



Connecticut River Conservancy
Annual Report 2017

Clean Water

Healthy Habitat

Thriving Communities



You helped launch CRC

This year we launched into our next 65 years as the Connecticut River Conservancy with a bold vision and plan for doing more good work, really well. You know it's a different world than when CRWC was founded in 1952. The threats to our rivers remain urgent but are more diverse and present new challenges.

As we celebrate 65 years of good work for our rivers, we recognize that in order to continue meeting these challenges to our rivers head on, we must evolve and grow.

What hasn't changed is our commitment. CRC's ambitious strategy better reflects who we are now, the work that we do, and the vision we have for our rivers. It will clarify and strengthen—not change—our work for clean water, healthy habitats, and thriving communities. By expanding and deepening our work, we will continue moving toward the vision of clean, healthy rivers for all.

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention the retirement of David Deen. While his 19-year tenure as a River Steward comes to an end, he will continue his 25-year career of fighting for our rivers as a Vermont State Representative with more focus and effort than ever before. We are fortunate that his expertise will stay with us as he joins CRC as an Honorary Trustee.

One constant that we are ever grateful for is YOU. This year we had the pleasure of meeting so many people from so many backgrounds who all share a passion for our rivers. You've helped build a solid foundation for our work and we look forward to your continued partnership as we strive toward our shared vision: "Clean Water. Healthy Habitat. Thriving Communities."

Thank you for making a difference for our rivers!

Your River Team

“I heard about CRC from a friend who invited me to do river herring monitoring. I got involved simply because, as a fisherman, I care a great deal about rivers and fish. When herring run in the spring it draws a ton of predators to the creeks and rivers. Thousands of herring come in, predator fish like striped bass, sea run trout, and smallmouth bass are on their heels, great blue heron line up on the banks, osprey and eagles circle overhead, and scavengers wait to clean up the scraps. It's hard not to fall in love with a fish that causes a convergence of life like that.

The river, for me, is a place to relax, a place for excitement, and a place to take part in the purest things in life. My biggest fear would be to see the herring run quietly vanish. They could be depleted without most people even realizing they were there to start with. That scares me.”

—Rowan Lytle, CRC Volunteer, East Hampton, CT

You helped
put citizen
scientists in
the field

Sam Masinter



CRC volunteers work with state, federal, and university scientists, support important restoration research, and clean their rivers of tons of trash and debris. They make important contributions to solving real world problems and have fun spending a great day outside, too!

You helped:

- 📌 Survey streams to find suitable habitat for the endangered Brook Floater mussels, preparing for the release of lab-grown juvenile mussels to restore the endangered mussel population.
- 📌 Clear over 15 acres of invasive water chestnut in MA and CT using more than 1,000 citizen scientist volunteer hours, maintaining native plants and keeping waterways clear for recreation.
- 📌 Provide current bacteria test results for over 150 recreation sites to more than 16,600 people via the ConnecticutRiver.us website, helping them make informed decisions about when it's clean to swim and boat in our rivers.



M. Leff

“As a resident of East Burke for over 40 years, a riparian property owner and an avid fisherman, I am extremely grateful to the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust and its partnership with the Connecticut River Conservancy for the successful and masterful removal of the East Burke dam. Throughout the long process, the Land Trust and the Conservancy have been respectful of the dam’s history. Now begins the healing process and the return of the East Branch of the Passumpsic River to its natural state, opening up 99 miles of free-flowing, cold-water upstream fish passage and riverine habitat and providing increased recreational opportunities for Burke residents, visitors and outdoor enthusiasts for generations to come.”
—Jake Wheeler, East Burke, VT

**You helped
restore your
rivers**



AFTER



BEFORE

Restoring rivers helps fish and river critters while also protecting valuable farmland, infrastructure, and homes from flooding and the impacts of a changed climate.

You helped:

- 👉 Plant 7,315 trees along 13,000+ feet of rivers, stabilizing stream banks and restoring habitat.
- 👉 Remove 3 deadbeat dams, freeing over 120 miles of river to restore fish passage, recreation, and flood resilience.



You helped
clean your
rivers

You make a huge difference for the health and beauty of our rivers. The Source to Sea Cleanup is now one of the largest river cleanups in the country. In



fact, CRC just won the award for “Most Miles Cleaned” from American Rivers, the leading national river conservation organization.

With your help, CRC is working to combat the litter and illegal dumping that pollute our rivers. CRC uses trash data submitted by Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers to work on trash pollution issues year-round.



You helped:

- Mobilize over 2,500 volunteers at the Source to Sea Cleanup to remove and tally over 46 tons of trash from nearly 250 miles of rivers, keeping rivers clean and healthy and protecting wildlife.



- Eliminate reasons for people to illegally dump trash by enacting laws and policies that allow for free and easy recycling of items like tires, mattresses, electronics, and more.





