

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund

Project Examples & CCMP Actions



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

Long Island Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) - Program Goals

- **Program Overview**
 - Three rounds of grant funding of roughly \$1.2M per year to support organizations
 - Annual learning exchanges among regional institutions, including stipends to attend
 - Investment in training programs and grants
- **RAE's Role**
 - Manage three rounds of grants; oversee implementation, support awardees
 - Prioritize and design training programs and training grants
 - Design and manage learning exchanges
 - Prepare local organizations to apply for grant funding through this program and others
 - Strengthen and diversify connections within Long Island Sound region
 - Review successes and lessons learned



Funding Priorities

LISCIF's funding priorities are aligned with the [CCMP](#) themes and [Actions](#):

For 2027, LISCIF's main funding themes are:

- Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Informed and Engaged Public

Eligible projects and activities will be community driven and address challenges/risks faced by communities experiencing or affected by adverse and disproportionate environmental and human health risks or harms, including affected underserved communities within the LIS geographic boundaries.



Themes and Goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Source: <https://lispartnership.org/2025/06/2025-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan-ccmp/>



Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.

Source: CCMP, The Lower Connecticut River, a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area, Old Lyme, CT. (Photo by Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography)

Source: CCMP, Great Gull Island supports the largest nesting populations of common terns in the world. (Photo by Venu Challa)



Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.

Source: CCMP, Youth from Rocking the Boat, a Bronx environmental organization, on board a student-built boat on the Bronx River. (Photo by Joaquin Cotten)

Source: CCMP, CTDEEP Scientists conduct trawl surveys of the Sound's marine life, including horseshoe crabs, on board the Research Vessel John Dempsey. (Photo by Richard Howard)



Informed and Engaged Public

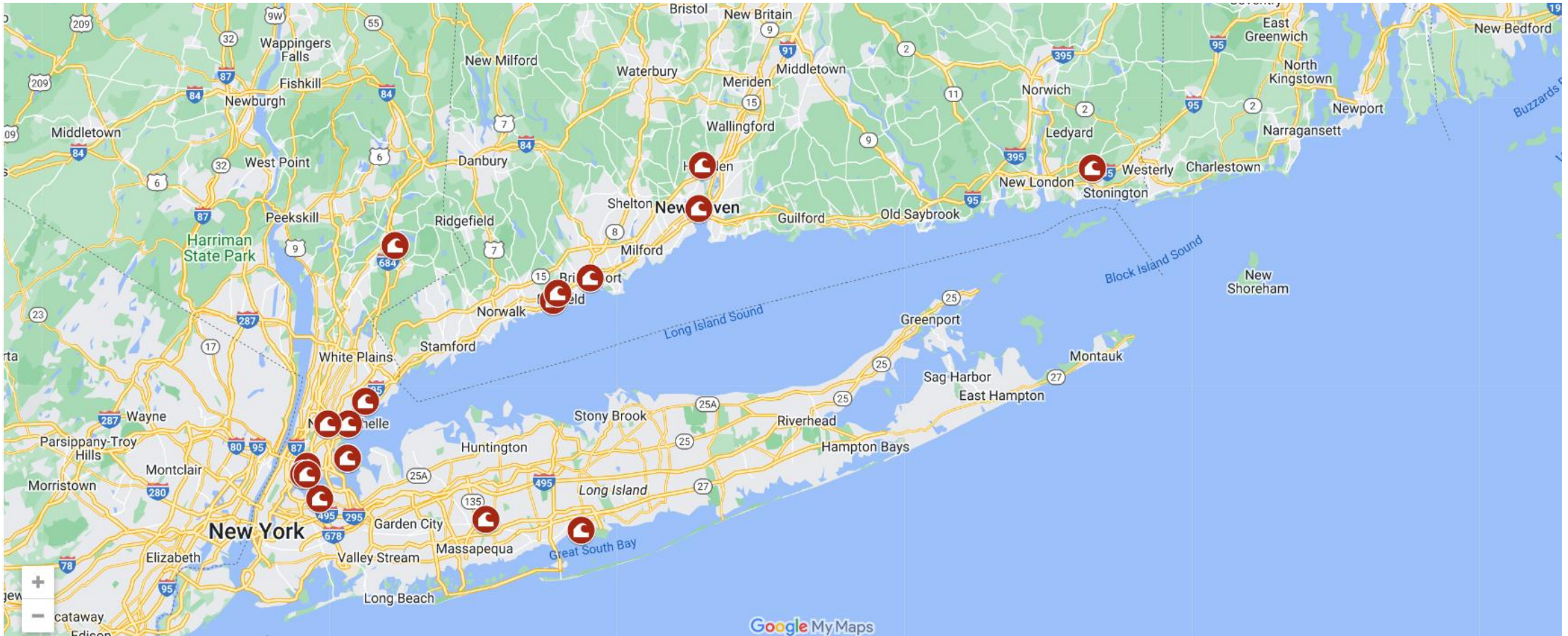
Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

