



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Habitat Restoration Projects by Save the Sound

In 2009, Save the Sound was awarded \$2.2 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for two coastal restoration projects, one in Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme and one in the West River in New Haven.

ARRA Project Spotlight

West River Tidal Restoration

New Haven, CT

ARRA Award: \$1.8 million

Project Type: Tidal Marsh Restoration

Project Scope: Save the Sound coordinated the replacement of three antiquated tide gates in West River just south of Route 1 with self regulating tide gates. Save the Sound also installed enhancements including a raised boardwalk and native plants to the Duck Pond in Edgewood Park.

Project Partners: NOAA, Restore America's Estuaries, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, New Haven Parks, Recreation and Trees, and the City of New Haven's Department of Engineering.

Completion Date: June 2012

History: In the 1920s, the City of New Haven installed tide gates across the West River. This tidal restriction limited salt water and many Long Island Sound species from entering the lower reaches of the West River and drastically changed the original salt marsh habitat.

Habitat Restored: 7 river miles, 82 acres of tidal wetlands, 41 acres of estuarine embayment, and 1.4 acres of native plants



Tide Gate Construction, April 2012



Duck Pond Enhancements, May 2012

Bride Brook Salt Marsh Restoration

East Lyme, CT

ARRA Award: \$470,000

Project Type: Salt Marsh Restoration and Migratory Fish Passage

Project Scope: Save the Sound coordinated the replacement of a collapsing and blocked culvert at Bride Brook to provide fish passage to spawning habitat. Save the Sound also coordinated the planting of native vegetation to help rebuild the dune system.

Project Partners: NOAA, Restore America's Estuaries, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, FishAmerica Foundation, and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Completion Date: Construction, April 2010; dune restoration, April 2011

History: Bride Brook is a wholly unique marine system that hosts the second largest migration river herring run in the state, bested only by the Connecticut River. Prior to the project, the collapsing culvert hindered the number of fish making it through to spawning grounds. A historic 275,686 river herring have passed through the new culvert during the 2012 spawning run.

Habitat Restored: 82 acres of tidal wetlands, 0.5 acres of dune, and 5 river miles



Culvert Construction, January 2010



Dune Planting, April 2011

Habitat Restoration

Since 1996, Save the Sound's Habitat Restoration Project has developed innovative methods of restoring critical habitats, such as opening ancestral fish migration runs to allow passage from salt to freshwater ecosystems, restoring tidal flow, and planting native species. This work complements the efforts of partner governmental agencies in the Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration Initiative, and the eleven other regional partners of Restore America's Estuaries. Save the Sound begins at the grassroots level and brings together residents, businesses, and municipal, state and federal agencies to achieve our restoration goals.



Save the Sound®

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