

Spring 2016

THE Voice OF THE RIVER

& 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Ipswich River: The Next Five Years *by Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director*

What are the current challenges facing the river? What do we want to achieve for the river in the coming years? What do you want your association to do for you? How much will it cost? These are just some of the questions we asked as part of our five-year Strategic Planning process which is winding down this month. Over a year ago, we embarked upon this journey with our members and staff to set a path for the next five years for our organization. Led by our highly skilled and committed Board of Directors and President Christine Sandulli, our new Strategic Plan will be presented to you at our Annual Meeting on May 5th. Thanks to expert professional guidance from long time member Amy MacNulty, we kicked off the process with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis which served as the foundation for our planning. With this information in hand, we then established overall goals, identified strategies to achieve these goals and determined specific tactics to implement the strategies.

So, where are we headed? Basically, we concluded that we were already on a solid path and didn't need to make dramatic changes. This said, we decided that we need to strengthen our organization so we can increase the pace of river restoration and connect to many more people.

We will achieve this through five broad goals:

1. Protect and restore the river for people and nature;
2. Make Riverbend a thriving center for people to learn about and have fun on the river;
3. Bring more partners together to protect the river;
4. Engage many more people in our cause;
5. Make our watershed association the best it can be.

Thanks to your continued support, we can make this happen, together. Please check out the new plan on our website and let us know what you think!



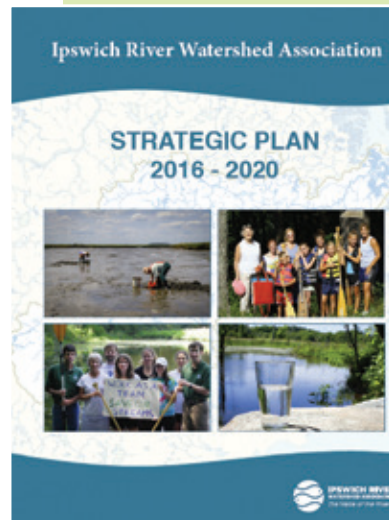
**IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**



The Ipswich River Watershed Board and staff gather for a day long retreat at Riverbend to develop the Strategic Plan to guide our next five years.

Some Strategic Plan Highlights

- Recruit 500 new members or more
- Expand to better serve the upper watershed
- Build a classroom and laboratory at Riverbend
- Work with towns and partners to remove dams and repair many more culverts
- Add staff and volunteers
- Increase the number of native fish returning to the river
- Offer more educational programs and create an annual signature event
- Increase the amount of clean water flowing in the river
- Protect our world-class shellfishing industry



Pipeline Shelved! See page 9



Our Next Five Years

I was thrilled to be able to work with so many of you over the past year to plan our next five years. Perhaps my biggest take away from the process is how much you thought we were already on the right track and that we have a solid foundation in place. When we looked back, our achievements have been extraordinary for such a small organization. Partly due to our leadership, the state developed some of the most progressive water withdrawal regulations in the country. Our membership has grown to over 1,000 families. Our RiverWatch Program is one of the longest running citizen scientist water quality monitoring programs in the country. We are highly thought of amongst our peers as one of the best watershed associations in the Northeast. What a nice position to be in!

This said, it is clear that we still have a lot of work to do. Progress has been steady but too slow, particularly on the water withdrawal issue. We still have over 1,000 dams, culverts, and bridges that are damaging the river and preventing native fish from returning to their former habitats. We are facing new threats such as climate change, a major increase in the use of unregulated private wells, new pipelines, and a dramatic increase in the use of toxic road salt. And, we still have 349,000 people and businesses that rely on the river every day that are not yet members! Our new Strategic Plan sets an ambitious yet realistic path forward for us to tackle these issues and many more. With your continued help and support, we will leave a healthy, clean, and beautiful river to our children and theirs.

WAYNE

Wayne Castonguay
Executive Director



Great Marsh Resiliency Planning Project Task Force members from Ipswich discuss adaptation strategies.

Working Towards Climate Resilience

In 2015 the Great Marsh Resiliency Project municipal task forces from each of the six coastal towns (Salisbury, Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, and Essex) in the region identified areas in their communities that are most vulnerable to flooding, storms, and sea level rise. After public input from the Great Marsh Symposium and additional community meetings, Ipswich River staff are working with project partners at the National Wildlife Federation to revise the coastal communities' vulnerability summaries.

