



# RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016











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Left: Learning to fish at Cops & Bobbers, Hooks & Ladders in Riverside Park

Cover: Autumn leaves in Great River Park; learning to row at the College Coaches Clinic; view of boats and the Colt dome from Great River Park; view of Pipes in the Valley at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza from the Founders Bridge

Back cover: Rowers relaxing between races





Lincoln Sculpture Walk Banners on the Riverwalk; temporary rowing dock intallation; the Hartford Ballet at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin with CEO Michael Zaleski at the Big Mo' at the Goodwin; youth competitors at Riverfront Crossfest; volunteers raking in Great River Park



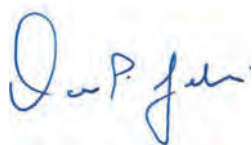
## Connecting people to the Connecticut River.

Connecting people to the Connecticut River. That's Riverfront Recapture's new mission statement, which emerged from the comprehensive strategic planning process that we, along with our stakeholders and input from the community, undertook in 2016. And, while the mission statement is new, it also serves as a confirmation of what the organization has been doing for more than 35 years. We've connected the people of Greater Hartford to the majesty of the Connecticut River and our beautiful riverfront parks system.

We faced many challenges over the past year, due to tightening budgets at both the state and municipal level, along with continuing economic uncertainty. We were forced to make some difficult decisions, including the unfortunate cancellation of our annual Riverfest celebration and fireworks. This adversity, however, has made the organization stronger and, guided by our new strategic plan, we believe 2017 will be one of our best years yet.

Why are we so optimistic about the future? Well, for one thing, the fireworks will be back. We'll bring tens of thousands of people into our parks and to the Greater Hartford area for free, family-friendly cultural festivals, and thousands more come to participate in our community rowing and Riverfront Adventure programs. Daily park usage will increase, in a number of different ways. We're launching new, free programming, including weekly yoga, midday meditation, sketching classes, history walks and a running group, just to name a few. These activities are designed to be accessible to all, and the increased programming will broaden interest in our parks and bring people back week after week. Several of these new initiatives allowed us to partner with community businesses and artists so that even more people will be connected to us, and to the Connecticut River.

Our strongest partnerships will continue to be with the City of Hartford and the Town of East Hartford — we couldn't do what we do without them — and we remain grateful for the generous support of the Metropolitan District Commission. The future is bright, and we hope you'll join us in the parks this year, and see for yourself how we connect people to the Connecticut River.



Dave Jenkins  
Board Chair



Michael Zaleski  
President & CEO

DAILY PARK VISITORS

**627,151**

**61,631**

VISITORS ATTENDED  
PUBLIC EVENTS



GREAT RIVER PARK,  
EAST HARTFORD

## What does Riverfront Recapture do?

“What does Riverfront Recapture do?” is a question that has prompted many answers over the past 36 years. The work that went into our new strategic plan helped us delve deeper into those answers, and into what Riverfront Recapture was, is, and what we want it to be.

The organization was established to reconnect the Hartford region with the beauty of the Connecticut River. The next step is to make this beautiful riverfront park system even more highly recognized and widely utilized, as a regional asset.

How do we get there? While we attracted more than 627,000 visitors in 2016, we want to make Riverfront even better known and the “go-to” place for residents and out-of-town visitors. We’ve listened to what you told us through surveys, and in conversation, and will add even more regular programming in 2017, in addition to our annual festival events. We’re expanding our parks, and their connections to other parks and campuses, providing even greater accessibility. Great River Park is now connected to Goodwin College, and the Riverwalk South project is underway, which will ultimately connect Coltsville to Mortensen Riverfront Plaza. You’ll see these connections to our parks, and to the Connecticut River, expand even more in the years ahead.

We look forward to your continued support, guidance, and advocacy as together we provide opportunities for respite and relaxation, culture and entertainment, recreation and adventure, youth development and education as we strive to continue building and enhancing use and visibility of our beautiful riverfront park system.

And, the next time someone asks you “What does Riverfront Recapture do?” we hope you will join us in answering “They connect people to the Connecticut River.”





Albannach performs at Pipes in the Valley; "A Welcome Conversation," Don Sottile - Lincoln Sculpture Walk; installing 'Amie' on the Riverwalk; crowd at Taste of the Caribbean; sunset in Riverside Park; Earth Day volunteers from Watkinson School

Right: Paddlers at the Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; ballroom dancing in Great River Park



# CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Corporate, foundation, and government support provides more than half of Riverfront Recapture's annual funding. Please share your thanks with representatives of the following organizations.

