NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund

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FUNDING PARTNERS

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

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 \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Piping plover

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced a 2023 round of funding for Long Island Sound Futures Fund (Futures Fund) projects. Additional funding was also provided by Zoetis Foundation. Thirty-nine new grants totaling \$12 million were awarded. The 39 awards generated more than \$8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$20 million.

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.

CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS CONNECTICUT

A Community and Student-Driven Partnership to Implement Green Infrastructure (CT)

Grantee: Southwest Conservation District

Design to Improve Water Quality, Public Access and Resilience (CT)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:.....\$350,000 Matching Funds:.....\$350,000 Total Project Amount:.....\$700,000 Advance the community's concept design to a 100 percent engineered plan for new green space, a living shoreline, and green infrastructure and conduct 10 events to engage 200 members of the public in design in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will enhance the resilience of waterfront properties to storms and improve water quality with naturebased solutions and provide for increased public access in an underserved urban community.

Final Design of the Brookfield Sewer Extension (CT)

Grantee: Brookfield Water Pollution Control Authority Grant Amount:......\$300,000 Matching Funds:.....\$75,000 Total Project Amount:.....\$375,000 Create final design for a low-pressure wastewater collection system with individual grinder pumps and low-pressure piping below-ground for 91 low-lying lots in Brookfield, Connecticut. Project will produce a pathway to improve water quality by reducing bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus into the Still River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Improving Water Quality in Long Island Sound by Managing Farm Waste at a Roaring Brook Farm (CT)

Grantee: North Central Conservation District

Improving Water Quality by Managing Nutrients at a Livestock Operation (CT)

Learning "Lots" about Permeable Pavers to Improve Water Quality Phase I (CT)

Planning to Improve Water Quality and Increase Community Resilience (CT)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:......\$361,100 Matching Funds:\$236,600 Total Project Amount:\$597,700 Develop a hydrologic assessment of the Five Corners area to identify flooding and water quality problem "hot-spots," recommend methods and places to install projects to reduce these problems and educate residents about actions they can take to improve the environment in the city of Groton, Connecticut. Project assessment will serve as the basis for developing nature-based solutions to improve water quality and community resilience to storms and sea-level rise.

Reducing Nitrogen in Long Island Sound by Managing Farm Waste on a Dairy Farm-II (CT)

Grantee: Northwest Conservation District	
Grant Amount:\$418,00)()
Matching Funds:\$307,90)()
Total Project Amount:\$725,90)()
Construct a 1.3-million-gallon farm waste storage facility	
and provide public and farmer education about methods for	
economically and environmentally sustainable farming at	
Freund's Farm, in North Canaan, Connecticut. Project will prevent	
the flow of 19,000 lbs. of nitrogen and 11,000 lbs. of phosphorus	
from farm waste into local waterways and Long Island Sound.	

Reducing Nitrogen in Long Island Sound by Managing Farm Waste at Valley View Farm (CT)

Water Quality Buffers for Bridgeport (CT)

Grantee: Aspetuck Land Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$187,400 Matching Funds:.....\$48,600 Total Project Amount:.....\$236,000 Provide education to 5,000 people about flooding and water quality challenges and how these problems affect Long Island Sound working in partnership with community organizations, and support residents and businesses to add 30 green buffer plantings totaling 6,300 square feet to filter pollution from lands near waterways flowing to the sound in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will educate people about actions they can take to improve the environment of their community and the sound.

NEW YORK

Enhancing Opportunities to make Water Infrastructure Repairs (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance

Green Schoolyards in the South Bronx (NY)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:\$493,400
Matching Funds:
Total Project Amount: \$3,193,400
Engage 60 students in project design and 700 people in
environmental education; remove 22,360 square feet of
gray asphalt replacing it with 20,101 square feet of green
infrastructure on two school playgrounds in the Bronx,
New York. Project will enhance school and community
environmental education and recreational space in an



Dairy cows

underserved urban community and capture 2.7 million gallons of stormwater and 43 lbs. of nitrogen pollution annually before it flows into local waterways.

Rain Garden Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality in Northport Village (NY)

MASSACHUSETTS

Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Improvements to Improve Water Quality (MA)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Preventing Nitrogen Pollution from Stone Pond Dam (NH) Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council dba

Connecticut River Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$360,000 Matching Funds:.....\$308,000 Total Project Amount:.....\$668,000 Remove a barrier to fish passage, install a box culvert, and restore a stream channel and floodplain at Stone Pond Dam in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. Project will excavate 82,000 lbs. of nitrogen and 5,700 lbs. of phosphorus in sediments behind the dam immediately and then prevent 908 lbs. of nitrogen and 26 lbs. of phosphorus annually, preventing pollution from flowing from the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

MULTIPLE STATES

Planning to Improve Water Quality Working with Local Government (NH, VT)

