

Long Island Sound **Stewardship Initiative**

2006 Stewardship Atlas

Acknowledgements

The Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative (LISSI) 2006 Stewardship Atlas was prepared by Regional Plan Association and our project partners with generous funding from the U.S. EPA Long Island Sound Office, the New York State DEC and the New York Community Trust. RPA wishes to thank the members of the LISSI workgroup and the public meeting attendees for their time, guidance and participation in drafting the 2006 Stewardship Atlas as presented here.

Project Staff:

Jennifer R Cox, Manager of Geographic Information Systems, Regional Plan Association, was principal author of this Atlas, with additional input from project staff and partners.

John Atkin, Vice President and Connecticut Director, RPA

Rob Pirani, Director of Environmental Programs, RPA

Robert Freudenberg, Associate Planner, RPA

Cara Griffin, Associate Planner, RPA (former)

Jade Elias, GIS Assistant, RPA

Project Partners:

Al Caccese, Audubon NY

Sandy Breslin, Audubon CT

Robin Kriesberg, Save the Sound, Inc.

Mark Tedesco, US EPA

Jane MacLellan, USFWS

Don Henne, USFWS

Tom Halavik, USFWS

Andrew MacLachlan, USFWS

David Kozak, CT DEP

Karen Chytalo, NYS DEC

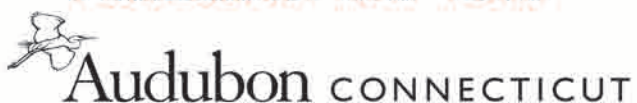
Jeff Main, Westchester County Parks Department

Alicia Betty, Trust for Public Land

This report was designed by Yonah Freemark, Intern, RPA.

Printing for this document is provided by the Long Island Sound Study

A copy of this report can be downloaded at RPA's website www.rpa.org



Introduction

In 2005, as a culmination of over 3 years of effort, the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative work group identified areas around the Sound with significant recreational and ecological values. The 2006 Stewardship Atlas provides maps of these 33 areas, which have been recommended as the inaugural stewardship areas, and describes the major ecological and recreational values of each area.

By identifying these important areas, the Stewardship Initiative aims to highlight the Sound's recreational and ecological resources, to raise awareness of the threats to these resources, and to facilitate on-the-ground stewardship actions. The Initiative promotes coordinated resource planning to develop a network of partners working in concert to address threats and respond to opportunities within each stewardship area.

As illustrated on the following pages, the boundaries of the stewardship areas are not strictly defined. Each area includes one or more "stewardship" sites, which are parcel-specific locations that represent the values or features for which that area is being highlighted. The overall stewardship area includes all sites that are physically or ecologically connected to the stewardship site(s) and where management action would prove beneficial to the stewardship area.

The majority of the recommended areas have stewardship sites that are under public ownership. These places, such as state parks and National Wildlife Refuges, were recognized for the unparalleled levels of public access or significant habitat acreage they provide. Private properties are included only with the permission of their owners, as the Stewardship Initiative is a completely voluntary program. The Stewardship Initiative partners hope that on-the-ground successes with the inaugural stewardship areas will serve as models to encourage participation by more private landowners.

At this time, the Stewardship Initiative focuses on the coastal and near-shore areas of Long Island Sound. However, there is legislation pending in Congress to formally create the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative. The current version of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, reintroduced in April 2006, limits stewardship activities to upland areas only. With the passage of the Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below the mean high water line may have to be redrawn.

Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative

The Long Island Sound Study works to protect and improve Long Island Sound. It is guided by Sound-wide planning efforts: the 1994 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and the 2003 LIS Agreement, which builds upon the goals of the CCMP.

These planning efforts identified a number of high priority problems around the Sound:

1. Low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia)
2. Toxic contamination
3. Pathogen contamination
4. Floatable debris
5. Living resources & habitat management
6. Land use & development

The Stewardship Initiative is implementing two of the recommendations related to Living Resources & Habitat Management by identifying places with significant biological, scientific, or recreational value throughout Long Island Sound and developing a strategy to protect and enhance those special places.

The Stewardship Initiative has five specific goals:

- Preserve native plant and animal communities and unique habitat types.
- Improve recreation and public access opportunities.
- Protect threatened and endangered species in their natural habitats.
- Preserve sites that are important for long-term scientific research and education.
- Promote efforts to plan for multiple uses.

For more information on the Stewardship Initiative, go to www.longislandsoundstudy.net/stewardship



Jennifer Cox

Stewardship Initiative Timeline

2000 *Listen to the Sound* hearings

2002 RPA digitizes the sites identified in the *Listen to the Sound* hearings

2003-2004 **Ecological and coastal recreation inventory**

RPA and the US Fish & Wildlife Coastal Program worked with resource experts in CT and NY to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Sound's resources within its immediate coastal areas.

The inventory of important recreation and open space areas throughout Long Island Sound was led by the Regional Plan Association. The process of inventorying these sites involved combining input from resource managers and the public with available information regarding existing recreational facilities and parks.

The first step in the analysis was to meet with public and private natural resource managers and planners to identify criteria and landscape attributes that were important for open space and water-dependent recreation areas. Approximately 30 criteria and attributes were mapped in the following four categories: 1) public access to the water; 2) recreational and conservation need; 3) water resource protection; and 4) open space, cultural and recreational resources.

The inventory of important ecological areas was led by the US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program, in cooperation with NY and CT resource experts. As a basis for the analysis, the following categories were developed to inventory the ecological and scientific resources throughout Long Island Sound:

Exemplary Sites – Areas that are representative of natural habitat types or ecosystems that are typical to Long Island Sound. These are areas that are not degraded. Included in this category are sites with high species productivity, concentration, or areas of high biological diversity.

Outstanding Sites – Areas that contain examples of unique or rare habitats or ecosystems. Included in this category are unditched tidal marshes or secondary dunes. Sites in this category may either be unique to the Sound or rare in a regional landscape context.

Rare Species Habitat Sites – Areas that serve as habitat for an assemblage of Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species or those areas that support an unusually high concentration of a single threatened or endangered species.

Research/Educational Sites – Areas that provide opportunities for research on and education about Long Island Sound.

2005-2006 **Ecological and coastal recreation areas proposed for inclusion in the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative**

With the aid of computerized mapping software (GIS), stewardship sites were chosen from the thousands of sites identified through the inventories and were organized into stewardship areas. Sites were selected based on the number of ecological or recreational categories that applied and, for recreation sites, the number of patrons served. Additional criteria used to identify the inaugural areas included representation of the Sound's diverse habitat types and recreational opportunities, the distribution of sites around the Sound, and community support for recognition of the area.





Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative Inaugural Stewardship Areas



Stewardship Areas in Connecticut

from east to west

Barn Island	10
Bluff Point	11
Great Neck - Goshen Point	12
Rocky Neck & Watts Island	13
Lower Connecticut River	14
Duck Island	15
Hammonasset Beach	16
Falkner Island	17
Quinnipiac River	18
West Rock Ridge	19
Sandy Point	20
Charles Island & Milford Point	21
Great Meadows	22
Sherwood Island	23
Norwalk River & Harbor	24



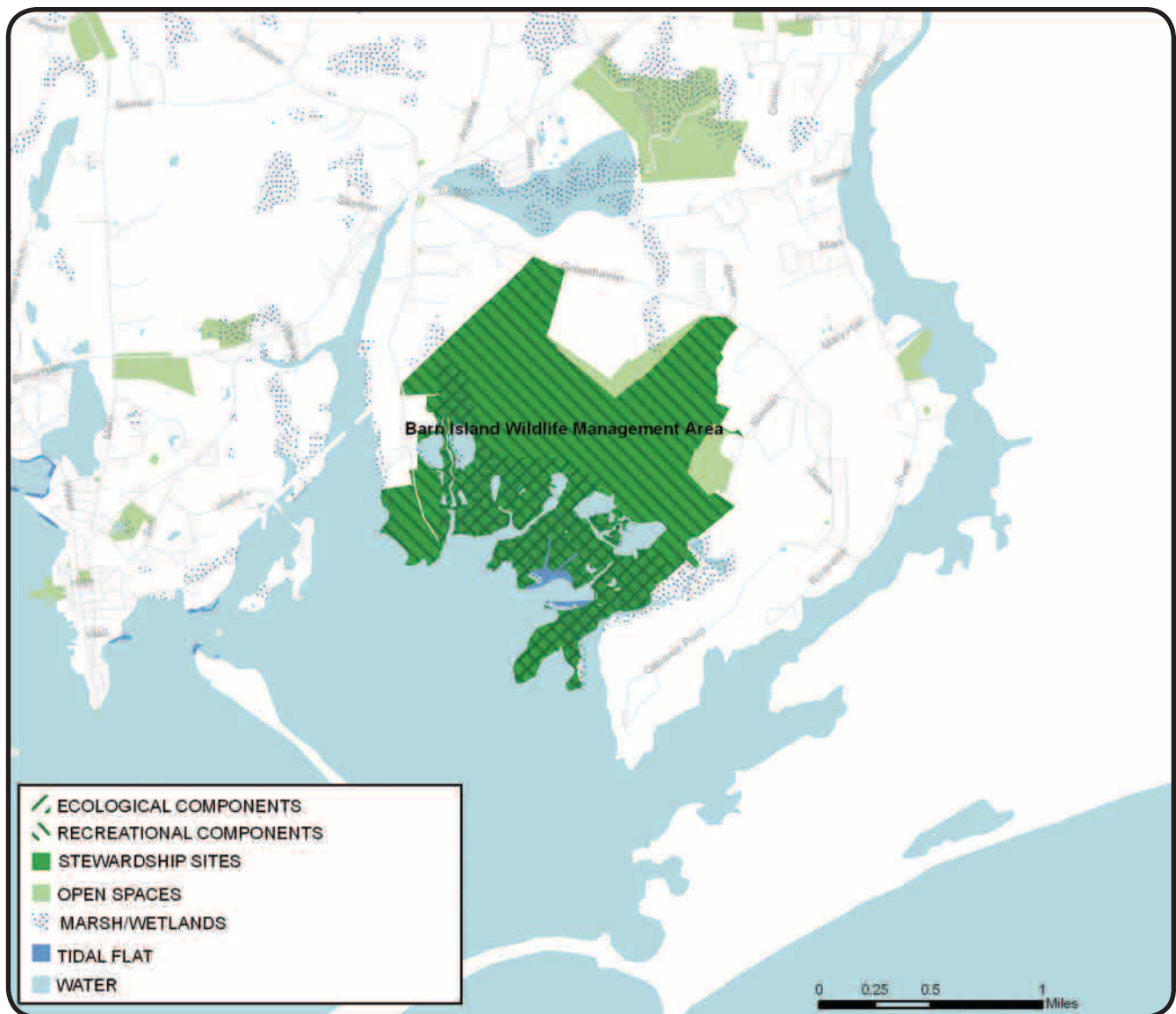
Jennifer Cox

Stewardship Areas in New York

Westchester County and from west to east

- 25 Edith G. Read - Marshlands
- 26 Huckleberry - Davids Islands & Pelham Bay
- 27 Alley Pond
- 28 Manhasset Bay
- 29 Hempstead Harbor
- 30 Oyster Bay
- 31 Lloyd Neck
- 32 Crab Meadow
- 33 Nissequogue River
- 34 Stony Brook Harbor
- 35 Mt Sinai - Port Jefferson Harbor
- 36 Shoreham - Wading River
- 37 Jamesport - Mattituck Creek
- 38 Plum & Gull Islands
- 39 Fishers Island Coastline

Barn Island Stonington, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: Barn Island Wildlife Management Area

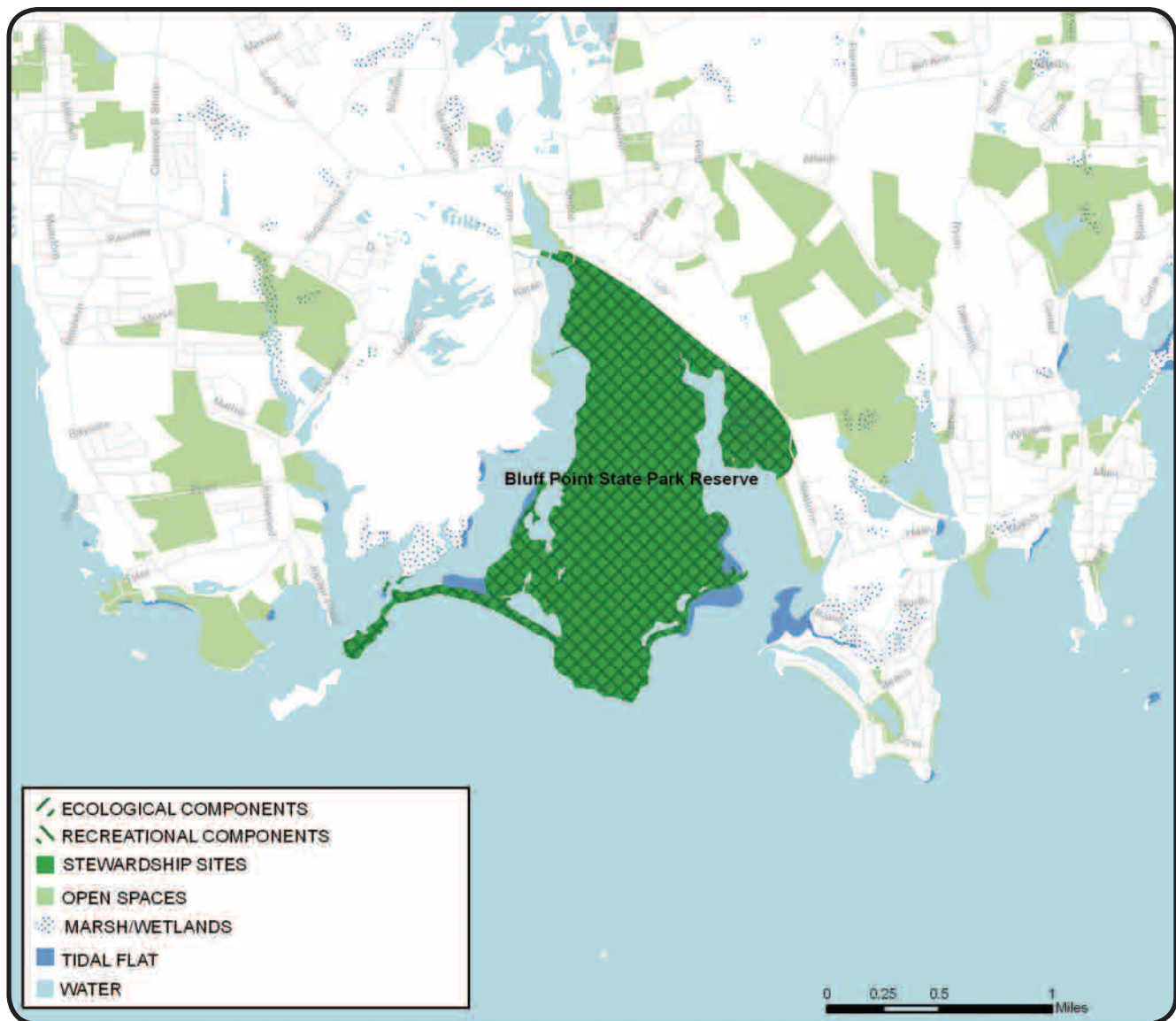
Ecological significance:

