

2024 ANNUAL REPORT
**RIVERFRONT
RECAPTURE**



We connect people with the Connecticut River.

Riverfront Recapture is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981. We manage, maintain, operate, and activate four riverfront parks and their connected riverwalks and trails. Our mission is to connect people with the Connecticut River. Here's a snapshot of how we connected people in 2024.

PARK
VISITORS

945,305

FREE
PUBLIC EVENTS

178

HARTFORD TRAIL
USAGE, AUGUST

24,455

BOATS
LAUNCHED

843

DRAGON BOAT
RACE PADDLERS

2,499

EAST HARTFORD TRAIL
USAGE, JUNE

9,037

ROWING
ATTENDANCE

28,625

NEW PARK TOUR
ATTENDEES

347

HEAD OF THE
RIVERFRONT ATHLETES

3,500

RIVERFRONT
RECAPTURE




Board of Directors

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It was a remarkable year along the river! In 2024, our parks continued to be gathering places for joy, movement, celebration, and connection, drawing nearly 950,000 visitors from Hartford, the region, and beyond.

We began the year with a welcome change—no January flooding closures for the first time in three years—and the momentum only grew. We hosted 178 free events; our community rowing program brought home the Points Trophy from RowFest; The Big Mo' showcased the site of our future park; the Head of the Riverfront set a new record with more than 800 entries—the largest in event history; and, thanks to your generosity, our year-end matching challenge was fully met.

We also continued to improve and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our parks beautiful, accessible, and safe. From replacing worn signage and upgrading our vehicle fleet to preparing for future lighting and pathway enhancements, our operations team worked tirelessly—through all kinds of weather—to keep the parks ready for visitors, events, and everyday use.

One of our most exciting milestones was the unveiling of the master plan for our future riverfront park along the Hartford/Windsor line. Shaped by thousands of community voices through walks, workshops, and surveys, this plan reflects a shared vision for a greener, more connected, and more equitable future. The community celebration, where we unveiled the plan, reminded us why we do this work: to create welcoming spaces that reflect the community and serve all current and future park users.

In 2024, we also expanded donor programming, increased community engagement, and laid the groundwork for long-term investments in flood resiliency, climate-conscious planning, and regional connectivity.

These successes would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and board. Whether you attended an event, contributed to a campaign, or simply enjoyed a walk along the Riverwalk, you are part of what makes the Riverfront so special.

As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue the work—deepening connections, celebrating culture, and ensuring that the Connecticut River remains at the heart of a vibrant, active, and inclusive region.



Harold M. Blinderman
Board Chair



Michael Zaleski
President & CEO





Cover: Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; p. 3: Post flood cleanup in Riverside Park; p. 4, from top left: lunch at Riverfront Food Truck Festival; dancing at Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival; Riverfront Ranger and Rodney Bynoe, Assistant Director of Ranger Services; Harold Blinderman, Riverfront Board Chair, East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin, Windsor Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke, Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, Wethersfield Mayor Ken Lesser, Michael Zaleski, Riverfront President & CEO at the boathouse; Sounds of Summer in Great River Park; dragon boat competitors



The river is always moving—and so are we.

As we head into 2025, we're energized by everything on the horizon: long-anticipated park improvements, deeper community partnerships, new ways to care for our parks year-round, and the beginning of building a new park. From the excitement of upcoming festivals to the quiet enjoyment of a clean, well-lit trail, every detail reflects our commitment to creating a welcoming, resilient, and connected riverfront.

Beginning June 1, we kick off our free public event season, starting with Learn to Row Day and continuing through summer and fall, culminating with one of the largest single-day regattas in the country—the Head of the Riverfront. In between, visitors can enjoy fitness classes, concerts, cultural festivals, family programs, and more—all designed to fulfill our mission to connect people with the Connecticut River and with each other.

We'll also begin early-stage work on our future riverfront park in North Hartford and Windsor, guided by a community-driven master plan and fueled by your support. At the same time, we'll continue improving our current parks—with pathway upgrades, lighting enhancements, and signage that helps every visitor feel safe, welcomed, and informed.

Expect even more ways to get involved: expanded donor programs, more free events, more opportunities to connect with the Connecticut River, and continued investment in our parks, our people, and the partnerships behind our mission.

