

# CT Wetland In Lieu Fee (ILF) 2024 Grant Program Update

Anthony Zemba

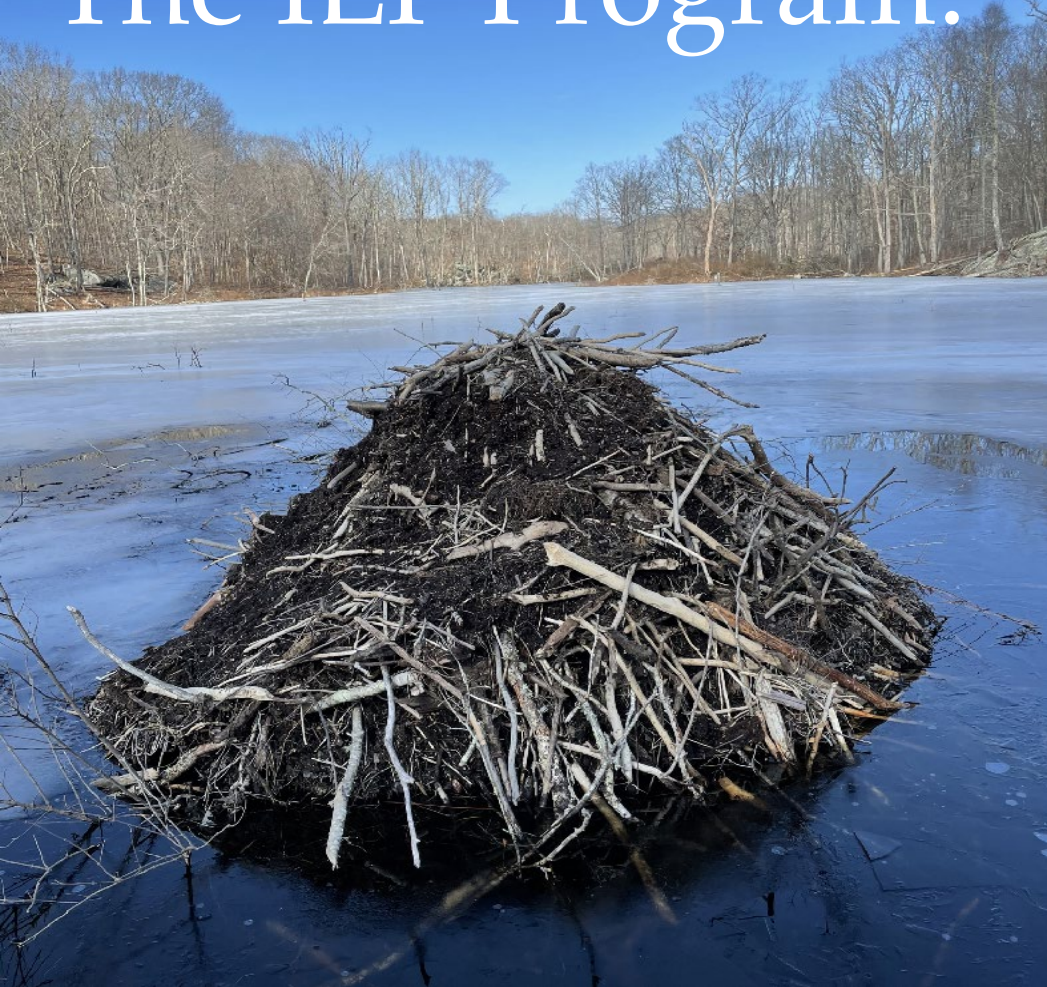
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LANDTECH



# The 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 authorizations.

**Sale of credits** generates funds

Funds are made available for grants used to create, restore, enhance, & protect additional wetland acreage = **Release of credits**

# ILF Grant Process Overview

- A **Cooperating Entity (CE)** identifies a project in a “service area”
- CE submits **Letter of Intent (LOI)**
- If eligible, CE asked to submit a **Full Application & draft Mitigation Plan**
- Applications reviewed by **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**
- PAC scores projects; best projects are recommended to an **Interagency Review Team (IRT)**



If approved, the CE then...



