



## Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

### Media Advisory

November 4, 2014

### **Port Jefferson Village Waterfront Boasts New Educational Sign to Inform Public**

#### **About Important Marine Habitat Restoration Efforts**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE), in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; the Long Island Sound Study; Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn; and the Village of Port Jefferson invite you to visit Harborfront Park and view a newly installed educational sign that showcases the importance of marine habitat to our environment.

This educational sign provides the community with information pertaining to local efforts to bring back essential eelgrass habitat to the Long Island Sound (LIS). The sign was funded as part of a Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) grant, administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and features information regarding marine habitat restoration as conducted by CCE's Marine Meadows Program.

The Marine Meadows Program is the collaborative, community-based component of CCE's overall eelgrass restoration effort. By offering Marine Meadows Workshops, CCE provides an opportunity for community members to learn about the importance of eelgrass to our marine environment while participating in hands-on activities that help further restoration efforts in the region. Kim Barbour, CCE's Habitat Restoration Outreach Specialist explained that, "as part of the 2 year LISFF project, CCE held 5 restoration workshops which resulted in the planting of 27,000 shoots of eelgrass into the Long Island Sound."

Legislator Kara Hahn was a key partner in these efforts to restore eelgrass to the LIS. Leg. Hahn participated in, and helped recruit volunteers for, all of the Port Jefferson Village based workshops offered as part of this project. She was on site when the new sign was unveiled noting, "This sign is part of a greater effort to raise awareness on the fragility and complexity of our coastal ecosystem. It is not only important for people to know about restoration efforts here, but to also understand the reasons behind this vital work."

Also on hand for the sign unveiling was Port Jefferson Village Trustee, Bruce D'Abramo. "The Long Island Sound's environmental health has always been essential to this village's economic health," said Trustee D'Abramo. He continued, addressing Chris Pickerell the Director of CCE's Marine Program, "your efforts in restoring eelgrass in the Sound are deeply appreciated here, and I hope this new sign will help recruit many volunteers to expand the program."

To learn more about CCE's Marine Meadows Program, find them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Meadows-Program/210110862383997> or visit [www.marinemeadows.com](http://www.marinemeadows.com). If you'd like to get involved as a workshop participant, please contact Kim Barbour at 631-727-7850 ext. 329 or [kp237@cornell.edu](mailto:kp237@cornell.edu).

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