LISCIF Funding is available for:

- Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction.
- Restoring habitat within the [Important Coastal Habitat Types](#) targeted by LISS.
- Projects that foster a diverse balance and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.
- Public engagement, knowledge, and stewardship.
- Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability.
- Planning and design that set-the-stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects.
- Community-based science projects.
- Data management and integration projects.
- Other similar activities that the applicant proposes, and EPA approves, that are consistent with section 119 of the Clean Water Act.



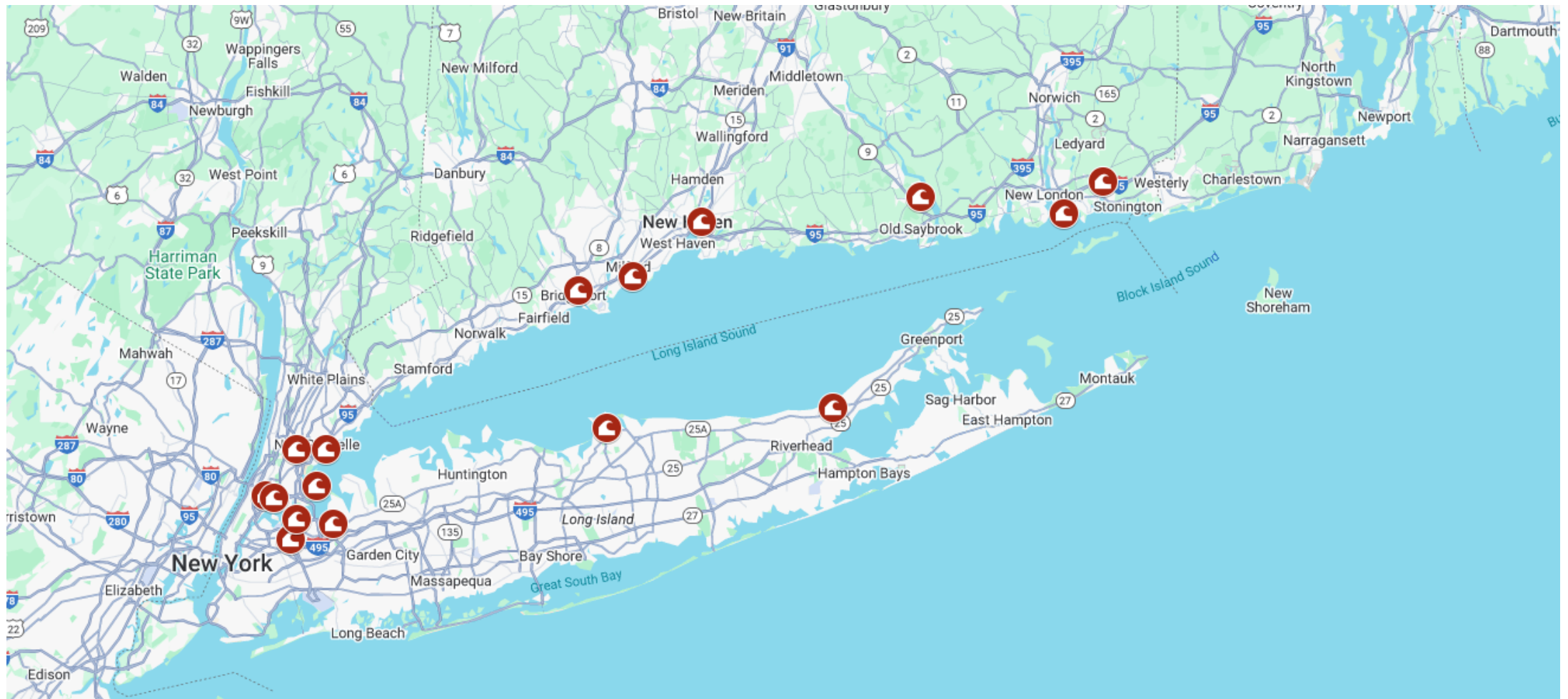
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2024 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2024 Grant Sheet here:

<https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LISCIF-Subawardee-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

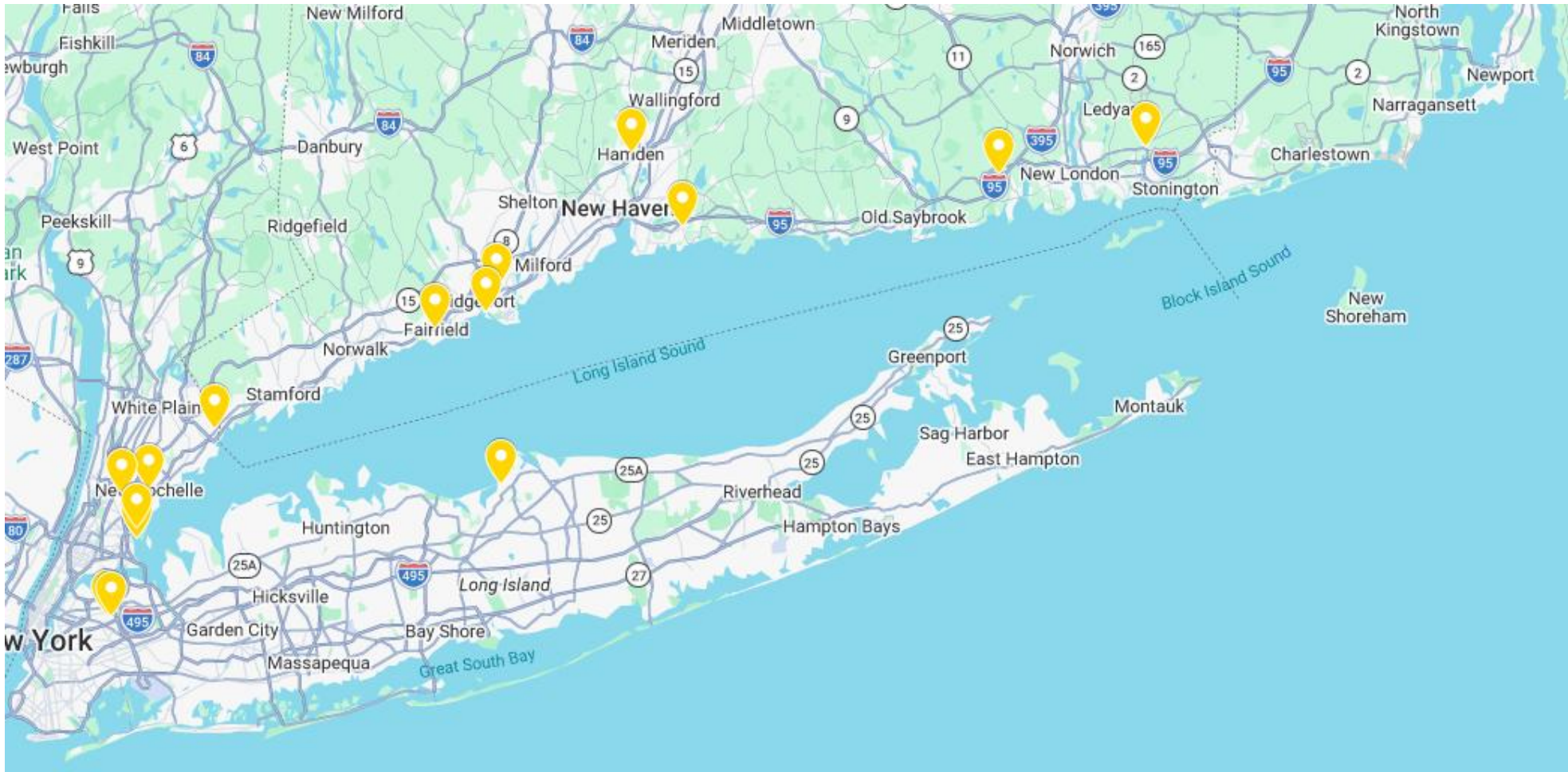
Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2025 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2025 Grant Sheet here:

