



Long Island Sound Study  
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

# Sustainable & Resilient Communities



June 2024 - Western & Eastern CT



## Insights into the Intersection of Environmental Justice with Long Island Sound

Included in this month's newsletter is an announcement of the release of the Long Island Sound Study's Environmental Justice Needs Assessment report. The report details unique and shared challenges faced by disadvantaged

communities in various communities and specific regions. Our teams are now considering how we can incorporate these insights into the revision of our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). We recognize that addressing these needs will require flexible, inclusive, and well-supported initiatives that connect environmental, social, and infrastructure issues to improve the overall wellbeing and representation of these communities in environmental decision-making.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of the partners involved, especially the community members who participated in surveys and conversations, providing invaluable insights. We are proud to support this crucial effort and look forward to working together to address the identified needs so that we can better foster sustainable and resilient communities throughout the watershed.

[Access the Report Here](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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*Now you can browse and filter funding opportunities through our [Funding Database on the LIS Resilience Resource Hub!](#)*

### [Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund](#)

NFWF is soliciting proposals for the Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund. Note that within the LIS and Connecticut River watershed, the fund only considers projects to restore and sustain healthy forests, grasslands, and fish passage projects.

**Application Deadline: July 11, 2024**

### [Community Investment Fund 2030 - Round 5](#)

Connecticut's Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) will foster economic development in historically underserved communities across Connecticut. CIF will provide a total of up to \$875 million to eligible municipalities as well as not-for-profit organizations and community development corporations that operate within them.

**Application Deadline: June 21, 2024**

## **Climate Smart Land Stewardship Grant Program**

The Climate Smart Land Stewardship Grants is a new fund for land trusts offered by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) with support from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. This program will award \$500,000 over multiple years for both planning and implementation grants. In 2024, grants will be awarded quarterly.

**Application Deadline: August 1, 2024**

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## **Long Island Sound Grant Writing Support**

Do you wish you could have some help preparing a competitive grant application? How about help that is FREE to you with *no match requirement*? If that sounds good to you, check out the **Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program!** [Learn more here.](#)

This program assists with the development of sustainability and resilience focused projects that impact communities in the [LIS coastal boundary](#).

[Access the Request for Proposals here!](#)

Review answers to [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) here.](#)

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis (as funding allows).** Click the orange button below to review our EASY, five-question application form!

[Apply Here](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

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## **Public Outreach Meetings for Long Island Sound Watershed Operations Planning**

The CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation is hosting in-person and virtual public outreach meetings on a planning effort to establish a USDA NRCS Watershed Operations program in Long Island Sound. These meetings are to collect information on potential project sites. If adopted, the project would bring *federal funding* to local communities to improve water quality and tidal marsh habitats along the coast of Long Island Sound. Proposed projects should focus on reducing the impacts of stormwater on shellfish beds and restoring tidal wetlands. Note that funding can be used on both public and private lands! Shellfish Commissions, Conservation and other local land use commissions, town and state agency staff, NGOs, shellfishers, and anyone working to improve shellfish and tidal wetland habitat are encouraged to attend.

### ***In-person Session:***

- CT DEEP's Fort Trumbull facility, New London

**Tuesday, June 25 | 2–4pm | [Register](#)**

### ***Virtual Session:***

- **Tuesday, June 18 | 6:00–8:00pm | [Register](#)**

## **Sustainable CT Coffee Hour**

Join Sustainable CT for their next Coffee Hour on **July 18 at 10am**. This is an informal, virtual event where you can learn more about their certification programs and connect with the network of local champions.

**Thursday, July 18 | 10am | [Register](#)**

## **LISCIF Learning Exchange**

Join us for the 1st Annual Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Learning Exchange! This event will bring together organizations and partners working on environmental justice projects within the Long Island Sound region. It is designed to be a collaborative tech share.

**Target Audience:** Long Island Community Impact Fund Subawardees, Tribal Groups, Organizations, Institutions, and Municipalities located in Connecticut and New York focused on environmental projects in the Long Island Sound

estuary, Environmental justice, coastal conservation, restoration professionals, students and early career professionals.

**Thursday, June 27 | CUNY Graduate Center | 9:30am–4:30pm | [Register](#)**

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## Resilience Roles

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### **Save the Sound: Climate and Resilience Campaigns Manager**

The Climate and Resilience Campaigns Manager will work cross-departmentally within Save the Sound on projects related to climate mitigation and resilience. This position fosters collaboration with a variety of groups around the Long Island Sound and offers opportunities to have creative license throughout project development.

### **Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed: Federal Grant Manager AND Administrative**

Two part-time roles are available with the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed. Apply for one or both positions to work with this organization. The Federal Grant Manager position is funded by a Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Grant.