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The Metropolitan District

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Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
City of Hartford  
Travelers

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COLOR VIBE 5K,  
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Breakdancing at the Food Truck Festival; rangers at Mortenson Riverfront Plaza; rowing under a rainbow; Congressman John Larson with CEO Michael Zaleski; line for the bar at Thursday Nights on the Plaza  
 Right: Adventure program participant climbing; "Emancipation," Preston Jackson - Lincoln Sculpture Walk



# FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

Your support of Riverfront Recapture helps us in our mission to connect people with the Connecticut River. Our parks, events, and programs improved the quality of life for more than 627,000 visitors in 2016 who celebrated diverse cultures with food, art, and music, and immersed themselves in healthy recreational and competitive activities. Thank you for sharing your visions of Riverfront through your contributions.

## **\$25,000+**

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**Barry Lastra**  
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FOR PARK MAINTENANCE

**TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN,  
MORTENSEN RIVERFRONT PLAZA,  
HARTFORD**



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## FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

This Annual Report identifies in bold all individual donors who have contributed for 10 or more consecutive years. They, and their gifts, offer wonderful testimony about our impact on the community. Founders' Society members are leaders among the many people who appreciate access to the Riverfront – and the parks, festivals, and programs that bring people to this beautiful natural setting. We welcome and thank the following who became new Founders' Society members in 2016:

Connie Bird & Susan Rapport  
Dianne, Kali & Michael Harnad  
Joan M. Karpuk  
Richard J. Lopa  
John & Mary Hills Powell

## RECOGNITION GIFTS

We are grateful for those individuals who choose to honor or remember their loved ones with a contribution.

### In Honor of

Matt Chilberg  
Richard J. Lopa  
Ben Martin  
Larry Mowell  
Mike Puckly  
Brian Wendry  
Michael Zaleski

### In Memory of

Alison Coolbrith  
Hilda Lara Gandara  
John Mosimann  
Eugene Panneccasio  
Helen & Robert Roth  
Francisco 'Chico' San Emeterio

## MATCHING GIFTS

Special thanks to the companies who provided matching gifts – and to the employees who inspired and requested those gifts:

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Bank of America  
Cigna Foundation  
Fitzgerald & Halliday Inc.  
IBM Corporation  
John Hancock Matching Gifts Program  
Lincoln Financial Foundation  
MassMutual Financial Group  
Phoenix: A Nassau Re Company  
Stanley Black & Decker Inc.  
Travelers  
Union Pacific Railroad  
United Technologies Corporation  
Voya Foundation



Rowers heading for the boathouse; Larry Mowell, Christopher Hayes, CEO Michael Zaleski and board chair Dave Jenkins on the Miss Carle after her christening; adventure program participants in Riverside Park



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Albert H. Clarino  
**Marie P. Coburn**  
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## MARFUGGI PARKS FUND

Created in 2011 to recognize and honor President & CEO Joe Marfuggi's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Riverfront, this special fund provides a source of long-term support that can be used to make essential repairs and improvements in Riverfront parks. We especially thank the following contributors for their support in 2016:

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## RIVERFRONT LEGACY SOCIETY

Our plans include an even larger park system, with trails, activities, art, and cultural events that attract people from far and wide, giving them memories to last a lifetime and beyond. We thank the following individuals who plan to leave a legacy to Riverfront to continue our mission far into the future as together we connect people to the Connecticut River:

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If you would like to learn more about the Marfuggi Parks Fund or legacy giving, please contact Deborah Baker, director of development, at 860-713-3131 x326 or [dbaker@riverfront.org](mailto:dbaker@riverfront.org).





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Mainstay donors have committed to convenient monthly giving – they know their regular contributions to Riverfront add up throughout the year, making an impact and helping Riverfront in its role as a guardian of the river and its parks.

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**Contact Rico Reyes if you'd like to learn more about Mainstay, at [rreyes@riverfront.org](mailto:rreyes@riverfront.org) or 860-713-3131 x328.**





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Dancing at Latino Fest; WFSB's Scot Haney learns to row; view from the stage at Taste of the Caribbean; Adventure program participants receiving instructions; father and son fishing at the launch of Cops & Bobbers, Hooks & Ladders

Right: Paddlers at the Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; playing cricket in Riverside Park



