

2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

mrwc-fairfield.org



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States

Beginning in 2021 led by our educate team, we dedicated ourselves to our core competency of environmental and conservation education. Unable to deliver our traditional academic programs, we developed new content and the ability to deliver it digitally to Fairfield Public School students and teachers. As part of this effort, we simultaneously adjusted our entire curriculum to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) recently implemented by the Fairfield Public Schools. Thankfully in 2022 we were able to resume our usual hands on study-trips which were implemented following the Fairfield board of education covid safety protocols.

The NGSS student-centered exploration and discovery approach, combined with years of declining volunteerism, also changed the role of volunteers within study-trips. Our new model, featuring intensive training of a core group of paid trip leaders in conjunction with classroom chaperones and greater teacher involvement, has received incredible feedback throughout our first semester.

Our advocacy team led the charge to properly vet Aquarion's request to more than double their current diversion of water from our local reservoir to towns further south in Connecticut. Our work, in conjunction with the Town of Fairfield and other local organizations, elevated this issue within the community, compelling Aquarion to reactivate monitoring protocols. We will use the data collected to measure the impact of reduced water levels throughout the Mill River Watershed over the next two decades.

Our engage team recruited dozens of local adults, college students, and children to participate in a variety of events, including several cleanups around town. Our water monitoring program continued to grow, adding two new testing locations and many new volunteers. Finally, we offered three new educational programs to small groups of children in the community while school-based programs were on hold.

MRWC believes that "building our youth for the future" occurs in many forms and remains dedicated to using our education, advocacy, and engagement capabilities to do so. We are thankful for your continued support of our work. It is our hope that all of our combined efforts will result in a global community of youth prepared to shape a future where the watershed is at the center of all local decisions.

Jon Dilley
President



All nature photos by Nikki Vinoski

LUMINARY

Volunteer of the Year

Carrie Rullo was unanimously awarded the 2021 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her many roles of service to MRWC through the years. First guiding in 2010 for Osborn Hill School, Carrie shared her enthusiasm for the program, becoming a school captain and then Grade 5 Coordinator. One story provides a vivid image of her dedication to the program. Following a big storm in 2013, Carrie paid an early morning visit to Mill River. Balancing her 3 year old daughter on her hip, breakfast in hand, Carrie braved calf-high water in order to assess trail conditions.

In 2016, Carrie accepted a Board position and the role of Vice President a year later. In her six years on the Board, she has become the phytoplankton of MRWC: the basis of all, without which we would become stagnant and stop growth. She has been invaluable as the Board Vice President, supporting every aspect of the organization by offering leadership, sound and balanced advice, clear direction, realistic perspectives, and exceptional communication. MRWC has leveraged Carrie's many skills to long term planning, historical impact assessment, curriculum changes, community programming, town presentations, volunteer coordination, and all aspects of communication from writing annual reports to coordinating with other environmental organizations.

As creator and coordinator of our annual Board retreat, Carrie has been instrumental in creating a vision for the future of MRWC and a plan for growth. She is a natural leader with the tenacity to implement plans which support the organization's vision. Like the river, Carrie tirelessly does the work of MRWC to keep the organization moving and growing. She embodies the finest qualities of a volunteer and we are so lucky to be the recipient of her efforts.



EDUCATE HIGHLIGHTS



Nature's Tapestry
Community Program

Continued To Offer Community Education Programs

When the world was in the grips of the global pandemic people and businesses had to pivot in order for their organization to survive. We at MRWC were no different. In order to stay true to our mission, to educate the community about the value of wetlands, we launched two new community programs to explore Mill River. In "A Tale of Two Beaks" children were able to discover the fantastic story of animal and plant adaptations. In "Nature's Tapestry" they were able to investigate the intricate fabric of our Mill River Basin ecosystem. These two programs complimented the initial community program called "The Meandering River" where children were able to explore the work of the river and discover how the river affects the land, plants and animals. We had several groups of children participate in multiple sessions and had to offer additional sessions to accommodate increasing interest as word spread of the fun and immersive outdoor experience. We followed CDC guidelines of masks and social distancing during delivery of these programs.

Partnered with local Environmental Groups

We have found a powerful synergy in working with other like-minded environmental groups such as Sustainable Fairfield Task Force (SFTF). In the Spring we collaborated to offer a community class in celebration of Earth Day for children ages 7-10 in our outdoor classroom at Mill Hill Terrace.

