

**Living Shorelines Technology Transfer and Regional Workshops**  
**Living Shorelines: Sound Science, Innovative Approaches, Connected Community**

**Field Trip – Stratford Point Living Shoreline**

**Location: Stratford Point, CT**

**Date: December 3, 2015**

**Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM\***

\*Limited transportation provided to and from the Hartford Hilton. Registrants may drive personal vehicles to the site. Site tour will occur from 10:00 – 11:00 AM conducted by Dr. Jennifer Mattei, Professor and restoration ecologist at Sacred Heart University.

**Site Description**

The Stratford Point living shoreline demonstration area will include the following habitats (all of which are in various stages of restoration):

- Cliffs and Bluffs
- Coastal Barriers, Beaches, & Dunes
- Coastal Grasslands
- Coastal Forest/Woodland
- Estuarine Embayments
- Freshwater Vernal Pool (Wetland)
- Intertidal Flats
- Rocky Intertidal Zones
- Shellfish Reefs
- Tidal Wetlands (*Spartina*/Salt Marsh)



Stratford Point is located on the Lordship peninsula of the Town of Stratford at the mouth of the Housatonic River Estuary in Connecticut. Stratford Point historically supported a substantial tidal marsh, coastal bluff, and a patchwork of dune, coastal grassland and wooded upland habitat encompassing approximately 28 acres of upland and 12 acres of shallow intertidal zone. The site is located between two subunits of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (Wheeler Marsh in Milford and Great Meadows Marsh in Stratford) and is surrounded by several additional natural areas (e.g. Long Beach/Pleasure Beach, Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point, Charles Island, and Silver Sands State Park).

These areas include a wide range of critical habitat types for a substantial number of Greatest Conservation Need species (of the CT Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy) as well as species listed in the Federal's and State's Threatened and Endangered Species Acts. The National Audubon Society recognizes the site as an Important Bird Area.

The current restoration and management plans to increase structure to both the intertidal zone (reef and salt marsh installation, 2014 and continuing) and the upland (install woody shrubs and trees, grasses and forbs) will allow for more successful coastal habitat restoration, *in toto*, the increased structure of these newly restored habitats will help to block wave energy and wind energy, respectively. There are also plans to mend a dune behind the reef which was damaged during Hurricane Sandy in June 2016.

An installation of native shrubs and trees will supply food and shelter to migrating birds and will also allow resident bird species to nest in the spring and eventually, overwinter at the site. In addition, making habitat for pollinators and other insects will increase the overall productivity of the upland area and add a food base for the birds.



The mouth of the Housatonic River with Stratford Pt. outlined in red