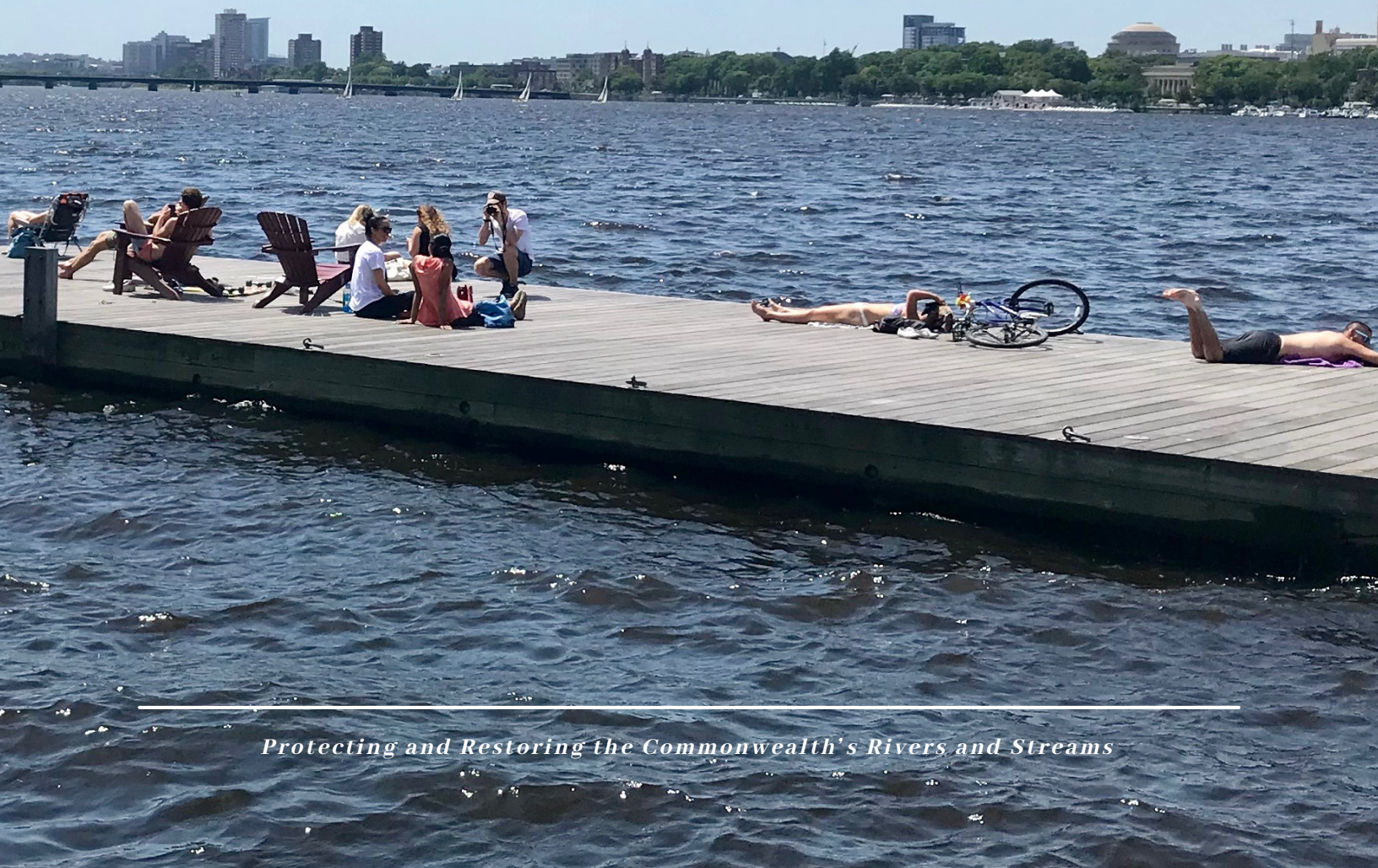
MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS ALLIANCE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting and Restoring the Commonwealth's Rivers and Streams

OUR PARTNERS IN RIVER PROTECTION

Key Leadership Members:

Charles River Watershed Association
Ipswich River Watershed Association
Mystic River Watershed Association
The Nature Conservancy
Neponset River Watershed Association
Trout Unlimited, Nor'East Chapter
(Key Leadership Members have contributed more than $1,000 to support Mass Rivers in 2020)