Grantee: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Grant Amount:.....\$499,900 Matching Funds:.....\$120,100 Total Project Amount:.....\$620,000 Build a pipeline of 10 projects to install green infrastructure and Low Impact Development improvements by supporting local site identification, design, engineering and permitting activities; and build a community-of-practice to deliver such improvements long-term in urban, suburban and rural areas of the greater Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. Project will produce shovel-ready projects aiming to reduce nitrogen in the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Retrieving Lobster Traps to Reduce Marine Debris in Long Island Sound-II (CT, NY)

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Grant Amount:......\$386,000 Matching Funds:.....\$113,500 Total Project Amount:.....\$499,500 Identify areas of lost and abandoned lobster traps by collaborating with local fishermen and using sonar; conduct four events about the project to seek fishermen's knowledge and engagement in the work; remove 4,800 traps; and conduct sonar sampling, sharing information about how sonar may improve retrieval in Long Island Sound. Project will remove 240,000 lbs. of marine debris to address the goals of the Marine Debris Action Plan for Long Island Sound.

Supporting Soil Health Management Planning and Water Quality Improvement on Farms (CT, MA, NH, VT)

Grantee: American Farmland Trust

Grant Amount:\$4	80,600
Matching Funds: \$1	60,200
Total Project Amount:\$6	40,800
Develop 25 farm-scale soil health management plans b	уy

facilitating three farmer cohorts to engage in soil health planning over 875 acres of farmland for 200 farmers; deliver 10 outreach events; and develop an agricultural water quality benefits tool in the Long Island Sound Watershed of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Project will advance the adoption of soil health management systems that reduce nutrient pollution from agricultural operations into Long Island Sound.

THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE CONNECTICUT

Developing a Restoration Plan for Bluff Point State Park (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:......\$198,700 Matching Funds:.....\$49,700 Total Project Amount:.....\$248,400 Conduct site planning, working with 200 community members and park visitors to identify five highest priority habitat restoration areas and develop concept plans and budgets for their restoration; and develop strategies for citizen science and education across the 800-acre Bluff Point State Park in Groton, Connecticut. Project will establish a pathway towards restoration of an Important Coastal Habitat of Long Island Sound.

Feasibility Study to Enhance Fish Passage at a Road-Stream Crossing (CT)

Nature-based Solutions to Expand a Living Shoreline (CT) Grantee: Sacred Heart University

Grant Amount:.....\$145,000 Matching Funds:\$57,300 Total Project Amount:\$202,300 Extend an existing living shoreline by 0.35 acres with a combination of bagged shell clutch and small, modular oyster castles near the marsh edge and by planting native cordgrass in the intertidal zone at the Connecticut Audubon Society in Stratford Point, Connecticut. Project will evaluate innovative nature-based methods to stabilize and reduce erosion at the marsh and extend the marsh seaward to make it more resilient to storms and sea-level rise.

Planning to Improve Resiliency, Habitat and Public Access at Veteran's Park-II (CT)

Grantee: City of Norwalk, Connecticut

Grant Amount:.....\$322,000 Matching Funds:....\$82,000 Total Project Amount:.....\$404,000 Prepare plans to redesign Veteran's Park incorporating nature-based solutions, including green infrastructure to manage stormwater, flood-adapted public spaces and a living shoreline; and engage the community in the planning with a stakeholder committee and "walkshops" in Norwalk, Connecticut. Project will guide future activities to expand coastal habitat, increase community flood resilience, improve water quality and provide shoreline access at a 36-acre park.

Planning to Restore Alewife Cove (CT)

Grantee: City of New London, CT

Grant Amount:.....\$399,900 Matching Funds:\$126,700 Total Project Amount:.....\$526,600 Develop a nature-based plan engaging 500 members of the public at three public education events focused on restoring Alewife Cove at the mouth of Long Island Sound and the Thames River, Waterford and New London, Connecticut. Project will establish a pathway to increase shoreline resilience to storms and restore Important Coastal Habitat on the shoreline of Long Island Sound.

A Plan to Restore the Farmington River: Stakeholder engagement and investigation of the impacts of Rainbow Dam (CT)

Grantee: Save the Sound

NEW YORK

Building Volunteer-Driven Oyster Restoration on Long Island Sound (NY)

Community Collaboration and Planning to Restore Oyster Reefs (NY)

Grantee: Billion Oyster Project

Grant Amount:\$436,900
Matching Funds: \$110,300
Total Project Amount:\$547,200
Conduct site assessments, produce 60 percent site designs
and engage community groups to identify locations for oyster
restoration at three sites in Queens and the Bronx, New York.
Project will provide a potential pathway to restore upwards
of 10 acres of oyster reef and improve community coastal
resilience, water quality and biodiversity in Long Island
Sound waters.

