



Save the Sound®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Save the Sound receives over \$279,000 in grants for restoration, anti-pollution, and watershed projects in Connecticut and New York

New Haven, Conn. – Save the Sound has received two grants from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) and one from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) to support three projects on Long Island, in south-central Connecticut, and around Long Island Sound’s shoreline. Together, the projects will help monitor water quality at eleven bays and harbors, develop a plan to restore migratory fish passage for the first time in three centuries, and create a plan for stewarding a suburban river.

Unified Water Study: Long Island Sound Embayment Monitoring (CT, NY)

In spring 2017 Save the Sound launched the Unified Water Study, a Sound-wide effort that has established common procedures for monitoring water quality and engaged 12 local monitoring groups. LISFF will provide \$99,991 for the expansion of the Unified Water Study in 2018 to include five new water quality monitoring groups in approximately nine additional bays and harbors in Connecticut and New York. The grant also covers the expansion of Save the Sound’s own monitoring from one harbor to two. The ongoing project, started in 2017, already includes 12 community monitoring groups measuring the ecological health of 24 bays and harbors. Another \$132,000 in matching funds will assist with the project expansion next year.

Phillips Mill Fish Passage Project (Smithtown, NY)

Save the Sound’s multi-year project at Sunken Meadow State Park includes replanting marshland with native reeds, installing green infrastructure to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from the park’s huge parking lots, and making educational programming available to the park’s million-and-a-half visitors each summer. With \$99,999 in new support from LISFF, Save the Sound will leverage this restoration momentum to develop an engineered plan for fish passage at Phillips Mill Pond Dam on the Nissequogue River, located in the adjacent Caleb Mill State Park. The project will plan to restore native migratory fish runs from Long Island Sound to upstream spawning habitat on the Nissequogue for the first time in 300 years. \$110,000 in matching funds will provide additional support.

Mill River Watershed Plan (Cheshire, CT)

Of the three local rivers that drain into New Haven Harbor, the Mill River is the only one that lacks a comprehensive watershed-based plan. A new award of \$79,987 from the CT DEEP’s Clean Water Section 319 program will allow Save the Sound to partner with communities in the Mill River watershed—Hamden, North Haven, Wallingford, and New Haven—to identify sources of bacterial pollution and develop solutions to halt it. Over the next year, Save the Sound will guide stakeholders in creating a

holistic plan that uses green infrastructure to make water quality safer for recreational use and wildlife in the Mill River, its watershed, the harbor, and Long Island Sound.

A completed watershed-based plan will unlock potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars of federal funding for projects in the Mill River watershed through the EPA's 319 program.

Area residents interested in learning more about the plan and attending public meetings can email reducerunoff@savethesound.org.

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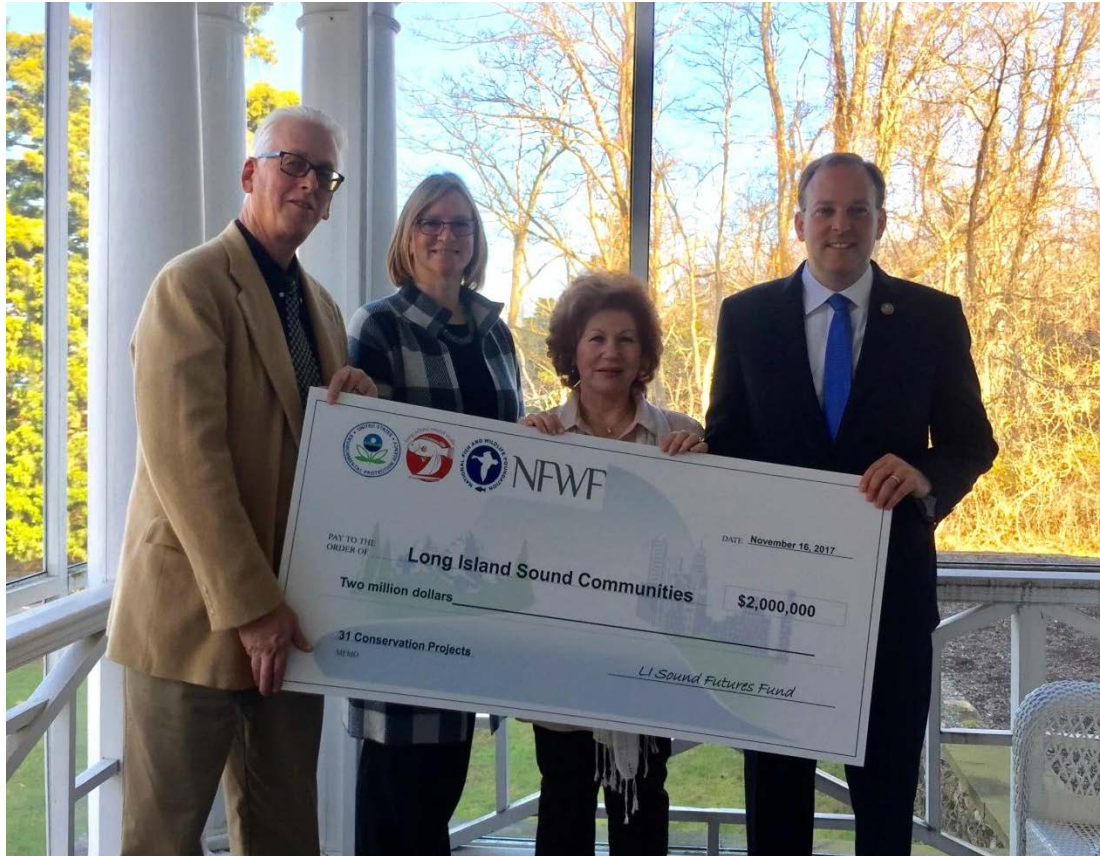
Save the Sound is a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment with an established 40-year track record of restoring and protecting the waters and shorelines of the Sound. From its offices in New Haven and Mamaroneck, Save the Sound works for a cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant Long Island Sound where humans and marine life can prosper year-round. Our success is based on scientific knowledge, legal expertise, and thousands of ordinary people teaming up achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

The Long Island Sound Study initiated the **Long Island Sound Futures Fund** in 2005 through the U.S. EPA's Long Island Sound Office and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Long Island Sound Study, developed under the EPA's National Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort between the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York. Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate, and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and committed more than \$3.5 billion to conservation projects.



LISFF water quality grant recipients including Save the Sound's Peter Linderoth (fifth from left) with Commissioner Robert Klee of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (left)

and Mark Tedesco of the Long Island Sound Study (third from left). Photo credit: Patrick Comins, Connecticut Audubon Society.



LISFF water quality monitoring grant recipients (L-R) Eric Swenson of Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, Save the Sound director Tracy Brown, and Carol DiPaolo of Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor with Congressman Lee Zeldin.