

**AGENDA**  
**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**May 20, 2025, at 7:30 pm, Courtroom, 169 Pleasant Ave.**

Open meeting & approve minutes of April 22, 2025, meeting (7:30 - 7:35)

Permanent secretary to take meeting notes for CFTE minutes.

**Special Topics (7:35-7:55pm)**

- **Presentation on VOM Ethics policies** - Chari Topol Allison
- **Lids for recycling containers** to reduce litter – Robert Bonvetti

**Update on Recent Activities & Ongoing Initiatives (7:55 -9:05 pm)**

- **Spring Clean & Green** – recap & lessons learned, also littering initiative (Christi, Lindsay, Kate)
- **Earth Day with Larchmont Environmental Committee-** recap, Sat. Farmers' Market (Kate, Jen)
- **Iona City Lab** presentation May 7th w. village manager, BOT May 26 (Kate)
- **Countywide Environmental Meetup**—May 9 (Debbie, Alli, Ellen, Kate)
- **Healthy Yards** – info for new homeowners & public, County/Bedford Healthy Yards (Kate)
- **Spring Plant Swap & Giveaway w Compost Week** recap (Jen, Lindsay, Debbie)
- **Community Garden** –Bub Walker opening, grants for HI move (Alli, Rene, Kate)
- **Greenway** – TNC grant, Signup Genius, County site visit, tracking volunteers-grants, Nostrand (Kate)
- **Harbor Island** – 4/30 SWCD meeting w/village manager & site visit, (Signs & planting plan att) (Kate)
- **CSC Taskforce** (Debbie, Matt, David)
- **Meighan Park** (Jen)
- **Taylors Lane** – grant update (Ellen)

**Upcoming Events & Initiatives (9:05– 9:20pm)**

- **Summer Garden Tour**, new date July 20 planning, sites & publicity, Arts Council (Julie, team)
- **Weeding & Planting-** Signup incorporates invasives learning (Kate, Jen, Lindsay)
- **LULA training** – overview of references and resources, TBA (Alli)
- **Stormwater regulations** – village to review (Ellen)
- **Monarch Festival** September date? (Lindsay, Jen)
- **Ribbon Cutting Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park**, Fall TBA (Kate)
- **Repair Café**, Sunday October 26 (Debbie)

**Old Business (9:20-9:30 pm)**

- **Leaf Blower Law** – outreach, letters, 5/12 BOT meeting. Task force? (Ellen, Jen, David, Kate)
- **Village Sanitation** – garbage, food scraps, leaves, etc., existing study re rationalization (Ellen)

Public Comment: At the end of each meeting, 3-minute per person unless otherwise permitted.

**Close Meeting**

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE  
OF MAMARONECK HELD ON APRIL 14, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.  
IN THE COURTROOM AT 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE**

**The Mamaroneck Greenway  
Board of Trustees Resolution of Support**

Whereas the Village of Mamaroneck seeks to restore degraded land along the lengths of the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers in the Village of Mamaroneck by creating a linear Mamaroneck Greenway along the lines of the revised proposal from the Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment (CFTE) dated February 9, 2025, and

Whereas the creation of the Greenway will restore the riverbanks and floodplain wetlands along Mamaroneck's rivers by removing invasive plants and replanting with native plants, trees, and shrubs, and

Whereas the restoration of the riverbanks and floodplain wetlands by removing invasive plants, and the protection of mature trees which absorb water and stabilize stream banks, will diminish erosion, a contributing factor in Mamaroneck's serious flooding, and

Whereas the wetlands restored by the Greenway will filter pollutants out of stormwater, improving water quality in the rivers and in Long Island Sound, and

Whereas wetland soils restored by the Greenway will store carbon at high rates, mitigating the effects of global warming, these healthier wetland soils also having a higher capacity to hold stormwater to mitigate downstream flooding, and

Whereas the Greenway plan calls for the removal of pavement in several areas and the installation of engineered green infrastructure in these new park spaces to hold and filter stormwater to mitigate both flooding and pollution, and

