

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Protecting the Farmington River - For You, For All, Forever



FRWA.ORG

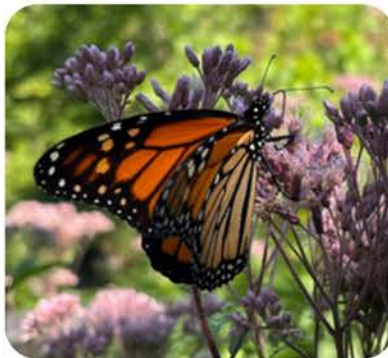


The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1953. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Farmington River and its watershed lands through research, water monitoring, stewardship, education, and advocacy.

Our water monitoring programs and research inform our work and provides reliable data to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). FRWA has been conducting water monitoring in the Connecticut portion of the watershed since 2004, and in Massachusetts since 2019. We monitor and research several different water parameters for recreation, pollution, and habitat suitability.

FRWA is involved in several stewardship projects, from stormwater reduction via rain gardens and bioswales, terrestrial and aquatic invasive removals, and management of the FRWA Frey Property. We work with our local communities, towns, and land trusts on projects including river management and stormwater pollution reduction education. Additionally, we restore streambanks and aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife, for example by removing dams or restoring native plant communities.

In our education mode, we provide classroom visits, field trips, and student seasonal employment. We host presentations and workshops on water quality, river history, and managing stormwater runoff. We organize river cleanups and other events including invasive removals, and paddling trips. As advocates, we speak up for watershed protection and river-friendly practices and policies at the local, state, and national level.



The Farmington River is the longest tributary to the Connecticut River, coursing 81 miles from Massachusetts headwaters to its confluence with the Connecticut River. The Farmington River watershed has two federal partnership Wild & Scenic designations in Connecticut, with 50.4 miles on the Farmington River and 26.4 on Salmon Brook.



A NOTE FROM THE FRWA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Resiliency: Come Hell or High Water

The word resilience is increasingly used in the river protection world, as well as in our day-to-day lives. It applies widely to our work at FRWA and in our efforts to continue our work in a changing world. What does it mean to FRWA to have a resilient River?

We want a River that can bounce back from environmental stressors such as droughts, floods, and other natural extremes. A river becomes resilient when we ensure it has robust riverbanks, with a supporting infrastructure that can absorb the changes from environmental extremes. FRWA does this by monitoring the river for changes, stewarding projects that protect the river, and supporting our community through advocacy and planning. See the list below for a sampling of FRWA projects this year that are incrementally making our river more resilient.

In FRWA's history, we have long struggled with both financial resilience, and this year is no different. You can look back to our Summer 2025 newsletter, where we were shaken by frozen Federal funding and deep cuts to the National Park Service Budget, which includes vital funding for our Partnership Wild & Scenic River program. While this Federal fiscal year has begun, and we have our allocation for this year, much of the longevity and reliability of this funding is now uncertain.

But like a river, we flow along with the currents of our times, and this coming year is no different. FRWA is always looking forward and preparing for the challenges ahead. FRWA will work in the coming year to broaden our partnerships and projects to create robust and resilient plans for working in an uncertain world. We will begin developing a Watershed-Based Management Plan for the impaired Mad and Still Rivers in Torrington and Winchester. We will dive into our baseline water monitoring that gives us clues on how development effects can trickle into our streams. We will reach out to municipalities to share our data and discuss possible remedies. We will continue our vital partnership efforts across the whole watershed.

If you are reading this, it means that you are in our circle, and hopefully you will stay along for the ride. We need your energy and perseverance to help us through these troubling times; with you along for the ride, we will gladly keep up the fight.

In partnership,
Aimee Petras



AIMEE PETRAS

Resilience Projects at FRWA - 2025

Winchell-Smith Dam Removal (pg. 4)
Culvert Assessments & Replacements (pg. 5)
Water Quality Monitoring (pgs. 6-10)
Land Stewardship and Invasive Plant Removals (pg. 11)
Stormwater Reduction Projects (pg. 12)

There are 33 towns in the watershed covering 609 square miles of land in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Approximately 100,000 acres of the watershed lies within MA, with the remaining 285,000 acres in Connecticut. The Farmington River watershed supplies hundreds of thousands of Hartford region residents with drinking water.

