

Summer Mitchell

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ENVS 3999

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## Reflection

Working on a climate adaptation project this semester was an academic experience that I will always cherish. It was such an amazing opportunity to participate in this program, and I gained many skills that will help me in the future.

The climate adaptation project that I was assigned to was based out of Latimer Point, Stonington CT. My partner and I set a goal to create a land use history assessment, a climate vulnerability assessment, and outreach materials for residents for this area. To accomplish this, we had multiple site visits, spoke to residents in the area, and did our research to come up with these final products. The site visits were my personal favorite part of this project. Latimer Point is a beautiful community that has so much natural beauty. Both times we visited we were lucky to get perfect weather, and all of the people that we spoke to were so passionate about the town.

One area of unfamiliarity I experienced with this project was making planting recommendations for Latimer Point. This was out of my comfort zone because I have learned a lot about climate adaptations through my coursework, but I did not have much knowledge on plant selection going into this. I came out of this project feeling much more confident in my ability to do this and with great references and resources to use for this going forward.

This project gave me clarity on what I want to pursue in the future. Working on this project was such an exciting and positive experience throughout the semester. This subject has always been something that I have been interested in, but being able to do something hands-on really solidified for me that this is something I want to continue doing and learning about. I went into this semester hoping to gain skills that would help me to be successful career wise pursuing something in this field, and after completing this project I feel much more confident in my skills. I am now capable of writing climate vulnerability assessments, and am familiar with visiting sites. I also feel as if my writing skills have improved along with my knowledge of resources that I can use for this subject area.

Overall, this project was a great experience for me and I am very grateful for this opportunity. I learned many skills that I will continue to use in the future, and accomplished everything that I set out to do at the beginning of the semester.