



Club Fostered Stewardship Grant Report

2017





About the American Canoe Association

Founded in 1880, the 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; and
- 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.

The ACA is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the Olympic paddlesports of canoe slalom and canoe sprint and the Paralympic sport of Paracanoe.

The ACA has more than 30,000 members, and 300 paddling clubs and affiliated organizations. The ACA provides sponsorship and insurance for over 4,000 events each year, including 200 races. The ACA education program has an estimated outreach of 800,000 people a year. ACA members reside in all 50 states and over 35 countries worldwide.

For more information, please visit: www.americancanoe.org.

Club Fostered Stewardship Program assists local, regional paddling organizations

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to sponsor the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program. The CFS Program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations that undertake stewardship projects on waterways in their area. The purpose of the program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving the nation's waterways.

CFS grants are available for projects that utilize volunteers in efforts to protect, maintain or restore recreational waterways, provide for or improve public access, or enhance safe navigation. Eligible projects include cleaning up waterways, clearing in-stream safety hazards, maintaining access areas, erecting signs and controlling erosion, establishing and maintaining paddle trails, acquiring threatened access points, and providing sanitary facilities. Grant amounts range from \$100 to \$1,000.

Past projects receiving CFS grants have included:

- Removing heavy debris and trash from rivers and bays in numerous locations throughout the U.S.
- Improving access for local paddlers
- Establishing water trails
- Water quality monitoring
- Environmentally-sensitive woody debris removal
- Riparian buffer restoration and improvement
- Environmental education and outreach programs

The ACA is proud to be able to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's CFS Program has provided nearly \$150,000 to over 160 different stewardship initiatives since its inception. 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. For more information, please visit www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant.

In 2017, the CFS Program funded 14 projects run by the following organizations:

- Anchorage Waterways Council, Alaska
- Allegheny Aquatic Alliance, Pennsylvania
- Boardman River Clean Sweep, Michigan
- Cahaba Riverkeeper, Alabama
- Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor, Puerto Rico
- Colorado River Alliance, Texas
- Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, New York
- Harbor District Inc., Wisconsin
- Kayak New Mexico, New Mexico
- Paddlers 4 Conservation, Indiana
- River Action, Illinois
- Spokane River Forum, Washington
- SUNY Adirondak Adventure Sports, New York
- Vermont River Conservancy, Vermont



Allegheny Aquatic Alliance



The [Allegheny Aquatic Alliance](#) is a local nonprofit organization devoted to water protection. The group's mission is to restore the watersheds of Western Pennsylvania to their natural state by removing and combatting pollution, reinstating the organic environment, and educating the community of the threats to the water to empower and encourage public action for watershed preservation. One of their goals is to see the local waterways returned to their beautiful natural healthy states by minimizing the negative human impact on water.

In 2012, the group formed the annual Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup Project. Tackling 10- to 20-mile sections at a time, the alliance aspires to have the entire waterway cleaned while also maintaining every section annually. Their ultimate goal is to improve the water quality of Connoquenessing Creek, enabling the aquatic species that inhabit the creek to thrive and recreational activities to continue to flourish.

About the Project

This year the cleanup stretch was 19 miles long, starting in Evans City and ending in Ellwood City. One hundred and ninety hardworking volunteers were recruited for the two cleanup dates: August 19 and September 9. Overall, this cleanup was a huge success.

This was the first year that both cleanup dates provided ideal water conditions. The creek was low and clear, allowing volunteers to see and remove all the garbage in the bottom of the bed. However, the weather was not ideal on either date. On the first date, a thunderstorm occurred in the early afternoon forcing volunteers to evacuate the waterway and seek cover until it passed. Some volunteers even experienced hail with the storm. The second date was dry but very cold. Despite these conditions, the volunteers worked positively and productively making the 6th Annual Cleanup the most successful year so far!

During these two days, 85,732 pounds of garbage were removed, including 1,436 tires. This brings the overall total garbage removed by the Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup Project to 360,857 pounds, including 4,051 tires!

Each year, this project grows more effective and prosperous. Knowledge learned from past years is applied to the next year, and volunteers and supporters continue to help and spread the word about the cleanups. These results contribute to a healthy waterway and community. Garbage and tires that have consumed this creek for decades are finally being removed, aiding in better water quality. This positively impacts the aquatic species, residents, and recreational seekers that use this waterway. In addition, through this project volunteers and supporters are exposed to the polluted conditions of our waterways and are empowered with their experience to continue actions that prevent litter and pollution.



