

Spring 2015

THE Voice OF THE RIVER

& 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

*Helping Everyone Enjoy Our Beautiful River
by Cynthia Ingelfinger, Outreach Coordinator*



**IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

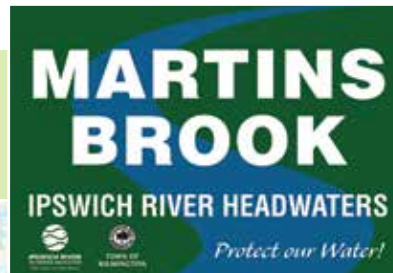
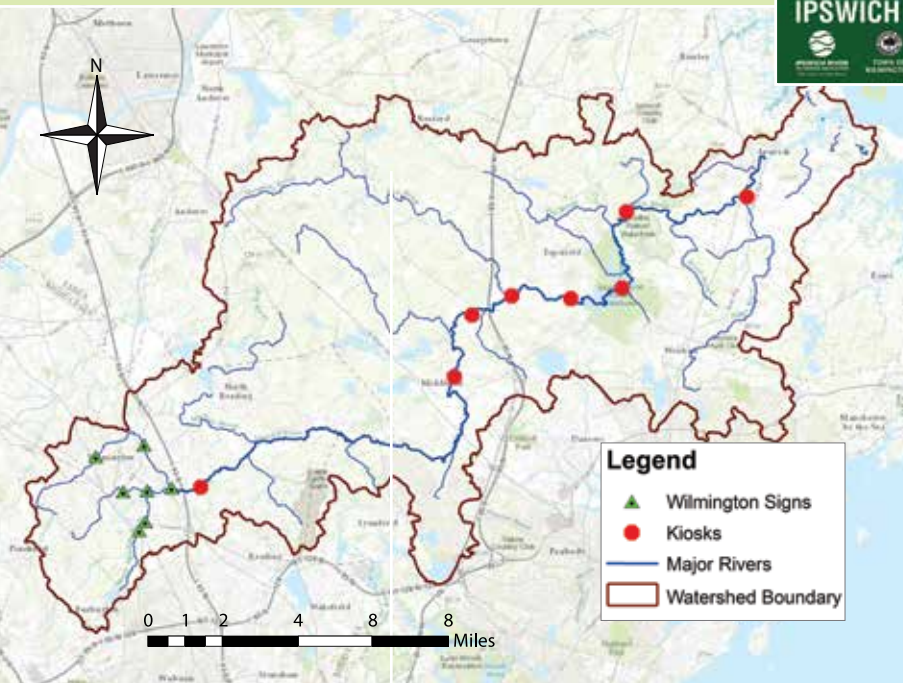
The Ipswich River is one of the region's favorite outdoor destinations. However, only a small percentage of the 350,000 people and businesses that depend on the river every day have ever paddled on it or fished its shores! In an effort to change this dynamic, we are working with our partners to implement several new outreach measures. Our goals are to improve the visitor experience, help build awareness, and engage as many new people as possible in river protection and stewardship.

Building on recent work to upgrade boat landings throughout the watershed, we are now establishing a network of educational kiosks at many public access points along the river. A 2011 community service project, led by Topsfield Eagle Scout Peter Sacco and the Middleton Stream Team, created six kiosks along the river in Middleton, Topsfield and Hamilton. Thanks to a recent grant from Essex National Heritage, we are redesigning the kiosks and are building more. A new kiosk in the Reading Town Forest will soon be installed with the help of the Town of Reading Trails Committee.



Ipswich River volunteers install the updated kiosk at Rowley Bridge Road Landing in Topsfield. This is the first of what we hope will be a network of educational kiosks at many public access points along the Ipswich River. Match names to these faces on our website blog. Photo: J. Chase

Visit the 8 interpretive kiosks along the river as well as the 7 new road stream crossing signs labeling the Ipswich River and its tributaries in Wilmington. The Martins Brook sign at right is an example of the educational signs we are installing at prominent road crossings in Wilmington.



At our Riverbend headquarters in Ipswich, we are installing two new kiosks and three interpretative signs that describe our new public access road with parking area, new trails, and improved canoe landing. Our goal is

to make Riverbend, as well as the entire river, a more popular outdoor environmental educational destination for area youth groups and the general public.

Throughout the watershed, we are installing new educational signs at prominent road crossings to promote awareness of the Ipswich River. With seven new signs in Wilmington this year, this effort will move forward with the help of local communities, placing signs at road crossings in all 14 towns along the river.

It is our belief that the more that people are aware of the river, the more they will want to take care of it.



Partnerships

For such a small organization, we have a big impact. A big reason for our success is our corps of dedicated volunteers, and members like you.

Additionally, our many organizational partners are playing an increasingly important role in our work. While the statement “leveraging partnerships to multiply impact” is becoming almost cliché in our field, we are living proof that it works... and in a big way. By working together, we can collectively achieve much more than we could individually.

We’ve long partnered with a small group of like-minded organizations. Recently, the number of partners we work actively with has increased dramatically. Our Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Partnership (PIE-Rivers), established in 2011, now formally includes 18 organizations, nearly every entity working to restore the Great Marsh and its watershed. This year we are focusing more of our efforts on partnering with municipalities—they largely have the fate of our rivers in their hands. We are fortunate to have several towns as formal partners. (See Boxford story on this page.) Our goal is to work on mutually beneficial projects joining with all 28 municipalities in our region. By offering support to the towns through our new Municipal Services Program, we are confident that river protection can be a worthy goal for all.

WAYNE

Wayne Castonguay
Executive Director



River Happenings in Boxford

The Town of Boxford is well known for its many high quality ponds and streams. Boxford has long valued the protection of these resources, and its top-notch Conservation Commission formed its own Lakes, Ponds, and Streams Committee to look after these valuable community assets. An active member of our Greenscapes coalition (Greenscapes.org), Boxford is also a founding municipal member of the Parker-Ipswich-Essex Rivers Partnership. The Department of Public Works leads the way in the region by proactively undertaking culvert and bridge replacements that meet the state’s new ecological stream crossing standards.

Along with its water resource protection success, Boxford also faces a challenge. Fish Brook, the largest stream in Boxford and one of the major tributaries to the Ipswich River, is under stress. Summertime flows appear to be in decline and the once popular trout fishery has nearly disappeared. In contrast to many other communities, where water usage is flat or even declining, local information suggests that water usage is increasing due to ongoing development and new irrigation wells. Boxford is the only town in the Ipswich River watershed that relies entirely upon private wells for their water supply. As a result, there has been minimal data available on water usage or trends.

This spring, a partnership of concerned river advocates worked together to install a streamflow monitoring gage in Fish Brook. The new gage will help us to answer this question of declining flows, and will provide the town the tools it needs to reverse this trend. By working together, we can secure a bright future for Fish Brook and all the water resources in the community.

Laila Parker and Michelle Craddock from Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration River Instream Flow Stewards (RIFLS) program install a new streamflow monitoring gage on Fish Brook in Boxford. Boxford is a model community in water resource protection.

From left to right, Laila Parker (MA DER), Sam Cleaves (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), Kristen Grubbs, Ross Povenmire (Town of Boxford), Jennifer Hughes (Town of North Andover), David Standley (Ipswich Conservation Commission), Wayne Castonguay, and George Comiskey (Parker River Clean Water Association) attend a meeting of the Pie-Rivers Municipal Engagement subcommittee at our headquarters in Ipswich. This group identifies opportunities and develops strategies to enhance communication with towns and encourage implementation of PIE-Rivers actions.





IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the River

Portrait of a Successful Year

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

794

People Engaged
in Events &
Activities



SOLUTIONS

750

Members



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

640

Times People Used
Our Canoes &
Kayaks



VOLUNTEERS

327

Culverts
Surveyed



CONNECTIVITY

213

Volunteers Help
the River



RIVER HEALTH

64

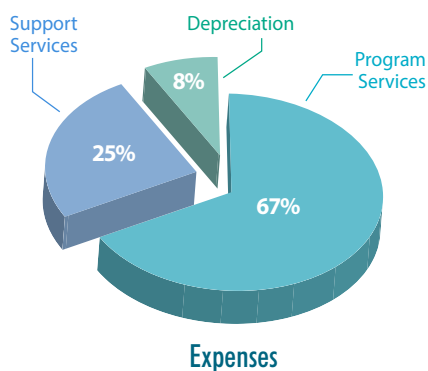
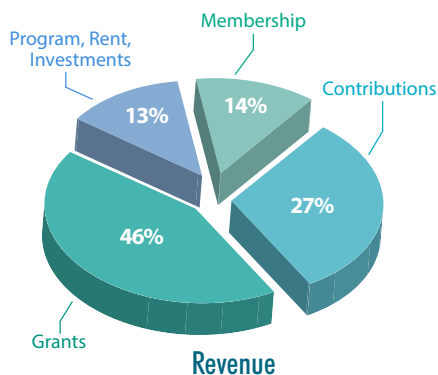
Free Our Rivers
Founding Members



LEADERSHIP

2014 Financial Summary

Thanks to the generosity of our members and individual donors, who provided over 40% of our operating revenue, Ipswich River Watershed Association ended fiscal year 2014 in a strong position. A strong Annual Fund and membership growth, combined with careful management of expenses, resulted in a positive bottom line for the year. A copy of the complete audited financial statement is available at the Riverbend office in Ipswich.



Revenue	TOTAL
Member Dues	61,195
Contributions*	114,726
Grants	194,695
Programs, Rent, Investments	57,216
Total Revenue	427,832

Expenses	
Program Services	275,211
Support Services	100,356
Depreciation	33,797
Total Expenses	409,364

*Does not include donated land, goods and services

Change in Net Assets 18,468

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	546,183
Property and Equipment	1,561,929
Total Assets	2,108,112

Liabilities and New Assets

Liabilities	15,336
Net Assets	2,092,776

The Ipswich River Watershed Association is the voice of the Ipswich River. Together, we work to ensure there is enough clean water for the 350,000 people and businesses that get their water from the river while protecting nature and providing places for people to connect to the outdoors in 18 cities and towns on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

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Clean and Plentiful Water Yields Dividends.

It sustains life. It is the lifeblood of our communities. It is critical to our economy. 350,000 of us drink from the river every day.

Visit www.ipswichriver.org to learn how to protect our water.

Photo: J. LeJeune

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Each of these leadership donors provides \$1,000 or more in support through Membership, Annual Appeal or other gifts. Your leadership support makes a world of difference!

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Free Our Rivers & Streams
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The Ipswich River Legacy Fund recognizes those who provide for the Ipswich River through their will or other planned gift.

Jay Clapp
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John W. Peirce Fund
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We are honored to protect the Ipswich River in tribute to these members of the river community.

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In dedication to Ruth McGrath
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Volunteers are vital to our strength and vibrancy. You are the caretakers of the mission and the catalyst for us to grow and sustain the river for future generations.

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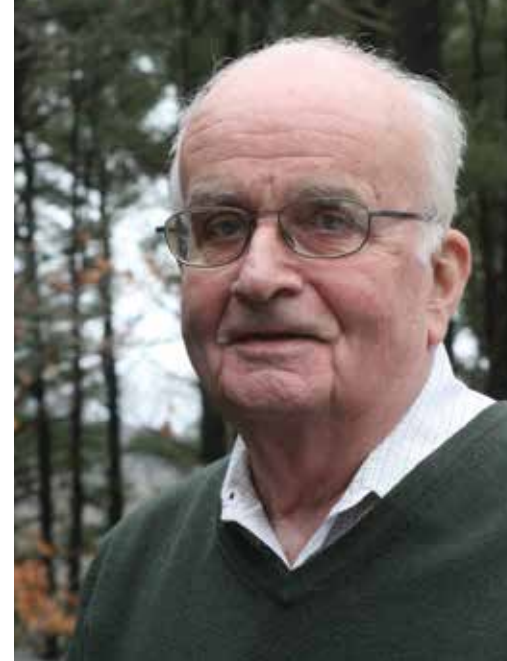
Cam Steward: A River Hero Retires

Cam Steward knows the Ipswich River in ways most of us cannot imagine. His family lived on its banks from 1926 onward. He was born beside it and his present home overlooks it. "It was always just there. We took it for granted. We didn't have special concerns or think about advocacy then. Lots of time was spent in canoes and with fishing rod in hand." Worrying about water pollution crept in years later, when "everybody dumped everything."

Cam became involved in the organization "managing the books" in 1994 and soon became Board Treasurer. It is from that very important role that he retires this spring, after 21 years of working to help the organization reach the stability it enjoys today. Kerry Mackin, our previous Executive Director, who worked with Cam for almost 20 years notes, "Cam has a great sense of the core issues. In regard to advocacy, he was the one who reminded us, 'If we don't do this, no one will.' He was a true partner who helped steer the organization through many challenges, and was always tremendously generous in every way."

As Treasurer, Cam helped guide the organization through major milestones, particularly the acquisition and renovation of our wonderful Riverbend property and simultaneous sale of a second piece of donated property. More recently, Cam has partnered with Executive Director Wayne Castonguay and a growing staff toward our leadership role in new partnerships: PIE-Rivers, stream continuity, dam removal and others. His steady hand and extensive knowledge of management and finance has helped keep the organization secure, and Cam's own unfailing philanthropy have been tremendously important throughout.

Cam attended the Fay School, Groton and Harvard. In 2012, he was thanked for his vision, guidance, and leadership during his 50 years of dedicated service to Fay School (including President of the Board). He is a founder of Kortec, a maker of equipment for producing beverage bottles, with its World Headquarters now located in Rowley, Mass. Says Executive Director Wayne Castonguay, "We remain ever grateful for his service as a lifelong champion of the river. This organization would not be the thriving organization it is today without Cam. The Ipswich River couldn't have a better friend."



Longtime Board Treasurer Cam Steward is retiring after 21 years of dedicated service and support. The Ipswich River couldn't have a better friend. Photo: M. Lasher



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Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of:

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Catch a glimpse of the elusive green heron, and many
other resident and migrating wildlife, when you join one
of our Ipswich River outings! Photo: S. Sullivan



Calendar

From Container Gardens to Rain Gardens

Thursday May 28: 7 — 8 pm ~ Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main Street, Andover

Want to save on water bills and have lush gorgeous gardens? Come explore how in this fun and lively talk with Demetra of "Gardens of Demetra." You will leave inspired to expand your gardens beautifully and sustainably.

River Clean Up

Saturday June 6: 8 am — 12 pm ~ Ipswich River Park, Central Street, North Reading

Join us and the Reading/North Reading Stream Team for the annual Ipswich River Clean-up. Volunteers are needed to work on shore or by boat. Bring tools, gloves, and a boat if possible.

Source to Sea Birding Festival

Sunday June 7: 6 am — 2 pm

We are hosting a series of bird walks along the river, from source to sea, incorporating many different habitats! See our website for more details on walk time and locations.

Ipswich River Solstice Paddle

Saturday June 20: 10 am — 12 pm ~ Winthrop Street Bridge off Topsfield Road to Riverbend, 143 County Road, Ipswich

Join members of the Ipswich Stream Team for a paddle through one of the least developed sections of the river. Please bring your own boat, life jacket, and water and RSVP for details on shuttling boats.