Whereas the restoration of floodplain wetlands and riverbanks will have significant ecological benefits, as native plants support native birdlife, pollinating insects, and other wildlife, and

Whereas the Greenway will provide green space for passive recreation in areas currently lacking in adequate open space and recreational opportunities, thereby improving the health and well-being of Mamaroneck residents, and

Whereas the Mamaroneck Greenway trails will promote safe walkability and connectivity throughout the village with connections to other Westchester trails, and

Whereas the creation of the Mamaroneck Greenway will advance the policies embodied in the Village's Local Waterfront Protection Plans of 1985 and 2017, and

Whereas creation of the Greenway was specifically contemplated in the Village's Comprehensive Plans of 2012 and 2023 and would advance the policy goals of those Comprehensive Plans, and

Whereas the CFTE presented a substantially similar Mamaroneck Greenway plan to the Village Board of Trustees in November 2023 prior to applying for a planning support grant with Long Island Sound Study, which grant was awarded and is in the process of being implemented, and

Whereas additional design funds for the Greenway were awarded by NYS Parks in 2024 and are being used for professional design of crosswalks at Fenimore Rd. and Rockland Ave. to enable safe Greenway crossings, and

Whereas volunteers working with CFTE created two native plant parks, the Rockland Pocket Preserve on the Sheldrake and the Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park on the Mamaroneck, which were dedicated as village parks in January 2023 and October 2024, and

Whereas those new parks are part of the Mamaroneck Greenway and are already providing flood mitigation, ecological, open space and recreational benefits to the community, and

Whereas the CFTE is actively seeking grant funding for further design and construction of segments of the Mamaroneck Greenway,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees hereby endorses in principle the concept behind the Mamaroneck Greenway and enthusiastically supports the efforts of the CFTE to secure additional funding for its design and construction.

Ayes:	DeRose, Kushnick, Silver, Lucas
Nays:	None
Not Voting:	Torres

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Village of Mamaroneck, Westchester County, New York,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That I have compared the annexed extract of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck, including the resolution contained therein, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025 with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all members of said Board had due notice of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Village this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

  
Sally J. Roberts, Village Clerk



# Village of Mamaroneck

**A reminder to residents and their landscapers that gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited at all times throughout the year.**

*Electric blowers may be used only for fall and spring cleanup, from Oct. 1-May 14.*

Breathe Easy • Enjoy the Quiet • Nourish the Soil

Residents and landscapers are subject to **escalating fines for violations.**

- Discuss alternative landscaping methods with your landscaper (suggestions below)
- Report violations in progress to the Mamaroneck Police Department at (914) 777-1122

## **Blower free landscaping reduces air and noise pollution**

- Spring: Move organic debris to garden beds or compost pile
- Summer: Mow high and leave grass clippings on the grass
- Fall: Place whole leaves in garden beds and around the bases of trees and shrubs as mulch. Mulch mow remaining leaves on lawns into grass or use in compost piles. Collect leaves from hardscapes and lawn with rakes or electric leaf blowers

**Leaves protect pollinators, suppress weeds, nourish and improve the soil, lessening or eliminating the need for fertilizers and extra watering.**



### **Gas leaf blowers:**

- Produce hundreds of times more air pollutants than gas automobiles
- Destroy pollinator habitat and erode topsoil
- Create noise pollution disrupting working, learning and family time
- Cause dust, pollen, fecal matter, mold and pesticides to become airborne
- Contribute to climate change

**IT'S THE LAW**

For more information visit: [leleny.org](http://leleny.org), [LMHealthyYards.org](http://LMHealthyYards.org), [leaveleavesalone.org](http://leaveleavesalone.org), [healthyyards.org](http://healthyyards.org)

Dear Kathleen, Mayor, and Board,

At CFTE's most recent March 18 meeting, we discussed the village's leaf blower law.

