



Long Island Sound Futures Fund

NFWF CONTACTS

Lynn Dwyer
Program Director,
lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org

Victoria Moreno
Coordinator,
Regional Programs
victoria.moreno@nfwf.org
202-857-0166

FUNDING PARTNERS

- Long Island Sound Study
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative
- Zoetis
- Avangrid Foundation
- Covanta

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C., 20005
202-857-0166



Engaging people in stewardship of sound waters and lands | Credit: Bronx River Alliance

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced a 2022 round of funding for Long Island Sound Futures Fund (Futures Fund) projects. Forty-one new grants totaling \$10.3 million were awarded. The 41 projects generated \$5.8 million in matching dollars directly from the grantees themselves, resulting in a total conservation impact of \$16.1 million. Important funding was also provided by Zoetis, Avangrid Foundation and Covanta.

Long Island Sound is the second largest estuary on the East Coast and one of North America's most biologically diverse — an amazing fact — considering that more than 23 million people live within 50 miles of the sound. Its watershed stretches 16,820 square miles across five states. Fresh water from 16,000 miles of river fuels the sound's productivity. Its waters and surrounding lands are busy and complex, playing a vital role in the environment and in the lives of residents. The sound faces many of the same issues that impact coastal communities across the United States. Diffuse sources of pollution, from plastics to fertilizer, drain into rivers and streams that feed into the sound. Sewage pollution from wastewater treatment plants and aging residential septic systems force the closure of beaches and shellfish beds. The loss of wetlands reduces the sound's value as habitat and its ability to buffer communities against storms, floods, and sea-level rise. The Futures Fund supports efforts to address these problems by providing grants which test innovative approaches to conservation, deliver transformative projects, and support people and communities who value the sound and take a direct role in its future.

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Whimbrel | Credit: P. Comins, CT Audubon Society

**CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS
CONNECTICUT**

Farm Management to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution into Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
 Grant Amount:..... \$819,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$204,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,024,400
 Construct a waste management facility at a dairy farm in Lebanon, Connecticut. Project will prevent 29,798 pounds of nitrogen from flowing into local waterways and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Green infrastructure for the Long Hill Green District (CT)

Grantee: Town of Trumbull, Connecticut
 Grant Amount:..... \$249,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$62,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$311,400
 Remove existing concrete and asphalt areas and replace with 5,400 square feet of permeable green infrastructure paver areas and install bioretention planters in the town of Trumbull, Connecticut. Project will filter 2,270 cubic feet of stormwater runoff before it flows downstream to Bridgeport Harbor and then Long Island Sound.

Stormwater and Green infrastructure Improvements in Downtown Naugatuck (CT)

Grantee: Borough of Naugatuck
 Grant Amount:..... \$535,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$229,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$765,100
 Implement stormwater infrastructure improvements with low impact development and green infrastructure in Naugatuck, Connecticut. Project will provide an annual reduction of 105 pounds of nitrogen, 8.6 pounds of phosphorus, 2,791 pounds of sediment and 4.39 million gallons of stormwater from entering the Naugatuck River and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

NEW YORK

Green Schoolyard at IS 145Q: Providing Community Green Space and Improving Water Quality (NY)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
 Grant Amount:..... \$449,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,300,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,749,400
 Construct green infrastructure on a playground at IS 145Q Joseph Pulitzer School in Jackson Heights, Queens. Project will enhance school and community outdoor recreational space and capture 980,000 gallons of polluted stormwater annually before it flows into Bowery Bay, the East River and then to Long Island Sound.

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Improving Water Quality by Retrofitting Parking Lots and Driveways with Permeable Alternatives (NY)

Grantee: Science Museum of Long Island

Grant Amount:..... \$78,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$35,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$113,800

Produce plans to replace or retrofit impermeable parking lot and driveway surfaces with permeable alternatives at the Science Museum of Long Island in Manhasset, New York. Project will set the stage to capture and infiltrate polluted stormwater runoff before it flows into Manhasset Bay and then Long Island Sound.

MASSACHUSETTS

Building a Shared Pathway to Design and Permitting of Nitrogen Pollution Prevention Projects (MA)

Grantee: Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Grant Amount:..... \$475,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$333,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$808,600

Develop standardized designs and an associated permitting pathway for river restoration projects in Franklin County, Massachusetts. Project will foster the implementation of nature-based projects that can prevent nitrogen and sediment loading in the Connecticut River and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Upgrading the Easthampton Wastewater Treatment Plant to Improve Water Quality in Long Island Sound (MA)

Grantee: City of Easthampton, Massachusetts

Grant Amount:..... \$883,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$294,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,177,500

Replace mechanical aerators and modify the secondary aeration system at the Easthampton Wastewater Treatment Plant in Massachusetts. Project will eliminate 12,240 pounds nitrogen annually discharged from the plant into the Connecticut River and then downstream to the Long Island Sound.

