



**Club
Fostered
Stewardship
Grant
Report
2014**



Milestones of the CFS Grant

2002 - 2014

\$2,036,987

Total value of volunteer time

13,805

Total number of volunteers that have participated in projects

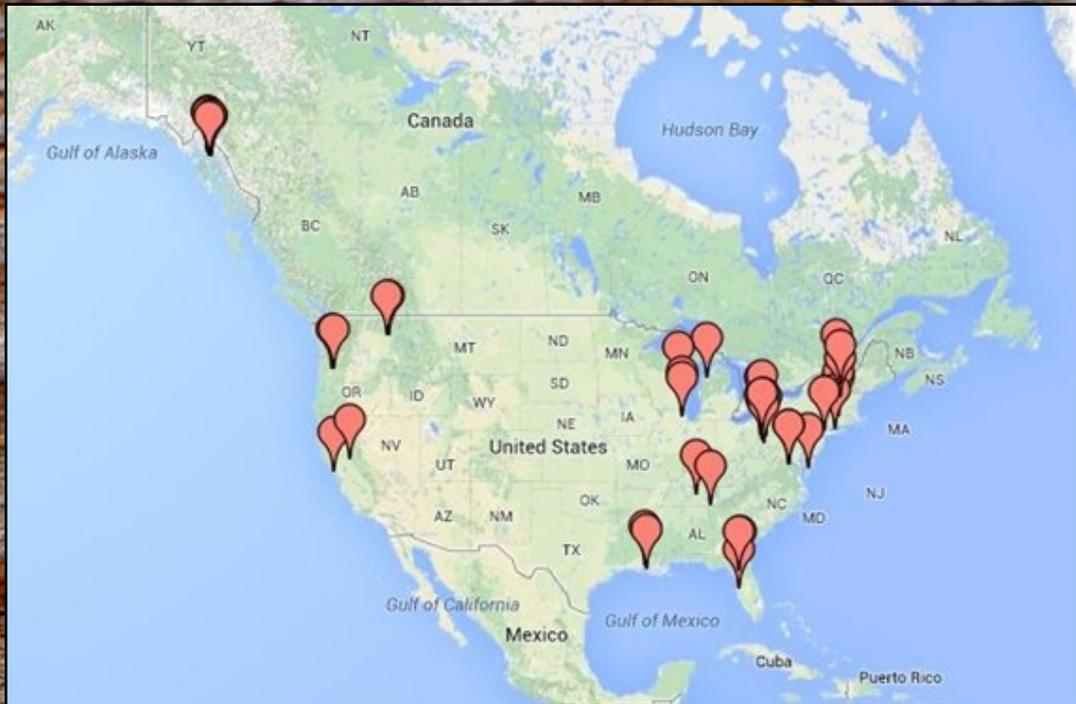
90,332

Total amount of hours donated by volunteers

599,120

Total pounds of trash and marine debris removed

Geographic Area of Awarded Grants



Map of the 2014 CFS grant recipients and their projects.

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 \$120,000 to over 120 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 21 projects across the United States from Alaska to Florida. The CFS Grant Program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations undertaking stewardship projects on waterways.

The 2014 CFS Grant Program is supporting these organizations:

[Allegheny Aquatic Alliance](#)

[American River Conservancy](#)

[Boardman River Clean Sweep](#)

[Chincoteague Bay Field Station](#)

[Chicago Voyagers](#)

[Connecticut River Watershed Council](#)

[Friends of the Rappahannock](#)

[Fox River Heritage Parkway](#)

[Hackensack Riverkeeper](#)

[Illinois Paddling Council](#)

[Kayaks Unlimited](#)

[Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#)

[Outdoor Recreation and Community Access](#)

[Paddle Without Pollution](#)

[Spokane River Forum](#)

[T.E.C.H.E. Project](#)

[Tennessee Scenic River Association](#)

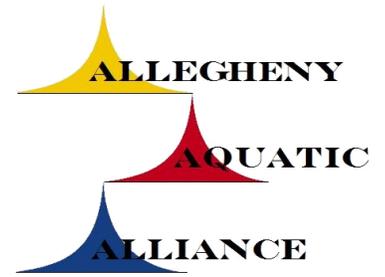
[Tennessee Valley Canoe Club](#)

[Vermont River Conservancy](#)

[Warrior Institute](#)

[We Love Clean Rivers](#)

