



2016 Club Fostered Stewardship Grant Final Report



Mission Statement:

Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.

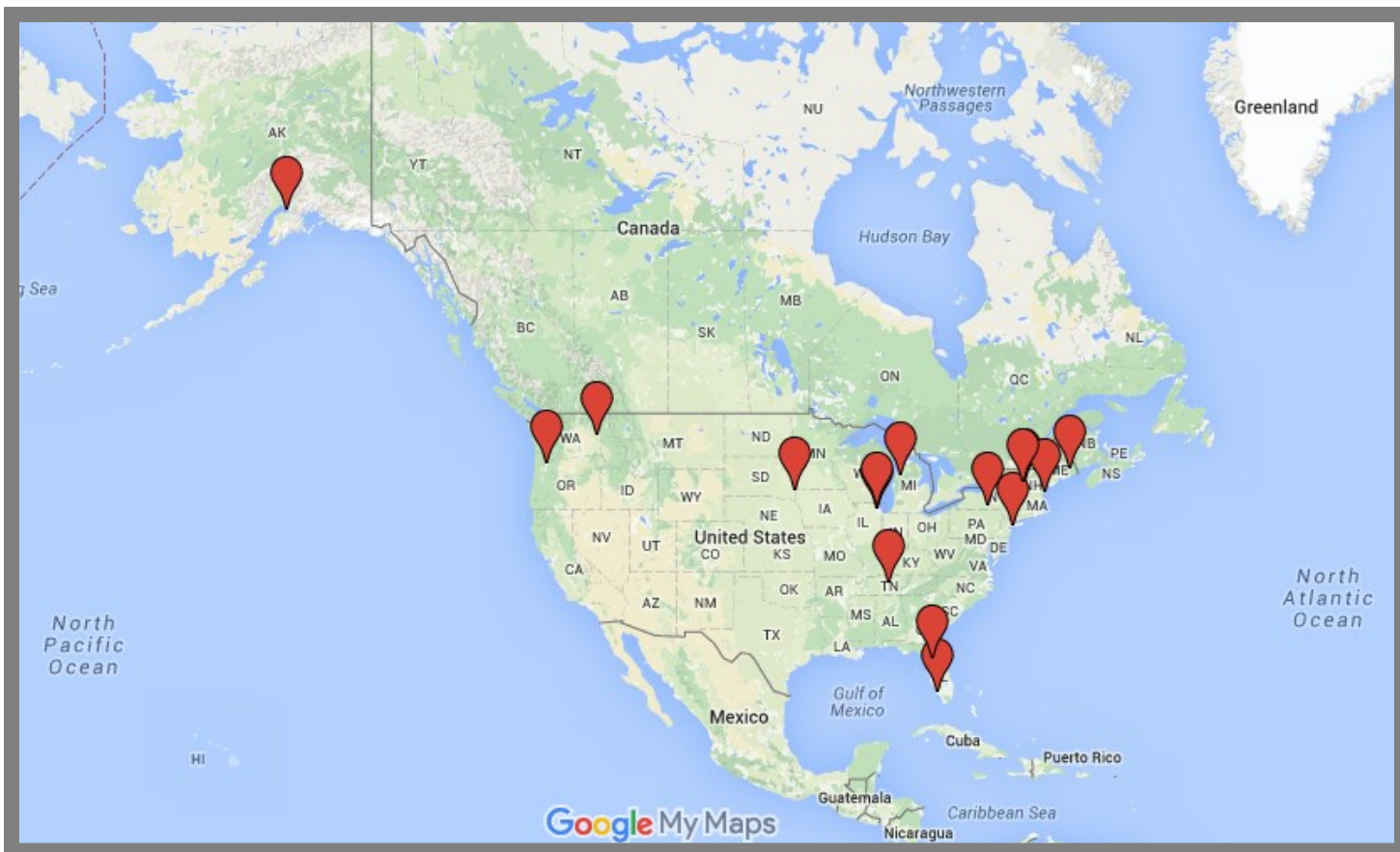


The ACA believes it is our role to:

- Provide the general public with *FUN* paddlesport opportunities
- Make paddling education and instruction accessible
- Improve access to all paddling venues
- Expand paddlesport to people of all abilities and to the underserved
- Influence stewardship issues and public policy that affect paddlers and the paddling experience
- Promote paddlesports competition at the local, regional and national levels
- Create strategic alliances with clubs and other organizations that represent the outdoor experience in order to expand awareness and knowledge of paddlesport
- Communicate the benefits of canoeing, kayaking, rafting and stand up paddleboarding as healthy lifetime recreation activities

The heart of the ACA is the people who paddle, cherish and protect the rivers, lakes, streams, bays and oceans of the United States and beyond.





2016 CFS Grant Recipients

The ACA is proud to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make the world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L.Bean, the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Grant Program has provided nearly \$140,000 to over 147 different stewardship initiatives since its inception in 2002.

