

2025 DEEP Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant – Selected Projects

Organization	Project Location	Project Title	Project Category	Project Phase	Award Amount
The Connecticut Audubon Society	Westport	Restoration of the H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve	Habitat Restoration	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$114,761
Town of Woodbury	Woodbury	Engineering Design for the Replacement Clark Brook Culvert at Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT to Provide Fish Passage	Habitat Restoration	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$241,032
City of Waterbury	Waterbury	Risdon Pond Dam Removal	Habitat Restoration	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$339,000
National Audubon Society - Connecticut Office	Guilford	Designing a Coastal Resilience Strategy within the East River Marsh	Habitat Restoration	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$460,917
Save the Sound, Inc.	Fairfield – Bridgeport Line	Design Phase II of Restoration of the Ash Creek Spit and Great Marsh Island on the Bridgeport-Fairfield line	Habitat Restoration	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$471,900
City of Norwalk	Norwalk	Andrew’s Field Habitat Restoration and Watershed Resilience Project	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$255,000
American Rivers, Inc.	Old Lyme, Branford	Design, permitting and removal of the Yopp Pond and Wards Mill dams	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$245,000
Branford Land Trust	Branford	Jarvis Creek Preserve Marsh Restoration and Migration Project	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$541,195
Trout Unlimited, Inc.	New Hartford	Farmington River Priority Aquatic Passage and Flood Resiliency Improvement Project	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$771,109
Save the Sound, Inc.	Guilford	Implementing a Living Shoreline Project in Chittenden Park in Guilford, CT	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$1,200,000
Trust for Public Land	Bridgeport	Sliver by the River	Habitat Restoration	Construction	\$1,406,362
The Connecticut Audubon Society	Milford	Milford Point Stormwater Management Project	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$55,500
Town of Groton	Groton	Poquonnock Bridge– Resilient Streets: Engineering and Green Infrastructure Design Project	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$195,000

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments	Thomaston, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls	Naugatuck River Stormwater Retrofit Assessment	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$200,000
North Central Conservation District	Hartford	Green Infrastructure for Hartford's Annie Fisher School Neighborhood'	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Planning, Engineering, and Design	\$224,960
Town of Wolcott	Wolcott	Scovill Recreational Parking Lot Stormwater Management	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Design and Construction	\$140,000
Town of Thompson	Thompson	Municipal Stormwater Disconnection Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Design and Construction	\$324,931
Town of Stratford	Stratford	Stratford Arboretum	Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Construction	\$667,500

Selected Project Summaries:

Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Projects

Organization: The Connecticut Audubon Society

Project Title: Restoration of the H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: This project will conduct assessment and design planning activities at the H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve, resulting in a comprehensive design plan for the 24 acres of former commercially farmed land. Major restoration activities are to: 1) conduct a detailed assessment of current site conditions of the project site to include insect pollinator studies; 2) conduct an assessment of feasibility, suitability, and alternatives for site restoration; 3) develop conceptual design plans; and 4) develop final 100% design plan and secure permits.

Organization: Town of Woodbury

Project Title: Engineering Design for the Replacement Clark Brook Culvert at Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT to Provide Fish Passage

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: This project will engage professional engineers to fully design a right-sized road-stream crossing structure to convey Clark Brook under Minortown Road so that 0.61 miles of upstream habitat can be reconnected to the Long Island Sound Watershed and the structure can adequately convey and withstand heavier storm volumes. This funding will take the project to 100% design and will also include securing permits necessary to commence construction so that the project is “shovel ready.”

Organization: City of Waterbury

Project Title: Risdon Pond Dam Removal

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: Waterbury’s Risdon Pond Dam Removal Project aims to restore natural stream connectivity, improve aquatic habitat, and reduce flood risk within Hopeville Pond Brook, a tributary of the Naugatuck River and part of the Long Island Sound watershed. The project will remove the aging and failing dam, which currently impounds sediment, restricts stream flow, and poses a public safety hazard to nearby properties and infrastructure. The requested funding will support final design and permitting to advance the project toward construction.

