

Appendix Q
NYSDEC NHP Response

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
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June 30, 2017

Matt Accardi
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Re: Hempstead Lake State Park Project (Nassau County Living with the Bay Project)
County: Nassau Town/City: Hempstead

Dear Mr. Accardi:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur at Hempstead Lake State Park.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

The presence of the plants and significant natural community identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review. For further information on these biological resources of Hempstead Lake State Park, please contact the NYS State Parks Long Island Regional Office, (631) 669-1000. For information regarding permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), contact the NYS DEC Region 1 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Conrad
Information Resources Coordinator
New York Natural Heritage Program



The following rare plants and significant natural communities have been documented at Hempstead Lake State Park.

We recommend that potential onsite and offsite impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQRA. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following significant natural communities are considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. They are either occurrences of a community type that is rare in the state, or a high quality example of a more common community type. By meeting specific, documented criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers these community occurrences to have high ecological and conservation value.

COMMON NAME

HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS

Wetland/Aquatic Communities

Coastal Plain Pond Shore

Rare Community Type

Hempstead Lake, area just south of Southern State Parkway: This is a large moderately diverse pond shore with invasive plants at the edge in a small natural area surrounded by dense urban development.

3574

The following plants are listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York, and so are a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME

SCIENTIFIC NAME

NY STATE LISTING

HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS

Fringed Boneset

Eupatorium torreyanum

Threatened

Imperiled in NYS

Hempstead Lake, east shore just south of Southern State Parkway, 2001-07-17: This plant is located along the edge of a reservoir and a "coastal plain pond shore". Along this edge, there is a small build-up of sand that has reached a height of approximately 0.5 meters above the water. This plant is restricted to the open, drier sections of the sand mound.

8137

Weak Rush

Juncus debilis

Endangered

Critically Imperiled in NYS

Hempstead Lake, west shore, 2004-09-28: The plants are on a sandy moist shoreline of a large pond where water levels fluctuate.

11400

Slender Crabgrass

Digitaria filiformis

Endangered

Critically Imperiled in NYS

Historical record only: Hempstead Lake, east side, 1903.

8111

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at www.natureserve.org/explorer, and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html for Ecological Communities of New York State.