This next chapter will be shaped by many hands—and we hope yours will be among them. Whether you show up, speak out, give back, or simply enjoy the view, you are part of the Riverfront story.

Let's keep moving forward—together.



**Corporate, Foundation, and
Government Support**

Investment in Riverfront Recapture has positive impact on quality of life for the regional community. Corporations, foundations, and civic organizations understand the value of their funding for arts and culture, youth enrichment, health and fitness, as well as day-to-day operations to ensure our parks are open and accessible year-round. As we strive to improve and expand our parks, government support provides critical resources for park development. We are so grateful to those who've made an investment in our parks, our programs, and our future.

\$250,000+

The Metropolitan District
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

\$100,000-\$249,999

City of Hartford
Travelers

\$50,000-\$99,999

Bank of America
Capital Region Development Authority
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Capitol Region Council of
Governments
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Corebridge Retirement Services
DORO Restaurant Group
Drink Mechanics/State House
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Hartford Flavor Company
Hartford Public Library
Thomas Hooker Brewing
Company

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Lilly's Soul Food
Macquarie
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Paypal Giving Fund
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The Statement Group
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Zoppa Studio

In-Kind

Contributed goods and services
provide essential support for
many Riverfront activities. We
thank the following donors:

Boondoggle Beers
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
DORO Restaurant Group
Drink Mechanics/State House
Distilling Co.
Food Trucks & Co.
Jennifer Glick
Goodwin University
David Guadliana
Hartford Flavor Company
Hartford Marriott Downtown
Thomas Hooker Brewing
Company
Chris Kriesen
Lilly's Soul Food
Claudia Longmore
Manafort Brothers Inc.
Salute
Sound Guyz
The Statement Group
Travelers

Updike, Kelly & Spellacy
Zoppa Studio

Matching Gifts

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

Bain Capital Community
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Corebridge Retirement Services
Lincoln Financial Foundation
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RTX
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
The Hartford Insurance Group Inc.
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UnitedHealthcare
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*p. 7, from top left: Michael Zaleski,
Riverfront President & CEO, and
Congressman John Larson at
Community Celebration; Riverfront
Dragon Boat & Asian Festival opening
ceremony; regatta spectators; fishing
in Great River Park; Circuit Rider in
Great River Park; NBC's Taylor Kinzer
filming a learn-to-row segment*

p. 8: Flooded Garmany Cove

*p. 10: Taste of the Caribbean + Jerk
Festival at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza*

*p. 12, from top left: The Big Mo'; rower
at RowFest; Hartford Marathon
Foundation 5K; rowing coach Becca
Likar coaching ergers; playing on the
swings; Whaler and regatta director
Christopher R. Hayes*

*p. 14, Community Celebration at the
site of our future park*



**Individuals &
Friends of the River**

Generous help from our friends ensures that our regional park system is clean, well-maintained and accessible year-round as we welcome people to explore green space, access the Connecticut River, and enjoy free public events. In 2024, your donations made a difference for 945,305 park visitors – thank you!

\$25,000+

The Hoffman Family
Richard & Heidi Sontag

\$15,000–\$24,999

Janice & David Klein
Mike Puckly & Chris Cadiz
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Wanda Schulman
Kim & Chris Byrd
Kathleen Cassidy
Ranjana & Surendra Chawla
Paul Eddy & Elizabeth Normen
Susan & Joel Freedman
Ajilli Hardy
Dave P. Jenkins
Patty Pittman
Ken & Mary Pouch
L. Everett Seyler, Jr., M.D.
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Barry Lastra
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Brendan Lynch
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Lauren Mullaney
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\$1,000–\$2,499

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Bill Veronesi & Barbara Walden
Gail & Robert West
Felicia Wilion & Jay Frankel
The Zoppa Family

Founders Society

Our Founders' Society members have shown their commitment to Riverfront through consecutive giving for 10 or more years. They make it clear that they are dedicated to ensuring access to the Connecticut River through our parks. We thank all of these donors, who are identified in bold in this Annual Report, for your long-standing support of the community members who enjoy our parks, and for encouraging others to follow your example. We welcome and thank the following who became new Founders' Society members in 2024:

Craig Bailey
The Buhler Family
Tara Cantor
David Crockett
Dr. Bob & Debbie Dodenhoff
Johanna & Timothy Dunlavey
James & Laura Friedman
Liahna Gonda-King & Thomas Bennett
Angie & David Hein
Madeleine B. Kenny
Mark & Pamela Roth
Richard & Robin Weiss
Michael & Kerry Zaleski

Mainstay

Mainstay donors support Riverfront through convenient monthly giving. These ongoing contributions add up over time, often exceeding a one-time gift and deepening their long-term impact.

