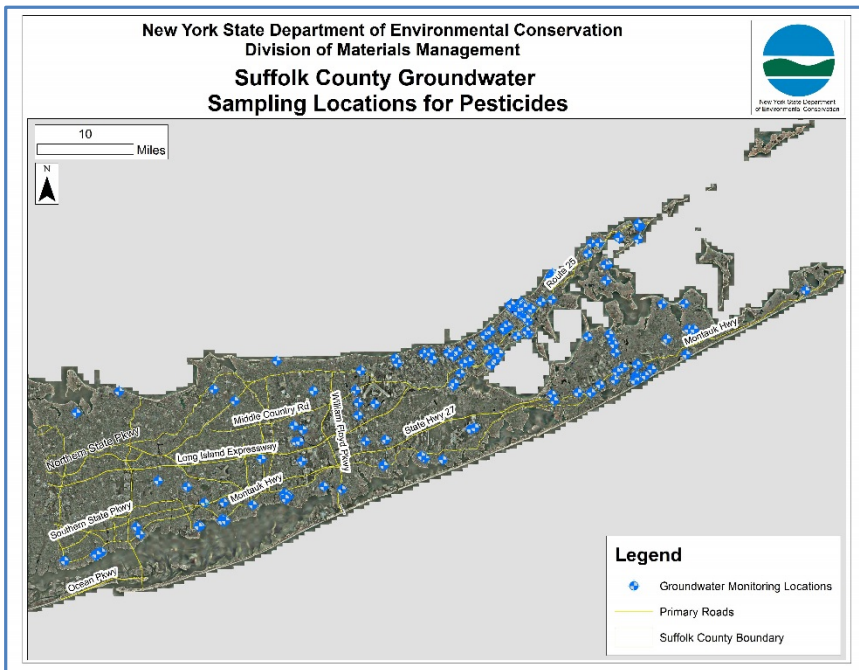# Groundwater Monitoring Program

## Suffolk County

The Department, in cooperation with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, implements a groundwater monitoring program to determine if the use of pesticides on the land surface impairs the quality of groundwater



beneath Long Island. To understand this relationship, groundwater samples are collected annually from a combination of groundwater monitoring wells, private water supply wells, community water supply wells, and non-community water supply wells located in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Following collection, the groundwater samples are submitted to the Suffolk County Public Environmental Health Laboratory for pesticide analysis. This program has been in-place since 1997 and an average of over 1,200 groundwater samples have been collected per year to understand the occurrence of pesticides in Long Island's groundwater. The adjacent map shows representative Suffolk County sampling locations.

## Nassau County

To supplement the Suffolk County sampling and to expand on earlier groundwater monitoring completed by the Nassau County Department of Public Works (NCDPW), a comprehensive groundwater sampling program was initiated by the Department in Nassau County in 2014. With the assistance of the NCDPW, 100 existing groundwater monitoring wells (blue symbols on adjacent map) were identified and subsequently sampled for pesticide analysis. Results are expected by spring 2015 and will be used to understand the occurrence of pesticide active ingredients in Nassau County groundwater.



The July 2014 release of the Long Island Pesticide Pollution Prevention Strategy (Strategy) sets forth a blueprint to protect Long Island's groundwater resources while also effectively managing pests. Water quality monitoring for pesticides is an essential component of the Strategy and the Suffolk and Nassau County groundwater sampling programs allow the Department to evaluate pesticides that have been detected in Long Island groundwater and the efficacy of adopting possible mitigating measures.