



Quotes

Designation of New Haven Harbor Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, October 30, 2013

Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

“National wildlife refuges are the best of America’s wild places, but many are not near major metropolitan areas. Most Americans have grown up without a real connection to the outdoors and wildlife, and the Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative gives us a chance to change that. We believe these unique urban partnerships can inspire the imagination and create a connected conservation constituency of people who are aware, understand and support fish and wildlife conservation.”

U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (Conn.)

“Congratulations to Audubon Connecticut and everyone involved with the Urban Oases program for this recognition. Understanding our natural environment fosters a lifetime of appreciation and enjoyment. Particularly in an area where we are so closely tied to the water and its ecosystem, the education provided through this program is critical to understanding the world around us.”

Stewart Hudson, Executive Director, Audubon Connecticut

“Audubon believes that where birds thrive, so do people. Through land stewardship, habitat creation, citizen science, youth employment, green jobs training, innovative education programs and natural history interpretation, the partners in our New Haven Urban Oases program are working to create a network of wildlife – and people – friendly natural refuges in parks, schoolyards, and front yards throughout the City. We’re honored that Director Ashe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are recognizing this partnership as a model for community-based conservation.”

Christy Hass, Acting Director, New Haven Parks, Recreation and Trees

“The City of New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees depends on our environmental partners to restore, preserve and rejuvenate our beautiful park system and our urban canopy. The relationships with partners helps educate our community on the necessity of protecting our habitat. This partnership will continue to strengthen the citywide commitment to our improved habitat for this generation and those to come.”

Mark Tedesco, Director, EPA Long Island Sound Office

“Involving and educating the community of New Haven, particularly its youth, on stewardship of the land and water will contribute to a healthier, cleaner Long Island Sound. We are pleased to partner with the Fish and Wildlife Service and Audubon Connecticut in creating urban oases in the New Haven Harbor watershed.”

Melissa Spear, Executive Director, Common Ground High School, Urban Farm and Environmental Education Center

“The school yard habitats we are creating through the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership are powerful educational tools that reinforce academic concepts through hands-on experiences with nature. School yard habitats breathe life into lessons making the underlying principles being taught relevant and compelling to students, while forging a lasting connection with the natural world.”

Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Director, New Haven Urban Resources Initiative

“This partnership builds on a strong foundation of restoration work done each year by hundreds of volunteers who have been planting trees with the New Haven Urban Resources Initiative. We’re excited that this partnership expands our impact by planting with these volunteers more deliberately to improve habitat in New Haven”.

Nan Bartow, President, Friends of Beaver Ponds Park

“The Friends of Beaver Pond Park has been active for 10 years doing restoration planting of native trees and bushes in the park. We appreciate the support we have received from biology students from Hillhouse High School, Peabody Museum, the Urban Resources Initiative, New Haven Parks, Audubon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”.