



Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2016 Grants

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INITIATIVE DETAILS

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PARTNERS

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- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Long Island Sound Study
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Long Island Sound

OVERVIEW

Stretching more than 110 miles into the Atlantic, with 600 miles of coastline, the Long Island Sound is home to hundreds of species of fish, birds, and other animals. Millions of people visit the Sound each year to swim, boat, and enjoy its beauty, enriching their own lives and stimulating the local economy.

Maintaining the Sound as a healthy ecosystem, while balancing human uses, presents a challenge. Over centuries, stormwater runoff, debris and other sources of man-made pollution have degraded the Sound and compromised its vitality.

NFWF's Long Island Sound Futures Fund supports projects in local communities that aim to protect and restore the Long Island Sound. It unites federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations to achieve high-priority conservation objectives. Funded activities demonstrate a real, on-the-ground commitment to securing a healthy future for the Long Island Sound.

Funding priorities for this program include:

- Clean waters and healthy watersheds: improving water quality by delivering projects that reduce combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff and nonpoint source nutrient loading into the Long Island Sound.
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife: restoring coastal habitats to maintain resiliency and function, and foster diverse, balanced and abundant populations of fish, birds and wildlife.
- Educating to Engage Sustainable and Resilient Communities: increasing knowledge and engagement of the public in the protection and restoration of Long Island Sound.

(continued)



American oystercatcher with chick

1) Audubon WildLife Guards – A Coastal Stewardship and Youth Conservation Training Program (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Award Amount:..... \$35,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$35,100
Total Project: \$70,100

National Audubon Society (Audubon Connecticut) will employ 10 students to encourage 3,000 members of the public to share 9.85 acres of coast with beach-nesting coastal waterbirds and provide coastal stewardship training to 25 municipal employees to add to student stewardship efforts at Pleasure Beach in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will allow residents to enjoy the beach and allow piping plover and least terns to nest successfully.

2) Green Infrastructure Planning Initiative in Port Chester (NY)

Grantee: Village of Port Chester
 Award Amount:..... \$47,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$47,000
Total Project: \$94,000

Village of Port Chester will develop a Drainage Manual and prepare conceptual designs and costs for green infrastructure projects for future implementation. Project will enhance the ability of the community to reduce urban runoff and flooding and advance environmental green and gray infrastructure projects village-wide.

3) A Blue Marine Plan for Long Island Sound (CT, NY)

Grantee: University of Connecticut
 Award Amount:..... \$34,997
 Matching Funds:..... \$37,466
Total Project: \$72,463

University of Connecticut will engage scientists, government, industry and the public in development of maps and natural resource and human use information to become part of an online resource for the Long Island Sound Watershed of Connecticut and New York. Project will support the public process needed for development of a Blue Plan which looks at human activities in the marine environment to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives with an aim of protecting and restoring the Sound.



4) Engaging Student Scientists for Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center
 Award Amount:..... \$32,829
 Matching Funds:..... \$34,050
Total Project: \$66,879

Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center will engage 46 high school and undergraduate citizen scientists in four experiential learning programs about water quality and Long Island Sound ecology using rivers, harbors and the Sound as the classroom and make presentations about their research at public events in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will train student participants for careers in conservation science and improve public knowledge and understanding of the Sound.

5) Demonstrate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems for Clean Water at R.E. Reid Recreation Center (NY)

Grantee: Peconic Green Growth
 Award Amount:..... \$86,430
 Matching Funds:..... \$48,303
Total Project: \$134,733

Peconic Green Growth will design and install a pilot, soil-based wastewater treatment system in Shoreham, New York. Project will reduce nitrogen by 85 to 90 percent and treat for other contaminants of emerging concern in Long Island Sound.

6) Coastal Youth Stewards (CT)

Grantee: North American Marine Environment Protection Association
 Award Amount:.....\$6,918
 Matching Funds:.....\$5,236
Total Project: \$12,154

North American Marine Environment Protection Association will educate and engage 150 K-12 youth in 10 beach cleanups and in an educational program about the marine environment and marine debris in the Southwest Coast Watershed, Connecticut. Project will prevent over 1,500 pounds of debris from entering Long Island Sound waters and encourage students to become environmental stewards through hands-on education about the impact of marine debris on the Sound as well as other waterways.

