

## Your Voices Were Heard

Advocacy to advance our public policy goals is possibly the most important objective of the #EndangeredIpswich campaign. State regulatory agencies control the fate of the river and therefore have the power to solve its most significant challenges. After decades of data and advocacy from watershed organizations, the tide is beginning to turn towards improved water policy.



The first task of our #EndangeredIpswich advocacy campaign was to require basic water conservation requirements on registrations. Registrations are “grandfathered” large-scale withdrawals that currently don’t have any conservation restrictions at all. This long-sought-after change may be around the corner, thanks in part to your advocacy. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed new regulations that would increase water equity and more accurately reflect the realities of climate change. The draft regulations were released this summer for public comment.

Dozens of you submitted comment letters to DEP before the July 26th deadline, making the case for our river—thank you! While the proposed regulations are relatively modest, we hope the final version will be strengthened thanks to your input. We anticipate the final rule will be released later this year, with implementation completed by May 2023. The next phase of the campaign will include working with state officials to address other exemptions and further improve the water withdrawal regulations.

On September 17th and October 15th, the North Shore Water Supply Resiliency Task Force advanced discussions on regional resiliency at a meeting of Ipswich River advocates,

public water suppliers, and state officials. Their goal is to create workable solutions that would address the concerns of public water suppliers and reduce the impact of low flows in the Ipswich River. Thanks to Senator Bruce Tarr’s leadership of the Task Force, and the entire team’s efforts, we’re hopeful about reaching a consensus on next steps soon. Thanks to your advocacy and the efforts of the Task Force, this year’s state budget includes a \$100,000 line item to help explore solutions to the Ipswich River’s water woes.

On other fronts, we are working to advance drought legislation on Beacon Hill. The Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture hosted a virtual hearing on October 27th on the ‘Drought Bill. The drought legislation would require basic water conservation on all water withdrawals, large and small, during declared droughts. Stand by for advocacy alerts urging you to contact your legislator about passing the bill. And thank you for continuing to be the Voice of the River.

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Sara Amish, Ryan O’Donnell, Kim Hodlin, Samantha Beck, Patrick Lynch, Amber Redmond, U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton, Neil Shea, Wayne Castonguay, and Susie Winthrop gather at Riverbend to discuss regional water resiliency solutions.



## One of America's Most Endangered Rivers® Thanks You!

We've weathered many storms together over the past few years: two severe droughts, flooding, hurricanes, and becoming one of America's Most Endangered Rivers®. The tremendous outpouring of support from all of you has meant so much.

Ipswich River members have buoyed us as we implemented a nine-point plan to fix the river, informed by nearly 50 years of river advocacy. The plan has gained major traction and is building serious momentum as we near year-end. To implement each of the nine points, we must push forward on multiple fronts at once. This collective effort will ideally converge into a breakthrough that will end this dubious distinction once and for all. To do this, we need your continued support. Whether it's through changing individual behavior, modernizing water policy at the state and local levels, or developing alternative water sources, each of these strategies has the potential to get us there. If we can do all three, our future will be bright indeed!

The #EndangeredIpswich advocacy campaign has already resulted in regional collaboration, community engagement, and legislative headways. We have highlighted some of those wins in this issue. Behind the scenes, the Ipswich River team continues to work with municipal and state officials and other partners. Changes are coming to our complex water policy, and that is largely thanks to you. Please keep this momentum going by giving to Ipswich River's year-end appeal today – with your continued support, we will get off the endangered list for good!

WAYNE

Wayne Castonguay  
Executive Director

## Working Together for Willis Woods

Four communities in our watershed are moving regional collaboration forward in a big way. Lynnfield, Middleton, North Reading, and Peabody are developing a communal vision for Willis Woods, the unofficial name given to more than 700 acres of forested open space stretching along the Ipswich River. Regional stakeholders like the Lynnfield Center Water District have long expressed interest in preserving this area. Willis Woods combines various conservation-owned properties, municipal water district lands, and large privately-owned parcels. The pending private sale of 20 acres of forested land in Lynnfield, known as Richardson Green, became the "keystone" parcel for making this larger vision possible. Last month, Lynnfield received \$1.6 million from the state, one of the largest grants awarded through the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. The town is raising the additional funding needed to acquire this critical parcel with support from Essex County Greenbelt, residents, and your watershed association.

In August, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) awarded the Town of Lynnfield a grant to develop a vision and plan for Willis Woods with regional partners. "This grant will help further collective efforts to preserve hundreds of acres of shared open space, protect local drinking water sources, and provide more passive recreational opportunities for all residents," said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). "My thanks to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for recognizing that the proposed, *A Vision for Willis Woods*, will offer many tangible long-term environmental benefits to all four communities and to the region as a whole." Since then, our staff and board members have worked with our municipal leaders and MAPC regional managers to represent the river and make sure everyone has a seat at the table.

