



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 \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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The Futures Fund supports coastal cleanup events around Long Island Sound.

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative, announced a 2021-year round of funding for Long Island Sound Futures Fund projects. Thirty-nine new grants totaling \$5.4 million were awarded. The 39 awards announced generated \$4.8 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$10.2 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 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 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.

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The Futures Fund supports installation of rain gardens in places such as the Thames River watershed.

CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Planning to Reduce Water Pollution in the North Branch Park River Watershed (CT)

Grantee: North Central Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$307,154
 Matching Funds:.....\$612,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$919,154
 Enhance a watershed management plan by developing green infrastructure designs in the North Branch Park River watershed in Hartford, Connecticut. Project will advance the delivery of on-the-ground projects to improve water quality upstream in the river and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Planning for Greening the Yellow Mill Channel to Improve Water Quality in Bridgeport and Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
 Grant Amount:.....\$120,509
 Matching Funds:.....\$120,509
 Total Project Amount:.....\$241,018
 Develop a collaborative community-driven analysis to select the preferred types of green infrastructure to be used at a waterfront site, Bridgeport Connecticut. Project will set the stage for improving water quality and enhancing community resilience to storms and floods in an urban coastal community of Long Island Sound.

Improving Water Quality with Green Infrastructure and Multilingual Community Outreach (CT)

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$86,640
 Matching Funds:.....\$58,471
 Total Project Amount:.....\$145,111
 Install rain gardens at five Housatonic Habitat for Humanity homes and one community facility and conduct multilingual education about green infrastructure in western Connecticut. Project will showcase attractive landscaping that improves water quality and actions individuals can take to contribute to healthier local waters and the Long Island Sound.

From Rain Gardens to Riparian Buffers: Pollinator Pathways for a Healthy Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$136,160
 Matching Funds:.....\$89,888
 Total Project Amount:.....\$226,048
 Install rain gardens and riparian waterway buffers along two pollinator pathways through Groton, Stonington, Ledyard and Preston, Connecticut. Project will engage 6,400 community members with educational workshops, create habitat for native pollinators, and improve the quality of waters flowing into Long Island Sound.

Community-driven Stormwater Green Infrastructure Design in Bridgeport (CT)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$174,363
 Matching Funds:.....\$124,299
 Total Project Amount:.....\$298,662

Develop a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Action Plan with community-driven design neighborhoods surrounding the West Side Water Pollution Control Facility Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will identify a portfolio of projects in collaboration with Bridgeport youth and community members to improve the water quality of Long Island Sound.

Improving Water Quality through Green Infrastructure in Quanaquack Cove and Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Grant Amount:.....\$59,493
 Matching Funds:.....\$44,279
 Total Project Amount:.....\$103,772

Install green infrastructure and apply other stormwater management tools at a coastal condominium complex in Quanaquack Cove, Stonington, Connecticut. Project will prevent 43,560 gallons of stormwater pollution from entering Stonington Harbor and Long Island Sound annually.

Reducing Marine Debris in Long Island Sound Deploying Innovative Floating Litter Traps (NY)

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Grant Amount:.....\$81,341
 Matching Funds:.....\$54,295
 Total Project Amount:.....\$135,636

Deploy "Seabin" floating litter traps in Oyster Bay and Hempstead Harbor, New York. Project will remove 1,800 pounds of marine debris and pilot innovative technology to address litter and other forms of floatable pollution in marinas and ports around Long Island Sound.

Oyster Planting to Improve Water Quality in Long Island Sound-II (NY)

Grantee: Town of Brookhaven

Grant Amount:.....\$79,640
 Matching Funds:.....\$87,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$167,140

Plant 200,000 American oysters and assess their potential to both remove or "bioextract" pollution and repopulate a historic fishery in Port Jefferson Harbor, New York. Project will remove 130 pounds of nitrogen pollution annually from a harbor of Long Island Sound.

Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality in Northport Harbor and Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment

Grant Amount:.....\$60,001
 Matching Funds:.....\$45,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$105,001

Install 27,334 square feet of green infrastructure in Northport,



Students learn about the ecology of Long Island Sound.

New York. Project will install a bioretention rain garden to capture, store, and filter contaminants and 17,040 gallons of stormwater from Northport Harbor and Long Island Sound.

Innovative Green Infrastructure and Coastal Resilience Design for Flushing Creek (NY)

Grantee: Guardians of Flushing Bay

Grant Amount:.....\$203,934
 Matching Funds:.....\$136,517
 Total Project Amount:.....\$340,451

Develop a green infrastructure and living shoreline design in collaboration with the community for a project along Flushing Creek, Queens, New York. Project will integrate innovative nature-based techniques that can be applied along urban waterfronts to improve water quality, filter stormwater, enhance shoreline resilience, and connect communities to local waterways and Long Island Sound.

