



HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION



YOU
make it
HAPPEN



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Monument Valley eighth graders remove grass roll to plant a pollinator garden at Lake Mansfield in Great Barrington.

THANK YOU

It's a new day!

Ten years ago, we faced an economic threat to our work together across the Housatonic River Valley. You stepped up to and over that challenge.

Today, we face the life-altering threat of climate change, accelerating at a much faster pace than scientists predicted even one year ago.

And now, because of you, we are armed, energized and taking action with allies all across the region.

What does this mean for the forests and meadows that offer our best defense against climate change? This year alone you conserved another 2,000 acres of these critically important lands. What about the streams and sources of drinking water that provide clean, cold water? This year you've restored and targeted hundreds of miles for protection. And the lands that sustain us? That we love and enjoy? You're stepping up to save them, too.

It's a new day. The challenges are big. So is our resolve. Because of you.

On behalf of the Board and staff – thank you!



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F. Anthony Zunino, President



Lynn Werner
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Wood Turtle

T. SHEARS PHOTO

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Cover Photos

Paddlers on a Stockbridge trip by HVA. House finches by Joe Ellis. Beaver and snow scene in northwest Connecticut by Bill Wakeley.



JOE ELLIS PHOTO

YOU protect WATER

Because of you, a spectacular cold water trout stream is restored in Pittsfield's Churchill Brook! The old two-pipe culvert was perched high above the brook's surface, stopping trout from swimming upstream to spawn. With city and state agencies, HVA members and volunteers, and additional funds from the Natural Resource Damages Trustees and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, we replaced the pipes with an open-sided bridge culvert. Now the brook runs naturally. Fish, turtles and wildlife pass freely! And buffer plantings filter pollution from road runoff.

You've made it possible to map dozens of problem culverts like this across the watershed in places like Dover, New York, the Berkshires, northwest Connecticut and as far south as Danbury, Seymour and Oxford. Miles of stream habitat are being restored, one culvert at a time.

And you helped New York's Ten Mile River Watershed Collaborative launch its Protection Initiative for the region's spectacular cold water trout streams, drinking water and wetlands, and the natural lands that nurture them. Miles of stream surveys, water quality sampling at 15 key sites, and culvert monitoring are all underway – vital first steps toward a watershed action plan!

You also ...

- Launched Berkshire stream teams in the Konkapot and Green Rivers.
- Tracked down storm water pollution in Dalton, Lanesborough and Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
- Tracked down bacteria pollution in the Berkshire's Southwest Branch.
- Mapped at-risk streams across the Litchfield Hills and Southern Valley.
- Continued restoring the health of Wells Brook by removing invasives and planting trees along its bank with Dover High students, HVA interns and community volunteers.

At year's end we were analyzing watershed health indicators and planning a new watershed health dashboard to share with the public and our partners.



New culvert at Pittsfield's Churchill Brook

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Continued on Page 4

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(Continued from Page 3)

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Eliot and Annick Wadsworth
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Joseph Welsh
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THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

“We at the Dutchess Land Conservancy are so very excited and grateful for your hard work and brilliance in pairing the protection of Meili Farm with HVA’s Greenprint Partners Pledge Fund. I’ve told Hans Joerg and Craig Meili the great news, and they are absolutely thrilled! This funding makes it possible for the Meili family to fulfill their goal of protecting the farm in a way that makes the most sense for future sustainability. It will also have a tremendous impact on safeguarding the agricultural and ecological heritage of the Harlem Valley landscape that is so special to so many.”

– Karin Esme Roux
Director of Land Projects
Dutchess Land Conservancy



BILL WAKELELY PHOTO

Because of you, a spectacular property in Norfolk teeming with brook trout, song birds and wildlife is permanently protected! Linking Canaan Mountain to the Blackberry River, the 420-acre Vagliano parcel is also a vital link in a corridor of woodland and meadow stretching from the Harlem Valley through the Litchfield and Berkshires hills and into Canada. This corridor protects our cool clean streams, drinking water, and bird and wildlife habitat and buffers our region against climate change.

Partners in the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative are working to conserve this *Follow the Forest* vision. The Vagliano property is a shining example of the power of partnership that happened with you, a generous private donation of \$250,000 through the Greenprint Partners Pledge Fund, state and federal conservation partners and funding, including the federal Highlands Conservation Fund.

The Greenprint Partners Pledge Fund gave \$900,000 to four projects, leveraging \$6.6 million in public/private funds and saving 1,646 acres.

