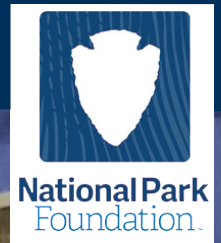




# STEWARDS AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP



AmeriCorps VISTA, Lindsay Brandt with  
Voyagers National Park

## Progress Report Summary

In 2018, Stewards Individual Placement Program, a program of Conservation Legacy and the National Park Foundation began its partnership in supporting AmeriCorps VISTAs supporting AmeriCorps VISTAs with philanthropic partner organizations to the National Park Service. Placing its first VISTAs with the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in November 2018. As the partnership continues to grow both in number of projects and in impact at current sites and with current service members. A highlight of this progress can be seen through the images, stories, and information provided within this document.

## Table of Contents

Progress Report Summary .....	1
Program Statement of Purpose .....	2
Program Summary .....	2
Support & Training Opportunities.....	3
Demographic Information .....	4
List of Project & Member Information .....	5
Project Locations Map .....	6
Participant and Project Highlights .....	7
VISTA Member Progress Data .....	8
Partnership Acknowledgement .....	8





## Program Statement of Purpose

The National Park Foundation (NPF) awarded a Grant Agreement to Conservation Legacy in support of the Strong Parks, Strong Communities Initiative. The goal is to provide capacity to national park philanthropic partner organizations (Friends Groups) across the country by placing 20 AmeriCorps VISTAs in one-year terms. Recipient organizations receive \$6,500 in funding from this grant to provide partial funding support towards the cost of a VISTA, as placed by Conservation Legacy's Stewards Individual Placement Program.

## Program Summary

In a collaborative effort to strengthen the impact of the Strong Parks, Strong Communities Initiative, Stewards, a Program of Conservation Legacy, places AmeriCorps VISTA Members with Friends Groups across the nation supporting Projects that:

- ◆ Bolster the community through peer relationships and learning
- ◆ Build capacity of individual partners
- ◆ Take collective action that improves park experiences and expand park visitation

To date, Stewards has placed seven (7) AmeriCorps VISTA Members whose Projects range from fund development and grant writing to strategic plan implementation.

Stewards is currently supporting national recruitment efforts for an additional six (6) Friends Groups with AmeriCorps VISTA Projects focusing on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion to increase park visitation among people of color, engaging the next generation in environmental stewardship, and building overall capacity for newly established Friends Groups.

Long Term NPF VISTA project goals include:

- ◆ Extending the Period of Performance of our current Grant Agreement to offer tiered funding support to ongoing Projects throughout their three-year AmeriCorps VISTA Project Plans.
- ◆ Expanding current partnership, increasing the number of AmeriCorps VISTA Projects & Members we can collaboratively support.
- ◆ Expanding the Agreement Scope of Work to diversify the Projects collaboratively supported.



Rock Creek Conservancy VISTA member Emily Starobin (Right) tables at an event at the Old Stone House.

**||** *Volunteering has helped me feel more a part of where I live as well as build connections with some really amazing people.* **||**

- Maya Douglas, VISTA



## Stewards VISTA Support & Training Opportunities

Stewards Individual Placement Program provides direct support for each AmeriCorps VISTA service member and their organizational supervisor. The Stewards VISTA support staff team includes VISTA Leaders who are experienced national service members trained to provide support to a cluster of approximately 20 active VISTA members. This support team also includes VISTA Program Coordinators who focus specifically on supporting organizational supervisors.

Each support team, comprised of a VISTA, Supervisor, VISTA Leader, and Program Coordinator, works together to ensure greatest impact for communities, organization, and the VISTA member themselves.



In addition to supporting these Friends Groups and the communities they serve, Stewards VISTA program is built to provide support, training, and application-based experience to ensure VISTA members are civic and professional leaders in the future. Stewards VISTA members receive professional development in non-profit fundraising, public speaking, public engagement, and project management and implementation during a week long, in-person training as well as through web-based sessions and resource materials.