Preventing Pollution with Green Infrastructure in Wells Brook and Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association

Grant Amount:.....\$51,313
 Matching Funds:.....\$34,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$85,813

Construct green infrastructure in a paved area at two commercial locations near Wells Brook, Town of Dover, New York. Project will prevent 17.28 pounds of nitrogen annually from entering the Wells Brook, a tributary of two rivers that flow downstream to Long Island Sound.

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The Futures Fund enables local youths to serve as wildlife guards of coastal birds at community beaches.

Removing Derelict Oyster Gear to Reduce Marine Debris in Long Island Sound-II (CT, NY)

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
 Grant Amount:..... \$115,841
 Matching Funds:..... \$77,095
 Total Project Amount:..... \$192,936
 Remove derelict lobster fishing gear from 18 square miles of marine waters in Connecticut and New York. Project will collect 43.5 metric tons of marine debris, restoring the marine environment of Long Island Sound.

Wetland Mapping to Prevent Nitrogen Pollution from the Connecticut River to Long Island Sound (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
 Grant Amount:..... \$210,456
 Matching Funds:..... \$140,164
 Total Project Amount:..... \$350,620
 Create water resource maps and provide education about the mapping tool in the Connecticut River Basin, Vermont. Project will inform development of targeted local nitrogen pollution prevention projects in wetlands at a watershed and site-scale that benefit the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

Pocket Wetland Restoration Planning to Prevent Nitrogen Pollution in Long Island Sound-II (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
 Grant Amount:..... \$203,199
 Matching Funds:..... \$134,112
 Total Project Amount:..... \$337,310
 Design wetland restoration projects in agricultural fields in Vermont's Connecticut River Basin. Project will result in designs to ultimately restore freshwater wetlands and reduce nitrogen pollution runoff from farms into the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

Engaging Vermont Communities to Develop Nitrogen Prevention Projects in Long Island Sound (VT)

Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$168,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$418,000
 Conduct outreach and deliver technical assistance to private landowners in the Connecticut River watershed, Vermont. Project will develop designs for projects to reduce nitrogen pollution into the Connecticut River and downstream to Long Island Sound.

THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Renovate to Restore Fish Passage at the Jordan Millpond Dam Fishway (CT)

Grantee: Town of Waterford
 Grant Amount:..... \$60,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$44,999
 Total Project Amount:..... \$104,999
 Renovate a damaged fishway to restore fish passage at Jordan Millpond dam, Waterford, Connecticut. Project will reconnect 2.75 miles of river corridor benefiting alewives that migrate between rivers and Long Island Sound.

Restoring Fish Passage at the Upper Mill Pond Dam (CT)

Grantee: Town of Clinton
 Grant Amount:..... \$58,850
 Matching Funds:..... \$40,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$98,850
 Develop a plan to install a fishway at the Upper Mill Pond Dam in Clinton, Connecticut. Project will set the stage to restore access to 5.2 miles of riverine corridor for river herring and American eel spawning and migration to Long Island Sound.



A young harp seal comes ashore on a beach along the Long Island Sound for some sunbathing.

Planning for Fish-Friendly and Flood Resilient Road-Stream Crossings in the Naugatuck Valley-II (CT)

Grantee: Save the Sound

Grant Amount:.....\$109,618

Matching Funds:.....\$73,371

Total Project Amount:.....\$182,989

Create six Road-Stream Crossing Management Plans in the Naugatuck Valley watershed, Connecticut. Project will be developed in concert with each town and serve as a basis for securing financing for future projects to benefit these communities and fisheries of the watershed and Long Island Sound.

Shell Recycling Planning to Restore Long Island Sound Oyster Reefs and Shorelines (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:.....\$155,900

Matching Funds:.....\$106,293

Total Project Amount:.....\$262,193

Develop a local shell recycling program in Groton and Mystic, Connecticut. Project will engage local restaurants to generate shell for future habitat restoration projects around Long Island Sound.

Restoring the Headwaters of Sasco Brook to Improve the Health of Downstream Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$147,388

Matching Funds:.....\$108,362

Total Project Amount:.....\$255,750

Restore 14.5 acres of coastal forest and meadow at the Roy and Margot Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary in Fairfield, Connecticut. Project improve the environment of coastal forest an important habitat of Long Island Sound.

Creating Thriving Habitats for the Coastal Birds of Long Island Sound-VIII (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$105,809

Matching Funds:.....\$120,563

Total Project Amount:.....\$226,372

Deliver targeted stewardship and provide education on American oystercatcher and other migratory shorebirds and habitat along the Long Island Sound coastline of Connecticut. Project will increase public awareness about the value of sharing the shore with these birds among recreational users and reduce disturbance to the birds' breeding and roosting sites on the Sound.

