

Suffolk County Department of Planning

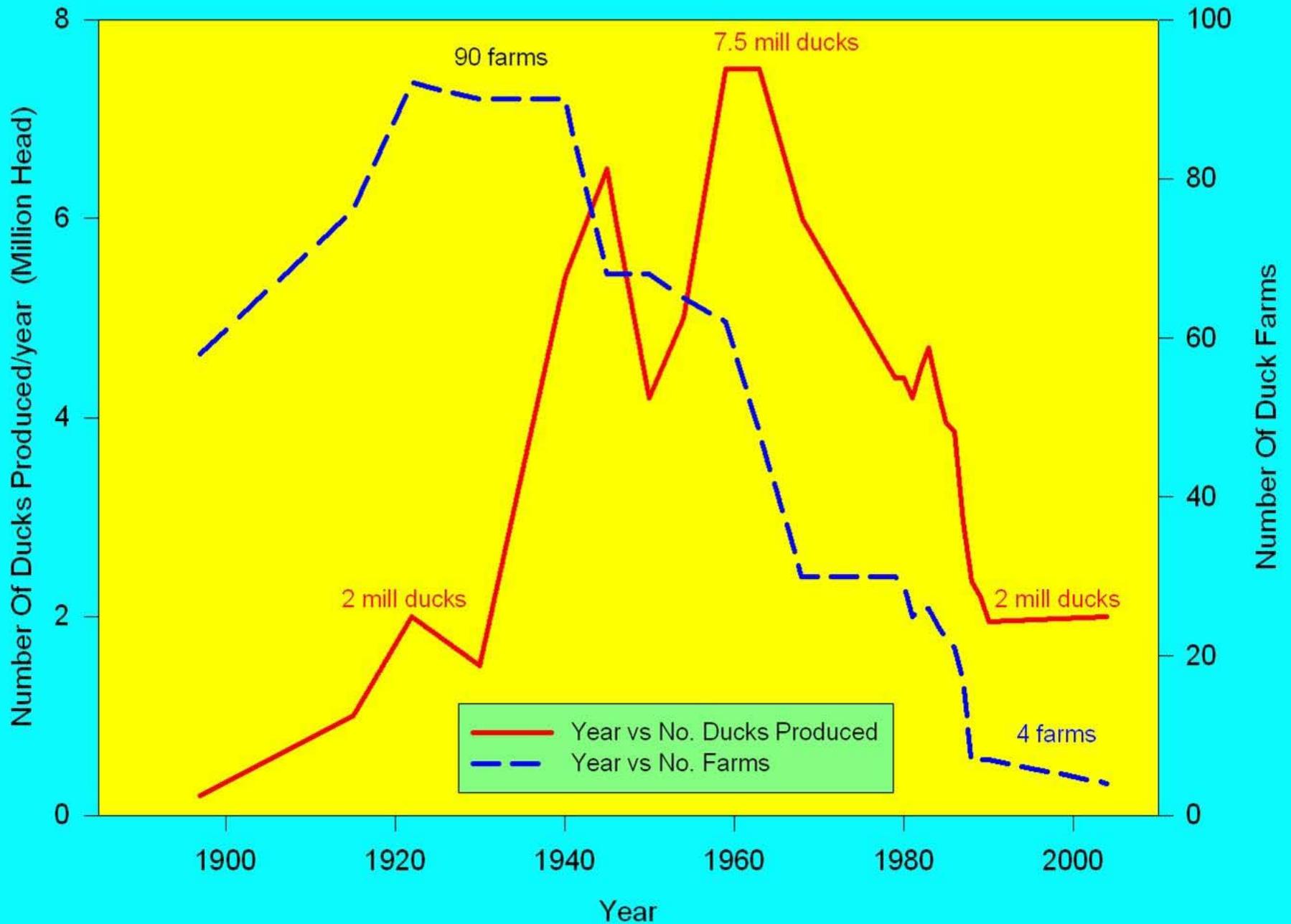
Robinson Duck Farm County Park  
Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

