



Long Island Sound Futures Fund

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PARTNERS

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

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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Tidal marsh in Connecticut

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 2020-year round of funding for Long Island Sound Futures Fund projects. Thirty-eight new grants totaling \$3.8 million were awarded, leveraging \$4.6 million in grantee match and generating a total conservation impact of more than \$8.4 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 rivers fuel 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 U.S. 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 LISFF supports efforts to 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. A road map guiding LISFF is the *Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* organized in four themes.

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Student from the Bronx helping study American eels

CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Green Infrastructure at the Leeds Pond Preserve and Science Museum to Improve Water Quality in Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Science Museum of Long Island
 Grant Amount: \$46,021
 Matching Funds: \$49,180
 Total Project Amount: \$95,201
 Design and install a green infrastructure demonstration at the 36-acre Leeds Pond Preserve, home of the Science Museum of Long Island, that borders both Manhasset Bay and Leeds Pond in Plandome Manor, New York. Project will prevent 2,641,936 gallons of polluted stormwater from entering Manhasset Bay and Long Island and demonstrate to people visiting the museum how the various types of green infrastructure controls and reduces stormwater runoff.

A Green Schoolyard at PS 107X: Providing Community Green Space and Improving Water Quality (NY)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
 Grant Amount: \$242,372
 Matching Funds: \$1,725,000
 Total Project Amount: \$1,967,372
 Construct green infrastructure on a playground at Public School 107X in the Bronx, New York. Project will enhance community outdoor recreational green space and capture 2.7 million gallons of polluted stormwater annually before it flows into the Bronx River and Long Island Sound.

A Watershed Plan for the Hutchinson River-Westchester County-I (NY)

Grantee: Save the Sound
 Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$100,000
 Total Project Amount: \$300,000
 Develop a watershed plan for the Hutchison River watershed, Westchester County, New York. Project will ensure that restoration and protection strategies are identified that address watershed resilience to flooding and storms and local and Long Island Sound water quality.

Installation of Nitrogen Removing Biolfilter at Frank Melville Memorial Park (NY)

Grantee: Frank Melville Memorial Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$29,987
 Matching Funds: \$24,526
 Total Project Amount: \$54,513
 Install an innovative onsite wastewater treatment system in the Frank Melville Memorial Park in Setauket, New York. Project will provide a visible proof-of-concept to inform wider use of efficient low-cost residential treatment system with the promise to decrease nitrogen pollution into the ground and surface waters of local bays, harbors, streams and rivers that flow into Long Island Sound.

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Still River Watershed Plan Implementation: Brookfield Public Works Stormwater Retrofit (CT)

Grantee: Town of Brookfield
 Grant Amount: \$24,299
 Matching Funds: \$12,150
 Total Project Amount: \$36,449

Develop design plans and secure permits for a green infrastructure retrofit at the public works facility in Brookfield, Connecticut. Project will ultimately remove 3.3 acres of impervious paved area to reduce nitrogen into the Still River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Rapid Action Plans to Deliver Green Infrastructure in Coastal Connecticut Communities-II (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut
 Grant Amount: \$272,377
 Matching Funds: \$136,254
 Total Project Amount: \$408,631

Develop and implement five green infrastructure projects and provide guidance to local government about overcoming barriers to deployment of green infrastructure in communities of the South Central Basin of Connecticut. Project will reduce 500,000 gallons of stormwater pollution into Long Island Sound and increase green infrastructure projects around it.

Watershed Planning to Reduce Water Pollution in the Pootatuck River Basin of Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Town of Newtown
 Grant Amount: \$29,216
 Matching Funds: \$15,717
 Total Project Amount: \$73,993

Develop a watershed plan for the Pootatuck watershed in Newtown, Connecticut. Project will ensure that the causes and sources of nonpoint source pollution are identified, key stakeholders are involved in the planning, and restoration and protection strategies are identified that address local and Long Island Sound water quality problems.

Green Infrastructure to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution at Montague Town Hall (MA)

Grantee: Town of Montague Planning Department
 Grant Amount: \$10,642
 Matching Funds: \$5,899
 Total Project Amount: \$16,541

Construct green infrastructure in a paved lot near the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. Project will prevent 77,882 gallons of polluted stormwater and 27 pounds of nitrogen from entering the Connecticut River and then downstream to Long Island Sound annually.