Deborah Baker
Peter & Adriane Beller
Jacquelyn T. Coleman & Charles V. Agnano
Martha & Michael Conneely
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Anthony Lynch

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Laura Soll-Broxterman

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Cassandra Barrow

Peter & Adriane Beller

Rich & Amy Bello

Leland Bergen

Rachel Berger

Ajay Beri

Len & Deb Bieringer

Councilwoman Kelly Bilodeau and
the Kelly B for Council Campaign

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Michael & Suzanne Bocchini

Gerald & Gail Boisvert

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Roy Collins III &

Gaylynn Moore-Collins

Patricia Connolly

Joanne Conover

Susan Coogan

Legacy Society

Including Riverfront Recapture in your estate plans helps ensure that our parks remain vibrant and welcoming for generations to come. Your foresight today sustains future opportunities to explore, learn, and enjoy the river.

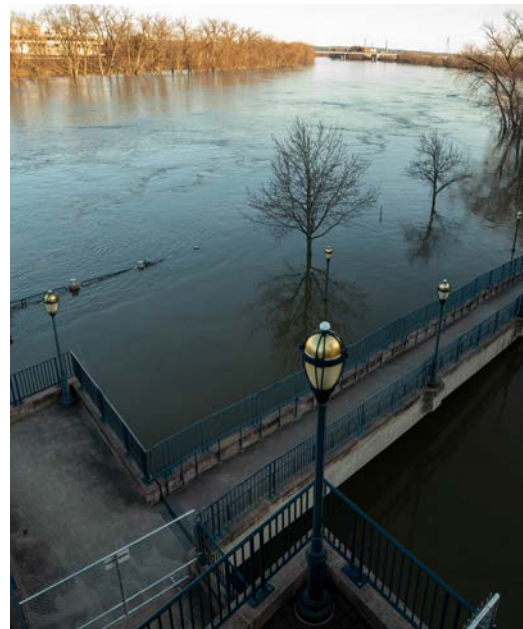
We are thankful to the individuals who have chosen to leave a legacy that supports our mission to connect people to with the Connecticut River.

Deborah Baker
David Barrett
Mr.[†] & Mrs. Maurice Belanger
Harold Blinderman & Wanda Schulman
G. Peter Bloom
Chris & Kim Byrd
Kathleen Cassidy
Susan & Brian Clemow
Marie P. Coburn[†]
Alison Coolbrith[†] & Barry Lastra
Mary Lou & Jim Dahmer
Lynn H. Ferrari & Virginia Seeley
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Chrissie & Ezra Ripple
David R. Robb
Stephen G. Schoen
Lynn Traiger[†]
Donald K. Wilson[†]
Robert Yohe, Jr.
Michael Zaleski

If you would like to learn more about legacy giving, please contact Deborah Baker, director of development, at 860-713-3131 x326 or dbaker@riverfront.org.

Tim & Diane Covello
Dr. David Crombie
Kevin Crosby
Elizabeth Curry
Eric D. Daniels & Patricia Campanella
Renee A. Daniels
Emily Dawkins
Philip & Mary-Alice Dennehy
Holly DeYoung & Thomas Donahue
Mary Ellen & John Dombrowski
Paula Dorn
William & Doreen Doyle
Joe & Belinda Duva
Susan & Matt Ely
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Diana Orellana
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Jim Palmieri & Laurie Podolak
Timothy Papp



Above, from top left: Rowing Points Trophy Winners at RowFest; Northeast Revitalization Area chair Helen Nixon at The Big Mo'; flooding at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza; Riverfront Recapture President & CEO Michael Zaleski with iQuilt Executive Director Jackie Mandyck, Deb Borrero of CREC, Hartford BID Executive Director Jordan Polon, David Robinson of The Hartford and iQuilt Program Manager Amir Johnson at MetroHartford Alliance breakfast; annual dock removal; views of our parks from the Charter Oak Bridge

Marfuggi Parks Fund

Established in 2011 to honor then-President & CEO Joe Marfuggi, the Marfuggi Parks Fund provides long-term support for essential repairs and improvements across the Riverfront park system. The fund grows through contributions and earnings, with periodic expenditures approved by Riverfront's Board of Directors.

