

Chapter 6. Major Destinations and Activity Centers

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of major destinations and activity centers in the Long Island subregion. The destinations described are those likely to be visited by the three target populations, including senior centers/ services and adult day care centers; public and private human service agencies; hospitals, medical centers, and dialysis facilities; shopping centers; major employers; public buildings (town centers/ town halls); accessible housing; colleges and universities; and employment and training sites. These destinations were identified through a review of previous studies, Internet research, an online survey of community transportation providers, Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) input, and public comment. The destinations described below are not presented as an exhaustive list of all such facilities located in Nassau and Suffolk counties. However, comparing these locations to the areas in which the target populations reside gives a sense of travel patterns in the Long Island subregion for those groups.

Nassau County

Figure 6-1 illustrates some of the common destinations and activity centers in Nassau County. A key to the map that lists the names of activity centers for older adults is provided in Appendix G, together with a complete list of the activity centers identified in Nassau County.

As shown, activity centers are generally concentrated in the western half of the county, although activity centers are also located in the southern portion of the Town of Oyster Bay.

Many of these destinations are served by MTA Long Island Bus, Able-Ride, or one of many community transportation providers such as Long Beach Transit, JCC of the Greater Five Towns, and Community and Family Residences, Inc. Additionally, there are agencies operating within Nassau County that provide transportation services to specific client groups, such as the Association for Children with Down Syndrome (ACDS), the Mill Neck Foundation, Life's WORK, Helen Keller Services, and Rides Unlimited. Volunteers from churches and synagogues also provide some private transportation in the area.

Chapter 5 provided detailed demographic information on the target populations living in Nassau County. Block groups in the Village of Hempstead, Great Neck Plaza, and the City of Long Beach ranked high on the transportation needs index constructed using Census data. Additionally, almost all of the medium-high and high-need block groups are located in the southwest areas of the county, in Hempstead and Long Beach. A large number of the trip generators identified in this study are in close proximity to these high-need areas. Within the Village of Hempstead, for example, are a dialysis center, medical center, an accessible housing complex, two senior centers, and multiple employment and training sites.

In contrast, northern Oyster Bay, where almost all block groups ranked low on the needs index, does not contain a significant number of destinations applicable to the three target populations.

The different types of activity centers are described below.

Senior Centers and Adult Day Care Centers – There are at least 46 senior or adult day centers in Nassau County, which are listed in the map key contained in Appendix G. In addition, two adult day services programs in Queens, and seven programs in Suffolk County, are open to older adults living in western and eastern Nassau County, respectively.

The City of Glen Cove and the towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay each provide community transportation for older adults for certain trip purposes, although trips can be limited and some seniors do not have access to the types of trips they need to take, especially “quality of life” trips.

Human Service Agencies – Health and human service agencies in Nassau County (apart from senior and adult day care centers and medical facilities, which are discussed separately) are concentrated in the southern half of the county, below the Jericho Turnpike in far south North Hempstead or the Town of Hempstead. Two agencies, TRI and St. Brigid Outreach, are in North Hempstead, almost at the Hempstead line, while the remainder of the health and human service agencies, like EAC, Inc. and Congregation Sons of Israel, are in Hempstead and its villages. None of the *identified* human service agencies are located in Oyster Bay, Glen Cove, or Long Beach. (Note that attempts were made to identify as many of the types of agencies that are likely to provide services to the target populations as possible; however, not all such agencies were identified, and other types of human service agencies are located in Nassau County.)

Hospitals, Medical Centers, and Dialysis Facilities – Numerous medical institutions and dialysis facilities are spread throughout Nassau County. The Town of Hempstead has more dialysis units than any other city or town in Nassau County, but there are medical services available in each town or city in the county. Some of the hospitals, medical centers, and dialysis facilities are:

Glen Cove

- Glen Cove Hospital and Winthrop University Hospital Dialysis in Glen Cove

North Hempstead

- Port Washington Dialysis Center
- St. Francis Hospital
- Winthrop University Hospital at Sun Harbor
- North Shore University Hospital
- New Hyde Park Dialysis Center
- Long Island Jewish Medical Center
- Winthrop University Dialysis Center

Long Beach

- Long Beach Medical Center

Oyster Bay

- New Island Hospital
- North Shore Hospital

Hempstead

- Island Medical Center
- Mercy Medical Center
- Lynbrook Dialysis
- Woodmere Dialysis
- South Nassau Communities Hospital
- Franklin Hospital Medical Center

Smaller medical facilities are also located in Rockville Centre, Merrick, Seaford, Plainville, Massapequa, and the South Shore area.