- Enters into a **Project Agreement** with Audubon
- Provides **legal documents** to Audubon
- Secures a **land protection instrument**
- Finalizes **mitigation and management plans**
- Designs & implements project **as soon as possible or within one year**, then...
- Monitors the site pursuant to Corps **mitigation guidelines**

# Projects Eligible for ILF Funding

- Wetland **Creation**
- Wetland **Restoration**
- Wetland **Enhancement**
- Wetland **Preservation**  
(but only if it includes one  
or more of the above)



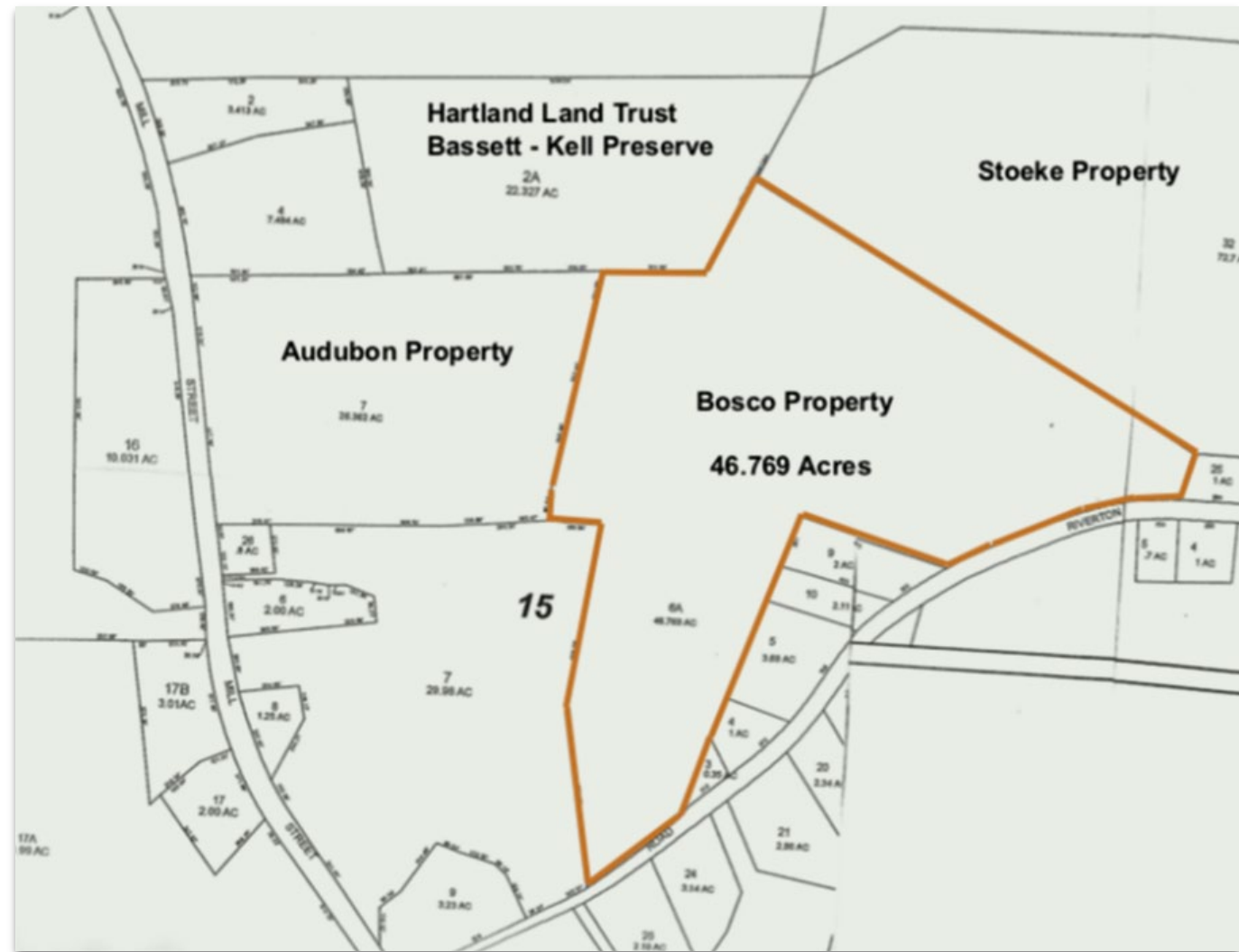
A close-up photograph of green grasses with several small, white, spherical flower heads. The background is a soft-focus green.