Leadership Members:

Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Center for Coastal Studies
The Charles River Conservancy
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Greater Northfield Watershed Association
Hoosic River Revival
Mass Audubon
Mass Org of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES)
Nashua River Watershed Association
North and South Rivers Watershed Association
OARS, for the Assabet, Sudbury, & Concord Rivers
Save the Bay – Narragansett Bay Riverkeeper
Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council
The Trustees
Trout Unlimited, Greater Boston Chapter
Trout Unlimited – MA RI Council
(Leadership Members have contributed more than $250 < $1,000 to support Mass Rivers in 2020)

Member Organizations:

Association to Preserve Cape Cod
Belmont Citizens Forum
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
Blackstone River Coalition
Boxborough Conservation Trust
Buzzards Bay Coalition
Charlestown Waterfront Coalition
Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Clean River Project
Clean Water Action & Clean Water Fund
Connecticut River Conservancy
Deerfield River Watershed Association
Environment Massachusetts
Farmington River Watershed Association
Fort River Watershed Alliance
Friends of the Assabet River NWR
Friends of the Bass River
Friends of the Belle Isle Marsh
Friends of the Blue Hills
Friends of the Malden River
Friends of the Ten Mile and Bucklin Brook
Green Newton
Greenbelt
Groundwork Lawrence
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 Assoc. of Conservation Commissions.
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition
Merrimack River Watershed Council
Millers River Watershed Council
The Muddy Water Initiative
Nantucket Land Council
Ocean River Institute
Parker River Clean Water Association
River Merrimack
Shawsheen River Watershed Association
Sudbury Valley Trustees
Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Taunton River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council
Ten Mile River Watershed Council
The Trust for Public Land
Trout Unlimited, Deerfield River Watershed Chapter
Trout Unlimited, Pioneer Valley Chapter
Wareham Land Trust
Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC) to the MWRA
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
Westfield River Watershed Association
Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee
Westport River Watershed Alliance
(Member Organizations have contributed $0 < $250 to support Mass Rivers in 2020)

2020 HIGHLIGHTS | JAN 1 - DEC 31

RIVERS AS REFUGE

In 2020, we radically altered our lifestyles to avoid catching and spreading a deadly virus, we experienced an unusually contentious election year, and our country confronted racial injustice. With access to sports stadiums, movie theaters, shopping malls, movies and restaurants severely limited or gone for most of the year, Massachusetts residents turned to nature for comfort, exercise, and inspiration. A small state, Massachusetts is rich in rivers, and in 2020 they brimmed with rowers, paddlers, boaters, and swimmers. People in urban and rural areas, along the coast and inland, walked along the rivers, fished them, and marveled at their beauty and wildlife. As the only organization bringing together people and organizations from across the state and beyond of behalf of the Commonwealth's rivers, Mass Rivers plays a unique role in protecting and restoring these special places.

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY
We did not let the pandemic slow us down when it came to fighting for the rivers. We successfully mobilized our member organizations and individual members to support the sewage overflow notification bill, and worked with colleagues in a successful bid to secure $11.5M in new dollars for state environmental agencies to protect our rivers and streams. These dollars will go toward monitoring water quality, removing dams, replacing culverts, restoring cranberry bogs, and protecting streamflow.

CONNECTING OUR 80 MEMBER GROUPS
Early in the year, we created "Mass Rivers Connects" to connect our member groups virtually to share ideas for adjusting to our new mode of work. Executive Directors, fundraisers, board members, scientists, and educators each met monthly, offering advice and support, and creating new connections, with a total of over 200 participants. Highlights were a series on equity, diversity, and inclusion; and the state's response to drought.

PARTNERING TO PROTECT STREAMFLOW
In 2020, we introduced a new technical support program to help our member organizations better protect streamflow in their local rivers.

ART IN THE FLOW
We interviewed five artists working at the intersection of art and nature, and (virtually) experienced their work. A choreographer, a playwright, a muralist, a composer, and a singer/songwriter each shared their story with us in this inspiring free series.

