

CT Wetland In Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Update 2022

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ILF Program = an Alternative to Permittee-responsible Wetland Mitigation

Audubon CT is the sponsor of CT's ILF Program (est. 2013) for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation required by the Army Corps of Engineers – NED authorizations.

- Sale of Credits = generates funds
- Release of Credits = funds made available for grants used to create, enhance, restore, or preserve in perpetuity, additional wetland acreage

ILF Grant Application Process Overview

A Cooperating Entity (CE) identifies project in “service area”

1. CE Submits a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** once grant is advertised
2. If eligible, CE asked to submit a **Full Application**
3. Applications reviewed by **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**
4. PAC scores projects; best projects are recommended to an **Interagency Review Team (IRT)**
5. IRT Reviews and either approves or denies funding recommendations made by the PAC
6. CE notified of findings.

If approved, CE then:

- Enters into a Project Agreement with Audubon
- Develops **mitigation work plan** first, then **conservation & management plan**
- Designs & implements project w/in 3 yrs, then
- Monitors the site pursuant to Corps' mitigation guidelines



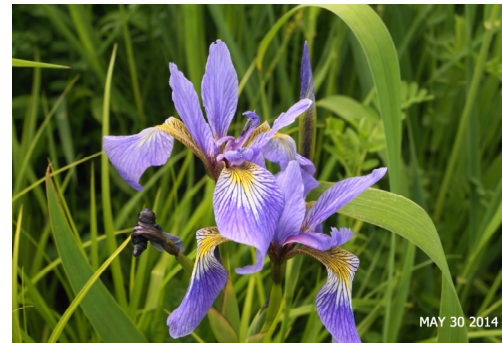
Projects Eligible for ILF Funding:

- Wetland Creation
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement
- Preservation (Wetland, Upland)



2021 - Six Projects Approved:

- Norwalk River Habitat **Restoration** – Wilton, CT
- Jepp Brook **Preservation** & Meadow **Restoration** – Hamden, CT
- Rewilding (i.e., **Restoring**) the Headwaters of the Mad River – Norfolk, CT
- Lieutenant River Riparian Habitat **Restoration** – Old Lyme, CT
- Great Meadows **Restoration** and Resiliency Project – Stratford, CT
- Farmington River Highlands Preserve, Bosco “B” **Acquisition** – Hartland, CT



Summary of ILF Program 2016 - 2021

- **\$2.7 million** awarded to date
 - has leveraged an **additional \$3.6 million** in funding for wetland creation, restoration & preservation
- **≈232 acres** of **wetlands** created, restored, or preserved
- **>28,800 linear feet** of **riverine habitat** enhanced
- **1,079 acres** of **total land** protected in perpetuity



ILF Site's Contribution to Conserving Biodiversity

- **>100 Species of Conservation Concern**
- **74 spp. CT Greatest Conservation Need (GCN)**
- **26 CT ESA spp.**
 - incl. 3 federal ESA spp.
 - additional listed spp. are suspected



At least **7 CTDEEP Critical Habitats** occur on one or more ILF sites

- Estuarine Intertidal Marsh
- Acidic Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
- Acidic Black Spruce Basin Swamp
- Circumneutral Spring Fen or Rich Fen
- Dry Sub-acidic Forest
- Old Growth Forest
- Sub-acidic Rocky Summit Outcrop

ILF Funding by Service Area Available for 2022

Service Area	Funding Amount
Connecticut River	\$62,815
Housatonic River	\$129,420
South-Central Coast	\$227,714
Southwest Coast	\$3,649
Thames River	\$1,643,261
Southeast Coast	\$4,571
Total	\$2,071,430

To Find Out More

Visit:

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

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