CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

ECOSYSTEM TARGETS

The following ambitious, but achievable, ecosystem targets have been developed to drive progress toward attaining the **Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds (WW)** goal. Achieving these targets can also contribute to the goals for the other themes. Likewise, multiple strategies and implementation actions throughout the four theme areas apply directly and indirectly to these targets. Measuring, tracking, and reporting environmental indicators of each ecosystem target will provide information to assess progress and refine and adapt management as needed.

Extent of Hypoxia: Measurably reduce the area of hypoxia in Long Island Sound from pre-2000 Dissolved Oxygen TMDL averages to increase attainment of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen by 2035, as measured by the five-year running average size of the zone.

Nitrogen Loading: Attain WWTF nitrogen loading limits at the 2000 Dissolved Oxygen TMDL allocation level by 2017 and maintain the loading cap. Have practices and measures instituted to attain the allocations for stormwater and nonpoint source inputs from the entire watershed by 2025.

Water Clarity: Improve water clarity by 2035 to support healthy eelgrass communities and attainment of the eelgrass extent target.

Impervious Cover: Through green infrastructure, low impact development, and stormwater disconnections, decrease by 10 percent the area of effective impervious cover in the Connecticut and New York portions of the watershed by 2035 relative to a 2010 baseline.

Riparian Buffer Extent: Increase the percent area of natural vegetation within 300 feet of any stream or lake in the Connecticut and New York portions of the Long Island Sound watershed to 75 percent by 2035 from the 2010 baseline of 65 percent.

Approved Shellfish Areas: Upgrade 5 percent of the acreage restricted or closed for shellfishing in 2014 by 2035.

Sediment Quality Improvement: Reduce the area of impaired sediment in Long Island Sound by 20 percent by 2035 from a 2006 baseline.