You also ...

- Advanced the protection of 760 acres of farmland, wetlands and forest lands

stretching from the Harlem Valley in Amenia, New York to Sharon, Connecticut in a critical *Follow the Forest* landscape. The Greenprint Partners Pledge Fund will provide the last piece of funding to the Dutchess Land Conservancy and their farming partners to seal the deal!

- Helped the Salisbury Association Land Trust and the Cornwall Conservation Trust secure state and federal funds to conserve another 360 acres of vital habitat.
- Launched the online Regional Trails Map portal that HVA developed for the 21 town Northwest Hills Council of Governments that won the 2018 Regional Planning Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association! The online map is a great way to find hiking trails near you. Now neighboring Councils of Governments in Connecticut are following suit as a great model across the State.
- Helped the Warren, Litchfield and Middlebury land trusts hire shared Greenprint staffing to advance their missions.

By year’s end we were working to secure reauthorization of the Highlands Conservation Act – one of the most important sources of federal land protection funding in our area.



Because of you, kids of all ages are making a difference across the watershed! Teams from Danbury and Newtown High Schools and the Alternative School for Excellence planted wetland buffers and wildflowers to protect Bethel's Upper Limekiln Brook Pond.

With a significant boost from the Fairfield County Community Foundation, Still River Connections put five interns into the field learning wildlife identification, macroinvertebrate sampling, GPS data collection and how to use drones in environmental work. Altogether, 75 students joined in the fun!

Interns pulled invasives along the Still River in Brookfield and Danbury; installed environmental education signs at Lake Kenosia; prepped a boat portage site at New Milford's Harrybrooke Park; and helped 140 fourth graders learn about the Still River and come nose-to-nose with local river critter residents.

Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, Massachusetts removed a full truck load of invasive garlic mustard on the Old Mill Trail and sampled the East Branch of the Housatonic River for river bugs. Their fun was boosted in part by the Massachusetts Local Cultural

Councils of Becket, Dalton, Hinsdale-Peru and Washington. And Dalton Cable TV joined the group!

You also...

- Teamed up with the Upper Housatonic Valley Natural Heritage Area to organize six paddle trips.
- Helped eighth graders at Monument Valley Middle School plant pollinator gardens at Lake Mansfield, clean up trash from the lake and have fun fishing, too.
- Teamed up with Danbury Youth Services to pull invasives at Weantinog's Still River Preserve and Danbury's Still River Greenway.
- Installed new access sites along the Still at Erickson Road and Harrybrooke Park, and completed plans for new Housatonic River access at The Bend in West Cornwall.
- Shared RiverSmart tips online and in public presentations across the watershed.

At year's end we were planning a new education project with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and the Wassaic Project to create an outdoor classroom along Weatuck Creek in Millerton, New York that will connect kids of all ages with nature for years to come.



Sharon Elementary students show off their "floating sculptures" – a part of the 2018 Salmon Kill Watershed Festival, in partnership with Trout Unlimited.

THANKS TO YOU AND OUR PARTNERS



Becton-Dickinson volunteer Elliot Schmeer plants a native buffer with Salisbury Elementary students along Salmon Creek as part of a festival in partnership with Trout Unlimited.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

*2017 Auction guests,
donors, bidders and chairs:*

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Dragonfly

STEVEN PINKER PHOTO

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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"I loved stream walks, getting to be right in the river... looking for negative impacts and looking for potential restoration opportunities that would make them better! Next year I'll be going to grad school for Forestry at University of Bangor where I'll be writing theses and doing my own research. This internship gave me a good basis of knowledge for what data is important to watershed protection."

— Juliet Clarkson
River Steward

YOU CAN PADDLE THE RIVER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

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"As proud HVA supporters, we believe in the group's mission to sustain healthy rivers and forests, and we also truly enjoy the Housatonic's unique scenic, recreational and ecological value. HVA's work to protect and restore this picturesque river corridor's land and water is a noble purpose that benefits everyone."

Larry and Martie Bingaman, members since 2001

THANK YOU!



“We worked with a really great crew of people on some really important environmental issues. We learned a lot, but we also had a LOT of fun. There were some hot days, and days where your waders flooded or you fell into a river. But I feel like I really got to know all of the watershed and got to make an impact. It was hard work, but a great experience.”

