

Communities as Collaborators & Curators

My experiences as
URI (Urban Resources Initiative) Intern

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Born and raised in Nepal, I aspired to be a dentist.

However, after coming to United States and volunteering with Winooski Valley Park District, I got interested in ecology. With this new interest, I decided to study resource ecology at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont.



Winooski Valley Park District



Parks



Education



Resources



Stewardship



Gardens



The University of Vermont

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THE RUBENSTEIN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

"I learned a lot while I was in Alaska—everything from identifying tundra vegetation to what to do if a bear attacks." — GENNA WALDVOGEL



Environmental sciences major, intern at Alaska field station, conductor of research project on seasons and streams. [More about Genna >>](#)

The Land Stewardship Program

NEW for 2014! The LANDS Program is expanding to have both a Summer Internship Program and a Field Semester Program. Select the appropriate link on the left for more information about each program.

Conservation is becoming more complex in an increasingly crowded, natural resource-dependent world. The Land Stewardship Program (LANDS) was initiated in 2007 by the University of Vermont (UVM) Rubenstein School of Natural Resources and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to address these challenges with a hands-on, action-oriented solution. LANDS provides support to organizations doing conservation on the ground while providing college students with great work experience, and if you select the Semester Program, college credits needed for graduation.



After completing my undergraduate program, I interned with LANDS program for three months and learned about land conservation in eastern US.

(Photo: 2008 LANDS intern group photo)





Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

I then worked as an assistant Botanist at Smithsonian Institution. I was also involved in environmental and field ecology education and training.

(Photo: training students how to trap deer for putting a radio collar)





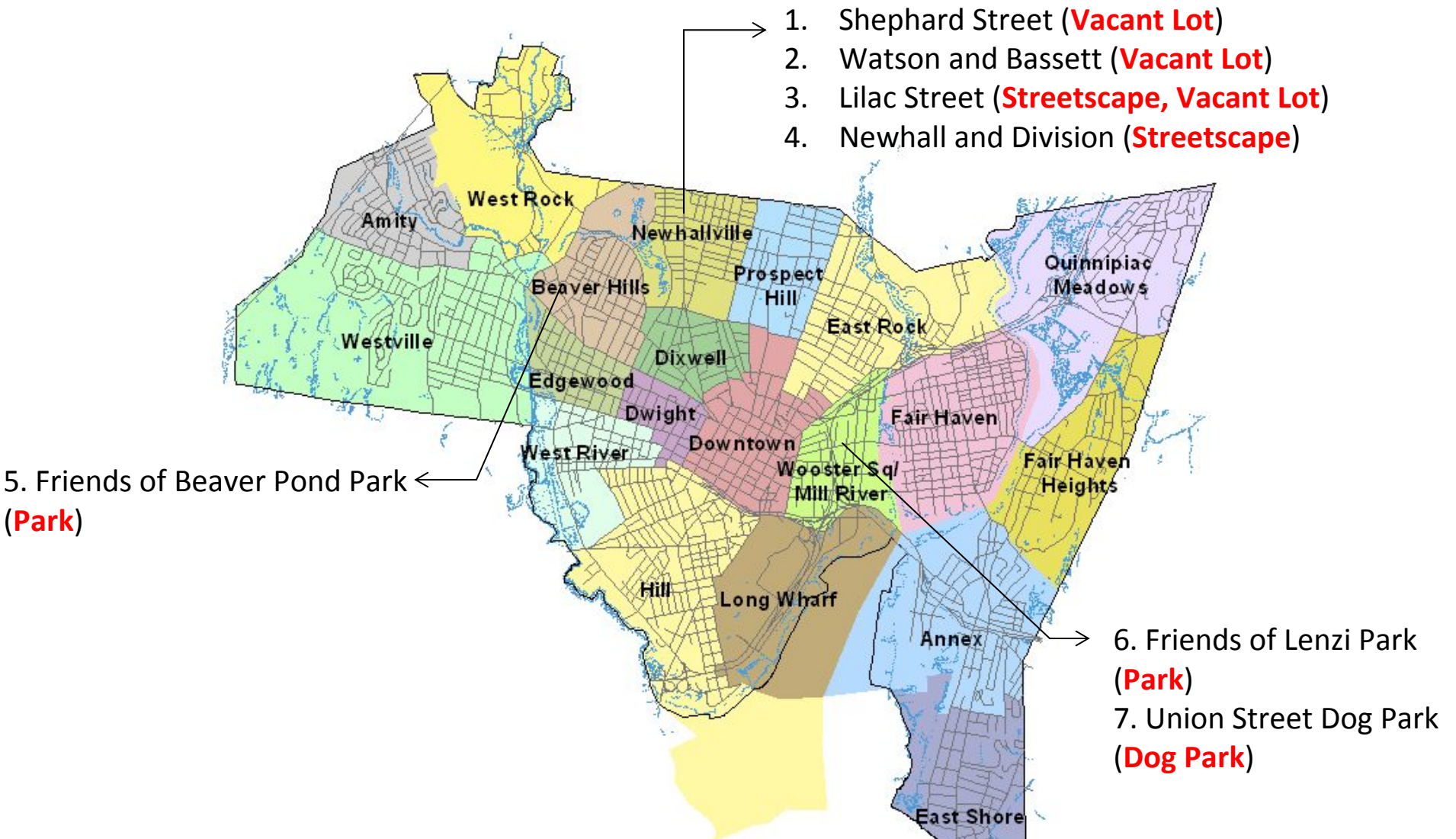
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