# IN-KIND GIFTS

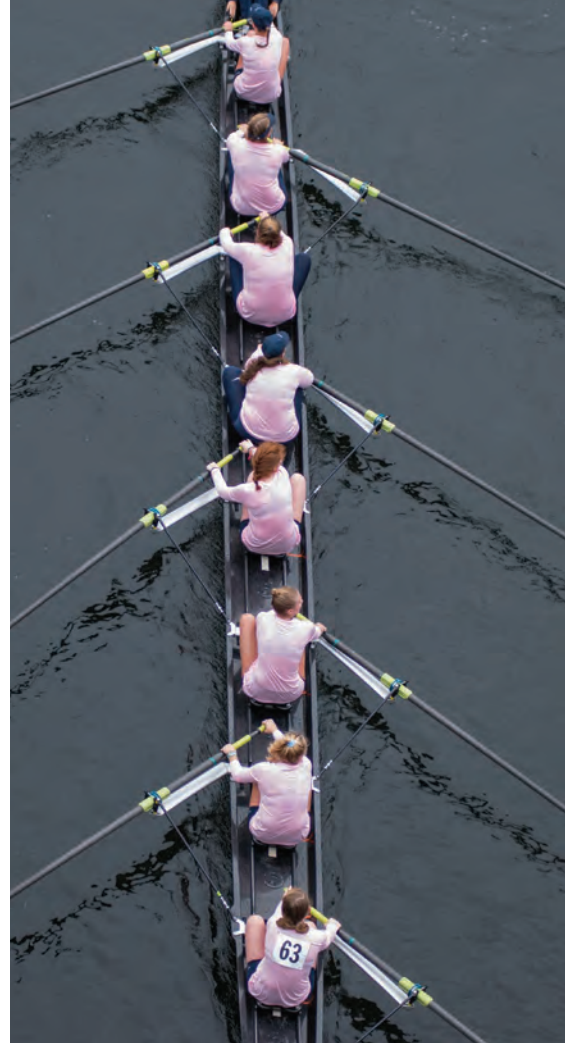
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Guests at The Big Mo' at the Goodwin; UConn rowing in the Head of the Riverfront; pre-race stretch at the Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; sunrise from Riverwalk North; award ceremony at the Riverfront Rowing 5K  
Right: Spectators at the Head of the Riverfront; WinnResidential volunteers building picnic tables



# VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to all who donated their skills and tireless efforts! In 2016, 2,333 people volunteered 9,932 hours in service to Riverfront, including 43 local businesses, corporations, and organizations participating in “days of caring” on the Riverfront. Some donated multiple days of service, and made the Riverfront a more beautiful, welcoming place for everyone to use and enjoy. Volunteer activities range from trail maintenance to building beaver barriers and picnic tables, gardening to cleaning sculptures, as well as supporting events and festivals. We’ve included names of just a few individuals who contributed an exceptional number of service hours.

## 2-4-1 Sports

A Sporting Chance for Youth

Day volunteers

Active City

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Hartford Community Court

Hartford HealthCare

Hartford Police Athletic League

Hartford Police Explorers

Hartford Soccer Club

Hartford Youth Service Corps

Head of the Riverfront Regatta volunteers

HYPE

JADHA Foundation & Family Double

Dutch Training Program

KNOX Green Team

Amir Johnson

Latino Fest volunteers

Lindberg & Ripple

The Loomis Chaffee School

Manchester Youth Services

Kimberly McVey

Jonathan Nyberg

Pipes in the Valley Celtic

Festival volunteers

Miss Porter’s School

PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers Interns

Professional Disc Golf Association

Quest Global

RBC Wealth Management

REI

Riverfront Community Rowing volunteers

Riverfront Crossfest volunteers

Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian

Festival volunteers

Riverfront Food Truck Festival volunteers

Riverfront Office volunteers

Riverfront Tournament of Champions

for Veterans volunteers

Riverside Cricket Club

Chip Saccoccio

Samba Fest volunteers

Sgt. Joe Kowalski, Jr.

Sports Association – Gaylord Hospital

Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk

Festival volunteers

Bill Telech

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Marketing group

Travelers - Claim IT group

Trinity College Rowing Team

UCONN MBA Program

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University of Hartford Student Leaders

University of Hartford Summer Place

Eric Van de Berg

Vision Technologies

Voya Financial

Watkinson School

WinnResidential Company

John Wyatt

XL Catlin

XL Catlin Interns

April Yu







Fun on the climbing wall; teams loading into boats at the Head of the Riverfront; University of Hartford Summer Place volunteers in Riverside Park; winter erging; four-legged friends at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

Photos: Andy Hart & Riverfront Recapture staff



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Investments	2,509,285
Receivables	321,267
Equipment	282,043
Prepaid Expenses	30,805
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,143,400</b>

