



2024 ANNUAL POMPERAUG RIVER

WATERSHED NEWS

Protecting Water Resources for Generations

FLOODS OF THE FUTURE AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO ABOUT THEM

**By Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition Staff and Tim Palmer, author of
"Seek Higher Ground: The Natural Solution to Our Urgent Flooding Crisis"**



On August 18, a flood delivered by intense local rainstorms hit Woodbury, Southbury, Oxford, and other Connecticut communities. While the Pomperaug River in Southbury did not exceed its high-water record from 1955, the Town of Southbury rightly reported this event "as its largest flood in history." This followed on the heels of torrential rain from Tropical Storm Beryl and Hurricane Debby, which devastated other parts of the Northeast earlier this year.



*South Brook overtopping Trolley Bed Road,
Woodbury, CT (August 19, 2024)*

The losses from the recent flood in Connecticut have been costly and heart-breaking for all who are directly involved. There is no doubt that the needs of our community members call for immediate generosity in relief and recovery. However, we must also look forward to improving our response to future climate disasters, which are destined to become more frequent and severe. While denial of continuing hazards may seem easy once the horrors of a flood wane, this approach will only cause our communities more hardship in the future.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research has forecasted that extreme storms will multiply by up to 400% by the year 2100. The First Street Foundation, a non-profit research organization working to define America's flood risk, reported that our warming climate will cause flood damages to swell from \$20 billion in 2021 to \$32 billion by 2051. Floods of the "100-year" magnitude (meaning a 1 in 100 or 1% chance of it happening in any given year) now occur along some streams every few years, and sometimes multiple times per year, such as those in Connecticut and Vermont in 2011, 2023, and 2024. With this knowledge, we need to prepare for the greater storms of tomorrow.

Immediate help after the waters recede is essential for flood victims to recover, but we must also focus on preventing future flooding damage by urging for the protection of floodplain open space, prioritizing the installation of larger road-stream crossing infrastructure (culverts and bridges) to handle higher streamflows, and limiting impervious surfaces (paved areas) that inhibit stormwater from soaking into the ground naturally. Each and every flood should be a reminder that our communities need to put a greater focus on preventing future flood losses rather than waiting for damages to occur. Our safety depends on it.

For more information on how you can help reduce the impacts of stormwater in your community, see page 2.

This Issue:

Floods of the Future

PAGE 1

Be River Smart

PAGE 2

Note From the Director & PRWC's 25th Anniversary

PAGE 3

Invasive European Water Chestnut

PAGE 4

2024 Annual Gratitude Report & Fiscal Summary

PAGES 5 & 6

A Legacy of Giving

PAGE 7

Community-Based Research

PAGES 8 & 9

Annual Appeal

PAGE 10

Contact Us:

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

39 Sherman Hill Rd,
Suite C-103,
Woodbury, CT 06798

info@pomperaug.org
203-263-0076
pomperaug.org

BE RIVER SMART!

Learn how at riversmartct.org

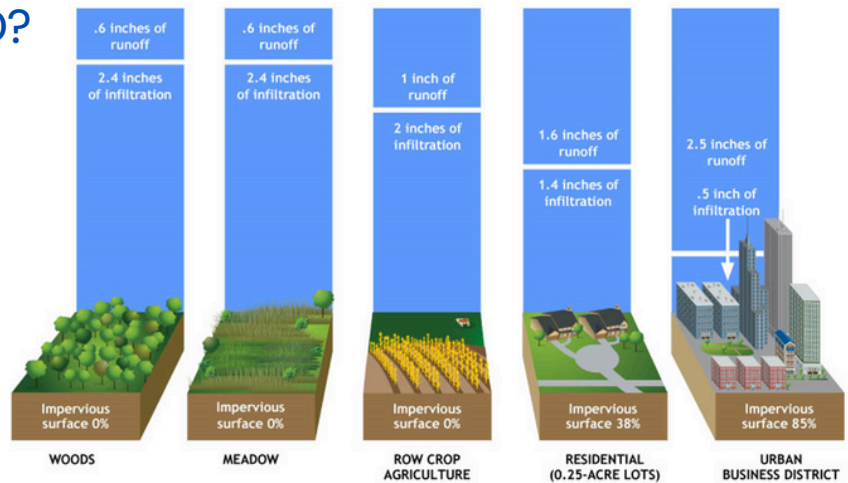
HOW DOES DEVELOPMENT AFFECT STORMWATER?