7) Coastal Dune Restoration at Stratford Point (CT)

Grantee: North American Marine Environment Protection Association
 Award Amount:.....\$115,199
 Matching Funds:.....\$200,000
Total Project: \$315,199

Sacred Heart University will restore 1.5 acres of coastal dune habitat in Stratford Point, Connecticut. Project will provide potential breeding habitat for piping plovers, least and roseate terns, American oystercatchers and tiger beetles.

8) Student Scientist Monitoring of American Eel and River Herring on the Bronx River (NY) - II

Grantee: Rocking the Boat
 Award Amount:..... \$35,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$38,242
Total Project: \$73,242

Rocking the Boat will engage 265 middle and high school students in monitoring river herring and American eel in Bronx, New York. Project will increase local community awareness of the Bronx River as habitat for river herring and American eels and contribute to the development of a management plan for these Long Island Sound species.

9) Share the Shore and Be a Good Egg (NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc. (NY)
 Award Amount:..... \$34,988
 Matching Funds:..... \$35,000
Total Project: \$69,988

National Audubon Society (Audubon New York) will provide a multifaceted environmental education program which includes public and school programming, direct on-the-beach public outreach, delivering stewardship projects on the coast for birds, and securing pledges from people committing to share the shore with shorebirds on the North Shore of Long Island, New York. Project will reduce threats to coastal habitats and shorebirds including piping plover, least tern, common tern, American oystercatcher and black skimmer.

10) Planning for Restoring Fish Passage on the Falls River (CT)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut
 Award Amount:..... \$59,983
 Matching Funds:..... \$40,960
Total Project: \$100,943

The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut will develop designs for fish passage at two dams on the Falls River a tributary to the lower Connecticut River in Centerbrook, Connecticut. Project will set the stage for fish passage of runs of alewife and blueback herring, and raise community awareness of these projects, river health, and the critical connection between freshwater habitats and Long Island Sound.

11) Alley Creek Shoreline and Coastal Forest Restoration (NY)

Grantee: City of New York, Department of Parks and Recreation
 Award Amount: \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Project: \$300,000

The City of New York, Department of Parks and Recreation will construct living shoreline to enhance re-establishment of up to 1 acre of salt marsh, and enhance coastal forest and upland habitat in Alley Pond Park, Douglaston, New York. Project will arrest the continued loss of urban salt marsh.

12) Demonstrate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems for Clean Water at Uplands Farm Sanctuary (NY)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy - Long Island
 Award Amount: \$100,075
 Matching Funds: \$157,630
Total Project: \$257,705

The Nature Conservancy, Long Island will construct and publicize the results of the first nitrogen-reducing vegetated wastewater treatment system in Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County, New York. Project will demonstrate a system that treats wastewater in a natural manner, reduces nitrogen discharges, and safely removes pathogens providing an alternative to traditional waste treatment in cesspools which contributes nitrogen and other pollutants into Long Island Sound.

13) Village Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Demonstration (CT)

Grantee: Norwalk Land Trust
 Award Amount: \$20,000
 Matching Funds: \$20,000
Total Project: \$40,000

Norwalk Land Trust will develop the planning and design to support restoration of approximately 5 to 8 acres of degraded intertidal salt meadows in Norwalk, Connecticut. Project will provide the foundation for a salt marsh restoration program with a focused project plan that increases the likelihood of restoration success in an important wildlife area.

14) My Yard, Our Sound: Planting for Clean Water and Wildlife (NY)

Grantee: The Maritime Explorium at Port Jeff Harbor
 Award Amount: \$25,366
 Matching Funds: \$69,216
Total Project: \$94,582



River herring | Credit: Matt Winter (NFWF)

The Maritime Explorium at Port Jefferson Harbor will engage 1,600 people in a program that delivers an exhibit and workshops for families to transform their yards and gardens with native plants in Port Jefferson, New York. Project will provide natural landscaping guidance to homeowners to encourage the use of alternatives to chemical and nutrient-intensive landscaping to benefit water quality and living resources of Long Island Sound.

15) Stonington Harbors Water Quality Monitoring and Education Initiative (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation
 Award Amount: \$24,672
 Matching Funds: \$24,710
Total Project: \$49,382

Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium) will monitor and identify local pollution sources in near-shore areas and conduct a public education program along the coastline of Stonington, Connecticut. Project will reduce sources of nitrogen pollution into the Stonington coast and Long Island Sound.



16) River Smart Community Stormwater Education in the Farmington River Watershed (CT)

Grantee: Farmington River Watershed Association
 Award Amount:..... \$31,174
 Matching Funds:..... \$32,810
Total Project: \$63,984

Farmington River Watershed Association will deliver “River Smart CT,” an education and outreach program focused on personal actions to reduce polluted stormwater, to 4,000 people in the Farmington Valley, Connecticut. Project will increase the number and variety of citizens who understand the value of Long Island Sound and take local action to protect its water quality.

