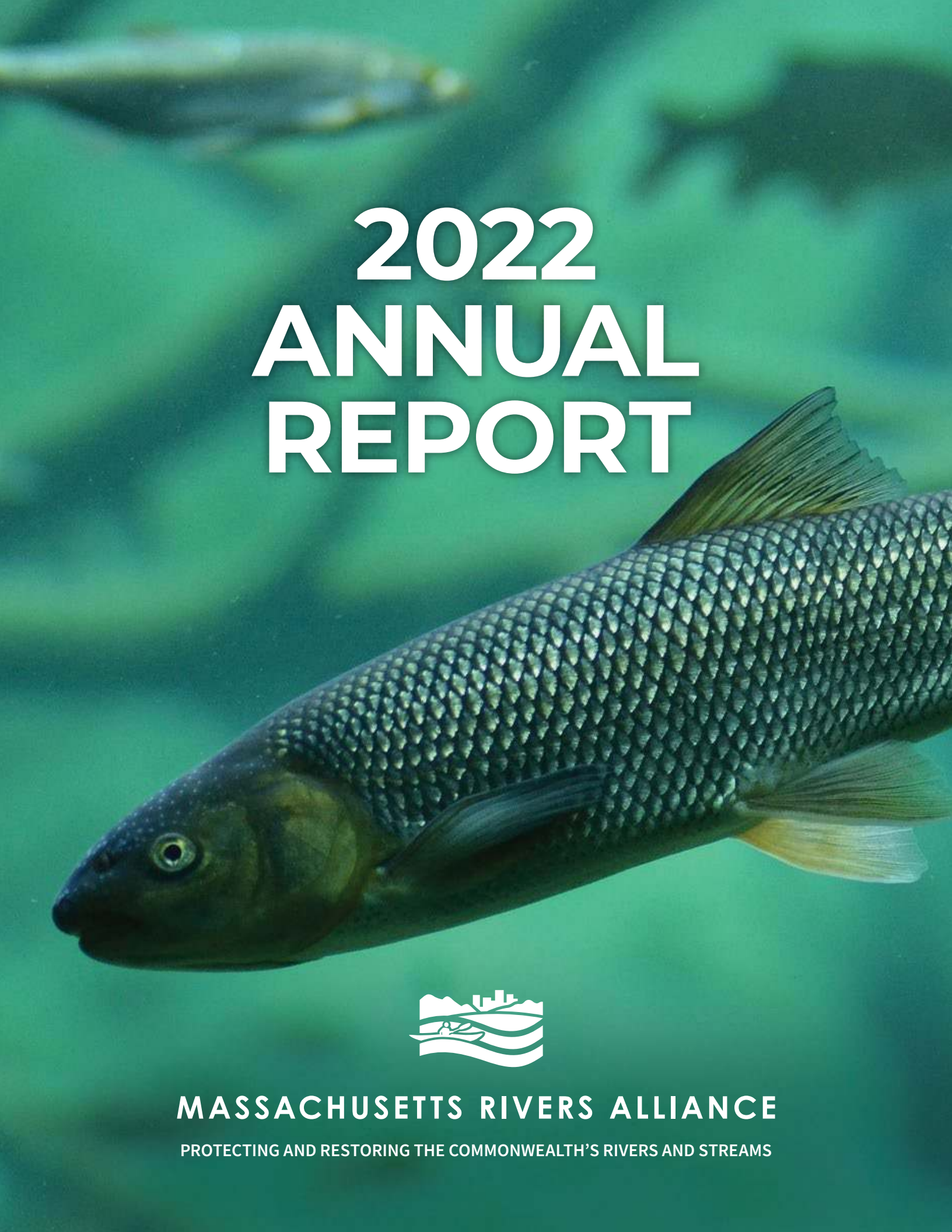


2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS ALLIANCE

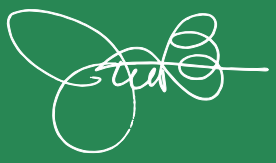
PROTECTING AND RESTORING THE COMMONWEALTH'S RIVERS AND STREAMS

Thank you for helping us build a strong and active movement in Massachusetts for healthy, sustainable rivers.

