



# NFWF

## Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2017 Grant Slate

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### FUNDING PARTNERS



### 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

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Horseshoe crabs, Long Island Sound

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the Long Island Sound Study and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced a 2017-year round of funding for Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) projects. Thirty-one new grants totaling \$2.04 million were awarded, generating \$3.36 million in match from the grantees for a total conservation impact of \$5.4 million.

The Long Island Sound is home to hundreds of species of fish, birds and other animals, and stretches across more than 110 miles, with 600 miles of coastline. Millions of people visit the sound each year to swim, boat and enjoy its beauty, enriching their own lives and stimulating the local economy. Despite improvements, Long Island Sound still suffers from oxygen-depleted zones, beach closures and other effects of pollution, as well as changes to its natural habitats. The coastal communities bordering the sound are amongst the most densely populated in the country and have a strong impact on water and habitat quality in the sound and its rivers and streams.

LISFF addresses such challenges by supporting 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.

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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

### Project WASTE (Waterway and Street Trash Elimination) (NY)

Grantee: Bronx River Alliance  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$34,712  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$41,286  
**Total Amount: ..... \$75,998**

Bronx River Alliance will collect and analyze the sources of floatable trash on the Bronx River sharing those results with the public and public officials. The project will educate and engage students in development and delivery of outreach projects to local businesses to help reduce trash in the Bronx and Westchester County, New York. The project will reduce 2,000 pounds of trash entering Long Island Sound and in seven K-12 schools, educate 140 students about the impact of litter on waterways and the sound.

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

Grantee: University of Connecticut  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$234,712  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$134,148  
**Total Amount: ..... \$368,860**

The University of Connecticut will plan, design and implement five green infrastructure projects in communities in the South Central Region Basin, Connecticut. The project will provide measurable annual reductions in stormwater pollution into Long Island Sound and provide examples of successful green infrastructure paving the way for future installations around the sound.

### Using Flow Meters to Remove Nitrogen at the Amherst Wastewater Treatment Plant (MA)

Grantee: Town of Amherst Department of Public Works  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$17,650  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$8,850  
**Total Amount: ..... \$26,500**

The Town of Amherst Department of Public Works will install flow monitoring systems on effluent and return activated sludge at the Town of Amherst Wastewater

Treatment Plant, Massachusetts. The project will improve process control for nitrification and denitrification resulting in a reduction of nitrogen loading to the Connecticut River which drains into Long Island Sound.

### Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels for Eastern Connecticut (CT)

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$84,996  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$95,365  
**Total Amount: ..... \$180,361**

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District will install an estimated 7,000 square feet of rain gardens and 100 rain barrels in Eastern Connecticut. The project will prevent up to 8,581 gallons of stormwater from flowing into Long Island Sound.

### Building Clean Water: Demonstrating Sewage Treatment & Water Conservation Strategies (NY)

Grantee: Matinecock Court HDFC  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,750,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$2,000,000**

The Matinecock Court HDFC will install a wastewater harvesting system at an affordable housing development in the Town of Huntington, New York. The project will result in the annual recapture of treated sewage effluent for reuse as on-site drip irrigation, and prevent nitrogen, total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand from discharge into the Long Island Sound watershed.

### Planting for Clean Water Communities (NY)

Grantee: Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$67,479  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$54,157  
**Total Amount: ..... \$121,636**

The Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District will assess priority areas, develop three green infrastructure sites, and conduct educational workshops for residents about the value of green infrastructure to improve water quality in Long Island Sound in the Village of Bayville, New York. The project will bring visible green infrastructure projects to community centers, local parks, schools and businesses creating a model for future projects in this and other communities surrounding the sound.