As background, CFTE's actively promotes sustainable leaf management, i.e. leaving intact leaves on property to form a natural mulch in flower beds and under trees as habitat for beneficial insect populations over the winter; and mulch mowing any excess leaves into the grass to retain nutrients in place. We encourage homeowners to wait until late April to clean up their yards to protect pollinating insects. We incorporate this information whenever we address the public, via signage, social media communication and educational programs, and are also mentoring OCRA students working in this area. In addition to environmental benefits, as these practices are more widely adopted the economic benefit to the village of the reduction in leaf volume will be considerable.

The village law banning gas powered leaf blowers and limiting the use of electric blowers from October 1 to May 14 is an important step towards healthier air and soil, and a quieter, more livable village. Since the law was passed, CFTE has included this information in our educational outreach described above. We have also worked with village staff to actively communicate information about the law to landscapers and homeowners, including a comprehensive door hanger campaign 2 years running.

This year CFTE developed a new informational flyer in both Spanish and English which is being widely distributed over social media. In addition, we prepared black and white versions in both languages which will be included in the Westchester Joint Water Works April bills, reaching virtually every village resident.

Given the extent of the educational outreach that has occurred, we think it's fair to say that the excuse of not knowing about the law that has been given by both homeowners and landscaping firms is no longer valid. Frustration by residents at the continued violations is widespread, with a perception that the law is not regularly being enforced. As such, CFTE recommends that the village engage in more active enforcement of this law, with warnings for initial violations, followed by fines for repeat violations.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee for the Environment

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK  
COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
Draft Minutes of April 22, 2025**

**Members Present:** Katherine Dehais (Chair), Matt Ahrens, Jen LeClair, Allison May, Lindsay Reitzes, Julie Rubin, Debbie Sullivan, Christi Young. Absent: David Freeman, Bob Heiss, Renee Crabtree, and Trustee Liaison Ellen Silver.

**Guest:** Trustee Dan Kushnick

Before the meeting opened, Alli recapped the three-day training by the Land Use Law Center (LULA) focused on sustainability and flood prevention, which had been sponsored in part by Westchester County and LISS. The training emphasized the integration of comprehensive plans into land use strategies. One key idea is that the Village of Mamaroneck consider overlay zones for flood-prone areas. Kate proposed an evening session where Alli, Nora Lucas, and Anita Beach who attended the training could share insights and material with those interested.

After the arrival of two more members, the meeting was called to order at 7:41p.m. in the Village Courthouse.

Minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

**Determination of Secretary:** CFTE still needs a permanent Secretary; Alli agreed to take notes and prepare the minutes for this meeting.

**Update on Current Activities and Ongoing Initiatives**

Taylor's Lane – Dan Kushnik provided an update on the Taylor's Lane project, a seven-acre site with potential for village use once it the DEC returns it to village control. He has coordinated with Chuck Strome and LaBella Engineering to advance the project, including discussions with the DEC and key stakeholders. Dan aims to convene all parties involved to finalize the site management plan and address DEC requirements. This has been a CFTE item with communication between David Freeman and DEC, but Trustee Kushnik will drive the process going forward, with periodic updates to CFTE.

Community Garden–Renee who could not attend reported that she has been in touch with Jeff about starting the garden in old location at Bub Walker. CFTE has obtained approvals and has a plan for a larger garden in Harbor Island. Alli has applied for grants with DEC, T-Mobile or AARP to cover costs of the move and installation. She expects to hear soon. She reminded the group that if the grants come through the terms are that the installation would need to happen this year.

Recap of 'Planning a Vegetable Garden' with Victory Gardens, held at the Mamaroneck Library on March 22 – Jen reported that the event was very well attended. Lisa Chase presented in a question-and-answer format, with those in attendance asking a wide variety of gardening questions. Jen suggested that there were so many questions about composting that the CFTE should consider that topic for an upcoming presentation. Many seeds were distributed, along with CFTE materials.

