



The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven

QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND FINAL REPORT- 2017

Please complete and submit completed form via e-mail to dcanning@cfgnh.org at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven by March 30, 2018.

Date: March 6, 2018

Group/Organization Name: New Haven Land Trust

Address: 817 Grand Avenue, Suite 102

City, State, & Zip: New Haven, CT 06511

Telephone #: (203) 562-6655

Project Name: Quinnipiac Meadows Environmental Education 2017

Grant Number: 20170076

Name & title of person completing this form: Arabelle Schoenberg, Nature Preserves Coordinator

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Please respond to the following statements:

1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable).

There were four main objectives for our project: to provide environmental education programming at Quinnipiac Meadows and Long Wharf Preserves, to host volunteer workdays at these two preserves, to expand and successfully run Schooner Summer Camp for youth ages 6-12 at Long Wharf, and to progress in our efforts to acquire an additional 26 acres of land at Quinnipiac Meadows.

In 2017, support from the Quinnipiac River Fund allowed us to organize ten educational events that attracted over 330 attendees from the New Haven community. Some of our most popular events were a live bird of prey show led by Audubon Sharon, two horseshoe crab tag and release events co-sponsored by Sacred Heart University's Project Limulus, and a nighttime moth walk led by Peabody Museum entomologists. Providing free, high-quality outdoor education events for residents of Greater New

Haven directly advances the Land Trust's mission to help develop engaged stewards and strengthen community.

Also in 2017, the Land Trust organized three volunteer events that attracted over 70 attendees from the New Haven community. These events included a beach cleanup co-sponsored by Save the Sound in which we removed 200 pounds of trash from Long Wharf, and an invasive species removal workday with youth from Elm City Prep. These volunteer workdays allow neighbors and stewards to engage directly with the land, creating a lasting, tangible connection to the Land Trust's nature preserves.

In the summer of 2016, the first Schooner Day Camp brought 40 campers aged 6-10 from the Boys and Girls Club to Long Wharf Nature Preserve for six weeks, where they learned about the coastal ecosystem and explored New Haven's shoreline. Thanks in large part to the Quinnipiac River Fund, the Schooner Summer Camp expanded greatly and became a full-fledged program in its second summer. During summer 2017, Schooner Camp brought over 300 campers ages 6-12 to the Long Wharf Nature Preserve. Thanks to the support of the Quinnipiac River Fund, over 60% of campers were on partial or full scholarship. The Shore program gave younger campers the chance to learn about the coastal ecosystem and explore the New Haven coastline through hands-on and classroom activities. The Sailing program immersed older campers in the Quinnipiac River Watershed and the Long Island Sound ecosystem, and encouraged them to become stewards of this environment through recreational exposure.

In early January 2017, we engaged the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP through the support of pro-bono partnership to help us negotiate and bring this property acquisition to fruition. Throughout the last four years, the Land Trust has requested funding from the Quinnipiac River Fund to support the acquisition, and we are excited to announce that the landowner has recently agreed to sell. We are currently in the final stages of negotiation, and anticipate acquiring the land soon. The acquisition will almost double the size of the nature preserve, allowing the Land Trust to preserve a larger amount of land adjacent to the Quinnipiac River as a publicly accessible nature preserve and protect the habitats of a larger number of plants and animals. This acquisition will also allow the Land Trust to expand its programming in the nature preserve by offering new educational programs centered around this area's unique ecology, as well as hosting a number of volunteer events that will be crucial to our establishment of a brand new trail network.

2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward?

Thus far, our educational programs and volunteer workdays have been immensely successful. These two types of events are central to the work we do at the Land Trust, because we see education as our greatest tool in helping to develop engaged,

environmentally-conscious stewards and community leaders in New Haven. Schooner provides an even more direct point of entry, because so many young people enroll and because campers get to spend every day at Long Wharf Preserve, often for multiple weeks in a row, learning in-depth about the ecosystem.