- Focus of over 50 years of continuous wetland research, including investigations into wetland degradation, and one of the few sites on the east coast to have pre-disturbance baseline mapping
- Contains five tidal wetland restoration sites that have been the subject of almost 25 years of pre- and post-restoration research and monitoring
- Exemplary salt and brackish marsh
- Includes rare fen habitat

Recreational significance:

- National Audubon designated “Globally Significant Important Birding Area” site
- New marsh education and viewing area and native plant demonstration area
- One of few extensive coastal trail systems in Connecticut (over 4.5 miles of trails)
- Regionally significant coastal education outdoor classroom
- Regionally significant waterfowl hunting area
- Highly popular state-of-the-art marine boating access facility

Bluff Point Groton, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: Bluff Point State Park and Natural Area Preserve

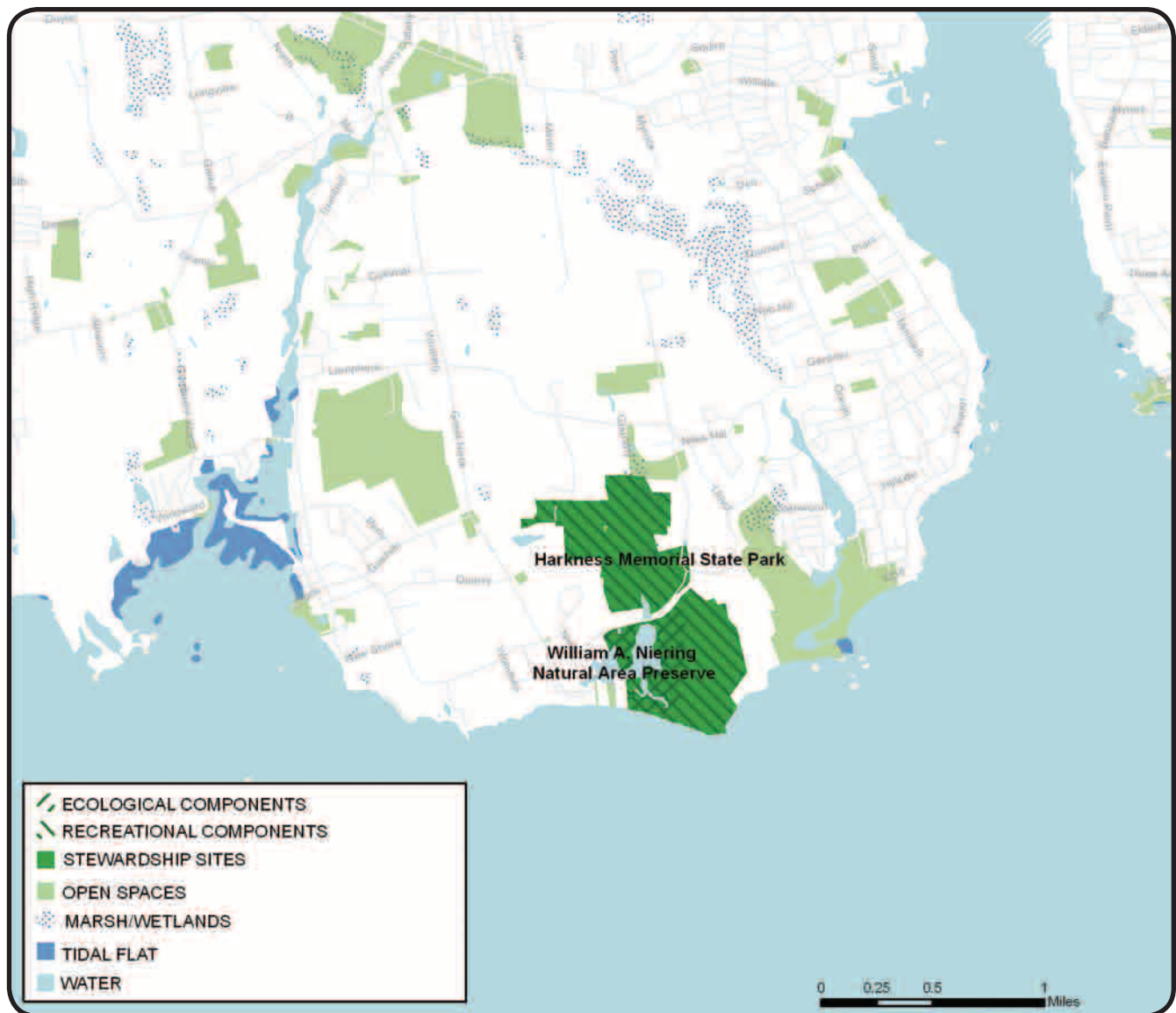
Ecological significance:

- Exemplary beach and dune habitat
- Rare back barrier sand flat habitat with rare plant communities and species
- Rare oligohaline wetland system
- Includes 'coastal old growth forest' and rare fen habitat

Recreational significance:

- Undeveloped barrier beach provides a unique "natural sandy beach experience"
- Car-top boat launch facility allows visitors to explore Poquonuck River salt marsh and popular coves along Fishers Island Sound
- Coastal bluff provides extraordinary views of southeastern Connecticut coastal landmarks (e.g. Ledge Light, Bushy Point barrier beach, and Pine Island)
- Recreational shellfish area
- Regionally significant coastal education outdoor classroom
- Nominated as a Connecticut Coastal Birding Trail Site

Great Neck - Goshen Point Waterford, Connecticut



Stewardship Sites: Harkness Memorial State Park and William A. Niering Natural Area Preserve

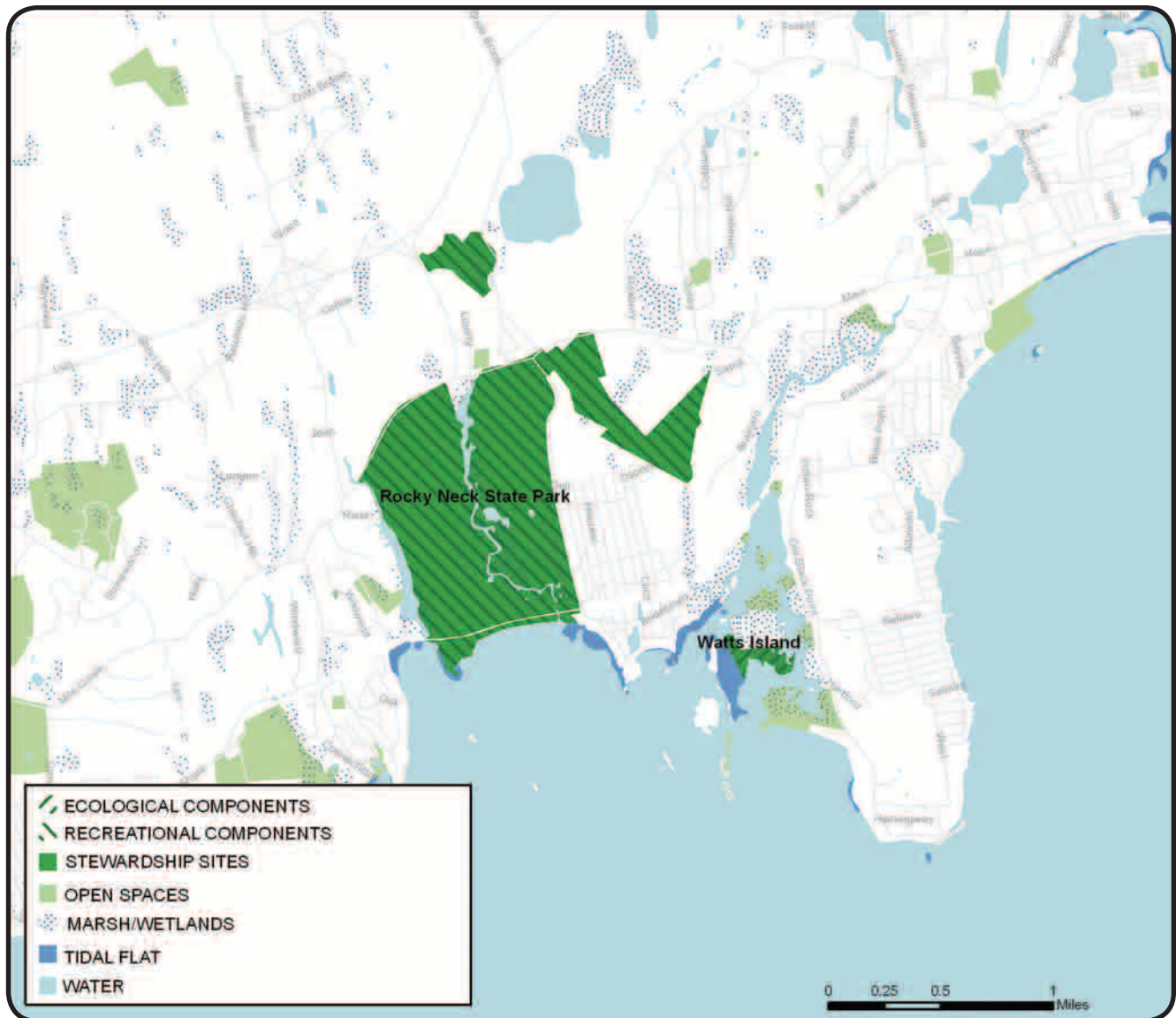
Ecological significance:

- Exemplary coastal barrier beach and primary dune communities
- Includes coastal grassland habitat

Recreational significance:

- Unusual and outstanding historical/cultural tourism attraction
- Provides a unique combination of coastal resource-based recreation and cultural tourism opportunities
- Fourth most visited park in state park system

Rocky Neck & Watts Island East Lyme, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: Rocky Neck State Park

Recreational significance:

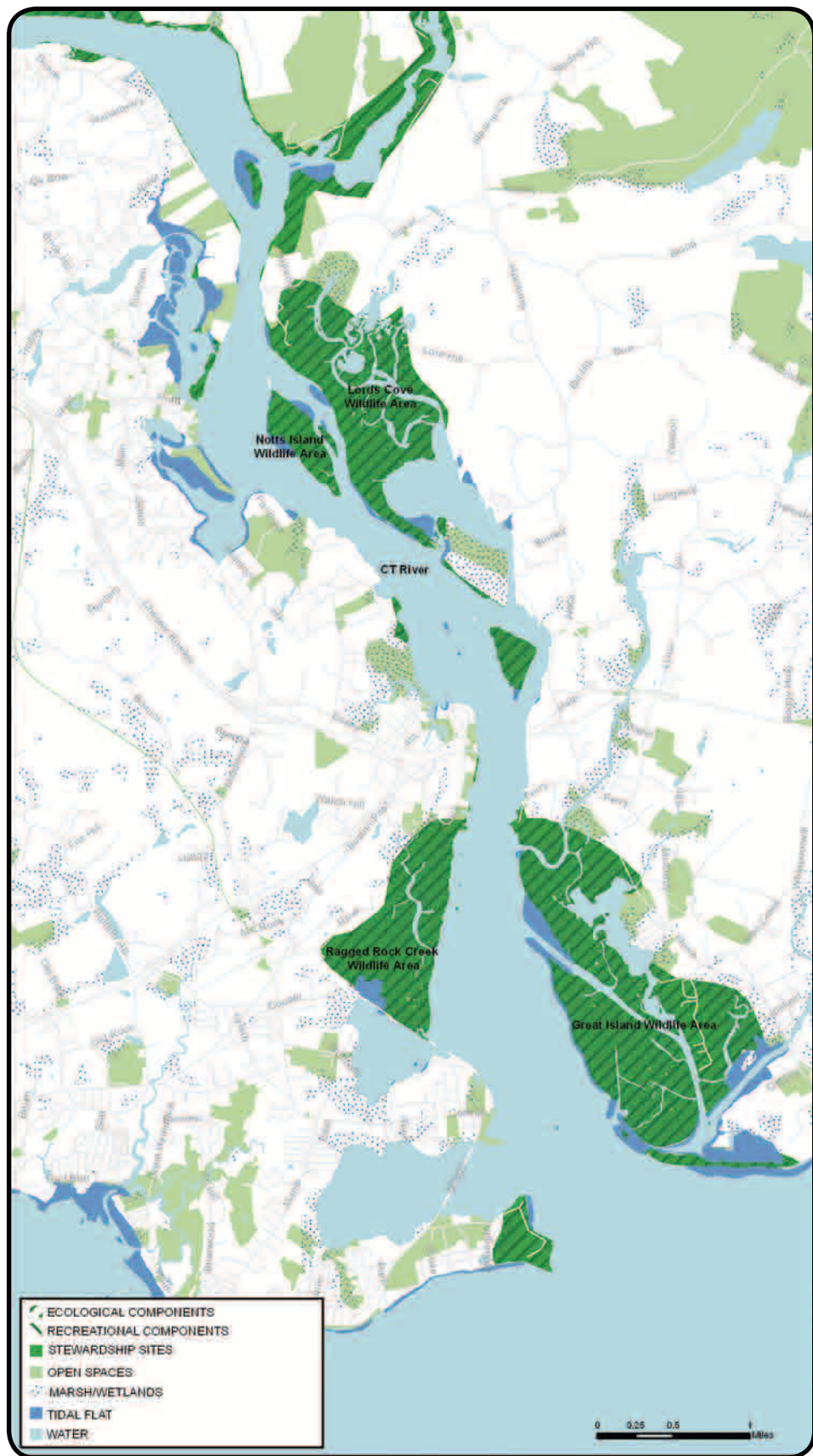
- Woodland-marsh trail system and coastal camping
- Coastal education nature center
- Highly popular swimming beach
- Historic and architecturally significant pavilion
- Rocky-shorefront popular with salt water anglers
- Diversity of recreation opportunities – unique on Long Island Sound
- Third most visited park in state park system

Stewardship Site: Watts Island (owned by The Nature Conservancy)

Ecological significance:

- Outstanding coastal barrier with the highest primary dune system in Connecticut
- Supports the best developed coastal maritime shrub thicket
- Site of tidal wetland research and sedimentation studies

Lower Connecticut River Old Saybrook, Essex, Deep River, Lyme and Old Lyme, Connecticut



