

2022 Environmental Grants

Organization	Project/Description	Awarded
Conservation		
Audubon Connecticut	In partnership with Mystic Aquarium, Connecticut Audubon Society, Three Rivers Community College (TRCC), and the State of Connecticut, this project will restore the natural flow of saltwater to salt marsh habitat at Barn Island Wildlife Management Area and engage people in coastal stewardship. This project will improve the health and increase public awareness about Barn Island's marshes, employ TRCC interns to monitor wildlife and their habitats, and enhance stewardship of beach-nesting birds. Two year grant (\$85,000 over 2 years).	\$ 85,000
Avalonia Land Conservancy	To continue to grow membership, expand annual giving, and increase communication outreach efforts. Improve the administrative operations and increase efforts to recruit and manage volunteers and volunteer leaders, while cultivating a culture of commitment to Avalonia's future growth, stability, and sustainability.	\$ 30,000
CLiCK	To leverage additional funds from the Connecticut State Department of Agriculture in order to connect CLiCK's facility to municipal water and sewer. Rerouting the increasing kitchen effluent from CLiCK's facility will help to protect the river while facilitating economic growth.	\$ 14,500
Colchester Land Trust	To build capacity to conserve land in Colchester and protect parcels from development.	\$ 15,000
East Lyme Land Trust	ELLT will complete improvements to recently acquired 301+ acre property located in both East Lyme and Montville. Projects include off street gravel parking areas, trail improvements, markings and signage.	\$ 15,000
Groton Open Space Association	Support for the Town of Groton's purchase of the 59-acre Wolfebrook property in Groton for preservation as open space.	\$ 40,000
Lyman Allyn Art Museum	Support the master planning phase of the Museum's new Lyman Allyn Park initiative. This planning is the first step in an ambitious new project that will transform the Lyman Allyn grounds into a revitalized and engaging green space for residents of New London and beyond.	\$ 15,000
Save the Sound	Educate, train, and pursue certification of Grasso Technical High School students using the NAACC road-stream crossing assessment protocol. Working in priority watersheds in the Groton-Ledyard area, students will build STEM/Green Job skills and generate data that local and regional planners can use to make our communities more resilient, our habitats more connected, and our wildlife populations safer and more robust.	\$ 20,000
Town of Plainfield, CT	Enable the Kate Downing Road Open Space to be accessible to the public as soon as possible while ensuring the safety of the users and the security of park property and the residents surrounding the property. Funding for costs associated with parking and security measures, equipment and supplies necessary to establish hiking trails, and environmental consultation fees to ensure all decisions are environmentally conscious.	\$ 15,000

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Tritown Trail Association	Installation of a safer crossing from the Preston Community Park (official trail head) across Route 117 to the grassy path of first portion of the trail. Support coordinated efforts of partners in the research and implementation of plan of protection and preservation of the historic Spicer Family homestead which is bisected by the Trail.	\$ 10,000
Education		
Connecticut Audubon Society	Continue the experiential Science in Nature STEM education program with Harbor Elementary School and Lillie B. Haynes School and expand program to CB Jennings International Elementary Magnet. Provide programming to 475 students during multiple experiential sessions and support approximately 25 elementary teachers' delivery of NGSS-aligned science curriculum.	\$ 25,000
Connecticut Forest & Park Association	Using the land, pond, and trails at the Goodwin State Forest and the Windham school grounds as an outside classroom, connect students from Windham Middle School to the local environment. Provide students with real-world experience and learn about their local environment. Students and teachers will have a better understanding of local habitats, and will learn empathy for all living things.	\$ 50,000
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center/Coogan Farm	Environmental Education Adventures will support programming to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Activities will target students in underserved communities by working with schools and organizations in New London County. Environmental education programming allows for a combination of academic and social emotional learning.	\$ 25,000
New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS)	Engage youth and families of New London and Groton CT thorough partnerships with schools and community organizations. Programs engage students through experiential, STEM-based programs in the classroom and on the water that educate participants on the local and global environment. Students gain STEM content, develop social-emotional skills, and receive knowledge and resources to become positive stewards of their environment and community.	\$ 40,000
New London Youth Affairs	Engage teens in educational environmental activities in natural settings, provide conservation opportunities to promote their capacity as good environmental stewards, facilitate workforce readiness in environmental careers, develop on the water skills, and enable access to the maritime world to contribute to their mental/physical health. Integrate partnerships with NESS, Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium.	\$ 19,000

