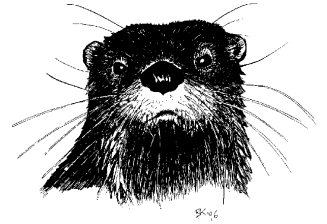




2020 Annual Report

Farmington River Watershed Association



*Protecting and preserving the natural resources of the Farmington River Watershed through research, education, stewardship, and advocacy—
for you, for all, forever.*

Moving Onward through the Challenges

FRWA's past fiscal year was one of strong achievement on behalf of the Farmington River watershed, despite the surprise arrival of an historic global catastrophe, COVID-19. FRWA was able to power through the coronavirus pandemic by relying on the generosity and kindness of each other -- our wonderful members, our dedicated staff and Board, and our long-time community partners.

The highlights from Fiscal Year 2020 are many. For starters, FRWA received a major gift from the Estate of Lily Frey of beautiful riverside land in New Hartford, as well as a \$150,000 endowment to help fund its conservation (see our plan outlined below). This generous donation by Ms. Frey will give FRWA an amazing location right on the Farmington River for hands-on watershed education and conservation activities. FRWA fought for years in court to protect Ms. Frey's charitable intent and so the final conveyance of the land in late 2019 was a tremendous moment for the organization.

Along the Banks of the River - A Gift in New Hartford

FRWA was gifted 13 acres of land along the Farmington River in New Hartford; much of it meadow habitat. Meadows have become increasingly rare in Connecticut and so we are excited to be able to provide an important habitat for wildlife—birds, pollinators, bears, deer, foxes, otters, and more have been sighted at our new property. FRWA has established a land stewardship committee and we are working with partners, including specialists at CT DEEP, to determine the best care for the property in regards to wildlife, native plants, and the health of the river.



Progress in the Pequabuck

FRWA's FY20 work helped make important on-the-ground progress in parts of the watershed with the greatest need. After several years of effort and collaboration with community stakeholders, FRWA brought a plan for the Pequabuck River Watershed to completion in September 2019. This plan will help attract federal funds for community-driven stormwater pollution projects in what has been one of the more impaired, urbanized areas of our watershed. Work in this vein continued when FRWA won a major grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conduct focused stormwater pollution education and outreach, including another major rain garden, in the City of Bristol.

Existing grants from the National Park Foundation allowed FRWA to develop concrete plans for a new community rain garden in Winsted and a pollinator garden in Barkhamsted. Sited in key public locations - public parks and community spaces - these rain gardens will serve as high-impact teaching tools about stormwater pollution issues, as well as offer wonderful quality-of-life benefits to local residents.



One of 3 downspouts at Page Park: this project helps reduce stormwater runoff while also watering a pollinator garden.

Protecting Our River for the Next Generation

The crucial work of protecting the Farmington River watershed also remained a top priority, with FRWA engaging in water quality research and vigorous advocacy on behalf of our beloved river. FRWA's water quality monitoring program continued its high performance, wrapping up a three-zone sampling season in late 2019, winning a second Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grant to sample the river's pristine headwaters, and then pushing through unprecedented pandemic disruption to resume sampling in July 2020 with the invaluable new laboratory help of the USGS New England Water Science Center – Connecticut Office.

FRWA worked hard with its community partners to finalize the establishment of the new federal Wild and Scenic committee for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. FRWA's years of Wild and Scenic advocacy have now come to fruition with over 60 miles of river federally-protected as free flowing – for generations to come.

On the advocacy front, FRWA weighed in at the state level – with a focus on phasing out PFAS “forever chemical” firefighting foam, which contaminated the Farmington River during two different Bradley Airport spills last year – and at the local level through active participation and written comments in numerous land use proceedings throughout the Farmington Valley. FRWA was also honored to be appointed to the Rivers Sub-Working Group of the Governor's Council on Climate Change, helping develop and draft recommendations on new land use protections and climate resilience measures for Connecticut's precious rivers and lakes.

Stream-Crossing Assessments

During 2019, sixty crossings were surveyed in New Hartford, and all field data was entered into the Stream Continuity Database. A total of 137 crossings within New Hartford have been surveyed since the start of the NAACC inventory in 2015. Assessments within New Hartford are nearly complete.

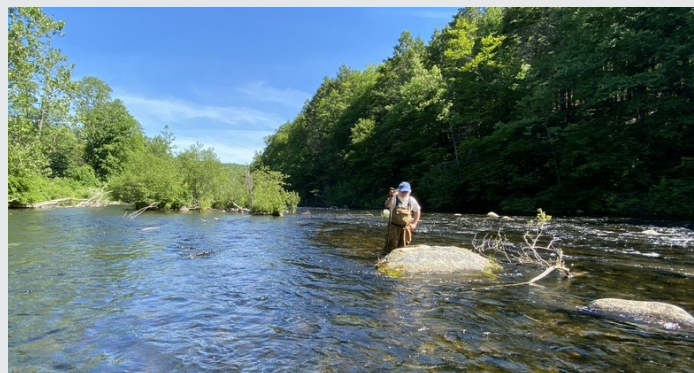
Macro-Invertebrate Sampling

With RBV (Rapid Biomonitoring for Volunteer) sampling we study the types, number, and diversity of aquatic macro-invertebrates, as indicators of water quality. Results help FRWA and the CT DEEP identify high-quality streams and monitor water quality changes in the Watershed. Data informs an online annual report by CT DEEP.

FRWA Bacteria Monitoring

Like everything else this year, our water monitoring program has been challenged by COVID-19, but like everything else we do at FRWA, we found a way to make it happen. Unable to access our lab space in the Simsbury Water Pollution Control Facility, or have samples analyzed by the MDC laboratory, we forged a new partnership with the USGS.

Thanks to the USGS, we have been able to monitor thirty-three sites for bacteria in the upper Farmington River watershed in MA and CT throughout the summer of 2020. We monitored 56 sites in 2019.



Tracking Temperature Changes in Our Rivers and Streams

In June, we retrieved our “HOBO” temperature sensors, downloaded their year of data, and then redeployed fresh HOBOs into the streams. The HOBOs remain submerged year round recording in-stream temperatures around the clock. Our data is shared with CT DEEP and uploaded annually to the SHEDS Stream Temperature Database Db.ecosheds.org/viewer. The data is available for use by scientists everywhere. 10 sites were monitored in 2019.



Monitoring in 2019

Sample sites: 70+ Samples analyzed: 574
Temp sensor sites: 10 RBV sites: 9
Water Monitoring Volunteers: 33
Stream-crossing assessments: 60

The Secret to FRWA's Success—YOU!

Less visible highlights in FY20 are also worth noting. FRWA's year-end fundraising drive in 2019 resulted in one of the largest charitable results for the organization in many years - \$36,000 raised by our amazing individual supporters, unlocking a matching gift of \$20,000. FRWA also increased its membership in FY20, led another successful annual river clean-up, and closed the fiscal year on strong financial footing, even with the many challenges to normal operations imposed by COVID-19.

This year also brought us new opportunities. The United States Geological Survey laboratory (USGS) in East Hartford was able to process our bacteria samples, our rain garden projects are slated for installation starting this fall, and we are moving our Annual Meeting and Wild & Scenic Film Festival to an online format, which will allow us to host more people than we ever could in person.

Our work is a true shared endeavor. We are fortunate to have a community of dedicated volunteers, advocates, and donors who pitch in. Our current grant support includes the Werth Family Foundation, the National Park Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Gackstatter Foundation and we would not have their support without the longtime support of people like you—our members! Thank you for your broad support of our programs; we couldn't do any of this without you.

Outreach FY19-20

Workshops and Educational Lesson attendees: 183

Event attendees: 240

Tour attendees: 60

Volunteers: 206

Virtual Educational Newsletter reads: 6436

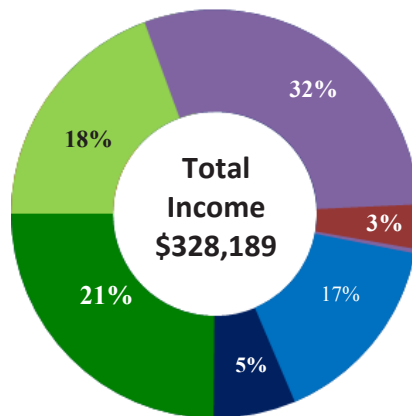


The Farmington River—Flowing Free and Clean Because of You!

Financials - July 2019 through June 2020

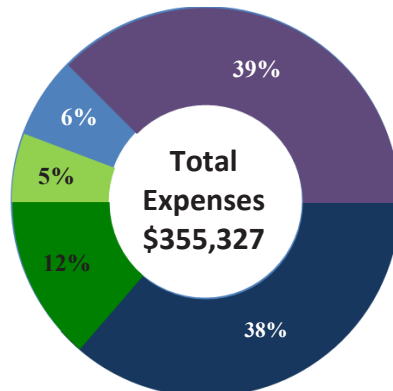
Income, FY 2019-20

- Contributions, 32%
- Endowment Transfers, 25%
- Memberships & Dues, 18%
- Foundation Grants, 17%
- Fees for Service, 5%
- Special Events & Sales, 3%



Expenses, FY 2019-2020

- Research & Projects, 40%
- Outreach & Education, 38%
- Management & General, 12%
- Advocacy, 5%
- Fundraising, 6%



Our thanks also to these funders and all who are listed on the following pages:



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



FARMINGTON RIVER
COORDINATING COMMITTEE



Rivers Alliance
of Connecticut



NATIONAL
WILD AND SCENIC
RIVERS SYSTEM



Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING



National
Park Foundation™



NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF



Thomaston
Savings Bank
Foundation, Inc.

TROUT UNLIMITED



FARMINGTON VALLEY

Werth Family
Foundation

Acknowledgments

FRWA thanks all the businesses and individuals who have donated goods and services and made financial contributions to support our programs in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

Grant Support

Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC)
Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited
Gackstatter Foundation
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Park Foundation
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Thomaston Savings Bank
Werth Family Foundation

In-Kind Support

Antonio's Restaurant
Connecticut River Conservancy
City of Bristol Parks & Recreation
City of Bristol Public Works
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
The Metropolitan District Commission
Metacomet Tours
Murphy, Laudati & Kiel PC
North Central Conservation District
Northwest Conservation District
Simsbury Water Pollution Control Facility
Waste Material Trucking Company
Winding Trails

Corporate Support

Amazon Smile
Aquarion Water Company
Connecticut Water Company
EarthShare of New England
Flatbread Company
Stop & Shop Giving Tag Program
Threshold
United Technologies

Matching Gift Companies

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Assured Guaranty
DST Systems, Inc. Matching Gifts Program
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company
Merck Foundation c/o cybergrants
Symetra Gives - Employee Donations
The Hartford
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts
The Walt Disney Foundation
United Health Group
United Technologies Corp. Matching Gift & Volunteer Grant Program
United Way of Central & NE Connecticut

Municipal Support

City of Bristol
Town of Avon
Town of Barkhamsted
Town of Bloomfield
Town of Burlington
Town of Canton
Town of Colebrook
Town of East Granby
Town of Farmington
Town of Granby
Town of Hartland
Town of New Hartford
Town of Norfolk
Town of Simsbury
Town of Winchester
Town of Windsor

Memorial Donations

Bob Barnett
John Dunning
Jack Emery
Felicia Feldman
Curtis B. Hickcox III
Nancy Humphreys
Julian Nichols
Mathew R. Parker

Friends of the Farmington River Watershed — Supporters in FY19-20

\$2,000+

Anonymous
Janet W. Benson
Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation
The Fortin Foundation Inc.
Margaret Heiner & Oliver Tostmann
Vernon K. Kriebel Foundation

\$1,000+

Kevin & Robin Baran
Lyman B. Brainerd Family Foundation
Lynne and Austin Carey
Ellen & Richard Cartun
Carolyn Cutler
Michael Feldman
Wilson Wilde Family Foundation
Alan Kreczko & Rebecca Latimer
Ted & Adlyn Loewenthal
Donald & Sally Rieger
Sorenson Pearson Family Fdn.

\$500+

Jeffrey & Annette Beach
Ned Benton & Judy Silberstein
Jay & Allison Bombara
David Donaldson & Patricia Reville
Robert Feldman & Adrienne Plotch
Sarah & Dan Hincks
Wayne & Elinor Hoffman
John Laudati
Larry Lunden
Carol Noble
Elenor Reid
Vic & Brenda Schoen
Peter & Barbara Setlow
Frank & Betty Stanley
Richard and Kristi Wartens

\$250+

Roger & Nancy Adams
Debra Barberi & James Barrett
Phil Brencher, Jr.
Andre & Maureen Brouillard
Dom & Dorie Cinti
Patricia Constantinos
Ruth Cutler
Jim & Kelly DeCesare
Martin Dodd
Jeanne Dornbos
David & Jenny Emery
Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited
Donna Frank
Brian & Charlotte Freeman
David & Brigid Frey
Kevin Gough & Paula Jones
James Keller & Candice Chirgotis
Rita & Leigh King
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Koteen
Andres & Mirje Kukk
Judith Lohman
Alan & Carole MacKenzie
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Susan Masino & Dave Galt
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Susan & Steve Meholic
Gary & Patricia Moeller
Charles & Mary Petras
Lisa Pichnarcik
Roderick Brown & Sarah Prentis-Brown
Ed Queirolo
Rotary Club (Granby/Simsbury)
David & Carrie Sinish
Joseph & Mary Jane Springman
Judith & Robert Sturgis
Jonathan & Tara Thompson
David W. Tolli
Sam & Heather Tomasetti
The Waldeck Family

Friends of the Farmington River Watershed

Our \$100+ Supporters in FY19-20

Jonathan & Karen Abels
 Tim & Birch Adams
 P.K. & Phoebe Allen
 Pradeep Bajaj & Brenda Miller
 Susan R. Barney
 Erik Barrows
 Ms. Sara Batchelder
 Rick Bauer
 Jan Beatty & Michael Park
 Alan Blasenstein & Sara Frey
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 Ron & Lorraine Daigle
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 John DiVenere
 Bill Dornbos & Elizabeth Benton
 Suzanne Ducate
 Thomas & Nancy Dyer
 Eleanor Elkins
 Donna Eriksen & Tom Finan
 Kevin Farmer & Cheryl Cundall
 Farmington Valley Trails Council
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 Bob Ferrante
 Michael & Jean Festa
 Don & Patricia Flannery
 Donald & Janet Ford
 Theresa Formaggioni
 Donna Frank
 Donald Gagliardi & Rebecca Reslock
 John Gamm
 Garden Club of Avon
 Gardeners of Simsbury
 Betsy Gardiner
 Ken & Jenn Geisler
 Rona Gollob
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 Cate Grady-Benson
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 Marguerite Boslaugh & David Guadiana
 Mr. Eric Hammerling
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 John & Sarah Meiklejohn
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 Harry Meyer
 Richard & Ruth Meyer
 Gary Miller & Linda Daniels-Miller
 Hydrie & Michael Miller
 Cynthia & David Mohrman
 Jacqueline Moore
 Douglas & Roberta Morehouse
 Mary Moulton
 Alison Murdock
 Craig & Nancy Nation
 Patrice Nelson
 Stephen & Diane Nelson
 Ruth M. Nelson
 New Hartford Land Trust
 Richard O'Donnell
 Joan Packer
 Sebastian & Karolina Panioto
 Raymond & Eve Pech
 Pequabuck River Watershed Assoc.
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 Matthew & Marla Perlstein
 Carol Pfeiffer
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Julia Parker Post
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 Mrs. Barbara Scheideler
 Elizabeth Schiro & Stephen Bayer
 Scott Schoem
 Ms. Linda Schofield
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 Robert & Wendy Young
 Frank Zacchera
 Celeste Suggs & Joel Zackin
 The Zahorodni Family
 Robert & Betty Zawacki
 Amy & Lawrence Zeiner

Special Recognition

Thanks to our 2019-2020 friends and volunteers for helping us protect water quality in the Farmington River Watershed!

Water Quality Monitoring

David & Carrie Sinish
Steve Pratt, Robyn Hall, and crew at the MDC Lab
USGS—East Hartford
Dave Cappello
Susan Olson
Heather Bourgoin
Paige Vichiola

FRWA Riparian Buffer Enhancements

Ruth Klue Miller, North Central Conservation District
Vivian Felton—USDA-NRCS
City of Bristol
Connecticut Water Company
Town of Farmington
Pequabuck River Watershed Association

FRWA Microbiology Laboratory

Heather Bourgoin
Paige Vichiola
Anthony Piazza and crew, Town of Simsbury,
Water Pollution Control Facility

Film Festival Sponsors (2019)

Farmington River Coordinating Committee
Farmington River Anglers Association
Collinsville Canoe and Kayak
Feldman, Perlstein & Greene, LLC
ShopRite of Canton
Lisa's Crown & Hammer Restaurant & Pub
Collinsville Bank
Suburban Sanitation Service
Carol Noble

River Clean-Up Assistance (2019)

Carol Noble & City of Bristol Public Works
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
Michelle Deeb & Har-Bur Kids in the Middle
Brian Freeman
Ann Jurkiewicz
Christopher Shepard—Wintonbury Land Trust
Waste Material Trucking
Heidi Zacchara & the Avon Lions Club

Hobo Stream Temperature Monitoring

Heather Bourgoin
Glen Phillips-Griggs
Paige Vichiola

Macroinvertebrates & RBV

Jan Dommel
Sue Brachwitz
Paige Vichiola
Heather Bourgoin
Stephen Banulski
Grace Epstein
Michael Robinson
Jill Miller
Nikita Khanna
Candace Lecco
Dave Lemanski
Michael Rudy
Mary Rydingsward
Amber Tomasino
Brian Tomasino
Amanda Thompson
Quinn Thompson (Child)
Ken Werner
Walter Zultowski
Douglas Morehouse
Roberta (Bobbi) Morehouse

Watershed Trips

Glen Phillips-Griggs
Judy Witzke & Winding Trails
Metacomet Tours
Phil Royer, Anne Hall, Scott Rogers, the MDC
Erik Landgraf, Barkhamsted Historical Society
Jay Kaplan, Roaring Brook Nature Center
Kenny Feder, CCSU Archeology

FRWA Board of Directors

We thank our fantastic Board for their hard work and steadfast commitment to protecting and restoring the Farmington River Watershed!

New Board Nominee

Robin Baran

Nominees for Renewed Three Year Terms

Chip Harrison John Laudati Debbie Leonard
John E. Robinson Vic Schoen

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2020 (One Year Term)

President, Michael Feldman

Vice President, John Laudati

Vice President, Carol Noble

Secretary, Beckie Sahl

Treasurer, Brian Freeman

Current FRWA Board Members

Ginny Apple	Robin Baran	Susan Barney
David Donaldson, Jr.	Michael Feldman	Brian Freeman
Chip Harrison	Tara Jo Holmberg	Ann Jurkiewicz
Andy Kuhlberg	John Laudati	Debbie Leonard
Carol Noble	Maurice Patterson	John E. Robinson
Beckie Sahl	Vic Schoen	David Sinish
Marlene Snecinski	Guy West	

FRWA Staff

Bill Dornbos – Executive Director

Aimee Petras – Education & Outreach Coordinator

Alisa Phillips-Griggs – Water Quality & Projects Coordinator

Laura Hart – Project Manager

FRWA River Stewards

Heather Bourgoin Paige Vichiola