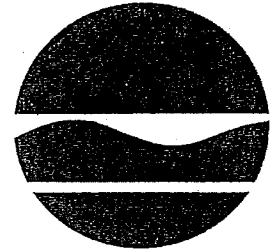


NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757
Phone: (518) 402-8935 • **Fax:** (518) 402-8925
Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

June 30, 2010

David Kennedy
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin
2150 Joshuas Path, Suite 300
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Ronkonkoma Hub Transit-Oriented Development – 53.73 Acres, area as indicated on the map you provided, located in the Towns of Brookhaven and Islip, Suffolk County.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities, and other significant habitats, which our databases indicate occur, or may occur, on your site or in the immediate vicinity of your site. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental impact assessment.

The enclosed report may be included in documents that will be available to the public. However, any enclosed maps displaying locations of rare species are considered sensitive information, and are intended only for the internal use of the recipient; they should not be included in any document that will be made available to the public, without permission from the New York Natural Heritage Program.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g. regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.

Our databases are continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

Sincerely,

Tara Salerno
Tara Salerno, Information Services

New York Natural Heritage Program # 684

Enc.

cc: Reg. 1, Wildlife Mgr.

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



NY Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor,
Albany, NY 12233-4757
(518) 402-8935

The information in this report includes only records entered into the NY Natural Heritage databases as of the date of the report. This report is not a definitive statement on the presence or absence of all rare species or significant natural communities at or in the vicinity of this site. Refer to the User's Guide for explanations of codes, ranks and fields. Location maps for certain species and communities may not be provided 1) if the species is vulnerable to disturbance, 2) if the location and/or extent is not precisely known, 3) if the location and/or extent is too large to display, and/or 4) if the animal is listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State.

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



ASCULAR PLANTS

Eurybia spectabilis

Showy Aster

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use
9726

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G5 - Secure

Last Report: 1991-09-10

EO Rank: Extant

County: Suffolk

Town: Islip

Location: MacArthur Airport

General Quality and Habitat: The plants are in the fields around the landing strips.

Liatris scariosa var. novae-angliae

Northern
Blazing-star

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use
9334

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G5?T3 - Vulnerable

Last Report: 1991-09-10

EO Rank: Good

County: Suffolk

Town: Islip

Location: MacArthur Airport

General Quality and Habitat: There are 150-220 plants in a large artificial grassland. The plants are in fields around landing strips.

Sericocarpus linifolius

Flax-leaf Whitetop

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use
4910

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G5 - Secure

Last Report: 1991-09-10

EO Rank: Extant

County: Suffolk

Town: Islip

Location: MacArthur Airport

General Quality and Habitat: The plants are in the fields around the landing strips.



3 Records Processed

detailed information about many of the rare and listed animals and plants in New York, including biology, identification, habitat, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.acris.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>, from NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> (for animals), and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

More detailed 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.acris.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29384.html> and click on Draft Ecological Communities of New York State.

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



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Albany, NY 12233-4757
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HISTORICAL RECORDS

The following plants and animals were documented in the vicinity of the project site at one time, but have not been documented there since 1979 or earlier.

There is no recent information on these plants and animals in the vicinity of the project site and their current status there is unknown. In most cases the precise location of the plant or animal in this vicinity at the time it was last documented is also unknown and therefore location maps are generally not provided.

If appropriate habitat for these plants or animals is present in the vicinity of the project site, it is possible that they may still occur there.

Natural Heritage Report on Rare Species and Ecological Communities



VASCULAR PLANTS

Lespedeza stuevei

Velvety
Bush-clover

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use
3860

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G4? - Apparently secure

Last Report: 1928-09-11

EO Rank: Historical, no recent
information

County: Suffolk

Town: Islip

Location: Ronkonkoma

Directions: Ronkonkoma.

General Quality and Habitat: Dry pine barrens.

M

Linum medium var. texanum

Southern Yellow
Flax

NY Legal Status: Threatened

NYS Rank: S2 - Imperiled

Office Use
5488.

Federal Listing:

Global Rank: G5T5 - Secure

Last Report: 1925-09-23

EO Rank: Historical, no recent
information

County: Suffolk

Town: Brookhaven, Islip, Smithtown

Location: Ronkonkoma

Directions: Ronkonkoma.

General Quality and Habitat: Dry, sandy, oak woods.