Organization: National Audubon Society - Connecticut Office

Project Title: Designing a Coastal Resilience Strategy within the East River Marsh

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: This project seeks funding for Phase 1 of tidal hydrology restoration throughout the 92 acres of tidal marsh habitat in the. This project will develop a tidal marsh restoration design plan for the Guilford Salt Meadows Audubon Sanctuary (GSMAS) in Guilford, CT, which includes 92 acres of tidal marsh habitat. The project will address

problems caused by historic alteration, sea-level rise, and potential crossing restrictions on coastal tidal marsh habitats and adjacent communities that have led to die-off and degradation of brackish and salt marsh vegetation. These funds will be used to create a QAPP; alternative design analysis, 30%, 60%, 90% and 100% design; and submit permitting.

Organization: Save the Sound, Inc.

Project Title: Design Phase II of Restoration of the Ash Creek Spit and Great Marsh Island on the Bridgeport-Fairfield line

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: Save the Sound is currently developing 30% designs for a project to restore the rapidly eroding barrier spit and marshes in the Ash Creek estuary through a range of nature-based solutions. This grant will fund completion of the design phase as well as submission of permits. The project design will likely include invasive species removal, dune replenishment, living shoreline establishment, planting of native species, and other nature-based coastal resilience techniques.

Organization: City of Norwalk

Project Title: Andrew's Field Habitat Restoration and Migration Project

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: The project area, nestled between Route 1 to the north and I-95 to the south, is located within a 16.3-acre City-owned property in the City's East Norwalk neighborhood. The project will restore degraded freshwater wetland and wet meadow habitat by removing invasive vegetation, re-establishing native plant communities, and restoring natural hydrologic and soil processes.

Organization: American Rivers, Inc.

Project Title: Design, permitting and removal of the Yopp Pond and Wards Mill dams

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: Both the Yopp Mill dam (located in Old Lyme) and Ward's Mill Pond dam (located in Branford) are the first dams on the Fourmile River and Branford River, respectively. American Rivers will be competitively bidding the construction phase of these removals and will be allocating funds awarded by this grant program to the construction contract that will include the removal and restoration work for the two projects. Together these projects will reconnect over 12 miles of habitat and CT DEEP estimates that this project will support the production of an estimated 10,000 alewife in each river system.

Organization: Branford Land Trust

Project Title: Jarvis Creek Preserve Marsh Restoration and Migration Project

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: The 20.58-acre Jarvis Creek Farm project site, situated within the larger Jarvis Creek Preserve, is in the Town of Branford. This construction project will increase salt marsh habitat in the Branford Land Trust's Jarvis Creek Preserve (JCP) by removing an earthen berm that presently separates a former farm field from the salt marsh complex.

The project area will be planted and seeded with native salt marsh vegetation to support wildlife and suppress invasive species.

Organization: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Project Title: Farmington River Priority Aquatic Passage and Flood Resiliency Improvement Project

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: This project will reconnect a total of 2.29 miles of high quality cold-water habitat for Eastern brook trout (an SGCN and project priority) and other species like the wood turtle. It achieves this by focusing on two high-priority barrier sites: the removal of a storm damaged culvert at Yadach Road on Ratlum Brook (opening 1.89 miles of habitat) and the replacement of a double-barrel culvert on an unnamed tributary to UNT North Brook (opening 0.4 miles). This effort targets the dual benefits of ecological restoration and public safety.

Organization: Save the Sound, Inc.

Project Title: Implementing a Living Shoreline Project in Chittenden Park in Guilford, CT

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: Save the Sound and the Town of Guilford, CT, seek to implement a living shoreline project at Town-owned Chittenden Park, the marsh at which is eroding approximately 50 feet per decade and has lost almost 400 feet since 1934. The living shoreline design, anticipated to be permitted prior to the grant period, includes outer rock sills to attenuate wave energy and nearshore habitat features. This nature-based solution will allow the site to function and evolve over time, continuing to protect community infrastructure, preserve recreational access, and restore habitat vital for coastal species into the future.