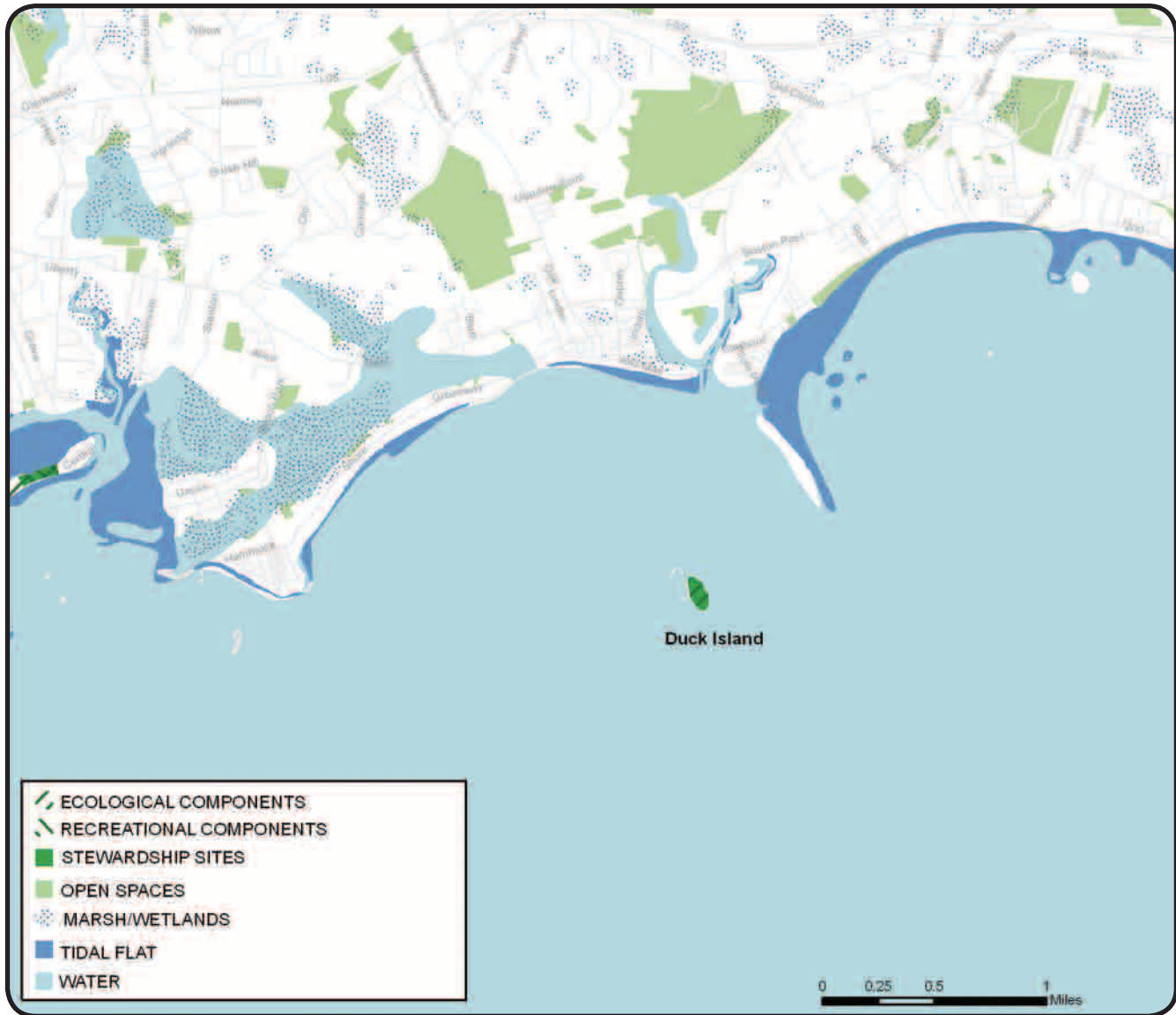
Stewardship Site:

Connecticut River Ramsar Complex

Ecological significance:

- Recognized as containing “Wetlands of International Importance” under the Ramsar convention
- Outstanding brackish – tidal fresh marsh complex

Duck Island Westbrook, Connecticut

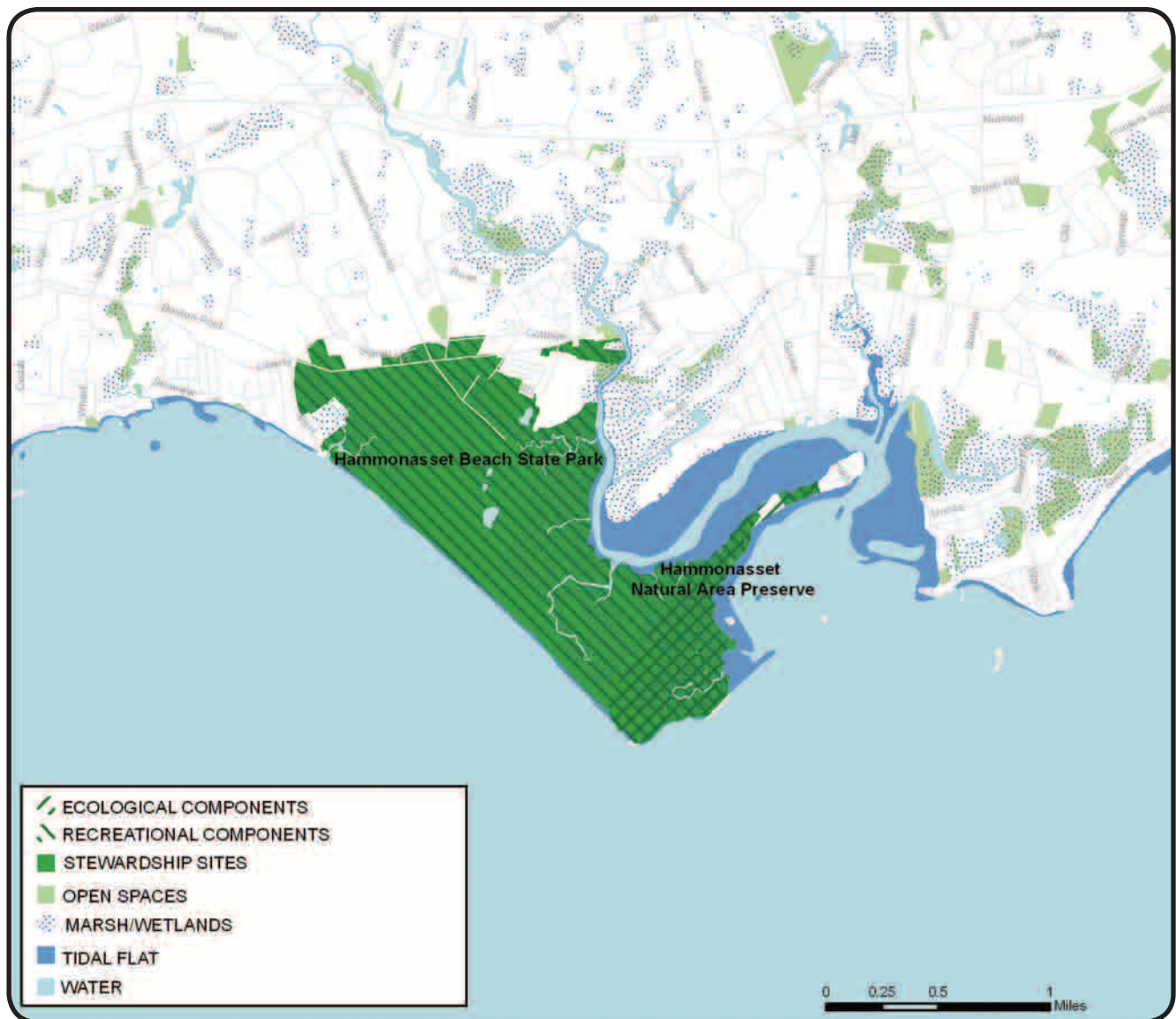


Stewardship Site: Duck Island Natural Area Preserve

Ecological significance:

- Provides nesting grounds for endangered roseate terns and other colonial water birds
- Exemplary island habitat

Hammonasset Beach Madison, Connecticut



Stewardship Sites: Hammonasset Beach State Park and Natural Area Preserve

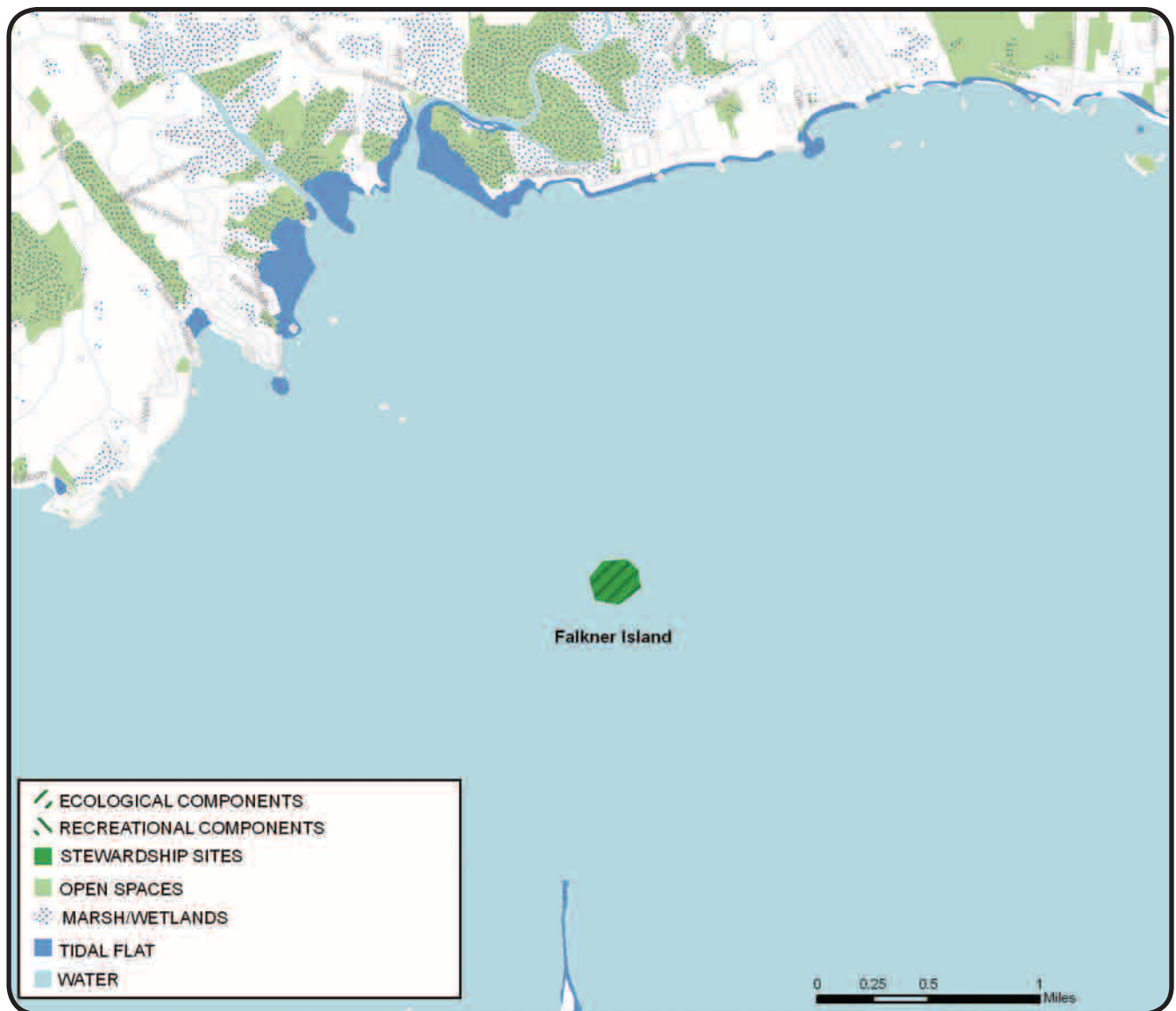
Ecological significance:

- Extensive and exemplary salt marshes
- Exemplary coastal barrier habitat and plant communities
- Significant long-term research site

Recreational significance:

- Provides outstanding coastal education services and interpretive programs
- National Audubon designated “Globally Significant Important Birding Area” site
- Extensive coastal trail system and opportunities for coastal camping
- Most visited park in state park system

Falkner Island Guilford, Connecticut

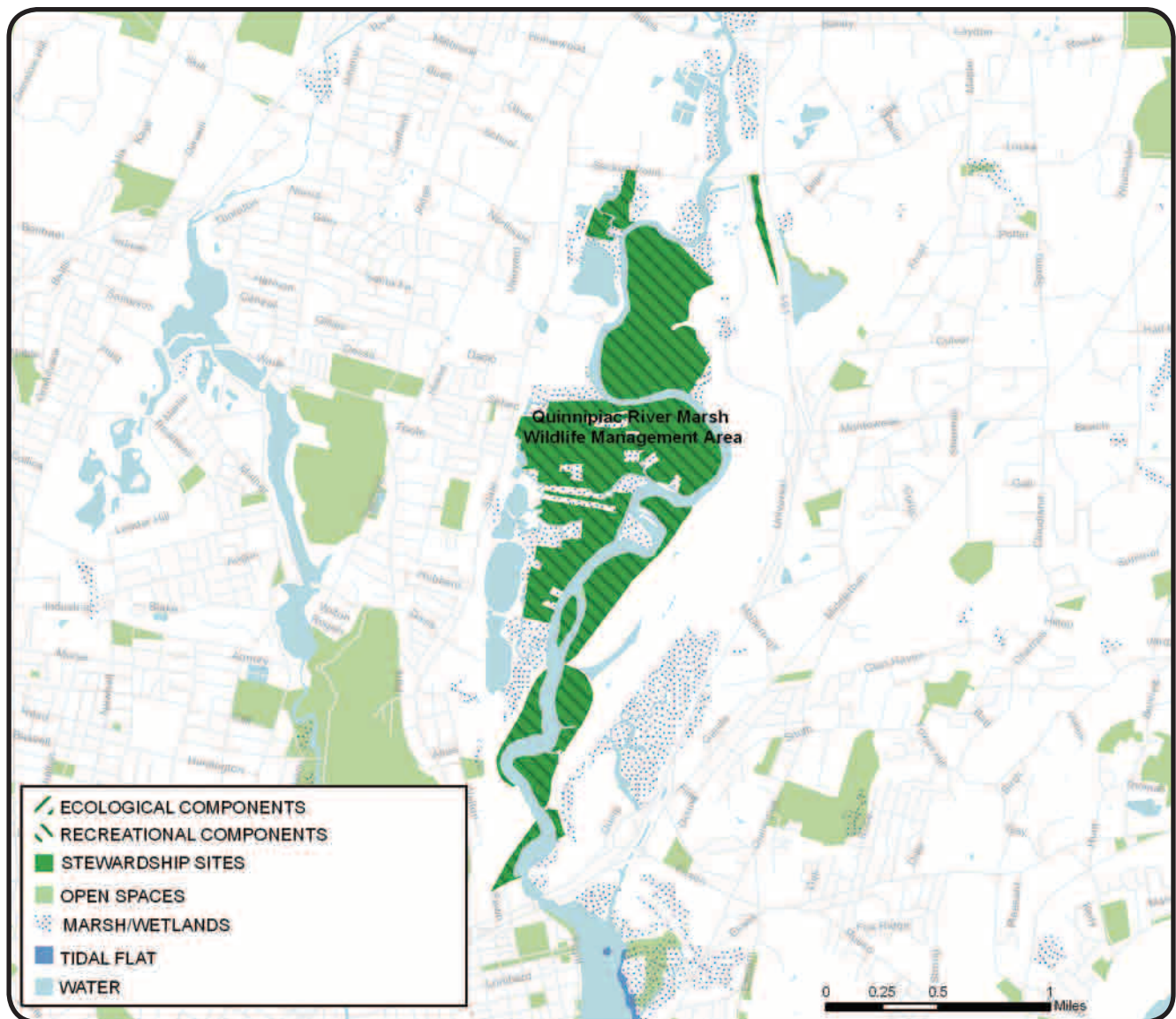


Stewardship Site: Falkner Island Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Ecological significance:

- Provides nesting grounds for endangered roseate terns and other colonial water birds
- Exemplary island habitat

Quinnipiac River New Haven, Connecticut

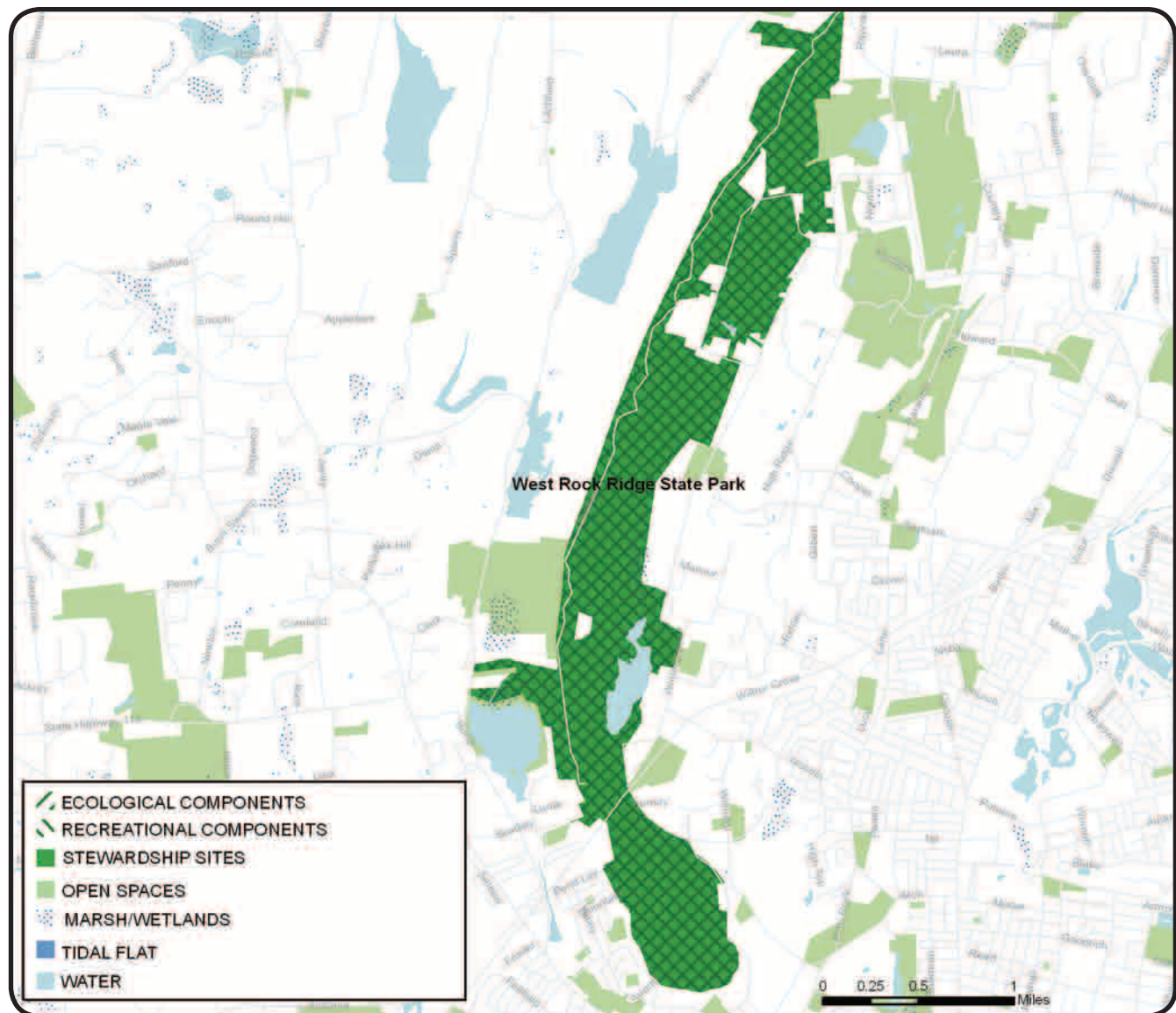


Stewardship Site: Quinnipiac River Marsh Wildlife Management Area and State Park

Recreational significance:

- National Audubon designated “Important Birding Area” site
- Important waterfowl hunting area

West Rock Ridge Hamden and New Haven, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: West Rock Ridge State Park

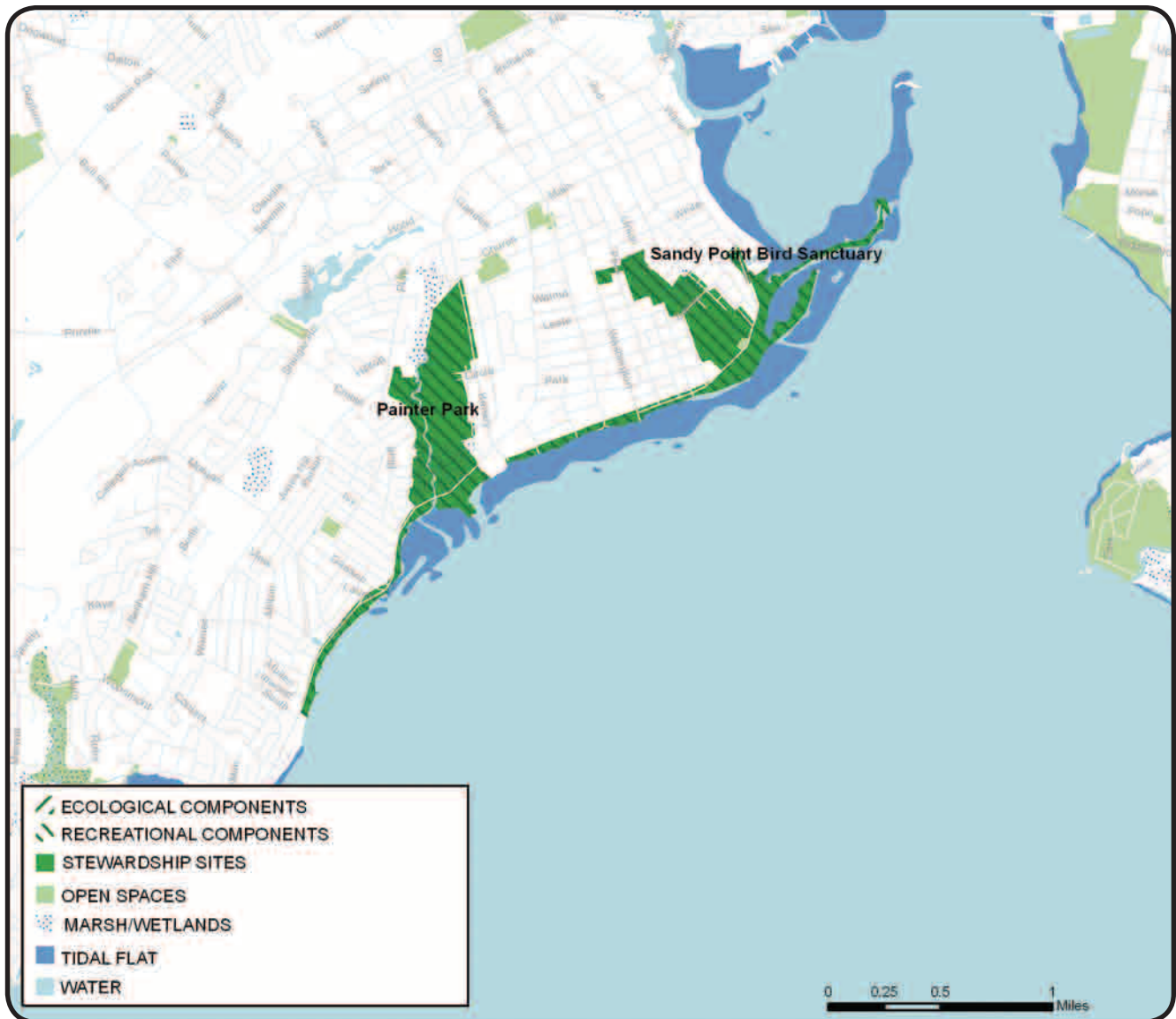
Ecological significance:

- Outstanding traprock ridge segment
- Provides habitat for numerous rare plants and insects
- Rare landform type in the Long Island Sound ecosystem

Recreational significance:

- Site of extraordinary geological history interest
- Includes a nature center
- Provides boating access to the West River
- Extensive trail system

Sandy Point West Haven, Connecticut



Stewardship Sites: Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary and Painter Park

Recreational significance:

- 3.5 miles of beach from Bradley Point Park to Sandy Point
- Connected by a 1.7-mile urban waterfront greenway for pedestrians, bikes, and rollerbladers
- Supports a variety of fishing, swimming and boating opportunities in an urban setting
- Provides scenic views of the lighthouse located in New Haven Harbor
- Wildlife viewing from Sandy Point and the Bird Sanctuary

Charles Island & Milford Point Milford, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: Charles Island Natural Area (part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge)

Ecological significance:

- Provides nesting grounds for endangered roseate terns and other colonial water birds
- Exemplary island habitat

Stewardship Sites: Milford Point (part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge) and Wheeler Wildlife Management Area

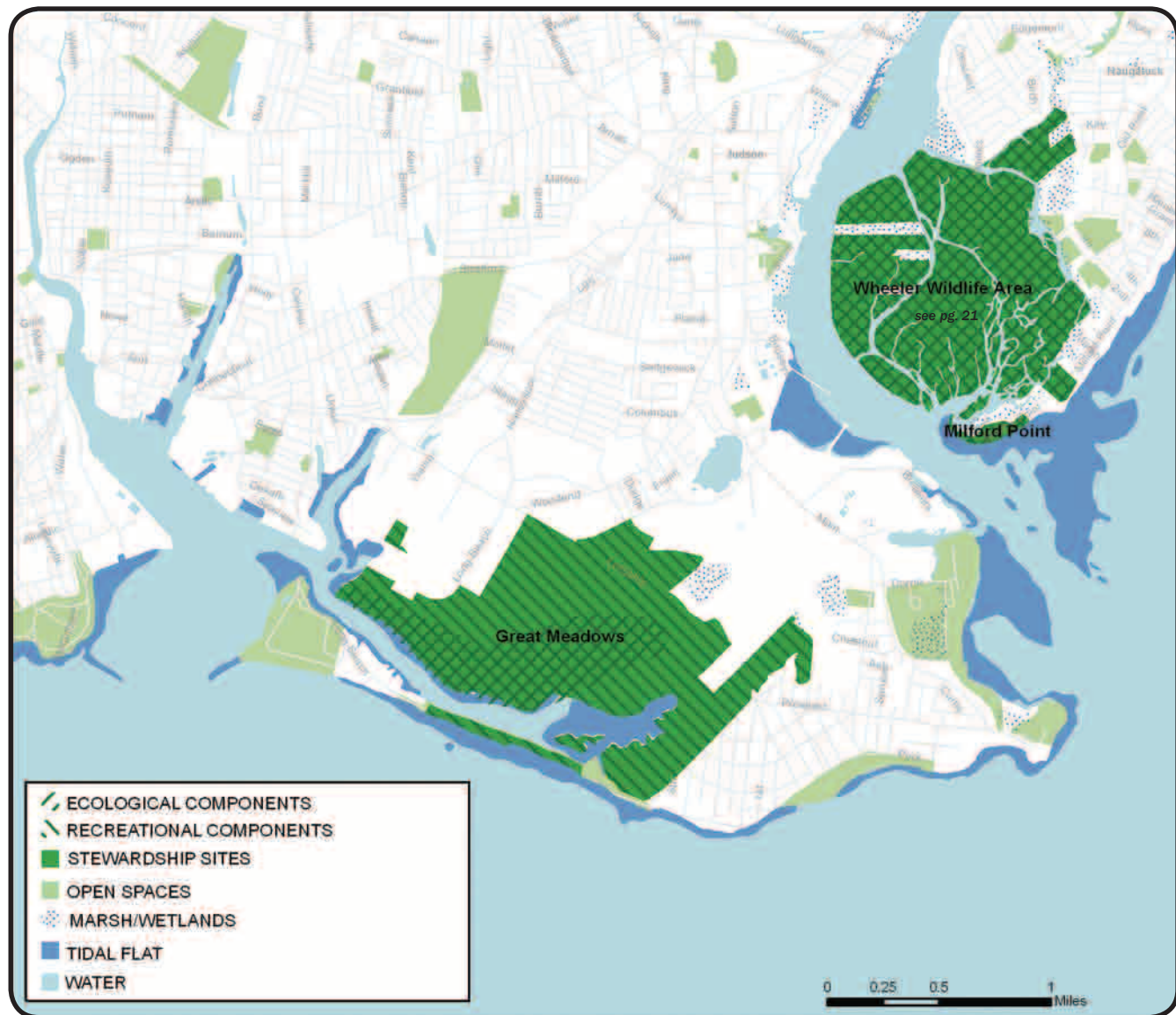
Ecological significance:

- Outstanding back barrier sand flats with rare plant communities and species
- Exemplary primary dune habitat
- Largest unditched brackish marsh complex dominated by low marsh in Long Island Sound
- Includes intertidal shoals that, in combination with the brackish marshes, are a significant wildlife concentration area and provide habitat and foraging areas for colonial water birds

Recreational significance:

- Outstanding coastal outdoor education facility
- Regionally significant waterfowl hunting area

Great Meadows Stratford, Connecticut



Stewardship Site: Great Meadows Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