My work experiences took me to Panama, where I lived and worked in Barro Colorado Island as a field assistant studying seed dispersal by common agoutis.



(Photos: working with field assistants in the forest)





As a Greenspace intern, I worked with 7 Community Greenspaces that were spatially dispersed in New Haven. These Greenspaces ranged from vacant lots to streetscapes, parks and a dog park.

One of the Greenspaces, Beaver Pond Park is located in Beaver Hills neighborhood, a middle-income neighborhood. The group members came from both Beaver Hills and Newhallville neighborhoods. The group started out as a Greenspace group and over the years, they have rippled their group efforts into addressing issues of crime in their neighborhoods as well as being advocates in their communities.



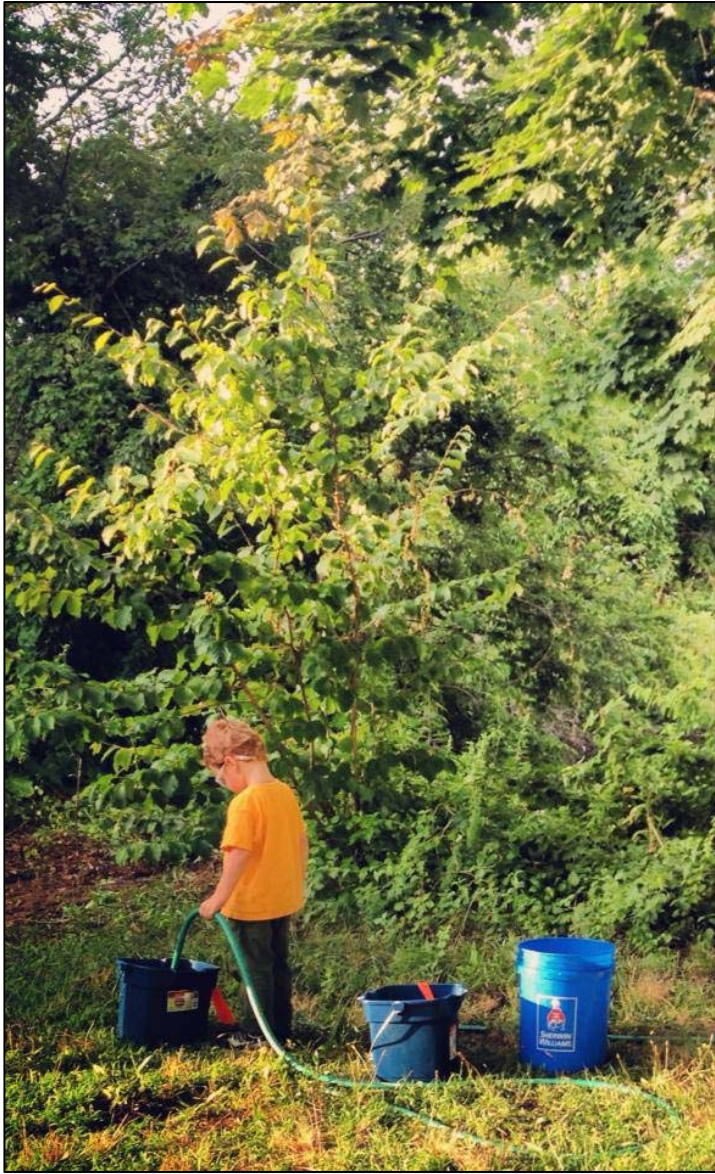
“Where community building, environmental stewardship & collaborative efforts with FES and high school students becomes a tradition”