Anchorage Waterways Council



The [Anchorage Waterways Council](http://www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant) 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 with agencies and property owners, and organizing large volunteer community events, such as the annual Creek Cleanup every May.

About the Project

AWC's Annual Creek Cleanup has been a local tradition for over 30 years. It brings together corporate teams, Scouts, school groups, families, clubs, organizations, neighbors, and individuals to do something beneficial for their community. Members of the Knik Canoers and Kayakers have been participating for several years using their canoes and kayaks alongside those who waded through the creeks and along lakes on foot.

Over the four days of cleaning (held May 6-13 in 2017), more than 40 teams signed up, and a large number of individual cleaners showed up on May 13. In addition, 250 Boy Scouts cleaned two local lakes and a creek for 3 hours on May 6 as part of their Conservation badge (750 hours). It's conservatively estimated that the number of hours vol-

unteered by the teams was at least 2,000. Overall creek miles cleaned is estimated at 30-35.

The official weight of the trash collected, as weighed by the MOA Solid Waste Services, amounted to just over 1.9 tons. (This is down from the previous year, which is encouraging.) An additional 4 tons of other trash was collected by the MOA Parks and Rec Department, and some individuals and teams took their trash home, which meant it was not counted in the overall total.

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 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](#) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization located near Traverse City, Michigan. For the past four years, the ACA and L.L. Bean grants have been a major source of financial support for the acquisition of specialized equipment that has allowed them to sustain and increase their mission of river stewardship and restoration.

About the Project

The group cleaned up [Kids Creek](#), the last and largest tributary of the Boardman River, which flows through a 100-year-old historic stand of [Norway Spruce](#) at the restored [Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital](#).

“Kids Creek was littered with the usual trash and a homeless campsite, but when we inspected the surrounding woods, we found a hor-

rible mess,” said Norman R. Fred, chairman of the Boardman River Clean Sweep. “Many homeless people of Traverse City live in these woods and their small amounts of trash and litter have built up over the years to an amazing level. As far as we know, neither these woods nor the creek have been cleaned up in recent memory.”

The woods are a maze of foot paths and trails, so the BRCS used the CFS grant money to buy a waterproof GPS camera and sought assistance from a member of the homeless community to be their guide. On May 13, 2017, 17 people (including four children) worked to clean the area.

With the assistance of the homeless volunteer and in only two and a half hours, the group removed 95 42-gallon bags of trash plus a lot of

large items, including a trash tote, a wheel barrow, tents, sleeping bags, tarps and boxes. As they filled the bags, the volunteers left them at strategic locations in the woods for later removal before moving on to the next site.

On their last trip out of the woods, volunteers spotted three more sites which some went back a few times to complete. In all, the group removed 124 bags of trash in three days, totalling about 4,500 pounds of trash removed from the area.

On the last project day, volunteers distributed trash bags to several of the homeless people camping in the woods and along the creek. They also placed a trash tote at the park across the street from the woods for the campers to use and left signs for hikers and bikers to encourage them to take out what they bring in.



Cahaba Riverkeeper



[Cahaba Riverkeeper](#) is a community-based, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 2009 as a licensee of the global Waterkeeper Alliance. The volunteer organization's mission is to defend the ecological integrity of the Cahaba River, its tributaries and watershed to ensure clean water, a healthy aquatic environment, and the status of recreational sites along the river.

About the Project

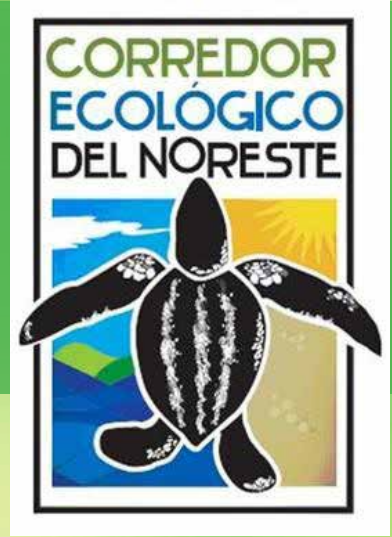
Using funds from the CFS grant, the organization held cleanup projects in which volunteers collected trash at the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge. The first cleanup on the Cahaba was held June 2, 2017, with volunteers from Motion Industries, to remove trees and debris at the dock of one of the sites the Riverkeeper uses in their Swim Guide

bacteriological testing program. Twenty-three volunteers worked for 5 hours at the site, for 115 total hours, removing about 700 pounds of debris and two in-water trees. Another cleanup in the refuge was held April 7, 2018.