# Summary of ILF Program 2016–2023

- **\$2.75 million** awarded to date
- **240 acres** of wetlands created, restored, enhanced or preserved
- **1,085 acres** of total land protected
- Over **28,000 linear feet of riverine habitat** enhanced
- **26 state-listed species** (including 3 federal) confirmed on ILF sites
- Habitat for **98 Greatest Conservation Need** species protected
- **7 Critical Habitats** are reported to occur on the various ILF-acquired lands

# What Makes for a Successful Project?

- Meets goals & objectives of the Service Area
- Creates, restores, enhances and protects the most wetland acreage
- “Shovel Ready”
- Contains rare habitats, rare species or both
- Connects adjacent existing preserves



Bosco Property Acquisition – Hartland, CT



*Thermal pool treatment on the Salmon Kill, Salisbury, CT*

# Salmon Kill Creek Restoration

- **Restored degraded stream reaches** that were adversely impacted by agricultural land use
- Addressed **ongoing bank erosion**
- **Restored streamside vegetation** to shade stream corridor and stabilize banks
- **Added in-stream habitat attributes** to sustain coldwater fishery
- **Reach now protected** by livestock fencing and a conservation easement



- Second to **last barrier** to be crossed in a series of seven barriers along the Falls River
- Allows passage of diadromous fish to **upstream spawning habitat**
- The last barrier preventing river herring from reaching **10-acre upstream breeding habitat** removed



*Dolan Pond Fishway, Essex*

# Stratford Point Marsh Restoration

- **Restored Saltmarsh** lost due to excavation as a remedial measure to remove lead shot from the intertidal zone
- **One component** of a multi-faceted habitat restoration plan
- Removed failing and damaged tide gates to **restore tidal flushing**
- Restored Saltmarsh serves to attenuate wave energy and prevent further erosion of the adjacent upland habitats

