

THE Voice OF THE RIVER

Spring 2019 Newsletter / 2018 Annual Report



Reliable Water by Achievable Means *by Executive Director Wayne Castonguay*

Water conservation has been a part of our mission from the beginning. Over the years, we have seen many changes in our watershed's climate patterns: more droughts, floods, rain and heat. What has changed less is how we manage growth and development and how it impacts our most precious resource, water.



SAFE YIELD

The Safe Yield is defined as the amount of water that can be removed from the watershed without risking the reliability of water supplies and the health of the ecosystem. Staying within the Safe Yield and achieving net-zero water use is possible if municipalities, developers and watershed residents work together.

Now that the state has established a mandatory Safe Yield, the amount of water that can be safely withdrawn from the Ipswich River Basin, the contrast of where we need to be with our water use and where we are is stark. Current state-approved water withdrawals, which do not account for private wells, are already above the amount of water determined to be the river's Safe Yield. As a result, any future additional water use in the Ipswich River watershed must remain under the current allocations, forever.

The tools to address this challenge exist, and we are working to improve their implementation, availability and success. By working towards net-zero water use, we can protect the future of both our water supplies and the river. The first step is a perception switch—how communities think about water, their usage and the value water has. You, the friends and supporters of the Ipswich River, are integral to making this

shift happen. With the example you set and by being the voice of the river, you can open a dialogue in your community about how water should be better valued and managed.

As we shift our perceptions about how we use water, we also need to think about what water is worth. When additional demand is placed on our water supply, it has tangible impacts. Establishing a Water Bank is one way that towns can not only make a statement about the value they place on their resources, but also mitigate the impacts from new demand.

Towns have many areas of responsibility to consider when they make decisions about their water, and we are here to help them more easily keep water both clean and reliable. There are opportunities to revise regulations and bylaws to support climate and water smart growth and development.

The lull in new development and residential growth of recent years is over. As the dramatic increase in new development projects puts pressure on our communities across the region, it is crucial that we consider how our water will be impacted. Just as natural landscapes shift and change over time, it's reasonable for human-made landscapes to do the same. Creating developments that work with our natural surroundings rather than fighting against them is a better solution for the long-term. Add to that the immediate benefits of low-impact developments: the incorporation of natural beauty, innovation, and (something friends of the river know very well) the great feeling of doing the right thing.

Reliable water means many things: health, safety, industry, tourism, property value, quality of life. The example actions highlighted in this edition are not new or revolutionary, but they will help to protect our water resources. We have the means to achieve net-zero water use and now is the time to make it happen.

Above: Pike Messenger communes with the river he loves. When there is enough water it supports the integral aspects of our day to day life as well as nurtures elements that make that life more enjoyable.

Developer Supports Net-Zero Water Use

Development can meet the need for housing and industry without negative impacts to the environment. Harborlight Community Partners, a nonprofit developer on the North Shore, feel it is essential to their mission to “consider the full impact and benefit on our host communities,” states Andrew DeFranza, Executive Director. “As part of this work, we always seek to reduce the environmental impact of our projects through innovative ideas and systems. By working closely with the towns in which we work, and being in consultation with partners like the Ipswich River Watershed Association, we are confident that it is possible to build new, needed housing with little demand on precious and limited water resources. We have found that careful project design, along with offsets which reduce water use elsewhere, make it achievable to be responsible in responding to regional housing needs and do so while respecting equitable and sustainable water use.”



Danvers, whose water treatment station is pictured here, is the only town in the watershed to currently have a water bank, a municipal regulation that requires developers to offset their new water use by paying into a fund to support water-saving activities elsewhere in the watershed.



Did you know fish need oxygen to survive just like we do? More, cooler flowing water generally equates to greater dissolved oxygen concentrations, which support food sources (benthic macroinvertebrates), healthy fisheries and bird populations.

See 1000 Gallons in 2 Inches by Will Finch & Kim Honetschlager



We have been interested in water conservation since we moved into our old house near the Ipswich River in 2005. We entered (and won) IRWA's first contest for members to see which household used the least water per person per day, we were active in the Stream

Team's rain barrel programs in Reading and North Reading in the early 2000s, and at home we've built a 1,000 gallon rainwater collection system.