Planning to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution and Improve Water Quality in Long Island Sound (MA)

Grantee: Chicopee MA
 Grant Amount: \$14,738
 Matching Funds: \$14,738
 Total Project Amount: \$29,475

Prepare a study to identify low cost improvements to reduce



Green roof in New York City

nitrogen pollution from a water pollution control facility in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Project will reduce effluent, a source of nitrogen pollution into Long Island Sound, by a minimum of 123,200 pounds annually.

Reducing Nitrogen into Long Island Sound at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (MA)

Grantee: Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
 Grant Amount: \$290,385
 Matching Funds: \$168,000
 Total Project Amount: \$458,385

Install instruments to enhance nitrogen removal at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Springfield, Massachusetts. Project will eliminate 3,000 pounds of effluent total inorganic nitrogen annually that is currently loading from the plant into the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Deploying a Nitrogen Reclamation Project in the Long Island Sound Watershed-III (MA, NH, VT)

Grantee: Rich Earth Institute
 Grant Amount: \$96,734
 Matching Funds: \$259,300
 Total Project Amount: \$562,159

Enhance the deployment of nitrogen reclamation technology in Windham County, Vermont, Franklin County, Massachusetts and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. Project will divert 150 pounds of nitrogen annually from entering the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

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Bluefish

Restoring Riverbanks to Reduce Nitrogen (NH)

Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council

Grant Amount:\$281,063

Matching Funds:\$281,900

Total Project Amount:\$562,963

Install bioengineered streambank stabilization and riparian restoration projects in Coos and Cheshire Counties, New Hampshire. Project will eliminate 80 pounds of nitrogen annually flowing into the Connecticut River downstream to Long Island Sound.

Planning for Cover Cropping to Reduce Nitrogen (VT)

Grantee: Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District

Grant Amount:\$24,521

Matching Funds:\$24,777

Total Project Amount:\$49,298

Develop a cover cropping species mix and planting strategy and methods for monitoring reductions in nitrogen from farm runoff in Essex County, Connecticut. Project will create a robust on-farm planting strategy to reduce nitrogen into the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Planning for Pocket Wetland Restoration to Prevent Nitrogen Pollution from Farms (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

Grant Amount:\$49,925

Matching Funds:\$49,925

Total Project Amount:\$99,851

Develop 14 watershed plans to identify high-priority areas to restore pocket wetlands in agricultural fields in Vermont's Connecticut River Basin. Project will ultimately restore freshwater wetlands and enable greater reduction in nitrogen loading from nonpoint source runoff from the Connecticut River downstream to Long Island Sound.

Incentivizing Ecological Restoration and Best Management Practices on Vermont Farmland (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Land Trust

Grant Amount:\$199,478

Matching Funds:\$125,000

Total Project Amount:\$324,478

Produce ecological assessments and riparian/wetland restoration plans for 12 farmland conservation projects and an associated plan for a market-based financing model in the Connecticut River Watershed, Vermont. Project will develop a strategy for incentivizing on-farm projects to reduce nitrogen along the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Ensuring a Resilient Coastal Forest to Address Changing Climate in Southeastern Connecticut (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:\$57,144

Matching Funds:\$33,660

Total Project Amount:\$90,804

Deliver a comprehensive strategy of coastal forest management at the Hoffman Evergreen Preserve in Stonington, Connecticut. Project will deploy an innovative program designed to respond to the projected impacts of climate change to make forests in southeastern Connecticut more resilient using guidance such as from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis for the Mid-Atlantic and New England.

Planning for a "Nature Based" Living Shoreline at the Mouth of the Housatonic River (CT)

Grantee: Sacred Heart University, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$67,610

Matching Funds:\$75,000

Total Project Amount:\$142,610

Create a permit-ready design for a living shoreline at the mouth of the Housatonic River in Stratford, Connecticut. Project will ultimately provide for restoration of 900 linear feet of shoreline, two acres of salt marsh and oyster reef providing habitat for fish and wildlife and buffering nearby communities from storms.

