



Sustainable & Resilient Communities



June 2026 - Western CT



From the Field: Event Highlights & What's Next

On June 4th, I had the privilege to attend the press conference at James Brown/ Waterview Park in Bridgeport (pictured above) announcing the Connecticut awardees for this year's Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund—a program of the Long Island Sound Partnership administered by Restore America's Estuaries. It was inspiring to see how past projects have grown, how partnerships are developing, and how new organizations are joining in to address local environmental challenges and expand education and access to the Sound. Congratulations to all of the awardees! You can find the [announcement here](#) and read the [full grant slate](#) to learn more about the projects.

Looking back to May, the Sustainable & Resilient Communities team traveled to Pittsburgh to present at the [National Adaptation Forum](#). It was a great opportunity to share and learn alongside other adaptation and resilience professionals from across the country who are working on similar challenges. We came away with lots of insights on approaches to funding, financing,

insurance, and scaling efforts to a regional level. We're looking forward to sharing these ideas with you in the coming months!

There are several events coming up this month, and I wanted to highlight the webinar for the USGS Compound Flood Hazard Mapper on June 11th. If you weren't able to attend one of our in-person sessions, this is your chance to learn more about where coastal flooding, rainfall, and groundwater emergence combine. Then, on June 18th, Sarah Schechter and I are also going to be sharing about how the SRC program can support Sustainable CT actions at the Sustainable CT Coffee Hour. Details below. I hope you can join us for any of these upcoming events!

~Deb

P.S. If you were looking for the May newsletter, you didn't miss it! May and June are combined this time around 😊

Having trouble viewing the images? You can now view these emails on the web:
[View as Webpage](#)

Assistance Opportunities

Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program

New York Sea Grant and Connecticut Sea Grant are providing grant preparation and writing capacity to New York and Connecticut communities that are pursuing funding for sustainability and resilience-focused projects. This technical assistance program helps municipalities and community organizations develop successful grant proposals and develop capacity for navigating the funding landscape.

Use our [Funding Database](#) on the [LIS Resilience Resource Hub](#) to browse and filter funding opportunities as they become available!

Funding Opportunities

 DUE SOON 

[FY24 & FY25 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grants \(BRIC\) - Connecticut](#)

CT DEMHS is pleased to announce that the application period is now open for the FY 2024/2025 BRIC grant program under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. This grant program makes federal funds available for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote resilience.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2026

 OPEN OPPORTUNITIES 

[Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program](#)

With support from the USDA Forest Service, CT DEEP's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is offering funding to help municipalities restore their urban and community forests that are facing significant stress from invasive pests and diseases, including beech leaf disease, spongy moth, and emerald ash borer.

Application Deadline: August 3, 2026

 COMING UP 

[Resilient Forestry Practices Grant](#)

Municipally-owned woodlands face growing threats to their health from pests, diseases, invasive species, extreme weather events, and other stressors. With support from the Inflation Reduction Act, CT DEEP's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program has \$1 million available to help rural communities in Connecticut implement [resilient forestry practices](#).

RFP Anticipated: June 15, 2026

[DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program](#)

This CT DEEP's UGCG program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban green spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education. Promotion of open space in an urban setting may include, but may not be limited to, the development of a community garden or reclaiming and enhancing existing open space for the public's use. Grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers.

RFP Anticipated: June 2026

[DEEP Urban Green & Community Gardens Grant Program](#)

This CT DEEP's UGCG program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban green spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education. Promotion of open space in an urban setting may include, but may not be limited to, the development of a community garden or reclaiming and enhancing existing open space for the public's use. Grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers.

RFP Anticipated: June 2026

[DECD Brownfield Remediation & Development](#)

The Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development (OBRD) is expected announce multiple funding availability notices under Round 24.

RFP Anticipated: Summer 2026

Upcoming Events

 [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) 

Compound Flood Hazard Assessment Mapper Webinar

- Explore USGS's new Compound Flood Hazard Web Map Application
- Learn about various flooding hazards in your community
- Practice using this online tool for everyday decision-making

Thursday, June 11, 2026

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)



[Compound Flood Hazard Assessment Mapper Webinar](#)

Join us to learn about USGS's new [Compound Flood Hazard Assessment Mapper](#). During this webinar, geared towards municipal staff, state agencies, and other partners, you will learn how USGS developed this tool and how you can use it for planning and decision-making.

[Register](#) | June 11, 2026 | 11:00am–12:00pm

Location: Virtual

[Sustainable CT 2026 Spring into Summer Celebration](#)

Join Sustainable CT for a landmark evening as they celebrate the communities and leaders shaping a more resilient future for Connecticut. Spring certified communities will be honored, the newest cohort of Sustainable CT Fellows will be introduced, and CT Sea Grant will be there tabling, too!

