



Request for Proposals

Habitat creation and restoration funds available to create habitat for migrating songbirds and watershed health and provide opportunities for community engagement and stewardship

The Problem

With increasing urbanization, city parks, schoolyards, and other urban green spaces are often the only habitat available to birds and other wildlife, and provide a wealth of environmental services, such as improved water and air quality. As urban areas expand, urban forests and other green spaces will become increasingly critical to protecting the Long Island Sound, sustaining birds during migration, and providing outdoor access to local communities. Effective, sustainable management of these lands is critical to meet the needs of both people and wildlife. At the same time, there is an urgent need to educate the public about the importance of healthy riparian buffer habitat for Long Island Sound's water quality and wildlife habitat, and to engage them in the hands-on practice of conservation.

The Program

The Urban Oases program employs an innovative model of community-based land stewardship that engages multiple stakeholders in restoration of urban green spaces to provide quality habitat for migratory songbirds while also addressing critical community needs. The project provides opportunities for students and their families, neighborhood groups, and the general public to participate in habitat restoration, citizen science, and green job skills training. The program is creating a network of urban oases- these are habitats and green spaces for wildlife and people-across New Haven.

The Urban Oases program which involves a partnership between Audubon, Common Ground High School, Friends of Beaver Ponds Park, McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, New Haven Public Schools, New Haven Urban Resources Initiative, New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees, Yale Peabody Museum and the Yale School of Forestry, is creating a network of urban oases across New Haven. In 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service officially designated the New Haven Harbor Watershed and partnership efforts within as one of the first National Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships in the nation. Find out more about this project here: <http://newhavenwildliferefuge.org/>

The Opportunity: Proposal Request Details and Eligibility

- Funding available for creating three (3) new urban oases habitats at three (3) different sites
- Funds cover the costs of native wildlife habitat plants. The range of available funds for each project is between \$1,000-\$3,000
- Examples of projects include: restoring habitat along important waterways, creating a pollinator garden and creating wildlife habitat with native plants in place of turf grass
- Planting will take place between May 2016- August 2016
- Urban Refuge partners will offer technical support and work with the group in creating a habitat plan, initial project installation and general support
- Site must be located in New Haven
- Site needs the commitment of an active community group for project implementation and long-term stewardship
- Site needs to be accessible to the community
- Applicants need to commit to working with Urban Refuge Partners and conducting outreach in the community about the project



Audubon



Urban Resources Initiative
New Haven, Connecticut



COMMON GROUND
HIGH SCHOOL, URBAN FARM, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



YALE PEABODY MUSEUM
of Natural History



Long
Island
Sound
Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



New Haven
Parks & Recreation



growing from good to great
Kids
first



Application

DEADLINE: Applications are **due January 15, 2016** to Katherine Blake, Audubon Connecticut at kblake@audubon.org, please put "Urban Oases RFP" in the subject line of your email. You can also mail applications to 854 Orange St. New Haven, CT 06511.

Your name: _____

Your email: _____

Your phone: _____

Tell us about the site

Location of site (*address if applicable*):

Description of site:

Is this site currently accessible to the community? Please describe.

Why do you think this site is a good candidate?

Does your group have any other goals or concerns about this site?





Tell us about your group

What is the group's name? Are you the lead contact for this group? If not, what is his/her email address AND phone number?

Is your group already working at the site? If not, has your group been actively working on other projects?

How many members does this group have? How many of those members actively participate in projects currently? Does your group work in partnership with other community organizations or partners (i.e. a local school)?

Describe the readiness of this group. Is this group ready to take on a project in that time frame? Please elaborate.

Describe how you and your group would conduct community outreach to let people in the community know about the project. *These projects require a lot of outreach to the local community for volunteer recruitment on planting and maintenance projects and education about the benefits of these sites to wildlife, the environment and public health.*