Spring Clean & Green - April 26th, with a 9:30a.m. start at Columbus Park. Lindsay provided an update on the Spring Clean and Green event, with 50 confirmed participants and more expected. Kate and

Lindsay discussed logistics, including cleanup locations, supply distribution, and necessary waivers and service letters. Christi highlighted key areas needing attention, such as the Post Road and the river. Parks will provide supplies. Christi will also be rolling out a littering campaign that day headed by 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Daniel. The group also considered the poor weather forecast and determined that Christi would check with Jason on Friday to decide whether to move to the Sunday rain date.

Earth Day with Larchmont Environmental Committee – to be held at Constitution Park, April 26, at 1pm. Jen, Kate, and Debbie will attend and coordinate the CFTE literature and other materials needed.

Leaf Blower Law – Trustee Silver had advised the CFTE that Board of Trustees was reconsidering the village's Leaf Blower Law, and that May 12<sup>th</sup> would be an opportunity for supporters to address the board. CFTE had just prepared educational flyers that were distributed via village email blast and included in April water bills in both Spanish and English. (attached) Trustee Silver had written the chief of police regarding enforcement and CFTE had also written the BOT in March regarding enforcement. (attached). Debbie, Christi and the group discussed that they had noticed improved enforcement and compliance. The group supports the current law banning gas blowers based on their fossil fuel and noise pollution and other harmful environmental effects. Although frustrated given recent efforts, members agreed to reach out to residents to write and attend the meeting to make sure the BOT was aware of general, quiet support for the law.

Greenway/Harbor Island - Kate reported that the project did not receive a 2nd planning support grant from Long Island Sound Study. In follow up, the local coordinator Sara Powell assured her that they strongly supported the project but needed to offer funds to previously unfunded projects, and that the jury advised a Futures Fund application as a next step. Kate will pursue this with the village manager and the new grant consultant. With the support of Greenway team member and landscape architect David Russo, she had also applied for a \$50,000 Nature Conservancy Climate Resiliency grant to acquire critical land. In addition, she has been in conversation about the Greenway since last spring with Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District and did a zoom presentation for them last June. Their primary interest is in its erosion and pollution control benefits for Mamaroneck's rivers and the Sound. Kate stressed that erosion control, a primary objective of the Greenway, will help with flood mitigation and underlines the economic feasibility of the plan as the village has spent or budgeted millions to remove silt from rivers after the fact for flood mitigation. SWCD's chief planner, Matt Castro was glad to receive the April 14 BOT Resolution of Support for the Greenway (attached) which they needed to proceed with any potential support. She learned SWCD is re-evaluating older projects and are very interested to see the Harbor Island Salt Marsh Restoration which they completed in 2007, particularly in light of their newer Edith Read Living Shoreline work. Site visits with SWCD board members and planner and VOM manager and asst. manager are scheduled for Greenway sites and Harbor Island for April 30. Kate will also be organizing a Sign-up Genius for spring and summer planting and maintenance of the two Greenway parks and CFTE's native plant gardens. Regarding a sign for Nostrand, Kate requested funds in the current budget, but that was not approved by the village manager.

CSC Taskforce – Debbie discussed the need for a summer intern to process CSC documentation, a very time-consuming process, but one that has yielded many grants for the village. David and Ellen will work with the village manager to see if that is possible.

Meighan Park – Jen has completed the design and has included many native plants with Jeff Ahne's approval. With Parks she will soon be purchasing the over 300 plants for these gardens.

## **Planning for Upcoming Events**

Plant Swap with Compost Week Information at the Poetry Garden – May 10. Jen has been preparing for event with plants and outreach. Lindsay, Debbie, Alli and Julie confirmed their participation. The tree committee will participate and bring a table.

Summer Garden Tour - Julie presented ideas for the summer garden tour on July 26th. Jen, Lindsay and Alli agreed to help Julie with the project. Kate suggested that the group consider incorporating music and refreshments at the Rockland or Nostrand Pocket Parks, as a wrap up or starting off point for the tour. Kate and Julie will meet with the Arts Council on May 5 to explore ideas for music, etc.