Man-made structures like **buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, and patios, are forms of impervious surfaces**, meaning that they prevent water from soaking into the ground naturally. Water that is not absorbed into the ground is called **runoff**. In developed areas, water cannot make its way into the ground naturally because of the addition of impervious surfaces. During a storm, this can cause large volumes of water to accumulate and move across the landscape at a rapid rate. In this way, stormwater runoff can quickly cause a severe flooding event that poses a risk to individuals and property.

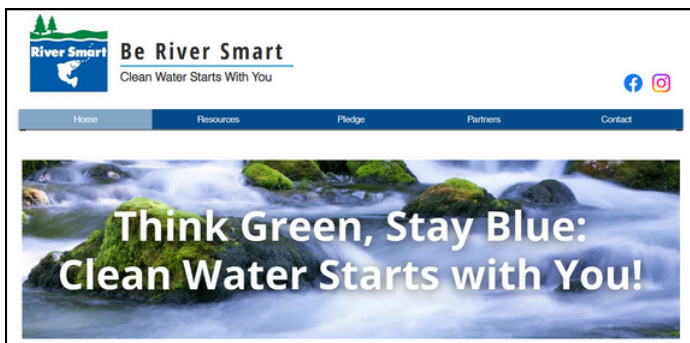
The graphic below demonstrates how different development patterns affect the amount of rain that can be absorbed during a storm. Again, "runoff" refers to water (in this case rain) that *cannot* be absorbed into the ground while "infiltration" refers to water that *can* be absorbed naturally into the ground.

HOW CAN RUNOFF BE MANAGED?

Stormwater runoff can be managed by intentionally creating places for water to soak into the ground to offset the addition of impervious surfaces. An example of an area that can be created to absorb stormwater is a rain garden. Unlike storm drains, which discharge stormwater and contaminants directly into nearby streams (which can increase flooding along waterways), rain gardens and other green spaces allow water to soak into the ground. This process filters the stormwater and recharges the groundwater supply, where private wells and public water utilities draw drinking water from.

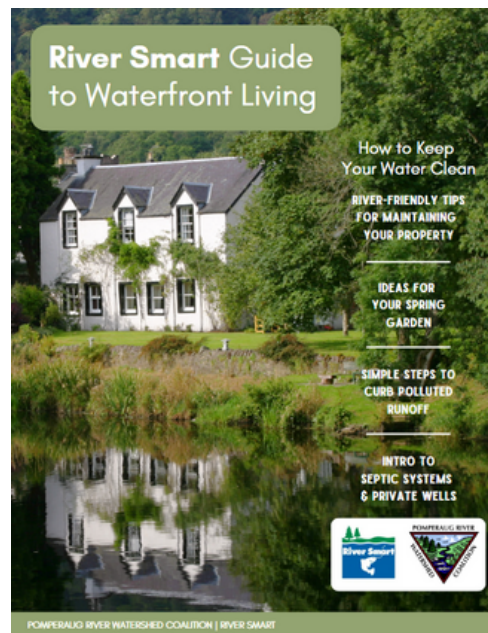


WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?



Led cooperatively by **Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition**, Housatonic Valley Association, Kent Land Trust, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, and Farmington River Watershed Association, the **River Smart CT** program provides CT residents with the information they need to create areas to naturally absorb and filter runoff.

PRWC has recently completed a major update of the River Smart website (riversmartct.org) to improve user experience and provide updated resources on topics like reducing polluted runoff, conserving water, limiting chemical use, and more.



Thanks to generous grant funding from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, **PRWC was able to create and distribute a 12-page River Smart Guide to Waterfront Living** this past spring.

You can access this guide online through the River Smart website, or you can pick up a hard copy at your local library or land trust!



Show your commitment to reducing stormwater runoff by making the **River Smart Pledge** at riversmartct.org/pledge!

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Carol Haskins, Exec. Dir.

It's that time of year when we hang up our waders, put away our kayaks, pack up our nets, and hunker down at our desks to compile the data we have collected, reflect on the impact we have made, and plan for our next field season. This is the time where we use our research to identify actions that will help protect your community's water resources, write grant proposals to fund the implementation of those actions, and share the importance of these actions to residents and leaders as we continue to advocate for the long-term health of local rivers and drinking water.