*The project goal is **RESILIENCE**, defined as the long term capacity of our communities and landscape to deal with change and to continue to develop and adapt, while retaining a satisfactory quality of life.*

In addition, consultants from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have run an analysis on the risks that certain elements of the communities are facing, including economic impacts to businesses and employees, to roads and other infrastructure, and to open space and recreational areas. The analysis used highly detailed flooding data produced in 2015 – the same data the state is using for their risk analyses.

As the planning project continues through 2016, we will identify myriad ways to best address our communities' vulnerabilities and to move towards stronger climate resilience. We will look at what kinds of strategies are being used by coastal communities across the country, and which of these will be best suited for our needs in the North Shore. What tools should we use to adapt to climate change and to best prepare for the future? Community workshops will present the task force's resiliency plans in the fall, with a regional implementation workshop to be held in January 2017.



As our RiverWatch monitoring program enters its 20th year, the new strategic plan calls for it to be expanded to improve our knowledge of the health of the river. As part of this effort, Ryan O'Donnell (Program Coordinator) works with volunteer monitors (including Kathie Dixon, left) to measure chloride levels to document the impacts of the increasing amounts of salt being applied to our roads. Road salt is extremely harmful to aquatic life.



IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the River

Portrait of a Successful Year

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

3,000

People Engaged
in the Pipeline
Fight



1,100

Macroinvertebrate
Specimens
Identified



ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

SOLUTIONS

1,051

Members!



1,021

Times People Used
Our Canoes &
Kayaks

CONNECTIVITY

VOLUNTEERS

564

Culverts & Bridges
Surveyed



1

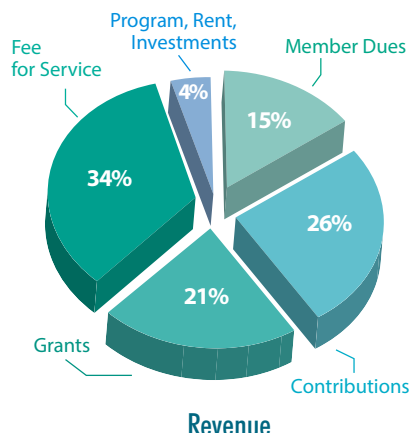
Strategic Plan
Developed

LEADERSHIP

CONNECT YOUTH TO RIVER

2015 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 2015 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	80,233
Contributions*	136,847
Grants	112,538
Fee for Service	184,814
Programs, Rent, Investments	21,729
Total Revenue	536,161

Expenses	
Program Services	414,311
Support Services	83,476
Depreciation	35,058
Total Expenses	532,845

*Does not include donated land, goods and services

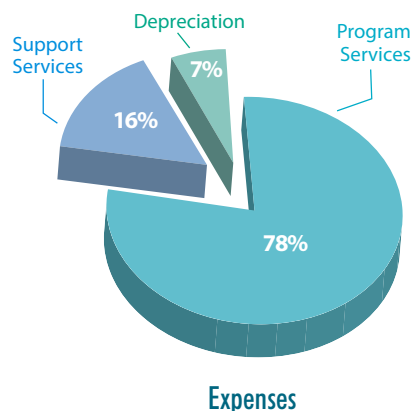
Change in Net Assets 3,316

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	534,170
Property and Equipment	1,399,525
Total Assets	1,933,695

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	12,360
Net Assets	1,921,335



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.

Staff

Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director
 Trish Aldrich, Development Director
 Carolyn Favazza, Bookkeeper
 Kristen Grubbs, Environmental Planner
 Cynthia Ingelfinger, Outreach Coordinator
 Brian Kelder, Restoration Program Manager
 Ryan O'Donnell, Programs Coordinator

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 Dave Williams, Secretary
 Erica Fuller
 Art Howe
 Miriam Lasher
 Robert Paine Metcalf
 Gregory Murrer
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 Brian Tinger
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Ipswich River Legacy Society

Miriam Lasher (left) joins Ipswich River staffers for a fall lunch along the Ipswich River. Miriam is the newest member of the Ipswich River Legacy Society which honors those who have made a planned gift or provision in their will for the river. When asked why she included a provision for us in her will, she said, "Other organizations come and go, but the river will go on forever." If you feel that way too, please contact Development Director Trish Aldrich.



Supporters 2015

We are grateful for each and every gift you make.

River Stewards

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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Members of the Ipswich River Legacy Fund have our everlasting thanks for providing for the Ipswich River through their will or other planned gift.