The purpose of the CFS Grant Program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving our nations waterways. This year, L.L.Bean is funding 17 projects run by the following organizations:

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| <p>Anchorage Waterways Council</p> <p>Boardman River Clean Sweep</p> <p>Illinois Paddling Council</p> <p>Northern Forest Canoe Trail</p> <p>Plastic Tides</p> <p>Spokane River Forum</p> <p>We Love Clean Rivers</p> | <p>Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association</p> <p>Bronx River Alliance</p> <p>Downeast Lakes & Trust</p> <p>Kayak New Mexico</p> <p>Vermont River Conservancy</p> <p>College of Life Foundation</p> | <p>Chicago Voyagers</p> <p>Fog Dogs of Ferry Beach</p> <p>Florida Paddling Trails Association</p> <p>Sioux Falls Whitewater park</p> |
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Anchorage Waterways Council



“Support for Anchorage Waterways Council’s 32nd Annual Creek Cleanup”

The Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) is a 501 (c) (3) that was established in 1984. Its mission is: to promote the prevention of further environmental degradation; and the protection, restoration, and enhancement of waterways, wetlands, and associated uplands within the Municipality of Anchorage. This is accomplished through outreach projects, youth education, volunteer water quality monitoring, addressing issues and concerns, such as human feeding of waterfowl and wanton discard of monofilament fishing line, and organizing large community events, especially our annual creek cleanup every May.

The location of the area of activity is primarily the Anchorage “bowl”. This is the highly urbanized portion of the 2,000 sq. mi. Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). There are several sites that needed trash cleaned along the major creeks and lakes in the MOA. These include Ship Creek, Chester Creek, Campbell Creek (a great in town paddling creek), Little Campbell Creek, Furrow Creek, Fish Creek, Rabbit Creek, Westchester Lagoon, Potter Marsh, University Lake, Taku Lake, Goose Lake, Eagle River, Glacier Creek (outside the “bowl”), and more.

Over the 4 days of cleaning (May 12-15), there were nearly 40 teams officially signed up. The number of participants ranged from 1 to 30 for a total of ~500. Some people who cleaned did not sign up in advance, but did so on Saturday, May 14. It is estimated that approximately 600 people contributed in some capacity. The number of human hours captured varied by team, but an estimate is at least 2,000 hours of time were volunteered (this is conservative).

- a. Other milestones that occurred involved the amount of trash that was officially weighed. This figure was provided by the MOA Solid Waste Services and amounted to just over 2.5 tons (down from the previous year which is encouraging). Other trash was collected by the MOA Parks and Rec Department, estimated at 1-2 tons, and some individuals and teams took their trash home, which meant it was not counted by weight.
- b. This was the second year for collecting monofilament fishing line and debris. It was separated from the other trash, cleaned, and recycled at Berkley Industries.

An anticipated limitation of the project involved trash collection, because of the switchover to automated, single-driver garbage trucks. With no one at the back of the truck available to snatch bags left in various locations, AWC had to be very specific with volunteers about where to leave or take trash. The great news is that there was not one single complaint about trash being left uncollected. AWC was very pleased with this positive step. The only other limitation is our very small staff trying to accommodate a huge number of volunteers with proper supplies, but some of our board members and a summer intern stepped up to help and made it run much smoother.

The project and specifically the CFS logo were marketed in several ways: fliers, social media, i.e. FB, e-newsletters, our website anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup_about.php (which will remain up until next year), and a paid thank you ad in The Anchorage Press. Even though the event is over, the benefits of this grant to AWC's May cleanup will be further touted.

The local community loves Creek Cleanup. For many it's a decades-old tradition. They come out year after year to participate, and every person who does clean up is more aware of trying to curb trash in the creeks. It's both visual and educational, and many adults said that they were very excited to see their children involved in the tradition, so it's leading to a generational tradition.



Boardman River Clean Sweep



The Boardman River Clean Sweep organization has been doing river cleanups since 2004.

Saturday, July 23, 2016 ACA - Betsie River Tree Trimming Project

Last winter, the BRCS made an application to the ACA for a grant to buy a gas powered pole saw in order to remove the worst offending tree limbs on the Betsie River that attracted the most fishing line and which were so high that they could not be cleaned off. When the ACA sent us the grant award in April, we began to prepare a plan to complete this important project.

We purchased our Husqvarna pole saw at Roy's General Store of Traverse City. They gave us a great price and even better service. With the help of John Ransom of the Benzie Conservation District, Max Bromley of Thompsonville, Dan and Laura Hahn of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Paul Ton of the Traverse Area Paddle Club, and Jim Keglovitz of Honor, MI, we completed this project.