Over the winter, we will be reviewing data on more than 200 culverts and bridges, which our outstanding Dr. Marc Taylor Interns – Harry Harwood and Imani Rodriguez – collected this summer. That data will be reconciled with municipal records on infrastructure damaged during the August 18 flood to help prioritize which road-stream crossing structures are in the greatest need of repair or replacement to protect aquatic life and the safety of our watershed residents. Our Community Engagement Coordinator – Olivia DiPalermo – will also be gearing up for new riparian buffer and rain garden planting projects, planning clean-up events to clear trash and debris deposited by the flooding, and organizing more paddling events to remove invasive European water chestnut, because the 155 bushels (nearly 2 tons) of this plant that we removed this season was just the beginning!

This winter, our Board and staff will also be reviewing community survey and stakeholder interview responses, program evaluation data, the vision of our founders, and emerging threats to water to inform an updated strategic plan for the organization. We look forward to unveiling that plan and reaffirming our vision, missions, and goals as we kick off our 25th Anniversary Celebration. In the meantime, I can assure you that we remain committed to protecting the water in your community and know that we cannot do this critically important work without you. Your support strengthens PRWC's ability to conduct meaningful research, implement restoration measures, cultivate stewardship, provide education programs, and advocate for actions that will protect water resources for generations.

PRWC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APPROACHES

PRWC will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of its incorporation as a non-profit organization in 2025, but as some may know, we have actually been around a bit longer than that! The Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition came together in 1999, when local watershed residents formed a coalition to protect and preserve the Pomperaug River Watershed, which provides vital habitat for fish and wildlife as well as essential source of drinking water, endless scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities to area residents.



Founders Marc Taylor, Larry Pond, & Dick Leavenworth

The Coalition's founders – Dr. Marc Taylor, Larry Pond, and Dick Leavenworth (pictured above) – saw that the watershed was beginning to be seriously threatened by land development and possible diversions of water out of the watershed. They were concerned about the effects that land development would have on water quality and whether there was enough water available to support this and future development. As such, they created a partnership of stakeholders to protect this precious, irreplaceable resource.

From the beginning, PRWC has worked closely with local municipal agencies, businesses, environmental organizations, and residents as well as regional, state and federal agencies and professional scientists to identify and implement measures to protect the health of the Pomperaug Watershed. Today, the Coalition is widely known as a model of scientific research and cooperative effort. PRWC's staff and volunteers work daily on water-related scientific research projects, policy-making initiatives, conservation and restoration projects, and community education programs – all of which are advised by good science and conversations with our community partners.

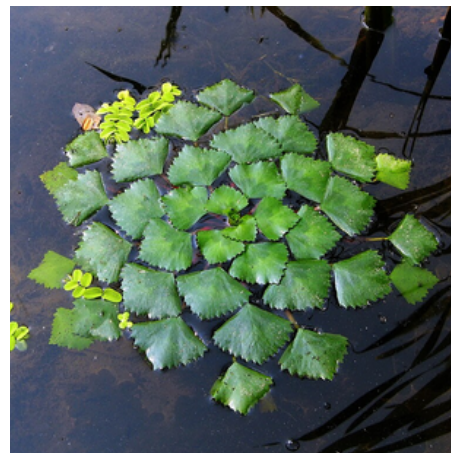
Stay tuned for an announcement of special events as part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

TRACKING TRAPA NATANS

PRWC's Fight Against Invasive European Water Chestnut

European Water Chestnut (*Trapa Natans*) is an invasive aquatic plant, originally brought to the United States in the late 19th century. This plant has spread rapidly along the East Coast, outcompeting native plants for space and nutrients, and now threatens the health of many of CT's rivers and lakes. It was first identified in the Pomperaug River Watershed at Lake Stibbs (Southbury Training School Pond) in 2016 by field staff of CT DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division. PRWC has been working to control its spread in Lake Stibbs and downstream since 2020.

Thanks to generous grant funding by the Southbury Community Trust Fund (through CT DEEP's Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program) PRWC was able to prioritize **tracking and removing invasive water chestnut** during the 2024 summer field season. PRWC efforts support its goal of restoring the health and recreational function of Lake Stibbs and preventing invasive water chestnut from impacting areas downstream in the Pomperaug River and Lake Zoar.



To provide an updated scope of the spread of invasive water chestnut downstream of Lake Stibbs, a **stream walk survey** was planned. Over 4 days, PRWC's Marc J. Taylor summer interns walked 1.5 miles of Transylvania Brook documenting the location and condition of water chestnut and removing as much as possible. Thousands of chestnut seeds and 35 water chestnut plants were documented and removed during this stream walk.