Jay Clapp
Miriam Lasher
Kerry Mackin
Dr. Bob Petranek
John W. Peirce Fund

Campbell Steward
Joe Valenzuela

Tributes

We are honored to protect the Ipswich River in tribute to these members of the river community.

In memory of Marie Anne Brown
Meghan Sullivan
In memory of Brian Browning
Donald & Martha Campbell
In memory of Elizabeth Cotter
Randy Cotter
In memory of Susan Foster
Martine Kellet
In memory of Marshall Freedman
Jim Younger
In memory of Mr & Mrs Richard B Haskins
Tim & Dianne Haskins
In memory of Art Howe's father
Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts
Bob & Kathy Gravino
In memory of Gabe Kendrick
William Kendrick
In memory of Peggy Killmer
Holly & Patrick Regan
In memory of Dick Ostberg
Karin Ostberg Montlack & Mark Montlack
In honor of Barbara & Dick Russell
Bob & Kathy Gravino
In memory of Ronald J Schmidt
Laurie Lowe
To honor Gay in memoriam and Cammy Steward for his long service with IRWA
Joanne Patton
In memory of Bob Weatherall
Bob & Kathy Gravino
In honor of Dean Wilbur
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James McCarthy	Mike O'Hare	Holly & Patrick Regan	Steven Schwartz	Suzanne Sullivan
Elton & Constance McCausland	Larry Olasky	Andrew & Jessie Reid	Daniel Scibisz	Debbie Sutcliffe
John McClafferty	David Oliver	Christine Reif & Thomas Kinnare	Frank Scott & Marian Orfeo	Kenneth Swanson
Paul McCormick	Jim & Trudi Olivetti	Bruce Reilly	M.L. & David Scudder	Nancy Swindell-Lucas
Marilyn McCrory & Dawn Paul	Ed & Caroline O'Meara	Lillian Reilly	Campbell Seamans	Katie Szymaszek
Don McDonald Jr.	Brian F. O'Neill	Mary Reilly	Michael Searles	Amin Tadj
Linda McDonald	Amy Orroth	Sharon Reilly	Barbara Sears	Jonathan & Toni Tagupa
Michael McGarty	Samuel & Lisa Otis	Elizabeth Reynolds	Thomas Sears	Marjorie Talacko
Alice & Brian McGowan	Charlotte O'Toole	Jaime Reynolds	Vivian Sears	David Tapley
Maureen McGrath	Paul Ouellette	Anne Reynolds	Donna Seibert	Hugh Taylor & Elizabeth Bernick
Kathy McGreevey	Heidi Paek	Mrs. Lily Rice	Dee Shane	Mollie Taylor
Dorothy McKeen	Janice Pagino	Charles & Susanne Richey	Sarah Sharpe	Jim Tedford
Daniel McLaughlin	Robert Paglierani	Brittany Richmond	Paul & Beverly Shea	Brendan Teeling
Susanna McLaughlin	Ann Paladin	Toni Richmond	Diane Sheahan & Jerry Gove	Elizabeth Tener
Brian & Seraphima McLean	Carolyn Palenscar	Rick & Elaine Richter	Mary Waters Shepley	Mark Thayer Photography
Linda McMahon	Daniel & Tiffany Palenscar	Kathy Ricker	Louise Sherburne	Ellen Tiberi
Meredith McMarrow	Mr. Gerard Papin	David Reibel & Karen Donovan	George & Rue Sherwood	Brian Tinger
Patrick McNally	Ted Parady	Linda Riley	William & Hatsy Shields	Nancy Todd
Joan McQuillan	Marsten & Lori Parker	Susan Riley	Betsy & Will Shields	Walter Tompkins
Jane Mead	John Parkhurst	Dave & Mary Rimmer	Louis & Amanda Shipley	A. David & Helen Tory
Natalie Medici	Stephen & Lea Parson	Michael Ripple	William Shorr	George Tougas
Edward & Ann Melanson	John Parsons	River Valley Real Estate	Caroline Shugrue	Jean-Jacques & Sharon Toulotte
Karen Melanson	Mark & Vi Patek	Kevin Roberts	Charles Shurcliff	Peggy Towle
Kip Melendy	David & Anne Paulin	Christopher Robertson	Ken Siegert & Suzanne Kelsey	Arthur & Jean Towne
Deborah Mendleson	George Pawle	Anne Robinson	Jill Silos-Rooney	Paul Tremblay
Charles & Paige Mercer	Janice Pawlick	Bill & Scottie Robinson	Marilyn Simmons	Brad Tripp
Wil & Nonie Merck	Stephen & Mary Pazdziorko	Dave Robinson	Sara Singleton	Lyle & Hazel Tripp
David & Dorothy Merrill	Dossy Peabody	Jim Roderick	Linda & Marty Siwak	Theresa Tucker
Loring Merrrow & Joanna Liss	Kay Pearsall	Charles & Marie Rodgers	Tom Skinner	Robert Tuffley
Pieter Messelaar	Anthony & Linda Pearson	Kathi Rodrigues	Shelley Sloboder	John & Erika Turner
Pike Messenger	Donald J. Pearson	Brandon Rogers	Mary Smith	Al & Landi Van Alen
Tracey Metzger	Phil & Maureen Perkins	Rick Rogers	Hope N. Smith	Paul Van Almkerk
Dan Miley	Virginia Perkins	Noreen Rooney	Bayard Smith	Maria VanDusen
Dudley & Debbie Miller	Sing Perron	Meredith Rosenthal	Jerry & Bette Smith	Allan Vaughan
Cheryl Milonopoulos	Carroll & Cary Perry	David & Justine Ross	Jody & Stanley Smith	John Verani
Enid Mingolelli	Dan Persson	Isaac Ross	Mark Smith	Sarah Vickery
Robert B. Minturn	Bruce Peters	Eric Roth	Robert Smith	Carla Villa
Stephen & Teri Mitton	Dr. Astrid Peterson	Jacqueline Rousseau	Dick Snellgrove	Dave Voci
Ed & Dorothy Monnelly	Jeanne Petta	Ned & Susie Rowland	Win Snow	Charles Von Bruns
Lou & Cheryl Montale	David & Michelle Phippen	Sandy Rubchinuk	Carl & Diane Soderland	Patrick Waddell
Karin Ostberg Montlack & Marc Montlack	Joanna Phippen	Paula Ruelle	John & Lisa Saininen	Peter Wadsworth
Peter & Alicia Moore	Georgette Pied	Barbara & Dick Russell	Ken & Jane Spellman	Bradford Wakeman
Richard Morgan & Cheri Sperr	R.J. & Heather Pillis	Kelly & Scott Russell	Lana & Bob Spillman	Judith Walcott