We had marked 13 trees at the June 11 cleanup but we took out 23 trees in 2.5 hours with our two saws. Most of the trees we trimmed were dead. We skipped one tree because it had an active hornet's nest in it. The Betsie is a safer and more beautiful place now that we have completed this much needed project.

The BRCS wishes to express its gratitude for the very generous grant from the ACA & L.L.Bean and to the volunteers that worked so hard in such a good natured way to get this done. The grant and their time made it possible for us to purchase the necessary equipment to complete this project and make the river safer for birds and humans.



Summary:

1. In all 35 people worked on these two one-day projects. They worked for a total of 185 man/hours.
2. The project took about 15 hours to plan and prepare for.
3. The cost was about 850.00 since most of the equipment like canoes, trailers, marine radios, grabbers, etc were already in our possession.
4. We cleaned 3 sections of the Betsie River, some 13 miles of river.
5. We removed miles of fishing line, 500 pounds of trash, glass, fishing line, lead and hooks.
6. We trimmed the ends of 23 trees that had fishing line attached, all but two of which were dead.
7. All tree tips were left in the river as habitat for aquatic wildlife.

Trip Report 1: http://www.brleansweep.org/2016_0711_UBetsie_Recon_Report.html

Trip Reportt 2: http://www.brleansweep.org/2016_0815_Betsie_Docks_Report.html

Trip Report 3: http://tapc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=5&club_id=813410&item_id=33019

Downeast Lakes Land Trust



The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) is nearing the completion of the project titled, “Downeast Lakes Water Trail Campsite Construction and Improvements.” After securing funding through the ACA’s Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) program, five water trail campsites were selected for creation and/or improvement of existing day-use sites. The CFS grant played a major role in the creation of these campsites, providing crucial funding for the purchase of five picnic tables, weatherizing stain, lumber for outhouses, and campsite signage to be placed at both existing and new sites.

This project is making an impact in the community of Grand Lake Stream, Maine by offering more options for overnight stays and a general improvement of local tourism infrastructure. The town of Grand Lake Stream is built around the tourism industry, with outdoor guiding being a key component of the local economy. These campsites not only provide improved access for overnight camping, but also serve as day-use options for Registered Maine Guides who take clients fishing in the Downeast Lakes region. Supporting the local economy of Downeast Maine is a critical part of DLLT’s mission and the CFS grant program has greatly contributed to this endeavor.

In addition to hours contributed by DLLT staff members, this project included help from 22 volunteers, totaling approximately 80 hours of time to the project. Of those 22, 11 were from the Wigwams Program – a collaborative program based out of the Cobscook Community Learning Center in Trescott, ME. Wigwams is an outdoor-based program that allows local teenagers to complete conservation work with area organizations. They helped clear the sites, install an outhouse, and build firepits.

In addition to Wigwams, 6 younger children from Grand Lake Stream, ages 10-15, spent a morning



clearing one of the campsites and hauling rocks. This was an installment in DLLT's education program, "Serious Skills for Boys & Girls," a weekly summer series that provides outdoor lessons for local children of the Downeast Lakes region.



The major work of this project has been completed. The campsites have been cleared and improved, firepits built and/or improved, and picnic tables installed. The only work left is placing the signage and installing campsite logbooks at each picnic table. With the addition of 21,870 acres to the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, DLLT will be working this winter to update all hiking trails and campsite maps to reflect these new additions and to have broader public outreach of the Downeast Lakes Water Trail. We believe that these additional campsites will be a great benefit to both visitors and residents of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes region. DLLT thanks the American Canoe Association and L.L. Bean for their continued support of community conservation with the CFS grant program.



Bronx River Alliance



In 2016, the Bronx River Alliance was granted \$750 in association with the ACA Club Fostered Stewardship Grant in participation with L.L.Bean. The funds provided through this opportunity allowed the Alliance to expand the focus on safety within the Paddle and Pickup stewardship program which has been run by the Alliance since 2009. These opportunities aimed to address one of the top three Bronx River pollutants - floatables. Persons participating in one of the 11 events held this season were introduced to the history and demise of the Bronx River and its ongoing conservation through participating in an on land education orientation.

Volunteers were also allotted the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the connection of the Bronx River to other recreational waterways such as the Long Island Sound by being involved in a brief conversation on how floatables arrive at local waterways and what can be done in participants every day activities to reduce these amounts. A goal as part of the program is to be able to provide the community with understanding as to their power to make a change within the environment as a whole; that this river is in fact connected to local community impacts throughout the watershed.



Funds from this project helped the Alliance create a safer volunteer stewardship program. Ten well equipped emergency safety boxes and communication radios allowed us to provide volunteers with a knowledgeable recreational staff trained in safety measures and an updated Bronx River focused emergency plan. These materials were critical in the process of our program.