In addition, the Northport VA Hospital in Suffolk County is an important destination for some residents of Nassau County.

Shopping Centers – Roosevelt Field Mall in Garden City is a major shopping destination in Nassau County. Located on Meadowbrook Parkway, the mall features five department stores and over 270 specialty stores. Other major retail centers include:

- Broadway Mall in Hicksville in the Town of Oyster Bay, with over 120 stores
- Green Acres Shopping Center in Valley Stream in the Town of Hempstead, which contains over 200 stores
- Sunrise Mall in Massapequa in the Town of Oyster Bay, which includes over 160 stores

Public Buildings – There are 69 municipal entities with Nassau County, most of which have a “seat” building of some kind. The city, town, or village building is a place where residents can conduct municipal business, such as paying taxes, and where many city, town, or village events are held. The municipal building is also an important resource for citizens needing information on available municipal services.

Accessible Housing – The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse was used to identify accessible housing on Long Island. Two accessible apartment complexes were located in the Village of Hempstead, Hempstead Village Housing and Woods Edge Apartments, which are adjacent to each other on Jerusalem Avenue.

College and Universities – There are at least 11 higher education institutions in Nassau County. They include:

- Adelphi University (main campus, Garden City)
- Webb Institute of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
- Picower Graduate School of Molecular Medicine
- Long Island University

- SUNY Old Westbury
- College for Holistic Health
- Briarcliffe College
- New York Institute of Technology
- Hofstra University
- Molloy College
- Briarcliffe School
- Nassau Community College