<https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/LISCIF25-Awardee-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2026 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2026 Grant Sheet here:
<https://estuaries.org/liscif-2026-grant-recipients/>

Case Studies from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Grants

The LISFF grant supports larger scale implementation and planning projects to restore and protect the Long Island Sound estuary. The following case studies are from projects funded in 2022 and are aligned with the Long Island Sound Partnership former CCMP; hitting at least one of the priority themes:

- Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Sound Science and Inclusive Management (former theme – new theme: Informed and Engaged Public)



Source: Futures Fund Living Shoreline Project, Photo by Scott Kruitbosch
<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/grants/lis-futures-fund/>

Theme: Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Improving Water Quality by Retrofitting Parking Lots and Driveways with Permeable Alternatives

Grantee: Science Museum of Long Island

Project Area: Leeds Pond Preserve, Science Museum of Long Island, Manhasset

Description: Project plans to replace or retrofit impermeable parking lot and driveway surfaces with permeable alternatives at the Science Museum of Long Island. Project will set-the-stage to capture and infiltrate polluted stormwater runoff before it flows into Manhasset Bay and Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Assess different types of previous, permeable, and porous pavers in terms of water infiltration rate, their capacity to support vehicular and human traffic, aesthetics, and maintenance requirements;
2. Evaluate subsurface conditions, carry out percolation tests, take measurements, develop concept and final designs, and estimate costs;
3. Produce construction-ready designs to be submitted for permit review.



Source: Science Museum of Long Island, Stormwater Management Geocells,
<https://www.smlil.org/stormwater?pgid=llfh6xq4-34e7a7b6-495b-4d5f-9fca-e0b3ff27d634>

Theme: Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds



Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Manure Management to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution into Long Island Sound

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Project Area: Pease Brook, Lebanon

Description: Construct a manure management facility at a dairy farm in Lebanon, Connecticut. Project will prevent 29,798 lbs. of nitrogen from flowing into local waterways and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

- The project will enhance manure management of 200 cows at the farm by installing a covered waste storage facility that eliminates outdoor manure exposure to rainwater and discharges from the farm to low-lying land and water.
- The project will prevent 29,798 lbs. of nitrogen and 36,665 lbs. of phosphorus annually from the farm to Pease Brook and the Sound.

Source: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
<https://conservect.org/eastern/current-projects/>

Theme: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Community Engagement and Education for Eelgrass Protection on Fishers Island

Grantee: Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Project Area: Fisher's Island, New York and Southeastern Coastal Communities

Description: Build community awareness and support for voluntary long-term actions to protect eelgrass on Fishers Island, New York and in southeastern Connecticut communities. Project seeks to secure community action to sustain this important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Develop a plan and materials for the community awareness campaign;
2. Prioritize a list of well supported voluntary actions the community could take to protect eelgrass;
3. Implement the awareness campaign to 500 people and build support for specific actions.