A similar documentation strategy was employed for sections of the lower Pomperaug River and Lake Zoar via kayak through 3 **paddling programs**. These paddles resulted in the removal of 4 bushels of water chestnut from the lower Pomperaug River and Lake Zoar.

These paddles also resulted in the identification of a well-established patch of water chestnut in the lower Pomperaug River that will need further attention to remove fully.



PRWC volunteers, interns, and staff were successful in removing over 147 bushels (approximately 3,800 lbs.) of European water chestnut plants and seeds from Lake Stibbs through four invasive water chestnut **hand pulling days** in June and July 2024.

For more information on this project, to view interactive maps of PRWC's field observations, or to report an invasive water chestnut observation near you, visit our project storymap at: pomperaug.org/scientific-reports.

ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT

Thanks to our Fiscal Year 2024 Donors

**On behalf of the PRWC Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we extend a heart-felt thank you!
As we continue our work, please know we fully recognize and truly appreciate your generous
support. Your support is recognized for gifts between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.**

Sustainer >\$10,000

Anonymous
Connecticut Water Company
Lucinda Hunt & Daniel Stowell
Marital Trust
Town of Southbury
Town of Woodbury

Hero >\$5,000

CPV Towantic
Valerie Friedman
New Morning Market
Jan Taylor*

Champion >\$2,500

Aquarion Water Company
Connecticut Community
Foundation
Jeff Davis
Jeanne & Clark Davis
Town of Oxford

Leader >\$1,000

Len & Mary Ellen DeJong
Frederica Gamble*
Rosemary Giuliano
Giulano Richardson & Sfara, LLC
Ion Bank
Wayne & Betty McCormack
Vincent & Jane McDermott
Gail & Lee McTaggart
Patricia Rado*
SLR Consulting
Bob & Mary Jane Travers

Guardian >\$500

Barbara Ajello & John Lundin
Charles & Eve Bartlett
Justin Bette
Thomas & Emilie Connor
Delo Giuliano Fund
Joseph Eisenberg
Ann & Michael Feinberg
Dr. Diane Fountas
Gager, Bower, & Scalzo LLP
Andie & Suzie Greene
Bonnie Leavenworth*
John & Shirley Michaels
David & Nancy Taylor
Anne & Gary Westerman

Protector >250

William Bassett
Dan Caron
Ingrid Davis
Virginia de Lima
Susan Korn*
Kevin & Alissa Kraklio
John McDonald
Tom McMackin
Bill Neil, Jr.
Gail Seymour
Jeff & Bonnie Sherman
Lisa & Kyle Turoczi

Advocate >\$125

Helen Blanchard
David Breen
Thomas & Mieke Crider
Olivia DiPalermo^
Melanie Dugas
Peter & Dorothy Galant
Jesse Langer & Chloe Taylor
Joy Maini
John Merrill
Elisabeth Millspaugh
Arthur & Elaine Milnor
Panera, LLC
Fred Sell
Thyrza Whittemore
Christopher & Christine Wood
Mikaya Yamamoto

Steward >\$60

Anonymous
Basil & Jayne Adair Cox*
Karin & Stuart Adams
Regina Badura & Egbert Most
Heather Bartlett^
Alicia Bennett
Bethlehem Land Trust
Kathy Bower
Jason & Lauren Buchsbaum
Canfield Corner Pharmacy
David & Carmen Carlson
Deborah Chambers^
Claudia Cuchara*
Vincent DeLuise
Louise DiPalermo
Kathleen Doyle
Elaine Feldman*
Suzanne Cottone
& Thomas Ford

Steward >60 (con't)

Annie Fowler
Ellen Fox^
Deborah Fuller
Carol Haskins*^
Kevin Holmes
Thomas Hook
Helana Hoover-Litty
& Chuck Litty
John Jenney
John & Catherine Lacadie
Donna Lesch
Nancy Liedlich
Samuel Lillianthal
Tom & Beth Rickart
Barbara Roberts
Dr. Michael Rosen
Catherine Skinner
Stephen Solley
Lydia Straus-Edwards
Hugh & Diane Sullivan
Don Tibbals
Bob & Pat Ueberbacher
James VanDerBeek
Lynn Werner

