

Maclean Foundation – Blue Access for All Project

Grant Donor: Maclean Foundation

Grantee: Clean Ocean Access

Year: 2018-2022

Grant Value: \$2,000 per year

Grant Overview:

The Blue Access for All project aims to connect underserved youth in Newport County to the shoreline along the Newport Harbor Walk, Cliff Walk, beaches, and watershed areas, providing opportunity and education for an active lifestyle with an improved sense of happiness, health and connection with the natural environment. By connecting students to the environment and engaging them in hands-on, minds-on activities, we hope to build a sense of accomplishment and belief in the youth that healthy living is possible right here in Newport. This project is an extension of Clean Ocean Access community outreach efforts. We will integrate the outcomes of environmental justice research on Aquidneck Island with a focus on whether youth in Newport experience equal rights and opportunities to enjoy the shoreline. We are keenly aware that numerous students do not access the shoreline, yet these nearby shorelines provide ample opportunities to engage in healthy outside activities by exploring geologic wonders of the island. Fueled by a curiosity about what lies around the next turn in the path, students will learn about their local ecosystems, and keep a steadfast focus on healthy living with knowledge about hydration, stretching and proper diet to maintain an active lifestyle.

Expected Impact:

Our goal is to create an outside experiential environmental education opportunity that sustains long-lasting benefits for the entire island and develops the next generation of ocean stewards. Clean Ocean Access' mission to take "action today so future generations can enjoy ocean activities" encompasses three core programs: (1) eliminate marine debris; (2) improve coastal water quality; and (3) protect and preserve shoreline access. Our focus is held together by a principle belief that taking good care of each other, and building community is the best approach to promote stewardship of the environment. Our education and outreach events are the fiber of this principal belief.