Upgrading the North Brookfield Wastewater Treatment Facility to Improve Water Quality (MA)

Grantee: North Brookfield Sewer Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$208,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$69,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$277,800

Install nitrogen sensors to improve the operation of the wastewater treatment process at the North Brookfield Wastewater Treatment Facility in Massachusetts. Project will eliminate 1,668 pounds of nitrogen annually discharged from the facility into the Connecticut River and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

VERMONT

Deploying a Nitrogen Reclamation Project in the Long Island Sound Watershed (VT)

Grantee: Rich Earth Institute

Grant Amount:..... \$180,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$314,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$494,300

Expand the implementation of nitrogen reclamation technology in Windham County, Vermont. Project will divert 850 pounds of nitrogen annually from entering the Connecticut River and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Restoration along Utley Brook to Improve Water Quality in Downstream Long Island Sound (VT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$142,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$45,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$187,800

Restore wetland, floodplain, streambank and riparian buffer in the Connecticut River basin of the Long Island Sound in Landgrove, Vermont. Project will prevent 137 pounds of nitrogen from flowing downstream to Long Island Sound.

MULTIPLE STATES

Collaborating to Reduce Pollution on Farms in the Upper Housatonic Watershed (CT, MA, NY)

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association

Grant Amount:..... \$193,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$51,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$244,900

Support development of on-farm collaborative conservation plans in the Upper Housatonic watershed in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Project will set the stage for actions to reduce nitrogen and other pollution from upstream agricultural operations which effect downstream Long Island Sound.

Working with Agricultural Partners to Improve Water Quality in the Connecticut River Valley (NH, VT)

Grantee: Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$418,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$139,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$558,400

Organize an expert team working in agriculture and the environment to identify practices, conduct trials and assess and monitor results to inform selection of best management practices to reduce nitrogen from farms in New Hampshire and Vermont. Project will identify best practices for investment to reduce nitrogen and give agricultural producers confidence that farms are implementing the most efficient practices to meet their economic and clean water goals.

THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE CONNECTICUT

Fish Passage at the Highland Pond Dam (CT)

Grantee: The Middlesex Land Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$720,000
Matching Funds:.....\$249,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$969,000

Remove a barrier to fish passage on the Sawmill Brook in Middletown, Connecticut. Project will restore access to 1 mile of spawning and nursery habitat for alewife, blueback herring, American eel, and sea lamprey to Long Island Sound.

Fish Passage on Beaver Brook (CT)

Grantee: Town of Sprague

Grant Amount:.....\$343,800
Matching Funds:.....\$175,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$518,800

Address a barrier to fish migration on Beaver Brook in Sprague, Connecticut. Project will provide access along a waterway for migrating river herring and American eel by opening up 3.7 miles of river to Long Island Sound.

Restoring Coastal Forest Habitat at Hoyt Island Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary (CT)

Grantee: Norwalk Land Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$50,000
Matching Funds:.....\$12,500
Total Project Amount:.....\$62,500

Restore 3 acres of coastal island forest on Hoyt Island offshore of Norwalk, Connecticut. Project will improve an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

NEW YORK

Expanding Be a Good Egg: Share the Shore with Shorebirds (NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$241,600
Matching Funds:.....\$82,600
Total Project Amount:.....\$324,200

Deliver "Be a Good Egg," an environmental education program in the Long Island Sound watershed of New York. The project will increase support for coastal conservation and engage people in actions that help shorebirds thrive in important coastal habitats of Long Island Sound.

Planning Fish Passage at the Baiting Hollow Boy Scout Camp (NY)

Grantee: Suffolk County Council Boy Scouts of America

Grant Amount:.....\$130,000
Matching Funds:.....\$33,100
Total Project Amount:.....\$163,100

Conduct a site assessment, consider alternatives and create a conceptual plan for fish passage and educate Scouts about Long Island Sound at Lake Arrowhead, Baiting Hollow Scout Camp in New York. Project is the first step to restore fish passage for river herring and American eel from the lake to Long Island Sound.

Planning to Enhance Coastal Resiliency with Tidal Marsh Restoration at Sunken Meadow Park (NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$435,200
Matching Funds:.....\$111,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$546,200

Develop designs to restore marsh at Sunken Meadow State Park in Kings Park, New York. Project will advance restoration of high marsh habitat to support breeding, feeding and shelter for salt marsh sparrow an iconic species of Long Island Sound and buffer the park and nearby community from storms and sea-level rise.