Allegheny Aquatic Alliance

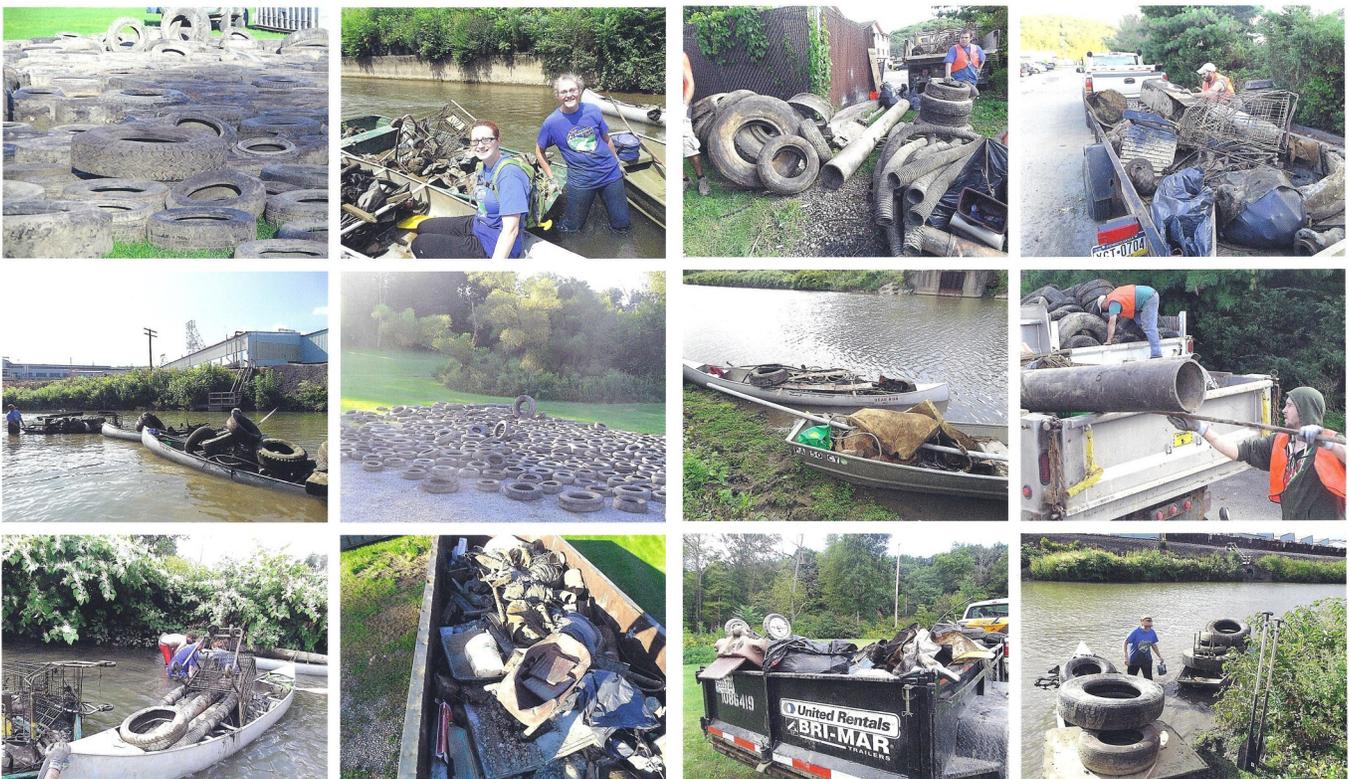


[Allegheny Aquatic Alliance](#) (AAA) is a non-profit organization devoted to water protection. Their mission is to restore the watershed of Western Pennsylvania to its natural state by removing and combating pollution, educating the community on the threats to their waterways, and encouraging public action for watershed preservation.

More information at www.facebook.com/AlleghenyAquaticAlliance

About the Project: This year, the AAA's 3rd Annual Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup Celebration took place in Western Pennsylvania. With funding from the L.L. Bean CFS Grant, the AAA was able to purchase the cleanup supplies required to remove 58,600 lbs. of garbage over the course of one day. The AAA focused on a ten mile section of the Connoquenessing Creek through Renfrew, PA to the City of Butler, PA. Despite the event being postponed for three weeks due to dangerously high water levels, 90 volunteers participated in the cleanup.

Connoquenessing Creek flows throughout several municipalities in two counties. It was once a great resource for paddling, drinking, fishing, swimming, and relaxing. AAA's clean-up mission is to reverse the polluted state of the creek so the community can once again benefit from its waters. Over the past three years, AAA has removed a total of 143,000 lbs. of garbage from this waterway, bringing Connoquenessing Creek even closer to its original, healthy state.



The American River Conservancy

AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY



Preserving Rivers and Land for Life

[The American River Conservancy](http://www.arconservancy.org) (ARC) is a grassroots conservation organization working to protect wildlife habitat, native fisheries and recreational landscapes in California's central Sierra Nevada. They are committed to providing experiential environmental education programs and engaging the community in habitat restoration and stewardship projects.

