



Sound Bytes



NEWS FROM THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

Winter 2014

LISS NEWS

President Approves LISS Budget



A cover of a LISS biennial report

In This Issue

- [President Approves LISS Budget](#)
- [Futures Fund Awards \\$1.3 Million in Grants](#)
- [Oyster Bay Waterfront Gets New Rain Garden](#)
- [Bioswale Takes Root Underneath Queens Highway](#)
- [LISS Videos Document Ecological Wonders of Stewardship Areas](#)
- [Sewer Project Good News for Polluted Beach](#)
- [LISS Website Gets Design Makeover](#)
- [EPA Releases Agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plans](#)
- [Alley Pond Part of Forest Service's "Smart Forest" Initiative](#)

The 2015 federal budget, signed into law by President Barack Obama on Dec. 16, includes \$3.94 million to fund work from Oct. 1, 2015 to Sept. 30, 2016 coordinated by the Long Island Sound Study (LISS). When combined with an additional \$600,000 LISS receives through the National Estuary Program appropriation, the total LISS budget is \$4.54 million. The appropriation is the same LISS received last year to fund projects in this federal fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015. The money helps to fund programs to implement the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, including the Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant program, and a water quality monitoring program that is operated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. To learn more about LISS programs and projects, read the annual EPA work plan and the biennial report posted on the [Our Mission](#) page of LISS's website.

Futures Fund Awards \$1.3 Million in Grants



Urban Resource Initiative's GreenSkills crew in December building the first of eight residential bioswales to divert stormwater runoff in New Haven.

Community residents learning job skills to build green infrastructure projects in New Haven, opening 8.3 miles of fish passage on a tributary of the Connecticut River, and monitoring by municipalities along Hempstead Harbor to detect illegal discharges of pathogens are a few of the 23 projects that will be funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The Long Island Sound Study [announced](#) the awards, totaling \$1.3 million, in a ceremony on Nov. 17 in Port Jefferson, New York.

LISS initiated the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in 2005 through a cooperative agreement between the EPA's Long Island Sound Office and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). To date, the

program has invested \$13 million in 306 projects in communities surrounding the Sound. With grantee match of \$25 million, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund has generated a total of almost \$38 million for locally based

conservation in both states.

Visit the [grants section](#) on the LISS website to read project descriptions of the 2014 grant awards as well as grant awards from previous years.

Oyster Bay Waterfront Gets New Rain Garden



The rain garden under construction in Oyster Bay. A rain garden is a depression (about 6 inches deep) that collects stormwater runoff from a roof, driveway or yard and allows it to infiltrate into the ground. Learn more at UConn's rain garden website (<http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm>).

The *Oyster Bay Enterprise Pilot*, a community newspaper, [reported](#) on a Futures Fund project in which volunteers, working with town employees, constructed a rain garden at the Waterfront Center parking lot of Oyster Bay Harbor. Rain gardens are specially designed to retain stormwater and treat pollutants to avoid the discharge of stormwater pollution onto pavement and eventually into waterways. In 2013, the Futures Fund awarded a \$20,247 grant to the Town of Oyster Bay to build the 500-square foot rain garden, and install 60-square feet of permeable pavement and two 50-gallon rain barrels to treat 1,255 gallons of stormwater runoff from the parking lot. As part of the grant, Oyster Bay hired a nationally known expert on constructing rain gardens,

Rusty Schmidt, to help in the construction of the rain garden and to offer workshops to town employees and the public with the goal of encouraging more green infrastructure projects in public and private sites.

Bioswale Takes Root Underneath Queens Highway



One of two demonstration that divert stormwater from the Van Wyck

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently received the final report from another Futures Fund project, a bioswale that is reducing stormwater runoff from a Queens highway. The project demonstrates that bioswales can be an effective method to reduce runoff from highways, a major source of pollution that drains into Long Island Sound.

With a \$59,935 Futures Fund Grant awarded in 2011, the Regional Plan Association partnered with landscape architecture firm dlandstudio to design and construct an environmentally friendly system to treat stormwater from the the Van Wyck Expressway, near Flushing Creek in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The landscape architecture firm built two bioswales - essentially a planter that uses vegetation to contain and infiltrate the intense flow of contaminants coming from the highway overpass. The project has the support of the New York City Department of

Environmental Protection.

The Queens bioswales are able to detain and filter 7,700 gallons of polluted stormwater annually. The project, designed as a pilot, has the potential to generate many more projects to reduce stormwater pollution. RPA and dlandstudio has identified 58 other potential sites along the Long Island Sound where the bioswales can be constructed.

The final report is available in the [NFWF Grants Library](#).

