



<https://njbayislands.org/>

Stafford Township

After understanding the impacts of hurricane Sandy, many New Jersey coastal communities turned their attention to the back bay system and its natural functions. The New Jersey Bay Islands Initiative (NJBII) was formed by a variety of partners to address, manage, and pursue restoration of the bay islands as a whole system. Bay islands are important natural habitats for wildlife and serve as protection for our neighborhoods and communities from increasing intensity of climate change impacts.

Bay Islands Need Our Help

Since the late 1970's, NJ Bay Islands have lost about 7% of island acreage due to erosion from wave action produced by wind, storms, and boat wakes. Thirteen islands succumbed to sea level rise by becoming submerged. These islands are a functional part of our bay ecosystem, and we have a responsibility to protect and restore them now!

What You Can Do



- Increase your knowledge of the importance of bay islands.
- Reduce boat speed around bay islands and shorelines.
- Observe wildlife using bay islands.
- Volunteer for community science projects.
- Attend municipal land use meetings.

How Bay Islands Work For Us

1 acre of wetlands
stores 1.5 million
gallons of floodwater



They provide habitat
for wildlife

Island habitat stores
excess carbon from
greenhouse gases



They act like speed
bumps by absorbing
wave energy

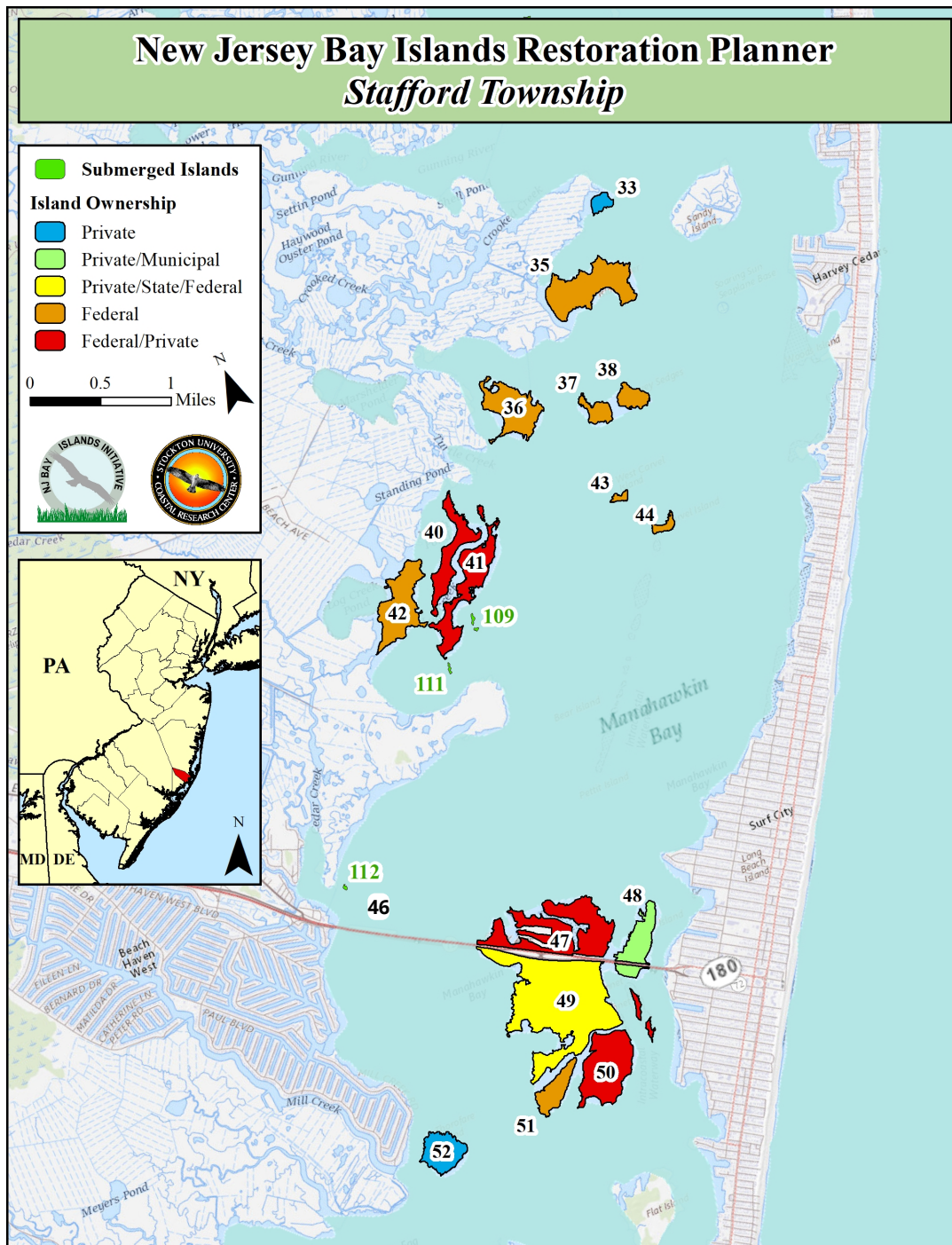
**Learn more about bay
islands near you**



Stafford's Bay Island Facts



- Stafford has 17 islands, totaling 601 acres.
- 25.9 acres have been lost to erosion since 1977.
 - Island 41 lost the most of its edge (3.32 acres) due to erosion.
 - Island 46 is next to a state waterway and lost 7.3 feet of shoreline since 1977.
- Most township islands consist of saltmarsh habitat.
 - 16 islands have over 50% of high marsh habitat.
 - Cedar Bonnet islands (50 and 51) and Island 40 have over 90% high marsh habitat.
- Two islands are utilized as colony nesting habitat for birds. One has a heron bird rookery.



Visit the NJ Bay Islands Restoration Planner (BIRP) for more information.

<https://maps.coastalresilience.org/nj-bay-islands/>