## **Planning for Other Future Events**

Monarch Festival -- Jen and Lindsay will be having a planning meeting soon.

Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park - Kate hopes to hold in September or October, even without a sign. She will check on the installation of the BOT's bench for Dan Sarnoff.

Repair Café - Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>. Debbie will be liaising with the Sustainability Collaborative on this again this year. People who can fix things are needed at this time.

Alli mentioned that the Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative will be hosting a photography exhibit and is seeking any tree-related photos, to be matted and dropped off at Town Center.

## **Other/Communications**

Lindsay and Jen discussed updating the Village of Mamaroneck website and the need for better communication through social media. They will investigate updating the website on Healthy Yards, Greenway, events, etc.

Alli agreed to reach out to Katherine Pannell and Mark Kramer to set up a shared document for events.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2025.

# aquaticrestoration

## RESTORATION OF A SALT MARSH



### Phase I: Planning

Most natural wetlands have been lost or degraded due to draining, filling, ditching and tidal flow restriction. As part of a plan to upgrade the health of the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck rivers and Mamaroneck Harbor, a wetland assessment was performed that identified

degraded wetlands along the western end of Harbor Island Park for potential restoration. The area was filled in the early 20th century to create lawn. This enabled the growth of invasive and non-native plants like common reed, Japanese knot-weed and “tree of heaven”.



The 1926 aerial photograph shows the harbor before the lower portion was filled to create the parkland.



The photograph above depicts the area in July 1936 showing marsh grasses still present after construction of the seawall but before further dredging.

### Desirable Native Plants



Saltwater cordgrass  
(*Spartina alterniflora*)



Salt meadow cordgrass  
(*Spartina patens*)



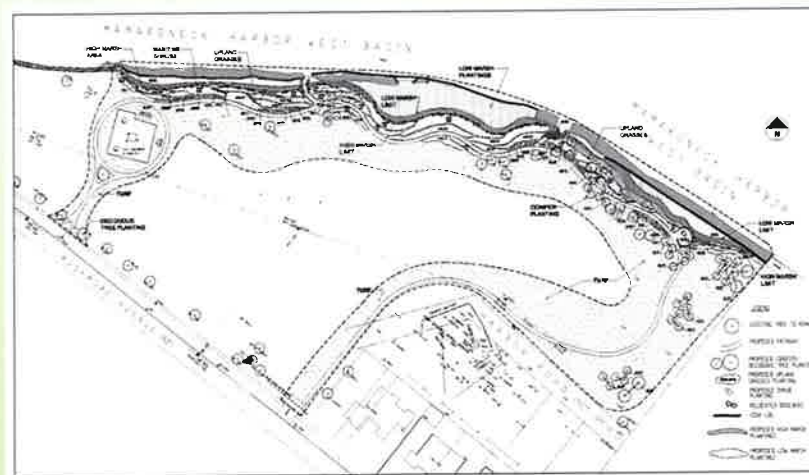
Marsh elder  
(*Iva frutescens*)

### Phase II: Design

As part of the design process, a detailed topographical survey was prepared to determine existing elevations at the site, including the water elevations at different tides. The soils, hydrology and vegetation of the marsh environment were also carefully considered to establish desired habitats. Construction

plans were produced illustrating the location and type of specialized tidal marsh plants and other native plants suitable for the low marsh, high marsh, and upland areas of the site. Other plans showed how soil was to be excavated and used as fill and the construction of a public pathway and an observation area.

### Restoration Planting Plan



### Phase III: Construction

This wetland was restored by expanding the low marsh (below low tide), high marsh (above high tide) and upland (non-wetland) areas. During construction, old fill was removed and sand placed in the lower shelf, where the surface was stabilized with coir (coconut fiber) mesh and rolls.