LISS Videos Document Ecological Wonders of Stewardship Areas

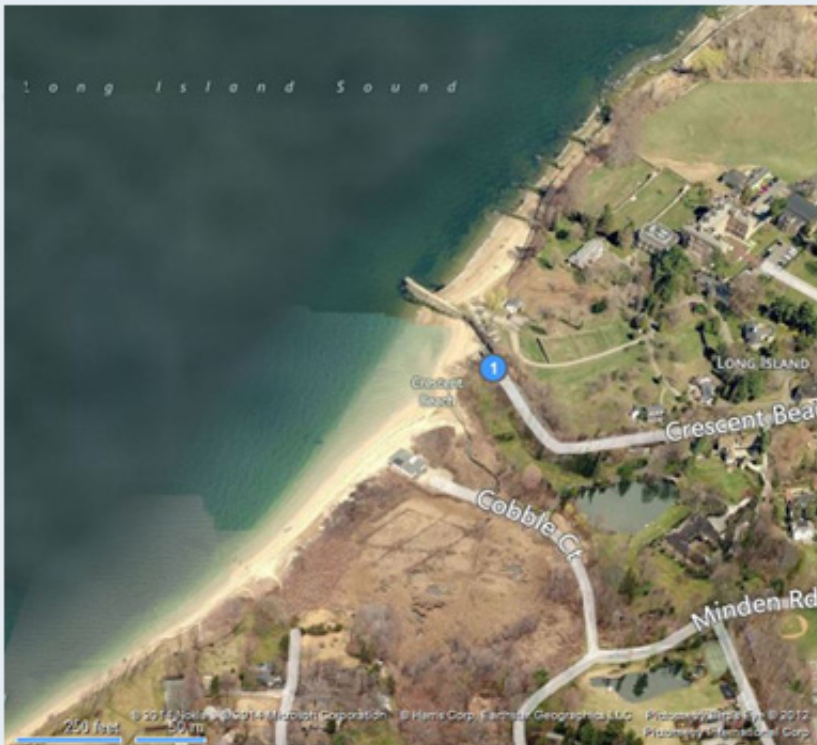


Videographer Jack Silky videotaping Patrick Comins, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, at Pleasure Beach in Bridgeport. Photo by Robert Burg

The Long Island Sound coast has its share of highways and densely populated cities and towns. But there are also miles of beautiful seascapes and landscapes, including 33 coastal areas designated as Stewardship Areas by the Long Island Sound Study. In the summer and fall of 2014, Jack Silky, an intern in the EPA Long Island Sound Office and a skilled videographer, documented about a dozen of these special places for the Long Island Sound Online Stewardship Atlas. His videos provide a unique opportunity to see online what makes the Sound special - from fledgling seaside sparrows nesting in the tidal marshes of Hammonasset Beach State Park to a National Parks guide showing a trail from Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill summer home to the beach he and his family enjoyed at Cold Spring

Harbor. The clips are available to watch on Long Island Sound Study's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/LIShealth>.

Sewer Project Good News for Polluted Beach



An aerial view of Crescent Beach

Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano, County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Glen Cove Mayor Reggie Spinello announced in early December a bipartisan agreement to allocate \$12 million for studying, designing and installing public sanitary sewers with additional pump stations to connect homes in parts of Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glen Head, and Glenwood Landing to the Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project will help protect the water quality at Crescent Beach, which has been closed for swimming due to elevated bacterial levels since 2009. The construction of a modern sewer system will help eliminate bacterial intrusion in the local waterways by replacing poorly functioning individual, on-site wastewater treatment such as septic systems. Read the full [press release](#)

on County Executive Edward Mangano's website.

LISS Website Gets Design Makeover

LISS's website, www.longislandsoundstudy.net, is now easier to read on smart phones and tablet devices. The move to optimize the website for small screens was included in a package of modest design changes for the site, which received several design awards when it was launched in 2010. The home page was redesigned to make it easier to find LISS web features, including the Online Atlas, the Status and Trends indicators section, and the Get Involved section. The LISS website receives about 50,000 users a year.



EPA Releases Agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plans



This fall, EPA released the final version of its Agency-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the 17 Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans. These Plans were developed in response to directives in President Obama's Executive Order 13653 - **Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change**. Commitments in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan include: integrating considerations of climate change into the Clean

Water State Revolving Funds process and continuing to work with states to ensure investments in water infrastructure are resilient to changes in climate; and, providing communities with the tools they need to increase their resilience, such as the Stormwater Calculator and Climate Adaptation Tool. All plans, including the Office of Water Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan can be found on [EPA's website](#).

Alley Pond Part of Forest Service's "Smart Forest" Initiative



Staff work to cut oriental bittersweet and other invasive plants from a restoration site in Alley Pond Park. The project was funded in 2009 by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. Photo provided by New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group.

In early December, the *New York Times* published an [article](#) about new instruments installed in the forested area of Alley Pond in Queens as part of the US Forest Service's "Smart Forest" initiative. Data from a webcam, temperature sensors, rain gauges, and other instruments at Alley Pond will be assessed with data from other sites across the country to help scientists manage landscapes in a changing climate. Alley Pond, a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area, is one of the first urban forests in the program.

In 2014, the City Parks Foundation received a \$60,000 grant from the Futures Fund to develop three restoration plans for up to 23 acres of tidal wetland coastal forest.

Subscribe to RSS Feed/Find Us on Facebook



Want to receive the latest Long Island Sound Study updates between issues of Sound Bytes? Go to the [LISS Web site home page](#) and click the RSS icon to subscribe to an RSS feed to get the latest Web site posts onto your computer's Web browser. Also, we just opened a Facebook page. Find us on Facebook by clicking on the Facebook icon from the LISS home page.

Please note: This email message is being sent to subscribers of the Long Island Sound Study E-Newsletter. Pass it on and [forward to a colleague](#). This email was sent to [email address suppressed]. You can instantly [unsubscribe](#) from these emails or update your [email preferences](#).