— Carolyn Koestner
River Steward

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Volunteer Sharon Siter (left) and HVA Berkshire Outreach Program Manager Alison Dixon plant a rain garden next to the new culvert on Churchill Brook.

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YOUR NEIGHBORS
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DOCUMENTING
RIVER CONDITIONS



“The river is getting clearer and more beautiful every year! Thank you.”

Sharon Casdin
member since 2011

THANK YOU!

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 Peter and Patty Findlay
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“As a grad student at UMass Amherst, my work with HVA has been a perfect opportunity to practice in the real world what I’ve learned in the classroom... I’m excited to continue building connections between UMass and HVA on water sustainability projects, stream assessments, water quality monitoring, mapping, and more.”

— Erin Witham
 River Steward

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NEW RIVER ACCESS MAKES IT EASIER TO LAUNCH YOUR CANOE OR KAYAK

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 Gillian Zackham
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 Jane Poehler



Volunteer Mariah Auman
 takes water samples on
 the West Branch of the
 Housatonic in Stockbridge.

Joseph and Janet Aspen Polizzotto
 Pond Mountain Trust
 Bridget Potter
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 Joseph and Jennifer Ruggiero
 Robert and Carol Sadlon
 Mauricio Salazar



“HVA works very hard to protect the water we love. They also do an excellent job of collaborating with local land trusts to ‘get the job done’ e.g. the Massachusetts Stream Assessment Program. Alison and Dennis are very good at urging us on!”

Richard and Pamela Stebbins, members since 2002

THANK YOU!

THERE ARE MILES OF TRAILS TO EXPLORE IN THE HOUSATONIC WATERSHED

William and Ryan Salinetti
 Dr. Jeet and Maury Sandhu
 John Sanzo
 George Schoellkopf and Gerald Incandela
 Dr. John R. and Rebecca Schreiber
 Frederick Schroeder
 Joyce Schwartz
 Reverend Samuel Scott
 The Sebranek Family
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 Stockbridge Gas Co., Inc.
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 Eugene and Adeline Coppola
 Spedito and Josephine Costa
 Sharon Costello



"I liked doing nutrient sampling because I like to see how the health of a river changes and how chemistry affects river life. River Stewards of Tomorrow prepared me for the future by teaching me research skills. You can learn lots of things indoors in an office setting, but out in the field, you really learn how to adapt and solve problems. Thanks, HVA!"

— Jake Parise
 River Steward



"Oliver Wendell Holmes was right – 'There's no tonic like the Housatonic!' and those of us who live in the environs of the 'Housy' and its tributaries are lucky, lucky, lucky! But the role that HVA and its volunteers play in preserving this gem cannot be overstated. Led by Lynn, they are fearless in their mission. Thanks!"

Allan (Whitey) Frew, member since 1991

Roger and Mary Coutant
 Kathy Creighton
 Thomas and Mieke Crider
 Judith Crouch
 Denis L. and Barbara J. Curtiss
 Linda J. Cysz
 William and Suzan Dahl
 Carl D'Alvia and Jacqueline Saccoccio
 Dark Entry Forest, Inc.
 Suzanne and Edward Davies
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THANK YOU!

Paul De Angelis and
Elisabeth Kaestner
Nancy and David Deakin
Frank DeFino and Terri DeFino
Paul J. Delasco
Lionel Delevingne and
Judith Wilkinson
Carmela DeLuca
Wendy and Michael DeLucia
Herb Dershowitz and
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Margaret Dietemann
Clayton Dilts
Donna and James DiMartino
Alexandra and
Anthony DiPentima
Dr. Richard D. Dixon
Joseph C. Doboszynski
Jerry and Gretchen Doolittle



“We had an awesome variety of fieldwork experiences – monitoring culverts, sampling water quality and looking for macroinvertebrates - with a really, seriously great group of people. Choosing this internship for the summer let me see how much I enjoy fieldwork, environmental monitoring, and being outside. It prepared me for the rest of my undergrad at Dickinson College, for grad school, and my future career.”

— Kendra Beaver
River Steward

John Downie
Victoria Ann Doyle
Walter J. Drozeck
James Duffy
John Dundas
Tom and Dot Dwyer
Gary L. Dycus
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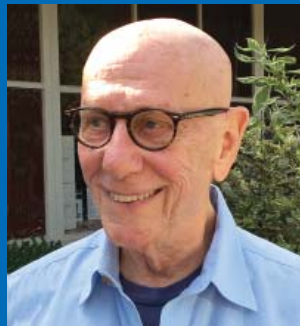
MANY PEOPLE REMOVE TRASH FROM THE RIVER EVERY YEAR

James and Virginia Giddens
Eleanor A. Gifford
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“HVA is the guardian of natural waters in western Connecticut. Importantly, they provide the critical advice to those of us managing and protecting it at the local community level.”