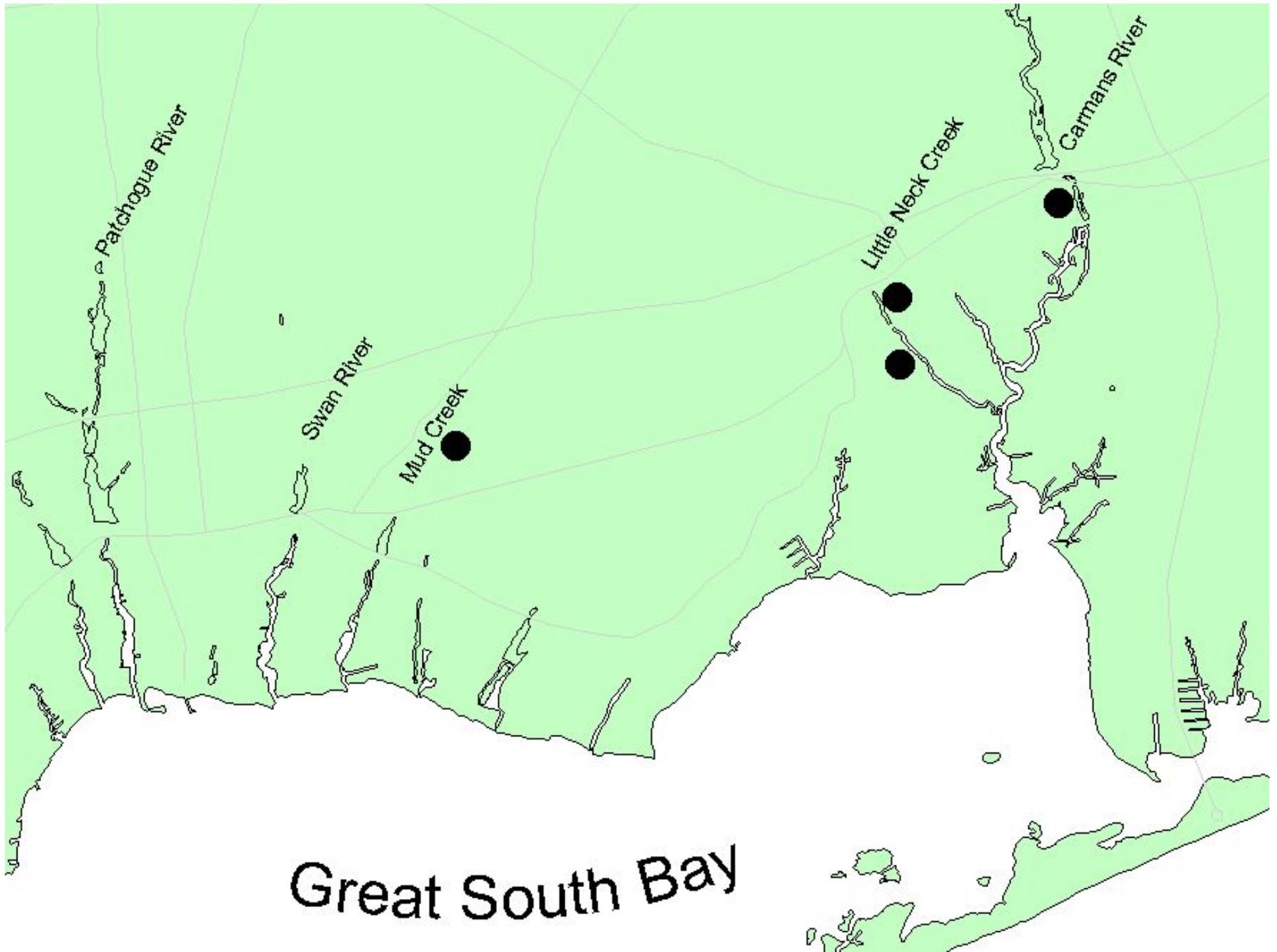
June 25, 2007

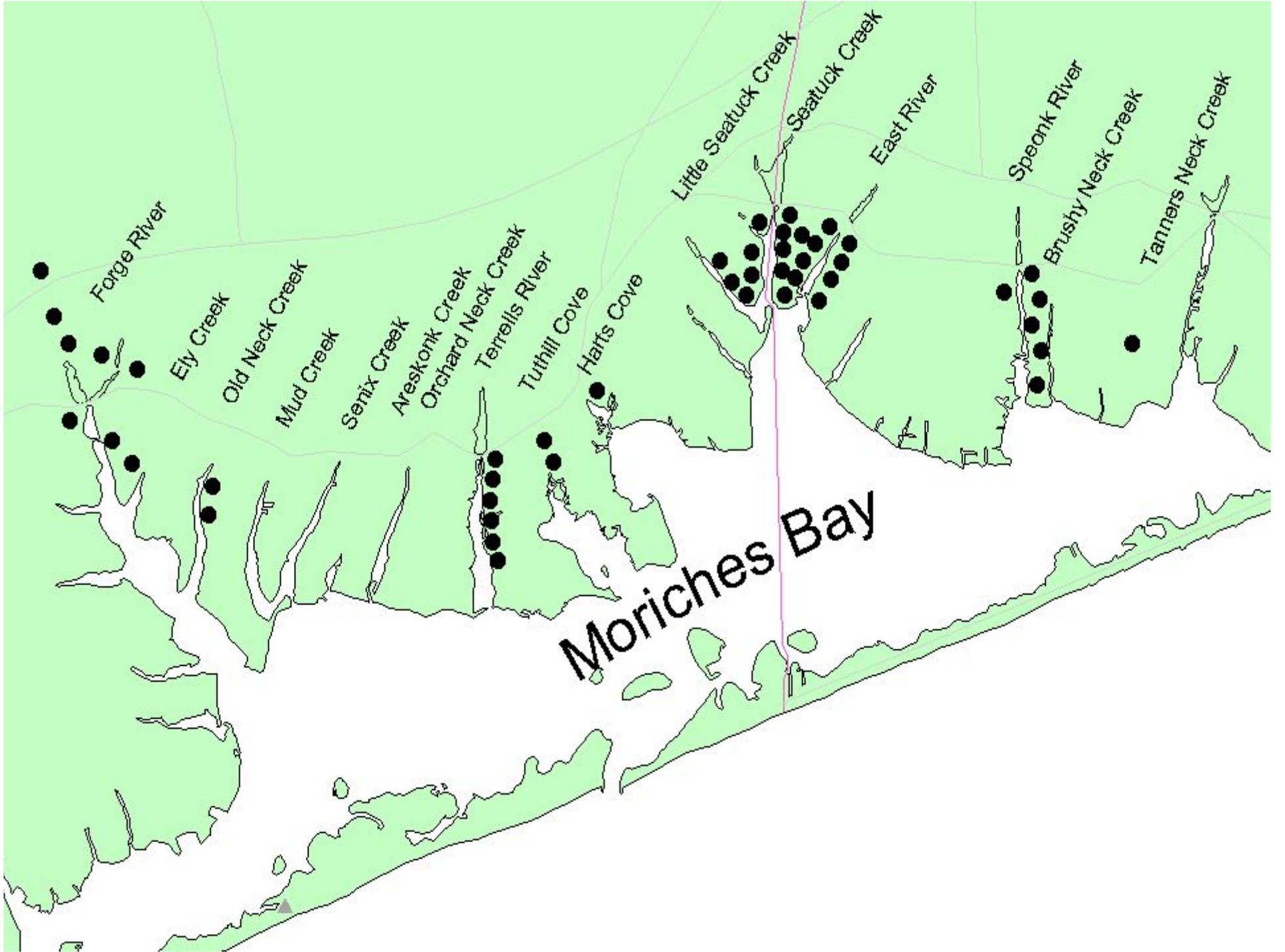
# Historical Overview of the Duck Farm Industry in Suffolk County

