Why are we members of the New Hampshire Rivers Council?

“Karen and I have been members for many years because we like to support local conservation in action. The New Hampshire Rivers Council is a great example of that ethic at work in our communities,” said Matt Cahillane. “We also like to invest our donations strategically and the Rivers Council is one of the few organizations doing so much in so many areas we care about—coordinating citizen action, ensuring rules are established, studying the value of rivers and lakes, and stewardship of the watersheds that support all of us and future generations.”

Matt helps out with deploying the rock baskets as part of a local river monitoring program. As a public health professional, he is interested in protecting water quality. As he swam in the Merrimack River more often, he started to wonder when were the best and the worst times to take a plunge.

“One of our friends told us about Michele Tremblay’s work for the rivers and gave me her guideline, ‘When it rains, its poor,’ and showed me how to find real-time bacterial levels in the river.”

Karen Kelly, having grown up on the Ohio River—water skiing, swimming, boating, and camping every weekend—is an avid swimmer of lakes, rivers and ponds all around central New Hampshire. She once took a cold water challenge with a group of women friends to swim every day in September. She made it through that chilly adventure—sans a wetsuit—and then swam once a week into the end of October, stopping only when she couldn’t feel her feet anymore.

“The New Hampshire Rivers Council is a great blend of projects for conservation, advocacy, education, science and history, said Karen, “We’re very glad to support it.”

—Matt Cahillane and Karen Kelly, New Hampshire Rivers Council members
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 worked with local groups to 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.

To learn more about the Council’s work and how you can get involved, please visit the Council at NHRivers.org, call 603.228.6472, or email at info@NHRivers.org.

The New Hampshire Rivers Council is a 1% for the Planet nonprofit.

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### Honorary Directors

- Steven Blackmer
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- Amoskeag Fishways;
- Anheuser-Busch, Merrimack;
- Discover Wild NH Day;
- Ducks Unlimited;
- Manchester Flyfishing Association;
- City of Manchester;
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services;
- New Hampshire Lives on Water;
- River Network;
- Save Our Groundwater;
- Towns of Bedford, Greenland, New Hampton, and Stratham;
- Trout Unlimited; and
- and all of our River Runners™ and Wild & Scenic® Film Festival partners and sponsors. (see above).


We are indebted to our 2015 Wild & Scenic® Film Festival generous local sponsors including, VHB, Inc.; Monadnock Paper Mill; Conservation Law Foundation; Robert A. Couch, Woodworker; Above All Collision Center; Bank of New Hampshire; Gomez and Sullivan Engineers; BCM Environmental & Land Law; Granite State Naturals; CEI, Inc.; League of Conservation Voters; Pemi River Council; naturesource communications; Stonyfield Organic; Truslow Resource Consulting, LLC; Saco Bound; Foothills Physical Therapy; Gibson’s Bookstore; Merrimack County Savings Bank; Tall Timber Lodge; The Works Bakery Café; and a generous anonymous sponsor. Be sure to save the date, March 31, 2017, and join us for our seventh annual film festival.

To learn more, please visit http://nhrivers.org/film-festival.

The Council builds partnerships with many citizen and nonprofit organizations. It also provides fiscal management or support to groups throughout the state:

- Amoskeag Fishways;
- Anheuser-Busch, Merrimack;
- Discover Wild NH Day;
- Ducks Unlimited;
- Manchester Flyfishing Association;
- City of Manchester;
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services;
- New Hampshire Lives on Water;
- River Network;
- Save Our Groundwater;
- Towns of Bedford, Greenland, New Hampton, and Stratham;
- Trout Unlimited; and
- and all of our River Runners™ and Wild & Scenic® Film Festival partners and sponsors. (see above).
Thank you, generous members and donors

Our members and donors are the lifeblood of the organization. The New Hampshire Rivers Council board of directors and staff work hard each and every day to secure financial support and to work with 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.

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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 involvement in and representation on many key groups.

- Environmental Policy Roundtable
- Land Resources Management Board Work Group
- Legislative Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
- New Hampshire Lives on Water Steering Committee
- Public Water Access Advisory Board
- Rivers Management Advisory Committee
- Shoreland Advisory Committee
- Stream and Wetlands Rules Work Groups
- Water Council
- Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee

River Runners™

With generous support from the NH Department of Environmental Services and gifts from members like you, the New Hampshire Rivers Council offered seven Invasive Aquatic Plants Identification and Monitoring Workshops throughout the state to train volunteers. The workshops were tailored with regionally specific species training sessions and local hosts.

- Belknap County Conservation District and Laconia Conservation Commission
- Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee
- Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee,
- Pillsbury Lake Association,
- Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee,
- Wantastiquet Local River Subcommittee, and
- Winnicut River Watershed Coalition.

To learn more, visit http://nhrivers.org/river-runners.

Big Plans for the Winnicut

The Winnicut River Watershed Coalition, an initiative of the New Hampshire Rivers Council, was formed in 2009. The nine-mile Winnicut River and forty-two miles of streams that feed it run through the communities of North Hampton, Stratham, and Greenland, and then into Great Bay. Working with volunteers, the three communities in the watershed monitor river water quality. This work recognized with an award from the Aquarian Water Company. The Council’s Watershed Steward™ Program was piloted with local residents to help them learn about home and yard management to protect water quality. The homeowners were certified as Watershed Stewards and presented with yard signs. The Council was awarded funding from the New Hampshire Coastal Program and Watershed Assistance grants to begin a community watershed management and restoration planning process. The approved plan will qualify the Council to apply for funding to implement actions from the plan such as stormwater treatment and barrier removal. To learn more and get involved, visit http://nhrivers.org/winnicut.
The Council continues its work with the NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game Department, City of Manchester, Town of Bedford, Trout Unlimited Merrimack Valley Chapter, Ducks Unlimited, Manchester Flyfishing Association, Anheuser-Busch, and other partners to protect and improve the McQuesten Brook watershed. In the heart of a bustling urban area in Manchester and Bedford, McQuesten Brook supports one of the state’s highest quality populations of naturally reproducing wild brook trout as well as a variety of other wildlife.

The watershed provides sensitive wildlife habitat that is threatened by stormwater runoff. Runoff can include chemicals, sediment, nutrients, and toxins that discharge into McQuesten Brook after rainfall, snow melt, or from yard sprinklers, car washing and other activities where water flows off streets, driveways, and lawns.

The New Hampshire Rivers Council spawned the idea for a McQuesten Brook watershed restoration and management plan after it worked with volunteers from the Anheuser Busch Merrimack plant. During one of the clean-up events, several otherwise healthy, native Eastern Brook Trout were discovered dead. They suffocated when they were stranded by debris. In 2014, the Council continued its work with partners to implement the restoration and management plan. Working with Inter-Flue, Inc. and the City of Manchester, modeling and plans were developed to remove a series of dams in McQuesten Brook. In Bedford, work was completed to model and develop permits to remove one culvert by discontinuing a short road, and to upgrade another culvert to a wider bridge. Construction is slated for early 2016 to restore the brook’s flow and allow the native brook trout to move with ease and safety in cooler water with more oxygen in it.

Stormwater remediation and management plans are beginning with several area commercial landowners. The Council plans to work with area homeowners through its Watershed Steward™ Program. This project is made possible through Watershed Assistance and Aquatic Resource Mitigation Programs grants from the NH Department of Environmental Services, and your generous membership dues. To learn more, visit http://nhrivers.org/mcquesten-brook.

A thirty-six inch culvert causes McQuesten Brook flow to be backed up just upstream of Eastman Avenue in Bedford. This culvert will be replaced with a bridge that more appropriately spans the brook.

A free-flowing McQuesten Brook becoming a reality

Your gifts are maximized and made meaningful

The Council works hard to make your gifts really count with the majority of funds spent on programs, including events that train citizen scientists and bring together groups and individuals to effect positive change for New Hampshire’s rivers, their watersheds, and the people and other creatures that rely on them.

Thank you, generous sponsors, grantors, and partners

Your gifts are maximized and made meaningful

Why Do Rivers Do That?

At its last annual meeting, the New Hampshire Rivers Council engaged Dr. John Field, Field Geology Services, to present an interactive program, “Why Do Rivers Do That?” The program featured a presentation of river and stream case studies across the country and the globe including Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. There was a reception with plenty of time to interact with two stream simulation tables and learn hands-on how streams work.

Since then, the Rivers Council has taken the show on the road and worked with local hosts such as a partnership of conservation groups, including the Warner Conservation Commission.

Are you or your organization interested in bringing “Why Do Rivers Do That?” to you? Please contact the New Hampshire Rivers Council at 603.228.6472 or info@NHRivers.org.