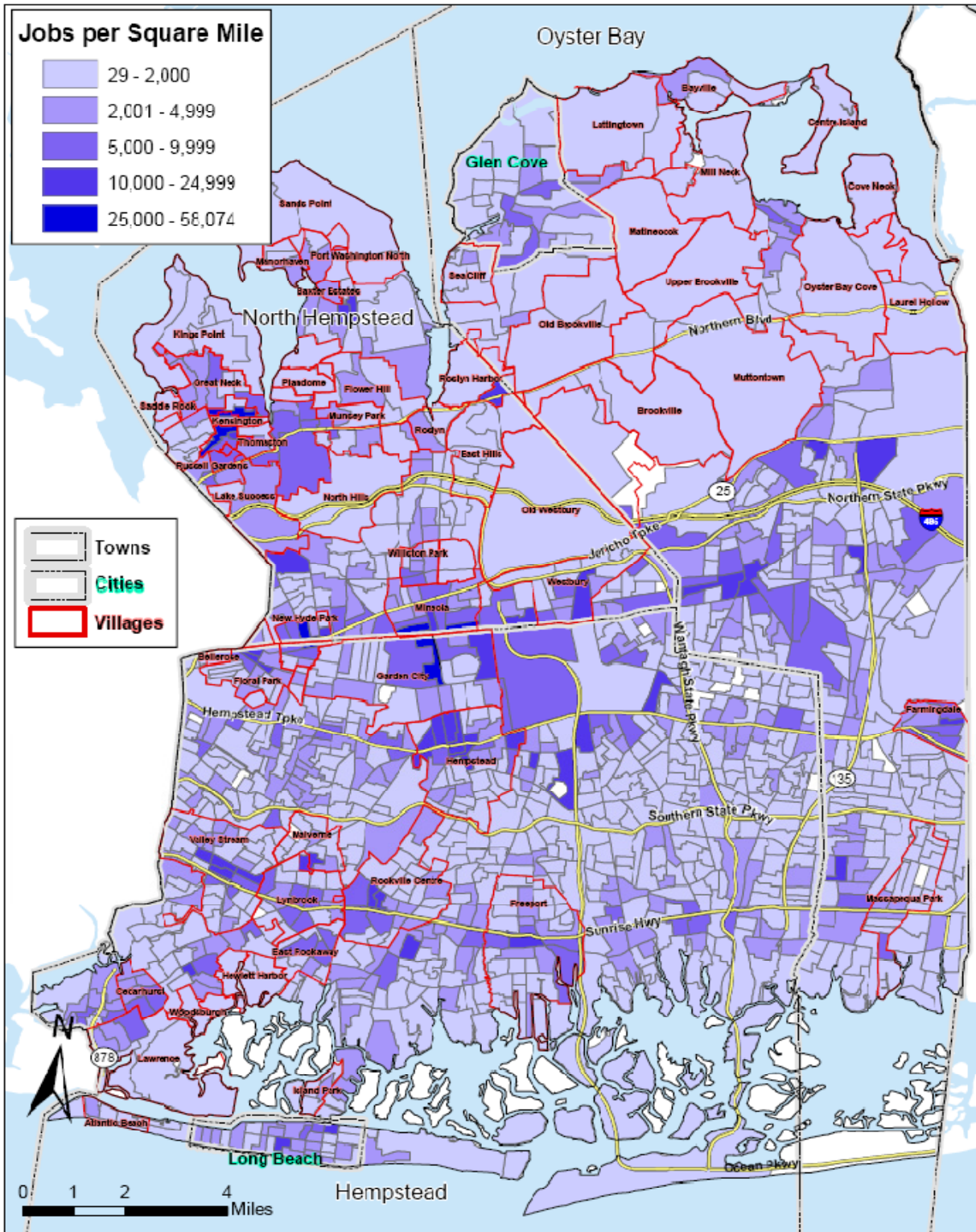
Employment and Training Sites – The study was able to identify four employment and training sites in Nassau County. Long Island Staff Development Corporation is in the City of Long Beach and the Leadership Training Institute, E.O.C. Displaced Homemakers, Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities, and the Center for Rapid Recovery are in the Village of Hempstead.

Major Employers – On Long Island, key destinations usually serve multiple purposes. Shopping centers like Roosevelt Field Mall, medical centers/ hospitals like Long Island Jewish Medical Center, and colleges and universities are also major employers. Nassau Community College, in the Town of Hempstead, has over 2,500 employees and the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System employs over 30,000 throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. Major employment centers include the Villages of Plainview (Town of Oyster Bay), Woodbury (Town of Oyster Bay), and Lake Success (Town of North Hempstead).

Employment Density in Nassau County

Another way to identify work trip destinations is to examine the location of jobs in the county. Figure 6-2 shows the density of employment in Nassau County, measured by jobs per square mile, by Census block group for the year 2000. The highest concentrations of jobs – 10,000 or more per square mile – are found in the center of Nassau County, in the area between the Sunrise Highway and the Jericho Turnpike, especially close to the major roadways. Other areas of job concentration can be found in the City of Long Beach, farther north in the Town of North Hempstead, in the southern half of the Town of Oyster Bay and in the City of Glen Cove.

Figure 6-2 Employment Density per Square Mile by Block Group – Nassau County



Suffolk County

Figure 6-3 shows important activity centers in Suffolk County. A key to the map that lists senior and medical facility names is provided in Appendix G, together with a complete list of the activity centers identified in Suffolk County. Activity centers are heavily concentrated in the western half of the county; in Huntington, Smithtown, Babylon, Islip, and western Brookhaven.

This area is served with fixed-route bus service by Suffolk County Transit (SCT) and MTA Long Island Bus (to a limited extent). SCT span of service is more frequent in the western half of the county and many activity centers there are served, to some extent, by SCT. Complementary ADA paratransit service is available from Suffolk County Accessible Transit (SCAT).

The Long Island Rail Road operates three branches in western Suffolk County, all of which are oriented in an east-west fashion. The Port Jefferson branch runs in the northern half of the county, through Huntington and terminating in Port Jefferson; the Ronkonkoma branch runs through the middle of the county and continues to Greenport in eastern Suffolk County; and the Montauk branch serves the far southern area of the county, with service continuing to Montauk.

