

MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS ALLIANCE

2021

NUA

Protecting and Restoring the Gommonwealth's Rivers and Streams

RESULTS & GROWTH

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FINANCIALS

2021 Total Revenues \$815,875

2021 Total Expenses \$312,650



2021 HIGHLIGHTS | JAN 1 - DEC 31

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT!

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance had an exciting start to 2021 with a generous challenge match from an anonymous donor: a multi-year transformational gift of \$550,000. This generous donation will enable Mass Rivers to meet the growing needs of our rivers and our member organizations. We are thrilled to welcome Danielle Dolan, our first-ever Deputy Director, to help oversee these efforts. Please contact Julia Blatt if you are interested in helping to match this gift to save our rivers.



A LEGISLATIVE WIN!

A NEW LAW WITH IMPORTANT PROTECTIONS.

With the passage of our Sewage Notification Act in February, 2021 saw a win for rivers, public health, and environmental justice. The new law requires public notification when there is a discharge of untreated or partly treated sewage into a river, an occurrence that happens far more frequently than most people realize, particularly in rivers flowing through urban areas. Over 1 billion gallons of raw or partially treated sewage entered Massachusetts' waterways in 2021. Massachusetts communities with higher concentrations of non-white, non-English speaking, and poorer residents, including several in the Merrimack and Mystic watersheds, have twice as many sewage spills than whiter, wealthier towns. Passage of this law took the proverbial village of legislators, municipal leaders, conservation partners, and individual advocates over several years, and is a testament to the growing power of our community. Of course, this is just one step in the journey to eliminating these spills altogether – the next challenge.

PROTECTING STREAMFLOW.

Climate change is bringing not just floods, but droughts to New England, with two recent Massachusetts droughts in 2016 and 2020. Protecting the sustainability of our rivers – and water supplies – in the face of this threat remains a thorny challenge, but we are making progress. In 2021, we partnered with a diverse set of stakeholders on several fronts to keep our streams from drying up during droughts. These efforts included:

- A technical assistance program to help member organizations use the Water Management Act to protect local streams
- Supporting a drought bill that would allow the governor to curtail lawn-watering during droughts
- Supporting a MassDEP initiative to bring more consistency to municipal water management across the state during droughts
- Working with the Ipswich River Watershed Association and American Rivers to leverage the group's 2021 Endangered Rivers designation to protect streamflow

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO RIVERS.

We were also thrilled to debut "Exploring Your Rivers," a new section of our website created to help people across Massachusetts discover and enjoy their local rivers, in a canoe or kayak, holding a fishing rod or camera, riding a bike, or using their own two feet – or a wheelchair. We started work on this project in 2020; six talented interns later (and with significant staff support and member group feedback), we rolled the site out. If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, please do. https://www.massriversalliance.org/explore-your-rivers

OUR PARTNERS IN RIVER PROTECTION

Key Leadership Members (>\$1000)

Charles River Watershed Association Greater Boston Chapter Trout Unlimited Ipswich River Watershed Association Mass Audubon Mass Organization of State Engineers and Scientists Mystic River Watershed Association Neponset River Watershed Association Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited The Nature Conservancy

Leadership Members (\$250-\$999)

Association to Preserve Cape Cod Berkshire Natural Resources Council Connecticut River Conservancy Conservation Law Foundation Environmental League of Massachusetts Greenbelt Groundwork Lawrence MA RI Council of Trout Unlimited Nashua River Watershed Association North and South Rivers Watershed Association OARS Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council The Charles River Conservancy The Trustees The Trust for Public Land

Member Organizations (<\$250)

Belmont Citizens Forum Berkshire Environmental Action Team Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Blackstone River Coalition Blackstone River Watershed Association **Buzzards Bay Coalition** Center for Coastal Studies Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council Clean Water Fund Deerfield River Watershed Association Deerfield River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited **Environment Massachusetts** Fort River Watershed Alliance Farmington River Watershed Association Friends of Belle Isle Marsh Friends of Jerry's Pond Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Friends of the Bass River Friends of the Blue Hills Friends of the Malden River Friends of the Middlesex Fells Friends of the Palmer River Friends of the Ten Mile and Bucklin Brook Green Newton Hoosic River Revival Hoosic River Watershed Association Hop Brook Protection Association Housatonic Valley Association Jones River Watershed Association League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust Massachusetts Association of **Conservation Commissions** Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Massachusetts Watershed Coalition

Merrimack River Watershed Council Millers River Watershed Council Muddy Water Initiative Nantucket Land Council Ocean River Institute Parker River Clean Water Association Pioneer Valley Chapter #276 Trout Unlimited **River Merrimack** Runnins River Watershed Alliance Save the Bay - Narragansett Bay Riverkeeper Shawsheen River Watershed Association Stockholm Environment Institute Sudbury Valley Trustees Taunton River Watershed Alliance Taunton River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council Ten Mile River Watershed Council Wareham Land Trust Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee Weir River Watershed Association Westfield River Watershed Association Westfield River Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee Westport River Watershed Alliance



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 Indicates a donor who has contributed to Mass Rivers for 10 consecutive years or more
Indicates a donor who has contributed to Mass Rivers for 5 -9 consecutive years

\$10,000 +

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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2021 STAFF: Julia Blatt (Executive Director), Katharine Lange (Policy Specialist), Sarah Bower (Technical Specialist), Gretchen McClain (Operations and Membership Director)

2021 INTERNS: Spring - John Doolin and Caley Earls (GIS Interns), Summer - Kameice Francis (Policy Research Intern), Astrid Wilder and Zoe Zachary (Teen JUST-US Interns)

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