"I am thrilled this project has continued to build ever since we came up with the idea more than a year ago," says Patrick Lynch, Director of Policy and Planning. "Going forward, IRWA will continue to support our partners in pulling together a really ambitious vision for the headwaters of the Ipswich River." Facilitating collaboration and partnership projects like this is a crucial focus of our community services program. As the project develops, members of the public will have the opportunity to offer feedback. This project exemplifies how local advocacy and regional collaboration can work together to protect water supplies. We look forward to celebrating all the great things that grow from this shared vision.



(L-R) With sights set on their Vision for Willis Woods, Executive Director Wayne Castonguay, Kate Bowditch (President, Greenbelt), Kathleen Theoharides (Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs), Emilie Cademartori (Director of Planning & Conservation, Town of Lynnfield), Chris LaPointe (Director of Land Conservation, Greenbelt), Ken MacNulty (Ipswich River Board Vice President), and Director of Policy and Planning Patrick Lynch enjoy a walk through Richardson Green.



## Brewers Unite for the River



True North Ale Company, in collaboration with Ipswich River Watershed Association, has something exciting brewing. On September 25th, True North released their Endangered Ale, a limited-edition American Pale Ale. The Endangered Ale will be available for a limited time on tap and in four-pack cans at the True North Ales Taproom in Ipswich. Taproom customers can learn about becoming IRWA members and receive invitations to special events throughout the year when they join.

True North owner Gary Rogers says, "Awareness-raising is a huge benefit of the partnership. Also, True North Ales plans to donate a portion of all proceeds from the sale of its Endangered Ale to support the #EndangeredIpswich." On top of brewing their beer, True North created an open-source can label that other participating craft breweries may customize for their own use. We hope that each brewery will contribute funds from the sale of their Endangered Ales to the Ipswich River. Ten breweries have thrown their support behind this project so far. We can't wait to hear more about their progress soon. Many thanks to the participating breweries: True North Ale Company, Gentile Brewing Company, Old Planters Brewing Company, Channel Marker Brewing Company, Backbeat Brewing Company, Bent Water Brewing Company, Granite Coast Brewing Company, Essex County Brewing Company, East Regiment Beer Company, Notch Brewing Company. We'll keep you informed of the breweries' Endangered Ale release schedules in the coming months.

## Barrels of Fun

On Saturday, September 25th, enthusiastic Ipswich River supporters gathered at Riverbend and cheered. And with good reason: to admire our fantastic new mural and applaud members of the Good 2 Go team who designed and painted it. Through Raw Art Works of Lynn (RAW), these young artists explore new locations and create inspired murals. Leader of Good 2 Go Bruce Orr said that working on the Riverbend mural was a particularly enjoyable experience that excited the entire team. Not only was the mural's setting beautiful, but the team took time to paddle on and learn about the #EndangeredIpswich River. Even better, they saw some of the same wildlife in real life as they'd painted in the mural. We're eager to continue partnering with RAW on a new project. Their team of young artists will paint barrels donated by local breweries. We'll convert these pieces into rain barrels and make them available by auction to our community. RAW artists will take inspiration from the Ipswich River to transform each piece. The barrels will look great while saving water and reducing polluted runoff. Look for river updates on rain barrel auctions and workshops in spring 2022!



Patrick Lynch, Lauren Fitzgerald, Rachel Schneider, and Neil Shea hold up their Endangered Ales at the True North taproom. The Endangered Ale label artwork, created by noted Marblehead artist Amy Hourihan, is available for all participating breweries to use.



Viterbo Pallazola, Nathan Hammerschmitt, Ethan Jones, and Bruce Orr from the Raw Art Works Good 2 Go team strike a celebratory pose in front of their recently completed mural.



Donate Now at [www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org)

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Make checks payable to IRWA and mail to: **IRWA, PO Box 576, Ipswich, MA 01938** or pay by credit card below.

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of:**

- River Steward \$1000
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- Friend \$100
- Family \$50
- Individual \$40
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**For:**  Year-end Appeal  Membership  
 In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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## Build an Ipswich River Dream Team



**HELP US CONTINUE TO EMPOWER**

**the advocates, scientists, and changemakers of tomorrow.**

**Support the #ENDANGEREDIPSWICH by donating to  
OUR YEAR-END APPEAL today at [IPSWICHRIVER.ORG/DONATE](https://IPSWICHRIVER.ORG/DONATE).**

Thanks to your enormous support throughout the pandemic, we were able to take on more paid youth interns this year than ever before. Graduating and rising college students joined the Ipswich River team this spring and summer, collaborating with staff to advance projects and programs. From improving the River Health Index, to reviewing policy, to educating the environmental advocates of tomorrow—these passionate young people impressed us with what they can accomplish.

Many thanks to our 2021 interns: Ghiz Benzerdjeb, Luke Brogna, Jacob Garland, Amanda Martinez, Thomas Rua, and Sadie Woodward. We know you'll continue to do great things, and we can't wait to see you on the river again soon!

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Summer 2021 brought the biggest Ipswich River crew yet! L-R Ryan O'Donnell, Sadie Woodward, Amber Redmond, Patrick Lynch, Kim Hodlin, Ghiz Benzerdjeb, Neil Shea, Wayne Castonguay, Rachel Schneider, and Jacob Garland.