



Stacey Cournoyer, Green Teams 2013 Education Coordinator

I am a Rhode Island native, studied Anthropology at RIC, and have spent that past 7 years volunteering and educating myself around environmental issues. I returned to RI this past spring and was recommended to apply for the Green Team Supervisor job by a friend and previous GT Supervisor. As an environmentalist with a passion for food justice I was excited to share and encourage community and environmental stewardship with my Green Team. We learned so much from each other and had a great summer. I was lucky to work with such a bright and ambitious group of teens and look forward to continuing in that direction. I like to think I will take away from this experience a renewed sense of what my strengths are and how to channel them to be an enthusiastic and valuable member of my community.

Green Team 2013 Project Summary

Green Team 2013 worked with three major community partners this summer. At Miriam Hospital we learned about the recycling challenges that hospitals all over the country are facing and focused on an important material called Blue Wrap that is used every day to protect sterilized instruments in the OR. Miriam has taken the initiative in RI to establish a recycling plan for the material, and we helped by baling the blue wrap to prep it for transport.

We collaborated with Roger Williams National Memorial and worked alongside their maintenance crew to keep the grounds in good shape by edging pathways, pulling weeds, painting picnic tables and looking after the demonstration gardens. The Green Team also put together an informative pamphlet regarding the Speakers Corner that was installed by last year's Green Team in collaboration with the Steel Yard's Camp Metal Head and the Parks Service.

We also spent a portion of time working with Diana, a community member and visionary, at a pocket park named "The Wild." The park is sandwiched between Collyer Field and the Peter Pan Bus Station. The area was overgrown with invasive species and is slowly being transformed into a tranquil refuge for passersby and those waiting for the bus. Since its inception, numerous community members have lent a hand to the project and left their imprint. The Green Team helped by removing knotweed, cutting down trees, planting bushes, building a stone path, mulching, and watering.

The team supported many other projects: knocking down knotweed with Greg Gerritt on the Collyer Field Forest Restoration project, mulching trees with Ray Perreault at the Whole Foods Plot in North Burial Ground, and gardening at the Mt Hope Learning Center to name a few.

Enrichment opportunities included tours at the Fertile Underground shop and gardens, focusing on education around food issues such as health and nutrition, and the economic and political factors as well. At the edible gardens at Dexter Field, the Green Team assisted Community Outreach Coordinator Dauna and helped install protective structures around the garden. Save the Bay gave us a tour of the harbor where we learned how vital it is to our economy and well being. We toured their Green Building that exemplifies the many steps you can take to green your surroundings and the overall economic and environmental benefits.

The summer came to a close on August 22nd when the Green Team gave a final presentation at the Speakers Corner located in the Roger Williams National Memorial. The group outlined the many collaborations and projects they undertook over the summer highlighting what they learned and how they benefited from the program. Teamwork, patience, and discovering new plants and how to care for and use them are a few of the things they will walk away with after their summer at Groundwork. With a new point of view Nia Monteiro added that "now I can see the potential for beauty in rundown, neglected spaces." James Monteiro ended the presentation on the realization that "every small thing you do really does effect a bigger picture," and that they have made a lasting contribution to their community.