You helped advocate for your rivers

Your team of CRC River Stewards spends countless hours evaluating regulations, reviewing development projects, reading and commenting on technical studies, and more each year. Being thoughtful and effective advocates is a critical part of our mission to make our rivers healthier. The unprecedented attack on hard-won federal protections makes this work more important than ever. CRC River Stewards, pictured above, L to R: Andrea Donlon (MA), Ron Rhodes (VT/NH), Alicea Charamut (CT), Kathy Urffer (VT/NH)

You helped work across the watershed and in Washington, D.C. for clean healthy rivers. Here are just a few of our accomplishments:

- 👉 Uniting with partners across the country in fighting to keep the federal Clean Water Act protecting your waters, including valuable headwater streams, making it easier to hold polluters accountable, and settling decades of legal confusion.
- 👉 Ensuring the new licenses for five hydropower projects affecting nearly 200 miles of the Connecticut River in NH, VT, and MA require the best possible standards for fish passage, recreation, and cultural protection.
- 👉 Joining a lawsuit, with nine other river groups, challenging EPA's illegal last-minute shelving of a Massachusetts permit that tackles storm water pollution from our cities.
- 👉 Concluding over a dozen years of work to provide up and downstream passage at the Holyoke Dam (MA) for endangered shortnose sturgeon, for the first time since the 19th century.
- 👉 Keeping us at the negotiating table, ensuring the creation of CT's State Water Plan balances water for rivers and water for people.

You helped create partnerships

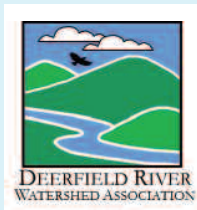
“This affiliation with CRC is a welcome opportunity to better grow and share DRWA’s limited resources on common projects within the Deerfield River watershed. We look forward to making this new partnership a success together.”
—Jim Perry, DRWA Board Chair



Collaboration is one of CRC’s core priorities. CRC has many ongoing partnerships from cultural organizations like the Connecticut River Museum to local land trusts and many local watershed groups in all four watershed states. We know we are stronger when we work together.

This year, the Deerfield River Watershed Association signed an Affiliation Agreement with CRC. This means that DRWA will become a chapter of CRC, a natural arrangement given that the Deerfield River flows into the Connecticut River. The main reason for this is to lessen the administrative

costs—both time and money—so that DRWA efforts can be more fully devoted to protecting natural resources of the river, its tributaries, and entire watershed.



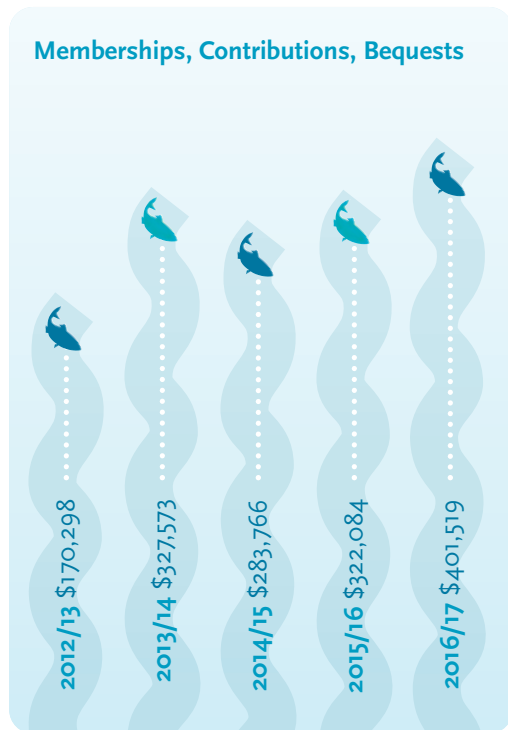
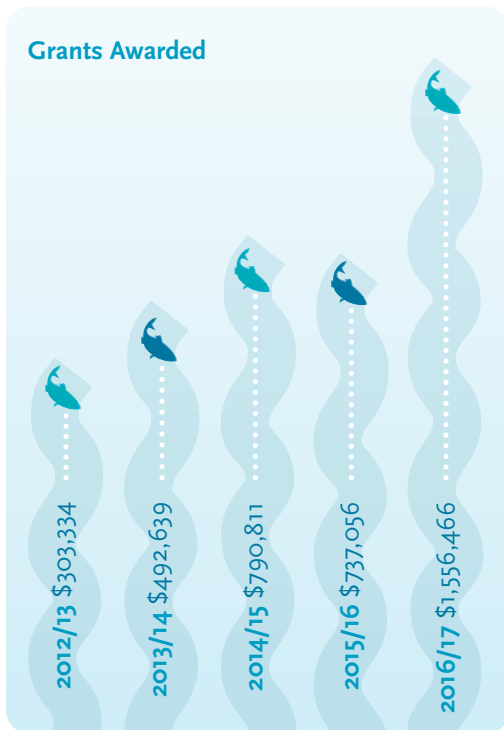
Together, we had one of our strongest performing years ever. This growth is a direct result of your belief in CRC and your rivers.

YOU make the difference! Thank you!

