



Canoeing the “Q”



Why was this important?

For the residents of Meriden, the Quinnipiac River is a get away from the stresses of city life. Yet, many of them are unaware of the designated trail that runs along the river, which includes trail stops and beautiful natural scenery.

In partnership with the Quinnipiac River Trail Committee and Lyman Hall High School Agricultural Science Program, I set out to bring awareness of the Quinnipiac River Trail by developing a public map of the trail and its unique features. To do this I:

- **Objective 1:** Map and document each trail stop and unique feature along the Quinnipiac River Trail using the Track Kit smartphone GPS app as well as a handheld GPS unit (Fig. 1A & B).
- **Objective 2:** Create a presentable map of the Quinnipiac River Trail and its stops using the Track Kit smartphone GPS app, ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Desktop 10.2.
- **Objective 3:** Publish the map so that it can be used in kiosks and at the www.qrivertrail.org website so that it is accessible to the public.

The Final Product

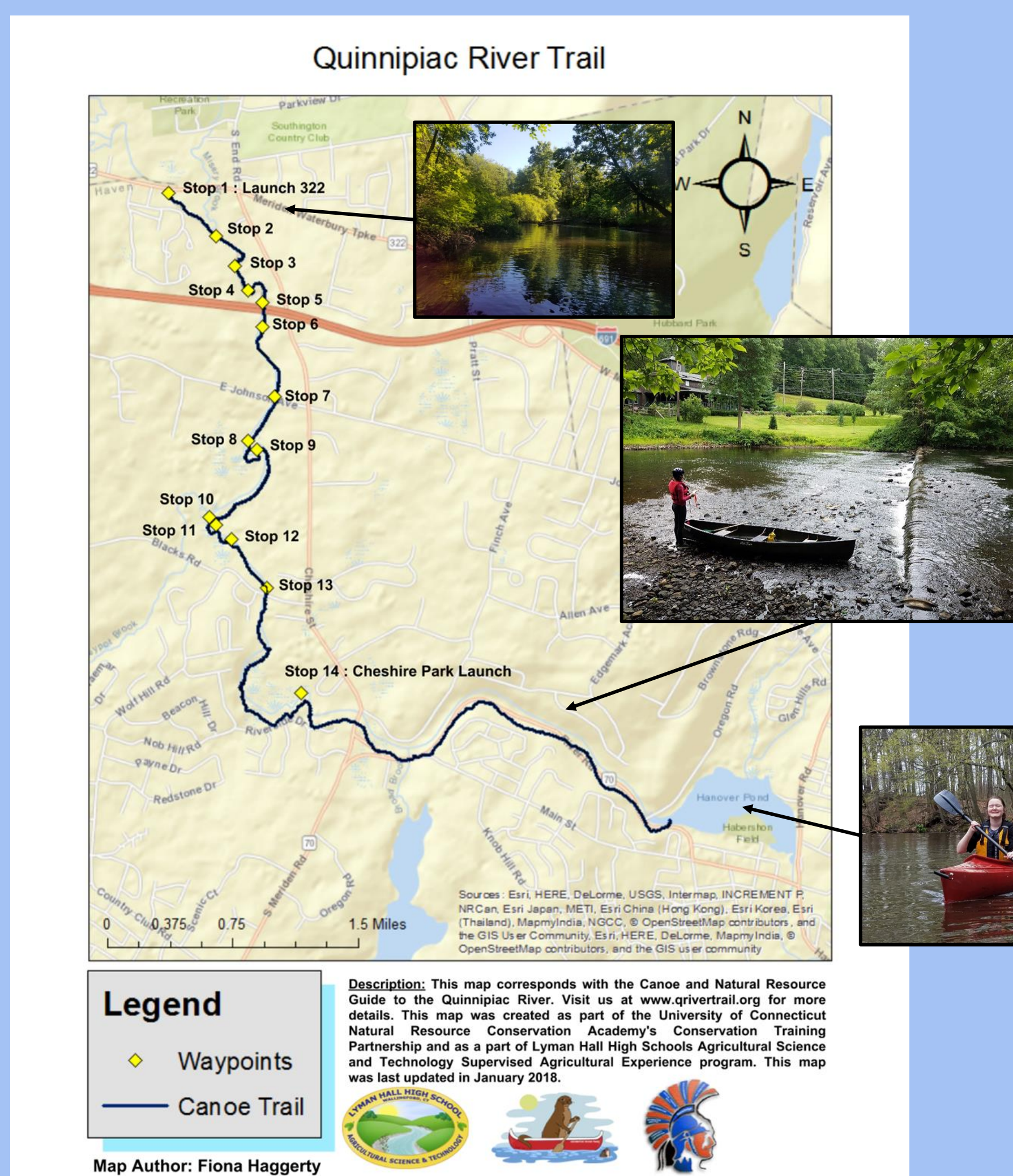


Figure 2: The trail map created on ArcGIS Desktop 10.2 of the Quinnipiac River Trail. The yellow dots indicate stops along the trail. Stop 1 and Stop 14 can be used to access or leave the river. (Top photo) At Stop 1 there will be a kiosk containing this map. (Middle photo) Past Stop 14 you will need to cross a dam by pulling over to the side of the river and walking your boat past the dam. (Bottom photo) At the end of the approximately 5 mile trail you can rest on the calm water of Hanover Pond.

How did we accomplish this?

To map the Quinnipiac River Trail, I took the following steps...

1. We canoed the Quinnipiac River from Stop 1 (Launch 322) to Stop 14 (Cheshire Park Launch) to take notes of unique features and gain an idea of trail stop locations (Fig. 1A & B).
2. Next, we took two more trips on the Quinnipiac to mark the waypoints (locations) of each trail stop using a handheld GPS and the Track Kit smartphone GPS app (Fig. 1C & D).
3. Finally, I used ArcGIS Online (to upload the map) and ArcGIS Desktop 10.2 (to format the map) in order to create a professional and publishable map of the Quinnipiac River Trail.
4. Lastly, I attended Quinnipiac River Trail Committee meetings throughout this project to received feedback on the trail map, and revised.