We're thankful to the donors who contribute to this fund—whether annually or occasionally—and we thank the following contributors for their support in 2024:

Deborah Baker
Jim & Beverly Boyle
Mary Lou & Jim Dahmer
Sally Dengenis
Dr. Bob & Debbie Dodenhoff
Paul Eddy & Elizabeth Normen
Garrett Eucalitto
Kristin Beth Ferris
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George Jeong
Gail & Chris Johnson
Jennifer & Marc Nicol
Deborah & Jeffrey Stein
Jennie Sternhagen
The Vandeventer Foundation
Matt & Lois Weady
Michael & Kerry Zaleski

We're less than \$15,000 from reaching our \$1.15 million goal for the Joe Marfuggi Riverwalk campaign, which will fund amenities along the new riverwalk. All donations are held in the Marfuggi Parks Fund and used exclusively for their intended purpose.

If you'd like to contribute to this fund—or learn more about giving to Riverfront Recapture—please contact Deborah Baker, Director of Development, at 860-713-3131 x326 or dbaker@riverfront.org.

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The MDC



The Metropolitan District Commission is an essential partner to Riverfront Recapture. We are truly grateful to them for all that they provide, which goes far beyond their ongoing, generous financial support. Their work, particularly the Clean Water Project, is pivotal to our work to connect people with the Connecticut River, and provide clean, safe parks to all visitors.

The Clean Water Project reduces pollution in the Connecticut River, which is integral to environmental restoration. It tackles issues such as sewage overflow and contamination, revitalizes the natural environment, and enhances the usability and appeal of our parks for recreational activities like boating, fishing, and rowing. Improvements in water quality directly benefit both residents and visitors who frequent our parks.

Additionally, the Clean Water Project brings significant economic and community health benefits. Cleaner and well-maintained parks are likely to attract more visitors, which we can attest to, and they can also boost local businesses and increase tourism, contributing to economic growth. Additionally, the reduction in waterborne pollutants decreases health risks associated with contaminated water sources, fostering a healthier community environment.

The Clean Water Project also supports wildlife and biodiversity, maintaining the ecological health and natural beauty of our riverfront parks, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city. All of this aligns with the work we do to maintain, manage, and operate four - soon to be five - riverfront parks, and we are so grateful to the MDC for their work and continued partnership.



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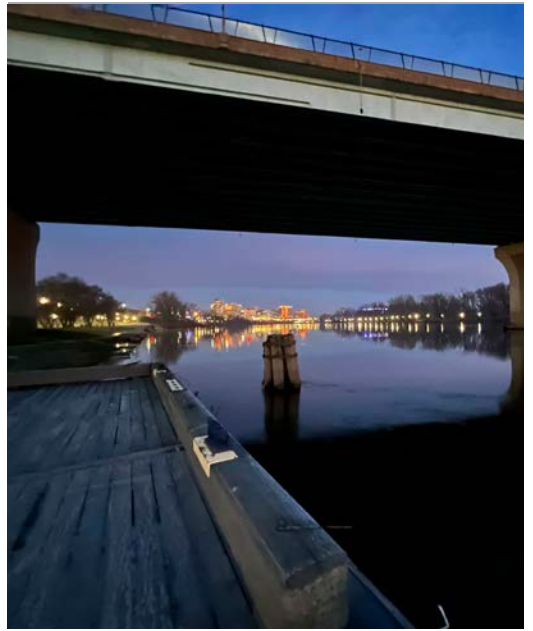
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Recognition Gifts

We appreciate the many people who chose to honor or remember their loved ones with a contribution to Riverfront. While both tributees and donors have been recognized in our Riverfront Recap newsletters, we share those for whom tribute was given:

In Honor of

Chris 86go 2025
 All of our dedicated rowing coaches
 Deborah Baker
 Evan Buhler
 Susan & Brian Clemow
 HWL
 Jenn Lambert
 Carle & Larry Mowell
 Jonathan Near & Evan Buhler

In Memory of

Richard Broad
 Sherry Brown-Marfuggi
 Jacob Matthew Carnelli
 Marie Coburn
 Michael Dengenis
 Dock
 Margie MacDonnell
 John Magel
 Joe Marfuggi & Sherry
 Brown-Marfuggi
 Bob Montstream
 Tom Mullaney
 Bernice Van Overstraeten Miller
 Paul Pearson
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 Helen & Robert Roth

Rowing Stewards Fund

Susan M. Adams & John Czepiel
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 Susan Hays
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 Jennifer Lambert
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 Anthony Salerno
 L. Everett Seyler, Jr., M.D.
 Janet & Ralph Veenema
 Beth E. Weber
 Brian Wendry
 Gail & Robert West
 Joe & Susan Wilson

p. 24, from top left: Intro to Indoor Rowing class; January sunrise at Charter Oak Landing; playing in the rain at Hartbeat Music Festival; Head of the Riverfront; Hartford HealthCare employees planting trees in Riverside Park; cyclists in Great River Park

p. 25: Lunchtime at the Riverfront Food Truck Festival

p. 26, top to bottom: Canada geese in Charter Oak Landing; flooding in Riverside Park; comet trails over Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

p. 27: Head of the Riverfront spectators

back cover: Riverfront Food Truck Festival

Summary of Finances

Assets

Cash and Investments-Unrestricted	\$795,146
Cash and Investments-Restricted	\$2,202,959
Endowment Investments	\$3,091,263
Receivables	\$353,920
Land and Equipment	\$2,013,673
Prepaid Expenses	\$57,858
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,514,819

Liabilities & Net Assets

Payables and Accrued Liabilities	\$146,635
Refundable Advances	\$95,505
Net Assets Without Restrictions	\$3,375,253
Net Assets With Restrictions	\$4,897,426
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$8,514,819

Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$3,112,365
Program Fees & other Earned Income	\$722,985
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,835,350

Expenses

Program Services	\$3,668,659
General Administration	\$137,951
Fundraising	\$284,833
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,091,443

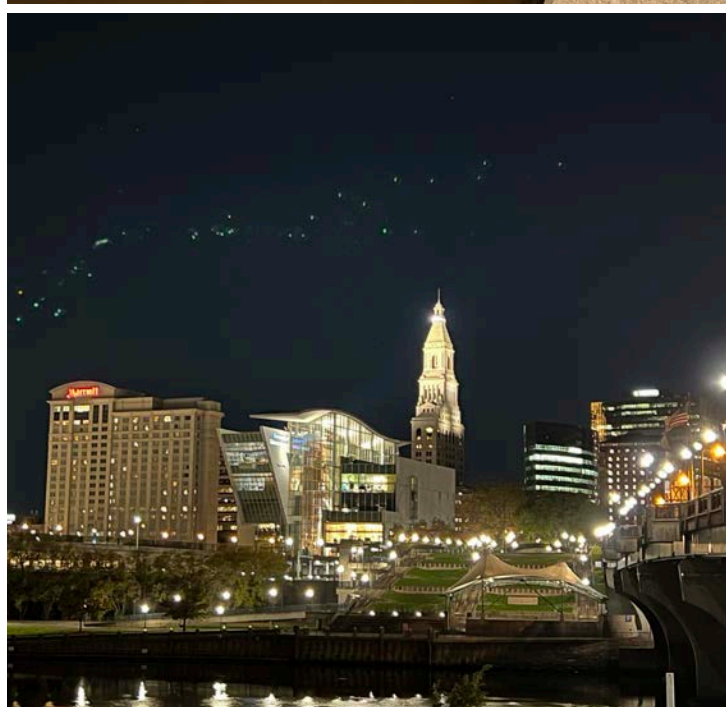
Investment Return

\$470,611

Total Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$8,058,161
End of Year	\$8,272,679

This summary is derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. A copy of the complete statement is available at riverfront.org/financials. Our auditor is CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.





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50 Columbus Boulevard, 1st Floor
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