A small cleanup was held October 7, 2017, to remove trash that had long been accumulating in Shades Creek at Jemison Park, which deposits into the Cahaba. Six workers toiled for 45 total hours, removing about 400 pounds of trash.



Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor



Founded in 2005, the [Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor](#) is a nonprofit organization composed of community volunteers and different organizations located in the municipalities of Luquillo and Fajardo in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that work together to conserve and maintain 3000 acres of protected land, organizing events, beach cleanups and educational talks.

About the Project

In 2017, the coalition organized the first cleanup of the Saban River in the municipality of Luquillo PR. Grant money was used to purchase a Stihl pole pruner for the tree trimming project.

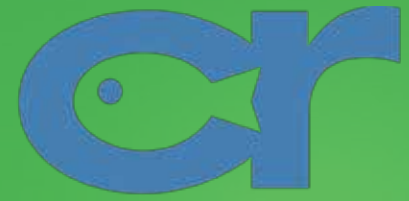
During the river cleanup, held July 22, 2017, 150 pounds of trash were removed from the river with the help of 18 volunteers who each donated 4 hours of their time with a total of 72 volunteer hours for this project. Volunteers included members of the community, the Coalition, and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

The owner of the small boat that was going to be used to trim the low branches from the river could not show up due to mechanical problems. The group continued to work from land, trimming some branches. The NEC Manager offered his boat to finish the job in September.

Now with the pole pruner the coalition will be able to continue with the tree trimming to ensure a safe way for visitors and to maintain a free flow of the NEC waterways.



Colorado River Alliance



COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE

The Colorado River Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas, is the only nonprofit dedicated solely to the conservation and protection of the Texas Colorado River.

The organization has been increasing community awareness of the Colorado River's environmental and economic importance since 1994. They provide, conduct and support environmental science and outdoor education programs for youth, river cleanups, and other river-centered projects in efforts to bring awareness to the Colorado River.

About the Project

The Colorado River Alliance's Lake Travis Cleanup event is one of the largest cleanup events of its kind in the world, with nearly 1,000 divers, boaters, swimmers, and shoreline volunteers gathering

on one day to remove thousands of pounds of trash from Lake Travis, the Texas Colorado River, and the surrounding parks. The 2017 was quite a success with a total of 800 volunteers, each completing 4 to 6 hours of volunteer service for the day.

Held on September 17, 2017, dive teams removed 6,000 pounds of trash and recycling, while shoreline volunteers cleaned up 2,600 pounds. The dive volunteers worked diligently to remove trash and recycling from the bottom of Lake Travis, while the rowing volunteers skimmed the surface of the lake to remove trash and recycling floating on the water. Shoreline volunteers scoured the six nearby city parks armed with trash grabbers and bags to dispose of anything they found.

The refuse was weighed and sorted into garbage and recycling by the city of Austin.

After the volunteers worked hard to keep our waterways and surrounding watershed areas clean, they gathered for the annual after-party on a deck overlooking the lake. At the after-party, models and Enviroscares were set up to educate partygoers about river issues, such as flooding and the effects of different common pollutants.

One popular education tool was a station on zebra mussels and their emerging danger to waterways. The Alliance educated over 1,000 people on the importance of the Texas Colorado River and armed them with several ways to ensure they're keeping their waterways clean.



Friends of the Chemung River Watershed



Based in Elmira, New York, [Friends of the Chemung River Watershed](#) is nonprofit environmental organization that promotes and protects the rivers and streams in the Chemung River Watershed and encourages the public to better use, enjoy and care for the waterways. The organization's members build boat launches, trails and fishing access sites; clean up trash; and teach water safety, basic paddling and environmental stewardship. They also lead guided paddles, hikes and cross-country ski trips along our trails and waterways.

