

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary

Suggested by: Helen Evarts

Current Request	\$20,000	Organizational Budget	\$359,477
Previous Grant Amount	\$15,000	Last Site Visit	n/a
Grants Since 1998	20	Project Budget (if applicable)	n/a
Total Grants Awarded	\$217,500	Purpose	General operating support

Mission

To protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation.

Organization History

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary (Constitution Marsh), part of the National Audubon Society network and one of Audubon New York's six regional Conservation Action Centers, is a 270-acre tidal wetland in the Lower Hudson Valley designated as an Important Bird Area, a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and a New York Scenic Area of Statewide Significance.

Managed with three other Hudson Valley sanctuaries under a unified vision, Constitution Marsh serves as both a refuge for at least 177 bird species and other wildlife and a living laboratory for conservation, community engagement, and professional mentoring. Constitution Marsh reaches a broad public with a focus on engaging diverse and underserved communities, creating multiple pathways for children, students, and adults to participate in conservation. The site advances three core goals:

- Stewarding habitats for resident and migratory species
- Fostering community conservation through education and citizen science
- Mentoring the next generation of conservation leaders.

Update on Last Grant and Current Request

Support from the Vidda Foundation last year enabled Constitution Marsh to help expand conservation, education, community engagement, and site improvements across its four Hudson Valley sanctuaries. During the year, Constitution Marsh reached 271 youth through multi-session environmental education, including 180 students at four regional high schools through its Youth Climate Program; engaged 78 stewardship volunteers and 20 young professional volunteers; employed one young conservation professional; and offered 35 public programs reaching 315 community members. Several Youth Climate participants also took part in Audubon New York's Youth Advocacy Day in Albany.

In addition, Constitution Marsh upgraded building decks to improve ADA access, improved site signage, installed drainage infrastructure to protect the Center from flooding, and completed a Boardwalk Needs Assessment with New York State Parks. Conservation work included four forest-management workshops at Rheinstrom Hill; a new partnership with the Bobolink Project and habitat-management planning at Buttercup Farm; continued grassland bird monitoring; and long-term monitoring of marsh elevation and sea-level rise. The organization also secured a New York State DEC grant to continue Phragmites eradication at Constitution Marsh and RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary and increase public access through its parking reservation system.

Constitution Marsh requests an increased renewal of \$20,000 to support conservation action, education, and community engagement across its four Hudson Valley sanctuaries. The increased request reflects plans to expand programming and community access while addressing growing capacity and infrastructure needs. Constitution Marsh continues to balance increased visitation and programming with stewardship of sensitive habitats, while aging facilities require investments in heating and cooling, trail accessibility, signage, and safety. Conservation work also requires sustained resources to manage invasive species, restore habitat, and respond to sea-level rise and other climate impacts.

Notes

N/A