Dan Sherr, member since 1994

THANK YOU!

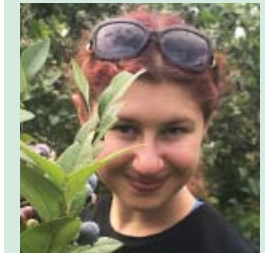
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 Dr. Bennett L. and Sarelle Rosner
 Daisy Rosner



"Interning with HVA allowed me to help the environment in a community oriented manner. Being in the outdoors while doing real scientific field work gave me a hands-on experience which I truly enjoyed. It taught me how real change and improvement can come from small scale efforts. I am grateful for my experience at HVA."

— Allison Saltz
 River Steward

Helen and Donald Ross
 Harvey and Barbara Rothenberg
 Anneke Rothman
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 Elizabeth Rowe and Glen Cherry
 Ken and Alane Rubel
 Rocco and Mary Ruggiero
 Aladin Sabanovic
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 Amy Virshup
 Garrett Scheibel and Family
 Edna Schenkel
 Rebecca Schopp
 Dr. Philip and Hannah Schorr
 Robert Schroter
 Martin and Jane Schwartz
 Susan Schwarz
 Olga Schwede
 Andrea Scott and Rob Jenter



"I didn't fully appreciate how beautiful the Housatonic River is until I found myself travelling down it in an HVA war canoe with ten wild women. I'm so glad that HVA is here to protect this river valley."

Susan Haber. member since 1999

THANK YOU!

David Seligman
 Frederick R. and Arleen Sell
 Stephen and Celia Senzer
 Alan W. and Sue Seppa
 Bob and Donna Sermini
 Marjorie Shansky



“Still River Connections gets kids job experiences out in the field – something I wish I had in High School. In the beginning, the kids were all shy and didn’t know each other, but by the end they were working together and having fun. That’s really important. Thanks to all our partners and sponsors for making it possible.”

— Nick Giordano
 Still River Connections
 Crew Leader

Mark and Jennifer Shapp
 Sharon Optical
 Janice Shelavage
 Stacey Shore
 Anita L. Short
 Betty Silbert
 Leonard and Gail Silverman
 Ellery W. and
 Mary Lusanna Sinclair
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YOUNGSTERS ARE HAVING FUN IN STREAMS LOOKING FOR RIVER BUGS

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Ron Yaple
 Thomas and Susan Young
 Jean Zay
 Martha and Murray Zimiles
 Robin Zitter
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 Dr. Natalia Zunino

Charles Downing Lay Society Requests and Planned Gifts

Judy Black
 Nancy S. Bushnell
 Leendert T. DeJong
 Mary V. Flynn
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 Elizabeth Ford Sayman
 Richard C. Sears
 Harmon D. Smith
 Marc and Janet Taylor
 Lynn A. Werner
 Alice J. Wolfe
 F. Anthony and Sally Zunino



Cornwall Consolidated Student collects bugs in the Housatonic River.

Gifts Honoring Others In Memory of Cora LaBerge Abbott

Donald and Elizabeth Abbott
In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Abbott
 Donald and Elizabeth Abbott
In Memory of Paul R. Gibbs
 Beth P. Schober
In Honor of Judge Allen Schwait
 Kenneth L. Greif

And a special thank you to all who donated to, attended and supported the Auction for your environment!

hvatoday.org



“I think HVA is doing very good work and has at all times had the maintenance of the river and its surrounding land on its mind. Congratulations on such a fine result. The Housatonic River is extremely important to the area of Connecticut to which I am deeply devoted.”