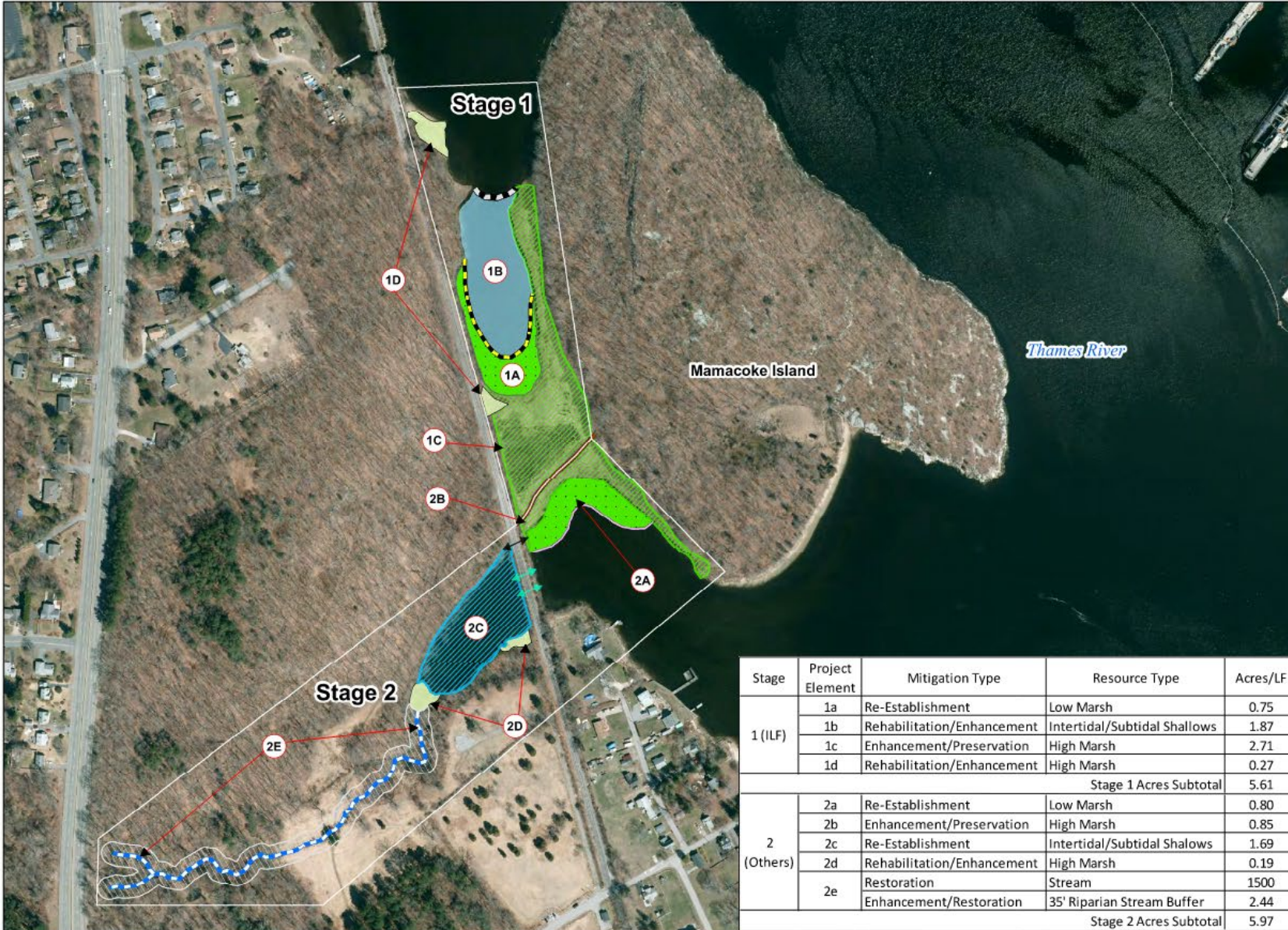


# What's Required of a Cooperating Entity?

- Property Owner Permission
- Requisite Permits (if required)
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Property Boundary Survey
- Land Protection Instrument in perpetuity
- Recent Appraisal
- Mitigation Plan & Requisite Monitoring
- Long Term Management Plan



# Thames River Restoration



**GreenVest LLC\***  
 35A Kennedy Road  
 Tranquility, NJ 07879  
 732.902.6644 (p)



**Mamacoke Island Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project**  
**Overall Mitigation Plan**  
 Connecticut College  
 Mamacoke Island  
 Town of Waterford, CT

**Legend**

- Stream Restoration
- 35' Riparian Stream Buffer
- Goliath Reefballs
- Bio-sill
- Sill
- Intertidal Subtidal Shallows Rehabilitation/Enhancement
- Low Marsh
- Proposed Equalizer Culvert
- Existing Culvert
- Intertidal/Subtidal Shallows Re-Establishment
- Phragmites Removal/ Intertidal Marsh Rehabilitation
- High Marsh Enhancement/Preservation

Stage	Project Element	Mitigation Type	Resource Type	Acres/LF
1 (ILF)	1a	Re-Establishment	Low Marsh	0.75
	1b	Rehabilitation/Enhancement	Intertidal/Subtidal Shallows	1.87
	1c	Enhancement/Preservation	High Marsh	2.71
	1d	Rehabilitation/Enhancement	High Marsh	0.27
Stage 1 Acres Subtotal				5.61
2 (Others)	2a	Re-Establishment	Low Marsh	0.80
	2b	Enhancement/Preservation	High Marsh	0.85
	2c	Re-Establishment	Intertidal/Subtidal Shallows	1.69
	2d	Rehabilitation/Enhancement	High Marsh	0.19
	2e	Restoration	Stream	1500
Stage 2 Acres Subtotal				5.97

