

2018 SUCCESS STORY

2nd Annual Connie Q Canoe Trip Celebration

SUMMARY

The 2nd Annual Connie Q Canoe Trip Celebration was a huge success despite weather issues. The original date was postponed due to rain and storms. It was rescheduled 2 weeks later but there were still a couple rain showers to overcome. 45 paddlers enjoyed a beautiful, serene 2-day float on Connoquenessing Creek. The waterway was bursting with people who never had the opportunity to float on this local gem while some paddlers were returnees from last year's event. They were immersed in the natural splendor this waterway provides as bald eagles and blue herons soared above them. Attendees praised this annual event and conveyed their interest for future paddling endeavors. Allegheny Aquatic Alliance plans on continuing this thriving sojourn celebration.

FUNDING

Grant Award: \$900.00

Total Match: \$4,378.00

Total Project Cost: \$5,278.00



SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

Day 1: Devoted paddlers arrived despite bad weather forecasts to set up camping sites and prepare for the float. There were a few rain showers while registration and set up commenced. There were 3 waves of paddlers that filled 7 miles of the waterway for 5 hours. The first group Put In as a major rain shower began but fortunately it only lasted for 20 minutes then was followed by partly cloudy skies. Upon taking out, paddlers experienced an environmental celebration featuring speakers from Bartramian Audubon Society, Jennings Environmental Center, and Allegheny Aquatic Alliance while their delicious dinner was being prepared. Attendees learned about native plant, animal, and bird species to look for on the 2nd day paddle, local and global water threats, and actions to take. They experienced firsthand the reasons why these actions are important and necessary. As the evening continued, attendees participated in raffle drawings and silent auctions and were mesmerized by musicians and fire dancers as they roasted marshmallows by the bon fire.



Day 2: Paddlers awoke to a wet morning as it had rained throughout the night but as the sun broke through the clouds, it transformed into a gorgeous day. After feeling refreshed from a delicious breakfast, attendees prepared for their second day of floating. More attendees arrived and paddlers began putting in. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful, leisurely float as they witnessed bald eagles and blue herons flying above them. Paddlers even had the opportunity to see some of the plant and animal species they learned about the day before. As the float came to an end, happy attendees were shuttled back to their vehicles, where they collected their camping gear and reflected on the successful event.