Friend >\$35

Robert W Bailey
Vanita Bhalla
Mr. Bill E Buzzard
Mark J. Cantin DDS
Janel Chap
Susan Cheatham
Carrie Clark*
Mildred Corey^
Ron Dukenski
Paul & Alice Ernst
Jeffrey & Lynn Frantz
Donna Gentilozzi
& James Mecca
Tom Greto*
David Gropper
Paul George Hadzima
Brian Hagenbuch
Roger Haskins
Paul Hinckley
Judy Irete
Chris Jacques
Jonathan Kapstein^
Joann King
Jan & Don Maki
Alicia Mari
Maureen McDermott

Friend >\$35 (con't)

Doug Mahard & Nancy
McMillan
Cynthia Merrick
Tom Meyer
Pamela Michel
Mark Miller
Patrick Monahan
Lesa Peters
Fred Plescia
Dr. Steven & Priscilla Price
Judith Rifkin
Robin Rodrigue^
Andrew Rominiecki
John Setaro
David & Nancy Stein*
Frederick Volpe*
John Wick
Sandy Wood
Rick Wood
Neil Yarhouse

Special Acknowledgements

*** Gifts in Memory**

Sue Bartlett
Norma Carey
Anne H Casey
Sandra Cox
Anne Delo
Dick Leavenworth
Annie Musso
Norman Sherman
Dr. Marc Taylor
Mame Weaving

^Gifts in Honor

Charles Bartlett
Mary Connolly
Len DeJong
Louise DiPalermo
Olivia DiPalermo
Deborah Fuller
Carol Haskins
Nancy Kapstein
Bob & Mary Jane Travers

ANNUAL GRATITUDE REPORT

Thanks to our Fiscal Year 2024 Donors

Helper <\$35

Jen Bappe
Henry Bissonnette
Sharon Botelle-Sherman^
Mike & Lisa Carbonneau
Ila Cox*
John Diehl
Vincent DiPalermo
Aiden DiPalermo
Bob DuBois
Sarah Edelson Baskin
Kate Hennessy
Janice Joseph
Donald Julian^
Patricia Kugeman
Robin Ladouceur
Gosia Liedlich
Megan L Litwinczyk
Robert McCarney
Sara Merrick-Albano
Janaki Pierson
Joyce Rousseau
Peter & Barbara Rzasa
Ivy Siwik
Courtney Smith
Charles Solla
Elisabeth Thorpe
Linda Thorpe
Piper & Darcy Thurrott*
Anne Urkawich
Catherine Urso
Abby N. Wells
Joseph Welsh
Tom Wilkas
Jame & Mary Wren*

Gifts In-Kind

Abrash Galleries, Rugs,
& Antiquities
Ace Hardware of Woodbury
Al Avitabile
Mark Bappe
Charles Bartlett
Black Hog Brewing Co.
Casper's Wine & Spirits
Clapp & Tuttle
Custom Framing
Connecticut Science Center
Dash n' Drizzle
Olivia DiPalermo
Earth Tones Native Plant
Nursery & Landscaping
Eastern Water Solutions
El Camion Mexican Restaurant
Paul F. Elsenboss, III

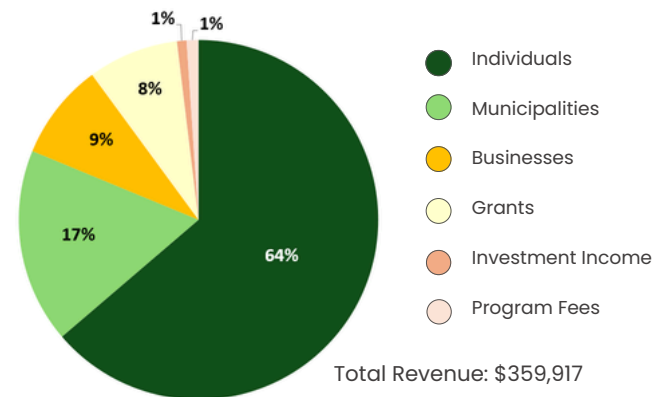
Gifts In-Kind (con't)