2020 STAFF: Julia Blatt *(Executive Director)*, Katharine Lange (Policy Specialist), Sarah Bower (Technical Specialist), Gretchen McClain *(Operations and Membership Manager)*, and Gabby Queenan *(Policy Director)*
2020 INTERNS: Shea Brams, Jayce Cheldin, Will Hollinger, Greta Huang, Rachel Percy, and Horizon Starwood
2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mark P. Smith *(President)*, Emily Scerbo *(Vice President)*, Andrea Franz *(Treasurer)*, Paul Beaulieu *(Clerk)*, Anna Aguilera, Wayne Castonguay, Roger Colton, Ian Cooke, Mary Griffin, Nancy Hammett, Andrew Magee, Nagesh Mahanthappa, Deirdre Menoyo, Pam Resor, Heidi Ricci, and Eve Vogel

ACHIEVEMENTS

Led successful statewide effort to pass sewage notification bill

We grew! Added to two new staff to our virtual organization and debuted a technical assistance program.

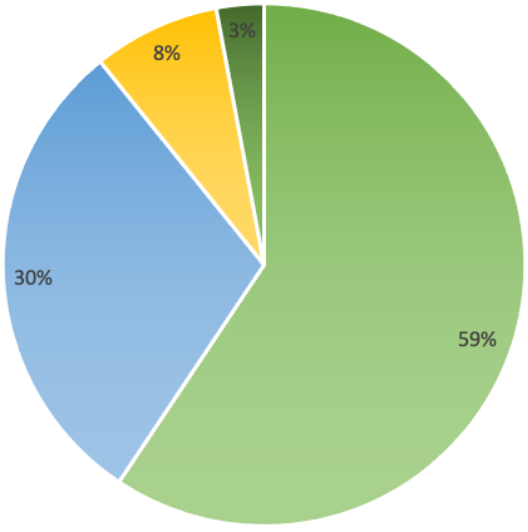
Increased state funding for rivers by $11.5

Grew to 80 organizational members across MA, RI, and CT!

Connected over 200 staff and volunteers of member organizations with monthly "Mass Rivers Connects" virtual conversations

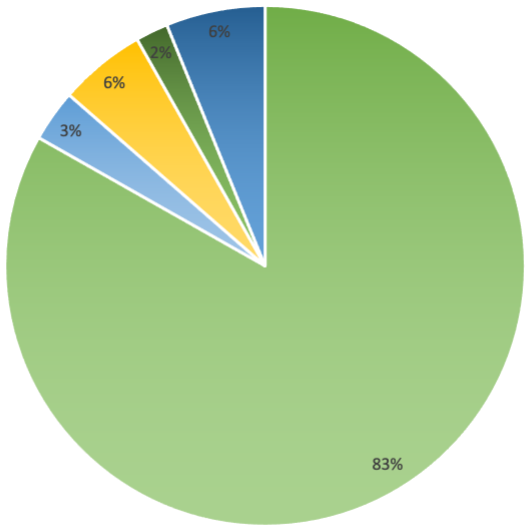
FINANCIALS

2020 REVENUES OF $330,650



- Individual Contributions
- Organizational Member Dues
- Grants and PPP Loan
- Program Revenues

2020 EXPENSES $215,000



- Personal
- Tenancy
- Program
- Professional Services
- Operations

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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*Stearns Charitable Trust**

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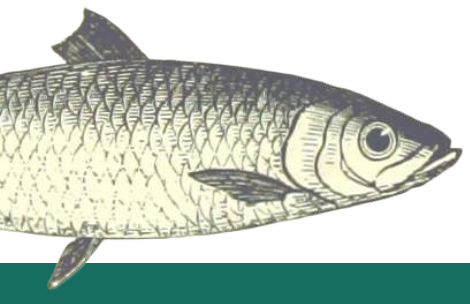

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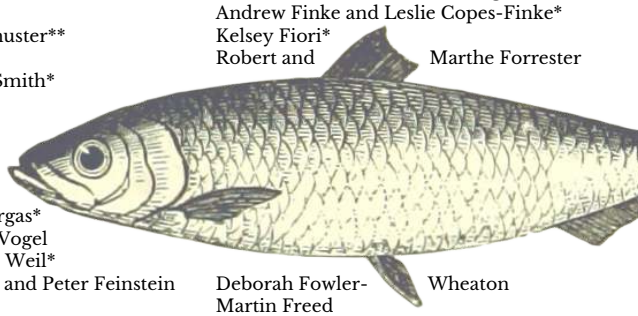

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