Thousands of native marsh plants were planted by hand along the bottom of the re-graded shoreline and at slightly higher elevations to re-create the low marsh and high marsh coastal habitats typical of Long Island Sound.



Photos above show the marsh during different phases of construction.

# aquatic restoration

## THE SALT MARSH: A DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM



### What are salt marshes?

Salt marshes are transitional areas between land and water that occur along the shores of estuaries (where fresh water from rivers meets salt water from the ocean) like Long Island Sound.

### Why are salt marshes important?

Salt marshes are one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth, comparable to tropical rain forests and coral reefs. Their high productivity is just one reason these wetlands should be protected and restored.



### Functions of a salt marsh

Many species depend on salt marsh habitats for different purposes:

**Nursery** Many fish, shellfish and crustaceans, as well as beneficial insects and birds, lay their eggs in salt marshes, because marshes are calmer than open water, have good hiding places, and have lots of food and nutrients for their young.

**Fast Food Restaurant** Many small animals live in salt marshes including snails, isopods, insects, and fiddler crabs. Many migratory birds feed on these high protein critters, when traveling through the area. Just as we might stop at a fast food restaurant on the highway, birds see the marsh as a fast food pit stop. Once the birds have had their fill, they continue on their long flight.

**Nesting** Several species of both migrant and resident bird populations nest in and around marshes. Species that utilize the area depend on the low marsh and open water for food.



### Additional functions of a salt marsh

A salt marsh provides many other important benefits including:

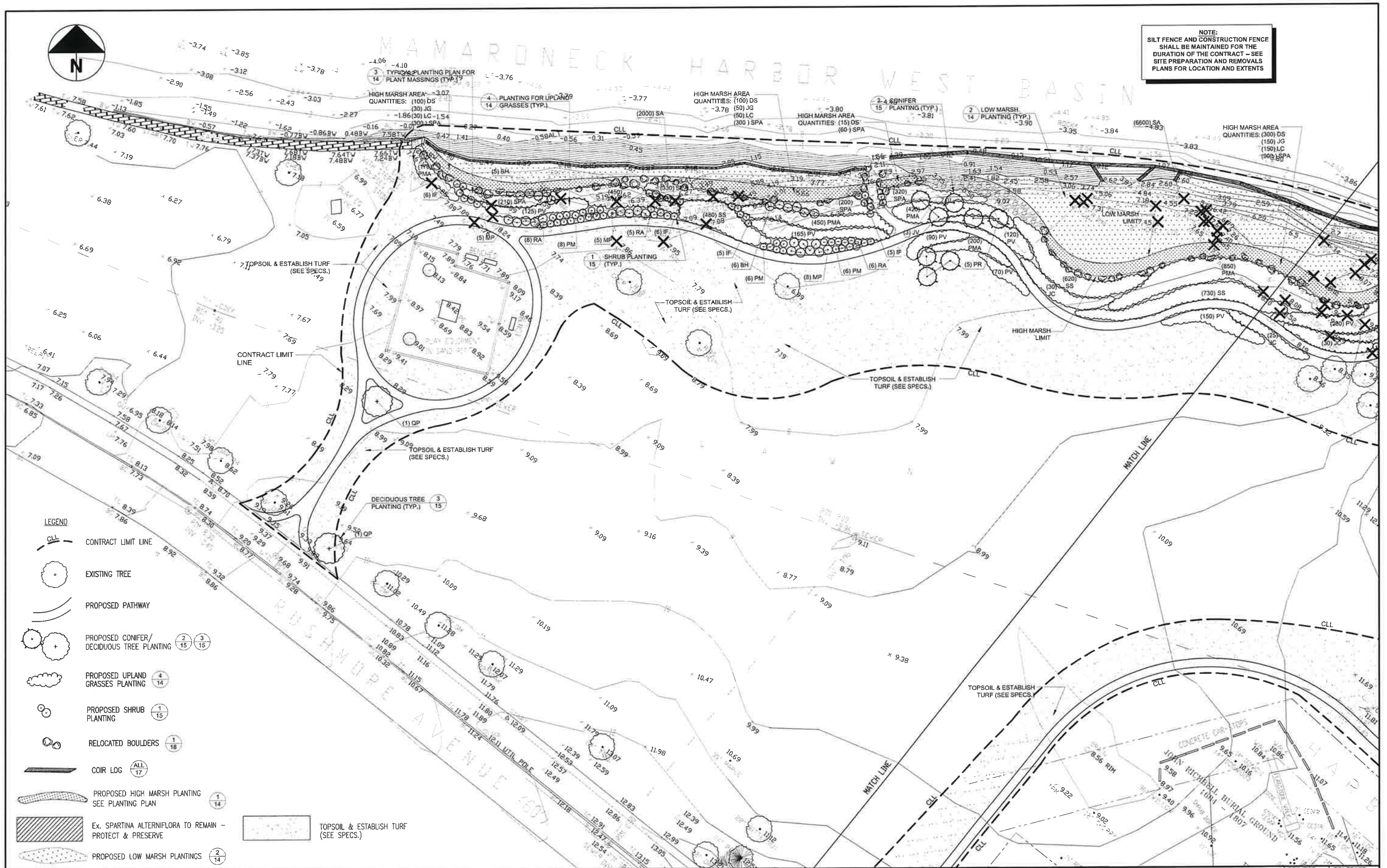
- Improving water quality by absorbing excess nutrients and other pollutants that originate from surrounding land uses. As rainfall (called stormwater runoff) runs off the land into Long Island Sound, the salt marsh catches sediment and filters pollutants.

