



Back to the Bays

An initiative of **Cornell Cooperative Extension** | **Marine Program**

Sag Harbor Stewardship Site

Project Overview + Proposal

Sag Harbor Village Board

December 12, 2023



CCE Marine Program

- Affiliated with Cornell University
- 501(c)(3) not for profit and contract agency of Suffolk County
- Funded through Suffolk County as well as grants, contracts, fees and donations
- Approximately 160+ FT employees working throughout Suffolk County
- "Giving Back to the Bays since 1985"





About the Back to the Bays Initiative

restoring our waters + inspiring stewardship

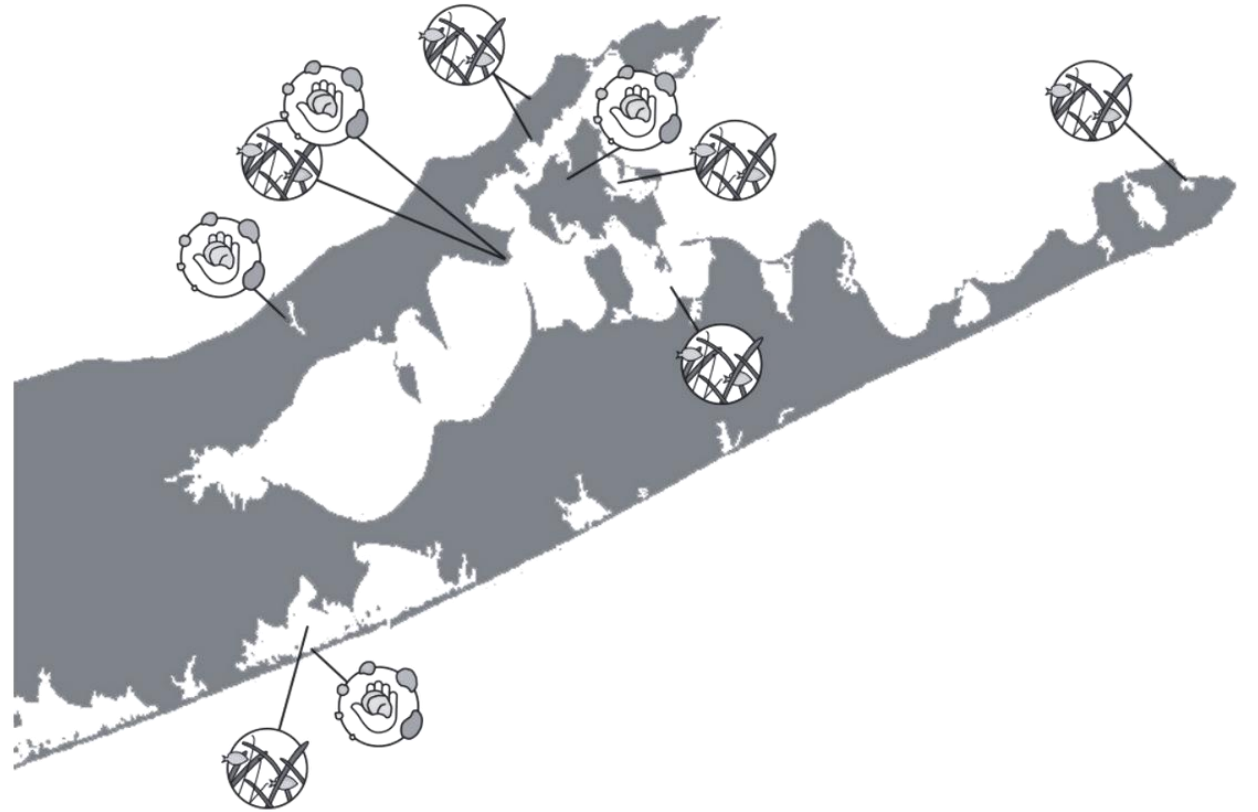
Back to the Bays is an initiative of Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program.

Our mission is to increase stakeholder engagement in our water quality protection initiatives, habitat improvement projects, shellfish research and restoration, and youth and community education experiences.

Stewardship Sites

Back to the Bays operates at numerous sites throughout the East End.

Each of these sites serve as receiving areas for shellfish and habitat restoration plantings, and areas where we conduct educational stewardship sessions to engage the community in these efforts.



Establishment of a new Sag Harbor Stewardship Site



Previous Work

We have successfully conducted eelgrass plantings, bay scallop seeding and oyster reef deployments in this area in recent years.



Current Goal

To build on past successes and develop a long-term restoration and funding plan for this site



Next Steps

We need your support to officially integrate this site into our Back to the Bays network!



Eelgrass Restoration

providing essential habitat for marine life

The habitat value eelgrass provides is essential to many species at various stages of their life, and also serves an important water quality role. Seagrass meadows sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests and play an important role in mitigating climate change.