Our primary use for rainwater is a 30 by 40-foot raised bed vegetable garden. The water is pumped uphill from a pair of 275 gallon “totes” for hand watering, supplying soaker hoses, or to run a garden sprinkler. We also have five rain barrels that are linked together with $\frac{3}{4}$ ” garden hose. We also use stored rainwater for new perennials or shrubs in order to get them established, but we try to only plant drought tolerant varieties.



Will Finch and Kim Honetschlager are water saving heroes, as evident by their 1,000 gallon rainwater collection system. Take a first step towards their fine example by building and installing a rain barrel at our upcoming workshop. More info at www.ipswichriver.org/events

For the most part our system keeps up with garden demand. Your needs will vary, but we have found that having one gallon of storage per square foot of roof area is adequate. Given our roof size, a 2-inch rainfall event can fill over 1,000 gallons of storage. This is double the amount often mandated for new homes in sensitive areas or on lots with too much impervious surface.

Couple this with careful use of water saving appliances and the goal of 20 gallons per person per day of municipal water consumption becomes attainable.

We are blessed in the Northeast with adequate rainfall to store for outdoor use. Imagine living in the desert Southwest where water must be imported from hundreds of miles away. Even in the Northeast water supply will become more and more of an issue. The small things we do at home can make a real difference in the health of our watershed.

The Town of Ipswich Explores Net-Zero Water Use

By Vicki Halmen, Ipswich Water and Wastewater Director

Ipswich has faced significant impacts from the river's persistent low flow and irregular precipitation conditions; in particular, the Town's public drinking water supply is extremely vulnerable to drought. We know that climate trends are likely to bring longer stretches of dry days and higher summer temperatures, particularly in June through September when public water usage is highest. In addition, we know that the population of the Town of Ipswich is estimated to increase by about five percent over the next twenty years.

In recent years, the combination of insufficient rainfall, high temperatures, increased water use and changing land use has caused new record-low streamflow and groundwater levels across the state. To address these challenges, the Town of Ipswich is engaged in a discussion of water needs, climate impacts and resiliency. We have retained a consultant to evaluate existing and future water use and recommend water source enhancements to provide drought resiliency. Several large subdivision and development proposals currently under review are shining a light on town-wide concern over expanding water use, with some vocal individuals advocating for a building moratorium. In 2017, the Town took an

Watershed Association funded by the Barr Foundation and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council will thoroughly review the steps the town has taken and research what more can be done to better manage and reduce the community's current water use and minimize new demand. This project will address the concerns raised by the community about further growth, development and the impacts future climate change will have on the community water supply.

Together the Town of Ipswich and the Ipswich River Watershed Association will:

- Review land use regulations and bylaws and develop recommendations for climate-smart, net-zero water use revisions.
- Research water use mitigation mechanisms that reduce or eliminate the strain of new development on the Ipswich water system, and develop a model Water Bank with recommendations of programs appropriate for Ipswich and other Ipswich watershed towns.
- Work with our state and regional partners to review, quantify and recommend enhanced Water Conservation Strategies that can be a model for all communities.

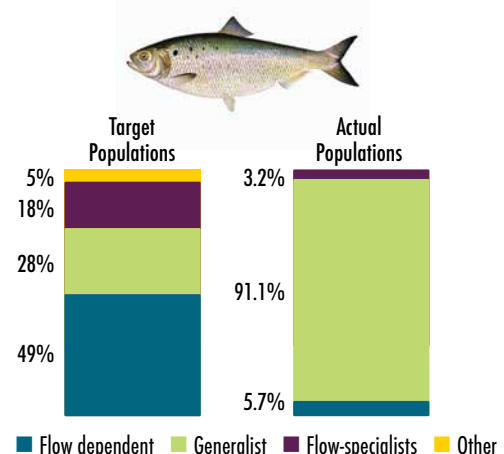


Ipswich Water and Wastewater Director Vicki Halmen (right) discusses the resiliency of the Town's water supply at the community's recent Municipal Vulnerability Workshop. The Town is currently partnering with the Ipswich River Watershed Association on a project funded by The Barr Foundation and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council called "Accelerating Climate Resiliency."

important step to address community water use by passing a bylaw that establishes water restrictions on private well usage consistent with those on the municipal supply. However, overall water usage in town is up slightly in recent years.

