

Isabel Umland

Climate Corps Independent Study - Blog

Goal of the project:

My goal for this project was to create a detailed plan for land reclamation in Groton Long Point after a theoretical managed retreat. My hopes for land reclamation included returning the land to its original state before development, and restoring the natural ecosystem to prevent further flooding and shoreline loss. By returning the coastline to its natural state with the added benefit of a living shoreline, I intended to maintain the integrity of the coastline during flooding, and delay the effects of sea level rise. My goal was to use already existing research on living shorelines and coastline restoration and apply it to the environment at Groton Long Point.

Challenges:

I encountered many challenges in creating this report. Since much of my research was conducted online at home, far away from the study site, information on the history of the area was not readily available. Though Groton Long Point has been studied and observed before by other groups, scientific information such as wave energy, beach slope, water quality, and flooding patterns were not readily available on the internet. Much of the information required to make a comprehensive scientific report was not easily observable by me, and would need to be done by an expert in the field. Because of this, my report had to be a general guideline and recommendation for the area, without hard scientific data to prove its effectiveness. For these reasons, I feel like my report was not as strong as it could have been. Other challenges include the lack of many other comprehensive living shoreline projects in Connecticut. For these

reasons, research from other states and environments informed most of my report. This means my report may not have been as specific and accurate as it could have been, had other living shorelines in CT been heavily researched.

Best Part:

The best part of my research was compiling it into my final report and seeing the progress I had made. When I began the project it was an overwhelming challenge to dive into. I had never done a coastline restoration project before and was new to many of the aspects. However, after many months of research, compiling my final report and realizing how much I had learned was satisfying. I had been intimidated by the project before, and was worried I would not be able to create the report I intended. However, at the end I was extremely proud of the work that I had done and impressed with what I had learned.