Restoring Great Pond Freshwater Wetland Habitat (NY)

Grantee: Town of Southold, New York

Grant Amount:.....\$79,900
Matching Funds:.....\$23,300
Total Project Amount:.....\$103,200

Remove the invasive common reed plant from 3.1 acres of public and private land around the 32-acre Great Pond freshwater wetland in Southold, New York. Project will restore an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Stream Barrier Inventory to Restore Fish Passage from Westchester County to Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Save the Sound

Grant Amount:.....\$456,600
Matching Funds:.....\$118,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$574,600

Conduct an inventory of stream barriers to fish passage in Westchester County, New York. Project will inform stream restoration priorities and projects along riverine migratory corridors from upstream Westchester County to downstream Long Island Sound.



Field assessments to restore fish passage | Credit: Save the Sound

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Planning to enhance shoreline resilience at Veterans Park, Norwalk

MULTIPLE STATES

Community Engagement and Education for Eelgrass Protection on Fishers Island (CT, NY)

Grantee: Henry L Ferguson Museum

Grant Amount:..... \$52,200

Matching Funds:..... \$20,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$72,200

Build community awareness and support for voluntary long-term actions to protect eelgrass on Fishers Island, New York and in southeastern Connecticut communities. Project seeks to engage community action to sustain this important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

CONNECTICUT

Comprehensive Coastal Resiliency Planning for Three Connecticut Communities (CT)

Grantee: Town of Westbrook, Connecticut

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$80,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$230,300

Prepare a combined coastal resilience plan for the neighboring communities of Westbrook, Clinton, Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick, Connecticut. Project will develop a shared strategy to reduce the impacts of sea-level rise and storms on these coastal communities of Long Island Sound.

Cultivating Long Island Sound Stewards through Environmental Education and Exploration (CT)

Grantee: Gather New Haven

Grant Amount:..... \$126,600

Matching Funds:..... \$118,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$244,700

Provide science, conservation, exploration and leadership programs to low-income middle school students in New Haven, Connecticut. Project will improve student understanding of and appreciation for the relationship between their community and Long Island Sound.

Developing Shoreline Restoration Options for Veteran's Park in Norwalk (CT)

Grantee: The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

Grant Amount:..... \$91,900

Matching Funds:..... \$39,600

Total Project Amount:..... \$131,500

Evaluate shoreline restoration options for Veteran's Park in Norwalk, Connecticut. Project will identify methods to increase resilience of the park to storms and sea-level rise and to improve public access to it.

Engaging Student Community Scientists for Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center

Grant Amount:..... \$123,800

Matching Funds:..... \$48,600

Total Project Amount:..... \$172,400

Engage 200 high school and college student citizen scientists in virtual, field and laboratory-based experiential learning programs about water quality and Long Island Sound ecology using rivers, harbors and the sound as outdoor classrooms. Students will make public presentations about their activities at public events in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will empower the next generation of environmental stewards and improve public knowledge and understanding of Long Island Sound.

Engaging Communities in "River Smart" Stormwater Management the Farmington River Watershed (CT)

Grantee: Farmington River Watershed Association

Grant Amount:..... \$69,200

Matching Funds:..... \$41,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$110,600

Conduct the River Smart education program connecting the story of local storm drains to the problem of stormwater pollution into local waterways that feed into the Long Island Sound; and install green infrastructure projects in the Farmington River Watershed, Connecticut. Project will educate adults and youth about everyday actions people can take to reduce polluted stormwater from inland communities and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

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Exploring Nature-based Restoration to Improve Shoreline Resilience and Public Access (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut College

Grant Amount:..... \$86,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$42,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$128,300

Install and evaluate the use of Reef Balls nature-based approach to protect coastal shorelines at the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London, Connecticut. Project will expand the use of green strategies to reduce storm surge and restore salt marsh as buffers from storms and sea-level rise and enhance community access to Long Island Sound.

Ladders to Careers in Conservation for Urban Youth in Coastal Connecticut (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$100,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$350,000

Employ young people from environmental justice communities in restoration and stewardship of coastal habitats and public outreach activities about coastal birds along Connecticut's shorelines of Long Island Sound. Project will provide training and professional experiences to increase the diversity of future conservation professionals.

Marine Debris Education Program in the Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$153,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$167,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$320,800

Deliver lessons and train teachers about the problem of marine debris polluting coasts and the ocean in communities of the Long Island Sound watershed in Connecticut. Project will raise awareness of the local and regional need to prevent plastic and other marine debris into the local waterways, shorelines and the sound.

Marine Debris Education for High School Students in Coastal Communities of Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:..... \$69,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$18,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$87,000

Deliver classroom education and generate student-driven solutions to be shared with the community about how to prevent single-use plastic pollution in Groton and New London, Connecticut. Project will raise awareness and motivate stewardship to prevent many types of common marine debris from flowing into Long Island Sound.

Sliver by the River: Planning for Greening and Public Access on the Bridgeport Waterfront (CT)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:..... \$313,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$235,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$548,600

Produce design and construction documents for green infrastructure and coastal resilience improvements on the waterfront in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will set the stage for park "greening" to improve water quality, enhance community resilience to storms and floods and provide public access in an urban coastal community of Long Island Sound.

NEW YORK**Riparian Restoration Plan to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution to Blind Brook and Long Island Sound (NY)**

Grantee: Friends of Rye Nature Center

Grant Amount:..... \$284,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$95,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$379,200

Develop a construction-ready plan and obtain permits to restore 1,660 feet of stream corridor on Blind Brook, Rye Nature Center in Rye, New York. Project will set the stage to restore a floodplain, freshwater wetland and river corridor; and to reduce polluted sediment into Blind Brook and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Saturdays on the Sound: Community Stewardship of Long Island Sound Coastal Forest (NY)

Grantee: The Bronx is Blooming

Grant Amount:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$256,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$306,500

Engage 1,500 community members in 70 hands-on projects to enhance coastal forest at Soundview Park, at festivals and with school-based environmental education about Long Island Sound in Bronx, New York. Project will increase local capacity for stewardship of an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound and increase appreciation of the sound.

Engaging Community Environmental Education and Stewardship on City Island (NY)

Grantee: City Island Oyster Reef

Grant Amount:..... \$248,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$131,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$379,100

Expand stewardship, oyster reef restoration and environmental education programs on City Island, New York. Project will enhance the capacity of a grass-roots organization to provide projects and activities for the community to steward Long Island Sound's coastal habitats.

Mentoring Youth to Protect Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment
 Grant Amount:..... \$218,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$76,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$294,400

Deliver an educational program about challenges to restoration and protection of the health and living resources of Long Island Sound at high schools on Long Island, New York. Project will deliver a shared Student Action plan for the sound.

Long Island Sound Marine Debris Removal and Prevention (NY)

Grantee: American Littoral Society
 Grant Amount:..... \$87,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$87,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$174,400

Present environmental education about marine debris and conduct cleanups around Long Island Sound along 30 shorelines in Westchester, Queens, Suffolk and Nassau counties in New York. Project will educate people about the actions they can take to stem the tide of marine debris on their local beaches and into Long Island Sound.

Plastic Avengers: Education, Arts and Action for Students in a Community of Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$64,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$314,500

Deliver classroom and field-based studies for middle and high school schools in tandem with stewardship activities and events for the community in the Bronx, New York. Project will build student and public awareness about the impacts of plastic pollution and climate change on the health of Long Island Sound and their communities.

Little Stewards of the Sound in the Bronx (NY)

Grantee: Bronx Children's Museum
 Grant Amount:..... \$215,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$72,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$287,600

Deliver a traveling exhibit on an electric "Museum On the Go!" bus, a school environmental education program, and printed maps and materials about how people can take action to improve the health of Long Island Sound in the Bronx, New York. Project will promote awareness and appreciation of the Sound to 65,750 Bronx children, their families and the public.

Bronx River Environmental Enrichment and Leadership for Students (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance
 Grant Amount:..... \$91,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$70,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$161,100

Connect students with learning and professional development opportunities and college credit through the Bronx River

Environmental Enrichment and Leadership for Students (EELS) program in New York. Project will introduce a more diverse community of young people to conservation education and career experiences focused on the Bronx River and Long Island Sound.

SOUND SCIENCE AND INCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT CONNECTICUT**Improving Water Quality Management of Long Island Sound by Municipal Government (CT)**

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center
 Grant Amount:..... \$80,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$45,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$125,600

Conduct a water quality data synthesis and sharing project about local water quality trends in eight towns of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will provide water resource managers with information to prioritize projects and take action to reduce sewage pollution and improve water quality in local waters and Long Island Sound.

NEW YORK**Hempstead Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Program (NY)**

Grantee: Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, New York
 Grant Amount:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$120,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$320,400

Conduct water quality monitoring in Hempstead Harbor, Nassau County, New York. Project will inform management of Hempstead Harbor a waterbody that feeds Long Island Sound.



Educating people and communities to value the sound | Credit: City Island Oyster Reef