

Chester Land Trust Preservation Project

Submitter Contact Information

Name: William Myers
President, Chester Land Trust

Mailing address: P.O. Box 82, Chester, CT 06412

Telephone number: 860-304-1610

E-mail address: wkm@att.net

Proposal Information

Author: Chester Land Trust (submission date: June 8, 2022)

Description of project

The Chester Land Trust (CLT) is a volunteer non-profit organization funded entirely by donations. Land Trust volunteers and independent contractors are used to maintain 14 open space land preserves in Chester.

The Carini Preserve is one of the most prized CLT properties due its location (30 Water Street), ease of access and natural beauty. There is, however, a Japanese Knotweed invasion that threatens the property. For this reason, CLT plans to initiate an intensive, professionally managed knotweed mitigation program and develop a model Demonstration and Education program based at Carini.

CLT has other pressing needs for maintaining or improving its nature preserves. The Land Trust doesn't own any equipment; it borrows chain saws, string trimmers or other power tools that it needs. Most of these tools are gas-powered and not eco-friendly. There are also projects that require use of heavy equipment or paid contractors that have been delayed due to resource constraints. For these reasons, CLT is requesting ARPA funding to enhance its land preservation efforts. Funds would be used to 1) cover costs of a multi-year, professionally managed knotweed mitigation initiative at Carini, 2) build a model knotweed Demonstration and Education program using Carini as a home base and 3) strengthen CLT's maintenance capabilities and make them more eco-friendly.

ARPA funds requested:

The funding request is \$25,000, which represents approximately 2% of the total pool of money ARPA money that the Town received. A project-specific bank account would be

established and used to pay for project-specific work using CLT's established accounting procedures. CLT anticipates that the knotweed mitigation program at Carini will be the largest expense and require 4-5 years to complete. The CLT Board of Trustees will make other spending decisions and prioritize work its Preserves that are most easily accessed by the public.

Who would most benefit from the project if approved:

The work done at Carini will benefit people who visit the property and attend Demonstration and Education sessions, which will be held at Carini Preserve and focus on knotweed identification and methods to contain its spread. It seems likely that public awareness of Japanese knotweed as a potentially destructive plant species will increase as a result of the proposed project, which will benefit people, their properties, and the environment.

Positive impact of project to the Chester Community

Funding this project will demonstrate that Chester is willing to make investments to protect its nature preserves. The work done at Carini Preserve and other CLT properties will enhance visibility of Chester as a town to visit and enjoy its natural beauty.