

Supplementary Material

1 Appendix

1.1 A.1 Additional attribute information for survey respondents.

Table A1. SNEP Environmental Stewardship Organization Legal Designation

Legal Designation Types	Number of Organizations (n=111)
Non-profit (501(C3))	92
Other	7
Quasi-Governmental	4
No 501-c status	3
School	2
501(C4)	1
Public Private	1
Private Business	1

Table A2. SNEP Environmental Stewardship Organization Primary Site Types

Site Types	Number of Organizations (n=111)
Conservation lands, protected properties, and/or open spaces	36
Watersheds (the entire area -- uplands and rivers/streams -- over which rainwater falls and flows before draining to a single point or surface water body)	17
Forests, woodlands, or shrub-lands (upland areas dominated by woody plants)	5
Coastal waters and shorelines including salt marshes (coastal grasslands regularly flooded by seawater)	4
Freshwater bodies and their shorelines (wetlands, marshes, swamps, lakes, ponds)	4
Streams, rivers, canals and their shorelines (including riparian areas)	4

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Food production sites other than community gardens (e.g., urban or rural farms, aquaculture, cranberry bogs, etc.)	3
Public gardens (botanical gardens, arboretums, etc.)	3
Stormwater management systems (e.g., rain barrels, permeable pavers, bioswales, stormwater retrofits, culvert replacements)	3
Bike paths, trails, greenways, rail-trails, or areas of similar use	3
Food production, distribution, or access (e.g. farm-to-table, traditional harvest programs, food transport and storage, CSAs, food-deserts, etc.)	3
Working landscapes (a cohesive ecologically and socially connected area of land that is generally characterized by natural resource economic activities)	2
Community garden	2
Local or Regional Climate Resiliency Plans	2
Local, State, or Federal parks	1
Atmosphere (e.g., air quality, urban heat island)	1
Combined Sewer Overflow Systems (CSOs)	1
Waste (material and food, including e-waste) management, reduction, reuse, recycling, etc.	1
Sidewalks and roadways (e.g., street trees / traffic island / green street / right of way)	1
Cultural / sacred sites, including living sites in use and preserved archaeological sites	1
Systems for collecting, transporting and/or disposing of human excreta including septic, sewer, and waste-water treatment plants.	1
Other ("Advocates"; "Public transportation"; "Mixture-focus on traditional land use"; "Forest/field/fresh & salt waters"; "Stewardship of the built environment"; "Land conservation"; "Water quality"; "Sustainable development (LID, community planning, land use planning, watershed planning)"; "Currently, Urban Forestry and history of the land while advocating for equity in how environmental issues affect brown and black bodies within Providence")	7
None	7

Table A3. SNEP Environmental Stewardship Organization Property Ownership Types

Primary Property Ownership Types Where Groups Worked the Last Year	Number of Organizations (n=111)
Groups that work across public and private lands	31

Groups that own the properties they work on	26
City / local government property	15
Nonprofit	12
Other	10
Individual / Private Citizen	9
State government	5
Tribal government	1
Don't know property ownership (Missing)	2

1.2 A.2 SNEP Network details

The Southeast New England Network (SNEP Network) was established in 2019 and is funded by the US EPA and the Southeast New England Program under a 5-year Cooperative Agreement. The SNEP Network is managed by the New England Environmental Finance Center, a regional technical assistance provider based at the University of Maine. The New England EFC manages 17 local technical assistance partners in the SNEP region using a unique and innovative model of assistance to build local capacity to fund and finance climate resilience actions. The partners include local environmental organizations, academic institutions, regional planners, and consultants who work collaboratively to provide municipalities with direct technical assistance. A full list of project partners and a description of the SNEP Network is available at the following website, <https://snepnetwork.org/>.

1.3 A.3 Methodological details

The definition of stewardship groups used in the survey was: organizations of two or more people working to “conserve, manage, monitor, transform, care for specific living things, build partnerships, engage in place-based traditional gathering of resources for consumption, restore native habitat, prepare for environmental disturbances, fund or provide in-kind material support, and educate on and/or advocate for the environment across a defined city, region, or landscape.” Organizations were expected to opt into the survey if they self-identify as a stewardship group under this broad and inclusive definition.

We used a targeted recruitment approach for the survey. We contacted groups by email and phone (all groups were called at least one time, unless they replied to email before we attempted the phone call). Initial contacts were used to confirm contact information, discuss the STEW-MAP project, and clarify questions about the survey. Three reminder emails were sent at 1- to 2-week intervals to groups, with additional follow up emails and contacts made once the survey was sent.

When contacting organizations, we explained that we wanted to speak with the best person or people that were able to represent the organization in our survey. We explained to groups that while we wanted a single organizational response, we recognized that some organizations may have local chapters or sub-programs that operated with a high degree of autonomy from one another (Sayles and

Baggio 2017b). In such cases, a single person may not be able to participate on behalf of the organization and a single organizational response would not accurately reflect how the programs operate in the region. In these cases, we allowed groups to self-identify how they wanted to be included in the survey. A common example is a national non-profit organization with state-based chapters working in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, respectively, and that functionally operate as two separate organizations within their jurisdiction program boundaries.

Initial survey outreach was based on organizations compiled from environmental coalition websites and SNEP Network partner outreach lists. Subsequent waves of outreach were based on the additional groups named in the social network section of the survey. This section asked groups to name other organizations that they 1) had gone to often for knowledge, data, or expertise related to environmental issues, in the past year, 2) received funding from, in the past year, 3) any additional important collaborators that they had not yet mentioned, and 4) that they would like to work with but had not yet been able to and the reason why. These questions provide a broad range of organizational types increasing our potential to reach under-represented organizations in the region, especially since we asked for group names representing desired contacts. All network questions were open-ended and participants could list as many organizations as they wanted.

As mentioned in the main text, we focused our data collection on non-governmental organizations, and included tribal organizations because the SNEP Network sought to strengthen relations with Tribes. Our initial survey outreach, which was compiled from environmental coalition websites and SNEP Network partner outreach lists, did include several departments or agency arms of city, state, and federal organizations that were listed on the environmental coalition websites. Fourteen of these groups provided survey responses, which we removed from our analysis for this paper to focus on non-governmental organizations as described in the main text. We included these fourteen responses in our initial data analysis to see if including them would reveal any novel insights into the effects of Covid-19 that would otherwise be lost in the analysis. Including these fourteen responses did not reveal any new insights in our analysis and we therefore removed them from our dataset.

We acknowledge that local, state, and federal government agencies and programs are important environmental actors in the SNEP region. Much could be gained by including them in a study like the SNEP STEW-MAP survey; however, doing so would add hundreds of potential respondents and was beyond the scope of our targeted sampling recruitment.

2 A.3. Supplemental Results

Table A4. Self-Reported Changes in Environmental Stewardship Processes

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Process coding		
Canceled	Canceled events, programs, education activities, and/or closed center, park or preserve.	42
Limited participation from volunteers	Limited or canceled all volunteer participation	17

Reduced outreach	Reduced outreach and engagement efforts (i.e., education)	26
Increased capacity staff and external collaboration	Increased staff (internal) and engaged in more external coordination activities or built new outdoor facilities to support continued activities	4
Virtual or remote	Developed or increased use of virtual or remote platforms for learning, engagement activities (events, programs, fundraisers)	35
Total		99