Putting the Oyster back in Oyster Bay (NY)

Removing Invasive Plants at Great Gull Island-II (NY)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:.....\$217,800 Matching Funds:.....\$57,700 Total Project Amount:.....\$275,500 Control invasive plants to improve 18 acres of beach and dune habitat on Great Gull Island, New York. Project will benefit roseate and common terns, iconic species of Long Island Sound on the island, a Long Island Sound Study Stewardship Area and high priority restoration site.

Removing Invasive Plants at West Meadow Beach (NY)

MULTIPLE STATES

Share the Shore with Shore and Seabirds in Long Island Sound (CT, NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society (Audubon Connecticut & New York)

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES CONNECTICUT

Connecting the New Haven Community with its Blue Backyard-II (CT)

Grantee: University of New Haven	
Grant Amount:\$247,700	
Matching Funds:	
Total Project Amount:\$318,800	
Expand the university's community-based marine science	



education initiative by: training 40 volunteers in science topics to conduct seven events reaching 250 residents; training 52 educators; offering Marine Science Career Days for 30 high school students; and delivering field and classroom visits to 60 K-12 students about marine science in New Haven, Connecticut. Project will enhance the value of the new Institute for Marine Science and Coastal Resilience at Canal Dock Boathouse.

Growing Outdoor Sound Learning & Stewardship in New Haven Public Schools (CT)

Grantee: New Haven Ecology Project/Common Ground
Grant Amount:\$197,200
Matching Funds: \$63,700
Total Project Amount:\$260,900
Engage 2,000 students at seven public schools in Long
Island Sound-focused outdoor learning by embedding
75 environmental educators in classrooms; field-testing
environmental education experiences aligned with school
science curriculum and connected to the sound; and invest
in outdoor classrooms and coastal habitats at schools in New
Haven, Connecticut. Project will engage an underserved urban
community and build the next generation of the sound's
environmental stewards.

Marine Debris Prevention and Art Outreach Campaign (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium) Grant Amount:......\$118,000 Matching Funds:.....\$151,200 Total Project Amount:.....\$269,200 Develop an educational display about the problem of plastic pollution for use in the field and at Mystic Aquarium reaching 10,800 people; conduct seven shoreline cleanups with 1,500 volunteers; support one park to develop a solution to their plastics problem; and share findings with local government about how to prevent marine debris in three Connecticut communities. Project will educate people about the problem and actions they can take to prevent it.

Students Inventing Long Island Sound Solutions (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Invention Convention	
Grant Amount: \$59,500	
Matching Funds: \$15,500	
Total Project Amount:\$75,000	
Deliver virtual and in-person education about environmental	
problems affecting Long Island Sound, engaging 750 students	
grades 5–9 from underserved communities to develop	
creative projects and solutions to solve those problems	
in underserved communities of East Hartford, Hartford,	
Bridgeport, Norwich, New London, and Groton, Connecticut.	
Project will help students understand how the health of the	
sound affects their communities and how they can become	
change-makers to improve it.	

American oystercatcher



Roseate terns

NEW YORK

Bronx River Environmental Enrichment and Leadership for Students (EELS)-III (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance

Establishing "Sea Lab" to Serve the Community (NY)

Grantee: The Research Foundation for the State University of New York (SUNY-Maritime College)

Grant Amount: \$51,500	
Matching Funds: \$31,700	
Total Project Amount: \$83,200	
Provide 22 field experiences involving habitat restoration,	
environmental stewardship and research on the "Sea	
Lab" vessel and deliver land-based teacher training and	
environmental festivals for 840 K–12 students and residents	
serving the Bronx, Queens and Westchester County, New	
York. Project will provide environmental education for urban	
residents, especially underserved communities, who lack	
opportunities to connect with and appreciate local waters	
including Long Island Sound.	

Growing a GREEN PLACE on the Sound-II (NY)

Grantee: The Bronx is Blooming

Grant Amount:	\$250,000
Matching Funds:	
Total Project Amount:	\$402,800
Engage 2,500 community members in 100 stewards	ship

projects to enhance coastal forests; provide 55 local youth green job opportunities; conduct a stewardship festival; and provide school-based environmental education with outreach to 3,000 people about the Bronx River and Long Island Sound in the Bronx, New York. Project will increase residents' capacity for stewardship, revitalize the largest park in the Bronx and support an underserved urban community in the sound's watershed.

ReWild Gardens for Long Island Sound (NY)

Urban Youth Education Program about Climate and Wildlife (NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society (Audubon New York) Grant Amount:......\$181,900 Matching Funds:.....\$46,600 Total Project Amount:.....\$228,500 Provide school and community environmental education and stewardship activities about wildlife and local climate change to 650 urban K–12 students and families, including students in hospitals; provide professional development for 90 teachers; train and engage 200 volunteers to enhance natural resources and deliver four public education programs at two urban parks in the Bronx and Queens, New York. Project will enhance the community capacity to improve their local environment.