M

Use:
3800



Scleria pauciflora var. caroliniana

White-flowered
nutrush

NY Legal Status: Endangered
 Federal Listing:
 Last Report: 1922-09-25
 County: Suffolk
 Town: Brookhaven, Islip, Smithtown
 Location: Ronkonkoma
 Directions: Ronkonkoma.
 General Quality
 and Habitat:

NYS Rank: S1 - Critically imperiled
 Global Rank: G5T4T5 - Apparently secure
 EO Rank: Historical, no recent
 information

Office Use
4847

M

Symphotrichum concolor var. concolor

Silvery Aster

NY Legal Status: Endangered
 Federal Listing:
 Last Report: 1928-09-20
 County: Suffolk
 Town: Brookhaven, Islip, Smithtown
 Location: Ronkonkoma
 Directions: Ronkonkoma.
 General Quality
 and Habitat: Dry sandy barrens.

NYS Rank: S1 - Critically imperiled
 Global Rank: G5T5 - Secure
 EO Rank: Historical, no recent
 information

Office Use
7593

M

Use
747

Records Processed

More detailed information about many of the rare and listed animals and plants in New York, including biology, identification, habitat, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.acris.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>, from NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> (for animals), and from USDA's Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html> (for plants).

Use
75

USERS GUIDE TO NY NATURAL HERITAGE DATA

New York Natural Heritage Program, 625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757 phone: (518)402-8935



NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM: The NY Natural Heritage Program is a partnership between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and The Nature Conservancy. Our Mission is to facilitate the conservation of New York's biodiversity by providing comprehensive information and scientific expertise on rare species and natural ecosystems to resource managers and other conservation partners. We accomplish this mission by combining thorough field inventories, scientific analyses, expert interpretation, and the most comprehensive database on New York's distinctive biodiversity to deliver the highest quality information for natural resource planning, protection, and management.

DATA SENSITIVITY: The data provided in the report are ecologically sensitive and should be treated in a sensitive manner. The report is for your in-house use and should not be released, distributed or incorporated in a public document without prior permission from the Natural Heritage Program.

EO RANK: A letter code for the quality of the occurrence of the rare species or significant natural community, based on population size or area, condition, and landscape context.

- A-E = Extant: A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Fair, D=Poor, E=Extant but with insufficient data to assign a rank of A-D.
- F = Failed to find. Did not locate species during a limited search, but habitat is still there and further field work is justified.
- H = Historical. Historical occurrence without any recent field information.
- X = Extirpated. Field/other data indicates element/habitat is destroyed and the element no longer exists at this location.
- U = Extant/Historical status uncertain.
- Blank = Not assigned.

LAST REPORT: The date that the rare species or significant natural community was last observed at this location, as documented in the Natural Heritage databases. The format is most often YYYY-MM-DD.

NY LEGAL STATUS – Animals:

Categories of Endangered and Threatened species are defined in New York State Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0535. Animals listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern are protected against taking, importation, transportation, possession, or sale without a permit. Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species are listed in regulation 6NYCRR 182.5.

E - Endangered Species: any species which meet one of the following criteria:

- Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York.
- Any species listed as endangered by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

T - Threatened Species: any species which meet one of the following criteria:

- Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in NY.
- Any species listed as threatened by the U.S. Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of the Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

SC - Special Concern Species: those species which are not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York.

P - Protected Wildlife (defined in Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0103): wild game, protected wild birds, and endangered species of wildlife.

U - Unprotected (defined in Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0103): the species may be taken at any time without limit; however a license to take may be required.

G - Game (defined in Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0103): any of a variety of big game or small game species as stated in the Environmental Conservation Law; many normally have an open season for at least part of the year, and are protected at other times.

NY LEGAL STATUS – Plants:

The following categories are defined in regulation 6NYCRR part 193.3 and apply to NYS Environmental Conservation Law section 9-1503.

E - Endangered Species: listed species are those with:

- 5 or fewer extant sites, or
- fewer than 1,000 individuals, or
- restricted to fewer than 4 U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute topographical maps, or
- species listed as endangered by U.S. Dept. of Interior, as enumerated in Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

T - Threatened: listed species are those with:

- 6 to fewer than 20 extant sites, or
- 1,000 to fewer than 3,000 individuals, or
- restricted to not less than 4 or more than 7 U.S.G.S. 7 and ½ minute topographical maps, or
- listed as threatened by U.S. Department of Interior, as enumerated in Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.