There are also clusters of key destinations in Riverhead, Southampton, and Southold, in the eastern half of Suffolk County. While public transit services are still available in this area of the county, service is less frequent and north-south travel can be difficult.

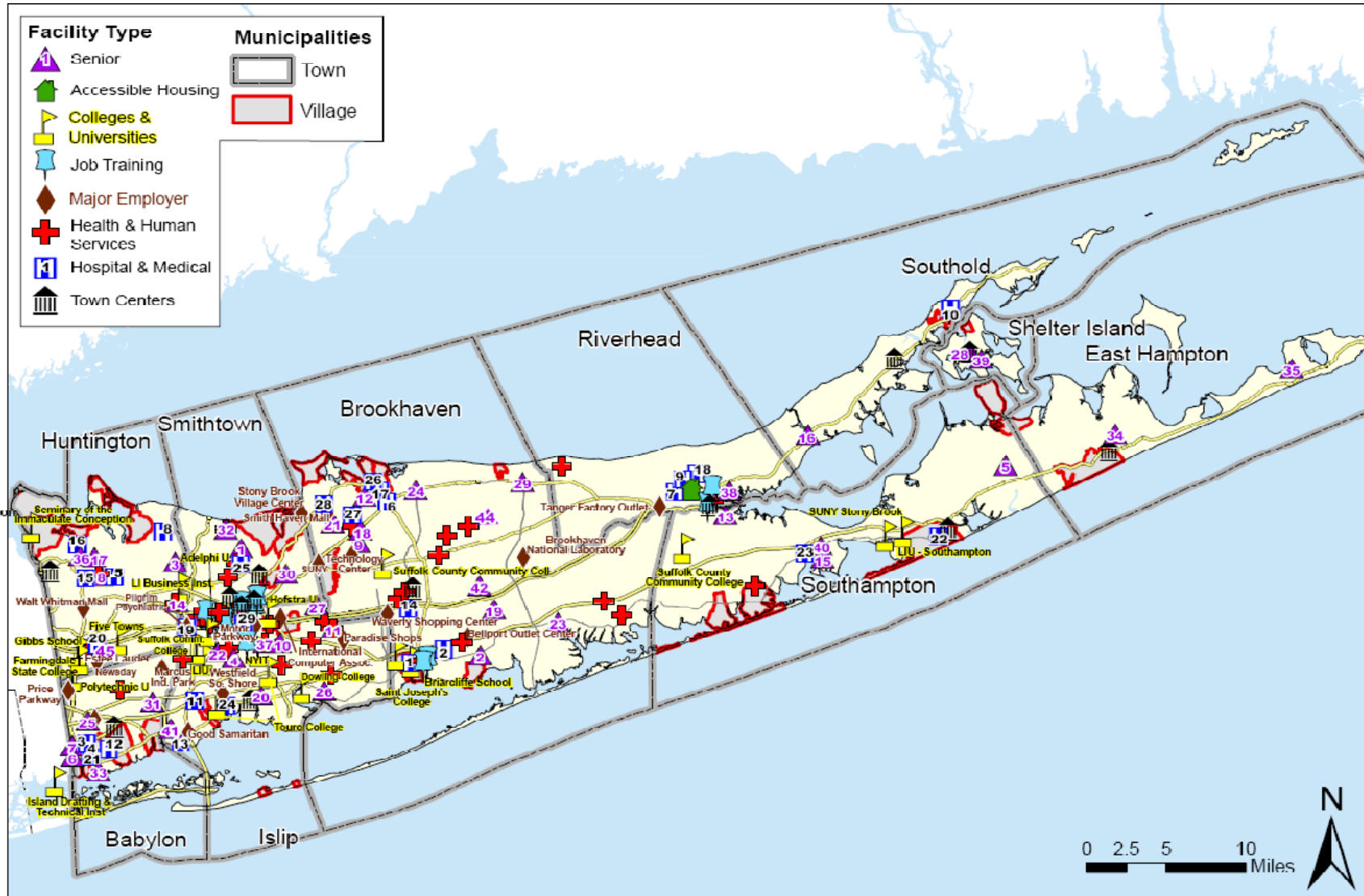
Throughout Suffolk County, public transit services are supplemented by human service agency and municipal transportation. In most cases, these community transportation services are available only to agency clients or residents and only on weekdays, during regular business hours. There are at least 30 community transportation providers operating service within Suffolk County, five of which operate countywide. With the exception of these countywide providers and two additional providers, one in Ronkonkoma and one in Wading River, service areas for most community transportation providers identified are limited to those areas in Suffolk County where activity centers are also concentrated: Huntington, Babylon, Smithtown, Islip, Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southold, and Southampton.