Source: The Henry L. Ferguson Museum
Barley Field Cove, Fishers Island, NY. Photo courtesy of seagrassli.org
<https://fergusonmuseum.org/2022/08/fishers-island-seagrass-management-coalition-plan-august-2022/#>

Theme: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Restoring Great Pond Freshwater Wetland Habitat

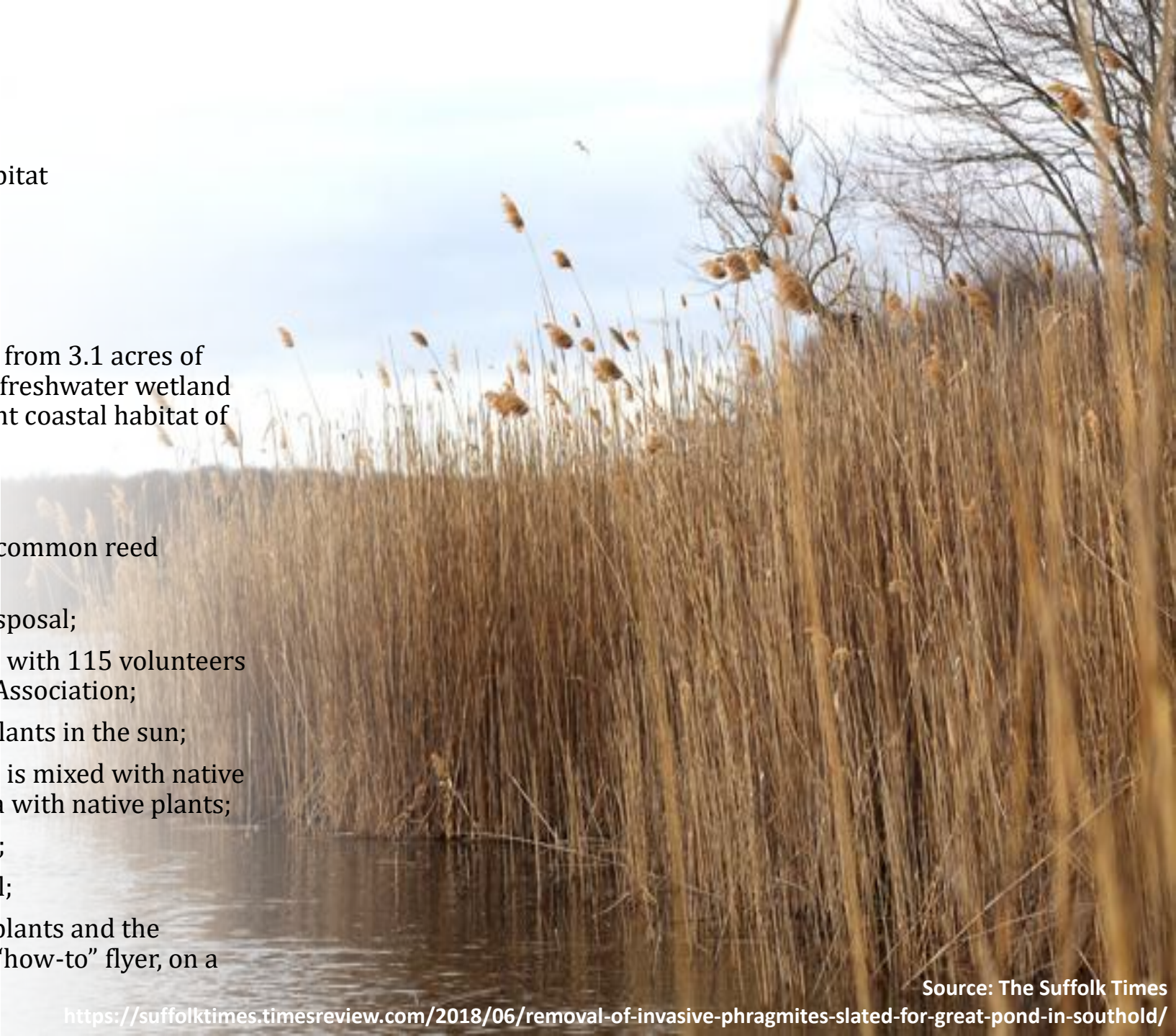
Grantee: Town of Southold, NY

Project Area: Great Pond, Town of Southold

Description: Remove the invasive common reed plant from 3.1 acres of public and private land around the 32-acre Great Pond freshwater wetland in Southold, New York. Project will restore an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Conduct field-assessments and produce maps of common reed stands;
2. Hydro-rake all water-based stands and dry for disposal;
3. Cut and dig land-based stands and clean-up trash with 115 volunteers recruited by the Kenney's/McCabe's Beach Civic Association;
4. Solarize land-based stands bagging and placing plants in the sun;
5. Hand-dig land-based stands where common reed is mixed with native plants removing common reed and restoring area with native plants;
6. Dispose of common reed in a designated landfills;
7. Re-assess and if needed return for further control;
8. Deliver education about the problem of invasive plants and the ecological value of Great Pond in a forum, with a "how-to" flyer, on a sign and through social media.



Source: The Suffolk Times

<https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2018/06/removal-of-invasive-phragmites-slated-for-great-pond-in-southold/>

Theme: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Mentoring Youth to Protect Long Island Sound

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund the Environment

Project Area: Smithtown West, Northport, Brentwood, Rocky Point, Riverhead, Oyster Bay, Commack and Our Lady of Mercy in Oyster Bay, Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Description: Deliver an educational program about challenges to restoration and protection of the health and living resources Long Island Sound at high schools on Long Island, New York. Project will deliver a shared Student Action plan for the Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Develop and deliver presentations and materials about new and existing challenges to the health of the Sound such as plastic pollution, nitrogen pollution, and climate change;
2. Mentor 200 students to develop and conduct their own project involving the Sound as an interactive activity, a research paper, poster, or video project;