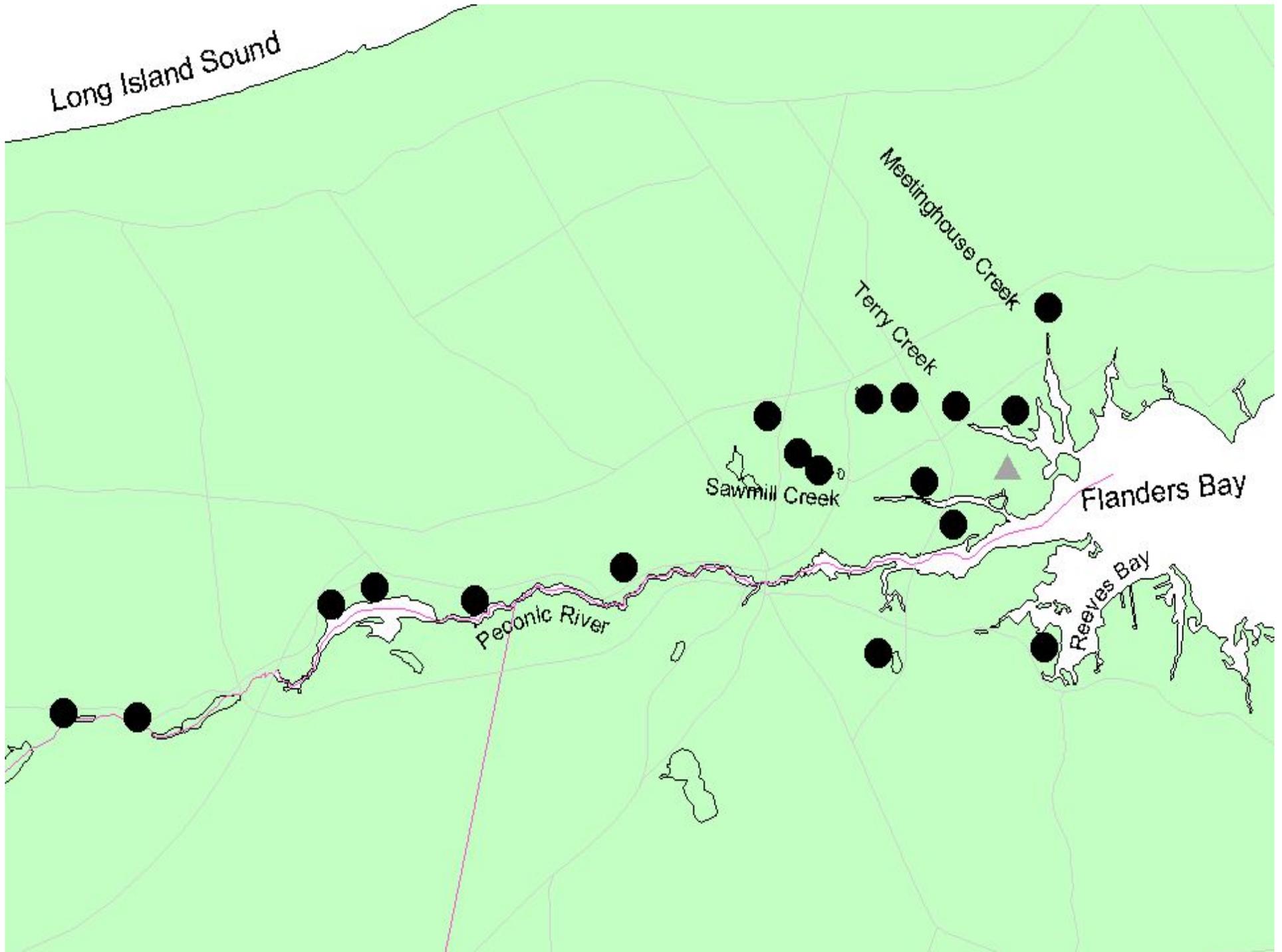


# Annual Duck Production And Number Of Duck Farms On Long Island 1897-2004





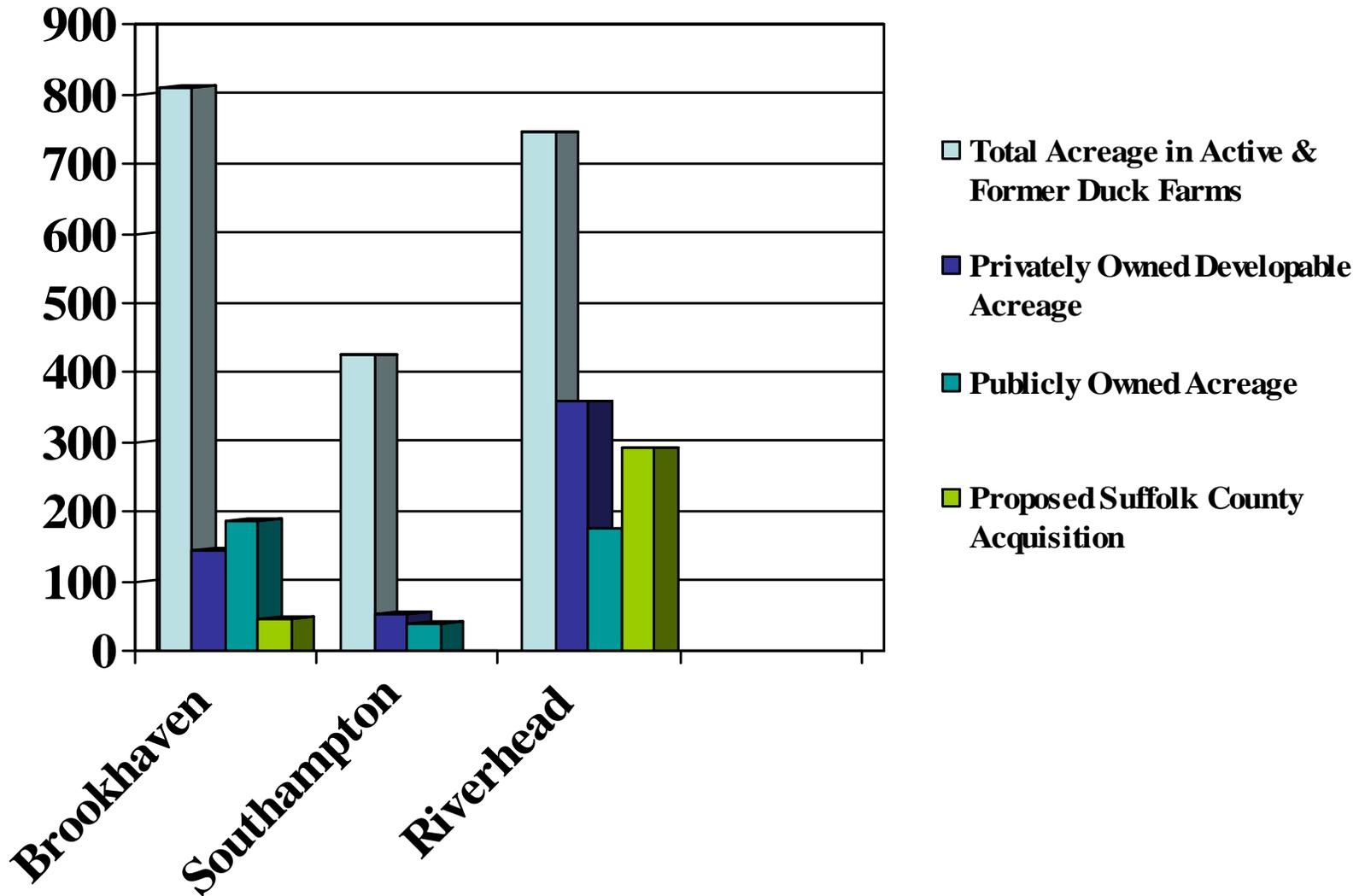




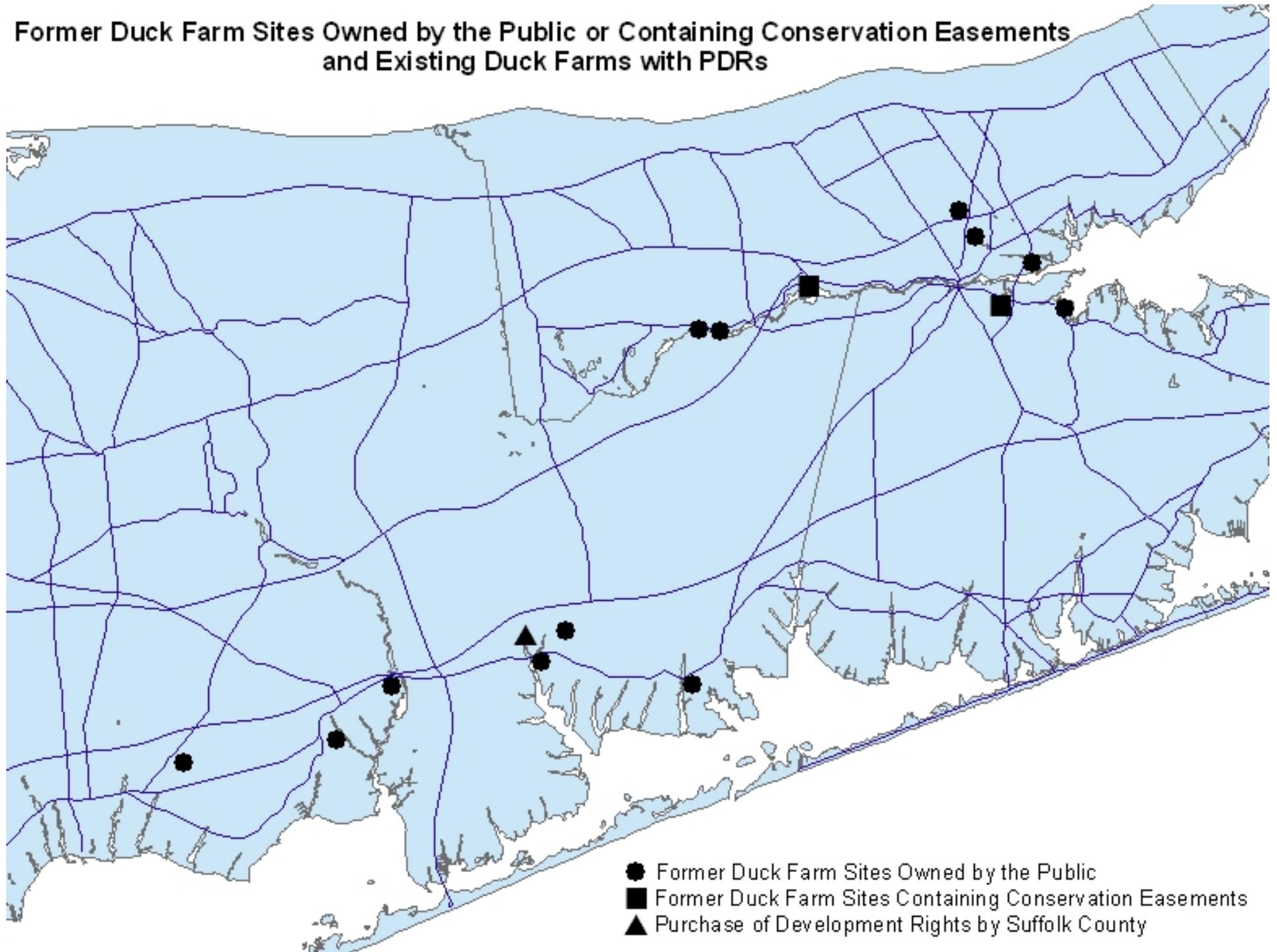


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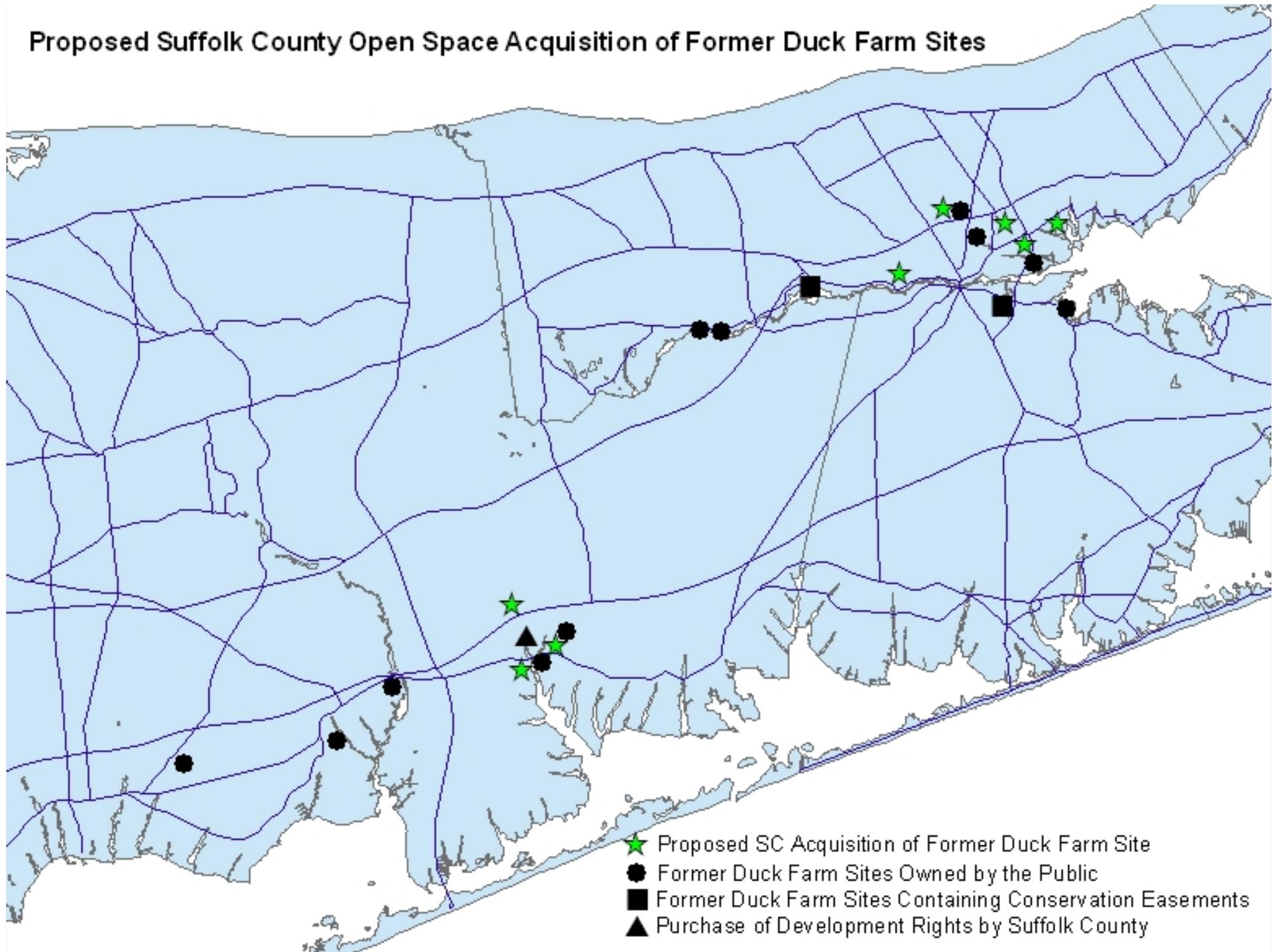
# Acreage of Active & Former Duck Farms in Suffolk County



# Former Duck Farm Sites Owned by the Public or Containing Conservation Easements and Existing Duck Farms with PDRs



# Proposed Suffolk County Open Space Acquisition of Former Duck Farm Sites





robinson\_animation.avi



# Site Characteristics

- $\approx$  87 acre site
- Hamlet of South Haven, Town of Brookhaven
- $\approx$  1,500 feet of frontage along the wetland shoreline of the Carmans River.
- 15% woodland/shrubland, 60% old field and 25% disturbed area
- Surrounded by federal properties in the 2,550-acre Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



# Historical Use

- Started 1921 by C.E Robinson  
& his two sons

- Relocated from Mass.