About the Project

On Earth Day 2017 (April 22), River Friends partnered with 83 first-grade students from the Finn Academy charter school, along with 34 parents, for a cleanup event. The group removed more than 700 pounds of trash and litter from the Lackawanna Rail trail and nearby Newtown Creek in Elmira. The debris included cans, bottles, food litter, a shopping cart, three tires and clothing.

The cleanup was part of a Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute program designed to teach students about owls and other animals that inhabit the creek and trail. This program is part of a long-term partnership between Finn Academy and River

Friends. The academy has adopted the river and its tributaries and uses them as outdoor classrooms and as places where they can improve the environment. The students spent six weeks studying owls and learning about the threats the birds face – litter and trash being a major problem.

As part of the project, the students decided to clean a 2-mile stretch of the trail and creek banks. The students and volunteers learned how and why people litter and how it affects the environment. They discovered what individuals and groups can do reduce litter and to educate the public about the environmental destruction caused by litter and illegal dumping.



Harbor District Inc.



With nine miles of shoreline in the Harbor District geography, water recreation is a top priority, especially in terms of safety. The Inner Harbor is an active international port but also the confluence of three rivers, making it an attractive spot for paddlers as well as freighters. Milwaukee's three rivers – the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic – are seeing a renaissance of paddlesports in recent years. As recreational paddling increases in the city, concerns for freighter-kayak, pontoon-paddle board, and speed boat-canoes collisions abound among many stakeholders.

[Harbor District Inc.](#) is a nonprofit organization working to create a new vision for the industrial Inner Harbor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their mission is to achieve a world-class revitalization of Milwaukee's harbor that sets the standards for how waterfronts work – environmentally, economically, and socially

About the Project

Harbor District Inc. is developing a Water and Land Use Plan to help guide future developments in the area, with an emphasis on sustainability, water quality, and improved public access to the water's edge. Further, one of Harbor District's priorities includes improved recreation and water safety through the "Kepp Calm and Paddle Safe Milwaukee" safety signage campaign.

Through a group of five volunteer community members representing major water-centric organizations across Milwaukee – Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Harbor District Inc., Milwaukee Urban Water Trails, Milwaukee Kayak Company, and the Harbor Safety Committee – simple, eye-catching design and message were developed for the safety signs campaign. Additionally, the group was able to secure donated graphic design and signage consultation by a local graphic firm, Confluence

Graphics, which helped stretch the budget for the project. Milwaukee Kayak Company offered to provide match dollars (\$200) to the project as well. The additional funds and the cost saving from the donated graphic design allowed the printing of 10 safety signs, rather than the original four signs proposed.

Due to the extra time it took to secure the donated graphic design, the group was unable to install the signs during the paddling season. The group felt it was beneficial to launch the signage at the beginning of the paddling season in 2018. A volunteer was secured to help with the installations, and provide waterfront property owners offered to host some of the new signs along their properties.

With the help of the CFS grant, Harbor District has been able to engage in important waterway safety conversations with more than 30 district members of the water recreation community in Milwaukee, ranging from operators of Port Milwaukee to citizen paddlers, from government agencies to environmental nonprofits. Now an estimated 5,000 paddlers, using all stretches of Milwaukee's downtown waterways, will see at least one of these signs and the educational reminder of important safety themes: stay to the side, wear your life jacket.



Kayak New Mexico



The ACA and L.L. Bean awarded a small grant to [Kayak New Mexico](http://www.KayakNewMexico.com) (501c3) for programming in support of a stewardship project on Cochiti Lake. This waterway is a flood control lake on the Rio Grande. It is bordered by lands owned by the Cochiti Pueblo. A short three-mile paddle upstream finds you in both designated wilderness canyons and Bandelier National Monument. As Cochiti Lake is a no-wake lake, it is perfect for paddle sports, sail craft, canyoneering by paddle craft, bird watching and wildlife viewing.

Founded in 2011, KNM is an all-volunteer adaptive paddling program that provides paddling-centered programming for kids and adults with physical and developmental disabilities and other life-threatening conditions.