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## Sound Bites

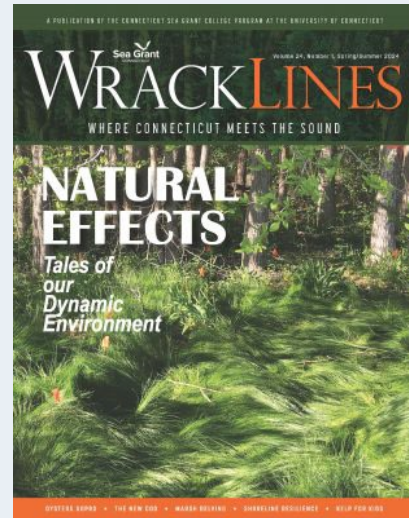
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### **Spring-Summer Issue of *Wrack Lines* Features a Living Shoreline Project**

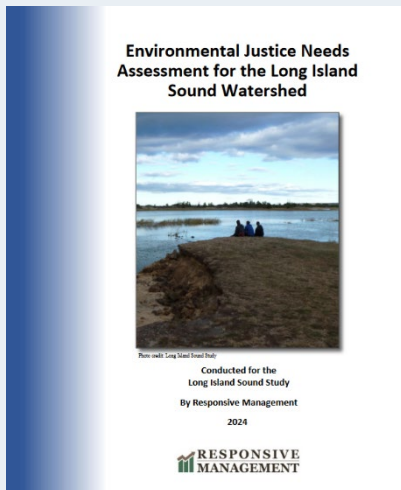
A new issue of *Wrack Lines* magazine is here! Be sure to check out the article about [one of](#)

[Connecticut's only living shorelines!](#) Then you can read on about a project using GoPro cameras on oyster cages, learn about the exploding population of black sea bass in Long Island Sound, get introduced to three scientists studying different aspects of Connecticut salt marshes, and meet the author and illustrator of a children's book about farming sugar kelp.

[Find the full issue here!](#)



## LISS Environmental Justice Needs Assessment Released



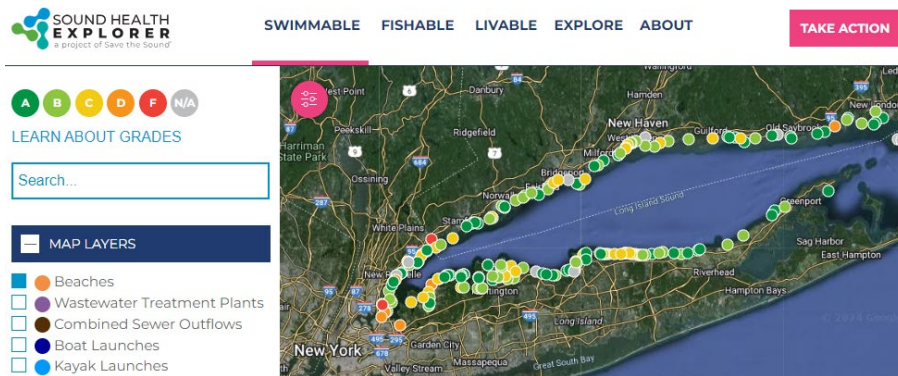
We are excited to announce the release of the *Environmental Justice Needs Assessment for the Long Island Sound Watershed*, a comprehensive report highlighting the needs and challenges faced by disadvantaged communities in the region. This project, guided by the Long Island Sound Study's commitment to environmental justice, involved extensive collaboration and connection-building with local organizations and leaders.

[Access the Report](#)

## Did Your Beach Get Good Grades?

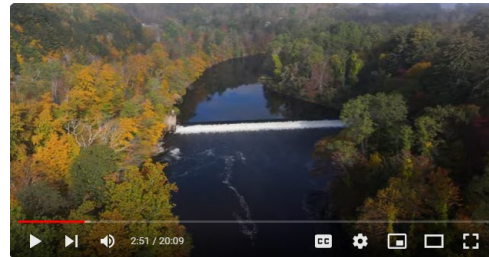
Save the Sound recently released their Beach Grades via their Sound Health Explorer portal. The report includes data from 197 beaches in 2023. This is a great reminder of the importance of implementing resilience projects that capture stormwater runoff - doing so improves water quality and helps make our beaches safer for swimming

## [Learn more about the Beach Grades here!](#)



## Reconnected: Restoring the Rivers of Long Island Sound

This short documentary film explores local efforts to remove stream barriers. It is packed with insightful interviews and breathtaking videography!



[View the film here!](#)

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[Newsletters Archive](#)

You can [find past newsletters here.](#)

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