MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS ALLIANCE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting and Restoring the Commonwealth's Rivers and Streams

ACHIEVEMENTS

Sewage Notification Bill signed into law!

Budget increases: Division of Ecological Restoration (to $3 million, up from $2.6 million), and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program ($1 million, doubled from $500k in FY21).

End of Summer celebration brought community together – safely

Explore Your Rivers interactive section added to website

Organizational growth! New Deputy Director started in January 2022

Technical assistance program up and running, protecting stream flow

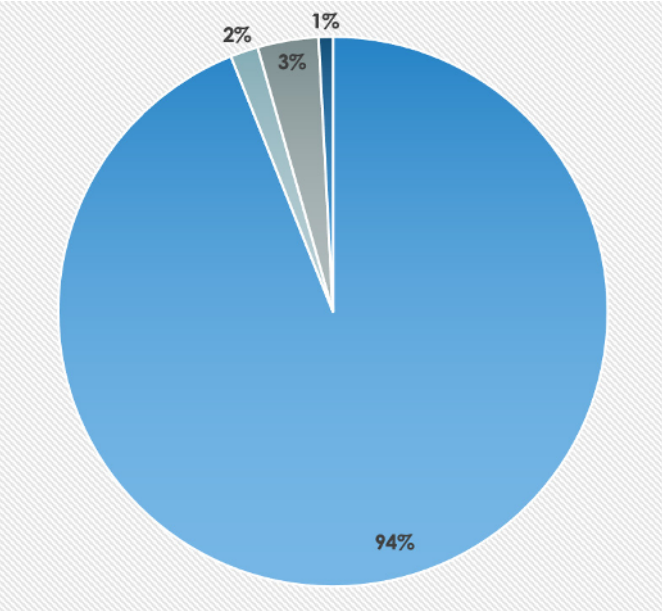
Drought and Invasives Species bills filed and on the move

Sewage notification regulations improved

Continued budget increases for agencies that protect rivers

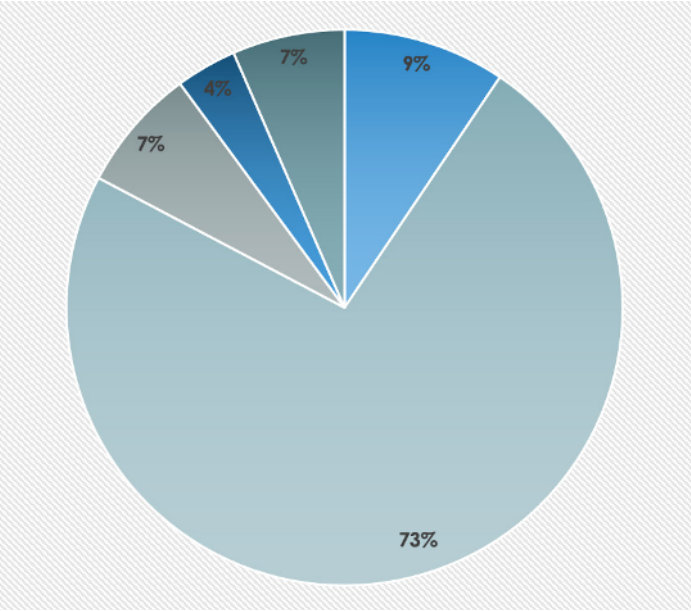
FINANCIALS

2021 Total Revenues $815,875



Total Gifts from Individuals
Corporate Donations
Organizational Member Dues
Program Service Revenue

2021 Total Expenses $312,650



Operations
Programming
Fundraising
Professional Services
Tenancy

Note: Revenues in 2021 reflect the full value of a $550,000 5-year transformational gift.

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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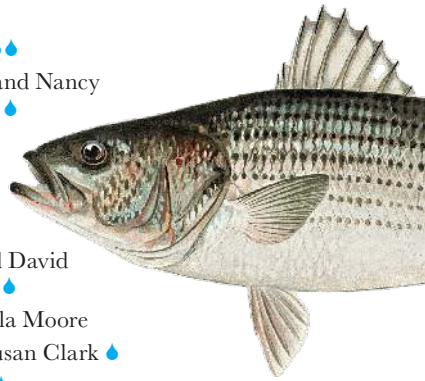

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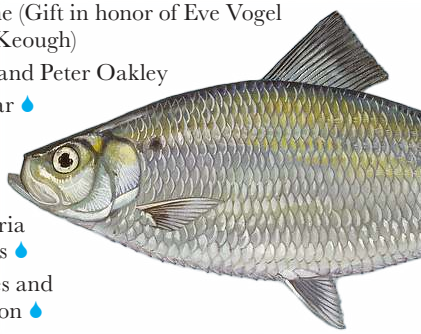

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