

Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Panico Announce Open Space Purchase within the Mastic-Shirley Conservation Area

posted on 2/24/2011 2:20:13 PM

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Dan Panico have announced a recent open space acquisition of a .23 acre tidal wetlands parcel consisting of a high salt marsh in the Mastic-Shirley Conservation Area. This area is a top priority for open space acquisition due to its low-lying wetlands, the most extensive in Brookhaven Town. The parcel is adjacent to two other already protected lots and nearby several parcels that the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County have collectively acquired for open space preservation. The purchase price of the parcel was \$40,000.

"The preservation of remaining tidal wetlands is crucial to safeguarding the water quality of Great South Bay," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "Open space preservation throughout Brookhaven Town is a top priority and this acquisition is just the latest effort to help protect and enhance the natural balance of this valuable estuary."

"The preservation of open space and our environment are of critical importance and remain a priority," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "The purchase of this property not only serves to protect the health of our bay, but also serves to maintain the scenic vistas that have vanished over the years to development. I am proud that Brookhaven Town continues to lead in preserving the qualities that make it such a desirable place to live. "

Over the course of 2010, the Town of Brookhaven preserved over 140 acres of open space and farmland development rights and over 200 acres are currently in contract for purchase.

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