3. Bring students together in the Sound Solutions Summit for High School Students to share their projects and develop two Long Island Sound Student Action Plans to be disseminated in schools, communities and to Long Island Sound Study partners;
4. Create a video about student projects. This project will increase awareness of environmental challenges facing the Sound and engage students in future efforts to protect and restore it.





Theme: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Silver by the River: Planning for Greening and Public Access on the Bridgeport Waterfront – II

Grantee: Trust for Public Land, Groundwork Bridgeport

Project Area: Pequonnock River, City of Bridgeport Waterfront

Description: Produce design and construction documents for green infrastructure and coastal resilience improvements at a new park in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will set the stage for park “greening” to improve water quality, enhance community resilience to storms and floods, and provide public access in an urban coastal community of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Conduct workshops and community outreach to 2,000 residents ensuring an inclusive planning process;
2. Prepare plan sections, elevations, plantings, layouts, grading, a permits checklist, schedule and project budget.

Because a majority of the waterfront is publicly owned or managed, there is ample opportunity for this plan to increase public access, enhance water quality, and improve coastal resilience.

Theme: Sound Science and Inclusive Management (former CCMP theme – new theme: Informed and Engaged Public)

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Improving Water Quality Management of Long Island Sound by Municipal Government

Grantee: Earthplace – The Nature Discovery Center

Project Area: Fairfield, County: Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Darien, Stamford, and Greenwich, Connecticut

Description: Conduct a water quality data synthesis and sharing project about local water quality trends in eight towns of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will provide water resource managers with information to prioritize projects and take action to reduce sewage pollution and improve water quality in local waters and Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Convene stakeholders from each municipality as collaborators in development of the information;
2. Produce water quality data resources relevant to each city and town to enhance the utility and application of data;
3. Share the findings with the public through presentations, social media, and print and digital outreach materials.