On August 12, 2017, Kayak New Mexico Inc. teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Albuquerque's Boy Scout Troop 444 to clean up Cochiti Lake. Bordered by lands owned by the Cochiti Pueblo, this waterway is a flood control lake on the Rio Grande. For the cleanup, 40 volunteers (16 Boy Scouts and their leaders, two adaptive paddling participants, and 22 members of the New Mexico paddling community) spent three hours collecting 1,230 pounds of garbage, including nine tires and 120 pounds of plastic and metal that were recycled).

On October 21, 2017, Kayak New Mexico partnered with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to clean up the Rio Grande from Bernalillo to Corrales. This time, 22 volunteers, including five

adaptive paddling participants, six parents and siblings of the adaptive paddling participants, and 11 members of the New Mexico paddling community, spent 2 hours cleaning up the river area around US 550 and the bridge and another 2 hours paddling down the river cleaning up the shoreline. The cleanup results in 62 pounds of plastics (all of which was recycled), 20 pounds of lumber, 10 pounds of glass, 261 pounds of trash, 1 tire, and 43 pounds of non-recyclable metals.



Paddlers for Conservation



Founded in 2015, [Paddlers For Conservation](http://www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant) (P4C) is a 501 (c)(3) not-for profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for canoeing/kayaking while providing educational opportunities to discuss the importance of water quality, riverine habitat restoration, and community-based volunteer opportunities. Their mission is to restore and enhance the Tippecanoe River and Kosciusko County lakes and streams through hands-on environmental stewardship and educational opportunities to preserve them for the future.

About the Project

2017 was a big year for P4C, as the organization completed its second full year of nonprofit conservation work.

P4C completed six river cleanup days from May to late October totaling 39 hours, 72 volunteers, and 2,808 hours. The group even assisted students and staff from Manchester University on an Eel River Cleanup in September and provided 14 club members and 105 hours. The tremendous support for their cause and increased interest from the community far exceeded P4C's expectations.

During their cleanup days, P4C removed 86 log jams, 47 tires, 21 bags of trash (with bags donated to by the local recycling center in Warsaw, Indiana) and numerous items, including a toilet, a propane tank,

and a 55-gallon drum half filled with glass.

P4C once again supported the 2017 Lakes Festival in Center Lake Park and coordinated the Kayaks for Kids event that provided an opportunity for kids to experience kayaking for the first time. They also conducted the Paddle Wars competition on Center Lake – a tug-of-war contest to promote the group's efforts to encourage paddling opportunities on the Tippecanoe River.

The nonprofit group partnered with the Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners Association in June to provide another venue to promote the club's mission at the annual property owners association summer fish fry. P4C participated in the First Fridays event sponsored by the City of Warsaw, providing a venue to gain new members. They also sponsored and conducted the canoe race at the first Lake Games

held July 30 at Winona Lake. Funds raised during this weekend event were donated to a school in Haiti.

P4C assisted the Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District with their Washington STEM Academy float trip in August. The trip introduced 115 sixth-grade students to Grassy Creek and Lake Tippecanoe and provided them with an opportunity to learn about water quality, invasive species, and watersheds as well as a team-building opportunity while enjoying paddlesports.

The paddling group conducted five float events over the course of 2017, providing more than 50 people with an opportunity to experience nearby streams in Indiana and Lower Michigan, increased membership, provided educational opportunities, and introduced members and friends to some of the local natural resources.



River Action



River Action strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad City region.

About the Project

River Action, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Village of Milan, requested a grant to improve the infrastructure at Hennepin Canal Environmental Park and restore

the ecosystem at the Steel Dam in Milan, Illinois. Grant money was used to purchase six wayfaring signs designating the park, portage, and water trail. Ramp construction took place in early June, with signage placed upon completion.

Along with restoration efforts, they offered environmental learning opportunities showcasing the value of natural spaces and local history.

These programs engaged youth in stewardship, provided opportunities for hands-on, experimental learning, and inspired students to take active roles in their environment and community. Weekly lecture classes began in mid-June. Paddling classes began at the end of that month.



Spokane River Forum



The Spokane River Forum is a nonprofit organization that creates materials, events, and activities to promote regional dialogues for sustaining a healthy river system while meeting the needs of a growing population.

About the Project

With funding from the CFS grant program, the group worked with partners to develop and install a kiosk and an interpretive sign at Islands Trailhead, a popular access point for the Aubrey White Water Trail.