- Protecting shorelines against erosion by stabilizing the soil and absorbing the energy of waves during coastal storms.

- Providing recreational opportunities for fishing, boating, and bird-watching.

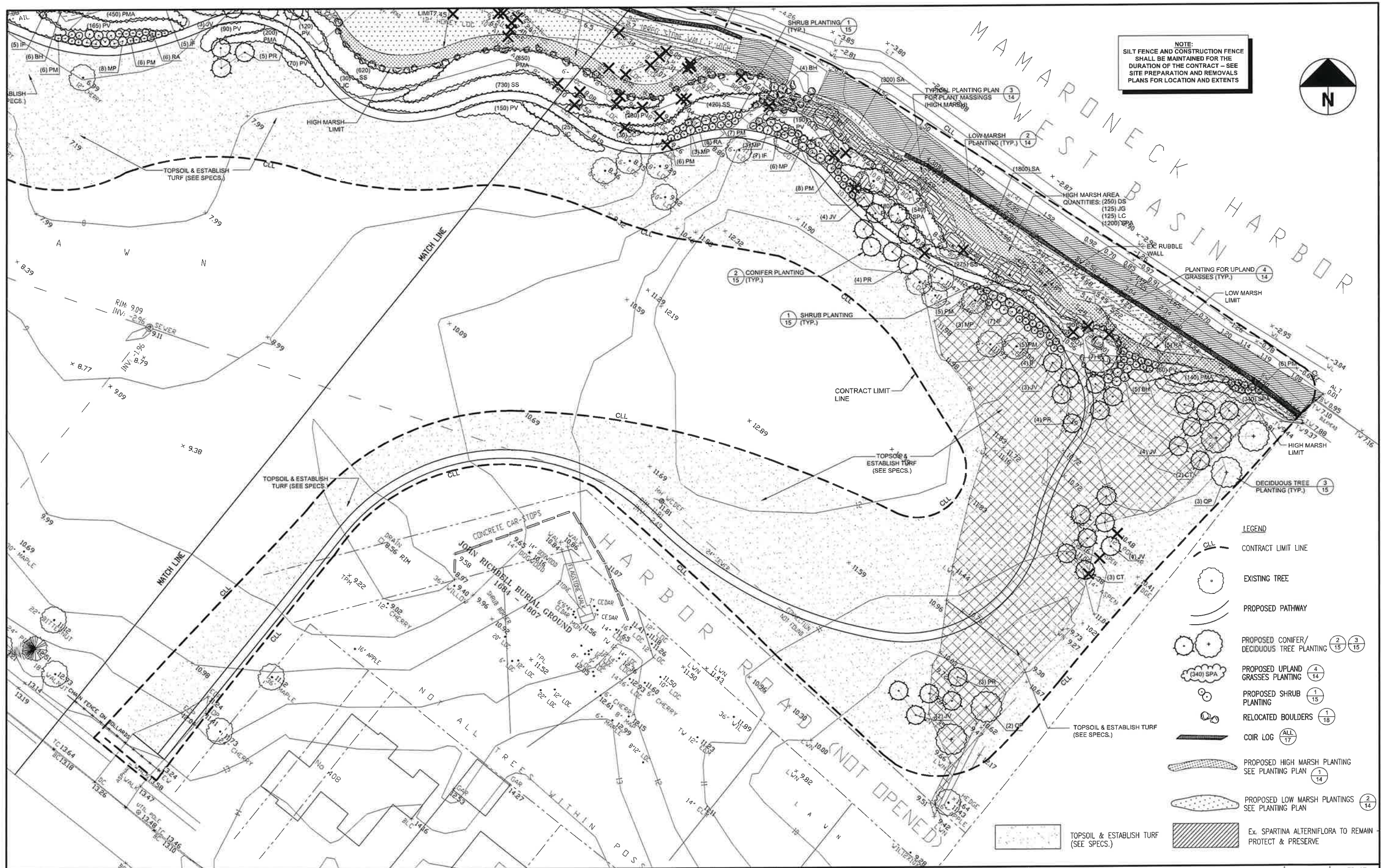
- Providing educational opportunities to learn about the environment and observe it first hand.