Planning for a Nature-Like Fishway for Long Pond Dam (CT)

Grantee: Save the Sound

Grant Amount:\$172,000

Matching Funds:\$85,964

Total Project Amount:\$257,964

Develop a plan to install fish passage on Long Pond Dam, Whitford Brook, Ledyard, Connecticut. Project will set the stage to restore access to 1.8 miles of migratory riverine corridor for blueback herring, American shad, American eel, sea lamprey and resident brook trout to Long Island Sound.

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Hepburn Living Shoreline Project-II (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$226,025

Matching Funds:\$175,000

Total Project Amount:\$401,025

Construct a living shoreline along a barrier spit on Long Island Sound in Fenwick, Connecticut. Project will provide protection for the nearby community and a 10-acre tidal marsh from storms and rising waters.

Fish Passage on the Bulkley Pond Dam (CT)

Grantee: Aspetuck Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$143,300

Matching Funds: \$95,700

Total Project Amount: \$239,000

Remove a barrier to fish passage at Bulkley Pond Dam, Sasco Brook in Fairfield and Westport, Connecticut. Project will open 3.75 miles of river corridor benefiting river herring, sea lamprey and American eel that migrate between rivers and Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$175,409

Matching Funds:\$88,496

Total Project Amount:\$263,905

Conduct a site assessment and develop a preliminary design to restore salt marsh at Sunken Meadow State Park, New York. Project will set the stage to improve marsh habitat for saltmarsh sparrow and other wildlife and buffer the park and nearby communities from storms and sea-level rise.

Restoring Great Meadows Marsh on Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$499,975

Matching Funds:\$500,249

Total Project Amount:\$1,000,224

Restore 40 acres of salt marsh and other coastal habitats at Great Meadows Marsh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Stratford, Connecticut. Project will restore marsh hydrology, increase wildlife habitat and enhance public access to Long Island Sound.

Restoration and Stewardship of Coastal Forest and Dune at the Smith Hubbell Wildlife Sanctuary (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Audubon Society

Grant Amount:\$44,467

Matching Funds:\$45,474

Total Project Amount:\$89,941

Restore coastal beach/dune and forest habitat at the Smith Hubbell Wildlife Sanctuary, Milford Point, Connecticut. Project will enhance biodiversity, establish a long-term framework to fight back against invasive plants and provide education and stewardship experiences about Long Island Sound to the public.



Oystercatcher with eggs

EDUCATING TO ENGAGE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**Developing a Long Island Sound Student Action Plan (NY)**

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment, Inc.

Grant Amount:\$65,500

Matching Funds:\$40,000

Total Project Amount:\$105,500

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

Sound In! Community Estuary Days on the Bronx Shores of Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Waterfront Alliance

Grant Amount:\$30,000

Matching Funds:\$32,225

Total Project Amount:\$62,225

Deliver educational programs and festivals about Long Island Sound in the Bronx, New York. Project will build on existing partnerships with grassroots organizations in underserved urban neighborhoods to increase awareness of Long Island Sound and knowledge about what can be done to restore it.

Viva La Sound! Cultivating Community and Environmental Stewardship on City Island in the Bronx (NY)

Grantee: City Island Oyster Reef

Grant Amount:\$8,445

Matching Funds:\$25,565

Total Project Amount:\$34,010

Host a public environmental awareness program kicking off with "Viva la Sound," a Long Island Sound appreciation festival followed by educational workshops for adults, students and teachers at City Island, Bronx, New York. Project will provide

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Volunteer students planting reef balls

the community with environmental education about the importance of protecting City Island’s shoreline and the Long Island Sound through the lens of oyster restoration and clean water initiatives.

Long Island Sound Environmental Education Series (NY)

Grantee: Town of Brookhaven
 Grant Amount: \$8,799
 Matching Funds: \$4,450
 Total Project Amount: \$13,249

Provide a Long Island Sound environmental education series in the Town of Brookhaven, New York. Project will reach 550 community members, increasing knowledge and engagement of the public in the protection and restoration of Long Island Sound and its coastal ecosystem.