Nan Bartow

Greenspace Leader

Friends of Beaver Pond Park





(Photos: members both young and old work together to beautify Beaver Pond Park)



(Photos: members both young and old work together to beautify Beaver Pond Park)





(Photos: promoting environmental education at Beaver Pond Park)





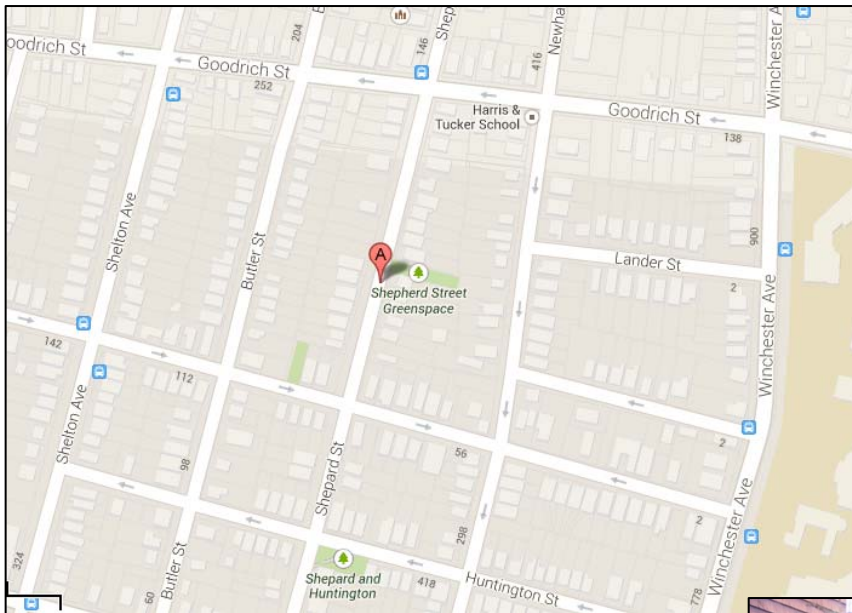
(Photos: planting efforts at Beaver Pond Park with high school students)





(Photos: Beaver Pond Park offers a unique opportunity for incoming FES students to learn about urban ecology)





Shephard Street Vacant Lot

“Where Nature meets Nurture”

Newhallville neighborhood forms the eastern border of Beaver Hills and is a low income neighborhood that experiences a high crime rate. The Greenspace offers a rich platform for city kids to be close to nature, to see an earthworm burying into the earth, apples growing on the tree and to get planting experiences.

(Photos: Shephard Street Park)





Jody Kelly
*Greenspace Leader
Shephard Street Vacant Lot*

While adult recruitment was always challenging, the neighborhood children were always eager to lend a helping hand





They beamed with excitement when they saw worms.