Expanding Oyster Spawning Sanctuaries in Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor (NY)

Grantee: Friends of the Bay

Grant Amount:.....\$86,815

Matching Funds:.....\$65,318

Total Project Amount:.....\$152,134

Expand and monitor oyster spawning sanctuaries in the Oyster Bay-Cold Spring Harbor Complex, New York. Project will contribute to the restoration of these native shellfish and their habitat in Long Island Sound.

Restoring Big Rock Wetland for Marsh and Community Resilience, Phase I (NY)

Grantee: Save the Sound

Grant Amount:.....\$604,461

Matching Funds:.....\$403,025

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,007,486

Establish a natural shoreline along Memorial Field in Udalls Cove, Little Neck Bay, Queens, New York. Project will restore the shoreline to reduce erosion from storms and engage the local community, public schools, and university students in environmental stewardship.

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The Futures Fund funds the construction of a living shorelines at places like Stratford Point in Connecticut.

Designing Oyster Reef Restoration Sites on City Island and Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: City Island Oyster Reef

Grant Amount:.....\$263,750
 Matching Funds:.....\$176,913
 Total Project Amount:.....\$440,663

Complete design and permitting for two oyster reefs and conduct public environmental education and stewardship activities in City Island, Bronx, New York. Project will set the stage to restore wild oysters and an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Marshes and Mussels: New Tools to Enhance Coastal Restoration and Resilience (NY)

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Grant Amount:.....\$249,046
 Matching Funds:.....\$480,561
 Total Project Amount:.....\$729,606

Deploy new methods combining ribbed mussels and cordgrass to restore degraded shoreline marshes in Centerport Harbor, New York. Project will provide an innovative tool for natural living shoreline restoration to enhance community coastal resilience around Long Island Sound.

Developing a Conservation and Climate Adaptation Plan for Great Gull Island (NY)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount:.....\$399,997
 Matching Funds:.....\$289,633
 Total Project Amount:.....\$689,630

Develop a climate and shoreline adaptation, monitoring, and management plan for common and roseate terns at Great Gull Island, New York. Project will establish a roadmap for conservation of rare species of Long Island Sound.

Restoring Coastal Grassland at the William Cullen Bryant Preserve (NY)

Grantee: Nassau County Museum of Art

Grant Amount:.....\$80,374
 Matching Funds:.....\$64,530
 Total Project Amount:.....\$144,904

Restore coastal grassland and use the restored grassland to educate visitors about the environment at the William Cullen Bryant Preserve, Roslyn Harbor, New York. Project will restore an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Engaging Community Stewards to Manage Coastal Forest in Seton Falls Park (NY)

Grantee: Natural Areas Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$62,277
 Matching Funds:.....\$66,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$128,877

Train and educate local stewards to enhance 32 acres of coastal forest, Seton Falls Park, Bronx, New York. Project will enhance long-term stewardship and refine strategies for community natural resources management of this forest, an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

EDUCATING TO ENGAGE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

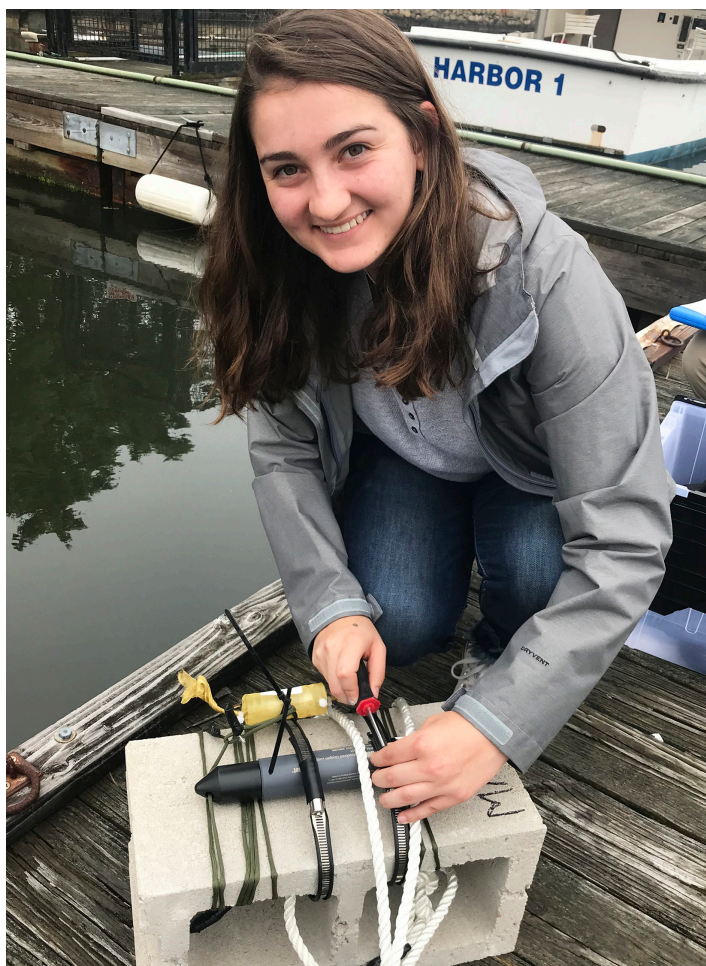
Coastal Resilience and Sustainability Plan for the Mystic Waterfront (CT)