Due to incredibly low water levels within the upward areas of the Bronx River, many upper river paddle and pickup opportunities were forced into cancellation. The team goal of eight volunteer opportunities by the end of July were reevaluated within the middle of the recreation season. Another big factor effecting our programming consisted of lower attendance numbers by groups that scheduled opportunities with us. In noticing these obstructions, the team decided to aim for a total of eleven opportunities throughout the remainder of the season to meet project goals and to make up for lost opportunities in the start of summer.

Although these challenges altered our programming schedule, 104 volunteers of important community groups, schools and agencies participated as volunteers on the river and made a grave impact of collecting 1,600 total pounds of floatables and debris during eight of the scheduled eleven opportunities.

The Bronx River Alliance thanks the ACA and L.L.Bean in the support of another successful year of Bronx River on-water stewardship opportunity.



Kayak New Mexico



Earth Day River Cleanup – April 23, 2016

Rio Grande River - Bernalillo, NM to Rio Rancho, NM (4 miles)

What an absolutely successful day! We had 27 people (84 volunteer hours) in rafts, kayaks, and canoes come out and help clean up the area on the east side of the Rio Grande river near US550, down the river for four miles, and at the take out at Rivers Edge II in Rio Rancho, NM. A total of 976 pounds of garbage and recyclables were picked up (359 pounds of recyclables which included 190 pounds of beer bottles).

We included some of our adaptive paddling participants in the clean up of the Rio Grande. One boy with autism, one adult with autism, one boy with Down Syndrome, one boy who is a triple amputee, and one woman with limited use of her legs! All had a fun time.

We obtained a key to the gate for the road leading down to the river from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. The key was a huge asset to have - huge for many reasons. (1) We wound up having no dumpsters from Waste Management at the site. One of our volunteers volunteered the use of his trailer. We drove the trailer down to where the most garbage was located and loaded it up there. (2) We had several individuals with physical disabilities assist us. A young man using a wheelchair and a woman, who normally uses a wheelchair, but wore her leg braces instead. Being able to get both individuals down to the cleanup site and river without a key would have been very difficult.



The cleanup was one young man's fourth time going down the river. Normally he would have been out of his wheelchair helping, but his father found a used hypodermic needle almost immediately and would not allow his son to climb off his wheelchair. He was able to help clean up the area once in a kayak and on the river.

The cleanup was another young man's second trip down the river. Even better, it was his mother's first time down the river (picture on previous page), and she loved it. They plan on continuing kayaking as a family activity.

The cleanup was one lady's first time down the river in a kayak and she helped weigh all the garbage.

Because we had so many volunteers on the river, this young man's mother asked me if her son could go down the river by himself (i.e. without her accompanying him). He is going to be a senior in high school this year, and she wanted to encourage his independence. He did fine all by himself, and he kayaks frequently now.

- 976 pounds of garbage and recyclables were picked up
- 359 pounds of recyclables which included:
 - 190 pounds of beer bottles
 - 91 pounds of plastic
 - 63 pounds of metal



Vermont River Conservancy



Columbia Covered Bridge River Access Protection and Enhancement Project

The Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) protects public access, wildlife habitat, and clean waters by conserving land along rivers, lakes and wetlands of Vermont. The organization was started in response to choice swimming holes, canoe put-ins, fishing accesses and waterfalls being put off limits to the communities that had traditionally used them. Since our founding in 1996, the VRC has completed projects at over 75 popular local swimming holes and fishing and boating accesses. Since 2009, the VRC has also led the development of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail, coordinating a multi-partner effort to develop campsites and access points for visitors seeking to explore New England's longest waterway.

The Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) is under agreement to purchase land along the Connecticut River adjacent to a covered bridge in Columbia, New Hampshire. This privately owned 0.5 acre parcel is a popular canoe launch and angling access. Once purchased, the VRC will transfer the parcel to the town of Columbia, withholding an easement protecting public access.

With the ACA / L.L.Bean CFS Grant funds, the VRC will install stairs down the eroding bank and a kiosk with information on the bridge, project donors, and a map of the river.



Northern Forest Canoe Trail



Richford, VT Project

Our proposal requested funds to help support the purchase of materials to use at an access ramp and materials for the construction of the holding structure for an interpretive panel. Our efforts to install the ramp have stalled and I do not think we will be able to install it in 2016. The change in plans are due to the strong possibility that a better location just upstream may be available pending the purchase of a conservation/recreation easement that is in the beginning phase of being negotiated. Given that the ramp will have less impact at the alternate location we have decided to wait until there is more clarity about the easement.

We have therefore directed our efforts toward the fabrication of the holding structure and interpretive signage portion of the project.

The Town of Richford welcomes you to a hub for outdoor adventures!



Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
The 26-mile (42 km) Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail (MVRT) is an all-season multi-use trail between Richford and St. Albans, built on the old Central Vermont Railway bed. The trail affords scenic views through rural farmland, forests and wetlands. The trail gives the public opportunities to exercise, relax, travel at their own pace, and observe wildlife at your own. There are several trailheads in Richford for easy access. We hope you enjoy this valuable Richford recreational opportunity.
www.mvtrail.com

Long corridors of recreational travel radiate from Richford, a small town tied to an ancient landscape shaped by the uplift of the Green Mountains and the carving of the Wild and Scenic Missisquoi River. Whether you want to explore locally or paddle, hike, bike, cross-country ski, dogsled or snowmobile your way across the entire state and beyond, your adventure starts here. Read on to find some of the opportunities available to you, as well as suggestions for where to find even more information.



Legend

- Richford Overlook Panel
- Trail Access Parking Areas
- Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail and VAST
- Rail Trail Extension
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail Portage
- Bicycle Routes

0 410 820 1,640 Feet
0 120 240 480 Meters



The Long Trail
The Long Trail is a 263-mile (423 km) through-Vermont trail that extends from the Canadian border near North Troy, along the way it overlaps with the Appalachian Trail for 100 miles (160 km) into southern half of the state. The nation's oldest long distance trail, it was completed by the Green Mountain Club between 1910 and 1933. It can be accessed just outside Richford by following Route 103 to the east. This section offers spectacular, relatively hike-able and scenic views.
www.greenmountainclub.com



The Catamount Trail
The Catamount Trail is a 160-mile (257 km) trail that extends the length of Vermont. Maintained by the Catamount Trail Association, the trail traverses the historical landscapes that make Vermont a special playground. You can pick up the trail in nearby Jay, where signs are set up at some of the most scenic conditions for backpacking taking in the state. For goodie trails, visit Helen's Hobby Association's 40-mile network, which meanders through Montgomery's woods and open meadows.
www.catamounttrail.org



Northern Forest Canoe Trail
The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 240-mile (386 km) paddle trail running through New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. The trail consists of 22 miles of lakes and ponds, and 42 miles of portage trails. Along the NFCT you will find adequate freshwater and freshwater, creating opportunities for paddling experiences to reach all lake levels. Right here in Richford, enjoy two great access points, a campsite, and excellent trout fishing along the Wild and Scenic Missisquoi River.
www.northernforestcanoe.org



Bicycling Opportunities
In addition to the Missisquoi Valley and Trail, Richford offers a number of options to pursue their recreational aspirations. From scenic trail riding along Route 103 to the picturesque South Richford Road to Montgomery, Quebec's St. Hubert, a growing network of mountain bike trails in Montgomery and Jay, and Adventure Cycling's Green Mountain Route. Each offers unique experiences with the best views the region is known for.
www.velo.qc.ca



VAST Trails
A new network of trails has been created in Vermont each winter since 1993. The Vermont Association of Snow Runners (VAST) now maintains 3,000-mile (4,827 km) of groomed snowmobile trails. Along the groomed network there are marked trails, current maps, fuel, food and lodging. In Richford, you can take through groomed snowmobile and ski trails with classic Vermont views just around the corner.
www.vtvast.org

Plastic Tides



Plastic Tides is comprised of dedicated adventure conservationists with a common goal: shedding light on plastic pollution. We put our bodies and minds on the line to confront this serious environmental problem through novel means. Living solely on stand-up paddleboards, our expeditions take us to remote locations around the world to document their beauty and to expose the rampant plastic pollution that threatens their ecosystems. Combining adventure and hard science, our expeditions bring fresh awareness to this ubiquitous problem.

In 2014 we completed the first ever survey of the Finger Lakes of Upstate NY for the presence of microbeads. After failing to pass a ban at the state level, we applied for the CFS grant for a similar project to this proposal in the Finger Lakes. That project was a tremendous success, we collected more data, achieved a local ban in Tompkins County, and only a month later saw a national ban signed into law.

The 2016 Microplastic-Free Finger Lakes project combined youth engagement and local involvement in a watershed-wide effort to collect data on microplastics in the Finger Lakes. Alongside volunteers, ambassadors, and youth, Plastic Tides collected surface samples from across the Finger Lakes that were examined for the presence of microplastics. Analysis was conducted by the Cornell Water Resources Institute under the guidance of Dr. M. Todd Walter. The CFS project is part of Plastic Tides' larger efforts to raise awareness of single use plastics and promote positive shifts in consumer behavior. More specifically, we hope to collect data year after year to create a longitudinal study of how we are polluting our Finger Lakes Watershed. This data will be vital in determining future legislation and in driving change.

The 2016 project was based out of Myers Park in Lansing, NY, but we sampled across the Finger Lakes.