In 2022 we continued to expand the state's capacity to restore rivers and streams, help communities manage our water more carefully in a time of climate change, and connect and strengthen our 85 member organizations. Due to the severe statewide drought some of our rivers and streams reached record low flows – and even dried up entirely, bringing our rivers and our organization national attention. We worked with our partner organizations on several fronts to improve the Commonwealth's drought response, and our legislative, budgetary, regulatory, and technical support work focused on addressing this critical issue. As a result, we were pleased to see new conservation regulations we had long sought finally on the move (promulgated in early 2023), our drought bill reported favorably out of its legislative committee, and recognition by local and national media that even here in Massachusetts, our water is not unlimited.

In 2023, we are continuing to work to pass the drought legislation and strategically advocate for other policy changes to safeguard our rivers and water supplies during droughts. We are also expanding our stormwater efforts with a new program to help municipalities finance stormwater management. We are back in (our new) office two days a week and are expanding our staff to help us better address the growing demand for our services across the state.

Creating a healthy, sustainable water future is key to climate resiliency for all who live and work in this state, and for many of the creatures with whom we share our home. We could not do this work without your support, and without our organizational partners. The majority of Mass Rivers' funding comes from you, our individual donors. This kind of support gives us the flexibility to respond quickly to both opportunities and threats, and to speak truth to power. We are deeply grateful for your loyalty and generosity.



Julia Blatt
Executive Director

Left to right: Gretchen McClain, Sarah Bower, Katharine Lange, Julia Blatt, Danielle Dolan

2022 STAFF: **Julia Blatt (Executive Director), Danielle Dolan (Deputy Director), Sarah Bower (Technical Specialist), Katharine Lange (Policy Specialist), Gretchen McClain (Operations and Membership Manager)**

2022 INTERNS: **Casey Goodwin (Stormwater Intern), Gabriela Ackermann – Logan (Communications Intern)**

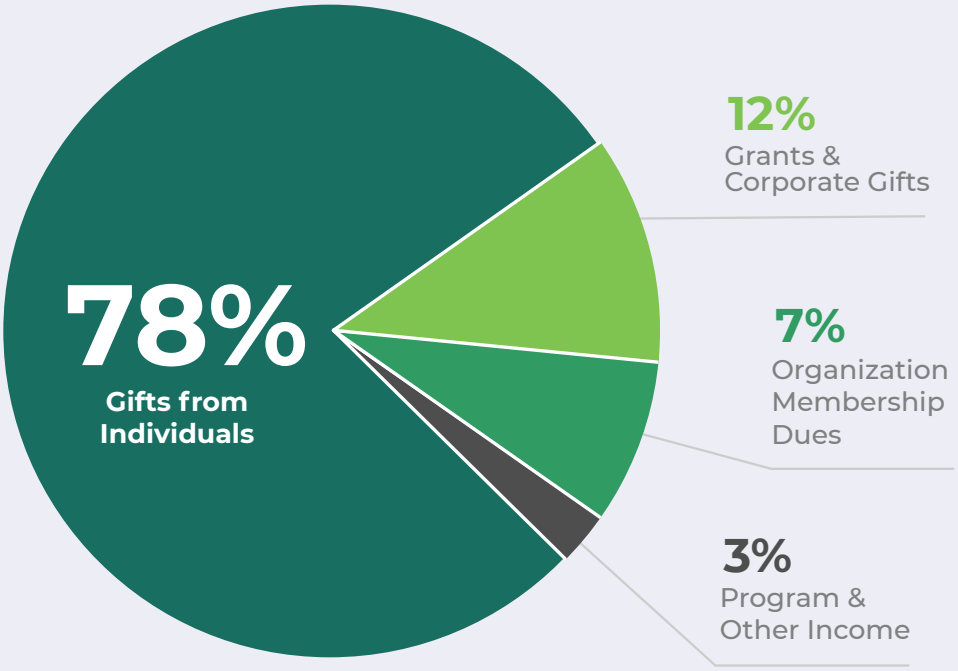
2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Mark P. Smith (President), Emily Scerbo (Vice President), Andrea Franz (Treasurer), Paul Beaulieu (Clerk), Anna Aguilera, Wayne Castonguay, Ian Cooke, Christine Doyle, Mary Griffin, Nancy Hammett, Nagesh Mahanthappa, Deirdre Menoyo, Heidi Ricci, Ellen Smith, Eve Vogel**