[Register](#) | June 11, 2026 | 4:00pm–7:00pm

Location: Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington

[Sustainable CT Coffee Hour: The How and Why of Climate Resilience](#)

For Sustainable CT's June climate resilience coffee hour, Sarah Schechter and I will discuss our [SRC program](#) that encourages communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all, including objectives to inform decision makers, drive community resilience planning, and implement resilience actions.

Register | June 18, 2026 | 10:00am–11:00am

Location: Virtual

LISCIF's 3rd Annual Region-Wide Learning Exchange

The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund's **Annual Learning Exchange** is a collaborative, in person event designed to bring together current and past grant recipients, partners, and community stakeholders working to improve the Long Island Sound region.

Register | June 25, 2026 | 9:30am–3:30pm

Location: CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund's

THIRD ANNUAL LEARNING EXCHANGE

THUR. JUNE 25
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

REGISTER HERE:

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER
365 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016

REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://ESTUARIES.ORG/EVENTS/](https://estuaries.org/events/)

CT Green Bank/SCRCOG Workshop: Resiliency

The Green Bank offers financing options for areas of environmental infrastructure related to climate adaptation and resiliency. Join this workshop to learn more about these programs.

Register | Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 11:00am–12:00pm

Location: Virtual

Featured Resources

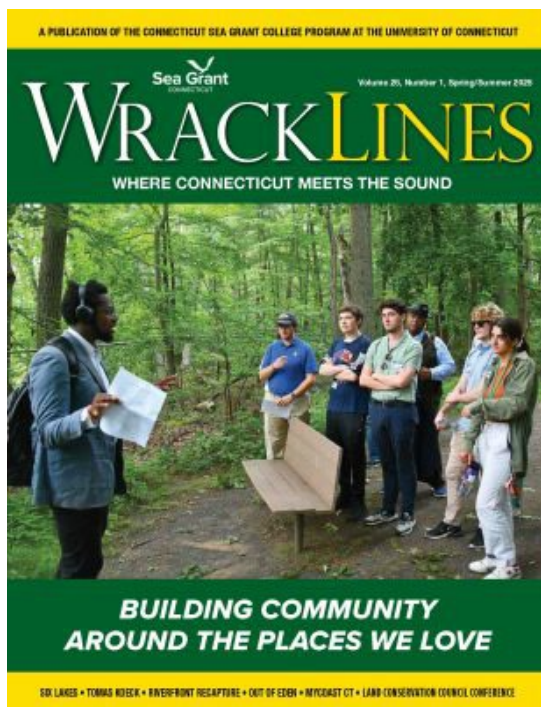
NOAA Coastal Inundation Dashboard

The Coastal Inundation Dashboard is an interactive decision-support tool that provides real-time and forecast water levels, and historic flooding information at National Ocean Service (NOS) water level stations across the U.S. and its territories. Users can access this information to understand near-term flood risks, such as impacts from tropical cyclones or nor'easters, and long-term

inundation risks, such as high-tide flooding and sea level rise. The product supports coastal flood planning, response, and mitigation across timescales.

This isn't a new tool, but it now includes a [new user guide](#)—a helpful resource for navigating, understanding, and applying the dashboard!

Sound Shares



[New Wrack Lines issue features Six Lakes Park and more](#)

The latest issue of CT Sea Grant's magazine is here! Inside, you can learn about the Hamden's Six Lakes Park coalition and the work they've been leading to re-envision this brownfield as a green space for the local community. Don't miss the other articles as well, all contributing to this issue's theme of "building community around the places we love."

[DEEP Announces Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant Awardees](#)

Last month, DEEP announced the recipients of the new Long Island Sound (LIS) Ecosystems Grant Program funded through EPA and the LIS Partnership. A total of over \$7.8 million was awarded to eighteen Connecticut municipalities and non-profits to help advance the goals of the [LIS Partnership Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan](#). Congratulations to the awardees!

[Shucking Success: The Next Generation of Connecticut Shellfish Farmers](#)

Enjoy this video and article about Connecticut Sea Grant and UConn Extension's *Foundations of Shellfish Farming* course!

2026 COASTS Summer Steward Training Program

The Community Opportunities for Accessing Science Training on the Sound (COASTS) program is now accepting applications for their free Summer Steward Training Program! The program is open to community members ages 16+ from New Haven and West Haven. Participants will learn field ecology skills and gain experience with communication tools.

Yinz been to Pittsburgh?

I mentioned above traveling to the National Adaptation Forum in Pittsburgh, PA. It was a fun city to visit—here's a pic of the SRC Team at the top of the Duquesne Incline!



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