



Sustainable & Resilient Communities

July 2026 - Western CT



A Project Completed and Others Getting Started!

It's not every day that you get to help welcome a new resilience and restoration project into the world, so I was fortunate to be able to join for the grand opening of **Eco Park** in West Haven a couple of weeks ago! This project has packed so much good into a relatively small footprint: invasive species removal, coastal habitat restoration, public outreach and education, and enhanced shoreline accessibility. Are you interested in seeing it for yourself? Stay tuned—we'll be planning a guided field trip here in the fall! If you can't wait until then, there are also numerous opportunities over the coming months to join for the *Coastal Conversations* series (some featuring speakers you may know... see below for details!).

In the meantime, dozens of new projects have been announced through the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund, DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, DEEP Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program, and DECD Brownfield Remediation and Development Program. Some notable projects in the Western CT region include a feasibility study of various finance approaches for resilience in WestCOG and the removal of

contaminated sediments at the Kinneytown Dam. Browse the project descriptions (find the links below) and you'll find more inspiring examples of communities leveraging these finds to move towards a more resilient future.

Having trouble viewing the images? You can view this email on the web:

[View as Webpage](#)

Assistance Opportunities

Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program

Could your municipality or organization use some grant writing capacity? Find out if you qualify for FREE assistance for your next resilience-focused proposal. You can choose your own grant writer or browse a list of service providers. Learn more today!

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

Funding Opportunities

 DUE SOON 

FY24 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is an annual Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that provides funds for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If you're confused as to why this says FY24, you can attempt to follow the explanation [here](#). Note that all Connecticut sub-applications must be routed through CT DEMHS.

Application Deadline: July 17, 2026

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

OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

Application Deadline: August 31, 2026

DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program

The OSWA Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

Application Deadline: November 6, 2026

DEEP Urban Green & Community Gardens (UGCG) Grant Program

The UGCG Grant 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.

Application Deadline: December 4, 2026

COMING UP

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

West River Water Festival

Celebrate 15 years of the West River Watershed Initiative at the West River Water Festival! Join for family fun and to learn about various watershed initiatives.

Saturday, July 11, 2026 | 1:00pm–4:00pm

Location: West River Memorial Park, New Haven, CT



State Funding for Land Conservation

The CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is partnering with CTDEEP for an information session on the OSHA and UGCG Grant Programs. The two sessions will also cover information on their Transaction Assistance Grant (TAG) program and new Forever CT Fund Bridge Loan.

Register | **Monday, July 13, 2026 | 1:00pm–2:30pm**

Register | **Tuesday, July 21, 2026 | 6:00pm–7:30pm**

Location: Virtual

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



COASTAL
Conversations
at ECO PARK

Explore the natural wonders of West Haven's shoreline.
Join leading experts for inspiring conversations about our coast,
wildlife, habitats, and how we can help protect them.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM

JULY 26 **Climate Change in Our Backyard:
Building a More Resilient Connecticut Coast**
DeAva Lambert, CT Co-Chair, LIS Partnership Thriving
Habitats & Abundant Wildlife Work Group, Connecticut DEEP

AUG 9 **Human Impact on Long Island Sound**
Colin Puckett, Member Engagement Specialist, Save the Sound

AUG 23 **Shoreline Restoration and Climate Adaptation
in Long Island Sound**
Deb Abibou, Long Island Sound Partnership Sustainable & Resilient
Communities Extension Professional, Connecticut Sea Grant

SEPT 6 **Pollinator Party at Eco Park**
Juliana Barrett, Extension Educator Emerita, Connecticut Sea Grant;
Maggie Cozens, Long Island Sound Partnership Outreach Coordinator,
Connecticut Sea Grant

SEPT 20 **Beach Nesting Birds: History, Monitoring,
Management & Enforcement**
Will Perret, Senior Coordinator, Coastal Stewardship,
Audubon Connecticut

OCT 4 **Native Plants and Building Your Home Garden**
Laura Schwanof, Landscape Architect & Ecological Practice Leader

 **EXPLORE. CONNECT. PROTECT**
Together for a healthy shoreline.  City of
West Haven

 Eco Park, Old Grove Park Building, 1 Palace Street |  landtrustwesthaven@gmail.com

Coastal Conversations at Eco Park

Join the Land Trust of West Haven for this inaugural Coastal Conversations series! The events take place on select Sundays at 10:00am from July through October and feature talks about coastal topics, wildlife, habitats, and ways to help.

