

## 2024 Grant Awards

The following organizations were selected for environmental grant awards, from a pool of fourteen applicants:

**Southbury Land Trust** was awarded \$700 to engage a certified botanist to conduct a survey of the Phillips Farm Preserve fen, and create a survey map and plant inventory with voucher collection and plant identifications.

**Stamford Museum & Nature Center (SMNC)** was awarded \$1100 to purchase seeds and other materials, and to fund development of a yearly hands-on curriculum/program (Farmergarten) where preschool-aged children can work directly with farmers and gardeners to discover Connecticut agriculture and native plants. Native plants sown in 2024 will be harvested for seeds in future years.

**East Lyme Giving Garden** was awarded \$980 to purchase materials (fencing, irrigation, trellises and other plumbing) to add twelve rows of regenerative growing space to the gardens, which will produce approximately 3,000 more pounds of organic produce in 2024. Produce from the gardens is donated to local families and individuals in need.

**Great Hollow Nature Preserve and Ecological Research Center** of New Fairfield, CT was awarded \$2,000 to purchase and plant young apple trees, to eventually be used in the Center's environmental educational outreach programs for children ages 6-12, create a new rain garden with native plants, and plant native shrubs between an existing pollinator garden and the new rain garden. The land that is now Great Hollow Nature Preserve was once the estate of Walter Merritt and included an apple orchard that was open to the public. Less than a handful of the original trees remain today.

**Killingworth Land Conservation Trust** was awarded \$1630 to purchase lumber and other equipment to build bluebird houses, bat houses and wood duck boxes to support native wildlife species, and conduct at least 2 box-making workshops over the summer. The box-making workshops will be conducted in partnership with the Haddam-Killingworth Youth & Family services to make the workshops community events with local students and families. An estimated 15-20 boxes will be installed throughout town in 2024, on public and private properties.