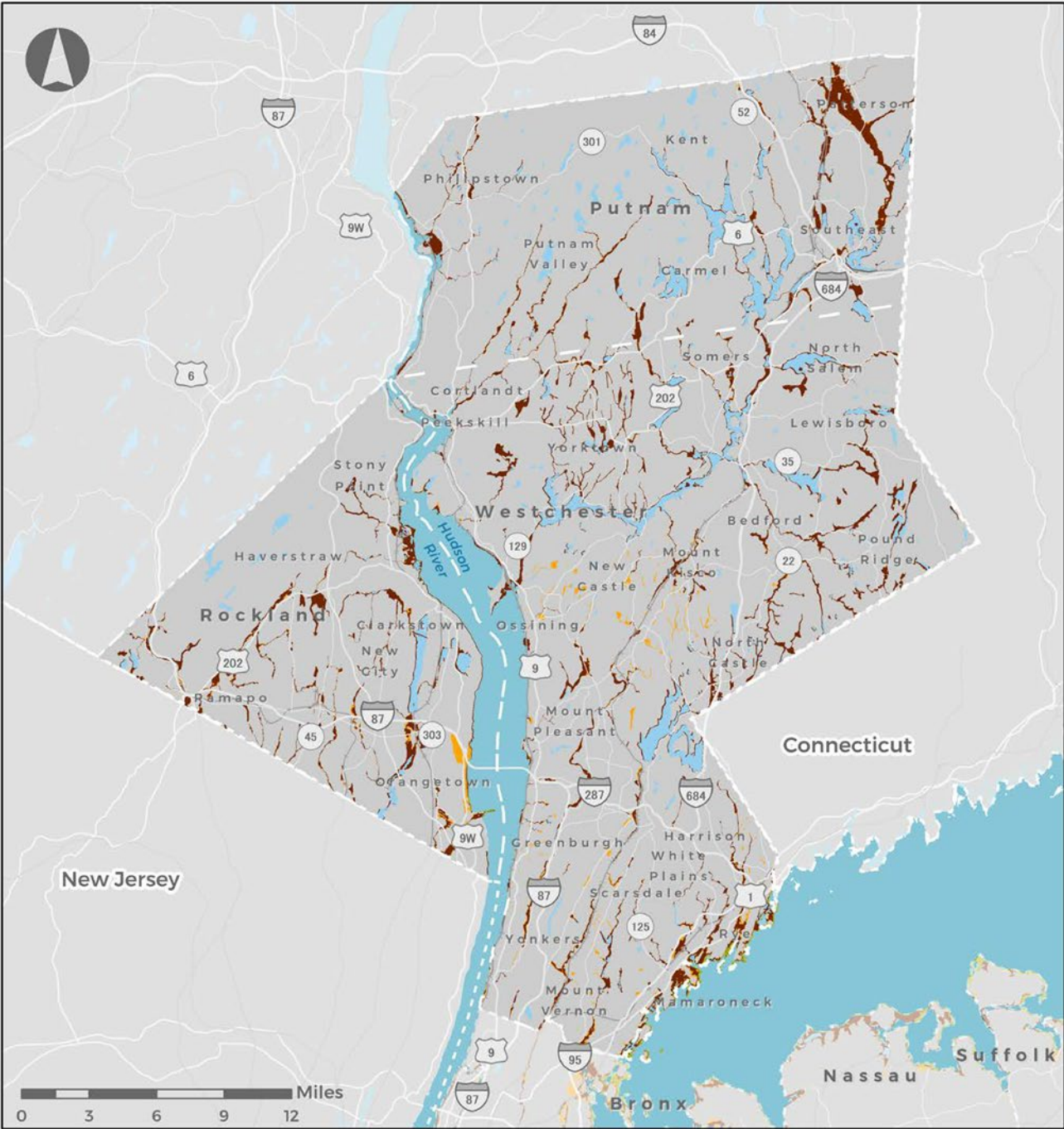


Legend

- Critical Environmental Area
- Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Boundary
- Waterbody

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NY State Department of Environmental Conservation; Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository

Figure 3.17 Lower Hudson Valley Floodplains

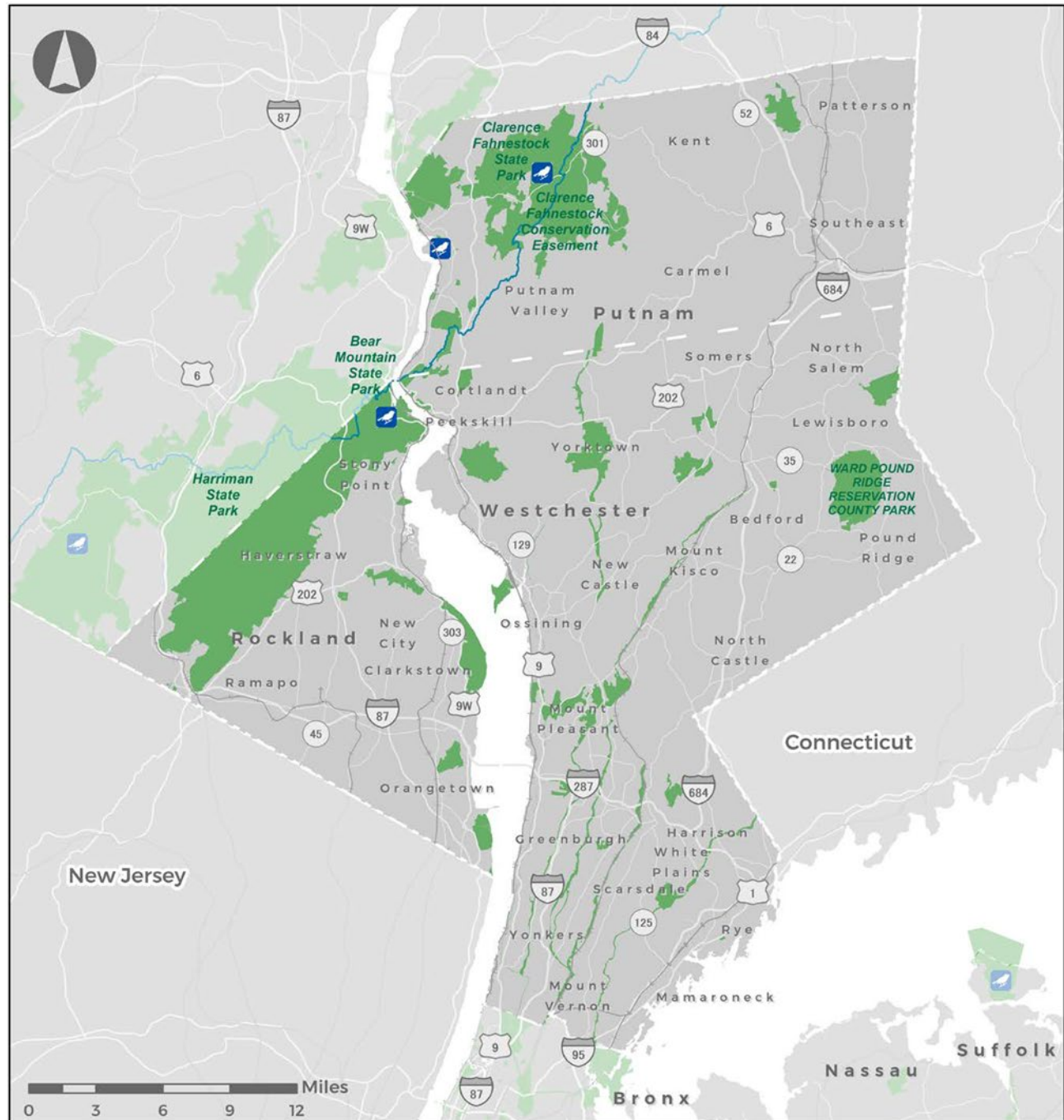


Legend

- Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA, 100-year floodplain)
- Moderate Flood Hazard Area (500-year floodplain)
- Coastal Risk Area - High Risk

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; Federal Emergency Management Agency

