



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.

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CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS CONNECTICUT

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

Grantee: Southwest Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$231,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$58,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$289,700
 Develop five collaborative stormwater retrofit designs working with local government and University of Connecticut students; and install 50,000 square feet of green infrastructure in Norwalk, Fairfield, Westport, Wilton and New Canaan, Connecticut. Project will reduce stormwater pollution runoff into Long Island Sound.

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 nature-based 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 into Long Island Sound by Managing Farm Waste at Centennial Dairy Farm (CT)

Grantee: North Central Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$985,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$650,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,635,600
 Construct an agricultural waste storage facility and associated infrastructure at Centennial Dairy Farm, Broad Brook in the town of Ellington, Connecticut. Project will prevent the flow of 37,740 lbs. of nitrogen and 3,328 lbs. of phosphorus from farm waste into local waterways and Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District
 Grant Amount:.....\$214,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$90,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$304,600
 Install a composted bedded pack facility to provide a confinement area for cows and to store farm waste at a livestock operation located in the Eightmile Wild and Scenic watershed in the town of Salem, Connecticut. Project will eliminate an open-air feed lot and heavy-use areas preventing the flow of 744.8 lbs. of nitrogen and 187 lbs. of phosphorus from farm waste into local waterways and Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: Town of Groton
 Grant Amount:.....\$190,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$56,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$246,000
 Evaluate the feasibility of replacing hard impervious surfaces with infiltrating permeable pavement at town facilities; produce about 60 percent designs for three priority projects; and transfer lessons learned to other local governments with a how-to guide and regional workshop in the town of Groton, Connecticut. Project will comprehensively evaluate opportunities to decrease polluted runoff from hard surfaces into local waterways by installing permeable pavement.

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:.....\$418,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$307,900
 Total Project Amount:.....\$725,900
 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.

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

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,060,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,360,000
 Construct a roofed facility with scrape alleys and a storage tank to house 240 dairy cows at Valley View Farm, in North Stonington, Connecticut. Project will eliminate open-air feed lots and heavy use areas preventing the flow of 6,532 lbs. of nitrogen and 1,410 lbs. of phosphorus from farm waste into local waterways and Long Island Sound.

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
 Grant Amount:..... \$61,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$20,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$81,800
 Provide technical assistance to 11 municipalities and 20 of their representatives with individualized feedback and in five workshops to identify needs and opportunities to finance improved storm and wastewater system improvements; and prepare funding applications for two communities in Westchester County, New York. Project will foster improved water quality resulting from upgrades and repairs to aging storm and wastewater systems along the Bronx River and Long Island Sound.

Green Schoolyards in the South Bronx (NY)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
 Grant Amount:..... \$493,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,700,000
 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)

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment
 Grant Amount:..... \$181,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$54,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$235,500
 Install 4,200 square feet of rain gardens; deliver public education including educational literature, a video, signs and a community forum about the project; and engage 10 volunteers to build and maintain the two gardens in the Village of Northport, New York. Project will enhance access to the shoreline and prevent 75.2 lbs. of nitrogen, 15.9 lbs. of phosphorus and 4,456 lbs. of suspended solids flowing annually into Northport Harbor and Long Island Sound.

MASSACHUSETTS

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

Grantee: City of Pittsfield, MA
 Grant Amount:..... \$637,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$212,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$850,000
 Install 20,000 square feet of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development improvements including surface and subsurface infiltration basins, bioretention basins and bio-cells at two sites now comprised of hard impervious surfaces which contribute polluted runoff into local waterways in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Project will prevent 105 lbs. of nitrogen, 12 lbs. of phosphorus, and 2,905 lbs. of sediment from entering the Housatonic River and downstream Long Island Sound.

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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:.....\$480,600

Matching Funds:.....\$160,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$640,800

Develop 25 farm-scale soil health management plans by

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)

Grantee: Town of Groton

Grant Amount:.....\$150,000

Matching Funds:.....\$51,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$201,300

Conduct a feasibility study and alternatives analysis and prepare a concept design for removal of a culvert at a road-stream crossing; and share information about the project at a public workshop, Haley's Brook, in the town of Groton, Connecticut. Project will establish a potential pathway to address flooding in the community and restore 2.3 miles of fish passage to Long Island Sound.

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.

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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

Grant Amount:.....\$260,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$77,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$337,800

Engage local stakeholders and conduct an assessment of the impacts of Rainbow Reservoir Dam, located in Windsor, Connecticut. Project will establish a potential pathway to restoration of fish passage on the Farmington River and to Long Island Sound.

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

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County
 Grant Amount:.....\$250,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$115,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$365,200

Develop a volunteer training program to engage people to cultivate oyster gardens for reef restoration; source and procure spat-on-shell oysters for gardening; conduct a pilot project in Manhasset Bay; and deliver an education campaign to teach 500 residents at 15 events about shellfish restoration in Manhasset Bay, Town of North Hempstead, New York. Project will provide a framework to contribute to restoration of oyster reefs an Important Coastal Habitat of Long Island Sound.

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)

Grantee: The Research Foundation for the State University of New York (State University of New York, Stony Brook)

Grant Amount:.....\$477,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$308,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$785,700

Develop a plan including hydrodynamic modeling of larval transport; refine habitat suitability maps and create maps of oyster recruitment; and work with local partners to foster rebuilding of oyster populations in Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor, New York. Project will synthesize this information to support enhanced oyster recruitment, survivorship, and growth and establish a pathway to create shellfish reefs an Important Coastal Habitat of Long Island Sound.

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)

Grantee: Town of Brookhaven

Grant Amount:.....\$70,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$60,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$130,000

Remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants to improve 40 acres of coastal forest and prepare a plan to manage invasive plants long-term at West Meadow Beach, Stony Brook, New York. Project will improve ecological health and provide habitat for wildlife at an Important Coastal Habitat of Long Island Sound.

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

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

Grant Amount:..... \$70,600

Matching Funds:..... \$17,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$88,300

Deliver social marketing to incentivize 1,000 people, especially beachgoers, to reduce disturbance to native and migratory birds during summer; evaluate the impact of the marketing on limiting disturbance to birds; monitor bird nesting success; and expand a community-of-practice working on this issue at Milford Point and Long Beach, Connecticut, and Sunken Meadow State Park, New York. Project will benefit iconic bird species of Long Island Sound such as piping plover and American oystercatcher.

**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:..... \$71,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$318,800

Expand the university's community-based marine science



American oystercatcher

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 with Public Art for Racial Justice 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.

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Roseate terns

NEW YORK

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

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance

Grant Amount:.....\$203,500

Matching Funds:.....\$100,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$303,500

Connect 75 students with educational and professional development opportunities and college credit through the Bronx River EELS program, Bronx River watershed, New York. Project will introduce young people from an underserved urban community to conservation education and career experiences focused on the Bronx River and Long Island Sound.

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:.....\$152,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$402,800

Engage 2,500 community members in 100 stewardship

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)

Grantee: ReWild Long Island

Grant Amount:.....\$230,300

Matching Funds:.....\$107,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$337,600

Deliver the Community Gardens Program installing and maintaining 20 native plant gardens with 200 volunteers and 25 community partners; and deliver the Summer Program to Fight Hunger and Climate Change with 80 volunteers planting and tending a dozen gardens in Suffolk and Nassau counties, New York. Project will educate people about the benefits of native plant gardening to the environmental quality of Long Island Sound.

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.