Brought Back In-Person Study Trips

In Fall 2021 we were excited to bring Fairfield students back to the Mill River for in-person study trips. We were able to run our Groundwater System for 644 Grade 4 students and Erosion for 672 Grade 5 students at the Mill River. We provided the Fairfield Public Schools with online materials to help teachers and chaperones understand what to expect during the study trips.



Ground Water System Study-Trip



Erosion Study-Trip



Ground Water System Study-Trip



Erosion Study-Trip

EDUCATE HIGHLIGHTS

River-Lab Model Has Changed

During the Spring of 2021, we continued the Online Classroom for our Ecosystem Lab while we awaited approval to return to in person study trips. In the meantime, we reimagined the way we deliver the River-Lab program. Previously River-Lab had relied heavily on a network of parent volunteers and an extensive training program. It has now been redesigned so that anyone can step in to guide a small group of kids through Mill River without formal training. We have ensured that everything that is needed will be onsite at the river in curated kits at each trail point. Our core group of River-Lab experts will continue to lead each trip. Additionally, we have worked closely with Fairfield Public Schools to ensure that the River-Lab curriculum is tailored to follow the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This necessitated a restructuring of the curriculum as well as a shift of what grade level it is delivered to.

A glance at the changes:

Previous Years Curriculum

RL Grade 3 - The Work of the River
RL Grade 4 - The Groundwater System
RL Grade 5 - Productivity of the River Basin System
RL Grade 6 - Estuary

New Curriculum

Grade 2 - Biodiversity
Grade 4 - Erosion
Grade 5 (Fall)- Groundwater System
Grade 5 (Spring) - Ecosystem Lab
Grade 7 - Estuary



KUDOS

MRWC Scholarship for Sustainability 2021

Each year, MRWC recognizes a senior from Fairfield Ludlowe and Warde High Schools for their study of, and commitment to, science and the environment. For generations, River-Lab Program volunteers have provided over 120,000 Fairfield students with unique opportunities to explore environmental science in a local watershed. We provide these annual scholarships to encourage students to become leaders in environmental stewardship.



Fairfield Ludlowe High School 2021 Recipient

Natalie Reilly graduated in 2021 and attends the University of Connecticut, majoring in Environmental Science and hoping to minor in Sustainability or Sustainable Food Systems. Outside of her STEM coursework, Natalie participates in the EcoHusky Club and the club track and field team. Her passion to find solutions to the challenges facing our environment deepened when attending the Aquaculture program, where she conducted first-hand research of the Long Island Sound. Natalie says her HS research into climate change “has opened her eyes to the critical and unique role” she can play in her future endeavors. Natalie stated, “The future of our planet and environment depends on our generation to recognize the issue and promote change, and I want to be a part of that.”



Fairfield Warde High School 2021 Recipient

Andrew Shavinsky graduated from Warde in 2021 and attends Penn State University. Andrew has declared his major in biology with an interest in working with wildlife management. Andrew has always enjoyed the outdoors and actively participates in fishing, horseback riding and exploring new places. One of the original MRWC water monitors, he tested water throughout his senior year to see the impact on his favorite fishing holes. This study of water balance led him to design a hydroponic tank as his final Environmental Science project. Andrew’s Freshman seminar in Wildlife and Fisheries at Penn State introduced him to the many ways he can utilize his interest in environmental protections of our natural resources to benefit his and future generations.

KUDOS

MRWC Scholarship for Sustainability 2022



Fairfield Ludlowe High School 2022 Recipient

Charlie Gardiner graduated Ludlowe in 2022. He maintained an excellent GPA while taking numerous AP classes including AP Environmental Science. He plans to study Aerospace Engineering and minor in Environmental Engineering. Charlie started his essay off by sharing; "Birdwatching is not the typical hobby of a 17-year-old boy, but I have no better time than when I am out in the woods. The pandemic hit in my sophomore year of high school. Without a real classroom I was forced to create my own. I turned to the woods for my education. As I began to hike more and more often, the wilderness became a learning environment for me, fulfilling the missing piece online school wasn't able to deliver. I learned hands-on about the functions of the forest, the animals, and most importantly to me, the birds. It helped me realize that education is not only what happens in school, but also encompasses all of the self education I do on my own, which I have grown to embrace and love." As one can read, his love for birds, the woods, and as he calls it "his forest classroom", he has been able to incorporate the environment into his love of learning.



Fairfield Warde High School 2022 Recipient

Tyler Nuttall graduated from Warde in 2022 and as an honor student, studied Marine Biology, AP Physics, Chemistry, and advanced Calculus which led him to develop an interest for environmental science. He volunteered with Mill River Wetland Committee where he coordinated and sponsored a beach clean up, he helped monitor local water quality by collecting monthly water samples from the Rooster River, and served as an assistant to MRWC's River-Lab training program. Tyler is attending Skidmore College, majoring in Science. He approached high school trying out different classes and clubs to see where his interests and abilities directed him. His counselor states "Tyler is an intelligent student who excels in many areas. He enjoys challenging himself academically and I know he will continue to thrive."

ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHTS

Collaboration Coffees

Our involvement in the Aquarion Review in 2021 encouraged MRWC to look toward strengthening our relationships with like-minded organizations in the region. These collaborations will allow our organization to work smarter by spreading resources and research across a greater base. Lead by Jon Dilley, MRWC began sponsoring a monthly coffee meeting with representatives of local organizations to discuss current events and projects with a common implication of the watershed. With an emphasis on general community building, informal discussions amongst all participants on various topics. Any organization wishing to be a part of our coffee meetings, contact MRWC.

Aquarion Application for Water Diversion

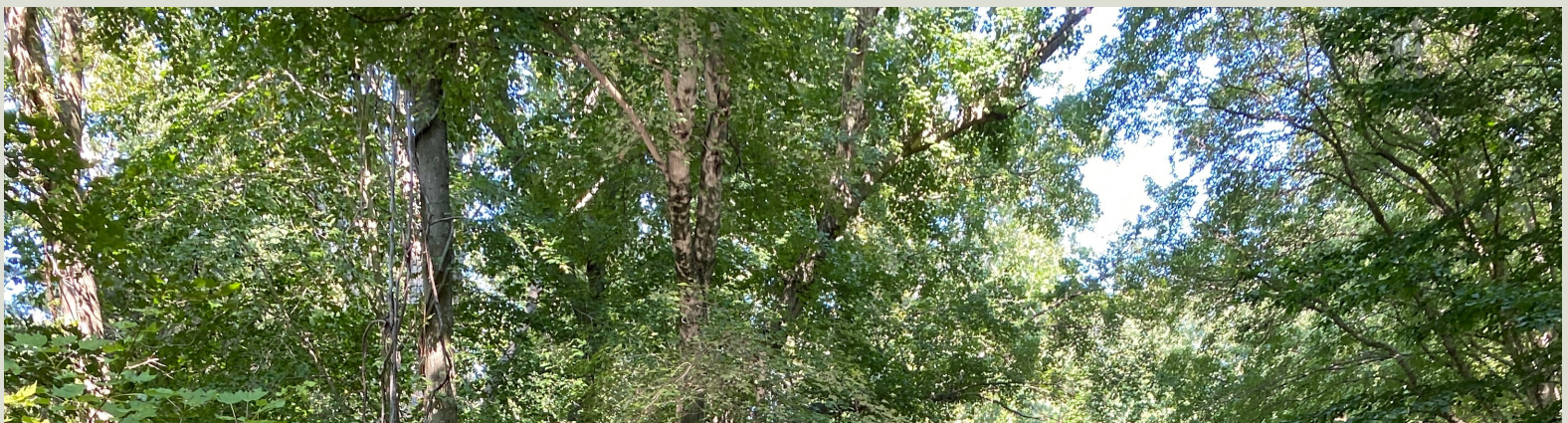
One of the most significant advocacy areas in 2020 was that MRWC entered into an agreement with the Town of Fairfield, FairPLAN (Fairfielders Protecting Land and Neighborhoods), Lake Hills Association and Aquarion Water Company regarding Aquarion's March 2020 application to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to double the amount of water the current diversion permit allows from the Greater Bridgeport System (GBS) to the Southwest Fairfield County Region (SWFCR).

DEEP had tentatively approved the increase that Aquarion was seeking for the maximum permit length of 25 years, but through continued action by MRWC and the other intervening parties Aquarion has agreed to provisions that will help to monitor the health of the ecosystem. One of the most critical items agreed to by Aquarion will provide for the funding to re-activate and to maintain a US Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow gage for the length of the permit. This gage will provide crucial data on streamflow and assist local and statewide groups in monitoring downstream effects of this diversion as well as other environmental stressors. Having this data will also allow the DEEP to exercise its right to annually review this, or any permit, if the data shows a negative impact to the habitat and/or the creatures dwelling there.

Additionally, Aquarion will continue to comply with the water release requirements negotiated under a separate agreement with the Town of Fairfield in 2007 until DEEP's updated Streamflow Standards and Regulations are implemented in 2023. Finally, and when we reach two-thirds of the way through the permit's life, in 2036, Aquarion will provide a thorough review of the diversion in a public report to the DEEP.

Town of Fairfield Conservation Department

MRWC welcomed the new Conservation Director, Timothy Bishop, to attend a Board meeting just three weeks into his new position. In addition to sharing the history of our long-standing relationship with this town department, we asked relevant questions about the direction of Fairfield's Conservation Department. Tim presented the trajectory of the department's focus in reestablishing communication in the community, looking to enhance and increase open spaces and working with the various groups within Fairfield to enhance the conservation mission.. We have met regularly with Mr. Bishop since that time for relevant matters on our study-trips and for advocacy topics.



ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHTS

Ash Creek Conservation Association

Gail Robinson, PhD, President of the Ash Creek Conservation Association joined the MRWC Board meeting to discuss their mission and also a grant proposal to update the ecological master plan for the Ash Creek Estuary. The Ash Creek Conservation Association's ongoing mission of advocating for the protection and restoration of the Ash Creek tidal estuary. We also share in the other goals of the ACCA to:

- Educate the public and Bridgeport/Fairfield residents of the significance of tidal estuaries such as Ash Creek in their crucial role as delicate environments for the maintenance of bird, fish, and plant life.
- Educate about the potential source of pollutants whenever there is human activity in the area. For example, marinas and boat usage increase toxics, affect nutrients, and have an impact on the ecology of the Creek.
- Advocate for restoration and protection of Ash Creek tidal estuary from ill-planned encroachments and development which could significantly harm the ecological balance of nature in the area.
- Work towards identification and designation of especially sensitive areas in Ash Creek estuary for special protection under the CT DEEP and EPA.
- Obtain designation of Ash Creek estuary as a wildlife sanctuary and Connecticut coast birding trail which would allow for funding from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act Program, the Wildlife division of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.
- Develop sites and a trail along Ash Creek tidal estuary for visitor observations of the variety of species of birds that visit and nest here each year.
- Encourage the use of the Creek for aesthetic enjoyment for the people who live, work, and play around it. Ash Creek tidal estuary is the heart of Bridgeport's park of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea.
- Petition for funding to achieve these goals and objectives.
- Establish a community newsletter to increase community collaboration in both Bridgeport and Fairfield areas continuous to the Creek.

Additional partnerships

Sarah Crosby, Director of Harbor Watch, and Nicole Chiravuri, of MRWC, coordinated their water monitoring efforts to document water health across a wider range of local waterbodies. Although the grant was not accepted, the collaboration efforts were productive.

Specific schools within Fairfield developed Green Teams in 2020. Members from the original team in Mill Hill shared their purpose and goals with MRWC. Our mutual support of environmental issues is a natural connection between the organizations.

Sustainable Fairfield sponsored a number of events in town. MRWC participated in Earth Day, Pollinator Pathway programs and plantings and reviewed status updates relevant to the watershed.



ENGAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Water Monitors

The Water Monitoring program continued to grow in 2021 and 2022. Multiple training sessions were offered online and in person, bringing in over thirty new monitors to the program. The new coordinator, Nicole Chiravuri, increased the number of monitoring points to accommodate these new volunteers and updated all the monitoring supplies and equipment.

Analysis of water for Ph, O2, Nitrate, Phosphate and temperature has been tracked for multiple years. Data has shown that our water locations are fairly consistent in these attributes and generally support a healthy watershed. We would expect Ph to be balanced around seven, which is the mode level and between six and eight. Notes associated with wide variances (the zero readings) were due to equipment issues. Most nitrate data shows the nitrate level around 1.0. There are a few anomalies in this number. Most are due to user interpretation and slight elevations may be due to yard runoff with local contaminants following large storms.

To participate in water monitoring, please contact Nicole at watermonitoring@mrwc-fairfield.org.

Community Clean Up

Regular open space and beach clean-ups took place throughout the years. In 2021, increased use of disposable masks, gloves and individual food portioning resulted in higher waste and litter of these items. Three PPE Clean ups sponsored by FairPLan, LEAF, Action Waste, Sustainable Fairfield Students, and Sustainable Youth CT were held on Black Rock Turnpike, Jennings and Penfield Beaches. Joined by the Sacred Heart University Environmental Club, over 134 participants collected 142 masks, 90 gloves, 188 wipes, 1185 other plastics, and over 7100 pieces of total litter. The most common item collected was cigarette butts. This clean up not only resulted in a cleaner Fairfield but also was a welcomed opportunity for people to gather outside. Additional clean ups were held prior to the use of the Open Spaces for the River-Lab Programs.

Native Plantings

Encouraged by the Pollinator Pathway movement, MRWC joined with the Fairfield Board of Realtors and resident Charles Stubbins to plant natives in the Rockland Pocket Park. This open space has been sponsored by MRWC and FBOR and is the location of a regular fall and spring clean up. In 2022, over 50 native plants were added to the location. Support by a neighbor for water access, got the plants rooted in the Spring. Unfortunately, the record breaking dry spell in the summer of 2022 took a toll on a number of the plantings.

In a special ceremony in 2022 of family, friends and community members, a tree was planted in honor of Jocelyn Shaw's dedication to the community in founding the River Lab Program. As an honoraria of Joy's "postponed" 90 birthday celebration, a tree was planted in the Mill Hollow area, where students visit as a part of the River-Lab Biodiversity unit.




COMMUNITY

A SAMPLING OF EVENTS



CONTRIBUTORS 2021



We express heartfelt thanks to all who generously supported our work in 2021. Every contribution helps us educate our community about the value of watersheds, advocate for their continued protection, and engage all people in the fight to protect our environment.

\$10-\$49

Frances Baldwin
Aleksandra Bembnista
The Big Lemon Lemonade Stand
Linda Chandler
Kiersten Chou
Camy Deck
Anne Defrancesco
Erika Garvey
Brigitte Gray
Jennifer Holfelder
Sara Jannott
Roger Lasky
Cheryl Merole
Amanda Morgan
Linda Murphy
Sandra Naughton
Mindy Powliszen
Jo Ann Raguseo
Caitlin Swann
Elizabeth Zezima

\$50-\$99

Kathryn Brown
Frank DiZoglio
Thomas Flynn
Cecilia Fung
Margaret Gray
Warren & Carole Heller
Jack Kadden
Christian Kane
Erin Kleinman
Marc Lemcke
Christine Magliocco
Jeanette McMahon
Magda Nyiri
Kevin Starke
S. Zeisler
Yvonne Zeisler

\$100-\$199

Samantha Alechman
Laura & Joseph Amicucci
Anthony Audino
Elinoe Carrera
Engelberg Kristy Animal Hospital
Holly Franquet
Donna Gallo
Deb & Josh Garskof
Barbara Harman
Douglas Hoffman
Alyssa Israel
Amy Jennings
Brian Kelahan
Lori Mashizume & Douglas Fried
Ellen Moore
William Nash
Christina Rescsanski
Elizabeth Sweeney
Mike Widmer

\$200-\$499

Steve Baker
Janet Banks-Mott
Brian Fagan
Fairfield Garden Club
Mary Hogue & Guy Gleysteen
William Kenny Associates
Kate and Steve O'Mahony
Sasqua Garden Club
Lynn Shavinsky

\$500-\$999

Burr PTA
Jon & Missy Dilley
Margaret Hogan
Holland Hill PTA
Reini & Michael Knorr
Mill Hill PTA
McKinley PTA
David and Elizabeth McKinnis
Michael Money
Margaret Ruscito Head
Stratfield PTA

\$1,000-\$4,999

Carol and George Barrios
Dwight PTA
Greater Fairfield Board of Realtors
Marta Jo Lawrence
Irwin and Dorothy Nessel Foundation
Nicole and Paul Nuttall
Carrie and Steve Rullo
Jocelyn T. Shaw

\$5,000 +

Estate of Pam Ritter
Town of Fairfield

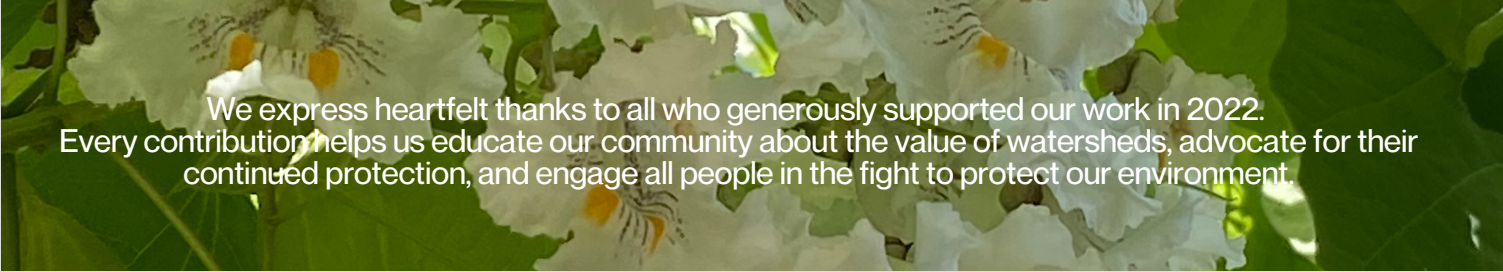
Gifts In Memory Of

Tricia Money
by Michael Money

Pam Ritter
by Jocelyn T. Shaw

Harry L. Shaw
by Jocelyn T. Shaw

CONTRIBUTORS 2022



We express heartfelt thanks to all who generously supported our work in 2022. Every contribution helps us educate our community about the value of watersheds, advocate for their continued protection, and engage all people in the fight to protect our environment.

\$10-\$49

John Ijams
Joyce Gentilozzi
Alison Varcoe

\$50-\$99

B StubblyButts
Mary Beth Colleran
Maria & Vincent DiPierro
Burke Ellingson
Abigail Hanson
Jennifer & Blake Titrud
Brian Vahey
Yvonne Zeisler

\$100-\$199

Steven Baker
Donna Gallo
Guy Gleysteen
Amy Jennings
Christian Kane
Maura Kane
Brian Kelahan
Osborn Hill PTA
Subhashree Sunder
Elizabeth Sweeney
Robert Thomas
Roger van Voorhees

\$200-\$499

Janet Banks-Mott
Kiersten Chou
Fairfield Garden Club
Reini Knorr
Lynn Shavinsky
Mike Widmer

\$500-\$999

Marianne Antezzo
Jon & Missy Dilley
Fairfield Woods MS PTA
Jet Blue
Margaret Hogan
Mill Hill PTA
McKinley PTA
David and Elizabeth McKinnis
Nicole Nuttall
Melinda Powlishen
Riverfield PTA
Roger Ludlowe MS PTA
Sasqua Garden Club
Stratfield PTA
Tomlinson MS PTA

\$1,000-\$4,999

Carol and George Barrios
Jon Dilley
Brian Fagan
Ruth Krauss Foundation
David Godfrey
Marta Jo Lawrence
Irwin & Dorothy Nessel Foundation
Jocelyn T. Shaw

Gifts In Memory Of

Vincent J. Antezzo

Gifts In Honor Of

Pam Ritter
by Jocelyn T. Shaw

Harry L. Shaw
by Jocelyn T. Shaw

VOLUNTEERS 2021 / 2022

Educators

Samantha Anderson
Steve Baker
Linda Barnett
Carol Barrios
Dabney Bowen
Charlene Brauns-Shindler
Nicole Chiravuri
Bryan deDufour
Missy Dilley
Nancy Fuller
Heidi Gassel
Alison Genovese
Pam Hoden
Nick Imbrogno
Sara Jannott
Juli Karacsonyi
Joanne Lacrete
Kerri Lloyd
David McKinnis
Sarah Neafsey
Nicole Nuttall
Maggie Nyiri
Kate O'Mahony
Rena Paris
Christina Rescsanski
Kate Scimeca
Nikki Vinoski
Malini Vyas

Community Volunteers

Charlie Adams
Ian Anderson
Alec Anderson
Rachel Anderson
Jill Amari
Steve Baker
Olivia Beaudoin
Jenine Beck
Tim Bishop
Ashley Bongiovani
Kathryn Bradford
Charlene Brauns-Shindler
Aniyah Brunson
Genevieve Canter
Carolina Capelo
Amy Carlson

Community Volunteers

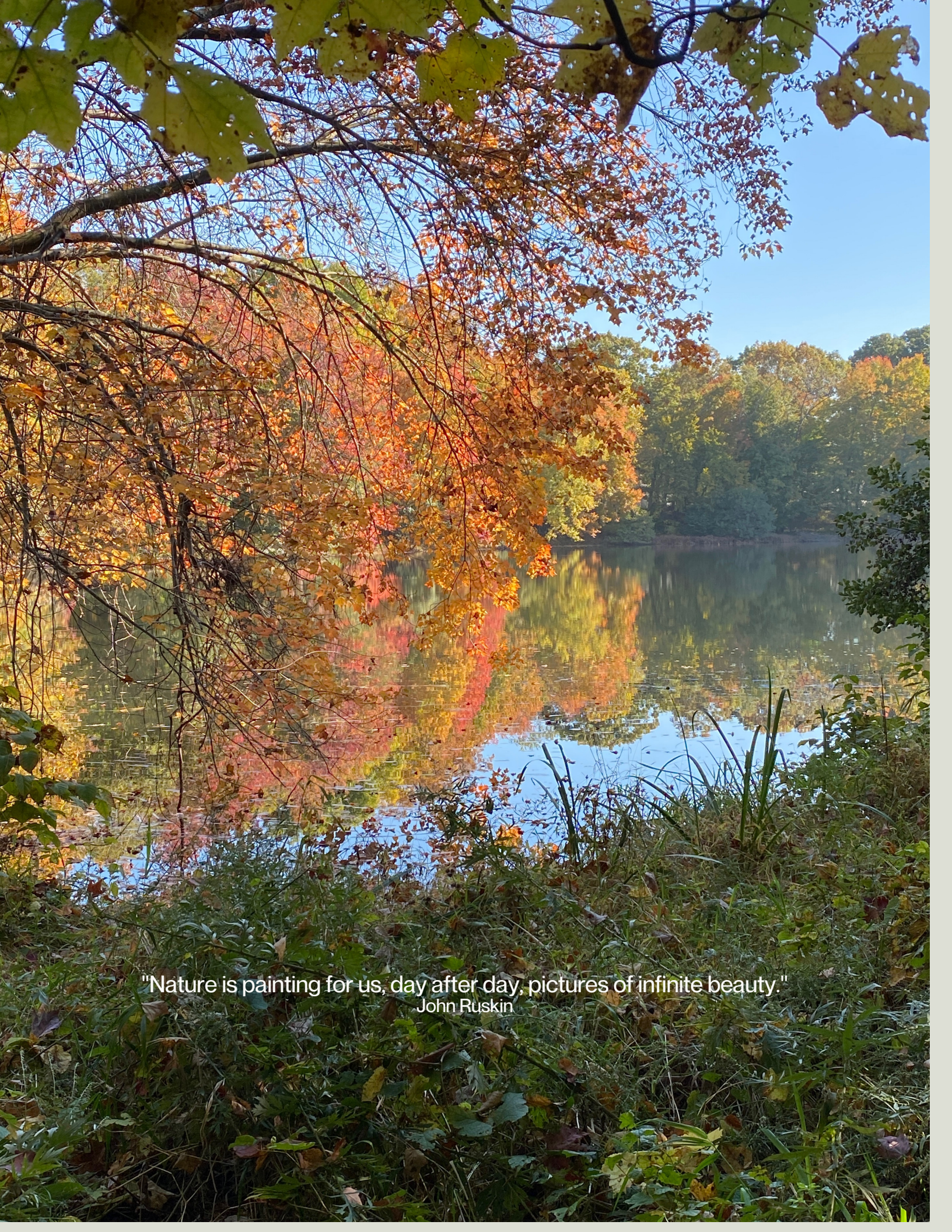
Sophia Ceconi
Nicole Chiravuri
Maya Chiravuri
Milan Chiravuri
Kiersten Chou
Veronica Ciccarone
Noelle Ciril
AC Cochran
Shari Cohen
Claire Cohenuram
Mike Cohenuram
Wendy Cohenuram
Kate Compton
Congregation B'nai
Israel Bridgeport -8
Alyssa Coppola
Rachel Cross
Kelly Crusio
Helene Daly
Grace Davidson
Riley Davidson
Amy Dean
Finley Dean
Elizabeth DeCrisanti
Cindi DeNatale
Jon Dillely
Maria DiPierro
Meredith Donahue
Robbie Donahue
Nancy Donne
Sara Drexel
The Eco Dude
Mary Dunleavy
Mat Edelson
Kelsey Finnegan
Aidan Fisher
Miriam Frank
Sam Frank
Ben Gassell
Giovanna Gok
Maureen Greco
Cathy Grosshart
Daniel Guernsey
Owen Guernsey
Bria Hemphill
Mary Hogue

Community Volunteers

Joy Hood
Rabab Hussain
Tony Hwang
Sara Jannott
Michelle Johnson
Ellen Kalendra
Susan Kanes
Sophia Keeley
Boris Keppler
Laura King
Reini Knorr
Lisa Kroeber
Jonah Kwon
Nancy Kwon
Joanne Lacrete
Jennifer Leeper
Coleen Lerman
Bridget Lesizza
Renee Levesque
Pete Lines
Calvin Lloyd
Kerri Loyd
Andrew Lubarsky
Ted Luchsinger
Katie Lynch
Grace Magilligan
Dustin Mandre
Ethan Mangano
Hope Marino
Sarah Marshall
Kelly Matheis
Ryann McCabe
Gillian McGarvey
Michele Meehan
Jason Meersman
Anastasia Mello
Wendy Minitier-Griffin
Kim Monahan
Jen Montanari
Jen Montero
Ellie Morison
Eric Munoz
Brendan Murphy
Linda Murphy
Sophia Nakos
Sarah Neasey

Community Volunteers

Renee Newton
Nicole Nuttall
Paul Nuttall
Tyler Nuttall
Jamie Palmentiero
Kyra Persson
Paul Piorek
Marybeth Pirrie
Mary-Beth Price
Mindy Powlishen
Dani Profita
Andrea Quiles
Wendy Rappel
Jen Richard
Carrie Rullo
Natalie Rullo
Helene Salerno
Andrew Shavinsky
John Shavinsky
Lynn Shavinsky
Domenick Sinise
Isabelle Sinise
Alex Staikos
Ellie Stepanskiy
Faith Sommerfield
Subha Sunder
Owen Swenson
Charlotte Talbot
Michael Terranova
Maggie Tolkach
Melanie Verrengia
Brendan Vinoski
Kaitlyn Walsh
Rebecca Walsh
Andrea Ward
Josh Weinstein
Mitchell Weinstein
Mike Widmer
Dylan Wit
Anna Woelk
Heather Woelk
Alexander Wojtkowiak
Jim Wood
Amy Yann
Karen Young
Eric Young
Dylan Zmarzlak



"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty."
John Ruskin



"Water is the driving force of all nature."

Leonardo da Vinci

2021 / 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President - Jon Dilley
Vice President - Carrie Rullo
Treasurer - Mindy Powlishen
Recording Secretary - Kiersten Chou

Members of the Board

Steve Baker
Mary Hogue
Reini Knorr
Nicole Nuttall (Ex Officio)
Kate O'Mahony
Christina Rescsanski
Lynn Shavinsky
Subha Sunder
Mike Widmer

Founder/Author/Illustrator

Jocelyn T. (Joy) Shaw

Marketing

Carol Barrios

Water Monitoring

Nicole Chiravuri

River-Lab

Nicole Nuttal, Advisor

PROGRAM OFFICERS

Directors

RL Estuary - Dabney Bowen
RL Erosion - Nancy Fuller
RL Ecosystem - Sara Jannott
RL Groundwater System - Sarah Neafsey

Co-Directors of Curriculum

Alison Genovese
Nikki Vinoski

Gear Manager

Heidi Gassel

Assistant Gear Manager

Samantha Anderson

Educate Coordinator

Missy Dilley

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mill River Wetland Committee, Inc
2022 and 2021, Jan-Dec



INCOME	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20
Donations			
General/Memorial	13,593.65	41,159.56	10,265.00
Annual appeal	3,102.07	9,355.00	5,825.00
Company Match	500.00	0.00	50.00
PTA donations	3,600.00	3,500.00	8,000.00
Subtotal Donations	20,795.72	54,014.56	24,140.00
River-Lab Program Income	23,995.00	9,620.00	8,260.00
Fundraising Income			
Special Events	884.00	0.00	2,335.00
Amazon Smile	145.04	143.46	167.97
Merchandise/Other	0.00	0.00	
Community Programs	653.00	0.00	
Social Media	0.00	0.00	605
Subtotal Fundraising	1,682.04	143.46	3,107.97
Grants	6,000.00	5,500.00	11,100.00
Dividends/Interest	(7,598.98)	1,969.22	5,062.16
TOTAL INCOME	44,873.78	67,308.80	51,670.13
EXPENSES			
MRWC Expenses			
Operating Expenses	3,544.67	2,767.38	4,270.79
Insurance	3,807.50	3,932.50	4,473.60
Storage	0.00	6,288.00	3,023.00
Scholarship Fund	500.00	500.00	250
Signup Genius	1,299.00	1,361.32	
Community Outreach	165.26	315.92	0
Subtotal MRWC Expenses	9,316.43	15,165.12	12,017.39
River-Lab Program Expenses	2988.69	669.15	755.99
Payroll Expenses	36,840.50	8,251.46	7,898.91
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	0.00	750.56
Rockland Park Expenses	0.00	6,735.96	
TOTAL EXPENSES	49,145.62	30,821.69	21,422.85
NET CASH FLOW	(4,271.84)	36,487.11	30,247.28
INVESTMENTS			
Vanguard Inter-Term Treasury Funds	26,957.71	44,785.15	45,834.71
Vanguard Inter-Term Treasury Funds*	40,112.48	30,098.00	30,803.35
Vanguard Short-Term Treasury Funds*	23,404.45	24,561.89	24,776.20
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	90,474.64	99,445.04	101,414.26

*These restricted investments are funds from HUD for the dam restoration.



"To put your hands in a river
is to feel the chords that bind the earth together."

Barry Lopez