Grantee: Town of Groton

Grant Amount:.....\$90,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$60,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$150,000

Develop a resiliency and sustainability plan for Mystic, Connecticut. Project will produce a strategy to address sea-level rise and climate change in this coastal community of Long Island Sound.

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A citizen-scientist prepares to monitor water quality.

Urban Youth Stewardship of Great Meadows Marsh on Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$59,742

Matching Funds:..... \$60,369

Total Project Amount:..... \$120,111

Employ urban youth to restore habitat at Great Meadows Marsh at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in Stratford, Connecticut. Project will result in stewardship activities that improve marshes, and increase both species diversity and the diversity of future conservation professionals for Long Island Sound.

Citizen Opportunities for Accessing Science Training on the Sound (COASTS) (CT)

Grantee: University of New Haven

Grant Amount:..... \$74,215

Matching Funds:..... \$49,428

Total Project Amount:..... \$123,643

Deliver community environmental training and education about the marine environment of Long Island Sound in New Haven and West Haven, Connecticut. Project will equip community members with knowledge to share about their “blue backyard” of local waters and Long Island Sound.

Partnering with Communities in Urban Waters to Enhance Stewardship of Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Southwest Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$90,415

Matching Funds:..... \$60,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$150,415

Collaborate with four Conservation Districts in internal environmental justice training; and partner with environmental justice communities to identify five water quality projects of value locally and to Long Island Sound, Connecticut. Project will increase awareness and understanding of diversity, equity, and environmental justice issues, increase capacity for future water quality project work, and enhance stewardship of local waters.

Engaging Student Community Scientists for Long Island Sound-V (CT)

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center

Grant Amount:..... \$52,614

Matching Funds:..... \$36,820

Total Project Amount:..... \$89,434

Engage 92 student citizen scientists in six experiential learning programs about water quality and Long Island Sound ecology using rivers, harbors, and the Sound as outdoor classrooms in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will expose students to careers in conservation science, and improve public knowledge and understanding of the Sound.

Engaging Local Youth Through Seaweed Farming to Improve Water Quality in the Long Island Sound (NY)

Grantee: Rocking the Boat

Grant Amount:..... \$72,163

Matching Funds:..... \$48,459

Total Project Amount:..... \$120,622

Install a seaweed farm engaging 120 young people in growing, harvesting, and producing nitrogen-rich fertilizer for community gardens and other organizations on the Bronx River, New York. Project will demonstrate a model to reduce nitrogen pollution by seaweed “bioextraction” and create an alternative to synthetic fertilizers to improve water quality in the Bronx River and Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$77,556

Matching Funds:..... \$170,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$247,556

Connect students with learning and professional development opportunities and college credit through the Bronx River Environmental Enrichment and Leadership for Students (EELS) program in the Bronx, 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.



The Futures Fund has supported the installation of green infrastructure to improve water quality along the Mill River.

Developing a Long Island Sound Student Action Plan-II (NY)

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment
 Grant Amount:..... \$100,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$70,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$170,000
 Deliver hands-on environmental education and stewardship activities focused on addressing challenges to restoration and protection of the health and living resources of Long Island Sound, New York. Project will develop the next generation of environmental leaders.

Be a Good Egg: Share the Shore with Shorebirds around Long Island Sound-V (NY)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount:..... \$62,562
 Matching Funds:..... \$50,455
 Total Project Amount:..... \$113,017
 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 the Sound.

**SOUND SCIENCE AND INCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT
 Water Quality Monitoring to Improve Fairfield County Waterways and Long Island Sound-VII (CT)**

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center
 Grant Amount:..... \$99,964
 Matching Funds:..... \$98,943
 Total Project Amount:..... \$198,907
 Conduct water quality monitoring to help improve waters affected by pollution in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project data will be used by local government to reduce sewage pollution in communities with waters that drain into Long Island Sound.

Hempstead Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Program - XIV (NY)

Grantee: Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, New York
 Grant Amount:..... \$100,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$93,496
 Total Project Amount:..... \$193,496
 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.