# Jarvis Creek Restoration

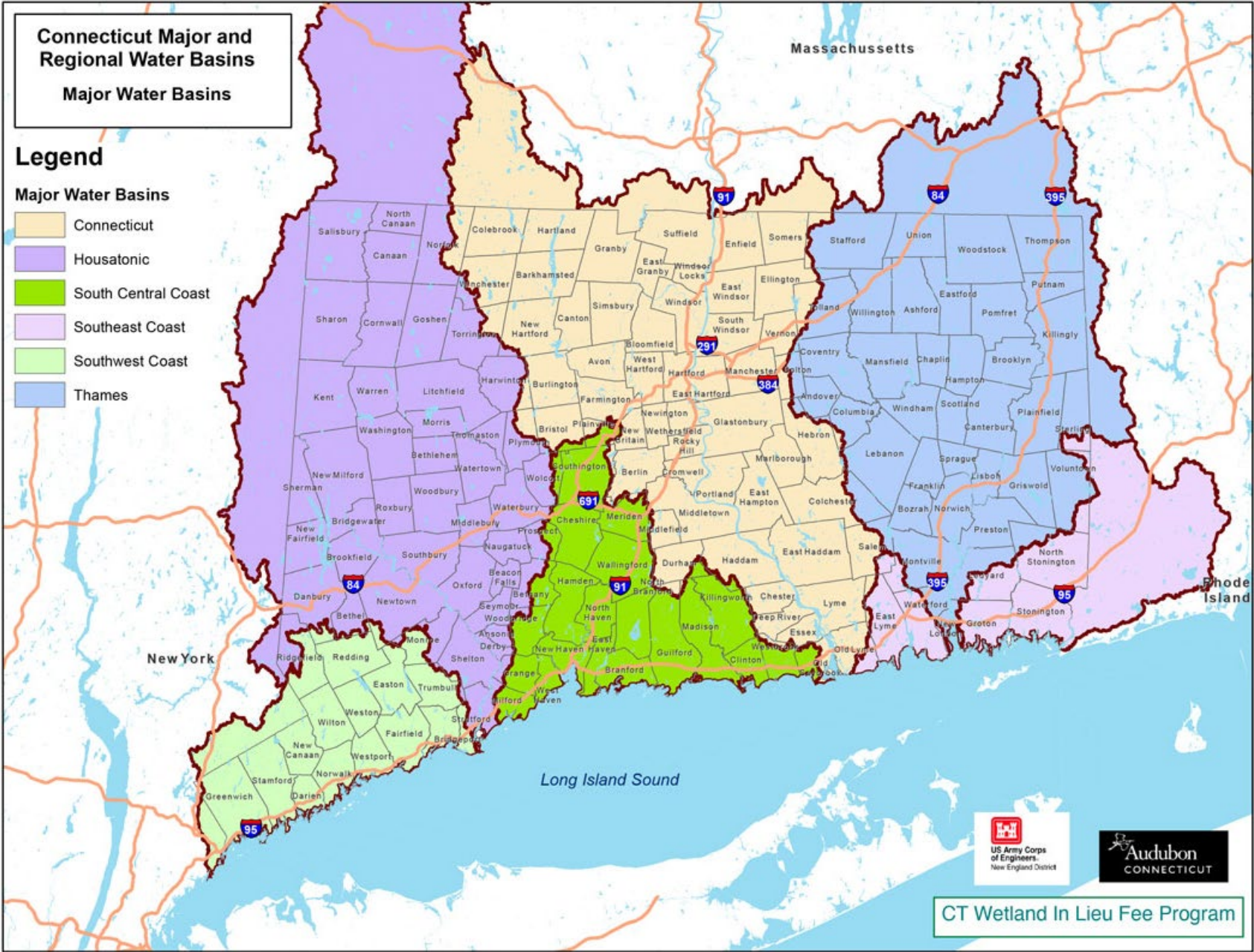


# Funds Made Available in 2023

Service Area	\$ Available
Connecticut River	962
Housatonic River	130,389
South-Central Coast	228,334
Southeast Coast	325,138
Southwest Coast	3,885
Thames River	3,737,558



# ILF Service Areas



# 2024 Schedule



Milestone	Tentative Time Period
Letters of Intent (LOI) Deadline	<b>May - June</b>
LOIs screened, applicants of appropriate projects send letters to request full proposals	<b>End of June/Early July</b>
Deadline for invited parties to submit full proposals	<b>Early July</b>
PAC reviews plans, conducts site visits, and ranks projects	<b>Late July</b>
IRT selects finalists	<b>August</b>
Finalize project Agreements	<b>December</b>



# Restoration & Enhancement Projects in Connecticut

- Indian River Culvert Removal – Orange
- Saltmarsh Restoration – Stratford
- Salmon Kill Creek Restoration – Salisbury
- Dolan Pond Fishway – Centerbrook
- Harrison Property Stewardship – North Branford
- Mad River Headwaters Restoration – Norfolk
- Norwalk River Restoration and Enhancement – Wilton
- Roger Tory Peterson Center Riparian Forest Restoration – Old Lyme
- Jepp Brook – Brand Property Acquisition & Enhancement – Hamden

# Preservation Projects in Connecticut

- **Lukaszeck Property Acquisition – Thompson**
- **Zemko Property Acquisition – Salem**
- **Stoeke Property Acquisition – Hartland**
- **Grobe Property Acquisition – Bethany**
- **Simpson Property Acquisition – Bethany**
- **Danforth Property Acquisition – Colebrook**
- **Fromson/Strassler Property Acquisition – Weston**
- **Bloomfield Farm Conservation Easement – Sherman**
- **Ricci Property Acquisition – Cheshire**
- **Alba Pavan Preserve Acquisition – Manchester**
- **Ayer's Point Property Acquisition – Old Saybrook**
- **Jepp Brook – Brand Property Acquisition & Enhancement – Hamden**

# An Appeal to CAWS Members: Please share with us your restoration costs!

Planning  
Design  
Survey  
Permitting (Local, State, Federal)  
Construction  
Labor  
Materials  
Community Engagement /Outreach  
Salary  
Etc.





Find Out More...

**Visit:**

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

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