We will continue to improve in our efforts to engage populations that have historically been denied access to wilderness or left out of the discussion in the conservation movement. The Land Trust hopes that the appointment of a year-round Schooner Director and Nature Preserves manager will greatly improve our outreach and strengthen our partnerships with New Haven schools, universities, and other nonprofits.

3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River?

The New Haven Land Trust plans to continue working to conserve the Quinnipiac River Watershed in perpetuity. Our organization continues to grow and expand our landholdings and offer increasingly robust, year-round programming.

In 2018, Schooner Summer Camp 2018 will offer two new programs: one for kids ages 4-5 and one for teenagers ages 13-14. We expect enrollment this summer to be higher than ever. With the ongoing support of the Quinnipiac River Fund, Schooner will continue to expand its capacity, offering New Haven youth the opportunity to explore the Quinnipiac River Watershed and learn to sail in Long Island Sound, with more funding available for scholarships each year. Starting this year, the Schooner Director will have a year-round position and during the academic year she will be in charge of strengthening partnerships with New Haven Public Schools and getting students of all ages out to the preserves to engage with this ecosystem year-round.

In addition, the expected acquisition of 26 acres at Quinnipiac Meadows Preserve will allow the Land Trust to double the size of the preserve and develop an entirely new trail system and management plan. We will need financial support and scientific expertise in the coming years in order to develop this land into a fully accessible and functioning addition to the preserve. Development of this land will provide numerous opportunities for the New Haven community to engage directly with the land and make a lasting material impact at the preserve, thereby helping protect the Quinnipiac River Watershed in perpetuity.

We are excited to report that Quinnipiac Meadows Nature Preserve was approved as New Haven's newest Important Bird Area last month. This certification from Audubon qualifies the preserve for more recognition within the global birding community and will attract more birders to the site. We hope this certification, along with increased bird-related programming in the preserve, will attract visitors from a larger area of Connecticut. Thus, the IBA provides an opportunity to educate people from outside New

Haven about the immense value of the Quinnipiac River Watershed, and urban protected land in New Haven more generally, to globally important species.

Also, please include a photo or image that can be uploaded along with your report to The Quinnipiac River Fund website.



Schooner Summer Camp 2017

The Quinnipiac River Fund

Project Budget Sheet

Please complete the budget and provide a brief narrative explaining each line item on page 2.

Expenses

➤ Personnel		\$16,600
❖ Salaries	\$16,000	
❖ Fringe Benefits	\$ _____	
❖ Stipends	\$600	
❖ Consulting Fees	\$ _____	
➤ Supplies		\$0 (donated)
➤ Printing & Copying	\$250	
➤ Postage		\$150
➤ Equipment		\$ _____
❖ Purchasing	\$ _____	
❖ Leasing	\$ _____	
➤ Transportation		\$ _____
➤ Telephone		\$ _____
➤ Rent/Utilities		\$ _____
➤ Clerical Services		\$ _____
➤ Fees (i.e. permits, lab services, etc.)		\$0
➤ Other (please specify)		\$ _____
➤ Total Project Expenses		\$17,000

Income

➤ Other Sources		\$1,000 from Audubon
➤ Amount received from The Community Foundation		\$16,000



The Quinnipiac River Fund

Project Budget Narrative

Expenses:

- Personnel for Acquisition Efforts: \$5,000
- Personnel for Volunteer and Educational Event Coordination: \$6,000
- Personnel for Day Camp Curriculum Development and Staffing: \$5,000
- Program Fees (Presenter stipends, Bird of Prey show): \$600
- Supplies for Volunteer Stewardship Events (tools, plants, gloves, etc): \$0 – donated by Suzio York Hill
- Printing, copying, mailing for publicity: \$400

Income:

- \$16,000 received from Quinnipiac River Fund
- \$1,000 secured from Audubon Connecticut to fund educational programming and volunteer stewardship events in Quinnipiac Meadows