17) Green Infrastructure Planning Initiative in the City of New Rochelle (NY)

Grantee: City of New Rochelle
 Award Amount:..... \$55,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$64,232
Total Project: \$119,232

City of New Rochelle will prepare a green infrastructure program plan for the City of New Rochelle, New York. The project will fully integrate green infrastructure into the work practices and policies of the city to reduce stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution to improve water quality in Long Island Sound.

18) Cultivating Champions for Healthy Soil and Clean Water for Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: American Farmland Trust
 Award Amount:..... \$83,941
 Matching Funds:..... \$63,786
Total Project: \$147,727

American Farmland Trust will conduct five on-farm pilots of soil health practices, document the crop, economic and environmental results, and share information about the practices and results farmer-to-farmer in Suffolk County, New York. Project will catalyze the use of soil health practices among Suffolk County’s 140 vegetable farms and reduce nitrogen from farms in the Long Island Sound drainage.

19) Green Infrastructure for Beardsley Zoo (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Fund for the Environment
 Award Amount:..... \$149,834
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,880
Total Project: \$225,714

Connecticut Fund for the Environment will install green infrastructure including enhancing existing lawn areas with 2,000 square feet of bioretention gardens and tree pits, and replacing 4,000 square feet of impervious pavement with pervious pavers in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will capture and treat 1 million gallons of urban stormwater runoff annually.

20) Water Quality Monitoring Initiative for Long Island Sound Embayments (NY)

Grantee: Connecticut Fund for the Environment
 Award Amount:..... \$58,937
 Matching Funds:..... \$44,485
Total Project: \$103,422

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (Save the Sound) will develop a pilot of common standards and methods and produce guidance to inform water quality monitoring of ecological and eutrophic conditions by citizen-science groups working in Long Island Sound embayments and harbors. Project will help citizen-based water quality monitoring groups collect data in the same way, improving the understanding and regional management of water quality in local bays and harbors of Long Island Sound.

21) Sound Engagement for Families (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation
 Award Amount:..... \$9,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$11,895
Total Project: \$21,195

Sea Research Foundation (Mystic Aquarium) will conduct six hands-on Long Island Sound-based conservation field programs, and a Long Island Sound Day celebration for 4,000 community members and 300 families in Mystic, Connecticut. Project will immerse families in hands-on learning and conservation activities that foster appreciation and stewardship of Long Island Sound.

22) Long Island Sound Water Education for Elementary School Students (NY)

Grantee: North Shore Land Alliance
 Award Amount:..... \$30,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$18,000
Total Project: \$48,500

North Shore Land Alliance will deliver a three-session water quality education program to 1,850 elementary school students in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York. Project will educate students about Long Island’s groundwater quality, the connection to Long Island Sound, and how students can protect local water resources.



Least tern with chicks

23) SOUNDoff Event! Creating Long Island Sound Stewards (NY) - II

Grantee: The Whaling Museum & Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor
 Award Amount:.....\$7,398
 Matching Funds:.....\$3,700
Total Project: \$11,098

The Whaling Museum & Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor will host a one-day event to engage and inform children and adults about how to play an active role in preserving the Long Island Sound through hands-on activities in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. The project will reach 400 visitors who will leave the event with a stronger understanding of their relationship to the Sound and with practical ways to contribute to a cleaner Sound.

24) Restoring Coastal Forest at Otter Creek Preserve (NY)

Grantee: Westchester Land Trust
 Award Amount:..... \$55,393
 Matching Funds:..... \$33,347
Total Project: \$88,740

Westchester Land Trust will restore a 12-acre coastal forest through removal of non-native invasive plants and

planting native trees, shrubs and herbs in the Village of Mamaroneck, New York. While some of the preserve forest is in good ecological condition, invasive plants are degrading the ecosystem. Project will focus on reversing forest fragmentation and degradation.

25) Reducing Floatable Litter and Debris Pollution in the Bronx River and Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance
 Award Amount:..... \$10,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$10,760
Total Project: \$20,760

Bronx River Alliance will collect floatable debris through 10 paddle and pickup canoe trips, one on-shore litter collection at a trash collection boom site, and one on-shore coastal cleanup event in the Bronx, New York. Project will prevent 4,420 pounds of floatables debris and other trash from entering Long Island Sound waters.