Theme: Sound Science and Inclusive Management
(former CCMP theme – new theme: Informed and Engaged Public)

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Hempstead Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Program

Grantee: The Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff

Project Area: Outer and Inner Hempstead Harbor, Nassau County, New York

Description: 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.

Project Activities:

1. Collect water quality data that informs our understanding of the health of the harbor;
2. Track improvements and declines in water quality;
3. Produce and disseminate two technical reports available to 1,300 individuals, local governments, state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, the Long Island Sound Study, the Long Island Regional Planning Council, and the public about the health of Hempstead Harbor waters.

Source: NYSDEC, View of tidal wetlands and Hempstead Harbor from Hempstead Harbor Shoreline Park.
<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/2012/10/hempstead-harbor/>



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Actions

Full Proposal Application: Project Impact Model Template & Examples

Instructions: The Full Proposal application requires applicants to complete a brief project impact model, and to identify expected project results based on established LISCIF performance metrics as indicated in the [CCMP Actions](#). The purpose of this document is to assist RAE, EPA, and the LISCIF Application Review Committee in understanding how your project aligns with the CCMP.

Refer to the examples below to create a simple impact model highlighting: the project name, LISCIF funding priority, the specific funding theme as indicated in the [CCMP](#), the impact, and the correlated, relevant [Actions](#).

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Project Impact Model Examples



Example 1: Rainwater Garden Swales

Project:
Rainwater Garden
Swales



LISCIF Funding
Priority:
Projects that result
in quantifiable
pollutant
prevention or
reduction.



CCMP Funding
Theme:
Clean Waters and
Healthy
Watersheds



Impact:
Redirect excess
rainwater
to garden
spaces, reducing
stormwater
runoff and
removing
pollutants in the
Sound.



CCMP Action:
CWHW 2-2:
Implement
nature-based
solutions and
other practices
that improve and
maintain water
quality and
ecosystem health.

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Project Impact Model Examples



Example 2: Shellfish Aquaculture and Restoration

Project:
Shellfish
Aquaculture and
Restoration



LISCIF Funding
Priority:
Projects that
foster a diverse
balance and
abundant
populations of fish,
birds, and wildlife.



CCMP Funding
Theme:
Thriving and
Abundant Wildlife



Impact:
Increase
populations of
oysters, clams, and
scallops with the
implementation of
a shellfish
management
plan which also
supports coastal
restoration efforts.



CCMP Action:
THAW 1-1:
Restore coastal
habitat by
supporting
projects that
implement
established
restoration
techniques or help
validate innovative
techniques and
include broad
collaboration and
communication.

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Project Impact Model Examples



Example 3: Community Resilience Preparedness

Project:
Community
Resilience
Preparedness



LISCIF Funding
Priority:
Projects that
enhance
community
resilience and
sustainability.



CCMP Funding
Theme:
Sustainable and
Resilient
Communities



Impact:
Create community
decision-making
opportunities for
resilience
preparedness
through training
programs.



CCMP Action:
SRC 1-1:
Develop, deliver,
and facilitate
training programs
relevant and
responsive to
community needs
that assist with
sustainability and
resilience.

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF27)

Project Impact Model Examples



Example 4: Communicating Water Quality Reports & Findings

Project:
Communicating
Water Quality
Reports & Findings



LISCIF Funding
Priority:
Data
management and
integration projects.



CCMP Funding
Theme:
Informed and
Engaged Public



Impact:
Effectively
communicate water
quality findings
using environmental
indicators and
reports to educate
diverse communities
on the health of the
Long Island Sound
watershed.



CCMP Action:
IEP 2-4:
Support efforts to
assess the public's
understanding of
Long Island Sound
and its watershed.



**If you have any questions or need
assistance with the LISCIF27
application, please contact:
Shahela Begum at
sbegum@estuaries.org**