

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Closure Memo**

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**Date:** July 30, 2013

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**Project:** Mill River Stormwater Retention and Treatment Infrastructure (CT)  
**Number:** 1401.10.024191  
**Grantee:** City of Stamford

**Project Description:** The project will improve water quality and habitat conditions in the Rippowam River which drains into Long Island Sound. This project will implement green infrastructure that will mitigate the stormwater contaminants that flow to the river from the preponderance of roads, parking lots and other impervious surfaces that surround the river. The planned improvements will allow the City to treat stormwater resulting from most rain events through 1) land-based filtration and 2) a secondary backup treatment unit.

**Final Products:** *(The objectives for this grant, and the extent to which they were met):*

- Installation of the two closed drainage systems (underdrains etc.) one along the east side and the other along the west side of Mill River.
- Installation of 4 vegetated swales and rain gardens to convey surface runoff, and to allow for stormwater recharge at infiltration trenches at lower lying areas of the park.
- Plant 400+ trees and a comparable number of shrubs to increase in stormwater uptake assisted by extensive coverage with native perennials and grasses.
- Mimic natural runoff patterns by allowing the runoff to sheet flow to the river or to drain through evenly-spaced scuppers at the base of a retaining wall (i.e., along the east bank of the river) in areas that could not be captured and conveyed to infiltration swales, trenches or the closed drainage system.
- Eliminated impervious parking lots and roads adjacent to the river between Main and Broad Streets.
- Design new park promenades and paths to be pervious in design.
- Design impervious paths in the flood plain to drain into topography to lead stormwater to infiltration basins.

*The stormwater treatment unit and all drainage infrastructure have been installed including four infiltration swales, three of which are rain gardens. The west rain garden drains approximately one half square mile of roadways west of the park. The underdrains, infiltration substrates and soils and planting have been completed. Throughout the park all new soils have been installed and seeded and all trees and shrubs have been installed. The topography of Mil River Park directs the majority of surface drainage to four infiltrations areas or to sheet flow over land and through scuppers in the East River Wall to the river. The granite planking promenades that lead from the sidewalks to the river are all semi-pervious. They are set in crushed stone on concrete foundations that drain to the aggregate sub-base along one curb. Heavy rains carry too much water to percolate through. The same is true of the stone fines paths. In*

*both of these areas on the east side catch basins have been installed that lead to the stormwater treatment unit, an oil and grit separator that has the capacity to treat the first inch or more of rainfall.*

**NFWF award:** \$500,000.00

**NFWF funds spent:** \$500,000.00

**Match requirement:** \$1,806,230.00

**Match spent:** \$1,806,230.00

Recommend closing this grant.