More information at www.arconservancy.org

About the Project: The project objective was to clean up trash and debris and remove non-native invasive plants from heavily used recreational areas along and in the South Fork of the American River and the Upper Cosumnes River. ARC coordinated 5 cleanup days between May 2014 and September 2014 and actively recruited volunteers to help accomplish the task of trash cleanup and invasive plant removal. This project took place at various locations along the South Fork American and Upper Cosumnes Rivers, but focused mostly on heavily visited sites with public access. These sites included

1. E16 Bridge - Middle Fork Cosumnes River
2. Gold Beach - Main Fork Cosumnes River
3. Chili Bar to Coloma - South Fork American River
4. Coloma to Greenwood - South Fork American River
5. Lotus to Salmon Falls - South Fork American River

ARC was successful in recruiting 243 volunteers to participate in five cleanup and stewardship days over the course of 5 months. Each volunteer worked an average of four hours, for a collective volunteer hour count of 972 hours. The total amount of trash and debris that was cleaned from various sites was 2,105 pounds. Approximately 1 acre of riparian habitat was restored through the removal of invasive *Ailanthus* (Chinese tree of heaven).



Boardman River Clean Sweep



[The Boardman River Clean Sweep](#) (BRCS) is a volunteer based non-profit organization formed in 2011.

More information at www.brleansweep.org

About the Project: With the help of the ACA and L.L.Bean, BRCS acquired the heavier equipment needed to clear waterways of natural and man made debris. BRCS has completed a total of eight events for the year 2014.

BRCS had hoped to have a normal 2014 season of doing clean-ups as they have in years past, but the snow falls last winter caused record flooding during the spring of 2014 and 25 more docks and decks found their way back into the river.

The CFS Grant funding was used to purchase a gas powered portable capstan winch to remove large pieces of debris.

Bad weather and scheduling conflicts slowed their progress. They have almost all the pieces out of the river and will soon have half of them safely in a landfill and the other half repurposed elsewhere.

BRCS has been able to maintain their regular schedule of river clean-ups on the Boardman River and other rivers while completing this special project.



Chincoteague Bay Field Station



[The Chincoteague Bay Field Station](http://www.cbfieldstation.org) (CBFS) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit residential environmental education center located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The Field Station provides outstanding multi-disciplinary, educational and research opportunities that celebrate the rich natural, cultural, economic, and technological resources of the Mid-Atlantic coastal region through field-based and hands-on learning.

More information at www.cbfieldstation.org

About the Project: The clean-up took place at the mouth of the Pocomoke River in New Church, VA, at the Pitts Creek public boat ramp. The site of the cleanup has notoriously been a location for illegal dumping. Shore People Advancing Readiness for Knowledge (SPARK) Creek-Watchers hosted the creek clean-up day, which had a turnout of 44 volunteers.

Upon arriving at the clean up site, volunteers were surprised to find that a cleanup had been preformed at that location relatively recently, and the area was not as polluted as was anticipated. Regardless, CBFS and SPARK managed to remove 10 lbs. of garbage from the mouth of the Pocomoke River, including two derelict crab pots. Additionally, the program educated a group that consisted of both adults and children on water quality and on-water stewardship and provided a group of individuals who are normally unable to paddle the waters of the Pocomoke River the opportunity to do so.



Chicago Voyagers



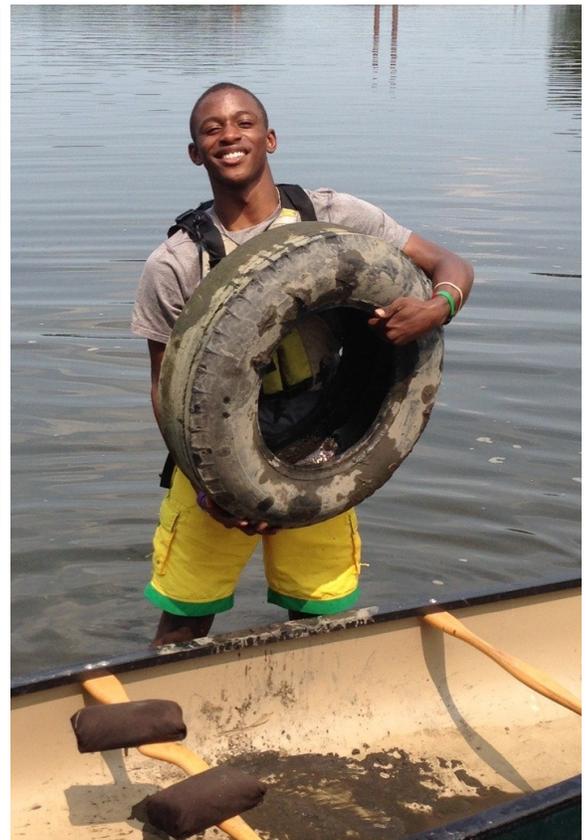
[Chicago Voyagers](http://www.chicagovoyagers.org) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to empowering at-risk youth through outdoor experiential adventures that foster healthy relationships and responsible behavior. Their activities include canoeing, biking, camping, rock climbing and cross-country skiing.