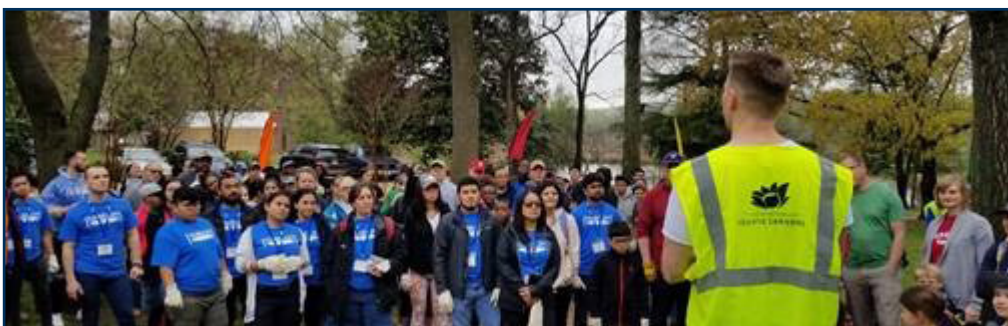
In an effort to provide a more immersive training experience and a holistic approach to community engagement, The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation equips people, organizations, communities, and networks with tools to bridge divides, build capacity, and tackle shared challenges. Harwood Institute and Stewards began their training and community engagement partnership in 2018, which includes both in-person and virtual training to all Stewards VISTA members, including those supported by NPF funding. The Harwood Virtual Lab includes eight (8), two-hour long virtual sessions and four (4), one-hour long in-person sessions during the Stewards VISTA training.



VISTA Emilee Martell, helping a participant sign in at the St. Croix Forestry Conference herbicide education class.

*“ I think that it has been nice to really get out and talk to people and feel like I’m making a difference! ”*

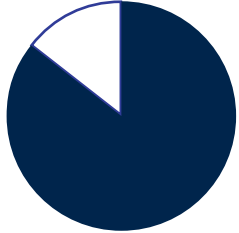
- Lindsay Brandt, VISTA



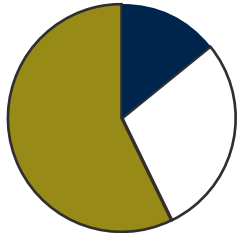
VISTA David Drawbaugh (in yellow vest), briefs a team of volunteers during the 2019 Earth Day event at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.



**||** *The National Park Service is rare as a universally loved federal agency, but they deserve their reputation. A beautiful river and rewarding work protecting it--what more could a VISTA ask for?* **||** - Emilee Martell, VISTA



**Gender:**  
14% Male  
86% Female  
0% Other



**Racial Origin:**  
58% White  
14% Black/  
African American  
28% No Response



**Highest Level of Educational:**  
70% Bachelor Degree  
28% No Response



**Interest in NCE\* Status:**  
58% Yes  
14% No  
28% No Response  
\*Non-Compete Eligibility

## Demographic Information

The provided demographic information is self-reported by current Stewards/ NPF VISTA service members through standardized reporting processes established by Stewards IPP on behalf of partner organizations and grant reporting requirements. This data was collected in April 2019.



VISTAs Maya Douglas (2nd from left) and David Drawbaugh (far right) smile during a break in the day with Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens staff.

## Institutions of Higher Learning Reported

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	CITY/STATE	DEGREE/MAJOR
Rowan University	Glassboro, NJ	Not Disclosed
Hood College	Frederick, MD	Communications
Dickenson College	Carlisle, PA	Bachelor of Arts
Carlton College	Northfield, MN	Bachelor of Arts - History
St. Olaf College	Northfield, MN	Bachelor of Arts - English & Environmental Studies