Fannie's Nail Spa
Ann & Michael Feinberg
Flanders Nature Center
& Land Trust
Frank Talarico & Son, Inc.
Carol Haskins
Ion Bank
Heritage Hotel, Spa, Golf,
& Conference Center
Highfield Country Club
Interstate Aviation, Inc.
Jade Garden Asian Restaurant
LabBonne's Market
Litchfield Distillery
Livin' Country
Local Gourmet
March Farms
Mattatuck Museum
Mercato Italian Kitchen and Bar
Middlebury Fine Wine & Spirits
Mix Prime Steakhouse, Fish,
& Sushi Bar
Mohawk Mountain
New Morning Market
Newbury Place
Nutmeg Fine Wines and Spirits
Ovens of France
Palace Theater
Tim Palmer
Quassy Amusement Park
and Waterpark
Salon Bella
Salon Odette
San Remo Restaurant
Savor Fine Foods
Soulbury
Southbury Baking Company
Stepping Stones Museum
The Adventure Park
The Carousel Museum
The Garden / Dietrich Gardens
The Hidden Acorn
The Institute for American
Indian Studies
The Museum of Fire History
The Tavern at Heritage Hotel
Villarina's Pasta & Fine Foods
Waterbury Symphony Orchestra
West Egg Bakery & Café
Anne Westerman
Christopher Wood
Woodbury Brewing Company
Woodbury Floral Designs
Woodbury Pewter

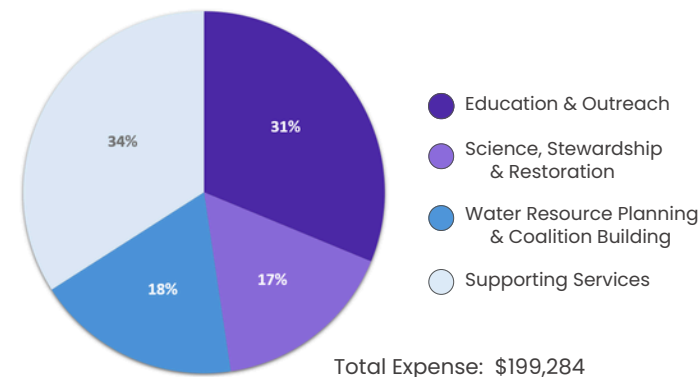
FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The charts below display a preliminary summary of our revenue and expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Each revenue category is critical for us to be successful in our mission. The expense summary shows how we utilize funding support for our core areas of work. In FY 2024, we restructured our operations and strengthened our organizational governance which is reflected in our expenses. We also received an extraordinary legacy gift which is reflected in our revenue.

REVENUE



EXPENSE



PRWC would also like to extend a special thank you to our environmental and community partners and all of our dedicated volunteers. We could not do this critically important work without your help! THANK YOU!

STAFF

Carol Haskins
Executive Director

Olivia DiPalermo
Community Engagement Coordinator

Amanda Kopec
Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Bob Travers <i>Chair</i>	Charles Bartlett
Jeff Davis <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Mary Connolly
Anne Westerman <i>Treasurer</i>	Diane Fountas
Lisa Turoczi <i>Secretary</i>	Andie Greene
	Jesse Langer
	John McDonald
	John Pittari
	Dan Slywka

*As of September 25, 2024

A LEGACY OF GIVING

To all conservationists, may we continue your legacy.

Have you ever wanted to cast a stone across the water to see how far the ripples can reach? Longtime friend and former Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition Board Member, **Lucinda (Cindy) Hunt-Stowell** (1941-2014) and her husband **Daniel Stowell** (1939-2023) did just that when they chose to leave a portion of their estates to PRWC upon their passing.

In her role as Board Treasurer, Cindy was particularly passionate about organizational sustainability and wanted to ensure PRWC had a well-established endowment fund to support current and future operations. As such, she and Dan established a trust to benefit PRWC and other organizations they cared for. They also named PRWC as a beneficiary in their wills. Together, Cindy and Dan knew they would leave a strong legacy with gifts totaling over \$230,000. By dedicating over \$170,000 of their total giving to PRWC's endowment fund, they ensured their action would have far-reaching effects. We wish to thank the Hunt-Stowell family for their incredible generosity and steadfast support of our mission to protect water resources in our watershed community for generations to come.

For information on how to include PRWC in your estate planning, to make a gift to PRWC's Endowment Fund, or to make gifts of securities and assets, please call Carol Haskins, Executive Director, at 203-263-0076.



Cindy Hunt-Stowell, former board member and treasurer, and husband Daniel Stowell pictured at PRWC's 10th Anniversary Celebration held at Mill House Antiques (2010).