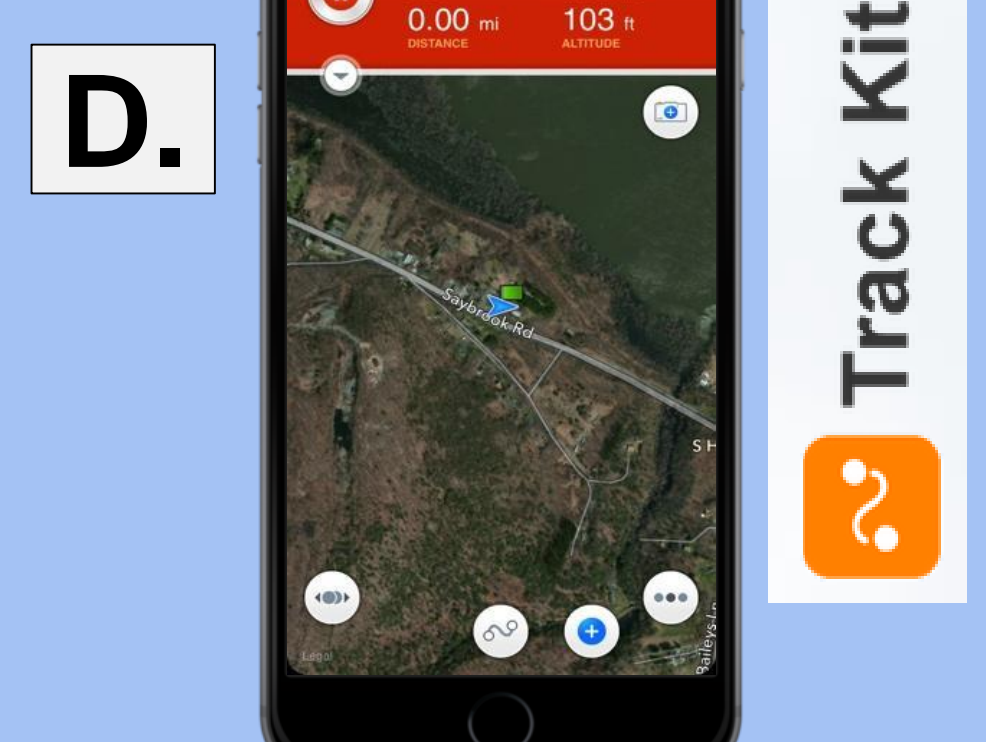
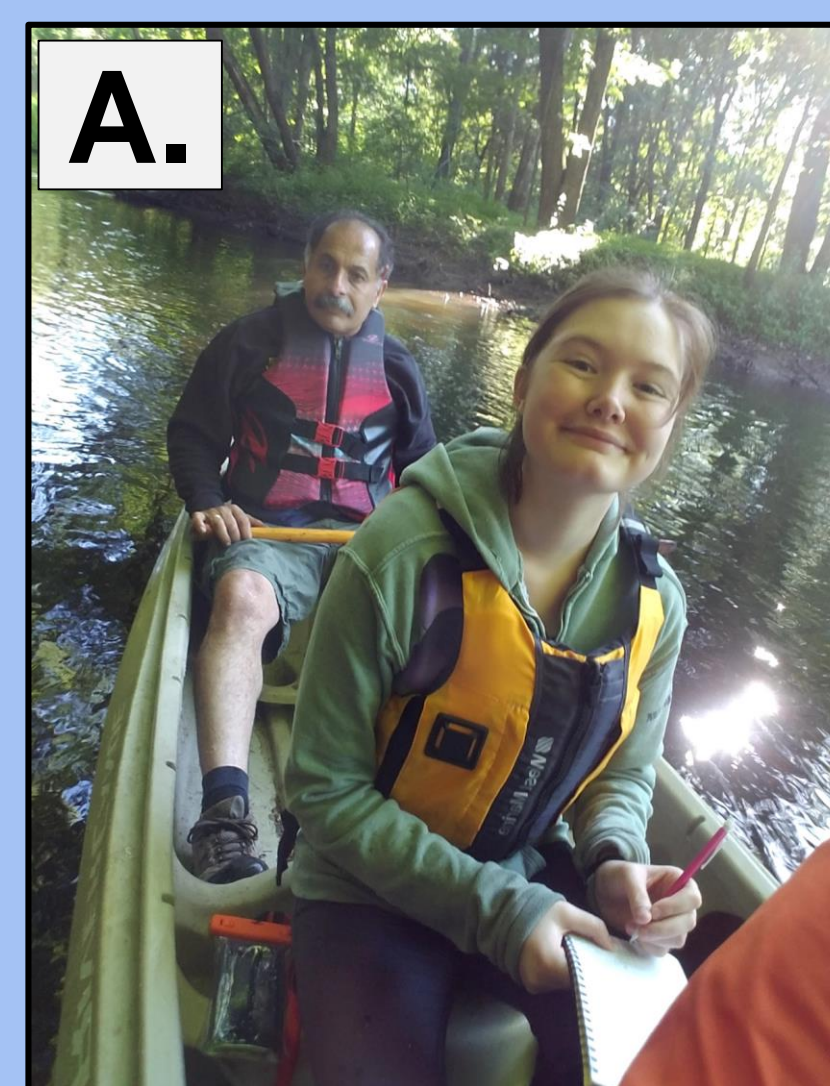


Figure 1: (A & B) Canoeing the Quinnipiac on multiple trips with Mrs. Picard (Lyman Hall Ag Teacher) and Mr. Picone (Quinnipiac River Trail Committee/CT DEEP Biologist) to collect data and mark any trail stops using the Track Kit smartphone GPS app. (C & D) I marked the waypoints of each trail stop using the Track Kit smartphone GPS app, which allows you to take photos and record notes that are associated with each location (D shows a screenshot of data collected).

- Using my paddling and ArcGIS skills, I successfully canoed and mapped the Quinnipiac River Trail (Fig. 2).
- This map provides Connecticut residents with more information on the forgotten Quinnipiac River Trail and makes it more accessible by providing the following info:
 - Where each trail stop is located
 - The unique characteristics of the Quinnipiac River Trail
- Find the map in kiosks and at www.qrivertrail.org.

Coming Up Next

Following this project there will be a grand opening event for the Quinnipiac River Trail on Connecticut Trails Day, June 3rd, in which people will be able to come and receive guided canoe trips down the improved trail. There will be limited space so stay tuned and look for the annual Connecticut Trails Day booklet for more information!

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