Chapter 5 provided a detailed analysis of the demographic characteristics of target populations in Suffolk County. Five towns, and four villages within two of those towns, were identified as high-need. Not surprisingly, the five high-need towns were those on the western end of the county: Huntington, Smithtown, Babylon, Islip, and Brookhaven. Additionally, three of the four villages that are considered high-need are within the Town of Babylon, along its southern border.

As noted above, common destinations in Suffolk County are concentrated in the western half of the county. In comparing the location of the activity centers with the demographic profiles previously discussed, it is evident that destinations are generally located in close proximity to areas of high need. This is especially true for the high-need areas of Lindenhurst, Amityville, and Babylon, where there is a high concentration of services such as senior centers, major employers, and hospitals and medical centers.

Each type of destination is described below.

Figure 6-3 Common Destinations and Activity Centers – Suffolk County



Senior Centers and Adult Day Centers – There are at least 45 senior and adult day care centers distributed throughout Suffolk County, with the majority, again, concentrated in the western portion of the county, especially in Smithtown and Babylon. Some of those facilities include:

- Avalon Gardens Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
- Birchwood Assisted Living and Social Day Care
- Carillon Adult Day Health Care
- Community Programs Center of Long Island (Ronkonkoma)
- John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility (Yaphank)
- Joyce Fitzpatrick Center (East Islip)
- Mount Sinai Adult Day Center
- North Amityville Senior Center
- Ronkonkoma Senior Center
- Smithtown Senior Citizens Department
- Tanner Park Senior Center
- West Islip Center

While most of these facilities are concentrated in the western half of the county, there are at least nine senior or adult day centers on the East End, including:

- Town of Riverhead Senior Center
- Flanders/ Riverside Senior Center
- Town of Southampton Adult Day Center
- Hampton Bays Senior Center
- Bridgehampton Senior Center
- Town of East Hampton Intergenerational Day Care
- Town of East Hampton/ Montauk Adult Day Care
- Human Resource Center Mattituck
- Shelter Island Senior Activity Center
- Town of Shelter Island Adult Day Care

In some towns, the senior citizen divisions provide transportation to and from the centers, and for special trips, for program participants. They include the towns of Brookhaven, Islip, Riverhead, Babylon, Huntington, Smithtown, Southampton, and Southold.

Human Service Agencies – Health and human service agencies (apart from senior and adult day care centers and medical facilities, which are discussed separately) providing a broad range of services, including county and state assistance offices, are located almost entirely in western Suffolk County, with the exception of Little Flower Children and Family Services in Wading River and the Suffolk County Department of Social Services in Riverhead.

There are numerous health and human service agencies in western Suffolk County, especially in Smithtown and northern Islip, such as FREE, Lighthouse International, Maryhaven Center of Hope, the Community Programs Center of Long Island, Sienna Village, and the Developmental Disabilities Institute.

Hospitals, Medical Centers, and Dialysis Facilities – Hospitals, medical centers, and dialysis facilities in Suffolk County are near town and village centers in the west end of the county and in Riverhead, Southold, and Southampton on the East End. East End facilities include Eastern Long Island Hospital, Southampton Hospital, Southampton Hospital Regional Dialysis Center, Central Suffolk Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center, and East End Dialysis Management LLC.