Sound Effects: A Public Conservation Education Program – III (NY)

Grantee: The Whaling Museum Society, Inc.
 Grant Amount: \$9,940
 Matching Funds: \$5,550
 Total Project Amount: \$15,490

Deliver a public education series with hands-on learning and conservation-based activities to inform people about the effects of pollution on Long Island Sound. Project will teach 300 adult, family, and elementary school age audiences about actions they can take to improve the health of the Sound.

Boogie Down to the Sound – A Celebration of Long Island Sound-II (NY)

Grantee: SUNY Maritime College
 Grant Amount: \$9,025
 Matching Funds: \$14,179
 Total Project Amount: \$23,204

Host the Boogie Down to the Sound, a two-day hands-on on-the-water event at SUNY-Maritime College, Throggs Neck, New

York. Project will build awareness and connect up to 1,000 students and community residents to Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.
 Grant Amount: \$47,564
 Matching Funds: \$47,912
 Total Project Amount: \$95,476

Expand the “Be a Good Egg,” 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 the Sound.

Stakeholder Engagement and Planning for Eelgrass Protection on Fishers Island (CT, NY)

Grantee: Henry L Ferguson Museum
 Grant Amount: \$44,798
 Matching Funds: \$33,662
 Total Project Amount: \$78,460

Deliver an education and engagement program to stakeholder communities presenting scenarios for eelgrass protection at Fishers Island, New York. Project will secure and integrate community feedback about strategies to best protect this important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Share the Shore with Shorebirds: A Coastal Stewardship Program (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.
 Grant Amount: \$75,285
 Matching Funds: \$77,168
 Total Project Amount: \$152,453

Provide education and deliver targeted stewardship of American oystercatcher and other migratory shorebirds and habitat along the Long Island Sound coastline of Connecticut and New York. Project will increase awareness about the value

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SoundWaters sails event

of sharing the shore with birds among recreational users and local government and reduce disturbance to the birds' breeding and roosting sites.

A Plastic Free Long Island Sound Program (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$48,043

Matching Funds: \$32,288

Total Project Amount: \$80,331

Conduct a Long Island Sound-based educational program about the impact of plastic pollution at the Mystic Aquarium, Connecticut. Project will increase awareness about actions people can take to reduce plastic pollution on shorelines, local waterways, and the Sound.

Community Conservation Stewardship in New Haven (CT)

Grantee: Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven

Grant Amount: \$17,813

Matching Funds: \$24,219

Total Project Amount: \$42,032

Conduct environmental education and community stewardship projects in Newhallville, New Haven, Connecticut. Project will stimulate public engagement in the stewardship of the West River watershed and Long Island Sound.

City of New London Watershed Management Plan-II (CT)

Grantee: City of New London, CT

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Matching Funds: \$50,000

Total Project Amount: \$100,000

Complete development of a watershed management plan in for New London, Connecticut. Project will ensure that the causes and sources of pollution are identified, key stakeholders are involved in the planning, and restoration and protection strategies are identified that address local and Long Island Sound water quality problems.

SOUND SCIENCE AND INCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT

Project Water DROP: Detecting River Outfalls and Pollutants (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$49,232

Matching Funds: \$37,800

Total Project Amount: \$87,032

Monitor water quality along the entire Bronx River in the Bronx and Westchester County, New York. Project will improve water quality and management of the Bronx River downstream to Long Island Sound by identifying and addressing sources of illicit pollution and informing the update to the watershed-scale Bronx River Intermunicipal Watershed Plan.

Hempstead Harbor 2021 Water Quality Monitoring Program-XIII (NY)

Grantee: Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, New York

Grant Amount: \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$81,296

Total Project Amount: \$156,296

Conduct water quality monitoring in Hempstead Harbor, Nassau County, New York. Project will inform management of Hempstead Harbor an embayment of Long Island Sound.

Water Quality Monitoring to Improve Fairfield County Waterways and Long Island Sound-VI (CT)

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$73,890

Matching Funds: \$56,647

Total Project Amount: \$130,537

Conduct water quality monitoring to help improve nine waterways affected by pollution in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will utilize water quality data to inform local government actions to reduce sewage pollution into Long Island Sound.