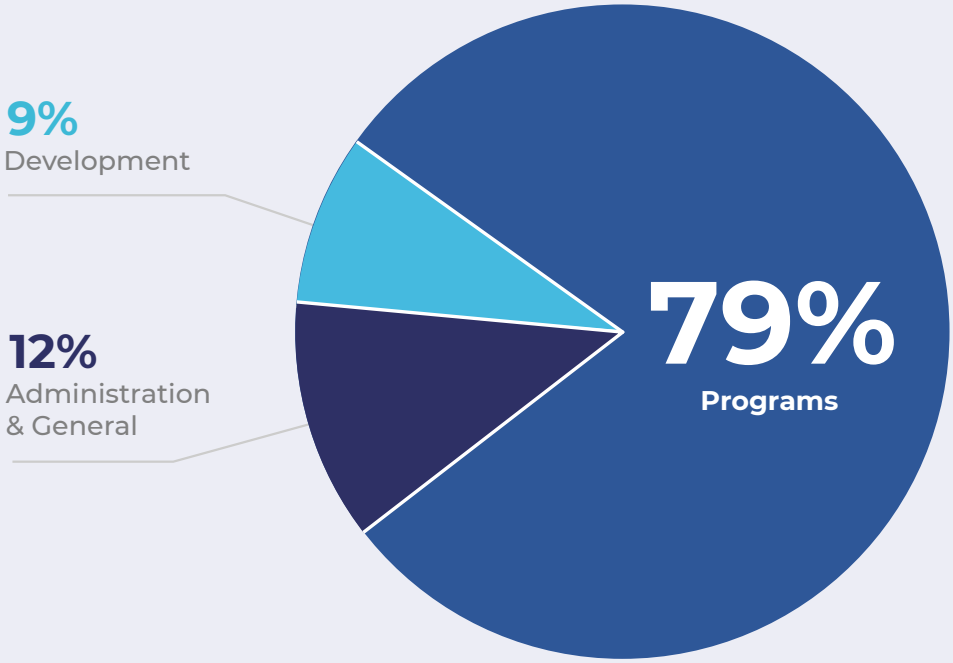
photo by Mark Lindhult

2022 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUES $381,425

We received additional cash revenues of $150,000 from a generous 5 Year Transformational gift totaling $550,000, which was fully attributed to revenues in tax year 2021.





TOTAL EXPENSES $435,050

Amplifying your voices and connecting our community

A member from the western part of the state recently pointed out that one useful service Mass Rivers provides is regularly bringing voices from western Massachusetts to Boston, where many important policy decisions are made. Our goal is not to speak *for* our colleagues around the state, but to track how decisions are being made, spot (or create) opportunities to weigh in, and make sure every region has a seat at the table. Another way we strengthen our community of river advocates is by connecting people together - through our “Mass Rivers Connects” virtual peer-to-peer meetings, our teamwork on issues, and a variety of in-person events. This work has helped foster a wealth of collaboration among our organizational members, and has led to grant-funded projects and informal networking to share ideas and support for each other’s work.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Our efforts led to over

$17 MILLION

in increased annual funding for Massachusetts state environmental agencies

The legislature responded to our economic development bill asks with

$175M & $100M

for land conservation & parks

for the Clean Water Trust

We advanced drought legislation in the state house

Our collective work led to effective sewage notification regulations

We analyzed

75 PERMITS

issued under the state's Water Management Act to assess the program's performance since 2014 regulatory update

We connected **150+** individuals through our "Mass Rivers Connects" virtual peer support program

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

We worked with **5** member groups to review and analyze imminent WMA permit renewals in their watersheds

Responded to more than **25** local and national media requests this summer relating to the extreme drought conditions

Met with NGOs and public agencies including more than

20 MUNICIPALITIES & 9 MEMBER GROUPS

to identify the major stormwater assistance needs statewide. We then developed a new stormwater Technical Assistance program to aid municipalities in complying with permit requirements and enhancing stormwater management in their communities.

14 SUMMER VISITS

to our vibrant community of member organizations

30+

public presentations on our work and environmental advocacy

Launched a new pro-bono "Science Advisors" network of

17 TECHNICAL EXPERTS

We also found time to celebrate our shared successes with our Annual Celebration at Hale Reservation in Westwood, a River Restoration walk along the Neponset River, and a Women Making Waves paddle on the Charles.