PLANT WITH A PURPOSE

PRWC would like to thank all that adopted plants through our Adopt-a-Plant fundraiser and those who volunteered their time to plant them! With your help, PRWC added 31 new native perennials and shrubs to the riparian buffer along **Lake Stibbs in Southbury** in May 2024 and supported planting 24 native shrubs in a washed-out streambank area along the Pomperaug River at **Three Rivers Park in Woodbury** in early November 2024.

Riparian buffers, or vegetated areas along lakes and streams, play an important role in protecting our waterbodies by preventing streambank erosion and trapping pollutants. In this way, those who have supported our riparian buffer planting projects have helped to protect local water quality in addition to providing food and habitat for pollinators and other native species!

Next spring, with your help, we hope to restore the Community House Park Rain Garden that was destroyed in the August flood.

Thank You to Our Supporters:

Kathy Bower	Carol Haskins
Sandy Carlson*	Megan Litwinczyk
Thomas Crider	Lesa Peters*
Louise DiPalermo	Erin Siefert*
Olivia DiPalermo	Charles Solla
Kathleen Doyle	Joseph Welsh
Melanie Dugas	Anne Westerman

*Gifts in Memory or Honor of: Sandra Isbell
Wiley Carlson, Mary Connolly, & Annie Musso

PRWC would also like to thank Earth Tones
Native Plant Nursery & Landscaping for their
in-kind support for these planting projects.



COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

PRWC's research evaluates the effectiveness of restoration activities and supports decisions for preserving and improving the quality of our local water resources.
Learn more at www.pomperaug.org/monitoring

Ambient Water Quality Monitoring

Since 2019, PRWC has sampled streams throughout the watershed each month from April to October **for bacteria and nitrate to assess water quality conditions.** By sampling for *E. coli* bacteria and nitrate, PRWC is able to characterize sources of water pollution in the watershed and identify areas for potential restoration projects to improve water quality conditions.



Streams Monitored (2024):

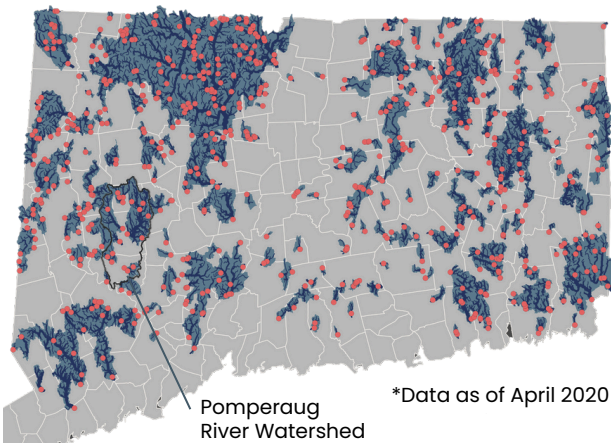
Carmel Hill Brook, Peter Road, Woodbury
East Spring Brook, Nonnewaug Road, Bethlehem
Lewis Atwood Brook, Lynns Corner Rd, Woodbury
Nonnewaug River, Minortown Road, Woodbury
Nonnewaug River, Falls Road, Bethlehem
Nonnewaug River, Quassuk Road, Woodbury
Pomperaug River, Poverty Road, Southbury
Pomperaug River, S. Pomperaug Ave, Woodbury
Pomperaug River, Oakdale Manor, Southbury
Sawmill Brook, Rowley Road, Woodbury
Sprain Brook, Papermill Road, Woodbury
Transylvania Brook, East Flat Hill Road, Southbury
Weekepeemee River, Jacks Bridge, Woodbury
Weekepeemee River, Chohees Trail, Woodbury
Wood Creek, Arch Bridge Road, Bethlehem

Stream Temperature Monitoring

For over a decade, PRWC has been **installing data loggers at local stream sites to measure stream temperatures** between June and August - the warmest months of the year when flows are often the lowest. PRWC shares its thermal data with CT DEEP to help inform their water quality standards, fish habitat assessment, and stream habitat restoration efforts. When combined with data from fish community sampling, thermal data can be used to identify the presence of cold-water habitats, which are essential for supporting cold-water species such as native brook trout.