Kirsten Peckerman, member since 1980

FINANCIAL REPORT

HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION, INC. AND HVA FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Membership Dues	\$ 62,072	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,072
Contributions Above Dues	524,473	-	-	524,473
Grants	775,052	401,155	-	1,176,207
Events	149,614	-	-	149,614
Fees	39,455	-	-	39,455
Rent	9,085	-	-	9,085
Investment Income	5,951	20,405	-	26,356
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	23,511	72,440	-	95,951
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	<u>141,485</u>	<u>(141,485)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>1,730,698</u>	<u>352,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,083,213</u>
 EXPENSES				
Program Services				
Issue Response	65,401	-	-	65,401
Environmental Education	247,235	-	-	247,235
Land Protection	356,132	-	-	356,132
Water Protection	<u>718,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>718,575</u>
Total Program Services	<u>1,387,343</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,387,343</u>
 Supporting Services				
Membership	100,276	-	-	100,276
Events	73,241	-	-	73,241
Management and General	28,178	-	-	28,178
Fundraising	<u>130,094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,094</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>331,789</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331,789</u>
 Total Expenses	<u>1,719,132</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,719,132</u>
 Change in Net Assets	<u>11,566</u>	<u>352,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,081</u>
 Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>500,086</u>	<u>562,047</u>	<u>849,025</u>	<u>1,911,158</u>
 Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 511,652</u>	<u>\$ 914,562</u>	<u>\$ 849,025</u>	<u>\$2,275,239</u>

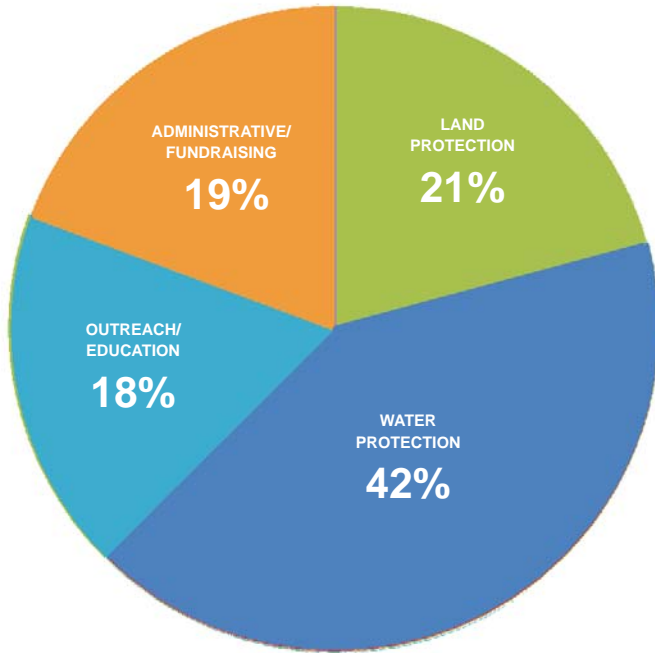
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2018

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 380,112
Accounts Receivable	653,989
Prepaid Expenses	<u>27,213</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,061,314</u>
 Property and Equipment	
Land	216,206
Buildings and Renovations	369,106
Furnishings and Equipment	190,273
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(476,925)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>298,660</u>
 Other Assets	
Investments	1,290,127
Deferred Land Sale Costs	<u>6,342</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>1,296,469</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,656,443</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 366,864
Accrued Salaries and Wages	<u>14,340</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>381,204</u>
 Net Assets	
Unrestricted, Equity in Property and Equipment	298,660
Unrestricted, Designated by the Board	62,000
Unrestricted, Undesignated	<u>150,992</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	511,652
Temporarily Restricted	914,562
Permanently Restricted	<u>849,025</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>2,275,239</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$2,656,443</u>