RIVER RESTORATION WORK

WINCHELL SMITH DAM REMOVAL



Winchell-Smith Dam formerly located in Farmington, CT
behind Miss Porter's School

FRWA is delighted to report that the Winchell-Smith Dam on the mainstem Farmington River in Farmington, CT was successfully removed in mid-September by Princeton Hydro and their subcontractor, RiverLogic. The demolition work began on September 9th, with removal efforts finished in just two days!

The timber-crib dam dates back to the 1600's when it was the powerhouse of a booming grain business in Farmington during the early 20th century, and it may have been the first gristmill built on the Farmington River. In recent years it has been obsolete and restricts river access for recreationists, wildlife, and aquatic organisms. Removing the dam improved local erosion and riverbank scour and eliminated hazards for river users.



Removal of this dam has allowed for us to enhance and restore the natural stream habitat, in particular for fish species who need access to small streams for food, thermal refuge, and spawning habitat. Rock and boulder from the dam structure have been used to construct a riffle in place of the dam, recreating the scenic view while providing a habitat for aquatic organisms.



The Farmington River once again free flowing, with newly
formed riffle habitat

RIVER RESTORATION WORK

DAM REMOVALS IN PROGRESS

Removing river barriers takes years of fundraising, research, and coordination, and FRWA wants to keep our momentum going. Ongoing dam removals in the Farmington River watershed include removal of the Lower Collinsville Dam on the Farmington River and Middle Street Dam on the Pequabuck River. We have been concentrating stewardship efforts on Barber Pond in Bloomfield to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive plants before the planned removal of Barber Pond Dam. We also continue to advocate for best practices at Rainbow Dam in hopes that fish passage and water quality can be restored in the lower Farmington River.



CT DEEP is coordinating the removal of Lower Collinsville Dam to improve fish passage and to create safe public access on the river



Princeton Hydro is working with CT DEEP and DOT to complete plans for the removal of Middle Street Dam in Bristol, CT

CULVERT ASSESSMENTS & REPLACEMENTS

Our continued restoration efforts in Massachusetts as a member of the Berkshire Clean, Cold, and Connected partnership (BCCC) is multifaceted. We have been assessing aquatic passage through the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), working on preliminary designs for two road-stream crossing upgrades, one on Shales Brook and another on North Branch Silver Brook, and monitoring temperature, water level, and conductivity using data loggers at priority replacement locations. FRWA is also continuing work with the towns of Becket, Sandisfield, and Otis to create Road Stream Crossing Management Plans (RSCMPs) for prioritizing future replacements.

In CT, FRWA has been working with Trout Unlimited, FRCC, the town of New Hartford, and landowners to design a restoration plan for Ratlum Brook, which has been diverted from its original channel by a washed-out culvert.



North Branch Silver Brook culvert



Shales Brook culverts



Washed-out culvert on Ratlum Brook

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

With three research projects, a cyanobacteria bloom on Rainbow Reservoir, and our annual monitoring for bacteria, temperature, and chloride, FRWA staff were busy assessing the watershed this year.

FRWA reached another milestone with data collection this year, increasing data from 600,000 data points in 2024 to over 2.2 million in 2025. Thanks to deployable continuous loggers, data collection is made easy and collects more data points than manual sampling. This year, some loggers were reprogrammed to record data every 15 minutes compared to 1 hour which increased data collection by 26,000 points per parameter per reprogrammed logger. Additionally, the Frey Property retention pond and a location on the Farmington River in Windsor were upgraded to cabled multiparameter sondes, one Bluetooth and one cellular, allowing them to collect more data with easier access for data retrieval.

FRWA follows all procedures outlined in our Quality Assurance Project Plans and Standard Operating Procedures to prioritize accurate and useable data for organizations and state and federal agencies for assessments, long-term trends, habitat suitability, and best management practices locations.



Multiparameter meter at Rainbow Reservoir



Ciara making meter calibration solution

539

Bacteria Samples

5

Secchi Measurements

6

Algae Samples

3

Cyanotoxin Samples

2.2 MILLION

Total Logger Data Points

6,753

Meter Data Points

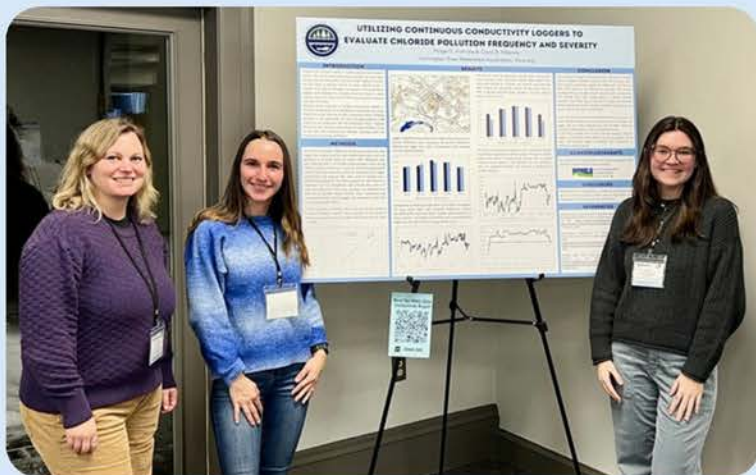
608

Nutrient Data Points

309

Chloride Data Points

Keep an eye out over the winter for several research reports and our annual water quality report! All reports can be found on our website at frwa.org/resources



FRWA'S FIRST RESEARCH POSTER

FRWA staff were delighted to attend the Northeast Aquatic Biologists conference hosted by the Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in New Hampshire this year.

Paige and Ciara presented a poster on the ongoing conductivity and chloride research, with specific results on Rainbow Brook in the Lower Farmington River. We hope in the future this research provides a cost effective and continuous method for monitoring chloride for other organizations.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

BACTERIA MONITORING

FRWA staff and interns conducted our annual *E.coli* bacteria monitoring from mid-May to early September. A total of 59 sites were sampled, 17 in Massachusetts and 42 in Connecticut. All CT sites were sampled 8 times each and all MA sites were sampled 6 times each in accordance with state requirements. All samples were processed by FRWA staff and interns at the FRWA lab located inside the Simsbury Water Pollution Control Facility. Thank you to the Simsbury WPCF for allowing use of their facility!



CYANOBACTERIA RESEARCH

FRWA staff were back on Rainbow Reservoir again this year, but this time a cyanobacteria bloom occurred! Staff first noticed the water looking slightly green toward the end of July, and jumped into action to monitor it. Staff were able to get out on the boat and take samples for algae and nutrients, and utilized our multiparameter meter to see how thermal oxygen regimes and chlorophyll and phycocyanin were changing. Staff also collected 3 EPA cyanobacteria toxin samples to see if the bloom was producing cyanotoxins.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

CONTINUOUS LOGGERS

FRWA has 41 continuous loggers deployed throughout the watershed in both MA and CT. They are a mix of temperature, conductivity, water level, and dissolved oxygen. All loggers collect several parameters with the exception of temperature loggers. FRWA has been expanding this program because it is cost effective, reduces staff time in the field, and collects more data than manual sampling. This year, the Frey Property retention pond and a location on the Farmington River in Windsor were upgraded to cabled loggers for easy accessibility, and conductivity & chloride research continued.



CHLORIDE MONITORING

Year round chloride monitoring for chloride pollution continued with our multiparameter meter. FRWA monitors chloride 8 times per year in all seasons to determine chloride pollution in relation to road salt use during winter months. While the biggest concern is winter months, we monitor year round as chloride can linger and impact aquatic life, especially during high production times. Conductivity loggers paired with chloride monitoring provide us with insight on chloride changes every 15 minutes, allowing staff to see changes occurring outside of in-situ monitoring.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

FLOW RESEARCH IN WINDSOR

FRWA began researching flows downstream Rainbow Reservoir in 2025 as a supplement to the routine monitoring that took place on the reservoir the last few years. Staff installed a water level station to monitor the change in water level, flow, and temperature. In addition, manual measurements were taken using our new flow probe in varying stage heights to develop a stage discharge table for the segment of the river downstream Rainbow Dam, and allowing us to see changes over time.



WATERSHED NUTRIENT STUDY

FRWA carried out a watershed nutrient assessment in 2025, as a supplement to the research on Rainbow Reservoir, to inform us of where nutrient inputs into the Farmington River are occurring. Excess nutrient input in the Farmington River leads to excess nutrient input into Rainbow Reservoir which feeds cyanobacteria and causes harmful algal blooms. Samples were taken pre-storm, during storm, and post-storm above and below 8 wastewater treatment plants and along with 8 tributaries with land uses that suggest high inputs of nutrients. Flow measurements were also taken to determine the amount of nutrient loading at each location per day.



LAND STEWARDSHIP

WELCOME KAITLIN!

FRWA welcomed our new Land Stewardship Coordinator, Kaitlin Cole in March. Since then, she has been eagerly working to collaborate with our local land trusts, as well as working on multiple terrestrial invasive plant removal projects throughout the watershed.

LAND TRUST COLLABORATION

In April, FRWA organized a meeting with land trusts in the watershed to formally inquire about ways we could assist them while promoting collaboration between them. Representatives from 10 land trusts attended and shared problems they faced while offering ideas and solutions for others.

FRWA organized an informational session about different forms of land trust collaboration including mergers in the fall. It was open to all land trusts in the Farmington River Watershed. Aaron Lefland, from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council presented on the process of merging and the funding opportunities available, and Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy and Northwoods Land Conservancy gave talks on their experience with merging, its benefits, challenges, and other insights.



Porcelain Berry removal at Pinchot Sycamore



Fisher Meadows invasive removal



Fisher Meadows invasive removal

FISHER MEADOWS

A large-scale invasive management project took place at Fisher Meadows Recreation Area in May. Species of concern included Oriental Bittersweet, Burning Bush, Multiflora Rose, Japanese Barberry, and Privet. Roughly 1,445,200 sq.ft of area was cleared. This work widened the recreational walking trail, reduced invasives on the riparian buffer, and created more space for native plants to flourish in the park. Additionally, a brush mower was used in areas which had been cleared in recent years, to remove younger invasive species that were beginning to reemerge. This effort will allow the native trees at Fisher Meadows to continue to thrive, reproduce, provide habitat for wildlife, and protect our river from erosion and flooding for years to come.

Land trusts in the Farmington River watershed include: Avon Land Trust, Burlington Land Trust, Canton Land Conservation Trust, Colebrook Land Trust, Farmington Land Trust, Granby Land Trust, New Hartford Land Trust, Northwoods Land Conservancy, Simsbury Land Trust, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy, & Winchester Land Trust

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Members of the Avon Land Trust, Avon Recreation and Parks staff, volunteers, FRWA staff, and invasive removal experts from Ornamentals LLC gathered at the Fisher Meadows Recreation Area in June for a 3-hour educational workshop and invasive removal work session. They focused on removing invasives in the areas surrounding the trail, helping to widen the walking areas and allow more sunlight to reach young native trees. The team also focused their removal efforts on the riverbank, where Barberry and Burning Bush had completely taken over, blocking sunlight from reaching natives, and disrupting the balance of the native ecosystem.

In September and October, two more invasive removal work sessions were held, this time focusing on Japanese Barberry. The team got to work and cleared much of the intended work area, uprooting large Barberry bushes and leaving them to dry out naturally. After two work sessions and dedicated teamwork, the dense Barberry forest became an open area, where a stream once blocked from view by the obstructing invasives was now visible and able to be accessed.



1.4M

Sq ft cleared

7

Species targeted

4

Removal days

50

Volunteers

STORMWATER REDUCTION PROJECTS

In Massachusetts, residents along Shales Brook in Becket had the opportunity to receive stormwater infrastructure at their homes as a part of stream restoration efforts funded through BCCC. Invasive plants were removed and buffers and rain barrels were installed for the residents. This will reduce stormwater from entering Shales Brook, and provide some residents with rain water for watering their gardens.

In Winchester, FRWA and volunteers planted three new bioswales at Highland Lake. These gardens were implemented in collaboration with CT DEEP, in an effort to reduce stormwater runoff.

In Canton, a new rain garden was installed alongside the Farmington River and the Farmington River Trail. This garden adds to the scenery along the trail, as well as providing habitat and food for wildlife and pollinators. The drain in the center will help reduce excessive flooding in times of extreme rainfall.



Shales Brook buffer and rain barrels



Highland Lake bioswales



Canton rain garden

AQUATIC STEWARDSHIP

AQUATIC INVASIVE MONITORING

FRWA has been monitoring boat launches and recreational areas in the lower Farmington River for aquatic invasives. Parts of the Connecticut River watershed have been experiencing severe infestations of *Hydrilla* that can destroy freshwater ecosystems if left unchecked, and FRWA is keeping an eye out for these plants in order to curb any potential issues before large management efforts are required. We haven't seen any *Hydrilla* in our watershed yet, but we will remain watchful.

1,000 pounds of water chestnuts removed



A volunteer pulls water chestnut on Barber Pond



Zoe tosses a rake for aquatic plant collection

WATER CHESTNUT REMOVALS

This summer we continued with our third season of invasive water chestnut pulls at Barber Pond in Bloomfield, paired with a second season of herbicidal treatment. So far in the last 3 years we have removed over 5,000 pounds of plant material during our pulls, and we have seen significant improvements on the pond, including the reestablishment of native cattails. Though we celebrate these habitat improvements on Barber Pond, our primary goal for this project is to reduce the number of water chestnut seeds traveling downstream into the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers before the planned removal of Barber Pond Dam.

38TH ANNUAL FARMINGTON RIVER CLEAN UP

This year's cleanup started in August when Cummins Inc. retrieved a lawnmower, a scooter, traffic barriers, automotive parts, and more out of Mill Brook in Windsor. Mill Brook is special to us at FRWA, because it is one of the few areas downstream from Rainbow Dam where fish can find refuge in hot summer months, and we are thrilled to have that section of the brook free of litter. In September, Simsbury Scout Troop 76 paddled down the Farmington River and found 12 tires, a snow shovel, a stop sign, and 2 bags of garbage.

We wrapped up our cleanup in Collinsville and Windsor on September 27th with 41 participants as well as members of the Avon-Canton Rotary Club. Our volunteers found 2 inner tubes, a broken gumball machine, a clothing iron, and wiffle bat, a lawn chair, 5 more tires, and lots more!



Hardworking volunteers showing off their garbage!



Our 2025 cleanup kicked off early on Mill Brook with Cummins, Inc.

FRWA FREY PROPERTY UPDATES

TREE PLANTING

In March, FRWA and Trout Unlimited, with funding from the National Park Service, planted over 500 native trees and shrubs on the FRWA Frey Property as part of habitat restoration efforts on the property. A variety of species were planted around the retention pond, along the stream, and in areas that formerly had invasive black locust growing. Species include Black Willow, Pin Oak, Lowbush Blueberry, Sycamore, Red Maple and so much more! These new species will provide shade to the pond and stream bank, provide shelter and food to wildlife, and help prevent bank erosion for many years to come. The planting took place across two days, with 146 volunteers, 3 staff from Trout Unlimited, and 6 staff from FRWA working to get all 500 plants in the ground. We are so grateful to everyone who showed up to help us restore such a large area of the Frey Property, and we had a blast doing it! A huge thanks to Trout Unlimited and all of our amazing volunteers for their hard work, and to Mama Nena's food truck for an amazing lunch on both planting days!



Tree planting with amazing volunteers!



MEADOW PLANTING

This year the Frey Property's meadow was tilled and seeded with native pollinator flowers and native grasses. There has been a notable difference in the meadow since then with several different flowering plants throughout and grasses taller than us! The restored meadow will provide habitat and food for pollinators and birds, and improve water infiltration and flood prevention for the area.



RETENTION POND MONITORING

In the spring we upgraded our loggers that monitor the Frey retention pond to a single bluetooth cabled logger. It includes water level, temperature, conductivity (cond and sp. cond), and dissolved oxygen (mg/L and % saturation) all on one logger and provides staff with easier access for data retrieval - no more kayaking out on the pond to retrieve and download them!

Paige working to get the deployable portion of the logger prepped and ready to be kayaked out into the middle of the pond where it is suspended via a bouy

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

RIVER SMART

FRWA received another round of funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund to support our River Smart program for another two years - \$75,000 total. This supports outreach and stewardship work in Bristol, Burlington, Torrington, and Winchester.

In Bristol this year, we have provided Bristol Eastern High School students with a Project Oceanology field trip, and the Environmental Learning Centers of CT campers with a lesson on ecology at Meigs Point in Hammonasset State Park, and a paddling trip on the Farmington River. Campers also took a trip to see the new bioswale at Edgewood School in Bristol, and had a lesson on the importance of stormwater reduction.

FRWA has been at numerous events this year to promote our River Smart program, and hand out free downspout disconnect kits to local residents. You may have seen us at the Jackson Laboratory's Earth Day fair, Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival, New Hartford's first ever River Rocks, Burlington Tavern Day, and at the Bristol Farmer's Market.

If you haven't seen us out and about but still want to learn about River Smart, we have a collection of online resources as well. River Smart is a collaboration between several organizations and has its own website, riversmartct.org, with loads of information on stormwater pollution. There you can also take the River Smart pledge, and select two or more small changes you can make at home to have a positive impact on our waterways. If you go to frwa.org/resources you can find FRWA's specific resources on stormwater plus some great lawncare tips and information.



Visit riversmartct.org to learn more about ways you can be River Smart



ELCCT campers learn about invasive crabs at Meigs Point



Ciara giving out downspout kits at the Bristol Farmers Market



Aimee teaches campers to be River Smart in Bristol

MACROINVERTEBRATE PROGRAMS

Macroinvertebrates are a great example of evaluating stream health for educational programs. Surveys allow people of all ages to get in the water, collect and identify macroinvertebrates, and learn about the water quality of their local waters. This year we had several educational programs with schools and the public on macroinvertebrates. Our programs and tabling included Barkhamsted Earth Day, St. Joseph's School, Barkhamsted River Day, Roaring Brook Nature Center, and Montessori School of Greater Hartford.



WATERSHED COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A CELEBRATION OF THE FARMINGTON RIVER

In May, the third annual "Celebration of The Farmington River" was held at Metro Bis restaurant in Simsbury. FRWA had a great time meeting dedicated members of the river community, catching up with board members and old friends, and enjoying an incredible meal. There was a great selection of auction items for everyone to bid on, and between that and ticket sales, \$18,370 was raised for FRWA!



THE PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL

In June, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak and Brewery Legitimus brought The Paddling Film Festival back to the Farmington River for a second year. This Film Fest showcased some of the worlds best paddling films as a way to inspire others to explore our rivers, push boundaries, and fully embrace the paddling lifestyle. 100% of ticket sales were donated to FRWA - over \$1,700. A huge thanks to CCK for putting on a great event and choosing to support FRWA while doing it!

NEW PARK BREWING FUNK FEST

In June, New Park Brewing in West Hartford hosted their first ever Funk Fest. The Funk Fest was a celebration of funk from beer to music and everything in between. FRWA was invited to talk about the importance of watershed conservation and discover the journey of your beer, from the River to your glass. 5% of all ticket sales from the Funk Fest went to support FRWA - \$180 was donated. We were so excited to meet people from our "drinking-shed" - people in towns who receive their drinking water from the Barkhamsted Reservoir, or the East Branch Farmington River.



WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

FRWA hosted our 7th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Fest in November 2024, and for the first time held a two day event! We held our usual Friday night showing complete with beer from Brewery Legitimus, and Saturday we had our first ever family friendly event, with kids films, crafts and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. We had a great turn out, and loved getting together with the community to enjoy some river related films. In total, \$7,116 was raised for FRWA. This film festival would not be possible without the support from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee and the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee.



FRWA's Wild & Scenic Film Festival is changing dates!
Our next Film Festival will be held on March 20th, 2026
at Miss Porter's School Auditorium in Farmington, CT.

FRWA STAFF & SEASONAL INTERNS



AIMEE PETRAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aimee works on river restoration, advocates for sound policies, supervises program coordination and project management, and works on fundraising.



LAURA HART
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Laura manages budgets and grant writing, conservation efforts on the Frey Property, and works with partners on green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens.



PAIGE VICHIOLA-SILVA
WATER QUALITY MANAGER

Paige works on water quality monitoring and research projects, performs data management, data analysis, QA and QC, and produces reports.



HEATHER GEIST
AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGER

Heather manages the road-stream crossing program for aquatic passage and flood mitigation, macroinvertebrate surveys, and performs aquatic invasive management and restoration.



CIARA KILKENNY
WATERSHED PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Ciara organizes water monitoring programs, performs fieldwork and lab tasks, makes maps via GIS, and produces reports and educational materials.



KAITLIN COLE
LAND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Kaitlin organizes land stewardship projects, assists local land trusts, provides terrestrial invasive volunteer opportunities, and works on the Frey property.

ZOE DUESING
WATER QUALITY INTERN

Zoe joined us this summer and helped with bacteria sampling and analysis, aquatic plant surveys, chloride monitoring, and flow measurements.

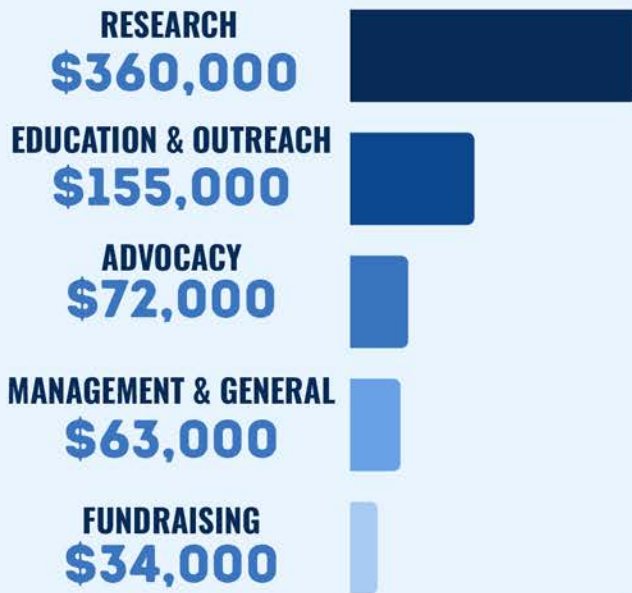
MARIA SILVA
WATER QUALITY INTERN

Maria helped this summer with cyanobacteria monitoring, bacteria sampling and analysis, chloride monitoring and flow measurements.

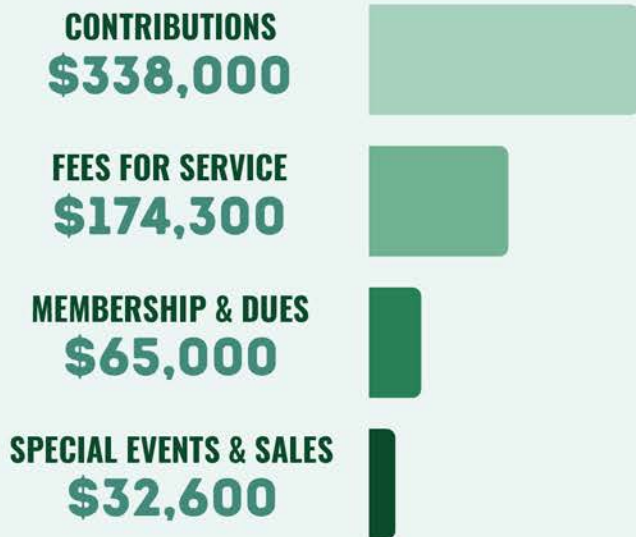
FRWA has continued to provide internship opportunities to college students for years, giving them hands on experience in the environmental field. Interns support our water quality programs by performing field work and sample collection, lab analysis, and data management. They also table at events to share our River Smart information.

FINANCIAL REPORT FY 24-25

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$620,500



TOTAL INCOME: \$611,000



*Financial amounts are approximate

FRWA is grateful to announce that we have not lost any of our obligated funding due to federal or state budget cuts-**yet**. This allows us to continue our research, stewardship, and educational programs uninterrupted for the next year. As we take a sigh of relief, we realize that now is not the time to relax. We still have some big challenges ahead of us, and we are preparing to face them head-on to protect our River and its watershed.

The current Administration has passed extensive budget cuts to the National Parks Service and other federal institutions for the 2026 fiscal year (October 2026-September 2027). This could result in a loss of Partnership Wild & Scenic funding that accounts for approximately one-third of FRWA's annual budget, and it will likely create a more competitive field for grant acquisition. States are tightening their belts in preparation for impending economic changes, and FRWA staff are preparing to spend more of our time and resources in search of new funding opportunities. This is time we would otherwise spend conducting research in the watershed, providing public education, implementing stewardship projects, and advocating for smart river practices in our communities. This is time taken away from protecting our river, and now, as federal priorities shift away from natural resource protection, is the time that we need you to help us prepare to keep our programs running on schedule.

We are a citizen-run organization, as we have been since our conception in 1953. **YOU** are FRWA, and your river needs you now. Please consider making a donation to support FRWA programs today to ensure that our important work can continue.

You can help support our research, education and outreach programs by donating with the QR code or stay informed on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and FRWA's research by subscribing to our emails at FRWA.ORG!