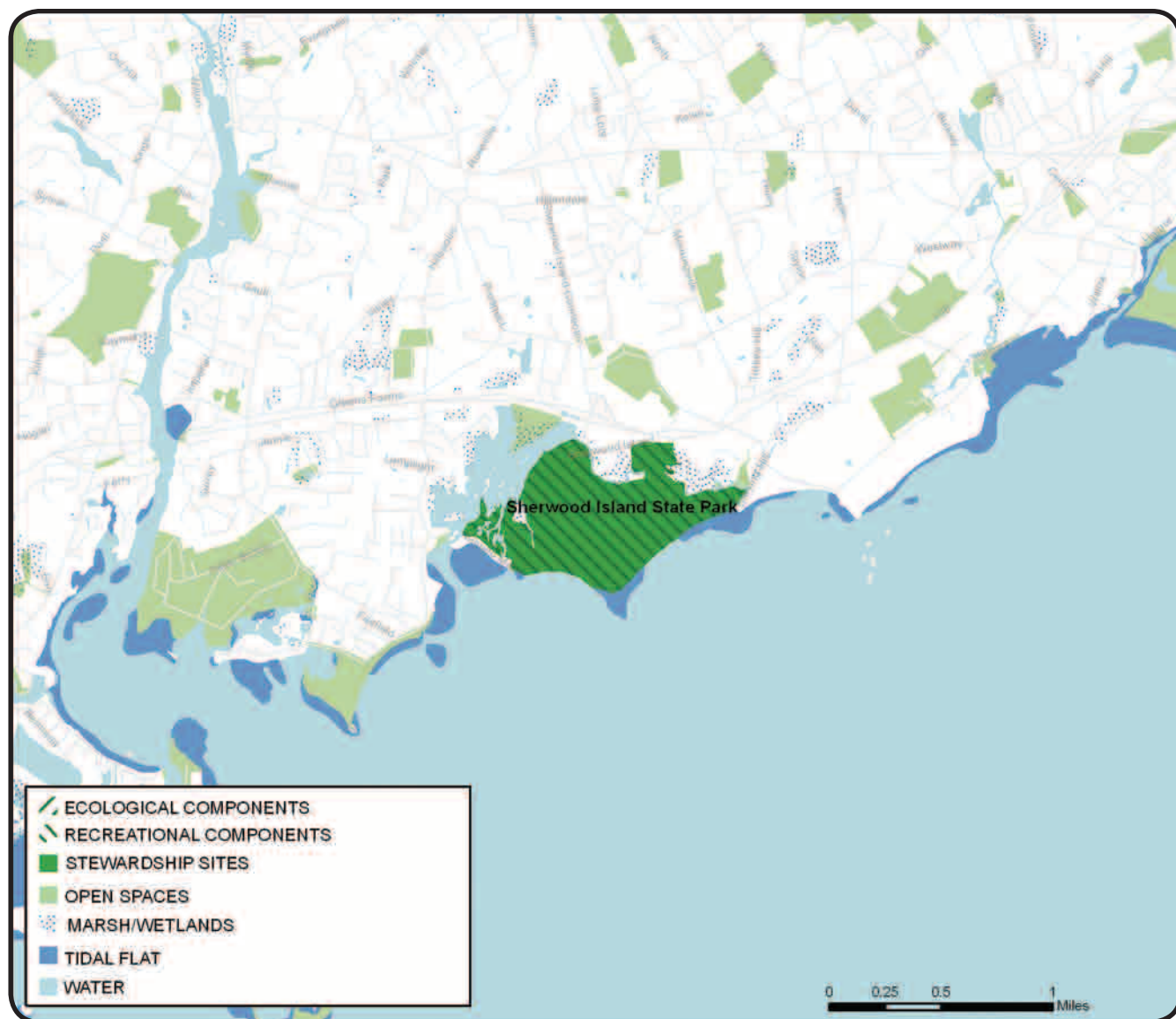
Ecological significance:

- Critical colonial water bird habitat
- Largest complex of unditched high marsh in Connecticut
- Provides habitat for rare plant and animal species

Recreational significance:

- Provides swimming, fishing and boating opportunities
- Onshore access for wildlife viewing

Sherwood Island Westport, Connecticut

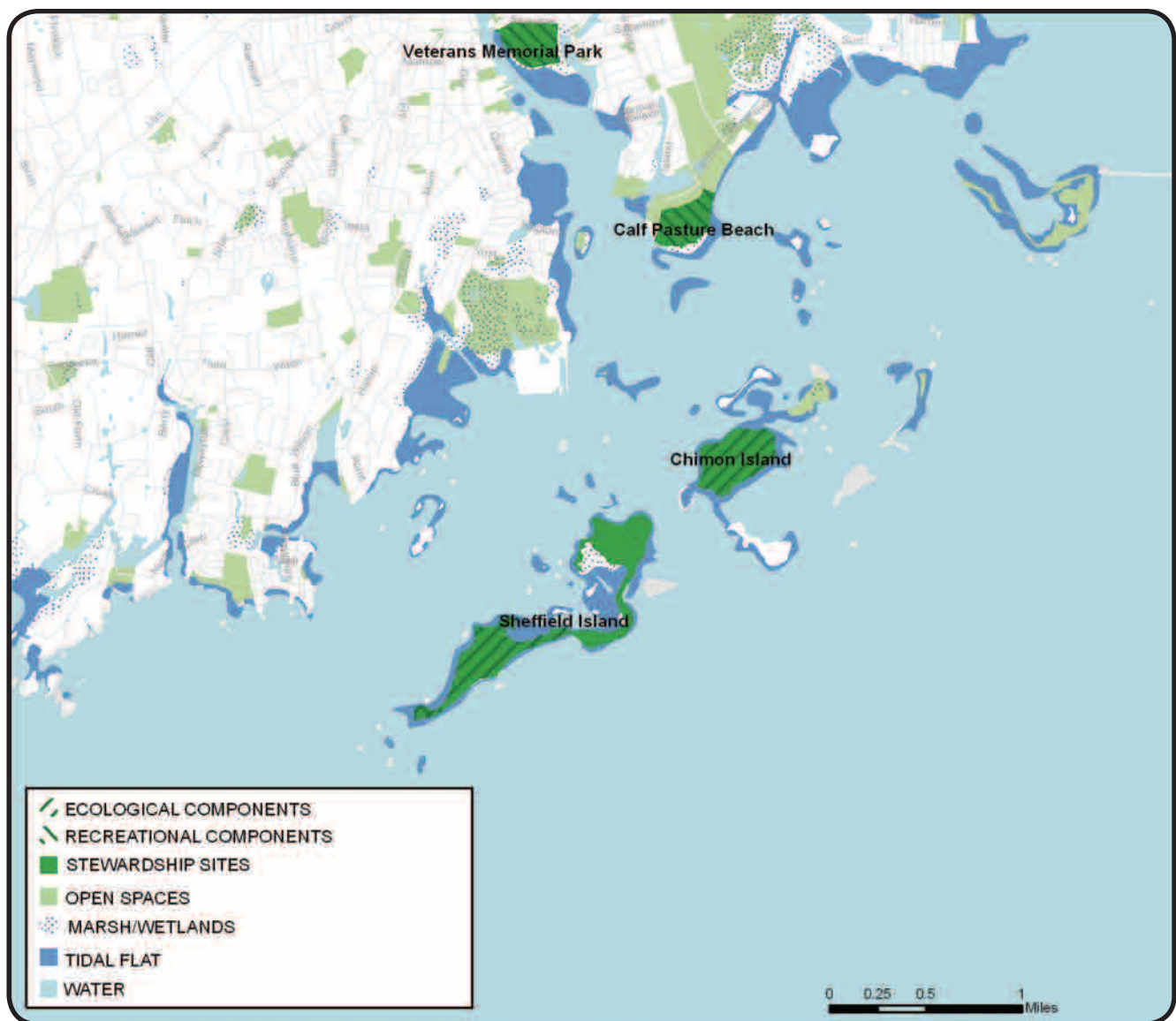


Stewardship Site: Sherwood Island State Park

Recreational significance:

- Significant saltwater swimming beach serving New York/Bridgeport metropolitan areas
- Nature trails
- September 11th Living Memorial
- State-of-the-art natural resource experiential learning facilities opened in 2005
- Approximately 500,000 visitors each year, making it the second most visited state park

Norwalk River & Harbor Norwalk, Connecticut



Stewardship Sites: Chimon and Sheffield Islands (part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge)

Ecological significance:

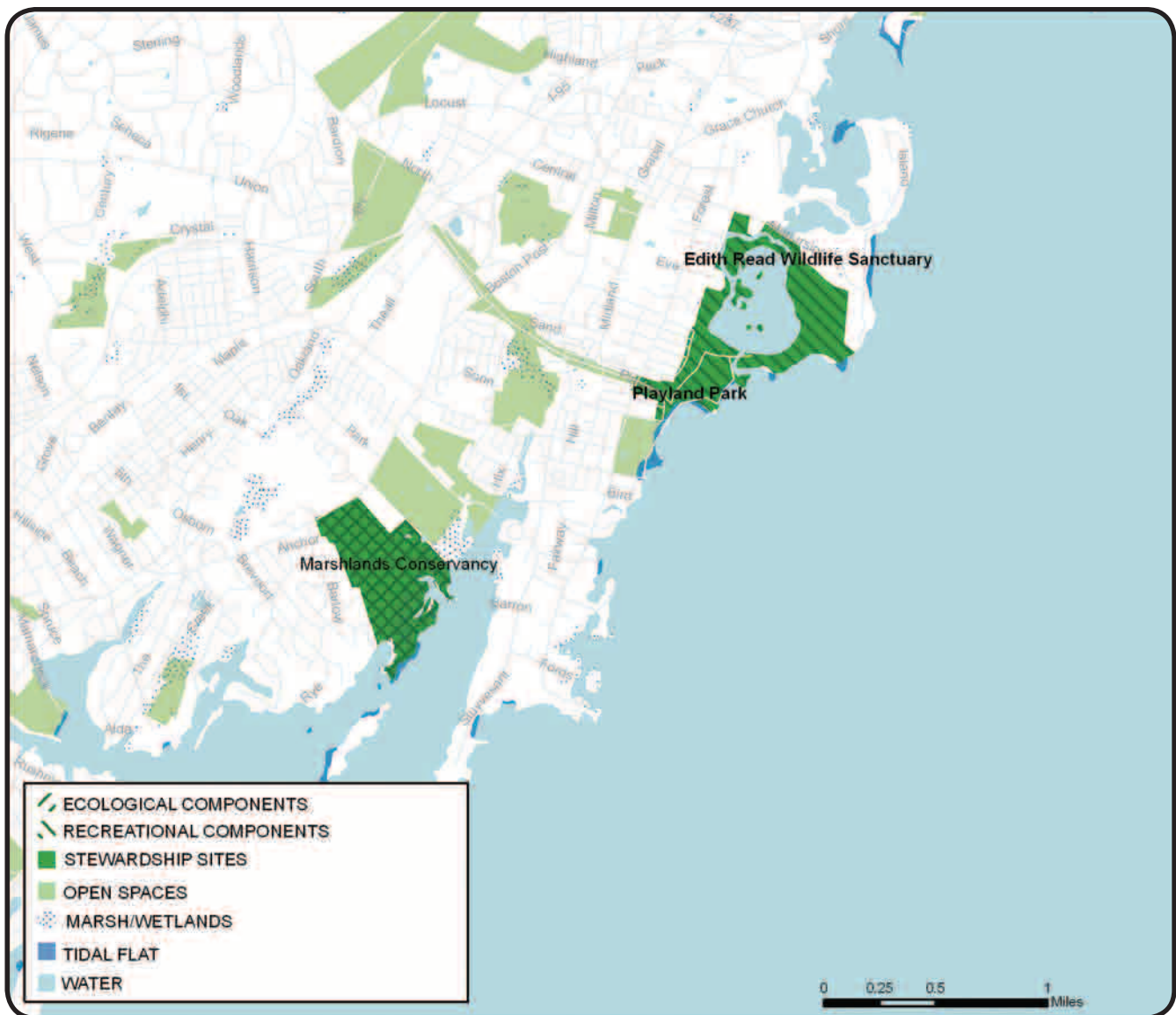
- Critical colonial water bird habitat
- Exemplary island habitat

Stewardship Sites: Calf Pasture Beach and Veterans Memorial Park

Recreational Significance:

- Key urban waterfront access points where recreational need is high for city population
- Access opportunities provided by privately owned waterfront walkways
- Includes public boat slips and moorings, boat launches for both small and trailered boats, and fishing access areas

Edith G. Read - Marshlands Rye and Harrison, New York



Stewardship Sites: Marshlands Conservancy, Edith G. Read, and Rye Playland Park

Ecological significance:

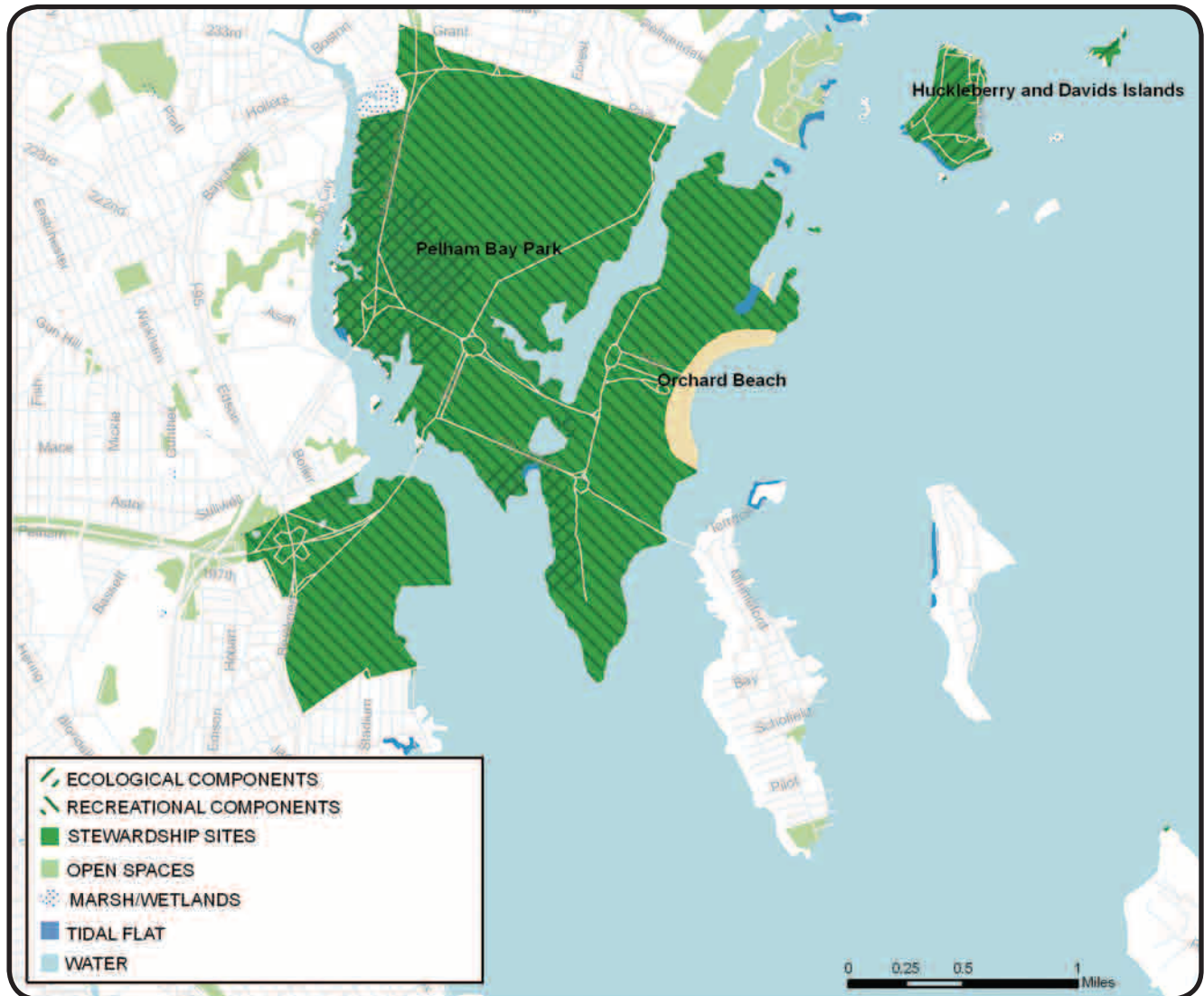
- One of the largest contiguous areas of undeveloped coastal land and the largest tidal marsh system in Westchester County
- Provides nesting and feeding habitat for native shorebirds and rare birds, including the wood sandpiper, black rail, little gull, sedge wren and yellow-headed blackbird
- Part of the Westchester County Parks System