Organization: Trust for Public Land

Project Title: Sliver by the River

Project Category: Habitat Restoration Construction

Project Summary: Sliver by the River is a 3.65-acre, City-owned site along the Pequonnock River in downtown Bridgeport that is being developed into a new public park. The proposed project will convert a largely impervious, flood-vulnerable portion of the parcel into a restored salt marsh that improves water quality, expands habitat, and reduces flood risk.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects

Organization: The Connecticut Audubon Society

Project Title: Milford Point Stormwater Management Project

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: The initial application proposed to complete the design, engineering, and construction activities necessary to replace The Connecticut Audubon Society's Milford Point Coastal Center parking lot infrastructure with resilient green infrastructure and implement other sustainable strategies to manage stormwater. Milford Point is an approximately 23-acre barrier beach and a unit of the Stewart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge and Wheeler Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Partial funding will be awarded to conduct a feasibility analysis due to site and climate conditions.

Organization: Town of Groton

Project Title: Poquonnock Bridge– Resilient Streets: Engineering and Green Infrastructure Design Project

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: The proposed project is located within the Poquonnock Bridge neighborhood of Groton, Connecticut. The proposed project will advance a high-priority neighborhood towards a climate-ready neighborhood street design by updating drainage mapping, completing a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, identifying priority locations for GSI, and developing conceptual designs. The project will integrate community engagement activities for the residents, ensuring that the final design decision is community-driven, reflecting on real-life experience and local priorities.

Organization: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Project Title: Naugatuck River Stormwater Retrofit Assessment

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: This project will be implemented within the Naugatuck River watershed, located in the NVCOG region and will involve the municipalities of Thomaston, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, and Beacon Falls. This project aims to develop a portfolio of green stormwater infrastructure projects that can be implemented across municipalities through which the Naugatuck River flows by identifying prime locations and developing data-driven designs. The project will result in ten conceptual designs, five 30% designs, and two 90% designs that aim to reduce nonpoint source pollution and mitigate peak storm flows through green stormwater infrastructure solutions.

Organization: North Central Conservation District

Project Title: Green Infrastructure for Hartford's Annie Fisher School Neighborhood

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Summary: This project requests funding to complete design development and construction drawings of green stormwater infrastructure along Mark Twain Drive, which runs parallel to the west of the North Branch Park River, within the City of Hartford. This project will expand upon engagement with students from the University High School of

Science and Engineering during the recent work updating the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan (LISFF grant). To continue community involvement in the design development process, there will be one virtual public meeting and two in-person public workshops.

Organization: Town of Wolcott

Project Title: Scovill Recreational Parking Lot Stormwater Management

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Design and Construction

Project Summary: The project site is the parking lot located on Nichols Rd. just south of the former Scovill swimming area. The parking lot covers approximately 80,000 sf. The project would consequently entail: (1) A survey of the site to define site limitations and establish elevations, (2) Design a collection system to control and convey stormwater to a retention system, (3) Design a retention system to provide retention of 65,000 gal which will percolate into the ground within 48 hours.

Organization: Town of Thompson

Project Title: Municipal Stormwater Disconnection Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning and Construction

Project Summary: Three municipal properties are proposed for installation of green stormwater infrastructure:

- A 180 sq. ft. rain garden at Thompson Public Library (934 Riverside Drive)
- A 2,004 sq. ft. green roof at Thompson Town Hall (825 Riverside Drive)
- Two rain gardens and a water quality swale, totaling 2,472 sq ft, at the Thompson K-12 Public School campus (785 Riverside Drive)

Organization: Town of Stratford

Project Title: Stratford Arboretum

Project Category: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Construction

Project Summary: This project will leverage a CT DEEP Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant and Department of Public Health grant funds to construct 2' wide Stormcrete pervious concrete gutter along the site on Philo St and Ketcham Rd, as well as 4 new catch basins. This infrastructure will reduce impervious cover at the Stratford Arboretum, which borders the Housatonic River, Long Island Sound, and the Great Meadows Salt Marsh (of Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge).