

VACANT LOTS & BROWNFIELDS

Reclaiming brownfields and vacant properties for community benefit is central to the work of all Groundwork Trusts. Trusts typically work on smaller brownfield sites in dense, urban neighborhoods that have suffered decades of economic decline and disinvestment—sites with low economic development potential.

Brownfields and vacant properties can be reused in ways that assure food security and a higher-quality built environment in struggling communities.

New Bedford is currently in an Area-wide Planning Grant Program, started in 2015, that aims to develop and implement a plan to clean up the Payne Cutlery neighborhood, which was once a mill housing area. Fall River also has a Brownfields program and received funding in 2013.

Short and long term goals for Groundwork Southcoast include being involved with the implementation of the Area-wide Planning Grant Program and Payne Cutlery site and redevelopment and/or reuse of vacant land such as the Harrison Street lot and Coughlin School in Fall River.



NB CEDC works with community members to redevelop and reuse a vacant lot.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Groundwork USA network is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

Groundwork Southcoast will collaborate with neighborhoods in Fall River and New Bedford to engage communities in the improvement and stewardship of parks, recreation and conserved natural areas, generate community pride, foster safer and healthier communities; and build diverse partnerships with residents and local businesses to direct and achieve these goals. Groundwork will begin this work with the Flint Neighborhood in Fall River and the Acushnet Avenue Neighborhood in New Bedford, sharing expertise and efficiencies to get the job done.



FIND YOUR PARK

CHANGING PLACES, CHANGING LIVES



**ABOUT GROUNDWORK
SOUTHCOAST**



**GROUNDWORK
Southcoast**

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WELCOME

Groundwork Southcoast (GWSC) is a non-profit organization that aims to build healthier communities through conservation and sustainability initiatives that benefit the community it serves. Through this mission, GWSC will promote youth development and education with its Green Team and Green Corps program. It will collaborate with existing brownfields and community restoration initiatives.

Groundwork Southcoast is a part of a national network of non-profits engaging in community development called Groundwork USA, developed with the support of the National Service.

On January 25, 2016, the Groundwork Southcoast Steering Committee completed the Groundwork Southcoast Feasibility Study and voted unanimously to move forward with establishment of GWSC in southeastern Massachusetts as a program office of Groundwork Lawrence. The Groundwork USA Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Feasibility Study on March 15, 2016. The Steering Committee will move towards launching the program office this summer.



Groundwork youth plant trees as a part of an Arbor Day event.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Groundwork Southcoast identified five project and program areas that it would focus on:

Open Space Development & Maintenance

- Reuse of a vacant lot
- Implementation of New Bedford's Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant and place-making for Fall River's Brownfields projects
- Urban forestry and tree planting

Jobs and Job Training

Perceptions, Pride & Economic Development

- Stewardship of Father Travassos Park (FR)
- Stewardship of Riverside Park (NB)
- Coordination of the *Honor The River* Parade with the Green Team and other partners

Youth Development

- Establishment of a Green Team summer program
- Development of recreation activities for Quequeshan Rail Trail and other local parks
- Youth-run bike repair shop

Food Security

- Farmers Market with Saint Anne's Hospital



Quequeshan Rail will be open to the public in spring 2016 and be the site of stewardship for a Green Team.

GROUNDWORK GREEN TEAM

The Green Team program, designed for high school aged students, is a national program of the Groundwork USA network. The Green Team is a paid, neighborhood-based conservation leadership program that works with intentionally small groups of ten to fifteen. The principles of the program include:

- In-depth, high quality, hands-on experiences in their community and on public lands
- Strong emphasis on group interaction, peer cohesion, and mutual accountability
- Teaching youth while reinforcing why their work is relevant
- Fostering environmental identity formation
- Providing advanced work opportunities and career path awareness

Projects for the GWSC Green Team includes on-going maintenance and stewardship of local parks and trails including the Quequeshan Rail Trail and Father Travassos Park. The Team would help create 137 wayfinding signs for the Rail Trail. Community gardening and urban agriculture provides youth with meaningful experiences on where their food comes from and the work it takes to obtain it. In addition, there will be opportunities to engage with youth in conservation around the region, to engage with local National Parks, to participate in the annual Groundwork Youth Summit and joint service projects at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.



A Groundwork Green Team plants seedlings.