Recreational significance:

- Provides dockside accommodations for both power and sail boats
- Includes the only general admission swimming beach on Long Island Sound in Westchester County
- Excellent opportunities for fishing and bird watching
- Environmental education programs provide opportunities for informal nature study

Huckleberry - Davids Islands & Pelham Bay

Bronx and New Rochelle, New York



Stewardship Sites: Pelham Bay Park, Orchard Beach, Huckleberry Island and Davids Island

Ecological significance:

- Almost 500 acres of relatively undisturbed tidal wetlands – one of the few remaining in the Bronx
- Provides productive nursery and feeding habitats for a variety of marine finfish and shellfish, including striped bass, bluefish, silversides, menhaden, winter flounder, clams, oyster, and horse-shoe crabs
- Largest colonial waterbird rookery in western Long Island Sound
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Recreational significance:

- Largest municipal park in New York City
- Provides opportunities for unparalleled fishing, birdwatching, boating access, informal nature study, and SCUBA
- Environmental Center attracts students and visitors throughout northern New York City for educational nature study
- Includes the premier swimming beach in the Bronx
- Historically, an important commercial lobstering area
- Opportunity for potential park on Davids Island following the cleanup of toxic materials

Alley Pond Queens and Hempstead, New York



Stewardship Sites: Alley Pond Park and Fort Totten

Recreational significance:

- Environmental Center serves over 20,000 visitors annual and offers programs in ecology and life sciences for students of all ages.
- Very important spring striped bass recreational fishery
- Boating and fishing opportunities
- Provides opportunities to experience over 635 acres of forested hills, ponds, meadows, salt marshes, tidal flats and freshwater wetland habitats that are unusual in the northern Queens County and East River area
- Important winter waterfowl area provides opportunities for observation

Manhasset Bay North Hempstead, New York



Stewardship Sites: Manhasset Bay and Mitchells Creek

Ecological significance:

- A major waterfowl wintering area and exemplary embayment area
- Provides significant nursery and feeding habitat for striped bass, winter flounder, menhaden and other forage species
- Provides nesting areas for least tern and osprey
- Includes an undeveloped stream/wetland community
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Recreational significance:

- Excellent boating access and opportunities
- Important wildlife viewing area
- Includes remnant open space in a densely populated area

Pending passage of the federal Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below mean high water may need to be redrawn.

Hempstead Harbor North Hempstead, New York



Stewardship Sites: Hempstead Harbor, Morgan Park, Tappen Beach, and Sands Point Preserve

Recreational significance:

- The numerous preserves surrounding the Harbor offer public access to natural areas and educational opportunities
- Access to public beaches, walkways and a marina
- Additional trails and a boat launching area planned for the southern end of the Harbor
- Designated by Audubon New York as an Important Bird Area
- Observation of at least 10 Osprey nests

Legend:

- ECOLOGICAL COMPONENTS
- RECREATIONAL COMPONENTS
- STEWARDSHIP SITES
- OPEN SPACES
- MARSH/WETLANDS
- TIDAL FLAT
- WATER

Map Labels:

- Caumsett State Park (see pg 31)
- Centre Island Town Park & Beach
- Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Shu Swamp Nature Preserve
- Beekman Beach
- The Waterfront Center
- Mill Neck Preserve County Park

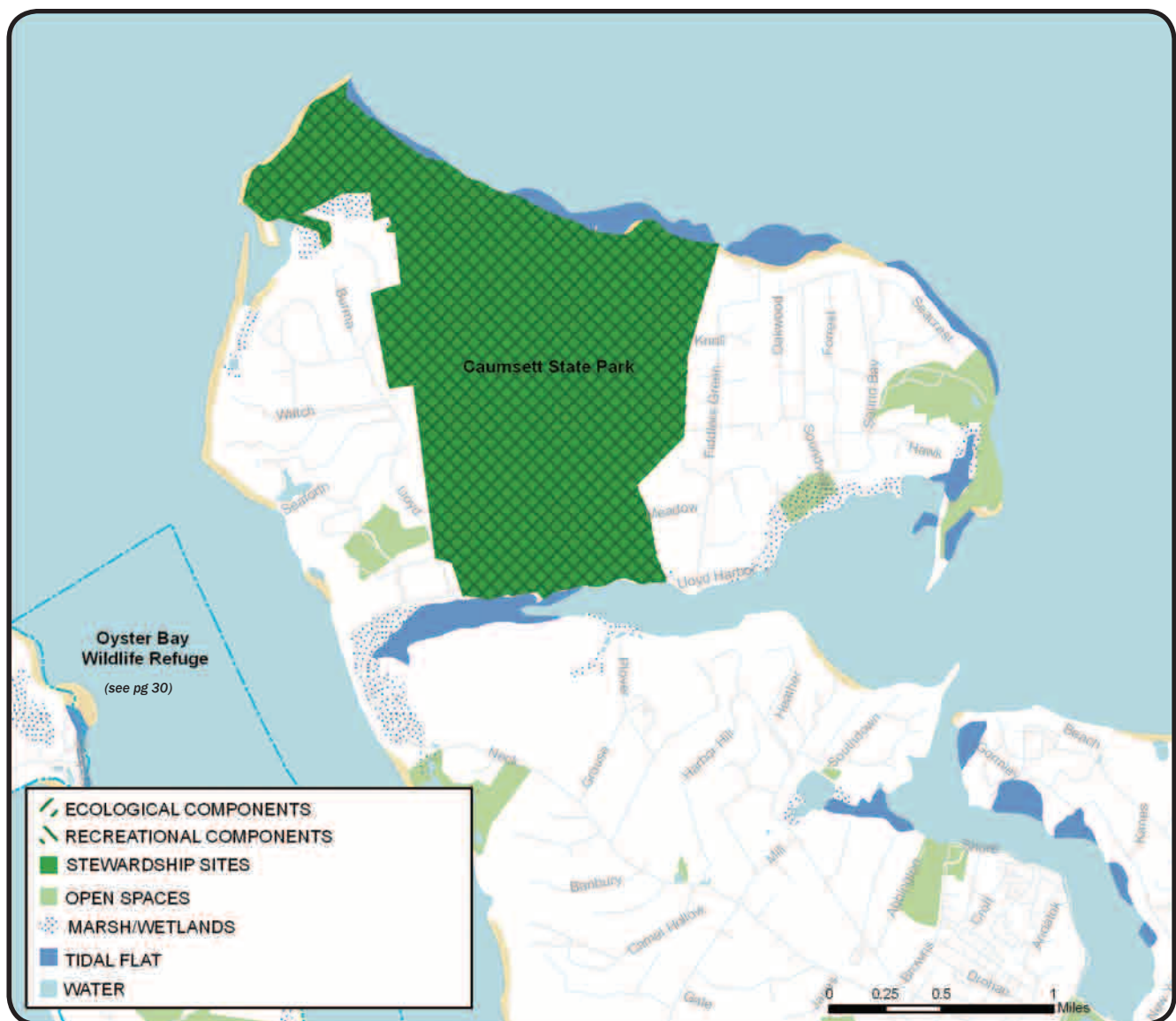
Scale: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1 Miles

Ecological significance:

- Recreational significance:**

- Pending passage of the federal Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below mean high water may need to be redrawn.***

Lloyd Neck Huntington, New York



Stewardship Sites: Caumsett State Park

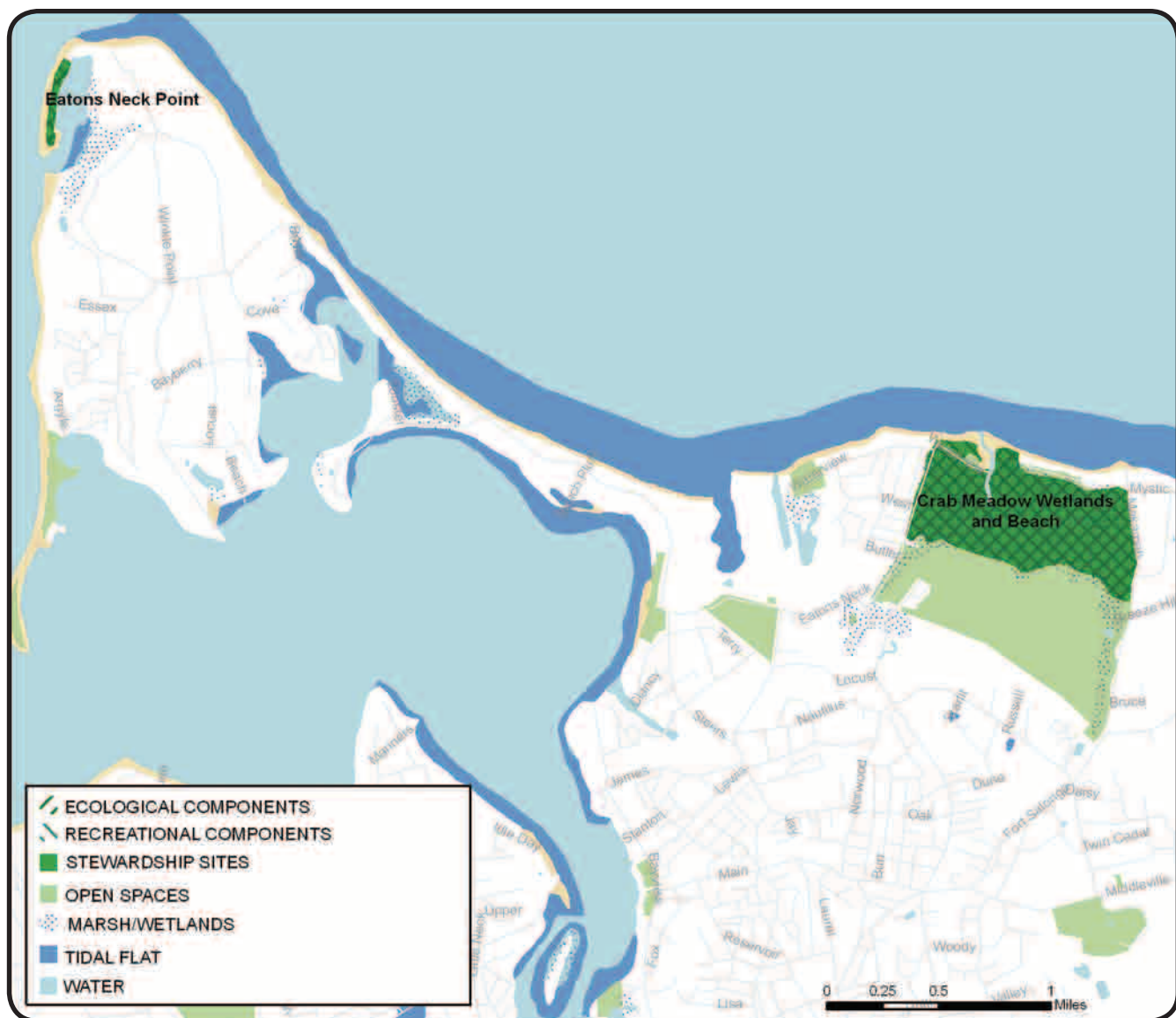
Ecological significance:

- Largest and most diverse coastal forest on the north shore of Long Island, including coastal oak-hickory forest, oak tulip tree forest, tidal mudflats, a maritime beach, mature woodlands, a freshwater pond, bluffs and open fields
- Includes a site designated as a Bird Conservation Area
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Provides forage areas for least terns, common terns, and black skimmers

Recreational significance:

- Features miles of bridle paths, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and nature trails that provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities
- Provides access for fishing, swimming and SCUBA diving
- Recreational fishing areas
- Outstanding environmental programs and field studies