### The Unified Water Study Equipment Loan Program: Collaboration in Embayment Monitoring (NY, CT)

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$99,971  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$118,153  
**Total Amount: ..... \$218,124**

Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center - Harbor Watch

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Fairfield County, Connecticut

will manage an equipment, supplies and technical resources loan program for up to 20 embayment groups and 200 citizen science volunteers to support the Unified Water Study for Long Island Sound embayments in Connecticut and New York. The project will result in a greater number of monitored embayments providing important information from the first areas affected by pollution sources that impact the health of Long Island Sound.

#### **Collaborative Watershed**

##### **Planning for the Ten Mile River (CT, NY)**

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association

Grant Amount: ..... \$64,358

Matching Funds: ..... \$83,000

**Total Amount:..... \$147,358**

The Housatonic Valley Association will develop a watershed management plan for the Ten Mile River in eastern Dutchess County, New York and western Litchfield County, Connecticut. Once complete, the project will inform restoration and water quality activities focused on reducing nitrogen loads from the Ten Mile River to the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound.

#### **Unified Water Study: Long Island**

##### **Sound Embayment Monitoring (CT, NY)**

Grantee: Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Grant Amount: ..... \$99,991

Matching Funds: ..... \$132,000

**Total Amount:..... \$231,991**

Connecticut Fund for the Environment will implement the Unified Water Study (UWS), a water quality monitoring program, in two embayments, and engage five water quality monitoring groups in nine embayments providing them with

technical support as participants in the UWS in Connecticut and New York. The project will engage a coordinated effort to collect data on the health of bays and harbors to provide for synthesis about water quality issues affecting Long Island Sound.

#### **Partnering for Pollution Prevention: Water quality monitoring of Impaired Waterways (CT)**

Grantee: Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center

Grant Amount: ..... \$65,363

Matching Funds: ..... \$54,383

**Total Amount:..... \$119,746**

Earthplace - The Nature Discovery Center - Harbor Watch will monitor eight impaired waterways bi-weekly for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, fecal coliform and bacteria in Fairfield County, Connecticut. The project will provide an update to a dataset of water quality conditions and work towards identifying sources of sewage pollution impacting Long Island Sound.

#### **Partnering for Pollution Prevention:**

##### **Water quality monitoring of Impaired Waterways (CT)**

Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council

Grant Amount: ..... \$65,284

Matching Funds: ..... \$40,000

**Total Amount:..... \$105,284**

The Connecticut River Watershed Council will create a watershed-scale monitoring strategy to add nutrient and other water quality data in the Connecticut and Housatonic River watersheds of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The project will add to the current effort to implement the Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction

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Strategy for the large river systems that drain to Long Island Sound.

### Hempstead Harbor 2018

#### Water Quality Monitoring Program X (NY)

Grantee: Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, New York

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$89,900

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$67,592

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$157,492**

The Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff, New York will conduct water quality monitoring of physical, chemical and biological indicators of pollution in outer and inner Hempstead Harbor and Glen Cove Creek, Nassau County, New York. The project will inform management of Hempstead Harbor, an embayment of Long Island Sound.

### Promoting Green Infrastructure

#### through Monitoring & Evaluation of Bioswales (CT)

Grantee: New Haven Urban Resources Initiative

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$42,966

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$66,685

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$109,651**

The New Haven Urban Resources Initiative will monitor green infrastructure bioswales to evaluate their capacity to improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff, as well as conduct a communications program for residents, the business community and the public about the value of the green infrastructure to their neighborhoods in New Haven, Connecticut. The project will aid in the design and installation of green infrastructure systems in three New Haven river watersheds and in urban areas of the Long Island Sound.

### H. Smith Richardson Wildlife

#### Preserve Restoration Project (CT)

Grantee: Connecticut Audubon Society

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$145,780

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$134,047

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$279,827**

Connecticut Audubon Society will restore 33 acres of the H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve to a coastal forest habitat in Westport, Connecticut. The project will improve conditions for birds and other wildlife at one of the largest open spaces in southwest Connecticut along the Long Island Sound.