Florida Paddling Trails Association



The Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA) is a state-wide non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving a community of paddlers, clubs, outfitters, and other water trail supporters who share the common purpose of "connecting paddlers to water trails." Our goal is to knit the paddling community together. The major missions of the FPTA are:

- Develop water trails
- Protect the environment along the trails
- Be a resource and voice for paddlers

Due to heavy use of boat ramps in Florida's Big Bend coastline, many paddlers have taken to launching adjacent to them, causing shoreline erosion and degradation. We want to construct dedicated canoe and kayak launches near these boat ramps for the safety of our paddlers and to reduce their environmental impact. An added benefit is keeping canoers, kayakers, and paddleboarders out of the way of the motorboat traffic utilizing these ramps.

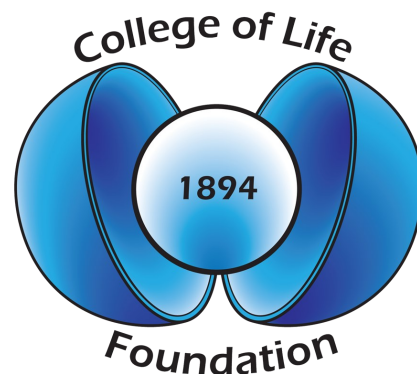
The Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail (BBSPT) is a relatively remote 105-mile long trail along the Gulf of Mexico in Florida. There are seven primitive campsites, approximately 10-14 miles apart, maintained jointly by FPTA, Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Access to this trail is provided by a half dozen boat ramps along the Gulf of Mexico and up some rivers that feed into the Gulf, such as the Suwannee and Steinhatchee.

At this time, canoers and kayakers share access to the water with power boats at boat ramps in the Big Bend. Paddlers who are camping or fishing usually can't load their boats before launching like power boaters, so they tend to tie up the boat ramps for longer periods of time. Plus, most boat ramps are not friendly to canoes and kayaks made of more fragile composite materials. Many canoers and kayakers, to avoid the busy boat ramps, launch off to the side of these boat ramps, thereby causing ecological degradation and erosion in the sensitive soils of the estuaries.

With the aid of the ACA/L.L. Bean grant and matching funds from the county and state, FPTA was able to buy the supplies and materials to construct dedicated kayak/canoe launches near the boat ramp. The construction method was determined by the site itself, but varied from simply industrial grade matting and 24" spikes to a more complicated launch composed of wood, rock and concrete to stabilize the eroded bank. We're hoping to install three to four launches this year.



College of Life Foundation



The College of Life Foundation was established in 1894 by early settlers in Estero, Florida. The Paddle America Club was created in 2013, and two ACA certified instructors lead kayaking tours along the Estero River. Both guides are Florida Master Naturalists. The Club acts as a catalyst in the community by partnering with other non-profit organizations to establish educational and environmental programs.

The CFS project demonstrated restoration along the 7 mile Estero River. The river flows east to west and is a vital part of our watershed as it opens into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. Over the years, several large trees have fallen into the river which creates an obstacle for paddlers and possibly an impediment for water flow. In addition, there are some areas where tree limbs have grown across the river creating an obstacle and potential hazard. Non-native, invasive species like the Brazilian Pepper are prolific along the shoreline east of US41 bridge. In addition, adjacent drainage canals that empty into the river allow trash to flow into the river. The CFS project trimmed back some of the vegetation that is causing encroachment, cut and treated non-native/invasive species, removed trees and limbs that have fallen into the river, removed trash, and painted the



Seminole Railroad Bridge that is covered in graffiti and planted a native thorny plant along the railroad to discourage further graffiti.

With removal of the invasive Brazilian Pepper plants along the bank, the river is much wider. This allows paddlers a safer passage along the river where many areas were once single file.

In addition, we also put together a team of volunteers to conduct a trash pick-up of the entire 7 miles of the Estero River.

The project included volunteers from Florida Gulf Coast University (students and faculty), Estero Rotary Club, and Koreshan State Historic Site staff and volunteers, and the ACA Florida State Director and Executive Council. The project start date was 6/18/2016 and it ran for two weeks.

Thank you to Lee County and the Village of Estero for completing this project! In many areas, we noticed native vegetation (Mangroves, Royal Palm) along the banks. These native plants will now be able to thrive with the removal of the Brazilian Pepper.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to paddling with you soon to showcase our beautiful Estero River.



Chicago Voyagers



Empowering at-risk youth through outdoor experiential adventures that foster healthy relationships and responsible behavior is the mission of Chicago Voyagers.

The Busse Lake Cleanup Project is part of Chicago Voyagers' ongoing stewardship efforts, and is an extension of our paddling program – the largest component of CV's overall programming. The vast majority of the youth we serve have never participated in a stewardship program – or ever been in a canoe.

The program exposes inner-city at-risk youth to a new outdoor activity, while teaching them to respect the natural environment. Before stewardship work began, our trained instructors led participating youth through the ACA QuickStart Your Canoe class, as our cleanup efforts are done from canoes, not the shoreline. We also include a teambuilding activity or two to set the stage for each day.

