

Initial ARPA Project Report Form Template

Name of Project: Clifton Street Canoe Launch and Waterfront Access

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Identification #

Project Expenditure Category (see Appendix 1, page 37 of SLFRF compliance doc)

Section 3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, subsection 3.13 Social Determinants of Health: Other

The Clifton St Canoe Launch project falls within a Qualified Census Tract (https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html). According to the SLFRP FAQ document, investments in improving outdoor spaces within an QCT is a viable use of ARPA funds (see question 2.18 on page 11 in SLFRFAQ.pdf). Investments in parks and other public outdoor recreation spaces is responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Project Description

New Haven, the second-largest city in Connecticut, covers 20 square miles and is home to just over 130,000 people. The City and its harbor are nestled along the Long Island Sound (LIS) and joined by the Mill, West, and Quinnipiac Rivers. Access to these waterbodies varies significantly across the City. Access to the Quinnipiac River, the largest of three rivers that run through the City of New Haven and the fourth largest river in the state, is very challenging due to the extent of private development- both residential and industrial- along its banks.

The eastern shoreline of the Quinnipiac River is about 3.5 miles long from the mouth to the northern boundary of the city limits. Most of the shoreline abuts the Fair Haven Heights neighborhood (24% poverty, 47% low income).¹ Outside of the Quinnipiac Meadows Nature Preserve, about 3 miles of shoreline along the eastern bank of the Quinnipiac River in New Haven are exclusively privately held. Within this stretch, there is only one public street end, Clifton Street, that crosses Quinnipiac Avenue and abuts the shores of the river.

In the early 2000's, in response to community desires to view and access the Quinnipiac River, the City converted this underutilized street end into an intentional public access platform and human-powered boat launch. Unfortunately, this public access platform and launch has been damaged due to sea level rise and impacts from storms.

In addition, the City has a public access waterfront easement on the adjacent property to the south. The City requires coastal access easement from waterfront private property that lies within the coastal boundary as defined in the Connecticut Coastal Management Act (CCMA).

¹ <https://www.ctdatahaven.org/data-resources/connecticut-city-neighborhood-profiles> Retrieved October 14, 2021

The purpose of the easement is to provide access to the area adjacent to the Quinnipiac River to enable the public to view and access the natural, scenic and environmental features of the river and its banks. This shoreline property has suffered from erosion that has degraded the habitat and resulted in severely limited access.

The Clifton Street Canoe Launch and Waterfront Access project will restore the damaged street end canoe launch and access platform and create new waterfront access within the easement area on the adjacent property. Living shoreline techniques will be utilized to lessen wave energy and resulting erosion along the shoreline and damage to the canoe launch/platform.

The City of New Haven's Engineering Department will oversee the entirety of the project from design through construction. The City will:

- work directly with community members on the design of the restoration of the Clifton Street Canoe Launch and adjacent waterfront access.
- acquire all necessary permits to construct the project
- procure and manage contractors during construction.

In addition, the City will seek opportunities to work with community members and interested non-profits on outreach and additional educational opportunities presented by this project.

The project will take approximately 18-24 months from start to finish with about 3 months to preliminary design, 12 months for permitting, 3 months to finalize design and 3 months to construct. The repair of the canoe launch can be permitted with a Certificate of Permission (COP) and it is anticipated that the waterfront access area can be permitted with a COP as a living shoreline project.

Project Performance Indicators

- Output measures (ex. – number of students enrolled in program)
- Outcome measure (ex. – percent of students reading on grade level)

Output: Linear feet of stabilized shoreline using living shoreline techniques

Outcome: A waterfront resilient to impacts of climate change with improved ecological health

Output: Number of people using restored canoe launch and access path

Outcome: Percentage of population engaging in outdoor recreation and associated benefits to health

Output: Number of households within walking distance (0.5 mile) of waterfront public access

Outcome: Percentage of population with access to outdoor recreation and associated benefits to health

Output: Number of community members at public meetings related to design and construction

Outcome: Long term stewardship of local environment by community