### Resilience Management Planning and

#### Restoration at Dodge Paddock/Beal Preserve (CT)

Grantee: University of Connecticut

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$55,449

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$34,478

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$89,927**

The University of Connecticut will develop a resilience management plan for Dodge Paddock/Beal Preserve

in Stonington, Connecticut, as well as restore coastal grassland and upland there. The project will incorporate planning for rising tides and storms to protect tidal wetlands, coastal grassland, beach/dune habitat and rocky intertidal shoreline.

### Planning for Fish Passage at the Starr Mill Pond Dam (CT)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$85,482

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$43,676

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$129,158**

The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut will develop an engineered plan for fish passage at the Starr Mill dam and for restoration of the river corridor and upstream impoundment in Middleton, Connecticut. The project plan goal is to improve connectivity, as well as restore freshwater wetlands and riparian buffer, floodplain and aquatic habitat benefitting resident, and migratory species.

### Phillips Mill Fish Passage Project (NY)

Grantee: Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$99,999

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$110,000

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$209,999**

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (Save the Sound) will develop an engineered plan for fish passage at Phillips Mill Pond Dam on the Nissequogue River, Town of Smithtown, New York. The project will plan for fish passage to restore native migratory fish runs from Long Island Sound to upstream spawning habitat in the for the first time in 300 years.

### Coastal Wetland and Forest

#### Restoration Planning Project (NY)

Grantee: City Parks Foundation

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$99,976

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$87,349

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$187,325**

The City Parks Foundation will produce restoration plans for tidal wetland and coastal forest in Hammond Cove and Harding Park, Bronx, New York. The project will identify new restoration and stewardship opportunities at small neglected salt marsh sites as well as at adjacent upland and connected tributaries throughout the western Long Island Sound.

### From the Schoolyard to the Sound: Engaging Communities through Schoolyard Habitats (CT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society - Audubon Connecticut

Grant Amount: . . . . . \$44,999

Matching Funds: . . . . . \$60,645

**Total Amount: . . . . . \$105,644**

National Audubon Society - Audubon Connecticut will create

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Oystercatcher

a network of schoolyard habitats at 25 schools in Fairfield and New Haven counties, Connecticut. The project will connect local residents to Long Island Sound and empower them to engage in its conservation.

**Be a Good Egg - II (NY)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society - Audubon New York  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$36,037  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$36,435  
**Total Amount: ..... \$72,472**

National Audubon Society - Audubon New York will provide a multifaceted education program which includes public and private school programming, direct on-the-beach public outreach, and deliver coastal stewardship projects on for birds. Additionally, the project will secure pledges from people committing to share the shore with shorebirds on the North Shore of Long Island, New York, and reduce threats to coastal habitats and shorebirds

including piping plover, least tern, common tern and American oystercatcher.

**Audubon WildLife Guards:**

**A Coastal Youth Conservation Program (CT)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society - Audubon Connecticut  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$27,181  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$27,067  
**Total Amount: ..... \$54,248**

National Audubon Society - Audubon Connecticut will employ high school students to work with local partners to steward, monitor and restore habitat, and increase knowledge about protecting habitat and wildlife among visitors to Sandy Point Beach and Bird Sanctuary in West Haven, Connecticut. The project will complement ongoing efforts to restore and sustainably manage Sandy Point, engage people in stewardship and increase knowledge about Long Island Sound among visitors.

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### Connections to Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation - Mystic Aquarium  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$44,966  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$34,904  
**Total Amount: ..... \$79,870**

The Sea Research Foundation - Mystic Aquarium will use interactive exhibits, portable estuarine-based tools, and curricula and interactive resources to engage and educate visitors and students about issues affecting Long Island Sound in the Mystic, Connecticut. The project will reach approximately 750,000 individuals each year and promote environmental stewardship of Long Island Sound and its watersheds.