More information at www.chicagovoyagers.org

About the Project: The Chicago Voyagers' project engaged 70 youth and trained more than 20 instructors and volunteers for the Busse Lake Clean-up project. Busse Lake is a local Cook County Forest Preserve in Elk Grove Village, IL . Youth participated in one of seven clean-up events at the start of the canoe season in May and June of 2014. Before stewardship work began, trained instructors led participating youth through the ACA's Quick Start Your Canoe Program.

Busse Lake is a popular lake on the largest county forest preserve system in the country with 68,000 acres and 40 million visitors. When taking youth on the lake over the last several years, CV noticed many areas routinely collect debris. No one seemed to be cleaning up any of the sections. CV seized this opportunity and started taking at-risk youth on the lake to perform clean-ups.

The vast majority of youth CV serves have never participated in a stewardship program or even been in a canoe. During this program CV exposed at-risk youth to a new outdoor activity while teaching them to respect and care for the environment.



Connecticut River Watershed Council



Since its founding in 1952, the [Connecticut River Watershed Council](http://www.ctriver.org) (CRWC) has been the principal citizen advocate for clean water, recreational opportunity and migratory fisheries throughout the four-state Connecticut River watershed. CRWC brings people to the river through paddling, angler workshops and educational events. Through their annual Source to Sea Clean-up and stewardship inspired recreational events, CRWC provides waterway recreation users and those curious about their waterways an opportunity to experience their water resources.

More information at www.ctriver.org

About the Project: The 18th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup united thousands of adults and youth volunteers across the watershed in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in one of the largest cleanups in New England. In this two day event, volunteers cleaned 137 miles of Connecticut River mainstem and tributary sites from northern Vermont and New Hampshire to the Connecticut River's mouth, where it enters Long Island Sound. The event was attended by 2,012 volunteers working with 128 different groups to remove 47 tons of trash from the Connecticut River Watershed.



Friends of the Rappahannock

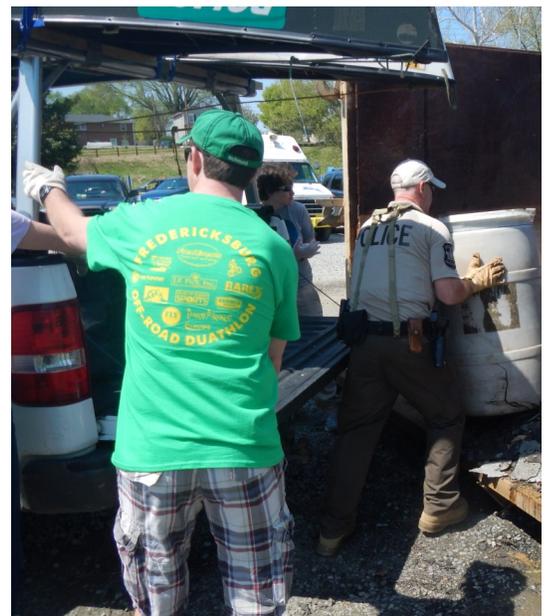


Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit conservation organization formed in 1985 by citizens concerned with the health of the Rappahannock River. Originally focused on the river where it flows through Fredericksburg, Virginia, FOR now works to conserve the entire watershed of the Rappahannock, from its headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains to the mouth of the river where it flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

More information at www.riverfriends.org

About the Project: On April 26, 2014, 400 people joined FOR to help remove debris from the banks of the Rappahannock River. 60 clean-up sites were visited on the banks of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries. Many organizations sent groups of employees to participate in the clean-up, including Starbucks, Geico, Vulcan Materials, Angler Environmental, Solitude Lake Management, Professional Building Maintenance, and Comcast. This clean-up included many youth organizations as well including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, high school honor societies, environmental clubs, People to People Student Ambassadors, Rappahannock Area Office on Youth, Richmond County Public Schools and Catholic Charities.

The spring clean-up was advertised on the Friends of the Rappahannock's website, in the local Freelance Star Newspaper, local radio stations, and through local organizations in the Fredericksburg area. In the tidal portion of the river, sixth graders from Richmond County Public Schools recorded radio advertisements, made flyers and posted them at local venues to encourage people to join the effort. The clean-up removed over 6,000 lbs. of trash and 1 car.