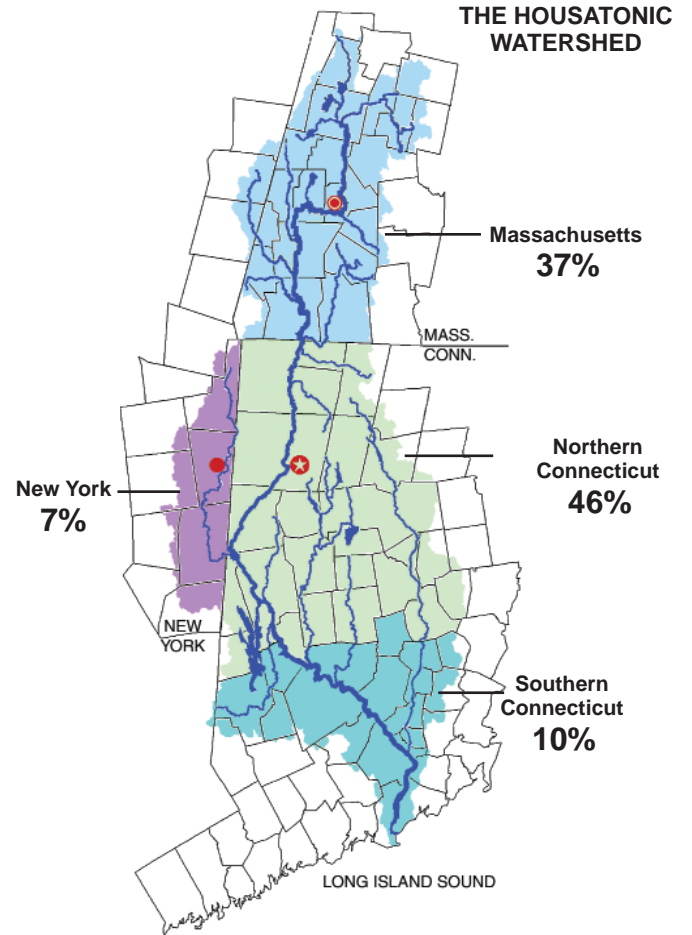
2018 AT A GLANCE

The Housatonic Valley Association's mission is to save the natural character and environmental health of our communities by protecting land and water in the Housatonic River Watershed.

How we spent our resources



Where we spent our resources



www.hvatoday.org

CT: P.O. Box 28, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754 860-672-6678 E-mail: conn@hvatoday.org
MA: P.O. Box 496, Stockbridge, MA 01262 413-298-7024 E-mail: mass@hvatoday.org
NY: P.O. Box 315, Wassaic, NY 12592 845-442-1039 E-mail: mgrace.hva@gmail.com





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BERKSHIRE LAND AND WATER
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Berkshire Director

Alison Dixon
Berkshire Outreach Program Manager

CONNECTICUT LAND PROTECTION
Tim Abbott

Greenprint Director

Connie Manes
Greenprint Manager

Kim Cartwright
Land Trust Administrator

Stacy Deming
GIS Manager

CONNECTICUT/NEW YORK
WATER PROTECTION
Michael Jastremski

Watershed Conservation Director

Courteny Morehouse
Conservation Projects Manager

Lindsay Keener-Eck
Conservation Projects Manager

Maria Grace
*Ten Mile Watershed Manager**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Richard Sears
Development Director

Rob Wallace
Communications Director

Brenda Singer
Membership/Volunteer Manager

Jane Bakker
*Communications Manager**

FINANCIAL
Patience Lindholm
Finance Director

CONSULTANTS
Joseph Ruggiero – IT

*PARTTIME

Welcome Lindsay, Kelly and Kim!



Lindsay Keener-Eck

Lindsay joined HVA as Conservation Projects Manager in January 2018. With her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine and an M.S. in Natural Resources and the Environment, with a focus on human dimension from the University of Connecticut, Lindsay is already an integral part of the Watershed Conservation Team. She lives in Washington with her new husband, Rory.



Kelly Parker

Kelly joined HVA in June 2018 as the Annual Giving and Grants Manager. She has more than 10 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Kelly has a Master's in Public Administration from Marist College, and a wealth of experience building donor engagement. She enjoys spending time in her garden, and being outdoors with her husband and two children on their family farm.



Kim Cartwright

Kim joins HVA in a special role for the benefit of the local land trust community in Northwest Connecticut. She provides shared administrative support for three Greenprint Collaborative members – the Litchfield, Middlebury and Warren land trusts. She previously worked as Associate Director of Roxbury Land Trust.

Farewell Brenda!



Brenda Singer

Brenda retired in June after 14 years with HVA. Thank you, Brenda, for all you've done for the river valley. We wish you many new adventures! We will miss you.

Greenprint Collaborative

Aton Forest, Inc.
Audubon Connecticut – Sharon Audubon Center
Colebrook Land Conservancy
Connecticut Farmland Trust
Cornwall Conservation Trust
Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust
Goshen Land Trust
Hartland Land Trust
Harwinton Land Conservation Trust
Heritage Land Preservation Trust
Kent Land Trust
Lake Waramaug Task Force
Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
Litchfield Land Trust
Middlebury Land Trust
Morris Land Trust
Mount Riga, Inc.
Naromi Land Trust
Norfolk Land Trust
New Hartford Land Trust
Northwest Hills Council of Governments
Roxbury Land Trust
Salisbury Land Trust
Sharon Land Trust
Steep Rock Association
The Trust for Public Land
Warren Land Trust
Watertown Land Trust
Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust
White Memorial Conservation Center
Winchester Land Trust