

Why we love the New Hampshire Rivers Council

A story seems the best way to show our love of rivers and of the Rivers Council: It was one of those gorgeous summer days, clear and hot but not humid, when all you want to do is bask and play in the water. With our kids, Alex and Emmy, we gathered up life jackets, canoe, water, lunch and our diving masks and drove the few miles to the Merrimack River as it flows through Canterbury—a stretch known for its sandy banks and bottom, reflecting its glacial past. When we put in, we really put in—bodies straight into the river. We all donned masks, I tied the canoe's stern line to my wrist, and we set off to float down the Merrimack, to really see the river from beneath the surface. What we saw was magical.

As we floated, we found ourselves swimming over ripples and dunes of sand. We swept past grassy patches of green river weed, mussel beds, gravel spawning grounds. When we surfaced, we watched osprey, herons, kingfishers, and other people—all enjoying the river. As the current carried us down, we launched over great chasms and cliffs of sand, the bottom falling away, feeling what it must be like to launch a hang-glider off a sheer cliff. The water was crystal clear, cool, refreshing, perfect. It was a day made in heaven—but lived right here, in New Hampshire, in the river.

This kind of experience summarizes why we both have worked hard for the Rivers Council over the years, and why we still support it. Clean, clear, nourishing, flowing water in our rivers and our lives—this is what we dream of and why the New Hampshire Rivers Council is so important.

—*Kelly Short and Steve Blackmer*
New Hampshire Rivers Council members



Photo: Paul Lepageur



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
RIVERS COUNCIL**
Rivers Make New Hampshire!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
RIVERS COUNCIL**
Rivers Make New Hampshire!

Connect with New Hampshire's rivers at www.NHRivers.org
Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

54-207 Portsmouth Street | Concord, NH 03303
603.228.6472



2012 Annual Report

The New Hampshire Rivers Council is committed to the conservation and ecologically sound management of New Hampshire's rivers, watersheds and related natural resources.

The New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide conservation organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire rivers. Since its incorporation as a nonprofit organization in 1993, the Rivers Council has worked to inform citizens about the value of the state's rivers, designate rivers in the state's protection program, and advocate for strong public policies and wise management of New Hampshire river resources.

The Rivers Council grew out of the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign, a group of concerned citizens and conservation organizations that united in 1985 to create a voice for protection of New Hampshire rivers. The Campaign helped establish the state's Rivers Management and Protection Program in 1989. The Campaign also helped shepherd river nominations into the new state protection program and helped establish river corridor protections under the state's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. In 1992, the participants in the campaign recognized the need for a permanent, ongoing voice for river protection in the state, and formed the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

Board of Directors 2013

Officers

Michele L. Tremblay
Boscawen
President

Matt Monahan
Goffstown
Vice-president

Danna Truslow
Rye
Treasurer

Dave Magnon
Errol
Secretary

Retired officers in 2012

David Borden, Vice-president and Stephen C. Robinson, Treasurer

Directors

Rachel Brown
Manchester

Ellen Bryan
Concord

Steven Lowe
Canterbury

Rachel Ruppel
Sutton

Frank Tupper
Canterbury

Honorary Directors

Stephen Blackmer
Camilla Lockwood
Patricia Schlesinger
Kelly Short

Staff

Beth Flagler
Program Administrator

Jean Eno
Winnicut River Watershed Coalition

Thank you, businesses, foundations, grants, and partners

Amoskeag Fishways
Anheuser-Busch
Town of Bedford
Belknap County Sportsmen's Association
Café Indigo
Checkmate Workforce Management Solutions
Comprehensive Environmental Inc.
Concord Food Coop
Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Delta Dental
First Colebrook Bank
FB Environmental
Fuller Foundation
Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Green Concord
Green Mountain Conservation Group
Headwaters Hydrology
Hermanos Cocina Mexicana
Henry's Market
McIninch Foundation

City of Manchester
Manchester Flyfishing Association
Merrimack County Savings Bank
Mount Washington Valley Paddlers
naturesource communications
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Coastal Program
NH Department of Environmental Services
NH Fish and Game Department
Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
River Network
Rymes Propane and Oils
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation
Save our Groundwater
Stonyfield Farm
Trout Unlimited, Merrimack River Valley Chapter
Truslow Resource Consulting
Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Thank you, hardworking volunteers



Thank you, donors, for your continued support

Our individual and business members, foundations, and other grant funders are the lifeblood of the organization. The New Hampshire Rivers Council board of directors and staff work hard each and every day to find support and partners to assure that your generous donations are maximized and are effective in individual communities and throughout the state. Thank you for your continued support.

William Arcieri	Claire Gleeson	Robin and Robert Najar
Constance Aubin-Adams	Denise Hart	Robert Naylor
Marian Baker	Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Helen Hazen	Anne Nordstrom
Thomas and Trish Ballestero	Bruce Healey	Mike Normandin
Althea Barton and Brent Todd	Erling Heistad	Daniel Paradis
Heidi Batchelder	Elizabeth and Michael Herrmann	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson
Galen Beale	Robert Walsh and Patricia Burke Hickey	Mary Byrd Platt
Steven Bengtson	Debby Hinman	Dennis Poirier and Lynn Teeny
Peter Bergh and Janet Prince	Donald and Mary-Lou Hinman	Brent and Wendy Powell
Bill Bilodeau	P. Darcy Horgan	Tom Quarles
Laura Bonk and Philip Trowbridge	Tom Howe and Sarah Thorne	Mr. Joseph F. Quinn
David and Nancy Borden	Jennifer Jacobs and Lee Friess	Darin Radatz
Matthew Boyer	Elizabeth and Harold Janeway	James Raymond
Rachel Brown	Marilyn Johnson	David and Deborah Reilly
Ellen Heronemus Bryan	Megan Burke Kidder	Peter H. Richardson
John and Irene Bush	Kenneth D. and Sarah Kimball	Jonathan and Phyllis Ring
Alfred Cann	Paul Kotila	Stephen Robinson
George Chase	Drew Paul and Carol Garcia Landry	Nancy and Tom Roy
Mrs. Kendall Chase	Stephen C. Landry	George Ruppel and Michelle Urban
Rick and Kerry Chormann	Payson and Louise Langley	Rachel Ruppel
Paula Churchill	John Lanier	Gordon and Barbara Russell
Mark Ciborowski	Mimi Larsen Becker Ph. D	Tracie Sales
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Cohen	John Lawrence and Elaine Bello	Patricia Schlesinger
Jacquie Colburn	Colin Lawson	Robert F. Schur Jr.
Oliver Coolidge	Mary Lee	Edwin and Dianne Shivell
John W. Corrigan	Diane Lehman	Kelly Short and Steve Blackmer
Stephen and Janice D'Alessio	Susan Lichty	Judith and Carl Spang
Susan Damour	Robert and Helen Lindstrom	Mike and Patricia Speltz
David Deen	Ms. Ingeborg Lock	Larry and Eleanor Spencer
Peter Degnan and Annette Hanson	Camilla C. Lockwood	Max Stamp
Quentin Deming	Emily Lord	Kenneth and Ilene Stern
Margaret Dexter-Yonchak	Steven Lowe	William Stratton
Gene and Bernard Doherty	Dick and Ann Ludders	Cyrus and Barbara Sweet
Peter Donahue	James MacCartney	Dijit Taylor
Kleta Sue and Craig Dudley	John and Donna Magee	Ruth G. Timchak
Anna Edwardson	Carol and Gordon Marshall	Michele L. Tremblay
Paul Egbert	Charles F. Martin	Anne G. Truslow
Elizabeth and Louis B. Ely	Rick Mauer	Danna Truslow
Anne and David Emerson	Barbara Maurer	Erica Walker
Peter Eppig	George May	Margaret Watkins
Liz Evans	Barbara McMillan	Gwen Whitbeck
Eric Fiegenbaum	Bonnie and Loren Meeker	Eric Williams
Margaret and William Fischang	Anne H. Melvin	Robert Wofchuck
Beth Flagler	Eileen and Donald Miller	Janis Woods
Kathleen Flagler	Raymond Miner	Robert Wyatt
Charles Forrence Jr.	Howard Moffett	Thomas Yennerell
Jamie Fosburgh	Randolph Monti	

The Rivers Council at work for your rivers

The New Hampshire Rivers Council continues to be a strong advocate for the state's rivers and water resources by informing legislators through representation on the state's Rivers Management Advisory and Shoreland Advisory Committees. The New Hampshire Rivers Council worked with local groups to designate four new rivers in the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act to preserve instream river resources.

- Oyster River
- Exeter-Squamscott River
- Mascoma River
- Lamprey Watershed

River Runners

The New Hampshire Rivers Council offered six River Runners Invasive Aquatic Plants Identification and Monitoring Workshops throughout the state to train volunteers in detecting and preventing the spread of Didymo, also known as "Rock Snot", and other invasive species. The Rivers Council conducted six workshops with regionally specific species in

- Franklin,
- Lancaster,
- Lebanon,
- Plymouth,
- Nashua, and
- Ossipee.



Winnicut River Watershed Coalition

The Coalition is an initiative of the New Hampshire Rivers Council, was formed in 2009 and initially funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The nine-mile Winnicut River and forty-two miles of streams that feed it run through the communities of North Hampton, Stratham, and Greenland. This beautiful natural resource flows directly into Great Bay.

Federally mandated testing in 2008 identified impairments in the Winnicut River. Chemicals and bacteria have polluted some sections and impervious surfaces are increasing stormwater runoff. With the help of volunteers, the WRWC works with the three communities in the watershed to monitor river water quality, promote techniques to reduce stormwater, and remove barriers to natural water flow and migratory fish. The data collected are used to determine the health of the Winnicut River and its tributaries for the Winnicut watershed community's residents, neighbors downstream, wildlife, recreational pursuits, property values, and Great Bay.



A big partnership in the big city

McQuesten Brook Watershed Restoration

The Rivers Council is working the NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game Department, City of Manchester, Town of Bedford, and other partners to protect and improve the McQuesten Brook Watershed. In the heart of a bustling urban area, McQuesten Brook supports one of the state's highest quality populations of self-sustaining wild brook trout as well as a variety of other wildlife.

The New Hampshire Rivers Council spawned the idea for a McQuesten Brook watershed management plan after it worked with volunteers from the Anheuser Busch plant, who cleaned up trash from the pond and brook.

This unique area and valuable resource is partially located in Bedford and Manchester's west side, between Second and South Main Streets. The watershed provides sensitive wildlife habitat that is threatened by stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff can include chemicals, sediment, nutrients, and toxins that flow into McQuesten Brook after rainfall, snow melt, or from yard sprinklers, car washing and other activities where water flows off streets, driveways, and lawns. Pollutants in this runoff have harmful effects on the surface waters and the habitat for the rare and special brook trout that live in McQuesten Brook.

This project is made possible through grants from the NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game Department, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, and your generous membership dues.



Working with partners to empower citizens

The Rivers Council worked with its partners to provide training and opportunities that empower citizens in their communities and throughout the Granite State with these important events:

- Shoreland Advisory Committee policy focus groups hosted by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, and Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee as well as at the Local Advisory Committee Workshop.
- Plan review and commenting workshop in the seacoast with partners Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
- River Runners training workshops hosted by Green Mountain Conservation Group and Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee
- Soak up the Rain partnership with the NH Department of Environmental Services
- Sponsoring partner for the "Green Eggs and New HAMpshire" legislative breakfast

Supporting our citizen and partner efforts

The Rivers Council provides fiscal management or support to groups throughout the state:

- Save Our Groundwater (fiscal agent services)
- Governor's Water Sustainability Commission (fiscal agent services)
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (through its partnership agreement)
- Local River Management Advisory Committee workshop (co-hosting)

Your support is maximized and made meaningful