Fox –Wisconsin Heritage Parkway



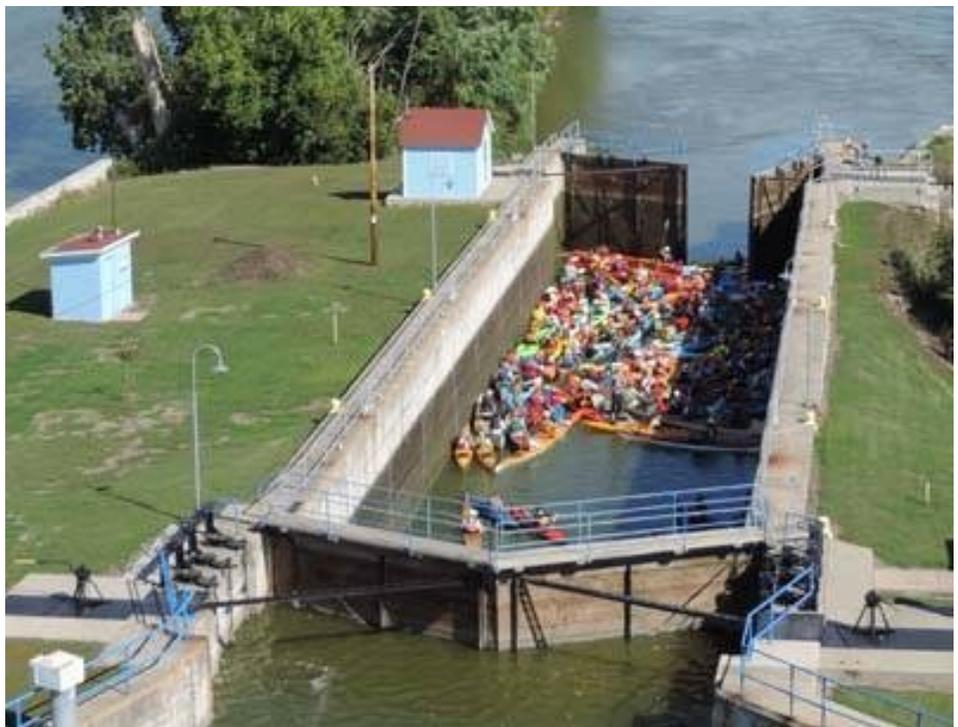
[The Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway](http://www.heritageparkway.org) (FWHP) a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization formed to tell the stories of this great river system. The purpose of the FWHP is to exemplify and promote the natural, recreational and historic resources within the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers corridor and create additional opportunities for history interpretation, education, recreation, and tourism.

More information at www.heritageparkway.org

About the Project: FWHP has received funding for the first complete American Disabilities Act (ADA) unit to be installed at Shattuck Park in Neenah, WI. The City of Neenah has asked the FWHP to install signs at locations that will provide an aerial view of the river by the dam warning paddlers to hug the shore until they get under the bridge. This will assure the utmost safety for paddlers so they do not get caught in the water intake of the dam.

The safety signage on the shoreline in Shattuck Park is part of an enormous project. The FWHP Water Trail development is installing 15 ADA compliant accessible boat landings, related surrounding landings, portages, directional and place signage, project and construction management, and historical interpretation.

In July 2013, FWHP was awarded the National Recreational Trail designation from the U.S. Department of Interior. Each National Recreational Trail provides millions of Americans and foreign visitors the opportunities to enjoy America's Great Outdoors. This trail is now marketed on the National Park Service (NPS) website and in NPS marketing literature.



Hackensack Riverkeepers



[Hackensack Riverkeeper](http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org) (HRK) is a 501 (c)(3) environmental non-profit founded on the principle that all living creatures have an inherent right to clean water. It is their belief that the best path to environmental preservation is through fostering community stewardship of the Hackensack River and its watershed.

More information at www.hackensackriverkeeper.org

About the Project: Overpeck County Park is an 811-acre park with sections in Leonia, Teaneck, Ridgefield Park, and Palisades Park, NJ. Now a popular site for recreation, relaxation, picnics, and paddling, Overpeck was once an active dumping ground for municipal waste. The landfill, which provides the foundation for the park, was only partially capped. The Palisades Park side regularly leaches pieces of the area's sordid past of legacy garbage into the creek, and it is still subjected to illegal dumping and nonpoint source pollution.

To combat these recurrent problems, on the morning of October 26th, Hackensack Riverkeeper hosted a cleanup in Palisade Park. Sixty-eight volunteers, some donning Halloween costumes, cleaned the banks of the creek and its surrounding environs for four hours. The end result was a dumpster filled with 30 cubic yards of trash and debris, with several tires and twisted metal – including a lawnmower – piled high next to it.



The Illinois Paddling Council



[The Illinois Paddling Council](http://www.illinoispaddling.org) (IPC) is an ACA Paddle America Club. Its mission is to advocate for and promote paddling in the state of Illinois.