Eelgrass Restoration

Havens Beach Workshop October 2023



With the support of Sag Harbor Village and the local community we hosted a Marine Meadows Workshop on October 24, enabling 3,000 shoots of eelgrass to be planted in the waters off of Havens Beach.



Coastal Habitat Restoration

creation of living shorelines

In order to both provide coastal habitat for local species, and help create resilient shorelines we will continue work to expand our restoration efforts at Long Beach, and work on evaluating the potential for a shoreline restoration in other areas in Sag Harbor.



Spat-On-Shell Oyster Reef

habitat + water quality improvement

Oyster reefs offer valuable habitat, increase the oyster population in our bays, reduce coastal erosion, and improve water quality. By setting baby oysters spawned in our hatchery on recycled oyster shell and deploying them by the millions at our stewardship sites, we have made great progress in both reef restoration and community engagement. Let's build one together in Sag Harbor's waters!



Spat-On-Shell Oyster Reef

Sag Harbor site selection + pilot planting



After initial site surveys and regulatory meetings, it was determined that the area off of the new John Steinbeck Waterfront Park would be an ideal reef site. The water filtration abilities of an oyster reef will build upon the environmental goals of the Park, while its accessibility will allow for positive community engagement and education. We hope to deploy a small SOS pilot planting in 2024, and look forward to working with the Village on project



Spat-On-Shell Oyster Reef

Coecles Harbor, Shelter Island Reef
Restoration



Once our 2022 pilot planting proved successful, we embarked on a large-scale deployment of SOS for the creation of an oyster reef as part of our 2023 Shelter Island Town WQI project. Not only does the site support healthy oyster growth, it also is easily accessible for public participation of many different ages and abilities, further enhancing our Back to the Bays stewardship model.

Target Goals For Year 1



Eelgrass Plantings

Our dive team has been planting eelgrass at the Sag Harbor Shoal site for the past 5 years, and the site can benefit from additional expansion to maximize habitat value. 3,000 shoots were added to this site in Fall 2023, with more to come in 2024.



Oyster Reef Site Suitability Assessment + Permitting

In order to establish a new oyster reef site, CCE conducted initial site surveys of potential sites and will now work to obtain NYSDEC permits and permission from the local municipalities (Sag Harbor Village + Southampton Town).



Living Shoreline Habitat Restoration Assessment

A comprehensive field survey and conceptual plans for a living shoreline restoration project will be conducted to help with water quality and coastal resiliency of Long Beach

General Project Timeline

- **Jan-March:** Obtain permits + permissions; cultivation of algae in preparation for shellfish spawning activities in hatchery
- **March-June:** Spawning of oysters, clams + scallops in the hatchery, develop scale-up strategy and seek additional funding
- **May-July:** Restoration site scouting + selection based on eelgrass test plantings + monitoring; deployment of BuDs system
- **June:** Update Village on planting sites + schedule based on monitoring activities; installation of clam FLUPSY
- **July-Sept:** Shellfish grow-out; SOS deployment
- **Sept-Nov:** Marine Meadows Workshops and subsequent eelgrass plantings
- **Oct-Nov:** Shellfish Seeding
- **Ongoing:** Back to the Bays Stewardship Sessions

Get Involved + Give Back



The poster features an underwater scene with sunlight filtering through the water and eelgrass in the foreground. At the top, it says "KIDD SQUID BREWING CO SAG HARBOR". Below that is a circular logo with "BACK TO THE BAYS" around the perimeter and "BREW FOR THE BAY" in the center. At the bottom, it says "SAG HARBOR".

COLLAB RELEASE
12.15.23 - 4-7PM
KIDD SQUID - 11 SPRING STREET

You are cordially invited to join us & the Cornell Cooperative Extension at our collaboration brew release. All proceeds go directly to fund the creation of a new oyster bed and revitalization of eelgrass in Sag Harbor.

\$24.00 **\$140.00**
4-pack* case of 24*

EACH CAN SEEDS 10 OYSTERS AND PLANTS 5 SHOOTS OF EELGRASS

PRE-ORDER HERE OR AT [KIDDSQUID.COM/CCE](https://kiddsquid.com/cce)

BREW FOR THE BAY SAG HARBOR

*plus sales tax

Kidd Squid Brew for the Bays

We have partnered with Kidd Squid, who is generously launching a new Brew for the Bays with all profits being donated to our Back to the Bays efforts in Sag Harbor!

Pre-orders open now, release event 12/15.

Sag Harbor Stewardship Site Fund

All the proposed work is scalable and the more funds we generate, the more great work we can do in Sag Harbor.

Visit <https://backtothebays.org/sag-harbor-stewardship-site> to learn more!

Back to the Bays Steward Program

By signing on as a steward you can make an impactful difference to our work!

Key Personnel

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



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Thank You!



www.backtothebays.org