Crab Meadow Huntington and Smithtown, New York



Stewardship Sites: Crab Meadow Wetlands and Beach and Eatons Neck Point

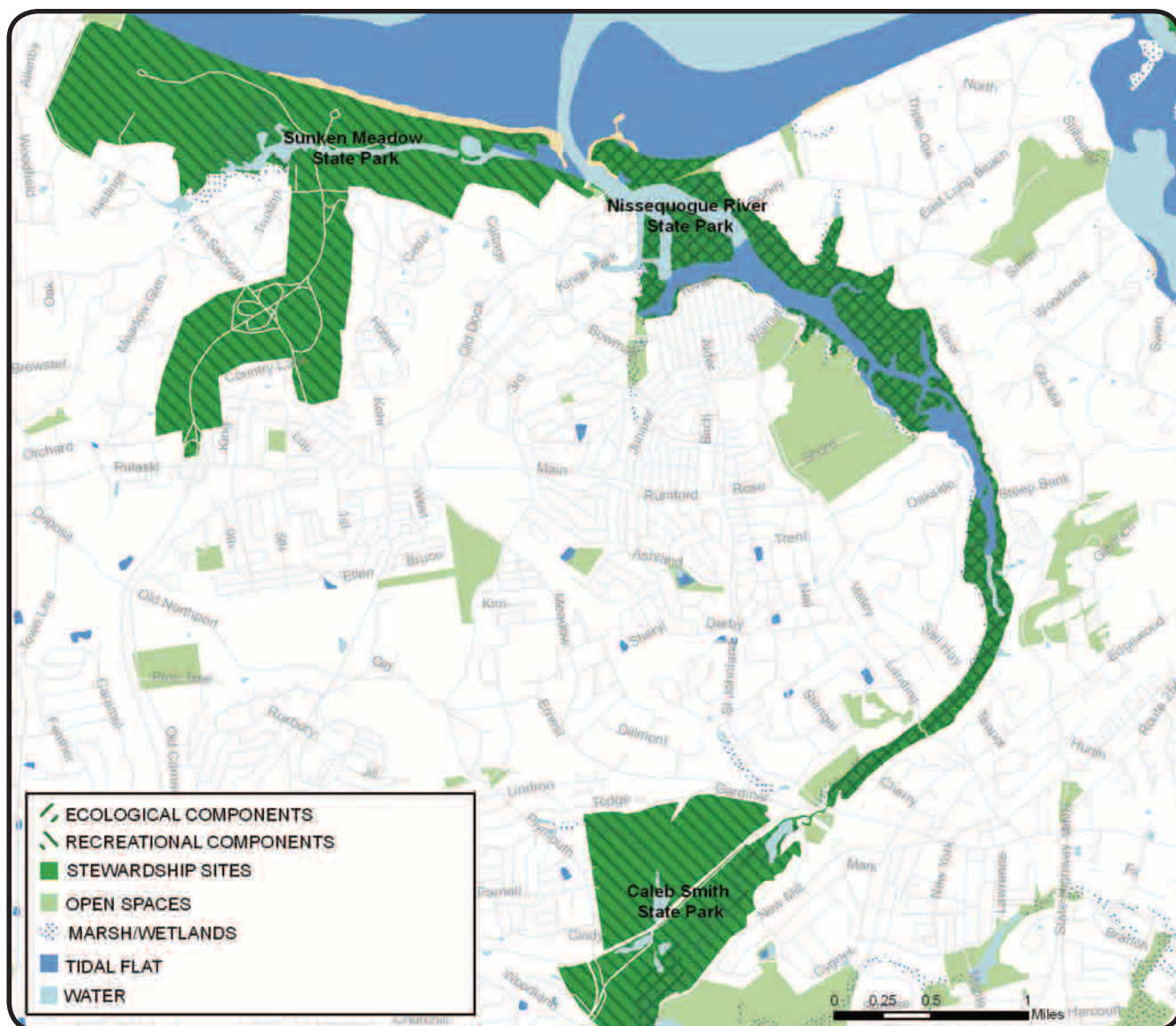
Ecological significance:

- One of the few large areas (approximately 300 acres) of undeveloped salt marsh ecosystems remaining on the north shore of Long Island
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Important nesting area for piping plovers and least terns

Recreational significance:

- Includes two boat ramps
- Includes an important swimming beach and a popular surf casting fishing site
- Coastal marine education center may be developed

Nissequogue River Smithtown, New York



Stewardship Sites: Nissequogue River, Caleb Smith, and Sunken Meadow State Parks

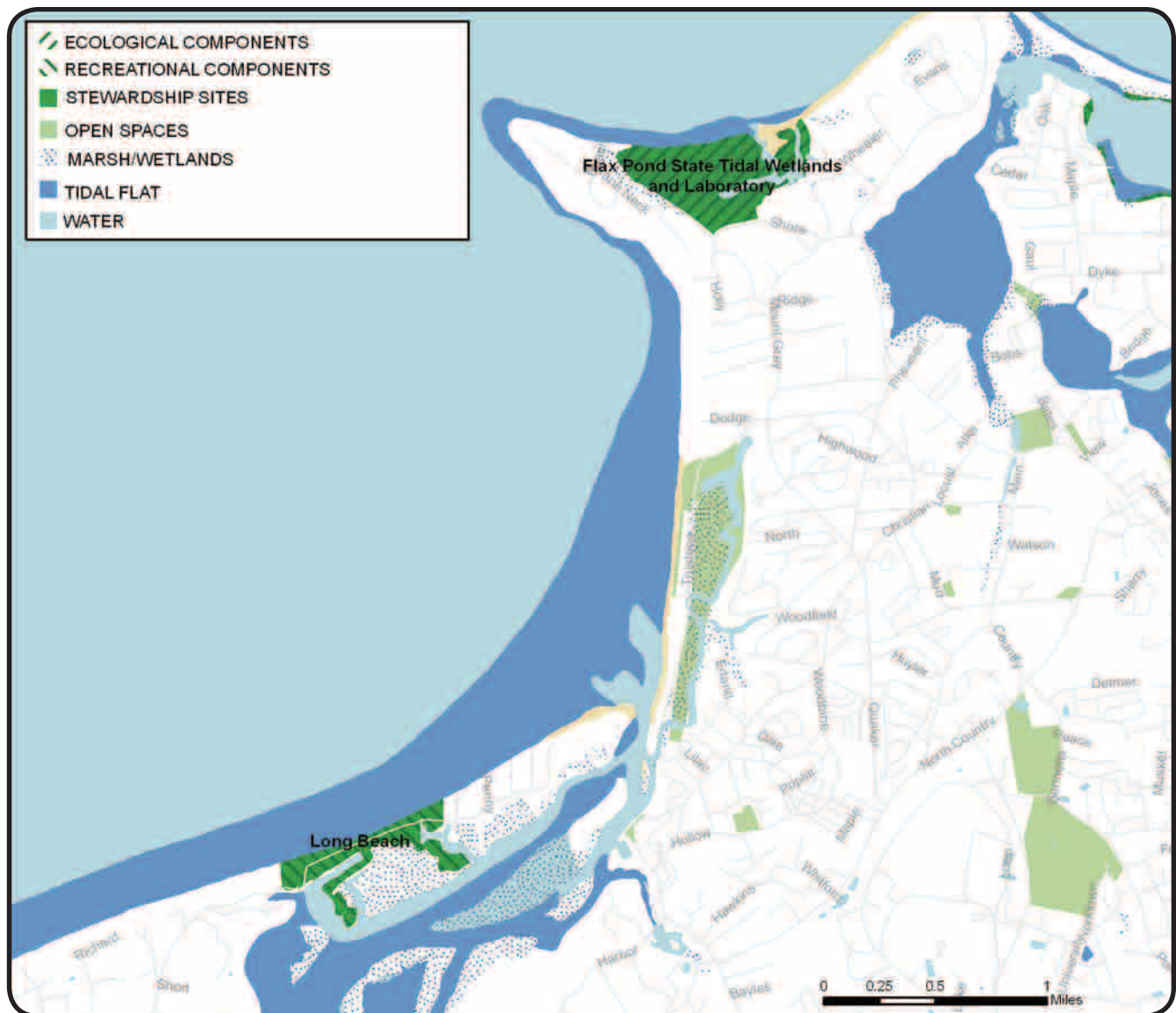
Ecological significance:

- Exemplary riverine habitat – the only major tidal river draining into Long Island Sound where the coastal portion remains in relatively undisturbed condition
- One of the largest coastal wetlands on the north shore
- Includes diverse habitats, including intertidal mudflats, brackish tidal wetlands, freshwater wetlands, a rare red maple black gum swamp and coastal forests
- Supports a sea-run fishery for brown trout
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Includes a 100-acre site designated as a Bird Conservation Area

Recreational significance:

- Fisheries resources support recreational fishing of regional significance
- Excellent fishing and boating access and wildlife viewing opportunities
- Includes hiking trails that are part of the Greenbelt Trail
- Important swimming beach
- Coastal education opportunities at nature center and museum

Stony Brook Harbor Brookhaven, New York



Stewardship Sites: Flax Pond State Tidal Wetlands and Laboratory and Long Beach

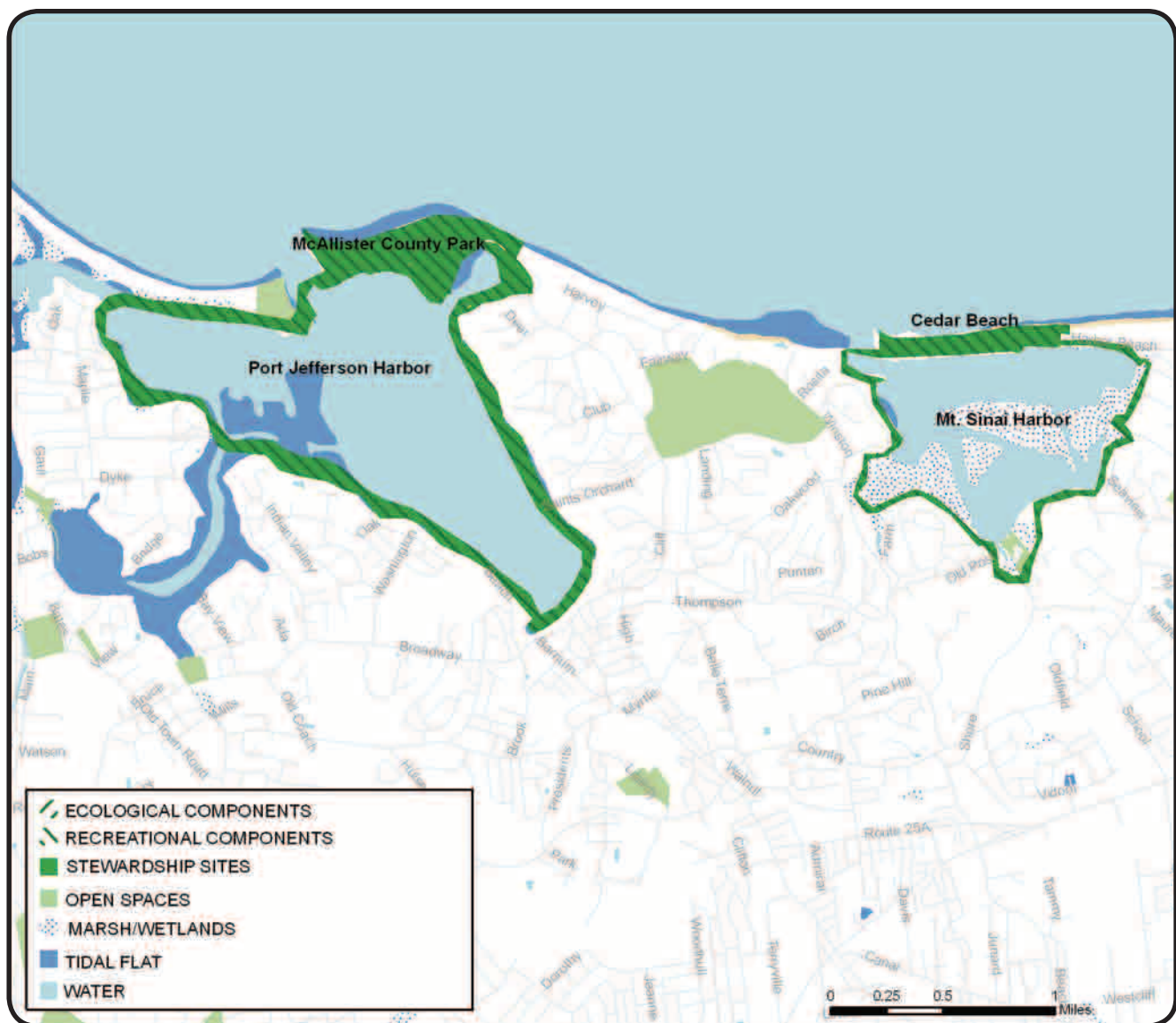
Ecological significance:

- Over a 1,000 acres of diverse tidal wetlands
- Provides habitat for diverse species of colonial waterbirds
- Provides important spawning sites for horseshoe crabs
- Research and education marine laboratory
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Recreational significance:

- Excellent swimming, boating and fishing access
- New opportunities for ecological restoration, environmental education and expansion of recreational opportunities exist

Mt Sinai-Port Jefferson Harbor Brookhaven, New York



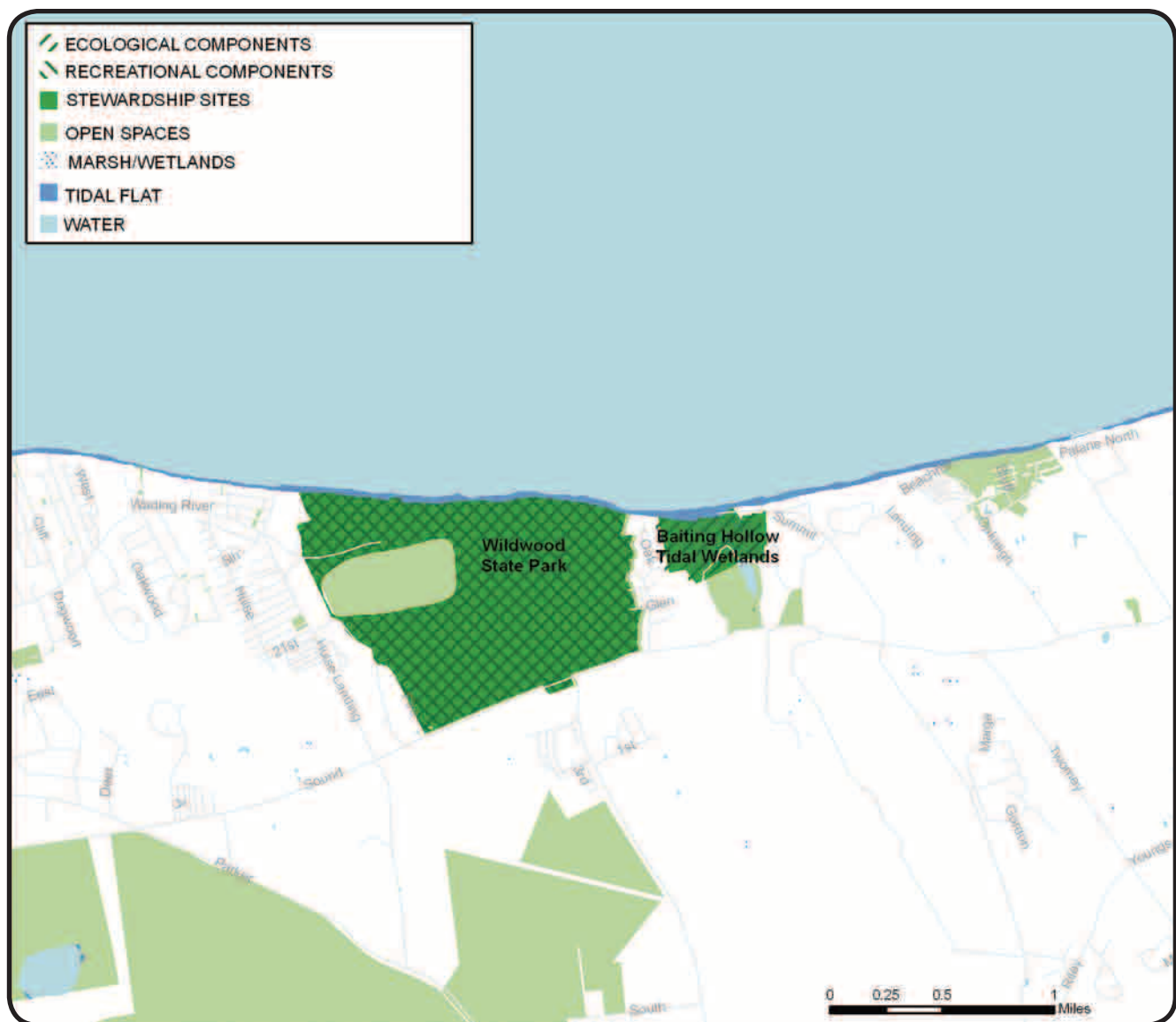
Stewardship Sites: McAllister County Park, Cedar Beach, and Mt. Sinai and Port Jefferson Harbors

Recreational significance:

- Exemplary boating opportunities provided by eight marinas and three boat ramps
- Includes excellent swimming beaches and great access for saltwater fishing
- Coastal education nature center
- Observation of wading birds and waterfowl including piping plovers, least terns, and common terns
- Important fishery for shellfish (e.g., hard and soft clams) and finfish (e.g., winter flounder)
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Includes areas designated as part of the National Coastal Barrier Resources System

Pending passage of the federal Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below mean high water may need to be redrawn.