The signage is critical to providing both stewardship and safety messages for users. The stewardship messaging reminds users to “pack it

in, pack it out” and provides aquifer protection and fish consumption advisory information. Safety messaging includes life jacket requirements, river flow, proper clothing and other information.

From May through September, over 20 volunteers provided more than 60 hours of restoration activities, including watering during dry summer months.

Spokane River Cleanup occurred on September 16. As a host sponsor, the Forum led 70 volunteers in cleanup activities in Spokane Valley, which includes Islands Trailhead. Over 1,000 pounds of garbage and recyclables was collected.



SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club



The [SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club](#) (AVS Club) provides students of SUNY Adirondack with outdoor adventure sports opportunities. The club is managed by students of the Adventure Sports program (AVS program).

The club participates in a wide variety of activities including paddling, rock climbing, hiking, ropes courses, and skiing. The club also partners with many youth based organizations, including Adirondack TREKS, Adirondack ARC and regional outfitters, including Lake George Kayak Company, Fountain Square Outfitters, and RockSport Climbing and Guiding.

About the Project

The SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club proposed a unique journey. Their project, called Canoes for Community, took a more original approach to litter cleanups.

In September 2017, the SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club embarked on a three-day, 32-mile journey down Lake George. Paddling from north to south, the group followed a historic trading and military route

from the shores of Fort Ticonderoga to the beaches in front of Fort William Henry in Lake George Village. Instead of traveling with a small fleet of canoes or kayaks, the club paddled together in two 24-foot, 12-man war canoes.

Along the way they stopped at shoreline communities and campsites to gather the accumulated trash following a long summer season of tourism. They also visited some of Lake George's more than 150 islands to collect trash and debris from the nooks and crannies of these small hideaways, some of which are just big enough to host only a single tree.

The war canoes offered a unique element to this cleanup effort, which will become an annual event. First, they are a tribute to the war canoes used by Native Americans in the

region for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain and other waves of Western European explorers, trappers and settlers. Similar canoes were also used alongside small bateaux during the French & Indian and Revolutionary wars that took place in the region over 240 years ago.

In addition to their historical significance, the war canoes offered a unique team-building experience for a group of paddlers that pull together in a single craft where everyone's effort counts. The wide beam of the war canoes also provided a stable platform to haul both the trash gathered and the gear required for the three-day journey down the lake.

Finally, the war canoes helped build a story to share via social and regional media to draw community attention to the need for further protection of the unique environment that Lake George offers. The club remained committed to telling the story during this journey and tracking the volume and weight of trash collected as well as include observations of other environmental threats observed along the way.



Vermont River Conservancy



[Vermont River Conservancy](#) is a statewide water-focused nonprofit land trust supported by people who believe that the protection of exceptional shore land is essential to the quality of life in Vermont.

The group works to protect popular swimming holes, breathtaking gorges, magnificent waterfalls, fishing and boating accesses, paddlers' trails, wildlife corridors, watersheds and so much more. They also seek to improve Vermont communities' flood resiliency by actively exploring new conservation approaches that convert flood-threatened private property to public open space for recreation and public access.

About the Project

During 2017, the group's Missisquoi and Lamoille River Access Conservation and Enhancement projects led to conservation and development along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and Lamoille River Paddlers' Trail in northern Vermont.

For the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the conservancy secured a conservation and public access easement from a private landowner just upstream of a set of challenging Class III rapids in Richford.

The easement permanently protects river access for use by paddlers, anglers, and the public and prevents the development of the river's floodplain, providing a place where the river can always flood and move.

In addition to securing the easement, they worked with Northern Forest Canoe Trail stewardship interns and community volunteers to clear and sign a new access trail to the river. Further work is planned in 2018 to create a permanent access ramp, fishing platform, and campsite amenities.

A project focused on the Lamoille River Paddlers' Trail–Morrisville Oxbow Park Access engaged community volunteers to address erosion and improve public access to the river at a popular community park in Morrisville, Vermont. Erosion and runoff from a parking area had created an unstable gully at a location frequented by paddlers and anglers. The group installed stone steps, eradicated invasive species, and planted dozens of native shrubs to stabilize the eroding bank.



*The ACA thanks L.L. Bean for its many years of support
for the Club-Fostered Stewardship Program.*

*Working together, we have made the
world a better place to paddle,
and a better place to live.*