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Sharlow
Brian Toal

RENEWED 3 YEAR TERMS

Marlene Snecinski
Chris Whelan

OFFICERS FY 25-26

John Laudati
President
Tom Carpenter
Vice president
Brian Freeman
Vice President
Robin Baran
Secretary
Chris Whalen
Treasurer

FRWA BOARD MEMBERS

Ginny Apple	Michael Feldman	John E. Robinson
Robin Baran	Brian Freeman	Beckie Sahl
Susan Barney	Andy Kuhlberg	Scott Sharlow
Marrit Canino	John Laudati	Marlene Snecinski
Tom Carpenter	Debbie Leonard	Brian Toal
David Donaldson Jr.		Chris Whelan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



TOM CARPENTER FRWA BOARD MEMBER & VOLUNTEER

"As an angler, I experienced first-hand the beauty of the Farmington River. It was only after I was engaged in activities with FRWA and then became a member of the board did I realize how important this organization was to the Farmington River.

It starts with the staff. They are amazing professionals who are dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Farmington River Watershed. What makes FRWA special is its spirit of collaboration—not just within the team, but with other like-minded nonprofits and government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.

We can all take pride in the work being done by FRWA's staff and volunteers. Together, we are making meaningful changes in our watershed. Come join us in our next volunteer activity."

Tom has helped with bacteria and chloride sampling, volunteer coordination, macroinvertebrate surveys, invasive removals, river clean ups, and is trained in culvert assessments. Tom is also a board member for the Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited (FVTU) chapter, and sits on the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) representing FVTU.

Thank you Tom for all your work for the Farmington River watershed!

FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Farmington River Coordinating Committee
Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
Feldman, Perlstein & Greene LLC
Murphy, Laudati, Kiel & Rattigan, LLC
Farmington River Anglers Association
Milkweeds

GRANT SUPPORT

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection: Aquatic
Invasive Species & 319 Non-point Source
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound
Futures Fund: River Smart, River Restoration Network,
Save The Sound
Berkshire Clean, Cold & Connected Restoration Partnership
Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic
Committee
Farmington River Coordinating Committee
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Housatonic Valley Association

CORPORATE SUPPORT

Aquarion Water Company
Bill Selig Jewelers, Inc.
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
The Jackson Laboratory
Symetra

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

Boeing
The Hartford
Travelers Matching Gifts
United Health Group
United Way of MA Bay & Merrimack Valley
Volkswagon
Voya

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

City of Bristol	Town of Farmington
Town of Avon	Town of Granby
Town of Barkhamsted	Town of Hartland
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	Town of Windsor

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Farmington River Coordinating Committee
& Lower Farmington River and Salmon
Brook Wild & Scenic

Bacteria

Simsbury Water Pollution Control
Authority
Ensign-Bickford Company
Gifts of Love Farm
Miss Porter's School
Ti-Trikes
Tom Carpenter
Tom Dougherty

Continuous Loggers

Onset Computer Corporation
Cat Connection
Ti-Trikes

Chloride

Izaak Walton League of America
Tom Carpenter
Han Solo (*dog*)

Cyanobacteria

Dr. Ken Wagner
CT Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection
Camp Shalom
UConn CESE Laboratory
Farmington River Power Company

Flow Research in Windsor

Onset Computer Corporation
Save the Sound
NOAA - Bill McDavitt
National Parks Service
Cat Connection

Watershed Nutrient Study

Dr. Ken Wagner
UConn CESE Laboratory

AQUATIC & TERRESTRIAL STEWARDSHIP

River Cleanup

Cummins Inc.
Waste Material Trucking
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
Farmington River Anglers Association
Metacomet Tours
Simsbury Scout Troop 76
Avon-Canton Rotary Club
Connecticut River Conservancy
and many dedicated volunteers!

Rain Garden Plantings

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
EC Horticulture & Educational Services - Erik Christensen
Gardens by Design CT - Suzanne Sayers
Highland Lake Watershed Association
City of Bristol
Town of Canton
City of Winchester

Educational Partners

Bristol Eastern High School
Environmental Learning Centers of CT
Meigs Point Nature Center
VoxBox Student Civics
Program - Winchester
Northwest Conservation District
Montessori School of Greater Hartford

Frey Property

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
CT DEEP Wildlife Division - Pete Picone
CT DEEP Forestry Division
FRWA Land Stewardship Committee
Tom Carpenter
Brian Freeman
National Park Service
Jackson Laboratories
Little Explorers in CT
All of our amazing tree planting volunteers!

Stream Crossings

Tom Carpenter
Berkshire Clean, Cold & Connected
North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative
Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Water Chestnut Pulls

Harmony Vichiola
Chase Vichiola
Kenna Tryba
Kristin Tryba
Vivian Olley
NAG Hartford
Sustainable CT
Connecticut River Conservancy

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