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Application ID	2170891
Submitted	Jan 14, 2026
Status	Awaiting review
Applicant(s)	Mary Mushinsky (marymushinsky@att.net)
Organization	River Advocates of South Central Connecticut c/o Whitneyville Cultural Commons 1253 Whitney Ave., , CT, 06517, United States
Program and cycle	TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Grant cycle
Tags	No tags
Forms	<a href="#">TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Final Report</a>

## Grant Details

### Organization Name

River Advocates of South Central Connecticut

### Grant Description

to support the improvement of public access on the lower Quinnipiac River, as well as to support advocating on state and local permits affecting water quality and quantity, and carry out bacteria monitoring.

### Total Grant Amount

\$17,000.00 USD

## Report Questions

### Report Questions

**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).** \*

River Advocates, as a nonprofit provider of river trips, will carry out Lower Quinnipiac Public Access, Phase III for residents and visitors by continuing the inventory and cutting of log jams in Quinnipiac River State Park, the second of three segments of the lower Quinnipiac River between Quinnipiac St., Wallingford and Rte 22 in North Haven. We followed DEEP protocols to protect habitat while cutting a passageway, leaving most of the log in place. We will continued advocating for state and local permits affecting water quality and quantity, and were unable to carry out bacteria monitoring using community partners and the Southwest Conservation District lab. We found that much of the river in Quinnipiac River State Park that had been cleared the previous year was blocked again, and we spent time and energy clearing new tree falls in the same middle segment of the state park. As a result, we were unable to reach further north to the top of the state park. We also worked extensively to set conditions in permitting for land development of commercially-zoned land on the east bank of North Farms Reservoir, a state-owned water body in Wallingford that is home to 122 species of birds and is a regional paddling and fishing destination. After multiple meetings, the Town denied the permit and the land, for now, remains undeveloped. We paid special attention to the stormwater management system and disturbance of bald eagles, and requested a bond for maintenance of the stormwater system. We were unable to carry out bacteria testing as our towing vehicle had to be rebuilt after an August collision.

**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?** \*

The rapid rise and fall of the Quinnipiac in the state park is eroding the banks and creating new log jams as fast as we cut them. We will need to greatly expand our team of cutters, by approaching fire departments, public works and other teams of experienced workers in order to reach the northern edge of the park.

**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?** \*

We have an enthusiastic group of paddlers who don't have the skills necessary for chain saw work. We will need to use them to seek out and persuade additional cutters to donate time to clear log jams.

## Attachments

### **Detailed Accounting\***

See Project Budget Sheet, Lower Quinnipiac Public Access III.docx

### **Picture 1**

See 20251108\_142515.jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

Volunteer Dave Bedell cuts smaller limbs with hand saw. (Mary Mushinsky)

### **Picture 2**

See 20251108\_152728.jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

Volunteer Dave Bedell passes under a large tree which must be cut with chain saw. (Mary Mushinsky)

### **Picture 3**

See 20250609\_142505 (1).jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

The undeveloped north and east shores of state-owned North Farms Reservoir in Wallingford, which faced warehouse development, support 122 species of birds. (Mary Mushinsky)