Figure 3.18 Lower Hudson Valley Parkland

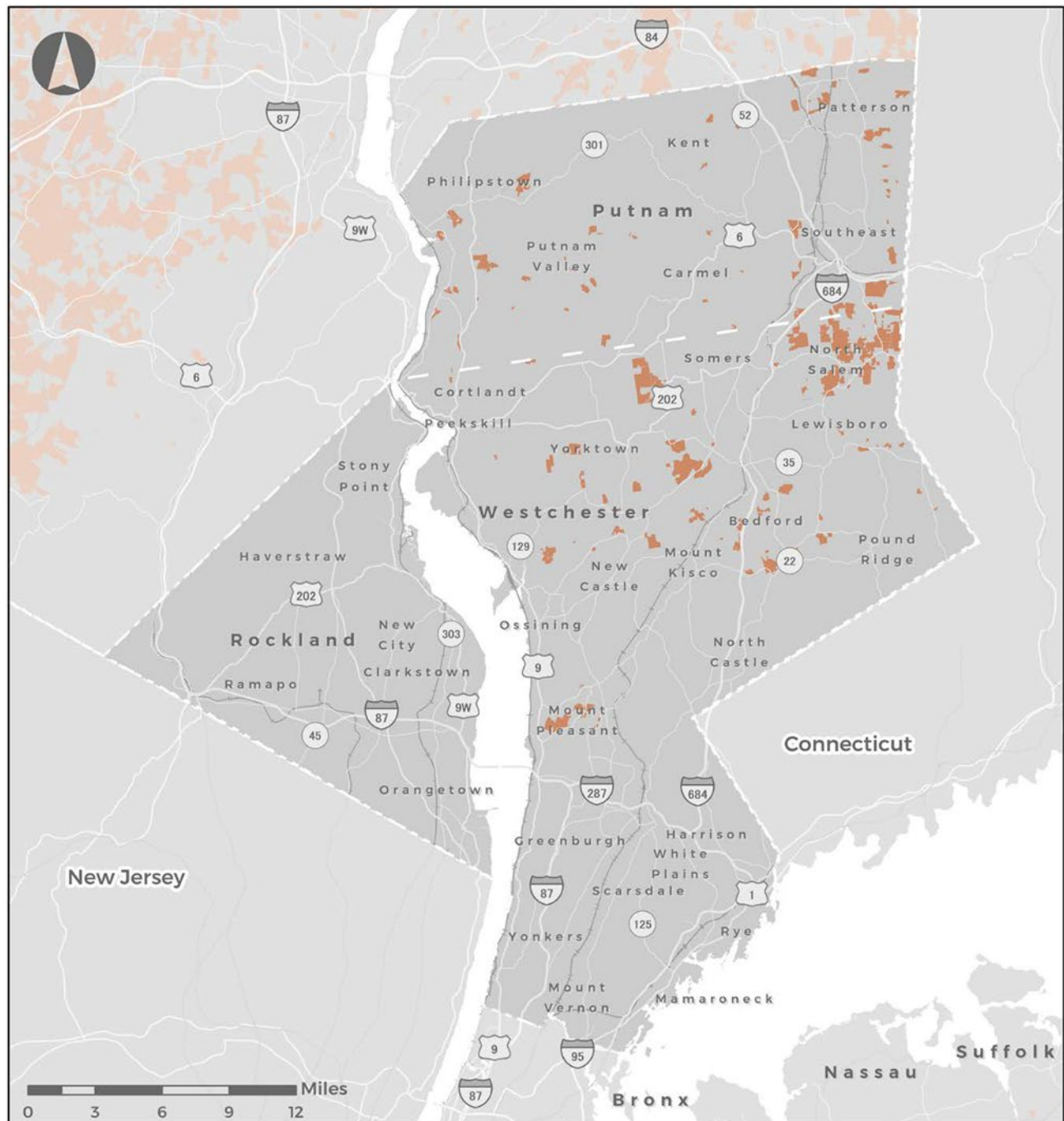


Legend

-  Bird Conservation Areas
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Parks and Recreational Areas

Source: NY State GIS Clearinghouse; Westchester County GeoHub; Rockland County GIS Division; Suffolk County Open Data Portal; NYC Open Data; U.S. Geological Survey; Gaia GPS

Figure 3.19 Lower Hudson Valley Agricultural Districts



Legend

Agricultural Districts

3.3.4 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR REFERENCE

NYMTC consulted with county, state, and federal agencies; neighboring MPOs; and the federally and state-recognized Indian Nations. Table 3.5 provides additional partner agency mapping resources to support environmental planning with more information in the [Moving Forward 2055 Interactive Map](#).

Table 3.5 Additional Mapping Resources

New York City	
New York State GIS Clearinghouse	http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/
Department of Environmental Conservation Maps	https://dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/maps
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation—State Historic Preservation Office Online Tools	https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/online-tools/
Department of Agriculture and Markets Geospatial Data	https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/about-agricultural-districts#geospatial-data
Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository	https://cugir.library.cornell.edu/
Long Island	
Nassau County Planning Department	https://lrv.nassaucountyny.gov/map/
Lower Hudson Valley	
Putnam County GIS Hub	https://data-pcny.opendata.arcgis.com/
Rockland County Mapping and GIS	https://www.rocklandgis.com/portal/apps/sites/#/data
Westchester County Geo Hub	https://giswww.westchestergov.com
Federal	
Army Corps of Engineers—New York District GIS Links	https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Geospatial-Data-Systems-Activities/GIS-Links/
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration—Fisheries Mid-Atlantic-New England Region	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources/maps
Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool	https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/resilience-analysis-planning-tool
Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service—Region 5 New York Field Office	https://www.fws.gov/service/national-wildlife-refuge-system-gis-data-and-mapping-tools
Department of the Interior, Geological Survey	https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ny-water/science/geospatial-applications
Department of the Interior, National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/gis/gis_program/
FEMA Flood Maps	https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps