



TOWN OF STRATFORD
MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK

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STRATFORD POINT PROJECT NAMED BEST RESTORED SHORE BY NATIONAL COASTAL GROUP

STRATFORD – The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) has announced their second annual Best Restored Shores Awards recognizing projects that apply nature-based solutions to enhance the country’s shorelines, and they have named the Stratford Point Living Shoreline in Connecticut as one of their three recipients across the nation.

The Stratford Point Living Shoreline project partners Sacred Heart University (SHU), the University of Connecticut, and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) with the support of the Town of Stratford on an endeavor consisting of an artificial reef, smooth cordgrass, marsh, high marsh coastal dune and upland woody grassland mosaics. The project is aimed at providing an additional 750 feet of coastal erosion control, 4.5 acres of intertidal habitat, 1.5 acres of coastal dune habitat and 25 acres of woodland/meadow mix. Monitoring of this project will provide insight to the effectiveness of living shorelines as a means to increase coastal resilience, and will serve as a design basis for future coastal communities in Connecticut and new England.

“We are very pleased to see the Stratford Point Living Shoreline project receive this national recognition,” said **Mayor Laura R. Hoydick**. “The Town of Stratford has been very supportive of this critical project and its ecological benefits, which we believe will result in lasting and meaningful change with how communities increase coastal resilience by promoting and preserving important natural habitats. I congratulate all the partners in this important project for receiving this well-deserved recognition.”

“We could not have succeeded with the help of the Stratford community members,” said **Dr. Jennifer Mattei**, principal investigator and professor at SHU, “we had several hundred volunteers over the past few years help us plant thousands of grass seedlings that have grown and spread across the once eroding landscape!”

In making their determination to award Stratford Point Living Shoreline, the ASBPA noted that the project is an outstanding example of how to work with multiple partners and nature to solve some of our most difficult human-caused coastal degradation problems.



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“This project clearly demonstrates the importance of shellfish reefs in the protection of newly restored salt marsh and their role allowing time for marsh migration to occur as sea levels rise and storms increase,” ASBPA said in their award notification. “Especially noteworthy were its well-characterized objectives, long-term monitoring plan that demonstrated success, and the multiple funding partners involved in taking the project from concept to execution that achieved real environmental and coastal resilience outcomes.”

“Continued public support for shore restoration is crucial to building coastal resiliency to storms and rising seas,” said **ASBPA President Tony Pratt**. “Successfully planning and implementing shoreline restoration projects can be challenging and too often their far-reaching economic benefits go unnoticed.”

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ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the ASBPA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that advocates for healthy coastlines by promoting the integration of science, policies and actions that maintain, protect and enhance the coasts of America. For more information on ASBPA, go to www.asbpa.org, Facebook or www.twitter.com/asbpa.