



# NFWF

## Long Island Sound Futures Fund

[www.nfwf.org/LISFF](http://www.nfwf.org/LISFF)

The **Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF)** provides support for projects in local communities that protect and restore the health and living resources of the Sound. It unites federal and state agencies, foundations, individuals, and corporations to achieve high-priority, shared conservation objectives.

Funded activities aim to accelerate local implementation of the most innovative, sustainable and cost-effective strategies for improving water quality and vital habitats within Long Island Sound watersheds of Connecticut and New York. To achieve this goal, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation partners with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) to engage in grant making, provide technical assistance, facilitate networking and information sharing among grantees, and effectively monitor project success and assess program impact.

**Grant Making.** The Foundation administers two types of grants under the LISFF. These programs combine funds from federal and private partners, leverage local match, and implement projects that improve water quality in the Sound and its tributaries; restore habitat, and build local capacity to steward land and water resources.

**Large Grants:** Grants of \$20,000 to \$200,000 are awarded to support projects that result in quantifiable pollutant reductions or lead to measureable gains in restoring or protecting one or more of priority coastal habitat types. Planning that sets the stage for successful on-the-ground implementation of watershed management, habitat restoration, or water quality projects. Education projects that use tools to promote sustainable behaviors and practices or that increase knowledge and build awareness in targeted audiences and the general public about Long Island Sound.

**Minigrants:** Grants of \$3,000 to \$10,000 are awarded to projects involving hands-on, visible activities to make the public aware of the Sound and to build connection with and stewardship of it in communities.

**Community Impacts:** Since 2005, the program has invested \$10.5 million in 261 projects in communities surrounding the Sound. With grantee match of \$23 million, the *Long Island Sound Futures Fund* has generated a total of almost \$33.5 million for locally-based conservation in both states.

### 2012 Funding Strategy

The centerpiece of the LISFF funding strategy is the concept of **Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds** which aims to support projects that improve water quality in Long Island Sound in order to restore and protect its fish and wildlife and to maintain and enhance the resource for the public's use and enjoyment.

### 2012 Conservation Priorities

**Urban Watersheds.** Projects to assist communities, especially underserved communities, to access, improve, and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land. Projects types may fit within any of the conservation priorities outlined in the annual LISFF Request for Proposals.

**Greening Communities.** Projects to improve water quality in urban and suburban communities through a variety of best management practices such as green street initiatives, rain gardens, bioretention, bioextraction, bioswales and other proven green infrastructure. These practices use natural systems to increase infiltration and/or filtration, reduce water flows and the amount of uncontrolled, polluted water into streams and rivers, provide positive aesthetic and recreational benefits to communities, and improve overall watershed health.

**Restore and Protect Habitat, and Conserve Wildlife.** Projects to enhance habitat of important fish and wildlife species of Long Island Sound and its rivers and streams. Projects focus on coastal and marine habitat degraded or under threat from future development and pollution; and *Stewardship Initiative* areas designated by the LISS to conserve natural resources, increase public access to the Sound, and protect important habitats; and/or on projects in underserved urban areas.

**Engage People and Communities Around the Sound.** Projects that engage citizens and communities to foster sustainable behaviors and increase knowledge of and appreciation for the Sound and its natural, cultural and recreational resources.

**Improve Conservation on Private Lands.** Projects that work with landowners to increase the number of conservation practices that are applied on private lands.

**Conservation Results.** The projects in both states will open up 128 river miles for fish passage, and restore or acquire more than 959 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat and open space. This habitat includes lakes, underwater grasses, woodlands, meadows, wetlands, beaches, dunes and river and park frontage.

*The Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2012 is made possible with generous contributions from our funding partners:*

