

By supporting the UConn-Greenwich Partnership, you are contributing to the long-term sustainability of Long Island Sound and its associated watersheds, enhancing environmental education, and developing expert, science-based assessments of problems and their solutions at local and regional scales.

THROUGH UCONN'S ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY DEPT. AND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING, THE ENDOWMENT FOR LONG ISLAND SOUND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION WILL SUPPORT UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND RESEARCH RELATED TO PRESERVING THE CONNECTICUT COAST THROUGH FACULTY AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT POSITIONS; THEIR RELATED ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND FIELD WORK ACTIVITIES; AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING. PRIORITY FOCUS WILL BE ON PROGRAMS IN GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT, AND THE UCONN STAMFORD CAMPUS, BUT MAY EXPAND AS PRIORITIES EVOLVE.

PRESERVING THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY OF
Long Island Sound
THROUGH SCIENCE-BASED UNDERSTANDING

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THE UConn-Greenwich Partnership

Long Island Sound

is an urban estuary of national significance, where saltwater from the ocean mixes with fresh water from rivers, to form an interconnected human and natural system. With diverse habitats and an abundance of nutrients, estuaries are the “nurseries of the sea,” and among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on earth. Indeed, Long Island Sound and its associated watersheds represent a trillion dollar asset that benefits human society in countless ways. Benefits range from resource extraction via fishing and shellfish harvesting, to protection of coasts from wave damage and erosion, to water filtration and nutrient cycling, to recreation, tourism and quality of life.

Humans extensively use estuarine and coastal environments, and this sometimes results in extreme insults. Over the past 50 years, Long Island Sound has rebounded, from a time when 75 percent of its native species had been lost, to a resurgence of life forms. This revitalization represents a lesson for restoring the health of an estuary that informs action locally, regionally, and throughout the world.

The Challenge: preserving and protecting coastal habitats

Global change—whether climate change, sea level rise, invasive species, land use change, or increased transmission of pathogens and parasites—represents a chronic and sometimes acute threat to any ecosystem. Mitigating or eliminating these threats becomes incredibly complex when fully considering the many ecosystem services



and various segments of society that benefit from them.

Our challenges related to long-term sustainability are to:

- Understand the underlying mechanisms that support biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides;
- Protect and conserve diverse coastal and estuarine habitats, and the wildlife that they support;
- Maintain or enhance the ecosystem services on which human prosperity depends.

The UConn-Greenwich Partnership

Meeting these imposing environmental challenges requires effective leadership, new multidisciplinary approaches, and collaborative efforts. In the UConn-Greenwich Partnership, we have forged a unique alliance of world-class biodiversity and environmental scientists from the Storrs and regional campuses to work with local communities and governmental agencies to intimately understand, monitor, and



wisely manage the vital natural resources of Long Island Sound and its associated terrestrial watersheds.



- The Partnership engages the full capacity of the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and the Center for Environmental Sciences & Engineering at UConn with regard to research, education, and outreach. This includes scores of scientists and educators across all of UConn’s campuses.
- The Partnership directly engages the Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission and Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies, to leverage intimate understanding of the terrestrial and estuarine environment associated with the Sound, and the challenges of managing it wisely in light of global change.
- The Partnership, hosted at the Floren Family Environmental Center at the Innis Arden Cottage at Greenwich Point Park, provides local access to research, education, and outreach programs that will benefit the development of coastal resiliency plans.
- The Partnership will become a model for how public universities can collaborate with local communities to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges to face society in the 21st century.

Join Us

Your investment in the Endowment for Long Island Sound Coastal Environmental Research and Education will have an enduring impact. It supports this partnership’s important mission to advance sustainable management, conservation and policy.

To discuss your investment in this partnership,

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