- **July 26, August 9, August 23, September 6, September 20, October 4**

See the flyer for details on each talk and speaker!

Location: Eco Park, Old Grove Park Building, 1 Palace Street, West Haven, CT

Featured Resources

[Reducing Flood Risk in our Communities Fact Sheet](#)

Severe rain events and flooding in our municipalities and communities is becoming more common. Flood risk reduction involves adapting infrastructure and land use to increasing flood frequency and intensity along with mitigating human impacts. While strategies must be place specific, this fact sheet provides starting point guidance on how different stakeholders in Connecticut's land and infrastructure can contribute to reducing floods.

This fact sheet is one of several science-based resources offered by UConn Extension through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). These guides, checklists, and local information are designed to help communities manage risks and stay prepared. [Find more flooding and hurricane resources here!](#)

Resilience Roles

[Visiting Assistant Extension Educator in Land Use](#)

The UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) is hiring a Visiting Assistant Extension Educator in Land Use to lead the Land Use Academy, provide trainings to land use commissioners and others throughout the state, and contribute to all CLEAR programming. The ideal candidate will have professional, municipal-level experience in land use planning, a master's degree in a related discipline, an understanding of community resilience, experience in outreach or teaching, and a desire to be part of a fun, innovative, and amazing team of outreach professionals.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Sound Shares

[DEEP Announces Over \\$5 million in Climate Resilience Fund Grants to Protect Communities From Extreme Weather](#)

CT DEEP has awarded more than \$5.1 million in Climate Resilience Fund grants to 14 municipalities, regional organizations, and nonprofits for projects that will

strengthen communities against flooding, extreme heat, severe storms, and other climate-related hazards. The funding will support planning, engineering, and infrastructure improvements that reduce disaster risks, protect critical infrastructure, and help communities leverage additional federal resilience funding. *Congratulations to the awardees!*

DEEP OSWA and UGCG Grant Awards Announced

In a busy month for CT DEEP, they also announced awards made under the 28th round of the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) and the Urban Green and Community Gardens (UGCG) grant programs. \$9.4 million will support 15 communities in acquiring and protecting 14 properties, and \$2.4 million will support improvements at 15 gardens and green spaces in urban communities. *Big congrats to all of the awardees! See above for details on the newly open rounds!*

Governor Lamont Announces Funding To Support the Redevelopment of 12 Unused, Blighted Properties

Governor Ned Lamont announced \$15.2 million in state funding to support the cleanup and redevelopment of 12 blighted properties across Connecticut through the DECD's Brownfield Remediation and Development Program. The grants will help transform more than 267 acres of contaminated land into sites for new housing, businesses, and community development, while leveraging an estimated \$81 million in private investment and creating new economic opportunities statewide.

Go Bags and Stay Bins: Using Research and Outreach to Help Older Adults Prepare for Emergencies on Connecticut's Coastline

This article in UConn Today highlights a new UConn-based, cross-disciplinary initiative to help older adults in coastal communities prepare for emergencies. The project has been informed through community listening sessions that have helped the team address preparedness challenges and provide practical tools to help residents respond to flooding, storms, power outages, and other hazards.

Sound Matters Summer Issue

Check out the Long Island Sound Partnership's 2026 Summer Issue of Sound Matters, which highlights digitally based tools that were developed for our management partners, researchers, and communities.

Volunteer for the Sound

The Long Island Sound Partnership is circulating a new newsletter that highlights volunteer opportunities. Share with your friends and help involve more people in stewarding the Sound!

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Newsletter!](#)

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