



Bringing back fish • Tearing down dams • Protecting streams • Going deep with science

Riverkeeper is fighting to restore

A Living River



I joined Riverkeeper because of the opportunity to join my neighbors in honoring and protecting this vital life source — from mountain headwaters to the vast and powerful ocean. — **Karenna Gore, Riverkeeper board member**

Reviving the river

Fighting pollution isn't enough; we need a living Hudson



In recent years, we've taken the fight for a healthy Hudson and safe drinking water to the next level, winning big results — \$3 billion for clean water infrastructure, an agreement to close the Indian Point nuclear plant and the forceful rejection of crude oil storage on the Hudson — that give us hope for the future, despite the chaos in Washington, DC.

Thousands of people volunteer for our “Riverkeeper Sweep” shoreline cleanups

each May. We've built the region's biggest water quality testing program, with 200 citizen scientists collecting 5,000 samples annually. Our volunteers often do more than just clean shorelines or test water quality; faced with projects that threaten the Hudson, they get active and, more often than not, stop them in their tracks.

But, while we've taken meaningful steps towards cleaner, safer waters for the people who live, work and play along the Hudson, Riverkeeper is also raising its game in the fight to restore the river's fish and wildlife.

Making the Hudson teem with life again won't be easy, though there already are signs of progress. Whales now visit regularly, and they're hardly alone — other species like striped bass and sturgeon have also rebounded. However, the Hudson's flora and fauna remain at risk, plagued by low oxygen levels, algal blooms, invasive species and a still-steady flow of chemical

contaminants. Hundreds of abandoned dams still block essential forage and spawning habitat and the annual runs of iconic species like the American Shad are just a tiny fraction of the mighty torrent they once were.

In 1966, Riverkeeper's founders vowed to take the river back from the brink of ecological destruction. For more than 50 years, we've successfully fought to cut pollution, bringing the goal of a living, breathing Hudson closer every year. Now, with partners in government, we will remove as many of our watershed's 1,300 obsolete, habitat-destroying dams as we can. We're helping to implement a \$134-million habitat restoration program in the lower Hudson. And, when Indian Point closes in 2021, its cooling intakes will power down and a billion river creatures will be saved from destruction, every year.

At Riverkeeper's founding, the river was little more than an open sewer. Thanks to the massive reductions in pollution we've helped foster over the past half-century, our vision of a clean, safe and vibrant Hudson is finally within reach. Looking to the future: we'll bring the same energy to our ecosystems work that we did to cutting pollution, closing Indian Point and protecting your drinking water, so that the mighty Hudson will brim with life, once again.

Paul Gallay, President & Hudson Riverkeeper

BY THE NUMBERS

A Year of Victories

410
LOCATIONS
monitored for
safe-swimming
standards

4
DAMS
TARGETED
for removal
to restore
fish habitat

5,000
NAUTICAL
MILES
patrolled



37
TONS
of shoreline trash
removed in just one day

135
RESTORATION
PROJECTS
proposed for neglected
NYC waterways

7
COMMUNITIES
ALLIED
to protect Hudson River
drinking water

75
STORM DRAINS
STENCILED
by volunteers with messages
to inform people how
street trash can end up
in the river

AS MANY AS
1
BILLION
RIVER CREATURES
spared annually
as Indian Point shuts
down in 2021

2,400
ACRES
of the Hudson
saved by opposition to
new anchorages

5,000
PETITIONS
delivered in support
of "BYOBag Act"
NYS plastic bag ban

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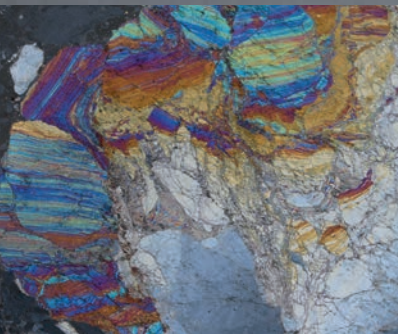
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PHOTO (FACING PAGE) BY PETER HORVATH



GOWANUS CANAL
It's so heartbreaking to see coal tar discharging from the Gowanus Canal to New York Harbor, 24/7, thanks to New York City's "Flushing Tunnel." Shame on you NY City!



FLUSHING BAY We spotted this beautiful shoal of menhaden in Flushing Bay. When the weather is dry and there are no sewer overflows, we see life trying to return.

PHOTOS BY JOHN LIPSCOMB; (FACING PAGE BOTTOM INSET) BY KAARE CHRISTIAN



NEW YORK HARBOR We're very proud to work with geochemist Beizhan Yan of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, studying microplastics in the river, the contaminants that attach to them and how they enter the food web (and us).

ON THE WATER



Riverkeeper Patrol

John Lipscomb, Patrol Boat Captain

The patrol boat is Riverkeeper's presence on the river, on behalf of the river, logging 5,000 nautical miles a year from the Mohawk and Upper Hudson down the Estuary to New York Harbor. The boat provides a deterrent to polluters, a platform for research, and a means of educating and connecting with the public. It also carries a steady reminder: This river needs keeping.

WESTCHESTER CREEK
New patrols here, and on the Bronx River, the upper East River and Flushing Creek have resulted in 5 enforcement cases - so far. These beautiful waterways could be wonderful for recreation and wildlife. Let's clean them up.