Patience Wales
Ed & Eva Walker
Jamie Wallace
Chett & Alex Walsh
Cornelia Walsh
William & Laurel Walsh
Mary Ward
Andrew Warner & Fiona French
Jim & Nancy Warner
William & Mary Wasserman
Mary Weatherall
Bob & Sandy Weatherall
David & Kitty Weaver
Stanley Wegryn
Alain-Marc Werner
Donald F Whiston
Bill & Bobbi Whiting
Carolyn Whiting
Scott Whitlow
Peter & Winifred Whitman
Joe & Ursula Whitney
Chub & Nicole Whitten
Robert Whittier
Michael Whouley & Sally Kerans-Whouley
Robert & Deborah Wicks
D.W. & Bonnie Wiegand
James Wiese
John Wigglesworth & Priscilla Brooks
Hope Wigglesworth
Cricket & Dean Wilbur
Ben Wildrick
Maria Wilkens
Dave & Mary Williams
Lindsey Williams
Ralph Williams
Willis & Sally Hough
Robert & Susan Winship
Fred & Alice Winthrop
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Oliver & Linda Wolcott
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Sook-Bin Woo
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Michael Wood
Susan Wood
Steve & Patty Woodbury
Jane Woodman
Claudia Woods-Estin
Carolyn Woodward
David Woolfenden
Nancy Woolford
Casey Wright
Fraley Wright
Michael Wright
Charles & Memi Wu
Bob & Kathie Wyman
Tony & Cheryl Yemma
Clay Yonce
Diane Young
Victor Young
Jim Younger
Johanna Zabriskie & Sam Messina
Harry Zeltzer & Joan Richards
Danielle Panneton-Zenga & Michael Zenga
John Zimmer
* deceased

Volunteers

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.