## List of Project Sites & VISTA Service Members

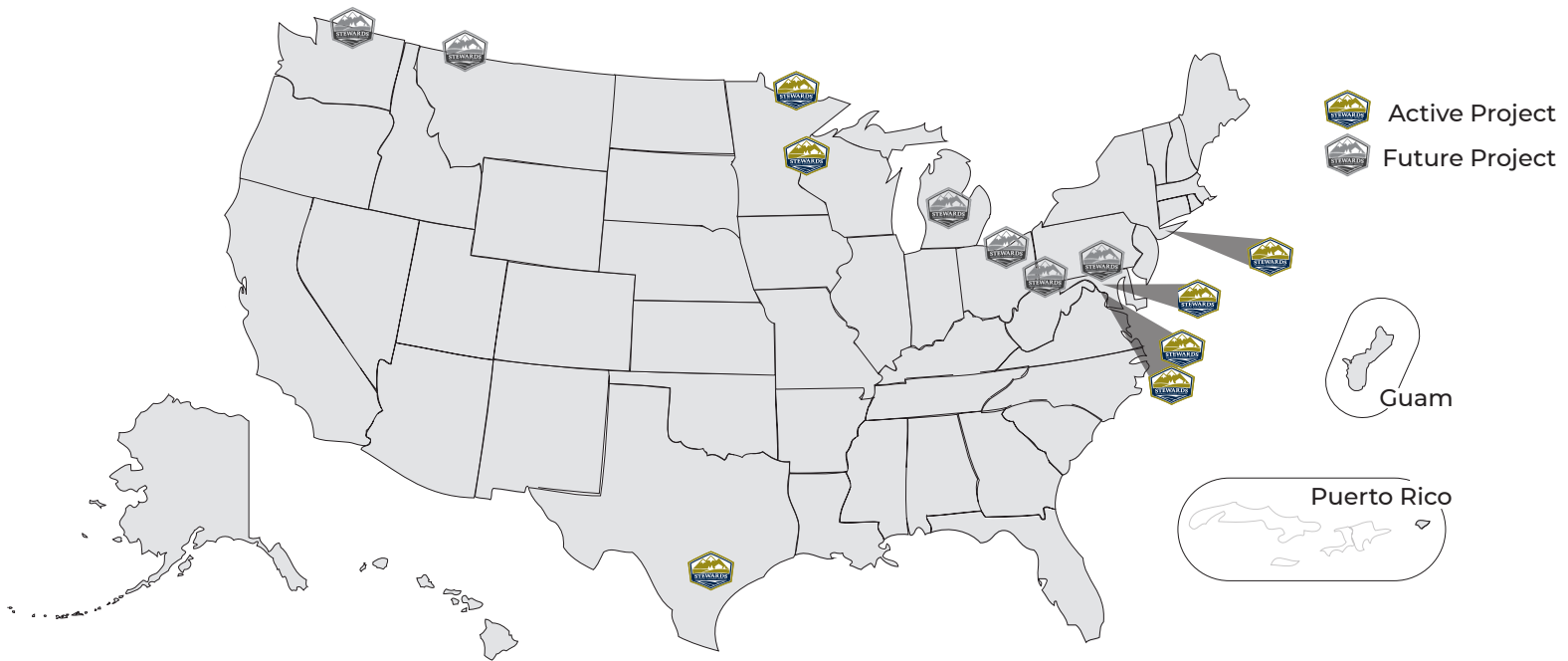
PROJECT SITE	AMERICORPS VISTA	Site Supervisor	SERVICE TERM DATES	NPS UNIT
Friends of Kenilworth	Maya Douglas	Tina O'Connell 202-494-0456	Sept 2018 - Sept 2019	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
Friends of Kenilworth	David Drawbaugh	Tina O'Connell 202-494-0456	Sept 2018 - Sept 2019	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
Friends of Lyndon B. Johnson	Caliope Janulis	Susanne McDonald 307-960-5135	Nov 2018 - Nov 2019	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
Rock Creek Conservancy	Emily Starobin	Arielle Conti 888-462-9233 ext.702	Nov 2018 - Nov 2019	Rock Creek Park
Voyageurs National Park Association	Lindsay Brandt	Christina Hausman 612-333-5424	Nov 2018 - Nov 2019	Voyageurs National Park
St. Croix River Association	Emilee Martell	Kate Wright 715-483-3300	Feb 2019 - Feb 2020	St. Croix National River
Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy	Emma McCauley	Shanna Blanchard 347-690-0931	Mar 2019 - Mar 2020	Gateway National Recreation Area
C & O Canal Trust	Currently Recruiting	Heidi Glatfelter Schlag 301-712-8617	Projected June 2019 Placement	C&O Canal National Historical Park
Glacier National Park Conservancy	Currently Recruiting	Adam Sommers 406-892-3250	Projected June 2019 Placement	Glacier National Park
North Cascades Institute	Currently Recruiting	Suj'in Chon 206-526-2598	Projected June 2019 Placement	North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Recently Approved	Yolanda Hamilton 330-657-2909 ext. 148	Projected July 2019 Placement	Cuyahoga Valley National Park
North Country Trail Association	Recently Approved	Andrea Ketchmark 616-897-5987	Projected July 2019 Placement	North Country National Scenic Trail
Friends of New River Gorge National River	Recently Approved	Anna R. Ziegler 304-660-6144	Projected November 2019 Placement	New River Gorge National River



*“The Stewards training enabled connections to be built based on similar locations and experience with other VISTA members.”*

- Caliope Janulis, VISTA

### Service Project Site Location Map



- Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington DC
- Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, TX
- Rock Creek Park, MD
- Voyageurs National Park, MN
- St. Croix National River, WI
- Gateway National Recreation Area, NY
- C&O Canal National Historical Park, PA
- Glacier National Park, MT
- North Cascades National Park Service Complex, WA
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park, OH
- North Country National Scenic Trail, MI
- New River Gorge National River, WV



Jamaica Bay - Rockaway Parks Conservancy VISTA, Emma McCauley (far right) celebrates with volunteers after an Earth Day clean-up event.