- 1948 virus epidemic; farms  
reported up to 90% mortality

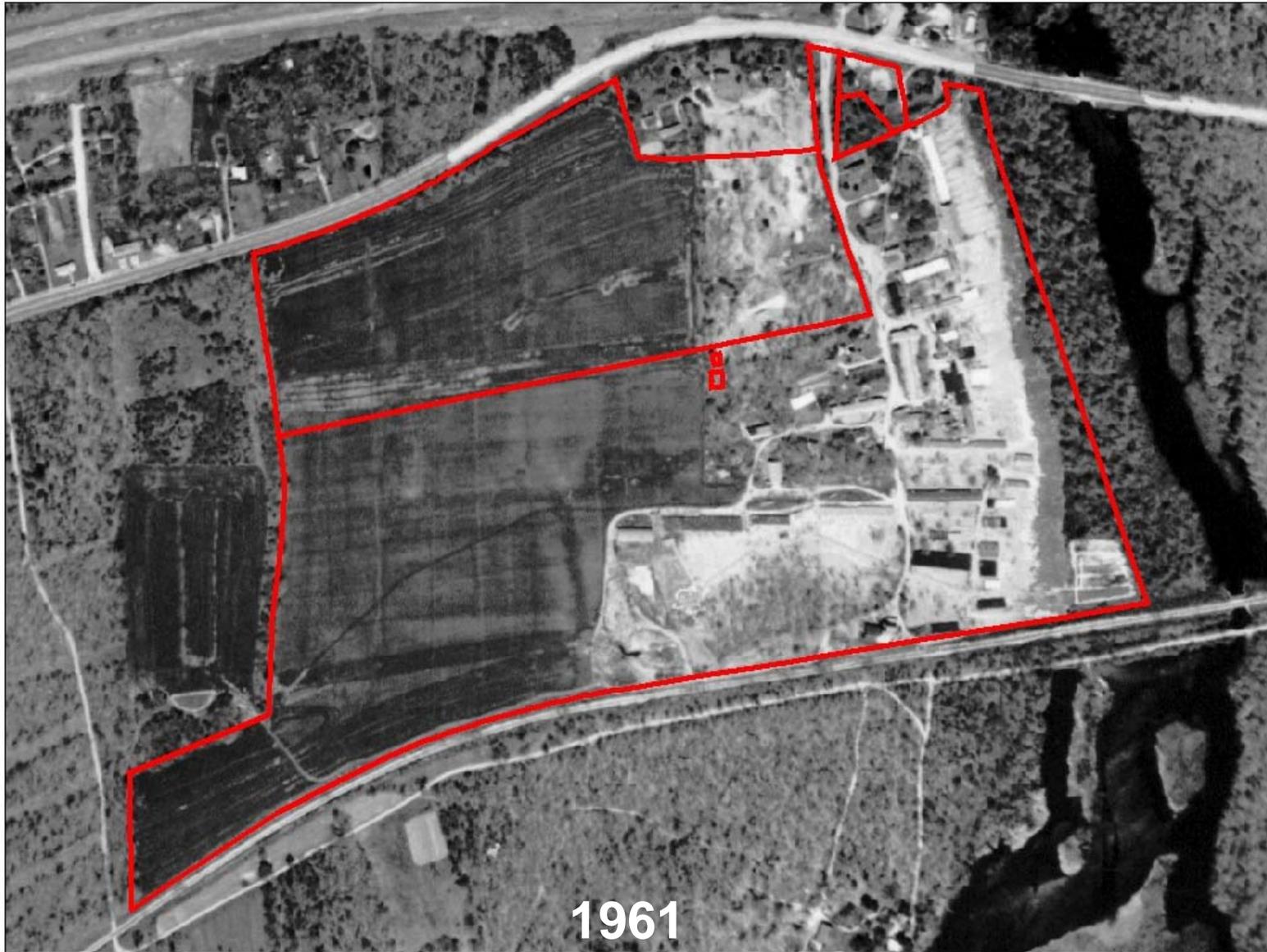


*Bob Robinson – Newsday, Thursday, November 18, 1982*

# Historical Use

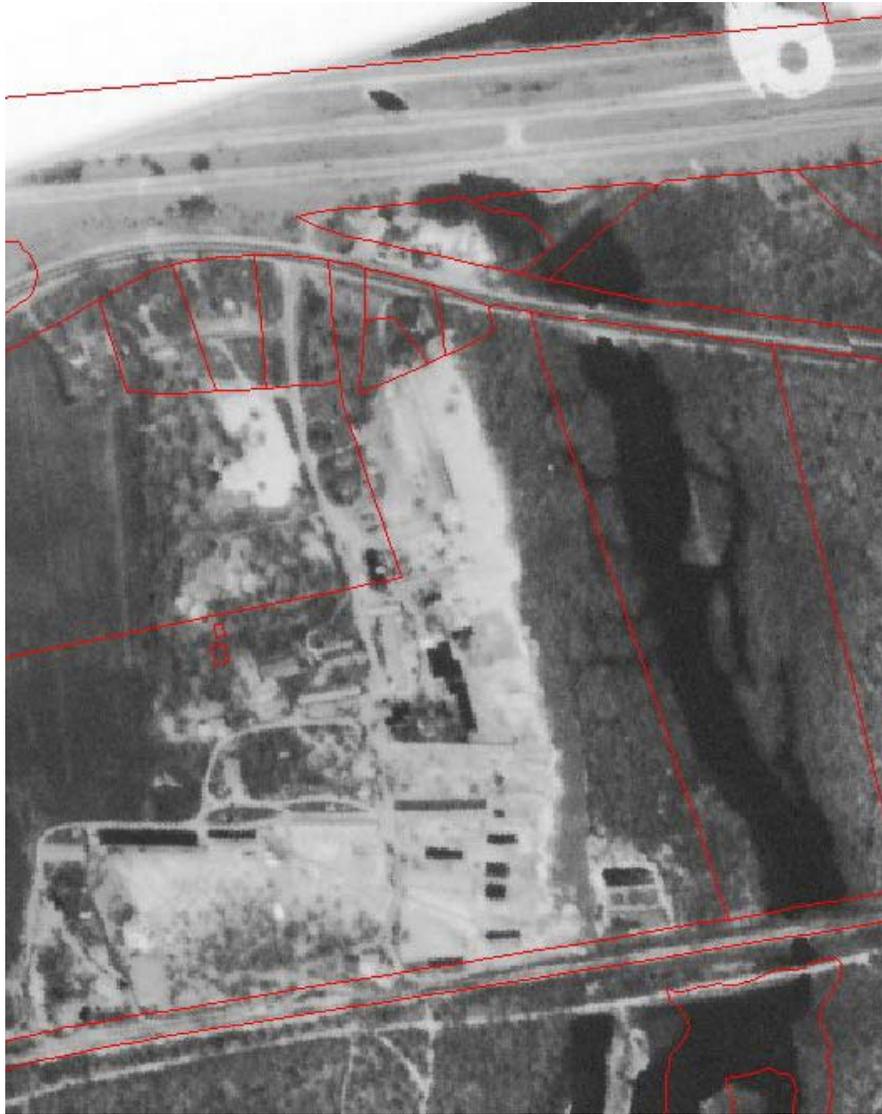


# Historical Use



# Historical Use

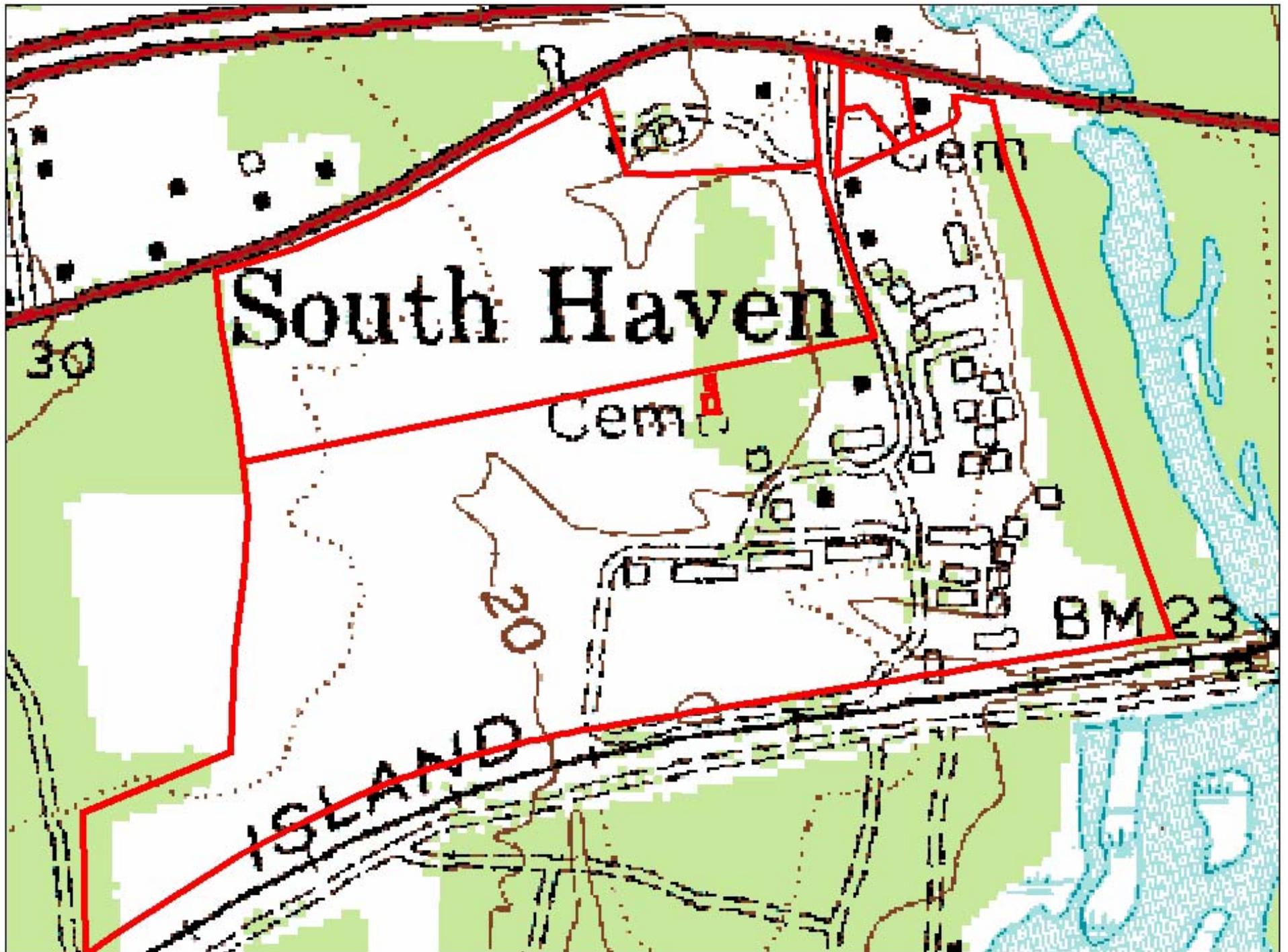
1966



2001







# Historical Use

- Many millions of ducks during the period from about 1923 to the early 1980s
- 200,000 ducks/year produced during the mid-1960s.
- Site alteration
  - woodland converted into pens and open feedlots;
  - riparian transition zone areas altered to create swim pond areas for duck use;
  - surface water quality degradation;
  - waste disposal lagoons



# Acquisition

- Acquired by County: April 19, 1991
- 1986 Open Space Preservation Program
  - "to preserve our precious water supply, wetlands and woodlands."
- \$1,590,780 (1991)

# What is it worth today?

- Jurgielewicz Duck Farm - development rights  
 $\$5,632,976.84 / 47 \text{ ac} = \$119,850.57 \text{ per ac}$

**\$10,426,999.59** (Dev. Rights)

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- Former Smith Osip Duck Farm - fee purchase  
 $\$2,180,000 / 9\text{ac} = \$242,222.22 \text{ per ac}$

**\$21,073,333.14**

# Carman's River - Wertheim NWR

(adjacent to site)





# Robinson Duck Farm





# Site Conditions

- Remains of dilapidated buildings / 3 rental homes







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- Piles of debris; old equipment and machinery



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- Piles of debris; old equipment and machinery
- Duck pen fencing
- Earthen embankments/waste disposal lagoons, associated structures and piping











# Site Conditions

- Remains of dilapidated buildings / 3 rental homes