The project's goal was to engage 80 people (approximately 10 per event) through a series of half day and/or full day cleanup events throughout the 2016 canoeing season – beginning in early April and ending in late October. Our program was located at Busse Lake, in Elk Grove Village, IL. Busse Lake is part of the largest Forest Preserve System in the country (Cook County, IL).

We exceeded our goal by having 191 people participate in the program. We had 14 groups work to clean up Busse Lake via our canoe training programs. Each program was approximately 3 hours in length. The following were dates of the programs with the number of participants:

5-May (2 groups)	20 participants
27-May	9 participants
4-June	16 participants
22-June	19 participants
27-June	13 participants
8-July (2 groups)	14 participants
11-July	6 participants
13-July	23 participants
21-July	35 participants
2-Aug	12 participants
4-Aug	7 participants
7-Oct	17 participants

99% of our youth were low income and 98% were minorities – achieving our goal of engaging those normally less likely to participate in this type of service work. We also trained the youth on canoeing skills.

We are sincerely grateful to L.L.Bean and the American Canoe Association for your generosity and investment in our important work. We are proud not only to leave our lakes cleaner, but also to invest in the next generation of stewards.



We Love Clean Rivers



We Love Clean Rivers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to cleaning high use rivers by mobilizing the river recreation community in partnership with local environmental, recreation, and educational organizations. By coordinating with kayakers, rafters, anglers, scuba divers, and tubers to clean up waterways, We Love Clean Rivers broadens engagement with river restoration activities, increases the recreation community's understanding of threats to watershed health, and provides unique opportunities (drizzled with fun) for the community to give back to the incredible resources we use year-round.

The Clackamas Down River Clean Up seeks to continue to revitalize a 25-mile section of the Clackamas River from Milo McIver State Park, in Estacada, OR, to Clackamette Park in Oregon City, OR through the removal of trash and non-woody debris both in the riverbed and on the shore. Each year, hundreds of volunteers join We Love Clean Rivers for this on-the-water event, melding the joy of Class II paddling with a rewarding preservation and restoration effort.

The grant funding was used for the procurement of supplies for the 300+ volunteers at this year's 14th annual Down River Clean Up event.



Fogdogs of Ferry Beach



The Fogdogs of Ferry Beach is a three season paddling club focused on a gathering mid summer for a week of training and community building. Our mission is to promote the safe use of human powered watercraft. Started in the late 90s', the Fogdogs are a sub group of the Ferry Beach Park Association (FBPA), a 115-year old retreat and conference center on the beach in Saco.

The project is part of an ongoing public shore access challenge in southern Maine. The access point location is on private property owned by the FBPA at the water's edge in Saco, Maine. As the city has placed restrictions for parking and pay for parking to the north and south of this access point, more people have found their way to Ferry Beach creating overuse of the area.

With this grant, we will address the challenges created by an increase in demand for the access point and its impact on the shoreline in this area. Together we raised funds five years ago to re-construct 1000 feet of the primary dune. Volunteers plant new dune grass every few years.

The increase in traffic has resulted in conflicts related to parking, dune protections and competing usages. One of the current goals of the Fogdogs is to maintain the walkway currently used for access to the shoreline. This includes clearly identifying the ownership of the access, permissions to use the access, and protections for both the users of the access and the surrounding vulnerable dune zone.

As part of the safe and protective use of the coastal waters of Saco Bay, the Fogdogs of Ferry Beach are:

- 1) Increasing safety and access signage around the launch site
- 2) Maintaining the staging area for the dropping off and picking up of gear
- 3) Acquiring dune stabilization materials including fencing and dune grass plantings.

Volunteer efforts have focused on:

- Working with the City of Saco to establish clear parking regulations
- Coordinating with the FBPA on maintenance of access point
- Installation of signage and monitoring usage

Illinois Water TrailKeepers



The Illinois Paddling Council, an ACA Paddle America Club dedicated to advocating for and promoting paddling in the state of Illinois, have won several awards for their stewardship work, including the 2013 ACA Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation award. The offshoot program, Illinois Water TrailKeepers, focuses on maintaining and improving water trails across the state of Illinois.

CFS Grant support helps us to sponsor several cleanups this year. These cleanups are on strategic waterways where we are looking to both build on existing community relationships but also build new ones. It is through these partnerships that we will engage the most volunteers and make the largest impact.

- April: Willow Creek in Elgin IL
- May: DesPlaines River in Lake County IL
- June: Upper Calumet River in Blue Island, IL
- July: Fox River in St Charles, IL
- August: DesPlaines River Between Cook and Will Counties, IL
- September: DesPlaines River Between Lake and Cook Counties, IL

We are looking to engage the local community, paddlers, and our regular volunteers to conduct four river cleanups. Our general approach to cleanups is that we invite the members of the paddling community to help clean the river from their canoes and kayaks. We invite community groups, youth groups, and members of the general public to join us walking the shores of the river.