More information at www.illinoispaddling.org

About the Project: A joint program of the IPC and Openlands, Illinois Water TrailKeepers is an organization comprised of volunteers who “adopt” sections of Illinois water trails, similar to the Adopt-a-Highway program, and monitor and maintain these reaches. This year, with funding from the L.L.Bean CFS Grant, Illinois Water TrailKeepers were able to host 21 cleanups on Illinois water trails. Each cleanup varied in size, from smaller cleanups of 5 volunteers to larger efforts of 100 volunteers. Additionally, Illinois Water TrailKeepers engaged youth organizations, school groups, and scout troupes, encouraging the younger generation of stewards. Over 971 volunteer hours were calculated for the season, and approximately 14,050 lbs. of trash were collected and properly disposed of.



Kayaks Unlimited

Kayaks Unlimited

[Kayaks Unlimited](#) (KU) is a all volunteer 501 (c)(4) non-profit with a boat storage container located at Islais Landing in San Francisco. For the past nine years those partnerships have been supportive, productive and successful. As a result, KU's presence and stewardship of Islais Landing Park has attracted the attention of several organizations that provide recreational opportunities for local youth and at-risk youth.

For more information contact bobo3@astound.net

About the Project: For the past 9 years partnerships with Bay Area Sea Kayakers, Bay Access, and Friends of Islais Creek have been supportive with the work KU provides youth. As a result, KU's presence and stewardship of Islais Landing Park has attracted the attention of several organizations that provide recreational opportunities for local youth—particularly at-risk youth including:

- Black Coalition on AIDS
- Chinatown Community Development Center
- LYRIC, a LGBT youth center
- Community Youth Center of the Bay View District

KU has two double kayaks that have proven to be excellent for removing trash from the creek and KU has been involved in regular clean-ups on the entire Islais Landing. The sit-on-top kayaks have also proven to be an ideal safe way to introduce kids to the water. With the funds provided by ACA and L.L.Bean, KU was able to purchase more boats to continue and expand their outreach and clean-up efforts.



Northern Forest Canoe Trail



[The Northern Forest Canoe Trail](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org) (NFCT) is an ACA recommended, 740 mile inland paddling trail tracing historic travel routes across New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine. NFCT connects people to the Trail's natural environment, human heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding, promoting, and providing access to paddlecraft experiences along this route.

More information at www.northernforestcanoetrail.org

About the Project: In Richford, no take-outs have been developed above a series of Class III rapids along the Missisquoi River. NFCT used CFS Grant money to improve access to the Missisquoi River by:

- Constructing a ladder to access a new water trail campsite
- Installing a campsite sign and sign-in box
- Creating a terraced water access ramp
- Building a Clean Drain Dry Station at an access.

Work was completed by a team of summer interns and adult volunteers. This project is part of NFCT's effort to develop a world-class water trail connecting New York, Vermont, Quebec, and Maine.

The upper Missisquoi River provides some of the most scenic paddling in the watershed. The development of this river access above Richford, VT has been a long-desired project by the local municipality. Dozens of groups will appreciate the improved access each year.



Outdoor Recreation and Community Access



[Outdoor Recreation and Community Access](#) (ORCA) is the adaptive sports and recreation program of Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL). The ORCA program's purpose is to promote inclusive recreation and adaptive outdoor pursuits for Southeast Alaskans of any age with a disability.

More information at www.sailinc.org

About the Project: ORCA's Channel Island Cleanup took place on North Island, Benjamin Island, and Aaron Island in the Channel Islands Marine Park (near Juneau, Alaska). The capstone event was the Channel Island Cleanup Kayak Trip, where 6 volunteers of the ORCA program went on a 6 day kayak trip and spend 8 hours of the trip cleaning up approximately 400 lbs. of garbage from the area beaches. A water taxi service was scheduled to help move the collected trash to a landfill.

The group initially intended to kayak into the Auke Bay area and clean up the beaches along Gull Island, Aaron Island, and Portland Island, but due to poor and limiting weather conditions, the kayak trip was cut short. Fortunately, a group of 6 was able to go to Aaron Island at a later date and collect another 45 lbs. of trash.



Paddle Without Pollution



[Paddle Without Pollution's](http://www.paddlewithoutpollution.com) (PWP) mission is to restore and protect the health of the rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands of Pennsylvania through hands-on stewardship and education, thereby benefiting the region's communities, economy, and quality of life. PWP uses non-motorized boats so they can operate with little to no impact. PWP uses volunteers in paddlecrafts to travel into ecologically sensitive and shallow areas without damaging wildlife.

More information at www.paddlewithoutpollution.com

About the Project: During the year of 2014, PWP removed a total of 8.2 tons of garbage during 13 watershed cleanup events. Using human powered watercraft, PWP was able to effectively remove debris from 13 locations with minimal impact to the local ecosystems. Over 300 volunteers participated in the events, which focused on:

- The Allegheny River
- The Monongahela River
- The Ohio River
- Slippery Rock Creek
- The Kiskiminetas River
- Ten Mile Creek
- Cross Creek County Park
- Moraine State Park
- Presque Isle State Park
- Erie Bluffs State Park

Including the 2014 cleanup events, PWP has succeeded in removing over 42 tons of litter from Pennsylvania waterways over the course of 3 years.



