

CT Wetland In Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Update 2021



ILF Program = an alternative to Permittee-responsible Wetland Mitigation

Audubon CT is the sponsor of CT's ILF Program for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation required by the Army Corps of Engineers authorizations.

- Sale of Credits = generates funds
- Release of Credits = funds made available for grants used to create, enhance, protect additional wetland acreage

ILF Grant Process Overview

- A Conservation Entity (CE) identifies project in “service area”
- Submits **Letter of Intent (LOI)**
- If eligible, CE asked to submit a **Full Application**
- Applications reviewed by **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**
- PAC scores projects; best projects are recommended to an **Interagency Review Team (IRT)**
- If approved, CE then
 - Enters into a **Project Agreement** with Audubon
 - Develops mitigation or management plan
 - Designs & implements project w/in 3 yrs, then
 - Monitors the site pursuant to mitigation guidelines

Projects Eligible for ILF Funding

- Wetland Creation
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement
- Preservation (Wetland, Upland)
- Combination of Above



Summary of ILF Program 2016 - 2020

- \$1,873,009 awarded to date
- 166.3 acres of wetlands created, restored, or preserved
- 1,068 acres of total land protected
- 28,845 linear feet of riverine habitat enhanced
- 20 state-listed spp. (incl. 2 federal) confirmed on ILF sites; additional listed spp. suspected
- Habitat for 51 Greatest Conservation Need spp.

Funds Available for 2021*

Service Area	Amount Available
Connecticut River	\$146,127
Housatonic River	\$204,410
South-Central Coast	\$151,822
Southeast Coast	\$15,857
Southwest Coast	\$178,562
Thames River	\$303,903



* As of March 15th

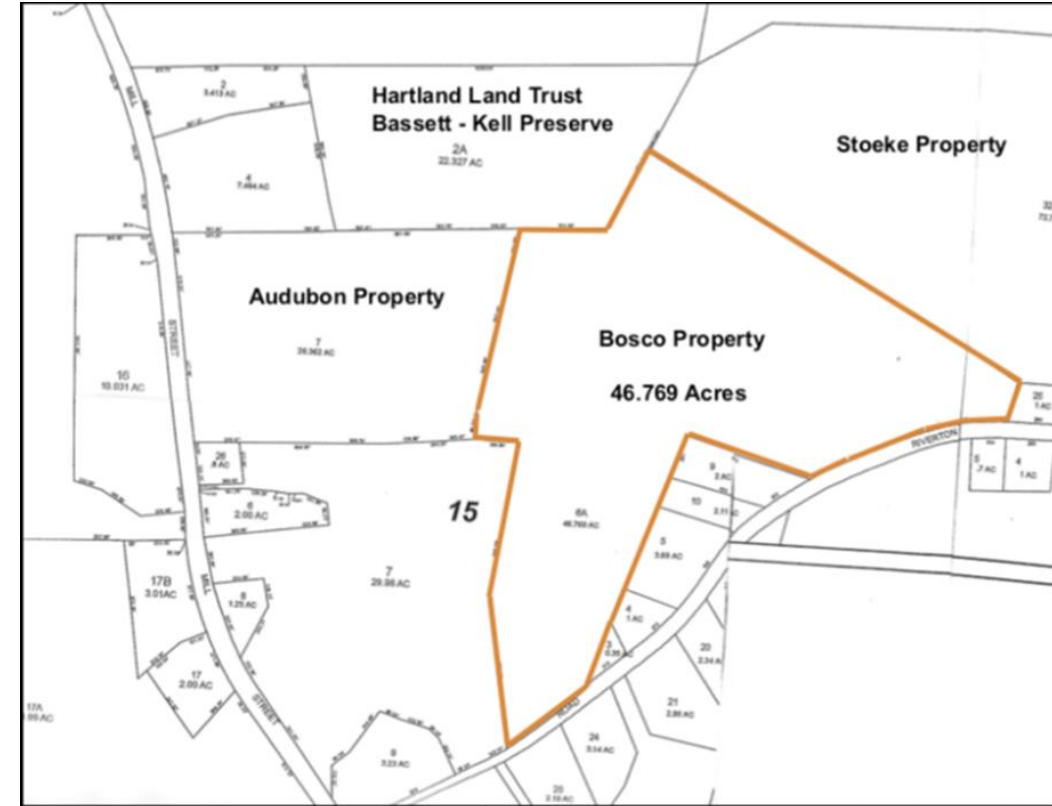
2021 Schedule

Letters of Intent Deadline	June 14th
LOIs screened, applicants of appropriate projects sent letters to request full proposals	By end of June / early July
Deadline for Invited Parties to submit Full Proposals	July 19th
PAC Reviews Plans, conducts site visits, and ranks projects	July - August
IRT selects finalist	August - September
Finalize Project Agreements for Approved 2019 Projects	October - November



What Makes for a Successful Project?

- Meets goals & objectives of service area
- Creates / restores enhances protects the most wetland acreage
- Shovel Ready (for creation / restoration projects)
- Contains rare habitats, rare spp., or both
- Connects adjacent existing preserves
- Brings additional leveraged funds



What is Required of CE?

- Property Owner Permission
- Requisite Permits
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Property Boundary Survey
- Land Protection Instrument in perpetuity
- Recent Appraisal
- Mitigation Plan & Requisite Monitoring
- Conservation & Management Plan



To Find Out More

Visit:

<http://ct.audubon.org/conservation/in-lieu-fee-program>

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