This tends to make a great partnership. Non paddling members of the community can come out and learn about the water trail while helping with the cleanup from the shore. The trash along the banks will be in the

river at the next high-water event, so it is good to get it before it gets into the river. What the paddlers can't get, the shore walkers can, and vice versa. Ultimately the river gets cleaned up.

In addition, the CFS grant funds will assist with a four phase signage project on Banner Marsh. We will be looking to place a trail-head sign and complete signage for the second loop of the trail. Subsequent years we will look at completing the other 2 loops. Once established as a formal water trail, we have a local volunteer who will adopt the Banner Marsh Water Trail as part of Water TrailKeepers.

This project further expands the reach of the Water TrailKeeper program outside of the region of Northern Illinois so we better live up to our state-wide-mandate.

The Water TrailKeeper program is an ongoing stewardship program of the Illinois Paddling Council and Openlands. The mandate includes maintaining existing water trails, and advocating and developing new ones.



Spokane River Forum



The Spokane River Forum is a non-profit organization that creates materials, events and activities to promote regional dialogs for sustaining a healthy river system while meeting the needs of a growing population. The Forum's Spokane River Water Trail, www.spokanewatertrail.net, initiative provides river and riparian protection, restoration and stewardship; supports safe, non-motorized access for recreational users; and contributes to the community's cultural and healthy living identity.

A little rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of 2016 Spokane River cleanup volunteers. Crews were out in force picking up trash in Spokane Valley, the University District, the Downtown River Gorge area, High Bridge Park, and People's Park. Here's the box score:

- Volunteers: 692
- Trash tonnage: 3.19 tons
- Recyclables: 976 lbs



This annual event is put on by a coalition of groups. Special kudos to the Lands Council for providing staff to coordinate and herd us into action. The Forum was pleased to again support the web site and coordinate Spokane Valley activities.

This year's sponsors and partners included:

American Canoe Association

City of Spokane

Northwest Whitewater Association

Riverside State Park

Spokane Riverkeeper

TransCanada

Washington Department of Ecology

L.L.Bean

Johnson Controls

REI

Spokane River Forum

The Lands Council

Trout Unlimited

Waste Management



Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association



Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) is a 501 (c) (3) volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of the scenic, free flowing rivers of Tennessee. TSRA is active in making the waters of Tennessee accessible through waterway accesses, teaching safe paddling, performing waterway clean ups and organizing paddling trips. More information at www.paddletsra.org

About the Project:

As we began our in depth planning process on the access site on Stones River below the Percy Priest Dam, it became clear that although Metro which leases the land and was enthusiastic about our building the site, they did not have total say on the matter. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also has to sign off on the project as they own the land. We met with them and although they are supportive of the idea, there is an approval process that they anticipate will take 4 months. This puts us into winter pool high water, so in order to build in summer pool we will most likely have to wait until April of 2017. Our initial plan on the grant was to build this September.

The ACA has granted an extension to use the grant funds in the spring of 2017.



Sioux Empire Paddlers



Sioux Empire Paddlers formerly known as Sioux Falls Whitewater Park Organization was grateful for the \$500.00 ACA L.L.Bean Stewardship Grant. 2016 was a great year for the amount of volunteers we had. We ended up having a total of 3 clean ups on the Big Sioux River. We covered a total 22 miles of shore line along the Big Sioux River. We were able to remove over 1,000 pounds of trash from tires, bottles, bags, steel beams, and even a pair of shorts. Our three clean ups had a total of 8 volunteers, 2.5 hours for each volunteer, and a total of 20 hours of volunteer time. With the help of the ACA and L.L.Bean we will be able to do clean ups year after year. We hope to double the miles, volunteers, trash and hours for 2017.

Sioux Empire Paddlers offers ACA classes for kids, teens, and adults throughout the year. In 2016 we were able to offer classes to more than 100 students. We are a membership based organization that believes in paddling education and stewardship.

Thank you again ACA and L.L.Bean for helping us take the trash out of our waterways.

- Video of cleanup: <https://youtu.be/mwEqMRm4tKs>





About the ACA

Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.

For those who know the immense joys of paddling, nothing is more critical than the nation's streams, lakes, and oceans. It is that unique and personal connection between paddlers and nature that is at the heart of the ACA's Stewardship Department.

The ACA works hard to make the nation's waterways paddle friendly and to increase the voice of paddlers in policy decisions which impact paddlers and the waters they cherish. That is why we partner with organizations like L.L.Bean who cherish the outdoors just as much as the ACA.

With the continued support of L.L.Bean, the ACA can continue to support paddling clubs and grassroots organizations around the country in their efforts to care for our waterways.



www.americancanoe.org

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