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Reforest the Tropics	Operational support in order to deliver a comprehensive climate crisis education program throughout Eastern Connecticut. The program will build upon successes in recent years in the delivery of a popular program which fills a need within local communities. Students are challenged through a dynamic pedagogy to explore issues related to climate change and discover their own agency in responding to the issue.	\$ 25,000
Sea Research Foundation - Mystic Aquarium	"Next Generation of the City Meets the Sea" initiative to students in the New London and Norwich school districts. This Long Island Sound experiential education program sparks STEM aspirations in underserved youth by offering a live virtual watershed program, a coastal field study, and explorations of Mystic Aquarium. This curriculum helps schools meet Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) requirements.	\$ 25,000
Three Rivers Community College	Environmental Opportunities Project will provide environmental education, research, and fieldwork for community college students from TRCC who are interested in the environment disciplines. Provide nontraditional, first generation, and underrepresented students with research opportunities typically unavailable to community college students. Three year grant (\$10,000/year x 3).	\$ 30,000
University of Connecticut Foundation	Natural Resources Conservation Academy seeks to significantly deepen the impact of its youth environmental action program that engages over 50 individuals, including teens, UConn students, and adult volunteer community partners each year. Ensure that ten high school students from Windham are supported financially and through multi-tiered mentorship as they each develop, carry out and share with the community conservation projects that address local environmental issues.	\$ 30,000
Environmental Justice		
Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)	The 2022 Advancement Initiative will focus on bringing resources, experts, and community organizations to the table to discuss accessibility barriers and solutions with land trusts through a series of workshops and roundtable discussions.	\$ 18,000
Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs	Provide solutions to newly trained people who do not have the ability to get to job sites in the green economy due to a lack of vehicle ownership or poor public transportation.	\$ 10,000
Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation	Expansion of the community garden to feed more tribal community members and those in need while offering tribal elder talks, historical tours of the garden and the reservation. The Native Junior environmental ranger program collects data while educating the youth from the area on current environmental conditions, while them how to use our handheld state of the art air quality and water quality measuring equipment, and discussing the impacts from a historical perspective.	\$ 14,000

Organization	Project/Description	Awarded
FoodCorps	Recruit, place, and train two AmeriCorps members to serve in New London Public Schools' four elementary schools, taking a collaborative approach to supporting NLPS' efforts to connect kids to healthy food. Access to nourishing meals and the opportunity to learn about and enjoy food is essential for the academic, physical, social, and emotional health and well-being of all children.	\$ 15,000
The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut	Support for Resilient Southeastern Connecticut project pilot. Offer conservation strategies to partnerships with vulnerable communities. Strengthen community capacity to lead conservation projects and identify how to replicate similar work in other areas experiencing disproportionate impacts of climate change.	\$ 35,000
The Trust for Public Land - CT	Develop and roll out an innovative, web-based GIS mapping tool that will allow policymakers, administrators, and the public to pinpoint schools in eastern Connecticut that lack access to nature within a 10-minute walk. By revealing access gaps, the Nature Near Schools Discovery Map will incentivize public investment in equitable solutions for disadvantaged schools and their communities while building on the CLCC and The Last Green Valley's existing Regional Mapper.	\$ 18,000
Advocacy & Collaboration		
Grow Windham	"Rooting Deep and Scaling Up: A Roadmap for Food System Equity and Viability in Eastern CT" is a partnership that convenes producers, community members, stakeholders and allies to capture community-level food system innovation and momentum and scale it up to strengthen regional food system resilience. Two year grant (\$5,000/year x 2).	\$ 10,000
The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut	Lead efforts to convene and align stakeholders across Connecticut around shared goals and policy measures to increase the pace and scale of conservation and in particular, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Promote cooperation and ensure equity, environmental impact and long-term sustainability.	\$ 20,000
Total for 27 Grants		\$ 668,500