

# 3rd Annual LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop



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



## Session #1: SRC Resilience Assistance Programs

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 10-11:30 AM

Register here:

<https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYuceigrjlrHnk80NGkzVznH1s9TKKAfqFz>

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This session will feature communities who have successfully utilized our Sustainable and Resilient Communities Resilience Assistance Programs to advance project plans, build capacity, and secure competitive grant funding.

Presentation titles and short bios are provided below for all guest speakers and panelists.



### **A Climate Resiliency Plan for Madison, CT**

Erin Mannix, AICP, CAZEO, Town Planner, Town of Madison  
(*she/her*)

Erin Mannix is the Town Planner in Madison, Connecticut where she directs the Land Use Department and serves as professional staff for multiple boards and commissions including the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board. She is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO). Erin holds a degree in Biology from Fairfield University. Prior experience includes zoning and inland wetland enforcement in the town of Guilford, CT and varying roles within the the City of Norwalk, CT Planning and Zoning Department. Erin currently serves as vice president of the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials.



### **St. Johns Pond Conservation and Restoration Plan**

Rector Gideon L. K. Pollach, St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach is the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor and former Head Chaplain and Theology Chair of the Episcopal High School in Alexandria Virginia. Gideon served St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City and at St. Stephen's Church in Richmond, and Christ Church Alexandria. Gideon is immediate past Co-chair of the Long Island Congregations Associations and Neighborhoods, and has been active in that organization's effort to end the opioid epidemic on Long Island as well as green energy initiatives through a partnership with the State of New York. Gideon is a parent of four (25, 16, 13, & 11), married to Sarah, a Nurse Practitioner. He is a member of the chapter of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY, a board member of the Outreach Development Corporation, a substance abuse treatment provider in Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island, New York, the Elewana Education Project, the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. He is a past trustee of the East Woods School in Oyster Bay Cove, NY and the Mercer School of Theology in Garden City, New York. He is a graduate of General Seminary and a trustee of the East Woods School.



Luke Gervase, CLM, Project Ecologist/Manager & Invasive Species Specialist, GEI

Luke Gervase has been an Ecologist and Project Manager with GEI Consultants Huntington Station office since August 2019. He is a graduate of SUNY E.S.F. (B.S. in aquatics and fisheries science with a minor in marine ecology) and SUNY Oneonta (M.S. in lake management). Luke is also a Certified Lake Manager (CLM) through the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). Luke has experience working on lakes and ponds throughout the northeast, surveying for invasive species in the aquatic and terrestrial world, lecturing to a variety of groups, and has a particular passion and interest in aquatic vegetation and fisheries management. He also conducts tree inventories, is a wetland delineator, and participates in a wide range of restoration projects.



**Grant Writing Assistance to Support Public Engagement by delivering Mill River Wetland Committee's River-Lab programs in Bridgeport, CT**

Jon Dilley, President, Mill River Wetland Committee

Jon has always been supportive of environmental causes, especially those related to clean water. He pursued this interest by studying environmental law at Quinnipiac University School of Law and interning at the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (now part of Save the Sound). He was excited to be able to focus his interests locally when he began as a guide of Mill River Wetland Committee (MRWC) educational trips in 2010 at Osborn Hill Elementary in Fairfield. Since that time, Jon became the President of Mill River Wetland Committee in April of 2020, is Vice President of the Board for the Wonderland Wizards Youth Hockey Association and has volunteered with Junior Achievement and the Fairfield Recreation Department. Jon resides in Fairfield, CT where he has lived with his wife and three sons for 25 years.



**Grant Writing Assistance to support Building Volunteer-Driven Oyster Restoration on Long Island Sound**

Michael Fiorentino, Natural Resource Program Team Leader & Co-Director, Long Island Regional Clean Energy Hub, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Nassau County  
(He/Him/His)

Michael Fiorentino is the Natural Resource Program Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CCE Nassau). Michael has been with CCE Nassau for almost 6 years and has been involved in a wide-range of programs focused on increasing community engagement in Natural Resource Conservation efforts across Long Island.



**Growing Wildly**

Beth Sutherland, Treasurer, ReWild Long Island (*she/her*)

A lifelong organic home gardener, since her retirement from a career in not-for-profit insurance companies, Beth Sutherland has explored native plants and herbal medicine. She has been studying the historic and current uses of native plants and local weeds in making medicine and supporting healthy living, and has become a Suffolk County Master Gardener and an associate member of the American Herbalists Guild. Beth volunteers with ReWild Long Island, as a board member, co-lead of the MidSuffolk chapter, and Treasurer. She also volunteers for the Long

Island Native Plant Initiative, and the Ketcham Inn gardening team. Beth is a 35 year resident of Long Island, first in Centerport and now in Poquott. She is gradually transforming her yard from non-native plantings into a sanctuary for native plants, herbs and wildlife.



**Stormwater Management through Green Infrastructure and Habitat Restoration at Shore Road Sanctuary with Funds Made Possible through the Grant Writing Assistance Program**

Jane Jackson, Director of Stewardship, North Shore Land Alliance (*she/her*)

Perhaps it was Jane's lifelong love of animals that propelled her into a career in conservation, starting as a teenage volunteer at Massachusetts Audubon's Trailside Museum in her home town of Milton, MA. Jane received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science at the University of Vermont and, many years later, a Master of Science in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. Her more recent professional experience includes three years' work in the Science and Stewardship division of The Nature Conservancy's Rhode Island Field Office and five years as Director of Programming for New York Restoration Project, an open space organization working in underserved communities of New York City. It was Jane's love of land protection and a desire to combine and build on her land conservation, outreach and program development skills that led her to the North Shore Land Alliance, where she has served as its Director of Stewardship since 2007.