Spokane River Forum



[The Spokane River Forum](http://www.spokaneriver.net) (SRF) 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.

More information at www.spokaneriver.net

About the Project: The Spokane River Forum (SRF) held its annual Upriver Scrub on September 27, 2014. Over 100 people participated in this year's Upriver Scrub, which sent land and water clean-up teams out to Stateline, Harvard Road, Barker Road, Sullivan, Mirabeau and Boulder Beach.

At this year's Upriver Scrub, the Lands Council team, which included a number of students from Whitworth University, added a restoration component to the day. Working with the Spokane Conservation District, they planted over 300 native plants at Stateline. This continues a very successful restoration project that we began last November. In total, volunteers hours for clean up and restoration at 5 locations totaled over 291 hours.

Money from the L.L. Bean CFS Grant was used to develop the Upriver Scrub webpage, www.spokaneriver.net/cleanup, which includes participant registration for clean up events, information on the Upriver Scrub stewardship event.



T.E.C.H.E. Project



[The Ecology, Culture and History Education Project](http://www.techeproject.org), (TECHE) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization focused on the health and recreation of the Bayou Teche watershed. The 8-person volunteer council operates by the consensus process on behalf of their 150-person membership. They volunteer their time in the 4 parishes of the 135-mile Bayou Teche watershed.

More information at www.techeproject.org

About the Project: The CFS Grant allowed the TECHE Project and local volunteers to remove over 3 tons of Water Hyacinth from the Bayou Teche Paddle Trail in Franklin, Louisiana, located 50 miles south of Lafayette, Louisiana. During Phase I of Operation Hippo, TECHE partnered with University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Franklin High School and local recreation outfitter, Cajun Paddle, to collect and test the chemical components of water hyacinth to determine if heavy metals were present. In Phase II of Operation Hippo, TECHE partnered with the City of Franklin to utilize an adjacent public park and boat ramp as their base of operations. Logistical support outreach to our community was provided by St. Mary Parish Government and the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. Over 25 volunteers from Franklin High School the TECHE Project Council members and the community participated in the event. Media coverage included social media, the Teche News and the Franklin Banner-Tribune.



Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association



[The Tennessee Scenic River Association](http://www.paddletsra.org) (TSRA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of the scenic, free-flowing rivers of their state. They are active in making the waters of Tennessee accessible to the people of Tennessee through waterway access, teaching safe paddling, performing waterway clean-ups and organizing paddling trips.

More information at www.paddletsra.org

About the Project: Thanks to money through the L.L. Bean Club Fostered Stewardship Grant, TSRA was able to make a Pettus Road Mill Creek access a reality. Metro Nashville Parks Department has recently developed several Greenways along parts of Mill Creek, and by adding river accesses along these Greenways, TSRA and the Metro Nashville Parks Department created a safe and environmentally friendly access to Mill Creek for the public.

The project lasted a total of 5 days, and included 36 volunteers working a total of 173.5 hours. Additionally, while the access was being built, TSRA held a river cleanup during which three truckloads of refuse were removed from Mill Creek. The addition of this access expanded the Mill Creek Blueway from 4.5 miles to a total of 11 miles.



Tennessee Valley Canoe Club



[The Tennessee Valley Canoe Club](http://www.tvccpaddler.com) (TVCC) is one of the oldest paddling organizations in the state of Tennessee. The club supports all types of paddlesport activities with an emphasis on safety, education, recreation, environmental stewardship and volunteerism. The club offers family friendly year-round activities ranging from flat water paddling to major white-water competition. TVCC has a history of working closely with the ACA as a Paddle America Club.

More information at www.tvccpaddler.com

About the Project: The newly established Camp Jordon Canoe Trail is now officially open due to a major creek-wide debris removal. This prior blockage was caused by a group of large hardwoods that fell across the creek. The TVCC project has removed this logjam, making the trail suitable for paddlers, educational groups, and those wishing a pleasant outing close to Chattanooga.

Due to an eroding bank, a cluster of large trees fell across the creek creating a wide logjam. The largest of these trees is 3 feet in diameter and had its limbs entwined in trees on the opposing shore. Over the last few years, logs and debris have washed into the logjam, causing a substantial obstacle. This blockage requires paddlers to exit their boats and drag them across slick, sticky mud before re-launching. The logjam was a substantial deterrent for anyone wishing to paddle the creek. Due to the size of the logs and the remote location, it was necessary to employ a professional tree cutting service.