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital (medical center and dialysis unit), the Northport VA Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Huntington Hospital, John T. Mather Hospital, Southside Hospital, St. Charles Hospital, Stony Brook University Hospital, and the Suffolk Kidney Center are some of the medical facilities located in western Suffolk County. In some cases, hospitals are also providers of community transportation services. Of note is the fact that some Nassau County residents also travel to the Northport VA Hospital for medical services.

Shopping Centers – In Suffolk County, shopping centers serve multiple purposes. Not only are they commercial centers, they are also major employers. With the exception of the Tanger Outlets in Riverhead, all of the large shopping centers and malls in Suffolk County are west of the Brookhaven/ Riverhead/ Southampton town lines. Some of the major shopping centers in Suffolk County are the Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove, South Shore Mall in Bayshore, Tanger Outlets in Deer Park, Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington Station, Bridgehampton Commons, Stony Brook Village Center, and the Paradise Shops in Islip.

Public Buildings – There are almost 35 town or village seats in Suffolk County. Town and village centers can be valuable resources for citizens, allowing them access to town or village information on services and events. These public buildings would also usually be where residents conduct municipal business, such as paying a parking ticket or recording a housing deed.

Accessible Housing – The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse was used to identify accessible housing on Long Island. At least one accessible apartment complex was identified in Suffolk County, the Riverhead Landing Apartments on Middle Road in Riverhead. There are 200 rental units in the Riverhead Landing complex.

Colleges and Universities – Suffolk County Community College has three campuses in Suffolk County: Ammerman, Brentwood, and Riverhead. There are also three Long Island University campuses in the county: Brentwood, Riverhead, and Southampton. Other colleges and universities in Suffolk County include:

- Adelphi University (Hauppauge Center)
- St. Joseph's College
- Briarcliffe School
- Touro College
- Hofstra University- J.W. Dye Jr. Center
- New York Institute of Technology

- State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook
- Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
- Katharine Gibbs
- Farmingdale State College
- Dowling College
- Long Island Drafting and Technical Institute

Employment and Training Sites – Of the 12 employment and training sites identified within Suffolk County, eight are located in Hauppauge; and seven of those are on Veterans Memorial Highway or Motor Parkway. The other four agencies are in Riverhead or Patchogue. Some of the employment and training sites identified by this study are the Displaced Homemaker Program, Suffolk County Department of Labor One-Stop Employment Center, Suffolk Works Employment Program, Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID), and Rural Opportunities, Inc.

Major Employers – As previously noted, shopping centers and malls are major employers in Suffolk County. The Tanger Outlets in Riverhead and Deer Park, together, have over 250 stores, and the Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington has almost 100 stores. Hospitals and medical centers, and colleges and universities are also major employers. Good Samaritan Medical Center in Babylon employs almost 3,500 and SUNY Stony Brook has approximately 14,000 employees. Other large employers in Suffolk County include Brookhaven National Laboratory (2,900 employees), Computer Associates International, Estee Lauder, Newsday (approximately 3,000 employees), and the Pilgrim Psychiatric Center (approximately 2,800 employees).

There are also high employment corridors and business/ industrial parks at various locations throughout the county, such as Hauppauge Industrial Park, Marcus Industrial Park (Deer Park), New Horizons Business Center (Amityville), Stony Brook Technology Center (East Setauket), Motor Parkway (Central Islip), and Price Parkway (Farmingdale).

Employment Density in Suffolk County

Figure 6-4 shows jobs per mile in Suffolk County, by Census block group, for 2000. These locations indicate destinations for work trips. As can be seen from the map, employment is clearly concentrated in the western end of the county. The highest concentrations of jobs in the county—10,000 or more jobs per square mile—are found in block groups in Brookhaven, Smithtown, Islip, Babylon, and Huntington. The block groups containing the highest numbers of jobs per square mile are often located near major roadways, such as the Long Island Expressway, Route 110, Routes 27 and 27A (Sunrise Highway and West Montauk Highway), and Route 454 (Veterans Memorial Highway). Areas of lower job concentration can be found in the towns of Riverhead and Southampton.

Figure 6-4 Employment Density per Square Mile by Block Group – Suffolk County

