

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines the effects of the Project on natural resources, including floodplains, water resources (groundwater and surface water), and vegetation and wildlife on the Project Site and in the surrounding area.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS**FLOODPLAINS**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's floodplain maps for the Town of Babylon, the Project Site and surrounding area are not located in the 100- or 500-year floodplains. The nearest floodplains to the Project Site are approximately three miles away.

WATER RESOURCES*GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS*

Article 55 of the New York State Conservation Law (known as the Sole Source Aquifer Protection Act) designates areas on Long Island that are Special Groundwater Protection Areas (SGPAs). The SGPAs are watershed recharge areas important for the maintenance of large volumes of high-quality groundwater. The Project Site and surrounding area, including the area where the new roadway network is proposed, are not located within a SGPA.

Groundwater Quality

Because the groundwater table is relatively high at the Project Site and at adjacent properties, groundwater is subject to contamination from stormwater runoff from roads and failing septic systems.

Groundwater Discharges

The Project Site and the areas of the new street network and off-site street improvements are mostly developed with impervious surfaces, resulting in a large amount of potentially contaminated stormwater runoff. Stormwater from the Project Site and adjacent properties discharges to recharge basins to the west and south.

SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

There are no surface waters or mapped wetlands on the Project Site or in the immediate area. The nearest wetland to the Project Site is approximately ¼ mile to the east, at Geiger Memorial Park. This wetland is the Carlls River, which originates just south of Old Country Road in Wyandanch and empties into Great South Bay.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

FLORA

The Project Site consists entirely of impervious surfaces. The area where the new roadway network is proposed is also almost entirely impervious, with the exception of a small triangular wooded parcel at the southeast corner of Straight Path and N. 9th Street. In addition, trees line the east and west sides of Straight Path in this area.

FAUNA

Mammals

Due to the area's developed nature, mammals likely to utilize the Project Site and immediate area are those more tolerant of habitat disturbance. A list of mammals likely to frequent the Project Site and surrounding area is provided in **Table 11-1**.

Table 11-1
Mammals Likely to Utilize the Project Site

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Eastern chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
White-footed mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
Pine mouse	<i>Pitymys pinetorum</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>
Masked shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Eastern mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Source: <i>The Mammals of Long Island, New York, July 1971.</i>	

C. THE PROJECT

Based upon the existing site characteristics identified above, no significant adverse impacts to wetlands, upland vegetation, floodplains, and wildlife, including threatened/endangered species are anticipated from implementation of the Project. In fact, the proposed plaza, which will include plantings, as well as the landscaped median along Straight Path, will be a beneficial enhancement, adding vegetation to the Project Site and immediate area.

With respect to water quality, given that the Project provides for leaching basins within the Project Site and the piping of storm water from the proposed garage to the existing retention basin, water quality will be improved in the future. In addition, the new roadway network will process storm water on-site through leaching basins underground at multiple locations per block and storm water plantings on the sidewalks.

Additionally, it should be noted that since the Project does not involve use of any existing wildlife or waterfowl refuge, historic resource, public park, or recreation area, an evaluation of the Project under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966 (49 USC § 303) is not required. *