Discussions of these issues have extended beyond the municipal Water Department and the Board of Water Commissioners to Select Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings and to town social media discussions. Ipswich recognizes that a variety of tools must be developed so the community can sustain future residential growth and economic development. This year, a project with the Ipswich River

MORE WATER = MORE FISH Ipswich River Fish Populations



The existing fish community is dominated by typical pond or generalist species such as pickerels, eels and sunfish. Fish that would be expected to dominate the Ipswich River, were there no flow problems, make up only a small percentage of the total recorded fish community or are missing entirely. Enough water means plentiful habitat for fluvial fish and ample recreational fishing opportunities!



**IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

The Voice of the River

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Raise a Paddle for the River!



**Paddling. Volunteering.
Birding. Swimming.
Celebrating.
And Much More Fun.
Together!**

Join us in supporting and
celebrating the river at the
Paddle-a-thon and Riverfest on
Saturday, June 15.

Registration opens April 22

Spring Calendar

Dow Brook Vernal Pool Walk April 14, 1–3 PM, Partner ECTA

Weed Watchers Training April 24, 7–9 PM

Annual Meeting April 25, 6–8 PM

Rain Barrel Workshop April 27, 10 AM–Noon

Garden Volunteer Day May 2, 9–11 AM

For more event details and chances to connect to the
river visit www.ipswichriver.org/events

Connect to the River!

Let this lifejacket ensō bring to mind warm
weather and fun days on the river. In 2019
we are asking everyone to get out walking,
paddling and exploring through our
Connect to the River campaign and to
leave an ensō behind. This open circle
symbolizes a zen state of mind, strength
and wholeness. #riverzen Learn more:
ipswichriver.org/connect-to-the-river





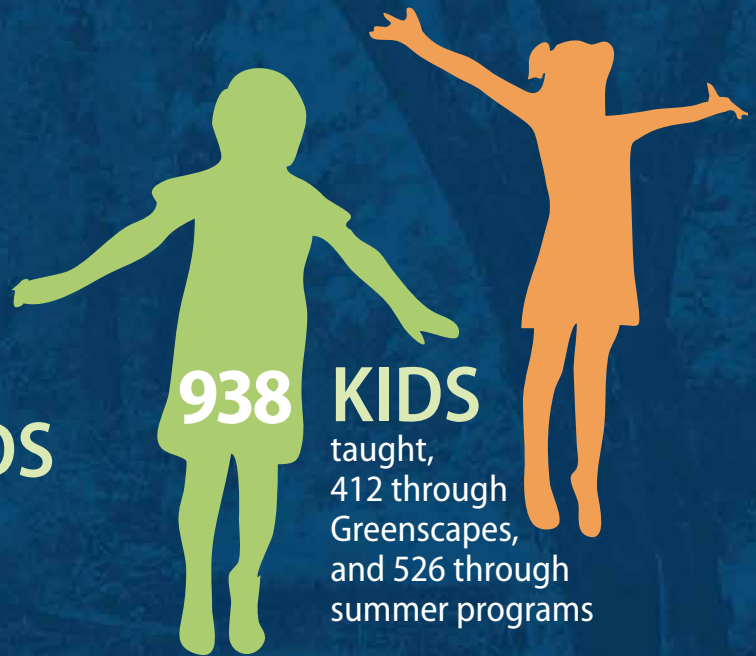
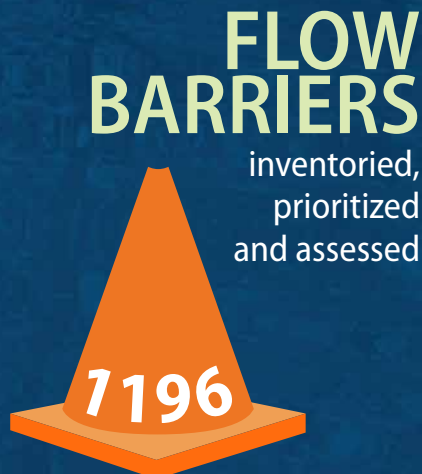
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Portrait of A Successful Year

