



Save the Sound®

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Save the Sound receives grants for innovative green infrastructure collaborations to manage stormwater, educate residents, and create jobs

New funding will support partnerships with Edgerton Park GROWERS and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven

New Haven, Conn. – Save the Sound, a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, has received new funding from the Greater New Haven Green Fund and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for collaborative projects to manage polluted stormwater, educate city residents, and restore wildlife habitat in the West River Watershed.

The Greater New Haven Green Fund grant will support a collaboration with GROWERS, an organization based at the Edgerton Park Greenhouses that provides horticultural job training and employment opportunities for adults with developmental and physical disabilities. GROWERS students will continue the cultivation of native plant seed supplied by Save the Sound until seedlings are ready to be transplanted at the Pond Lily Nature Preserve and residential sites identified by Neighborhood Housing Services.

“We are excited to continue a partnership with GROWERS while advancing our restoration efforts at Pond Lily and throughout the West River Watershed,” **said Save the Sound Green Infrastructure Program Manager Kendall Barbery.** “The support of the Green Fund has allowed us to develop new programs and innovative ways to improve local resources while providing jobs.”

The seeds supplied to GROWERS by Save the Sound were originally collected from Pond Lily Nature Preserve by volunteers from the New England Wildflower Society as part of a federally funded campaign after Superstorm Sandy. The seeds were cleaned and frozen at the National Resources Conservation Service in New Jersey last winter and sent to GROWERS this past spring. This collaboration will support Save the Sound’s ongoing restoration efforts at the preserve following the 2016 removal of the Pond Lily Dam and provide native perennials for New Haven homes in the West River Watershed.

A separate EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 grant administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will support a collaboration between Save the Sound and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS). The project will manage polluted stormwater runoff from up to one half acre of impervious surface while introducing green infrastructure at more than 20 households. This funding will allow for the construction of underground stormwater diversion

chambers at NHS renovation properties and rain gardens at homes and apartments in the West River Watershed while showing homeowners how they can reduce their environmental impact.

“Residential rain gardens are not only beautiful, they are also important tools for water management—helping to reduce flooding and keep the West River clean,” Barbery added. “By working with residents of the watershed to build rain gardens, we’re also helping to build sustainable communities, and working with NHS provides a unique opportunity to maximize impact.”

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