NOTE:  
SILT FENCE AND CONSTRUCTION FENCE  
SHALL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE  
DURATION OF THE CONTRACT - SEE  
SITE PREPARATION AND REMOVALS  
PLANS FOR LOCATION AND EXTENTS

PREPARED BY THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING	RECORD DRAWING CERTIFICATION		WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION OF ENGINEERING		PROJECT NUMBER ---	CONTRACT NUMBER 06-500
	<input type="checkbox"/> AS BUILT-CHANGES AS NOTED <input type="checkbox"/> AS BUILT-NO CHANGES				SHEET NO. 11 OF 18	
IN CHARGE OF R. LOPANE	CONTRACTOR	PROJECT COORDINATOR	SALT MARSH RESTORATION HARBOR ISLAND PARK - WEST BASIN VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK PLANTING PLAN I		SCALE: 1"=20'-0" DATE: 6/16/06	REV. NO.
MADE BY T. BIGELOW	NAME SIGNATURE TITLE	NAME SIGNATURE TITLE	REVISION	DATE	DRAWING NO. 37-04-G-26-0	
CHECKED BY R. LOPANE			MADE BY	APP'D BY		



PREPARED BY THE WESTCHESTER  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

IN CHARGE OF R. LOPANE  
MADE BY T. BIGELOW  
CHECKED BY R. LOPANE

## RECORD DRAWING CERTIFICATION

- ☐ AS BUILT—CHANGES AS NOTED  
☐ AS BUILT—NO CHANGES

CONTRACTOR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT COORDINATOR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

REVISION NUMBER	DATE	MADE BY	APP'D BY
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REVISION

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

SALT MARSH RESTORATION  
HARBOR ISLAND PARK - WEST BASIN  
VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK  
PLANTING PLAN II

PROJECT NUMBER ---	CONTRACT NUMBER 06-500
SHEET NO. 12 OF 18	
SCALE: 1" = 20' - 0"	
DATE: 6/16/06	
DRAWING NO. 37-04-G-27-0	REV. NO.