

Long Island Sound Futures Fund Fish & Wildlife grant for MATTITUCK INLET WATERWASH™ Synopsis

This is a nonpoint source pollution control and public education project, for Long Island Sound Futures Fund which has awarded the project \$40,000. The site for this grant was selected after consulting with Mark Terry, senior environmental planner, Jamie Richter, town engineer, and the stormwater committee. The location is a public boat ramp on Mattituck Inlet, on a town-owned lot next to the Mattituck Park district lot. While it is not the most crucial storm water site in town, it was determined to have poor grading that sends water down the ramp during storm events and to have good potential for public visibility. The inlet has threatened wildlife and shellfish that are affected by runoff pollution from county Route 48 and the southern part is always closed to shellfishing. Town Trustee, Jim King, has contributed suggestions and an excellent history of the area with county improvements several years ago. Allen Connell, from the Natural Resource Conservation Service was enthusiastic when he looked at the project site and has offered advice and technical info to us. The Group for the East End is doing administrative and organizational work in addition to donating \$5000 worth of plants. The GFEE educational dept are coordinating volunteers from local high school environmental clubs to do the plantings and some maintenance as well as water quality monitoring. Matching funds and engineering help have been generously provided by Excav Services and Filterpave Geosystems. We have had very positive input from the DEC and NFWF regional director and many others who are extremely supportive of WATERWASH. With this LISFF grant we have the opportunity to continue the improvement of a special Mattituck / Southold town area and meet the upcoming 2nd phase MS4 storm water requirements for educational outreach.

The project is to replace the current parking lot surface with permeable pavement and native warm weather grasses and wetland species. The recycled glass and gravel material is new to our area, but has been tested extensively in varied climates across the country. Storm-water will enter the ground through the pavement and bluestone substrate, with over flow moving into a swale where native plants will take up a percentage of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coliform bacteria in the runoff. Currently there are several areas which are scoured in rainstorms. Proper grading will prevent the rainwater from going down the current concrete ramp and direct it towards the buffer zones of the vegetated swale, weir, and managed phragmites. The currently scoured area to the left of the ramp will be filled in with clean sand and planted with Spartina to match the existing plants. Lillian Ball, an environmental artist, has developed her concept with collaboration from Southold town agencies, the Group for the East End, and Excav Services. She has designed the overall area, the educational signage, and also functions as the outreach coordinator. The interpretive signs will explain what a variety of permeable pavements and plants do to clean the road runoff before it enters the inlet. They will also focus on the habitat for wildlife such as shellfish and birdlife created by the native plants. School children can visit the park as part of science curriculum. There has been significant interest in this project from journalists as well as stakeholders, which will spread information to the wider public, inspiring greater understanding of these important issues that affect the health of our waterways.

WATERWASH Projects
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