

## Long Island Sound River Restoration Network

# Agencies and Funders Convening

Reid Castle at Manhattanville College

8:30 - 9:30	Registration and Networking
Ophir Room	<i>Meet other attendees, peruse information about RRN member organizations, make new connections, and catch up with colleagues over coffee, tea, and pastries.</i>
9:30 - 10:00	Headwaters: Welcoming Remarks and Purpose Setting
West Room	<i>Official start to the main session of the 2024 Convening.</i> <b>Speaker:</b> Anthony Allen   Director of Restoration Strategy, Save the Sound
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote Address
West Room	<b>Speaker:</b> Andy Fisk   Northeast Regional Director, American Rivers
10:30 - 11:00	State of the States
West Room	<i>Updates on the state of stream barrier removal in Connecticut and New York.</i> <b>Speaker (CT)</b> Emily Hadzopulos   Freshwater Restoration Project Manager, TNC CT Chuck Lee   Assistant Director - Dam Safety Program, CT DEEP <b>Speakers (NY)</b> Laura Wildman   NY Ecological Restoration Program Manager, Save the Sound Enrico Nardone   Executive Director, Seatuck Environmental Association
11:00 - 12:00	Panel: Connecting the Funding Ecosystem
West Room	<i>Panel discussion of funding opportunities, challenges, and critical evolutions of the funding ecosystem for stream barrier removal.</i> <b>Facilitator</b> Holly Drinkuth   Director of River and Estuary Conservation, TNC CT <b>Panelists</b> Danielle Perry   Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, NOAA Jim Turek   Restoration Ecologist, NOAA Mark Tedesco   Director, EPA LIS Office Tripp Killin   Executive Director, Jeniam Foundation
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
West Room	Film Screening: <i>Reconnected</i>
12:45 - 1:20	Collective Imagining: Pathways of Collaboration

West Room	<p><i>Interactive session to identify and assess key areas for closer cross-sector collaboration between agencies, practitioners, and funders to accelerate the pace and scale of stream barrier removal.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Anthony Allen   Director of Restoration Strategy, Save the Sound</p>
1:30 - 2:30	Breakout Sessions
East Library	<p><b>Culvert Right-Sizing Design, Permits, and Resources</b></p> <p><i>Join staff from TNC, Save the Sound, and CT DEEP for an interactive exploration of the culvert right-sizing / replacement process from identification to construction, focusing on opportunities for greater collaboration, common challenges, and funding gaps at each step in the process..</i></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b></p> <p>Emily Hadzopulos   Freshwater Restoration Project Manager, TNC CT</p> <p>Matt Goclowski   Supervising Fisheries Biologist, CT DEEP</p> <p>Paul Woodworth   Senior Ecological Restoration Project Manager, Save the Sound</p>
West Room	<p><b>Strategies for Streamlining Dam Removal</b></p> <p><i>Join practitioners from RRN member organizations for a discussion of common challenges encountered in dam removal projects and potential strategies (including models from other states) to streamline the process.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters</b></p> <p>Alex Krofta   Ecological Restoration Project Manager, Save the Sound</p> <p>Jeff Yates   Senior Director of Engagement, Trout Unlimited</p> <p>Ron Rhodes   Director of Programs, Connecticut River Conservancy</p>
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 3:45	Breakout Sessions
President's Dining Room	<p><b>Sediment Management: Regulations and Practices</b></p> <p><i>Sediment management is often one of the key cost drivers in dam removal projects. This session will explore current regulations and practices in the region, the impact they have on project cost and timelines, and what we might learn or borrow from models in other states or regions.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b></p> <p>Laura Wildman   Vice President of Ecological Restoration, Save the Sound</p>
East Library	<p><b>Project Prioritization and Feasibility</b></p> <p><i>As part of the ongoing effort to make project selection more strategic and feasibility assessment more consistent and streamlined, the RRN has submitted a draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to the EPA. This session will examine the objectives and proposed methods in that first iteration, and seek input on factors and methods for project prioritization and reconnaissance for future iterations.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b></p> <p>Megan Lung   NY Ecological Restoration Project Manager, Save the Sound</p>
	<b>Public Awareness and Policy: Collective Advocacy</b>

West Room	<p><i>The stream barrier removal movement has faced many iterations of public misconception and opposition throughout the years. This session will feature a robust and ranging conversation of the storytelling methods (from story maps to door knocking and documentaries) and key opportunities for collective advocacy that can help dispel misinformation and build broad support for stream barrier removal.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b>  <i>Alicea Charamut   Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut</i>  <i>Lindsay Skedgell   Ecological Communications Specialist, Save the Sound</i>  <i>Rhea Drozdenko   CT River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy</i></p>
3:50 - 4:20	Confluence: Takeaways and Activations
West Room	<p><i>The full group will reconvene in the West Room to close out the day with reflections on key takeaways and put forward near-term activations of collaborative pathways in the weeks and months ahead. Not to be missed!</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b>  <i>Anthony Allen   Director of Restoration Strategy, Save the Sound</i></p>
4:20 - 4:30	Gratitude and Closing