

CT WETLAND IN LIEU FEE GRANT PROGRAM**FULL APPLICATION PROPOSAL**

Program Date: _____

PART A

Cooperating Entity – Applicant: _____

Official Project Name: _____

Project Location: _____

Address: _____

Map/Block/Lot No.: _____

Property Centroid Coordinates: _____

Service Area* : _____

*Refer to following link to see in which major basin the project is located: [\[provide link to Basin Map\]](#)

Cooperating Entity – Property Owner (if Applicable/different than above):
_____**Project Description:** (Provide a brief project description).**PART B**

The Audubon CT ILF program compensatory mitigation projects are selected using a competitive award approach. Mitigation Plans (i.e., full proposals) are evaluated on a 100-point scale by the Project Advisory Committee using the prioritization criteria. The 100 points are divided up among the criteria. These criteria are provided below (with the % of the 100 points provided in parenthesis), followed by specific questions that must be answered to provide the necessary information that the ILF Project Advisory Committee will use to assign the necessary points.

I. CRITERIA NO. 1. POTENTIAL TO MEET AUDUBON CT ILF PROGRAM GOALS (30%).

Explain in this section of the application, how this project meets the core program requirement to restore, enhance, preserve or create aquatic resources and how the project site will be conserved in perpetuity by appropriate easement or other legal mechanism. Considerations should include:

- a) The sustainability of the proposed mitigative actions (restoration, enhancement, preservation, creation) and the acreage proposed for each or any of these. **Note:** To fully meet this criterion, projects cannot be preservation only.

- b) The resource types to be restored, enhanced, preserved or created.
First, summarize the resources in the following table.
 (Note: use the following Link to zoom into your site and obtain the respective Cowardin Classification cover types from the NWI Mapper
<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

Table 1 – Resource Type, Size (Ac), their Functions & Values, and the Type of Project			
Resource Type	Acres	Functions / Values	Type of Project
PFO			
PSS			
PEM			
Riverine Upper Perennial			
Riverine Lower Perennial			
Riverine Unknown Perennial			
Estuarine Intertidal			
Estuarine subtidal			
Marine Intertidal			
Marine subtidal			
Other			

Then, explain the degree to which the proposed project replaces the functional benefits of impacted resources in the service area based on a functional assessment of the project.

- c) Proximity of the proposed project to impacts within the same service area.

(Note: If major developments have recently occurred within the same service area that have resulted in wetland impacts, please state so here. If such developments are unknown, or their impact is unknown, please state as such).

- d) For preservation projects: Identify the type and likelihood of the threat of degradation to the site over the next twenty years.
- e) Describe how inclusion of upland areas will be sufficient to protect, buffer, or support identified aquatic resources and ecological connectivity to other conservation areas or undeveloped large blocks of habitat.
- f) Describe the current and proposed condition of the property, and “functional lift” provided by the project (e.g., proposed net changes in habitat quality, current vs. proposed ecological and physiographic contributions to functioning biological systems, expected changes in water quality, level of degradation, etc.)
- g) Identify other specific conservation objectives developed for the major watershed basin within which the project exists.

II. CRITERIA NO. 2 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT (20%).

State how the proposal meets the core program requirement to consider the location of a potential project relative to statewide focus areas for land conservation or habitat preservation identified by a state agency, other regional or municipal plans, or Audubon CT.

- a) Identify whether or not the project’s location lies within or adjacent to habitat areas of statewide conservation planning significance or other natural resource priority areas.
- b) Determine the project’s location within or adjacent to public or private conservation lands that maintain and preserve habitat connectivity.
- c) Presence of natural resources of significant value and/or rarity within the project site boundaries.

III. CRITERIA NO. 3 PROJECT READINESS/FEASIBILITY (20%).

Explain how the proposal meets the core program requirement to demonstrate project readiness and likelihood of success, where success is defined by the ability of the project to meet Audubon CT ILF Program goals and objectives in a reasonable time period. Considerations include the following:

- a) Documentation of landowner willingness to participate in the proposed project, including conveying a conservation easement or fee title, with conservation covenants, to the property (for projects not on public or private conservation lands).

- b) Level of project urgency (e.g., area of rapid development or on-going site degradation, other available funding with limited timing, option to purchase set to expire, etc.)
- c) Degree to which the proposal demonstrates understanding of resource conservation issues and needs.
- d) Soundness of the technical approach of the conceptual plan presented in the proposal.
- e) Initial progress (e.g., planning, fundraising, contracting, site design, etc.)
- f) Likelihood that the project will meet proposed schedule and/or required deadlines.
- g) Likelihood that the proposed actions will achieve the anticipated ecological benefits and results.
- h) Completeness and feasibility of long-term stewardship and monitoring plan, including endowment.
- i) Potential for adverse impacts (such as flooding or habitat loss) associated with the project.
- j) Conformance with any applicable Corps and state mitigation policy, guidance and permitting requirements, including appropriate financial assurances for any construction activity.

IV. PROJECT SPONSOR CAPACITY (15%).

Demonstrate how the proposal meets the core program requirement to provide for long-term management and/or stewardship by a responsible state or federal resource agency, municipality, or conservation organization. Considerations include:

- a) Presence of qualified, capable conservation entity willing to sponsor and/or maintain the project.
- b) Level of support and involvement of other relevant agencies, organizations and local community.
- c) Degree to which the project sponsor, and any associated partners, demonstrate the financial, administrative and technical capacity to undertake and successfully complete the project.
- d) Adequacy of long-term stewardship to ensure the project is sustainable over time and a funding mechanism for the associated costs (e.g., endowment or trust).
- e) Legal and financial standing of the project sponsor.
- f) Quality and completeness of proposal materials.

V. COST EFFECTIVENESS (10%).

The proposal meets the core program requirement that a project uses its funds efficiently given the condition, location and relative appraised value of property(ies). Considerations include:

- a) Clarity and detail of budget submitted.
- b) Sufficiency of funds available in the applicable service area (major watershed basin).
- c) Availability and source of matching funds necessary to complete the project.

VI. OTHER BENEFITS (5%).

The Application must assess the potential for the project to support economic activity, job creation, recreational access, scenic enhancements or other contributions to the environmental quality of the area where the project is located.

Append any additional existing information that may be available and deemed pertinent and useful to the reviewer such as the following:

- Property Appraisal
- Property Contamination Assessments (Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessments)
- Land Survey Boundary Maps
- Wetland Delineation Report / Mapping by a Certified Soil Scientist
- Historic Resource Information / Evaluations / Assessments
- Copy of the Municipal Property Assessor Card
- Biological Inventories or Rare Species Assessments
- Natural Resource Mapping
- Photos