<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	
Payables	102,347
Refundable Advances	85,517
Net Assets	2,955,536
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>3,143,400</b>

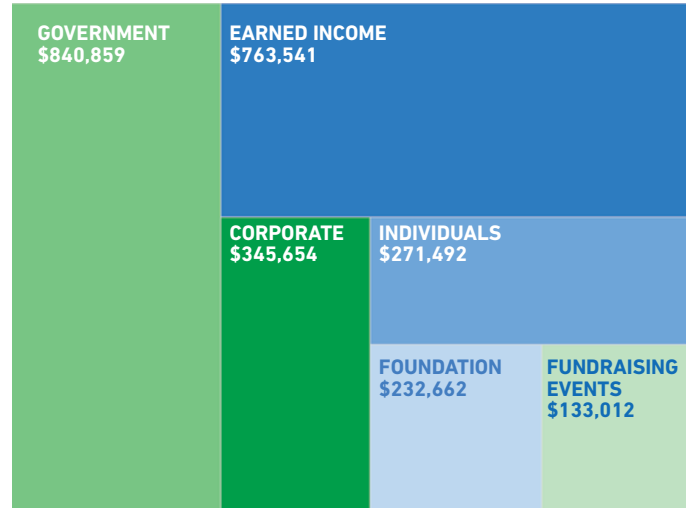
<b>Revenue</b>	
Grants and Contributions	1,823,679
Program Fees and other Earned Income	763,541
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,587,220</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Program Services	2,404,658
General Administration	103,128
Fundraising	306,197
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,813,983</b>

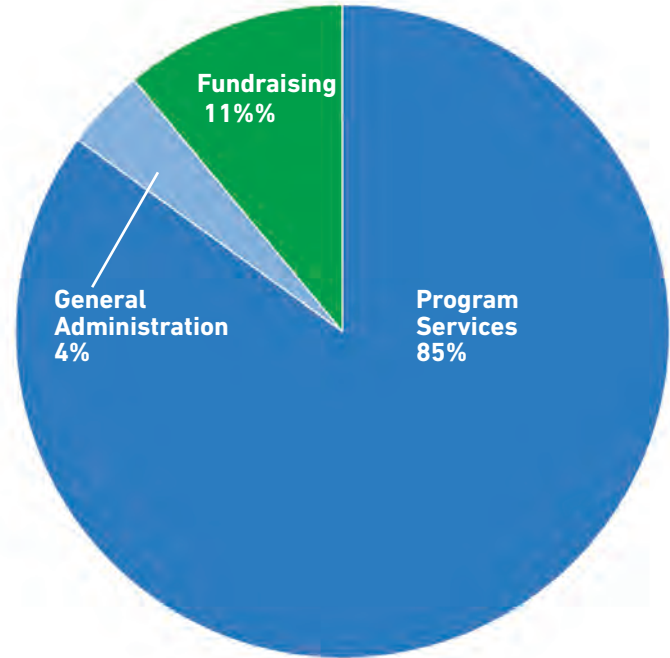
<b>Investment Return</b>	<b>247,510</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	
<b>Beginning of Year</b>	<b>2,934,789</b>
<b>End of Year</b>	<b>2,955,536</b>

These condensed statements are derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016. A copy of the complete statement is on file and available at the offices of Riverfront Recapture, Inc., 50 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. Riverfront Recapture's auditor is CohnReznick LLP.

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## MANAGEMENT PARTNERS





**RIVERSIDE  
PARK**

**MORTENSEN  
RIVERFRONT  
PLAZA**

**GREAT  
RIVER  
PARK**

**CHARTER  
OAK  
LANDING**





# STAFF

Deborah Baker  
Director of Development

Tara Cantor  
Communications & Marketing Manager

Hector Diaz  
Rowing & Operations

Venus Dickson  
Finance Manager

Margaret Girardi-Telech  
Volunteer & Program Coordinator

Christopher R. Hayes  
Director of Operations

Richard J. Lopa  
Director of Ranger Services

Craig D. Mergins  
Director of Community Events & Engagement

Peter Morse  
Director of Finance

Jonathan Near  
Assistant Director of Rowing

Marc A. Nicol  
Director of Planning & Park Development

Ricardo Reyes  
Development Associate

William Sullivan  
Director of Riverfront Adventure

Josh Urrutia  
Director of Events

Brian Wendry  
Director of Rowing

Michael Zaleski  
President & CEO



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