### Healthy Connecticut Towns for a Healthy Long Island Sound (CT)

Grantee: Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$36,932  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$20,700  
**Total Amount: ..... \$57,632**

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut will offer training programs about organic land care practices and principles to 100 landscapers in Connecticut. The project will have landscapers commit to transitioning properties in their care to an organic program to foster reductions of nitrogen and pesticide runoff into Long Island Sound.

### Septic Change-Out Education Program (NY)

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$45,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$36,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$81,000**

Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment will deliver a comprehensive education project to educate homeowners about the importance of upgrading their onsite septic system and to provide tools and information which will allow them to more easily apply for assistance grants to fund these upgrades in the towns of Huntington, Smithtown and Riverhead, New York. The project will help homeowners switch to new innovative alternative septic systems that reduce nitrogen into Long Island Sound.

### Identifying Ecologically

#### Significant Areas for the Blue Plan (CT, NY)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$45,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$49,607  
**Total Amount: ..... \$94,607**

The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut will actively engage scientists, technical experts and the interested public to identify Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) for the Long

Island Sound Blue Plan in Connecticut and New York. The project will develop one of the foundational elements of a plan to protect important aquatic habitats of Long Island Sound.

### Storm Water Management Education for Residents (CT)

Grantee: Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$10,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$10,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$20,000**

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven will provide education about green infrastructure wastewater management systems in low-income neighborhoods that are highly-impacted by water pollution in New Haven, Connecticut. The project will seek to increase residents' understanding of the impact of water pollution and about the opportunities they have to decrease pollution into Long Island Sound through simple, low-cost solutions.

### SOUNDoff Event! Creating Long Island Sound Stewards - III (NY)

Grantee: The Whaling Museum Society  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$7,408  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$4,000  
**Total Amount: ..... \$11,408**

The Whaling Museum Society will host a one-day public event SOUNDoff! to educate, inform and build awareness in local communities about conservation of Long Island Sound in an accessible way. The project will reach 300 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.

### Sound Spirit Week (CT)

Grantee: Sea Research Foundation - Mystic Aquarium  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$9,978  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$8,053  
**Total Amount: ..... \$18,031**

The Sea Research Foundation - Mystic Aquarium will conduct Long Island Sound awareness and stewardship events designed to foster understanding about personal roles in maintaining a healthy environment in Mystic, Connecticut. The project will raise public awareness about the interrelated ecological and economic importance of Long Island Sound.

### Long Island Sound Summit and Video Project (CT)

Grantee: Solar Youth  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$10,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$7,500  
**Total Amount: ..... \$17,500**

Solar Youth will engage urban youth in a Long Island Sound Summit that will include curriculum and lessons,

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Long Island Sound

hands-on conservation activities, and the creation of a Youth Voice Video where students will share what they learned about Long Island Sound with the public in New Haven, Connecticut. The project will increase urban youths' awareness, knowledge, skills and motivation to protect and restore the Sound.

**Sound Gardening: Why Your Grass Choice Matters (NY)**

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment  
 Grant Amount: .....\$9,996  
 Matching Funds: .....\$7,500  
**Total Amount:.....\$17,496**

Citizens Campaign for the Environment will launch an educational campaign aimed at homeowners to provide guidance about grass types and the correct grass seed to use on lawns in Nassau and Suffolk counties, New York.

The project will provide homeowners with tools to reduce their impact on the Long Island Sound and to encourage practices to reduce pesticides and the nitrogen from fertilizers from entering into the Sound's river, streams, tributaries and embayments.

**Long Island Sound Fresh Pond Festival (NY)**

Grantee: Salonga Wetland Advocates Network  
 Grant Amount: .....\$5,565  
 Matching Funds: .....\$6,125  
**Total Amount:.....\$11,690**

The Salonga Wetland Advocates Network will conduct a festival and shoreline cleanup in Fort Salonga, New York. The event and hands-on cleanup will increase public awareness of and commitment to the restoration and protection of the environment of Long Island Sound.