OUR RIVER PROTECTION PARTNERS

The groups listed below are Mass Rivers' organizational members

River Heroes
$5,000+

Mass Audubon
The Nature Conservancy

River Guardians
$2,500 - $4,999

Ipswich River Watershed Association
Neponset River Watershed Association

River Stewards
$1,000 - $2,499

Charles River Watershed Association
Mass Organization of State Engineers and Scientists
Mystic River Watershed Association
Trout Unlimited, MA RI Council

River Defenders
$500 - $999

Conservation Law Foundation
North and South Rivers Watershed Association
Trout Unlimited, Greater Boston Chapter
Trout Unlimited, Nor'East Chapter
The Trustees

River Advocates
$250 - $499

Association to Preserve Cape Cod
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Center for Coastal Studies
The Charles River Conservancy
Connecticut River Conservancy
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Greenbelt
Groundwork Lawrence
Nantucket Land Council
Nashua River Watershed Association
OARS
Shawsheen River Watershed Association
Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River
Stewardship Council
Taunton River Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited, Cape Cod Chapter
Westfield River Wild & Scenic River
Advisory Committee

River Friends
$100 - $249

Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Buzzards Bay Coalition
Clean Water Fund
Environment Massachusetts
Farmington River Watershed Association
Friends of Belle Isle Marsh
Friends of the Blue Hills
Friends of the Malden River
Friends of the Middlesex Fells
Green Newton
Hoosic River Revival
Hoosic River Watershed Association
Housatonic Valley Association
Jones River Watershed Association
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Coms.
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Merrimack River Watershed Council
Ocean River Institute
River Merrimack
Save the Bay – Narragansett Bay Riverkeepers
Stockholm Environment Institute
Sudbury Valley Trustees
Taunton River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council
Trout Unlimited, Deerfield River Chapter
Trout Unlimited, Pioneer Valley Chapter #276
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
Weir River Watershed Association
Westport River Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited, Pioneer Valley Chapter #276
Wareham Land Trust
Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
Westfield River Watershed Association
Westfield River Wild & Scenic River Advisory Committee
Westport River Watershed Alliance

River Supporters
Up to $99

Belmont Citizens Forum
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
Blackstone River Coalition
Blackstone River Watershed Association
Charlesgate Alliance
Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Deerfield River Watershed Association
The Esplanade Association
Fort River Watershed Alliance
Friends of Jerry's Pond
Friends of the Assabet River, Oxbow & Great Meadows NWF
Friends of the Palmer River
Friends of the Ten Mile and Bucklin Brook
Hop Brook Protection Association
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition
Millers River Watershed Council
Muddy Water Initiative
Parker River Clean Water Association
Runnins River Watershed Alliance
Ten Mile River Watershed Council
Wareham Land Trust
Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA
Westfield River Watershed Association

OUR MEMBERS Thank you to all of our supporters!

CONSECUTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS 💧 5–9 years 💧💧 10-14 years 💧💧💧 15 years or more

River Champions
$10,000 +

Anonymous (1) 💧
Sue and Henry Bass 💧💧💧
Lalor Burdick 💧💧
Andrea Franz 💧
Sarah Hancock 💧💧
Nagesh Mahanthappa and Valentine Talland 💧
Mark P. Smith and Elizabeth W. Brown 💧💧
Stearns Charitable Trust 💧

River Heroes
$5,000 - $9,999

Susan Beede and Jay Copeland 💧💧
Bonnie Cockman and Chris Foote 💧💧
Nancy and Ted Hammett 💧💧
Meryl Loonin and Neil Fisher 💧💧
Jessie and Jonathan Panek 💧
Jacqueline Stone
The Echo Charitable Foundation 💧💧

River Guardians
$2,500 - $4,999

Mary Griffin 💧
Caroline Michel
Amir Nashat
Bill Pastuszek and Ellen Smith 💧
Eli Siskind 💧
Candace Young and Glenn Batchelder 💧

River Stewards
$1,000 - $2,499

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Clarissa and Rod Bronson 💧
Betsy Cabot 💧
David Carlisle and Morene Bodner 💧💧
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Pauliina Swartz
Robert and Lisa Unsworth
Martha Wallace and Edward Kane 💧
Lawrence Wallach and Jo Viney
Eversource Energy Foundation
Ress Family Foundation
Toast

River Defenders
$500 - $999

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Stuart Armstrong 💧💧
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John and Molly Beard 💧
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Katy and Tom Walker
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Karen Ziffer
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Patagonia

River Advocates
$250 - $499

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Stephen Roger 💧
Nancy Rose and Jim Poterba 💧💧
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Thea Sahr 💧
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Marion Stoddart
Amy Tananbaum
Elizabeth and Isabel Tappan-deFrees
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Steven and Glena Vogel
Miriam and David Weil
Lisa Weissman and Deb Shapiro
Mary Alice Wistman
Henry Woolsey
Paddle Boston
Tighe & Bond

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$100 - $249

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Cynthia Barakatt and Rich Bizzozero
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