



Instructions for Completing a Letter of Intent for Connecticut's In-Lieu Fee Program for Wetland and Stream Mitigation

1. **Project Title:** Create a name for the proposed project (What aquatic resource is the project related to?).
2. **Project Sponsor:** List the individual(s) coordinating the project, the sponsoring organization responsible for completing the proposed project, and all relevant contact information.
3. **Project Location:** Provide the town, county and street address, as well as latitude and longitude of the property. If Map and Lot number are also available, please provide. Note that a map of the proposed site is required. Please submit a USGS Topographic Map, or equivalent, showing entire boundary of proposed project, legal access, and adjacency of other public and private conservation lands or provide coordinates.
4. **Project Description:** Please provide a brief (400 words or less) description of the proposed project. Describe the current condition of the proposed project site (e.g., degradation on site, adjacent land uses, etc.) and the changes that will result from proposed conservation activities. Include a brief description of the project readiness (i.e., how soon it can begin, how long it will take to complete, etc.) and list any other active project partners (particularly if another entity will assume long-term management responsibility for the property). Consider the Audubon CT ILF project selection/ranking criteria to ensure the project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Audubon CT ILF Program. This information can be found on the Audubon Connecticut's In-Lieu Fee Program information webpage at <https://www.audubon.org/ct-ilf>.
5. **Preliminary Estimated Project Cost:**
 - **Total Project Cost:** Include all projected costs federal mitigation plan development, land acquisition, project design, permitting, construction, adaptive management, short-term monitoring, and long-term stewardship.
 - **ILF Fund Request:** Specify the funding amount requested from the CT ILF Program.
 - **Other Funding Sources:** List amounts and sources for any other known or likely funds that will be used to complete the project. While matching funds are not required, project cost effectiveness will be evaluated during full proposal review.
6. **Priority of Project Site:**
 - **Within or adjacent to an Audubon Priority Focus Area:** Provide Focus Area name and pertinent synopsis of the focal area. See <https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas> for locations.

- **Within or adjacent to existing public or private conservation lands:** Identify any areas such as state forests, parks, or natural areas that may be adjacent or ecologically connected to the site. Include a brief description of these areas (acres, ecosystems, known wetland systems, rare species occurrences, etc.).
- **Within or adjacent to other natural resource priority areas (e.g., identified in regional or municipal plan, land trust strategic plan, etc.):** Describe any priority areas that may be identified in regional or municipal plans, land trust strategic plans, etc. that are known or suspected of being important to biodiversity. Provide the name and a brief description of their value.
- **Contains natural resources of significant value and/or rarity:** Note other significant wildlife habitat, such as vernal pools, vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat, inland and/or tidal waterfowl/wading bird habitat, shorebird feeding/staging areas, trout management areas, unique wetland types, etc. See http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/map_catalog.asp for map catalogs.

7. Type of Compensatory Mitigation, Acreage and Resource Type:

- **Project Acres:** Indicate the total project acres contributing to each compensatory mitigation type. Audubon CT adheres to the mitigation hierarchy utilized by the Corps under their regulatory program. Mitigation projects are prioritized in the following order:
 - Restoration: Return a former aquatic resource to a formerly existing functionality.
 - Enhancement: Manipulation of an existing aquatic resource to heighten or improve degraded or lost functions.
 - Preservation: Removal of a threat to, or prevention of the decline of, a high functioning, reference quality resource through appropriate legal and physical mechanisms (land purchase, conservation easement, etc.)
 - Upland Buffer: Any non-wetland/stream habitats that protect, buffer, or support identified resource functions and ecological connectivity on the property.
 - Creation: Establishment of an aquatic resource where it had not existed previously (*this is generally the least desirable form of compensatory mitigation*).

Note: Restoration, enhancement, creation, and upland buffer project areas not currently protected will generally require a permanent site protection mechanism (land purchase by land trust, conservation easement, etc.).

- **Resource Types:** Identify which of the following Resource Types apply to the proposed project (“NWI” refers to the National Inventory of Wetlands, which can be accessed online via the [USFWS Wetlands Mapper](#)):

Wetland Type	NWI Code	Description
Freshwater Forested and Shrub Wetland (“swamps”)	PFO, PSS, PML	Forested swamp (PFO) or shrub swap (PSS) or bog (PML)
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (“marshes”)	PEM	Herbaceous marsh, fen, swale and wet meadow
Freshwater Pond	PUB, PAB	Pond

Wetland Type, cont'd	NWI Code	Description
Riverine ("watercourses")	R	River or stream channel
Lacustrine ("lakes")	L	Lake or reservoir basin
Other Freshwater Wetland	Misc. types	Farmed wetland, saline seep, vernal pools, or other miscellaneous wetland types
Estuarine and Marine Subtidal	E1, M1	Open water estuary, bay, sound, or open ocean
Estuarine and Marine Wetland, Intertidal	E2, M2	Vegetated and non-vegetated brackish and saltwater marsh, shrubs, beach, bar, shoal or flat

Other Resources

For the Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program information page, visit: <https://www.audubon.org/ct-iff>

For more information about wildlife and habitat management, contact Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/habitat-management-for-wildlife>

For more information about Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), contact CTDEEP or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/forestry/forest-landowner-assistance>

For more information about Open Space, contact CTDEEP or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Open-Space>

For GIS online maps of the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) map, contact CTDEEP or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/nddb/natural-diversity-data-base-and-environmental-reviews>

For information and some fact sheets about Endangered or Threatened Species, contact CTDEEP or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/learn-about-wildlife/connecticut-endangered-and-threatened-species-fact-sheets>

For a list of Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species, contact CTDEEP or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/endangered-species/connecticuts-endangered-threatened-and-special-concern-species>

For more information about the National Inventory of Wetlands (NWI), including locations of some federally mapped wetlands, contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or visit: <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper>

For more information on NOAA Fisheries Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Mapper, visit: <https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/>

For more information on NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region Endangered Species Act (ESA) Mapper, visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/consultations/section-7-species-critical-habitat-information-maps-greater>

For information on Federally listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitat, visit U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC): <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>