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

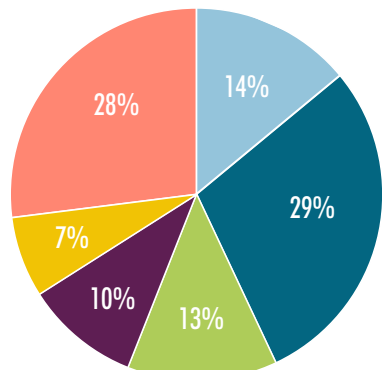
1261 USED OUR BOATS
times people

8
NEW
KAYAKS

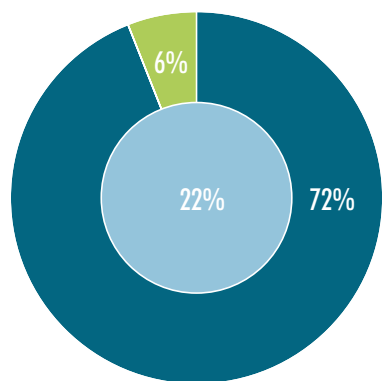


2018 Financial Summary

Thanks to the generosity of our members and individual donors, the Ipswich River Watershed Association ended our fiscal year 2018 in a strong position. A copy of the complete audited financial statement is available at the Riverbend office in Ipswich.



Revenue



Expenses

Revenue	TOTAL
Member Dues	\$75,081
Contributions	\$154,962
Grants	\$69,754
Fee for Service	\$51,618
Special Events	\$37,694
Other Income*	\$149,181
Total Revenue	\$538,290

Expenses	
Program Services	\$396,356
Support Services	\$120,564
Depreciation	\$34,772
Total Expenses	\$551,692

Change in Current Assets **[\$13,402]**

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets	\$604,656
Property and Equipment	\$1,307,991
Total Assets	\$1,912,647

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$18,323
Net Assets	\$1,894,324

*includes bequests and memorial gifts

The Ipswich River Watershed Association is the voice of the Ipswich River. Our mission is to protect water for fish, wildlife and people for generations to come. Together with scientists, the community and volunteers, we come up with solutions to the river's problems and provide opportunities for people to connect to the river.

2018 Staff

Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director
 Trish Aldrich, Development Director
 Kristen Grubbs, Environmental Planner
 Ryan O'Donnell, Programs Coordinator
 Rachel Schneider, Outreach Manager
 Kaitlyn Shaw, Science & Restoration Manager
 Gail Sorenson, Bookkeeper
 Grace Evans, Kerry Mackin Intern

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Create Your Own Ripple Effect



Bonnie Wiegand and her husband Dudley lived in Topsfield for 60 years. They enjoyed playing music together at their side-by-side organ and baby grand piano in their living room. A school teacher in Swampscott, Bonnie was a sweet, lovely woman who was concerned about animals, birds, the river, nature and the environment. As part of her estate planning, she wanted to leave a legacy for what she held dear and named Ipswich River Watershed Association as a beneficiary of her estate. We are honored to safeguard the Ipswich River, and the turtles, birds and wildlife it sustains, in her memory.

You too can leave a legacy for what you hold dear in your will and create your own ripple effect. It's easy to include the river in your will. Contact Development Director Trish Aldrich at 978-412-8200 or taldrich@ipswichriver.org or visit ipswichriver.org/leavealegacy for sample language and more information.



Every contribution is special to us. Thank you.

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.

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Cathleen Banister-Marx
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Tributes

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

In tribute to Nathaniel Cameron
Elizabeth & Edward Cameron
In tribute to Linda Fates
John & Virginia Walsh
In tribute to Bob & Kathy Gravino
Barbara & Dick Russell
In tribute to John Hackler
Caroline Breen
In tribute to Keith Lunnen
New England Biolabs
In tribute to Dick Ostberg
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In tribute to Barbara & Dick Russell
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Howard Wellman
In tribute to James "Whit" Whitted
Nancy May
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