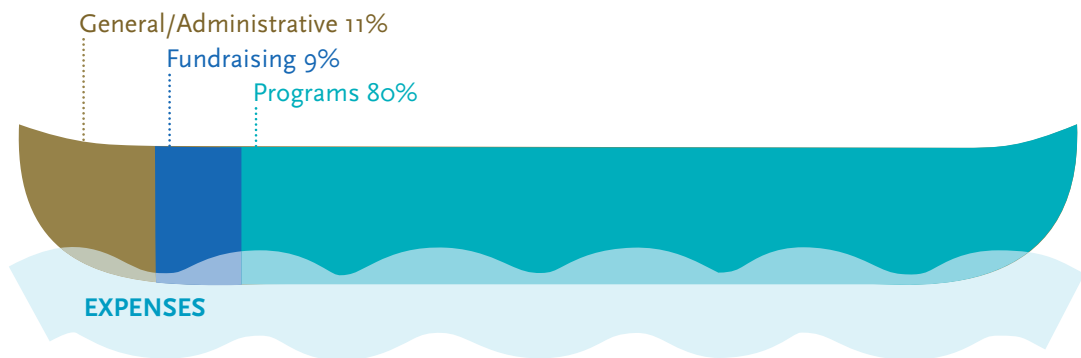
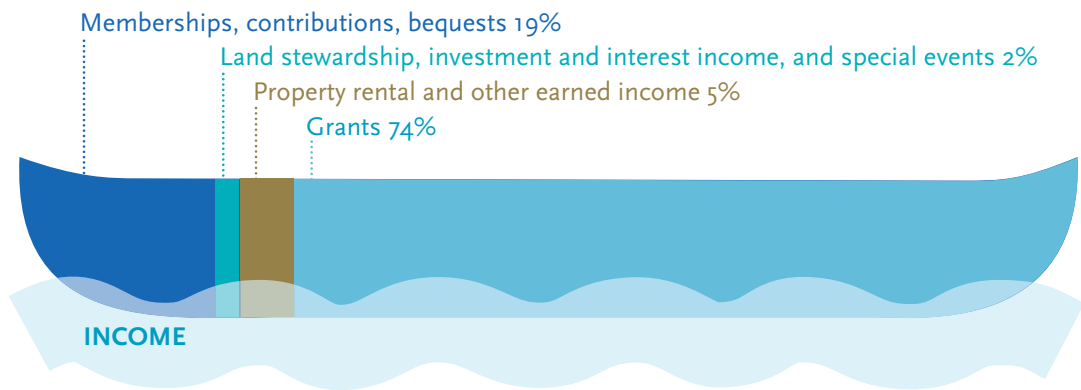


INCOME

Memberships, Contributions, Bequests	401,519
Grants Awarded	1,556,466
Property Rental and Other Earned Income	109,148
Land Stewardship	9,996
Investment and Interest Income, less unrealized gain (loss)	26,948
Total Income	\$2,104,077



Financials are reported for the fiscal year, July 2016 through June 2017



EXPENSES

Programs	1,334,488
General /Administrative	186,008
Fundraising	140,108
Total Expenses	\$1,660,604

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$2,679,029
Net Assets End of Year	\$3,294,476

ENDOWMENTS

Board Restricted Endowment	181,937
Mary Schaub Fund	999,553
Annuities	160,131
Spaulding Pond Fund	390,223
Total Endowments	\$1,731,844



Thank you

to the 1,119 member households who were part of CRC in 2017. We take this moment to also honor the memory and mark the passing of CRC members and friends who helped protect our rivers for future generations.

Full financials, corporate filings, supporters giving \$100 or more, and those whose memory we honor can be found on our website at www.ctriver.org/annual-report

STAFF

Andrew Fisk, Executive Director
Alicea Charamut, River Steward (CT)
Andrea Donlon, River Steward (MA)
Ron Rhodes, River Steward (NH/VT)
Kathy Urffer, River Steward (NH/VT)
Colleen Bent, Development Officer
Jen Bowman, Community Engagement Coordinator
Peggy Brownell, Laboratory Manager
Angela Chaffee, Outreach & Events Director
Phil Gilfeather-Girton, Finance Director
Marion Griswold, Finance Associate
Corey Kurtz, Development Director
Stacey Lennard, Events & Special Projects Coordinator
Alan Morgan, Office Manager
Andrea Newman, Development Coordinator
Ryan O'Donnell, Water Quality Monitoring
Ayla Skorupa, Mussel Restoration Researcher

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Sue Mellow
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John Sinton
Brewster Sturtevant
Hooker Talcott

MISSION

We are the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your river and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies.

CRC is a member of  EarthShare
New England

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“I’m just so proud of all the work that CRC does to preserve and conserve one of Connecticut’s great natural treasures, an asset to this state in both ecological and economic terms. The work that you’ve done over the years . . . is a legacy that will last forever.”

—Chris Murphy, U.S. Senator, CT



Clean Water. Healthy Habitat. Thriving Communities.

Connecticut River Conservancy

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Achieving Clean, Healthy Rivers...
Thanks to you!