Lauren Acevedo
Heather Aizley
Dave & Katy Aldrich
Cindy Allen
Bruce Amazeen
Jim Angelo
Donnan Barnes
Ingrid Barry
Rob Bollmann
Susan Boreri
Loring Bradlee
Katharine Brown
Mary Buxton
Elizabeth Cameron

Martha Campbell
Deborah Cassidy
Linda Coe
Dave Comb
Butch Conary
Sarah Courchesne
Diana Davis
Michael DeAmario
Susan DeAmario
Isabella de Buy Wenniger
Andy Desilets
Diane Dixon & family
Reed Dolan
Judy Donovan
Sam Duffield
Ipswich High School Environmental Club
Ben Evans
Grace Evans
Mary Everett
Richard and Linda Fates
Matthew Favazza
Will Finch
Ben Flemer
Lynn Fletcher
Georgia & David Flood
Joan Flynn
Jeremy Foster
Susan Foster*
Bo Garrison
Chase Gerbig
Gayle Gleichauf
Connie Gourdeau
Sharon Grimes
William Hansen
Daniel & Sally Heiter
Frank Hertz
Madison Hill
Mike Hodess
Amy Hoffman
Lynne & Will Holton
Kate, Brian & Lizzie Hone
Kim Honetschlager
Richard Howard

Art Howe
Joan Hoyt
A. Hurst
Jean Jacobs
Tom Jacques
Ingrid Johnson & Deborah Nelson
Susan Kallach
Meredith Kercher
Denise King
Alexandria Kluge
Melanie Koerth
Lori LaFrance
Mary Landry
Miriam Lasher
Alyssa Lau
James Lawrence
Mary Ann Leekley
Jared Lefkowitz
Meg Lynch
Kerry Mackin
Paul MacKinnon
Mike Maher
Alex Malcomson
Judy Mansfield
Roger Martell
Fran Masse
Colleen McClung
Bill McDavitt
Larry McTiernan
Jane Mead
Natalie Medici
David Merrill
Pike Messenger
Catie Moore
Peter & Alicia Moore
Steve Morris
Alex Moskowitz
Greg Murrer
Beth Myers
Tim Nawrocki
NEB Volunteer Crew (22)
Deborah Nelson
Robert O'Donnell

John Parsons
David Paulin
Bruce Piper
Bill Reed
Bruce Reilly
Anne Reynolds
Rick Rogers
Don Ruzecki
Carol Sandberg
Chris & Joe Sandulli
Doug Sawyer
Judy Schneider
Karl Seibert
J. Shea
Diane Sheahan
Mary Smith
Gina Snyder
Chris Sobotowski
Ava Steenstrup
Martha Stevenson
Janet Stone
Headwaters Stream Team
Reading/North Reading Stream Team
Ipswich Stream Team
Middleton Stream Team
Suzanne Sullivan
Katie Szymaszek
David Tapley
Brian Tinger
Siobhan & Jim Ugone
Matthew Wallace
Peter Weigele
Kaylee Whitehouse
Nicole Whitten
William Whiting
Chelsea Willett
Dave Williams
Lindsey Williams
Susie Winthrop
Nancy & Michael Wolfe
Cheryl Yemma
Bill York
* honorary



Name _____
Address _____
Town/City _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of:

☐ River Steward \$1000 ☐ Supporter \$100 ☐ Student/Senior \$25
☐ Patron \$250 ☐ Family/Individual \$40 ☐ Other _____

For: ☐ Where needed most ☐ Paddle-a-thon ☐ New Membership
☐ Renewing Membership ☐ In honor of _____

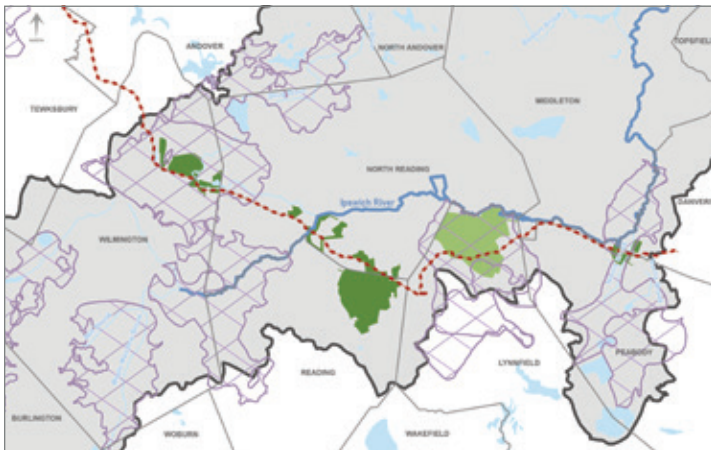
You may make check payable to IRWA and mail to: **IRWA, PO Box 576, Ipswich, MA 01938-0576** or click "Donate Now" at www.ipswichriver.org. **Thank you for your support!**

DONATE BY CREDIT CARD

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We Won! Pipeline is Shelved!