- Piles of debris; old equipment and machinery
- Duck pen fencing
- Earthen embankments/waste disposal lagoons, associated structures and piping
- *Phragmites* dominated riparian transition zone adjacent to Carmans River





# Previous Work

- Water Quality Sampling

**SCDHS Water Quality Data\***  
**Streams Formally Impacted by Duck Farms**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Sampling Events</b>	<b>Sampling Dates **</b>
Mud Creek	N/S Robinson pond	15	1968-73
<del>Mud Creek</del>	<del>S/S Robinson Pond</del>	<del>25</del>	<del>1970-97</del>
Carmans River	Wertheim NWR, S/O RR off Old River Rd.	6	1968, 87,95-99
Carmans River	S/S Rt 27	3	1974, 75, 90
Carmans River	N/S Victory Ave., N/O spillway	6	1974, 75, 77, 80, 96, 99
Carmans River	At weir above Hard's Lake	4	96, 99, 00
Carmans River	At gaging station N/S RR, E/O Upper River Rd.	106	1967 - 00
Carmans River	N/S Mill Rd. at upper lake outlet	4	1974, 75, 99
Carmans River	N/S Bartlett Rd.	7	1966, 70, 71, 92
Forge River, East	N/S 27A, E/S Barnes Rd. at spillway	39	1971-96
Sawmill Creek	SW end of 1 <sup>st</sup> St. off Hubbard Ave., N/S RR culvert	6	1984, 93-99
Sawmill Creek	N/S East Main St.	28 (Water Resources)	1970-92
Sawmill Creek	N/S East Main St.	54 (Office of Ecology)	1976, 88, 89, 96-04
Terrell River	N/S Rt. 27A at weir	39	1966-97
Terry's Creek	E/S Rt. 105 at entrance ramp N/O Hubbard Ave.	18 (Water Resources)	1974-96
Terry's Creek	E/S Rt. 105 at entrance ramp N/O Hubbard Ave.	51 (Office of Ecology)	1976, 88, 89, 96-04

\* Samples collected by the SCDHS Office of Water Resources, unless otherwise noted. Sampling parameters generally include inorganic nitrogen (ammonia, nitrite, nitrate), TKN, PO<sub>4</sub>, coliform bacteria, conductivity, pH, metals, and on a limited basis, VOCs and pesticides.