Photo: Jody Kelly and her granddaughter at the Annual Greenspace celebration.

Newhall and Division
(Streetscape)

“One tree at a time”



Photo: Planting trees in streetscape with
Newhall and Division group



The Union Street Dog Park

“Caring for our furry friends”

Photo: Students painting fences at the Dog Park



Lilac Street (Streetscape and Vacant Lot)

“Fostering healthy yards”



Photo: Neighborhood children at Lilac Street who helped to paint tree stakes

Friends of Lenzi Park (Park)

“Where stewardship meets community building”



Photo: Continuing stewardship, environmental education and community building at Lenzi Park

Watson & Bassett (Vacant Lot)

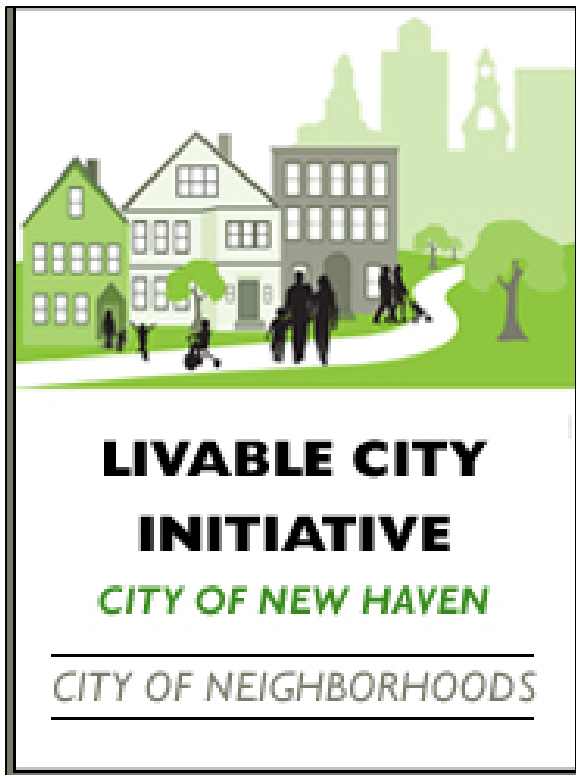
“An oasis for respite”



Photo: Continuing stewardship at Watson and Bassett Greenspace



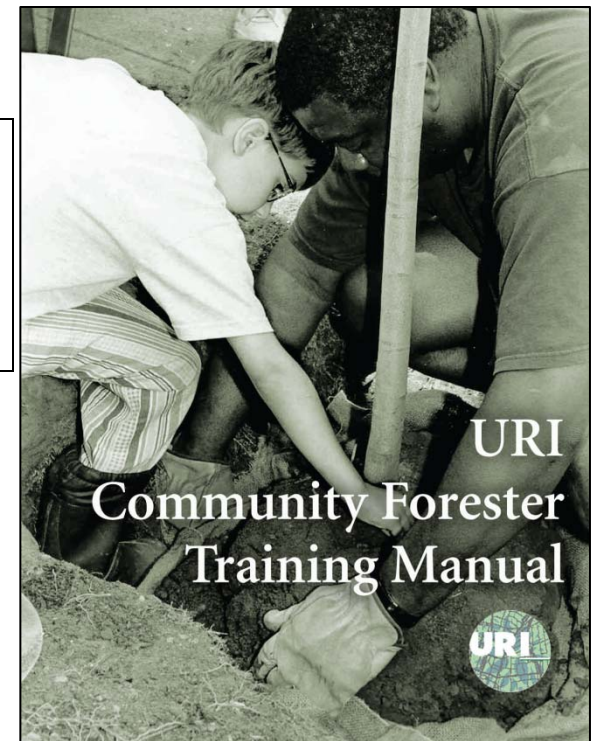
Partnerships



The internship provides an extraordinary opportunity to learn about collaborative efforts between URI and its partners



Resources



2013 Greenspace Team Thank you Class of 1964!