Shoreham - Wading River Riverhead, New York



Stewardship Sites: Wildwood State Park and Baiting Hollow Tidal Wetlands

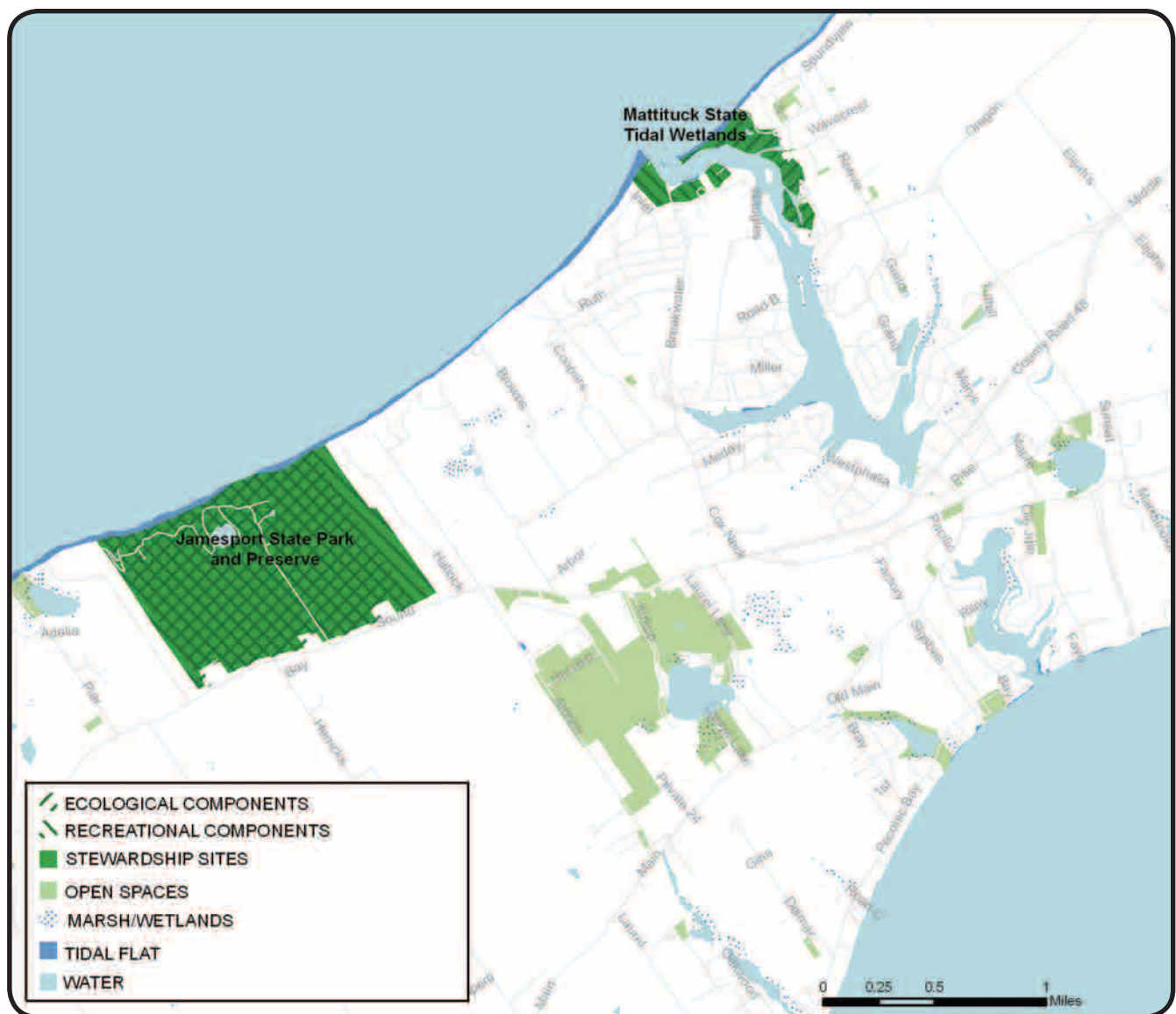
Ecological significance:

- Relatively undisturbed salt marsh and maritime beach complex that are rare on the north shore of Long Island in Suffolk County
- An important nesting site for piping plover and least tern
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Includes over 15 acres of barrier beach
- Provides habitat for silverweed, a state-threatened plant species, and saltmarsh bulrush, a state-endangered plant species
- Exemplary bluff habitat supports a globally-rare maritime beech forest
- Sand shoal habitat supports sandlance, which is a food source for tern populations

Recreational significance:

- Excellent swimming beaches, over 11 miles of hiking trails, camping opportunities and significant saltwater fishing access
- Includes a boat ramp for small boats to enter the Sound
- Potential areas for public access and recreational opportunities exist

Jamesport - Mattituck Creek Southold, New York



Stewardship Sites: Jamesport State Park and Preserve and Mattituck State Tidal Wetlands and Waterways Access

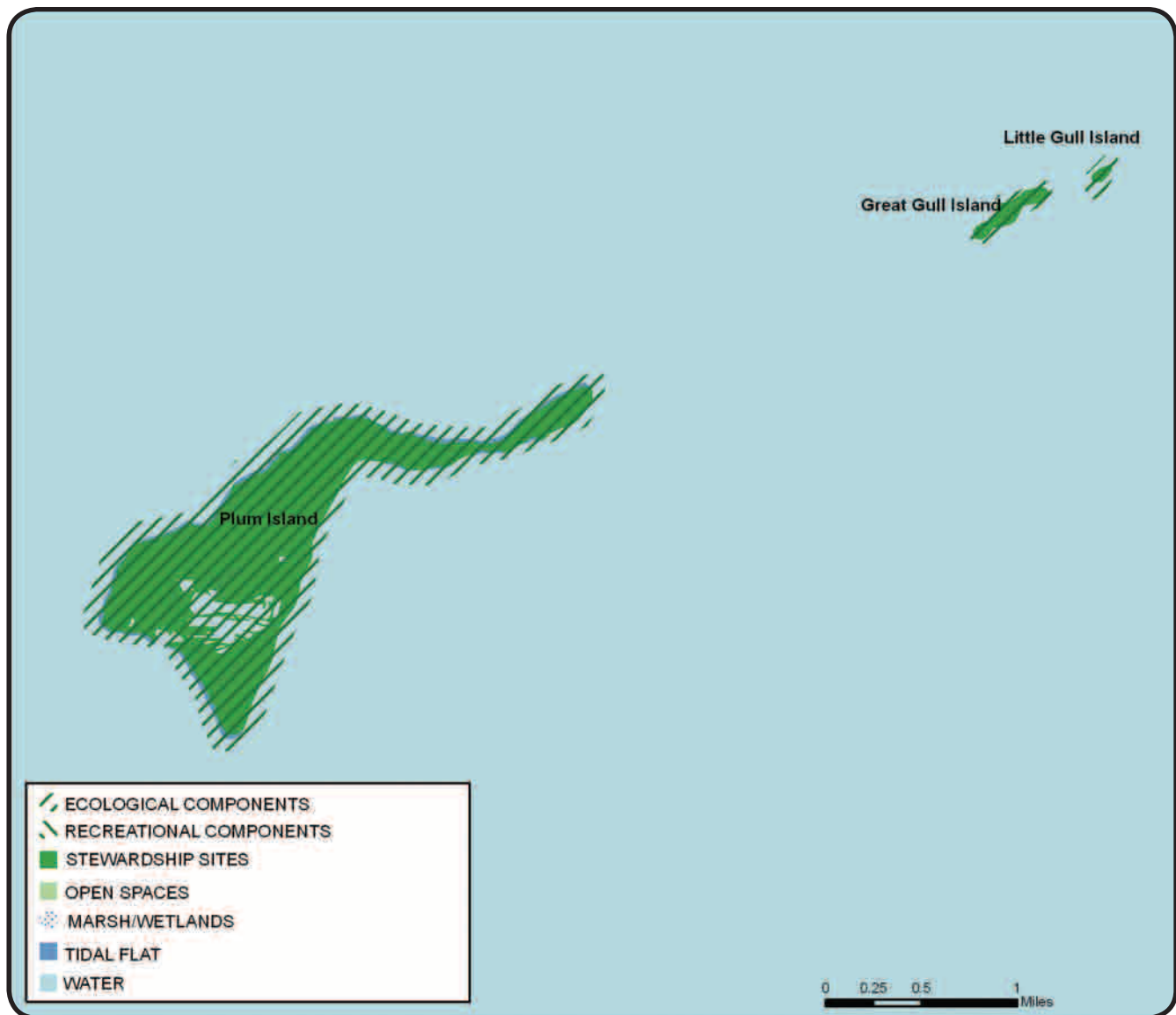
Ecological significance:

- Includes a variety of freshwater wetland types that are not typical on the north shore of Long Island
- Undisturbed tidal wetlands provide habitat for nesting osprey
- Includes areas designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Recreational significance:

- State-owned properties will provide public access opportunities for all state residents in the future
- Includes two municipal boat ramps
- Excellent swimming, fishing, and SCUBA diving opportunities
- Includes newly-renovated facilities
- Only protected harbor for small boats (for refuge and for mooring/access) from Mt. Sinai to Orient Point

Plum & Gull Islands Southold, New York



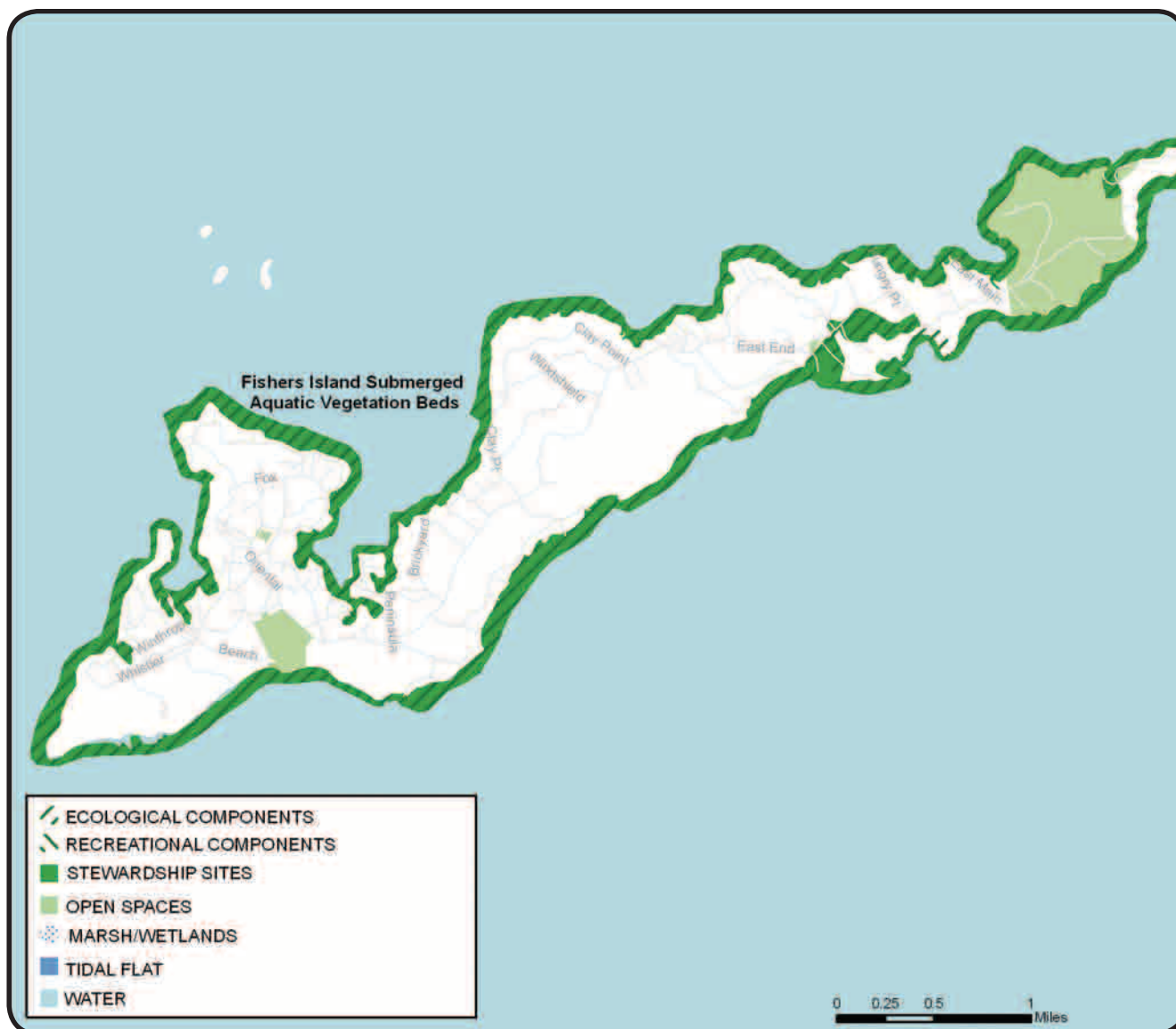
Stewardship Sites: Plum Island, Little Gull Island, and Great Gull Island

Ecological significance:

- Exemplary colonial waterbird habitat, including sites that are of national – if not international – significance
- Small rocky islets dominated by grassy and herbaceous vegetation
- Colonized by over 6,000 pairs of common tern and approximately 1,200 pairs of roseate tern, making this the second largest breeding population of this endangered species in North America
- Identified by the USFWS as a Significant Coastal Habitat

Pending passage of the federal Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below mean high water may need to be redrawn.

Fishers Island Coastline Southold, New York



Stewardship Site: Fishers Island Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Beds

Ecological significance:

- Exemplary submerged aquatic vegetation habitat and rocky reef habitat
- Includes 98% of the eelgrass meadows in NY waters of Long Island Sound
- Provides critical habitat for bay scallops
- Designated as New York State Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Pending passage of the federal Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, delineations of stewardship sites below mean high water may need to be redrawn.