CT DEEP Cold Water Habitat Map*



*Data as of April 2020

Streams Monitored (2024):

Bullet Hill Brook, Ewald Park, Southbury
Carmel Hill Brook, Marzahl Refuge, Woodbury
East Spring Brook, Nonnewaug Road, Bethlehem
Good Hill Brook, Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury
Nonnewaug River, Route 47, Woodbury
Pomperaug River, Poverty Road, Southbury
Pomperaug River, Bent of the River, Southbury
Pomperaug River, Middle Quarter, Woodbury
Sprain Brook, Papermill Road, Woodbury
Weekepeemee River, Woodcreek Road, Bethlehem
Wood Creek, Arch Bridge Road, Bethlehem

Join Our Stream Team!

Volunteers are essential for supporting our ongoing efforts to monitor the health of our streams. If you are interested in getting involved in any of our community-based research initiatives, visit www.pomperaug.org/volunteer.

Road Salt Monitoring

In winter 2023/2024, PRWC piloted a **sodium-chloride (road salt) monitoring program** as a partner of the Izaak Walton League of America's Salt Watch™ program. To monitor the impacts of road salt in our watershed, PRWC selected a few streams near large, paved areas to test for salt contamination. Too much salt is a concern for many freshwater species including trout and macroinvertebrates. Road salt is also growing concern for groundwater contamination, especially when used for drinking water by individuals with high blood pressure. This program will be expanded to include 8 sites this winter to help identify areas that may need to be salted more responsibly in the future.

Streams Surveyed (2024):

Bullet Hill Brook, Ewald Park, Southbury
Pomperaug River, Heritage Road, Southbury
Pomperaug River, Cedarland Park, Southbury

SALT

BEING A RIVER SMART SALTER IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

- 1. SHOVEL**
Clear walkways and driveways before snow turns to ice!
- 2. SCATTER**
You only need 1 mugful (12 oz) of road salt for a 20 ft driveway!
- 3. SWEEP**
When it's done its job, sweep up any leftover salt and reuse it!

Visit IWLA.org for more information and to take the Salt Watch Pledge!

SALT WATCH
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

River Smart

Macroinvertebrate (RBV) Survey

Since 2006, PRWC has conducted **annual Macroinvertebrate Surveys** each fall following a protocol by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for **Stream Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV)**. In these surveys, PRWC searches streams for pollution sensitive macroinvertebrates, or small organisms that cling to rocks in river riffles, to help assess water quality. Finding four or more of the 'most wanted' organisms at a site can help CT DEEP document the stream as having excellent water quality.



2023 RBV Program Report: 25 Years of RBV Sampling!

Report Last Updated: August 2024

Connecticut is fortunate to be a water rich state, home to over 7,772 miles of rivers and streams. One of the CT DEEP Monitoring and Assessment Programs (MAP) primary tasks is to conduct water quality monitoring to evaluate the physical, chemical and biological conditions of all waters in the State as part of Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements. Given limited staff resources, this wealth of water resources presents a challenge to achieve this CWA goal. One way MAP has enhanced assessments is by utilizing citizen scientist data to work towards this goal.

In 1998, the MAP developed a citizen science program, called the Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) Program, where trained volunteers collect benthic macroinvertebrate data from accessible streams. 2023 marked the 25th consecutive sampling year for RBV program data. Thank you all for your hard work over these past 25 years—we would not be here without you!



Common dragonfly (Photocorypha)



CT DEEP's 2023 RBV Program Report is now available!

This report includes data from survey teams across Connecticut, including data collected and submitted by PRWC in the 2023 survey season. You can check it out at pomperaug.org/scientific-reports!

Streams Surveyed (2024):

East Spring Brook, Nonnewaug Road, Bethlehem
Good Hill Brook, Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury
Lewis Atwood Brook, Lynns Corner Road, Woodbury
Sprain Brook, Papermill Road, Woodbury
South Brook, Middle Quarter Road, Woodbury



Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

39 Sherman Hill Road, C103

Woodbury, CT 06798

info@pomperaug.org

Annual Gratitude List Inside!



WATERSHED NEWS

PRWC | Protecting Water Resources for Generations

Every Drop Counts

Each time you drink a glass of water, wash your hands, prepare a meal, walk past a tree, or watch the rain fall, you're experiencing the **importance of water**. Whether it is supporting human consumption or ecological functions, water is an essential ingredient for life.

Your year-end gift to PRWC helps protect the rivers you love, your drinking water, and the water you use every day.

Your financial support **makes a difference**. Donations may be made online, by phone, or by mail (remittance envelope enclosed).



www.pomperaug.org/give