\*\* Sampling was not conducted in all years and when done, was generally limited in frequency.

# Previous Work

- Water Quality Sampling
- Sediment Sampling













12/26/14  
12/26/14

12/26/14  
12/26/14  
12/26/14

TKN/TOC

PHOS.

PP METAL

ABN+25  
PEST/PCB

VOA+15

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING SUPPLY  
LOT #  
SAMPLE ID 10P12/2016 I-3  
DATE 12/2016  
SAMPLER BY RPD  
TIME  
PRESERVATIVE  
LOCATION C-7206 Rd DP  
CLIENT CCE  
ANALYSIS PEST/PCB  
9841 San Leandro Street, Oakland, California 94603  
(510) 562-4988 (800) 233-8425

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING SUPPLY  
LOT #  
SAMPLE ID  
SAMPLER BY RPD  
TIME  
PRESERVATIVE  
LOCATION  
CLIENT

# Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

- Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program
- Resolution No. 951-2006
  - appropriated \$85,000 to the Dept. of Planning for Capital Project 8710.113

# Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

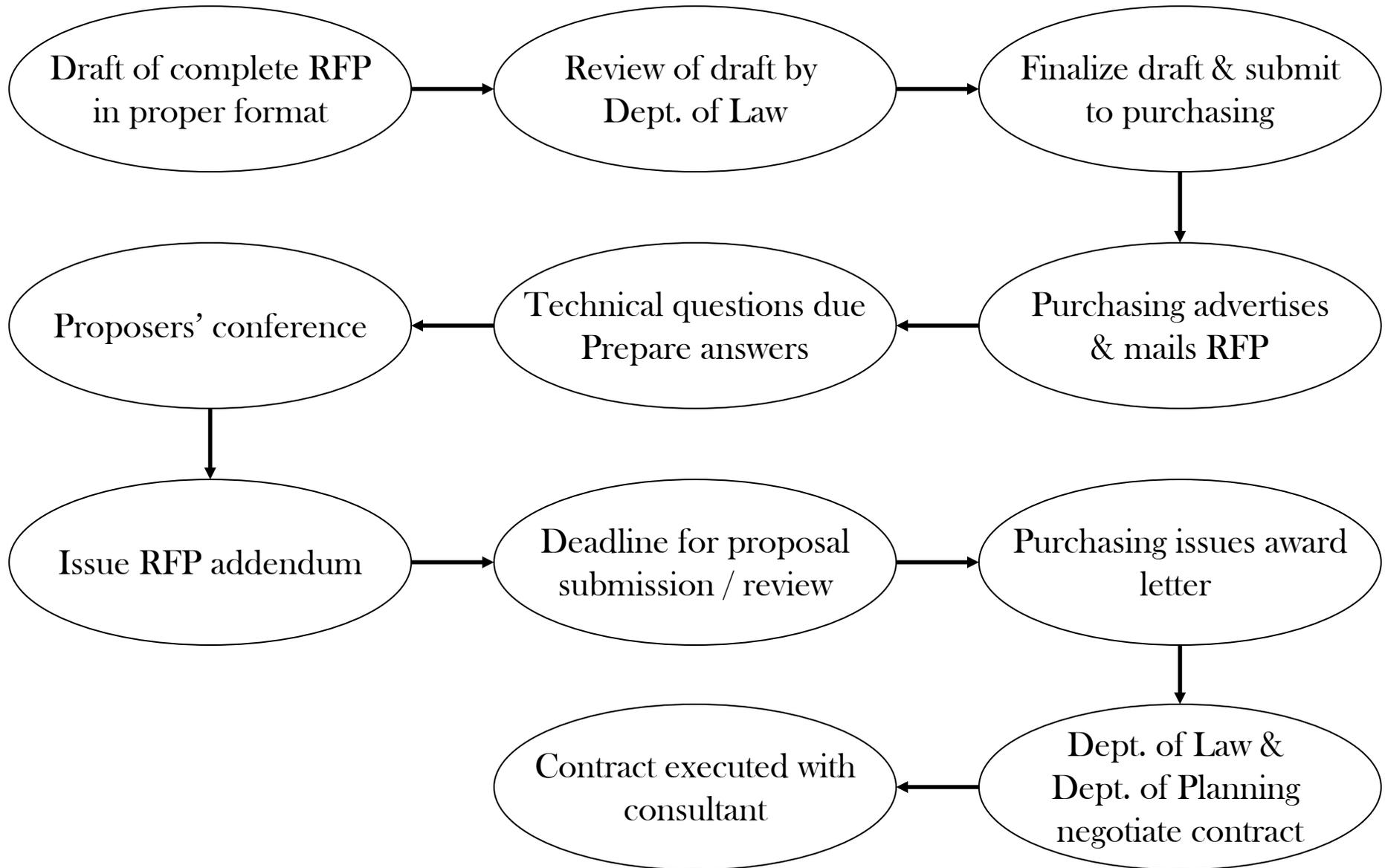
- Purpose

- To make informed and scientifically sound management decisions regarding the Robinson Duck Farm
- Guide the planning and physical restoration and future use of the Robinson Duck Farm site.

# Robinson Duck Farm Habitat Restoration Work Group

- SC Dept. of Planning
- SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
- SC Dept. of Health Services
- SC Dept. of Public Works
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/LI National Wildlife Refuge Complex
- Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Town of Brookhaven, Dept. of Planning, Environmental Protection & Land Management

# Typical RFP sequence of events



# Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

- Components
  - Inventory Site Conditions
    - Detailed topographic survey (2ft contours)
    - Locate & map all site features (structures, berms, wetlands, etc.)
    - Assess available water quality data for Carmans River
    - Document existence of any historic on-site resources
    - Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessment
  - Develop Management Goals and Restoration Priorities
    - Habitat values and restoration options
    - Management goals
    - Site plan

# Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study

- Components
  - Prepare Preliminary Habitat Restoration Project Plan
    - Conceptual plans/drawings
    - Landform alterations and calculations
    - Structure demolition and debris removal
    - Water flow/drainage
    - Invasive vegetation control
    - Vegetation planting/maintenance
    - Environmental review and permit requirements
    - Cost estimates
- Project Timeline
  - approx. 1 year from execution of contract