"We are beyond ecstatic that we were able to help stop this ill-conceived project from ruining our river and we could not have achieved this without the incredible outpouring of support from our members who contributed time and money towards the fight as well as our regional partners who really led the charge," says Executive Director Wayne Castonguay. The April 21 announcement by Kinder Morgan to suspend the pursuit of the proposed Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline is a major victory for the Ipswich River. The proposed Lynnfield and Peabody lateral which would have traveled for 11 miles along the river would have had permanent devastating impacts on the river and the public drinking water supply for 350,000 people and businesses. Wayne continues, "Despite the company's assertion that the project cancellation was due to market conditions, we feel the more important reason was due to the huge opposition from the environmental community and affected property owners including municipal water supply officials. Our small organization and river were truly instrumental in the decision since all the major environmental, property owner, municipal and demand-related issues with the project were best exemplified along the 400-mile plus route in our watershed and we were extremely successful at getting those specific impacts into the larger oppositional movement. The photo of Meghan (see Portrait of a Successful Year page) standing along the 3-mile stretch of riverbank in Peabody which would have been permanently cleared says it all and its going viral was one of the most effective tools we had in the battle." To quote Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Thanks to you, we did it!



The proposed pipeline shown here in red would have travelled 11 miles through the watershed including the 7 public water supply protection areas (purple hatched areas) and 10 permanently protected conservation areas (green areas). Together we are River watchdogs.

Connecting the River



Wayne Castonguay stands atop the Ipswich Mills Dam at the upstream end of the tidal portion of the Ipswich River. The Town of Ipswich is leading a study exploring options to restore this section of river by removing the dam.

Healthy river systems contain diverse and well connected waterways. Our habitat restoration program's primary focus is simple: to connect the Ipswich River with itself.

The Ipswich River and its tributaries are dotted with man-made barriers, including dams and some inadequate bridges and culverts. Over the past ten years, with the help of a wide range of partners, we have made great strides toward improving connections. Proactive efforts are underway to completely remove or improve fish passage at all three of the dams on the mainstem Ipswich.

- **Ipswich Mills:** A new study to investigate the feasibility and costs of removing the dam is underway. The study will be complete in 2017.
- **Willowdale:** The MA Division of Marine Fisheries is working with the dam owners to replace the existing, deteriorating, poorly designed ladder with a new ladder by 2017.
- **South Middleton:** MA Division of Ecological Restoration and the dam owner, Bostik, have secured funding for the removal of this dam, which will reconnect 57 stream miles above the dam. Bostik has begun the permitting process, and the project team plans to have the dam out and the river restored at this site by 2017.

As we continue to help move these three big projects along, we do so with an eye on improving habitat connections to historically important alewife spawning waters such as Hood Pond and Martins Pond. Our efforts will be bolstered by a regional inventory and prioritization of problem bridges and culverts, which will help us build our list of priority sites to restore as we move toward a healthier, better connected watershed.



**IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

The Voice of the River

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Raise Your Paddle for the River!

Join Our First-Ever Ipswich River Paddle-a-thon:
Saturday, June 18th

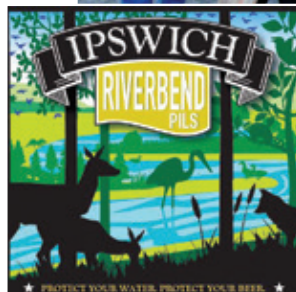


Join the fun on Saturday, June 18th
and register for the Paddle-a-thon.
Each paddler raises funds and
awareness to keep the Ipswich
River clean and healthy. You may
paddle one of our suggested
routes or put in and take out
where and when you like.

Paddlers and volunteers are invited
to a Ipswich River Paddle-a-thon
after-party with the newly released Riverbend Pilsner
from Ipswich Ale Brewery, local music, great food and
fabulous awards at our Riverbend headquarters.

Each registered paddler receives a free t-shirt, map,
food and drink tickets. Tickets for paddlers' guests
can be purchased for \$25 when you pick up your
registration packet.

Visit our Paddle-a-thon 2016 page to register or find
out more. www.ipswichriver.org/paddle-a-thon-2016



The volunteer-powered Paddle-a-thon Committee invites you to
raise your paddle for the river. Limited to the first 50 boats.
Register today!