Volunteers were recruited, plans distributed and tasks assigned. The bulk of the cutting and removal of the logjam was done by professionals while volunteers were stationed down stream in canoes or johnboats. As the larger logs were removed, a considerable amount of small wood, litter and debris was washed downstream and gathered by the volunteers. Volunteers were also assigned to work on other sections of the creek removing smaller logs and obstacles.



Vermont River Conservancy



[The Vermont River Conservancy](http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org) (VRC) works to permanently conserve and develop public access to the waters of Vermont. The organization started in response to paddlecraft access, swimming holes, fishing access and waterfalls being put off limits to the communities that had traditionally used them. Since 1995, VRC has protected dozens of popular local paddlecraft access, swimming holes, fishing and fostering continued use for generations to come.

More information at www.vermontriverconservancy.org

About the Project: With funding from the ACA and L.L. Bean, VRC completed a new river access on Twinfield Union School property in Marshfield, Vermont. Eight students and one teacher worked approximately 45 hours each on this access, located on the Winooski River.

The development of the new river access on their school's property presented a valuable opportunity to engage these students in a unique service learning project. The students were enrolled in the school's Design Technology Program. In this program, students gain knowledge, skills and understanding through engaging in hands-on projects, facing practical challenges, and striving for solutions. For this project, the students:

- Designed an informational kiosk, using 3-D models and software
- Cut, milled, and notched cedar posts for the kiosk (including cedar shakes for the roof)
- Poured footings and installed the kiosk
- Laid out and constructed a 100' trail to the river, maintaining appropriate grade through sidehilling.

Through this project, students developed a new appreciation for the river, learned hands-on trail skills, and developed knowledge about how rivers change and move over time. The Twinfield School is strategically located immediately before a set of Class II rapids on the Winooski River. As such, it will serve as both a good take-out for those seeking to explore the mellow flat water upstream or a put-in for those who wish to experience the quick-water and rapids that follow.



Warrior Institute



**WARRIOR
INSTITUTE**
—★—
for Rehabilitation &
Optimal Conditioning

Warrior Institute (WI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit located in Gainesville, Florida. WI provides transitional and rehabilitative services for military service members, veterans and their families at no cost. The primary services provided are an innovative combination of recreational therapy and biofeedback training. Their recreational programs include primarily outdoor activities and other fitness based opportunities that help improve the physical and mental health and well-being of program participants.

More information at www.warriorinstitute.org

About the Project: One of WI's on-going programs involves day-long recreation based excursions to introduce veterans and their family members to opportunities and activities that they may not participate in at home. WI leads many paddle trips on local rivers and during these paddle trips, WI has noticed a fair amount of trash. In response to these observations, they have conducted a series of clean-up events in their community. This clean-up element introduced veteran participants to conservation initiatives and provided an opportunity for community re-integration with non-veteran volunteers. The WI clean-up locations were:

1. Prairie Creek - Prairie Creek Conservation Area, FL
2. Hogtown Creek - Loblolly Woods, FL
3. Upper Santa Fe River - Upper Santa Fe Conservation Area, FL

WI's primary goal is to get people active in their community and introduce them to their natural resources. They have an astounding array of parks, trails and waterways that can be utilized in an educational, accessible and practical way. By introducing community members and program participants to the basic elements of conservation and clean-ups, these ideals will become more prevalent during their individual pursuits of outdoor recreation. WI believes this process can lead to a 'ripple effect' of awareness towards supporting conservation related causes. This process then leads to increased sense of community, ownership, and appreciation within their North Florida community.



We Love Clean Rivers



[We Love Clean Rivers, Inc.](http://www.welovecleanrivers.org) (WLCR) 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 for the community to give back to the incredible resources we use year-round.

More information at www.welovecleanrivers.org

About the Project: The 12th Annual Down the River Clean Up (DRCU) took place on the lower 15-miles of the Clackamas River in Clackamas County, Oregon up to the confluence of the Clackamas River and the Willamette River.

The Clackamas River is one of the last remaining substantial runs of wild Coho Salmon — though natural production of all native Clackamas River salmon and steelhead remains far below historic levels. Presently, the river's native winter steelhead population appears to be declining and the status of the native spring chinook is unknown. The Clackamas River also supplies nearly 400,000 people with fresh drinking water.

This year's DRCU saw the 2nd highest volunteer turn-out since the event's inception. There were 401 volunteers that participated in a multitude of different roles ranging from Kayak POD Leaders to Material Recovery Captains and Bagel Cutters to T-Shirt Sellers. The event lasted 5 hours, and a total of 2.81 tons of refuse was removed from the Clackamas River, over half of which was recyclable materials. These were sent to a recovery facility, where the majority of the materials were properly recycled.





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 partners with businesses like L.L.Bean who cherish the outdoors just as much as the ACA.

With the help 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.



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