## Project & Member Highlights

### Friends of Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park – Caliope Janulis



Caliope "Cali" Janulis (Far Left) pictured with NPS staff at the Youth Presidential Leadership Council.

The Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park is working to develop programming and project opportunities to honor the President's legacy and speak to his legislative accomplishments. Their goal is to connect the rural communities of Texas with the larger cities and the surrounding areas in a more strategic way that links a new generation to the life, times, and contributions of President Johnson.

VISTA member Caliope Janulis helps facilitate strategic alignments between the Friends Group and the Park. This can be felt in her work to building capacity and community outreach in coordinating volunteers for the Johnson City Settlement Restoration Project. This year, over 1,200 riders signed up to participate in the LBJ 100, a 100-mile bike ride fundraising event, which led to creating new partnerships and boosting their social media followings.

### Voyagers National Park Association – Lindsay Brandt



The Voyagers National Park Association focus is on empowering park stewards, implementing special projects with financial and volunteer support, promoting the park to the public and preserving the visitor experience and wild nature of the park for future generations.

VISTA Member Lindsay Brandt is working with Voyagers to build capacity for the park by helping with outreach events that grow the donor base. She has been working on several different projects including a teen ambassador program that



Lindsay assists a young park visitor in using two miniature fishing rods while posted at the park info booth & kids activity table for "Pints for the Park" event.

gives under-served kids an opportunity to explore the park, gain outdoor and leaderships skills, and learn about environmental careers. She has created a partnership with a local community college for the site to connect the two entities.

**||** *I learned many ways we can incorporate sustainable practices into our everyday lives. Being green does not have to be difficult or expensive.* **||**

- Emily Starobin, VISTA



## Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens: Stewardship – David Drawbaugh

Friends of the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens partners with the National Park Service to build connections with the local community. They have initiated some critical volunteer and educational programming within the Gardens' including garden clean-up events, lily and lotus pond plantings, rebuilding of pond dikes, and the planting of native species.



VISTA David Drawbaugh leads local youth in a geocache scavenger hunt during a recent spring break camp.

VISTA Member David Drawbaugh has contributed to the growth of the volunteer program by synthesizing data from previous years and building their database of volunteers, partners, and potential corporate funders. David has successfully planned and implemented several volunteer events including a major annual volunteer event at the park with over 150 volunteers for National Public Lands Day.



Between November 2018 and March 2019, the following has been accomplished:

**7 MEMBERS**

**SERVED 6**  
ORGANIZATIONS  
ACROSS

**5 STATES & TERRITORIES**

THOSE 7 MEMBERS  
SECURED

**\$44,100**

IN GRANT FUNDING  
WITH AN ADDITIONAL

**\$50,000 OF**  
IN-KIND DONATIONS

RECRUITED, SUPPORTED  
AND COORDINATED  
MORE THAN

**2,900**

VOLUNTEERS, WHO  
SERVED OVER **6,100**

HOURS FOR THEIR  
COMMUNITIES

**72** NEW  
PARTNERSHIPS  
DEVELOPED

**500**

YOUTH ATTENDED

**12** EDUCATIONAL  
EVENTS  
HOSTED BY  
VISTAS



## Upcoming Project Highlights

### North Cascades Institute Mountain School

In an effort to strengthen and expand current partnerships with area schools, the VISTA will create new and strengthen existing educational programs. Whether through the recruitment of local youth, or as the key representative to local schools, this VISTA position will ensure the goals of these programs are addressed in the NPS Call to Action, including initiatives such as *In My Backyard*, *Next Generation Stewards*, and *Parks for People*.

Additional efforts addressing DEI through the NCI Diversity Committee and working to diversify volunteer and participants.

### Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

This VISTA project will primarily work to address the need to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in current environmental justice programming provided by the national parks. Located in a diverse region of Ohio, this project will ensure access to all community members, ensuring visitors reflect the community surrounding it.

In addition, Friends of Cuyahoga Valley hope to increase the utilization of greenspace to advance health equity, and provide educational outlets to create a culture of inclusion to maintain the cultural relevance of national parks.



National Park  
Foundation



Stewards Individual Placement Program is proud to partner with the National Park Foundation in creating capacity for National Park Friends Groups, local communities, and National Service members across the country in the quest of community and environmental impact.

