Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship
Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

- Organization: West River Watershed Coalition

- Full street address of organization (Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely):
The fellow would work at the office of WRWC member organization Neighborhood Housing Services, 333 Sherman Avenue New Haven CT 06511

- Website: http://www.westriverwatershedcoalition.org

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis):
Kathie Hebert, West River Watershed Coalition Member

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: 203 506-5125; cody50@hotmail.com

- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020): May 27, 2020 through August 5, 2020

- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Yes, we will accommodate the Fellow’s schedule if necessary.

- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): Our Fellow will work five days a week, seven hours a day from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
Placement Description

- **Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.):** The West River Watershed Coalition is a non-profit, volunteer coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to improving water quality and access to the West River. We serve the entire West River Watershed including the five towns within the watershed. Our Vision is: A restored, safe, accessible and clean West River that connects people and places from source to Sound. Our mission is to connect the West River with parks, neighborhoods, and towns in its watershed, add recreational opportunities, and improve human, ecological, and economic health of our region.

- **Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting**
  Our Fellow will document and describe the existing trails of the West River Greenway, assisting in mapping and photographing. The Fellow will use this documentation, and information from existing studies, to create a presentation and review.

- **Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)**
  Our Fellow will assist members of the West River Watershed Coalition in creating a document with an overview of the West River Greenway. Our Fellow will begin at Orange Avenue and Marginal Drive, on the New Haven and West Haven border, follow the network of parks along the river through New Haven, ending at the Pond Lily preserve at the New Haven and Woodbridge town line. This document will show trails that are user-ready, as well as those that need improvement. It will also show breaks in the continuity of the trail system that need to be addressed. Our student will work out of the Neighborhood Housing Services office and report to Kathy Hebert, a member of the West River Watershed Coalition. The final presentation and document will require information that is already available as well as information gathered in the field. This will include helping to map the different sections of the West River, identifying existing and potential trails, describing their condition, surrounding area (residential, commercial, industrial, New Haven parks). Attributes of the area along the river such as boat launches, urban oases, wildlife, playgrounds, and cultural and recreational opportunities should also be identified. Central to our project are the New Haven parks through which the West River flows. Our goal is to connect our parks and neighborhoods with the river and the greenway. Once all of the information has been gathered,
our Fellow will work with Elizabeth Donius, Executive Director of the Westville Village Renaissance Alliance to compile the final documents, which will incorporate the photographs and other information collected.

Assisting with creating West River Greenway maps and signage will be the other important task. Our Fellow will work with Ron Walters from the Regional Water Authority and WRWC members locating, ordering, and assisting with the installation of signage. Ron has created a map of the entire West River Watershed. Most bridges crossing the West River have West River Greenway signage. However, many trails in parks and other public areas along the river are not marked. Our Fellow will assist in locating and delineating existing trails with signage in New Haven parks and other public areas along the river. Having this signage completed will create continuity on the Greenway trails through the New Haven Parks system. Possible remedies to gaps in the trail, such as alternate transportation funding for extending the Greenway with a bike and pedestrian path along roadways, may be recommended. Our objective is enhancing the recreational experience of our New Haven Parks with the West River Greenway. A safe pedestrian and bike corridor would provide greater access to the river and the natural environment for the youth of New Haven as well as people of all ages and cultural backgrounds to enjoy.

- **List specific skills/experience required for the project:** Our Fellow should have an appreciation of the natural environment. If possible someone from the School of Forestry would be an ideal fit. An interest in writing, photography, graphic design and mapping preferred.

- **Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):** Most of the route our Fellow will be travelling could be done by bicycle. A car may be helpful in some instances. Some working Saturdays may be required (with corresponding time off during the week), to help facilitate field work with volunteers.

- **Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.** A Yale PPSF student has previously worked with one of our partners, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of New Haven. In addition to hosting dozens of volunteer events with Yale students each year, NHS has been fortunate enough to host Yale President’s Public Service Fellows for more than a decade.