Before



After

YONKERS In the course of patrol, we see a lot of smaller problems. Booms and tarps are often put in place to protect the river from construction activity, but then left to become pollution. Here, Yonkers had the developer remove the plastic. When we thanked a city official, he wrote back: "Happy to be a partner in riverkeeping." It gives you hope, because you can't do this work alone.



PIERMONT MARSH Residents of Piermont and researchers studying the marsh object to the use of an herbicide in fighting invasive vegetation. Perhaps a better effort would be to try to help the 1,030-acre marsh stay ahead of sea level rise. Unless we do, the marsh will be overwhelmed, regardless of whatever vegetation it contains.



HUDSON RIVER In Coeymans, where the port has grown steadily into an enormous facility, we're working with the community to help ensure there's a proper balance between business and quality of life in the community – and no harm to the river.

ON THE WATER



MOHAWK RIVER We've joined two communities trying to close the Colonie Landfill which leaks toxic wastewater into the Mohawk. Instead of ordering a much needed remediation here, NY State has approved an expansion!

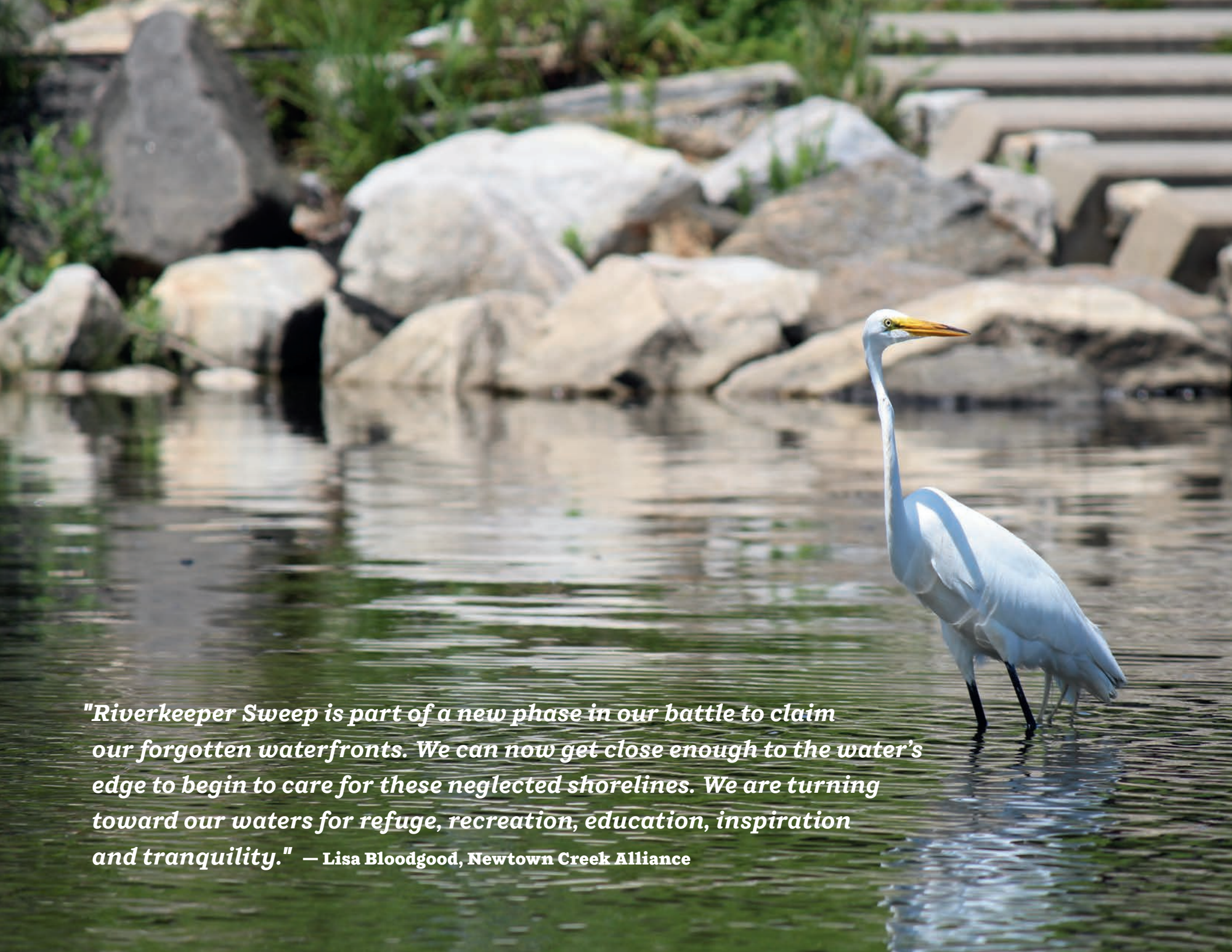


CHESAPEAKE BAY, MD
Boatbuilder Chris Brennan has been a steady friend to our 36-foot wooden patrol boat, the R. Ian Fletcher. He has replaced all of the bottom planking and a number of structural timbers. Our able little boat is getting younger and younger each year.

PHOTOS BY JOHN LIPSCOMB



HUDSON RIVER Our fight against new commercial anchorages throughout the Hudson was resolved skillfully by the U.S. Coast Guard. A range of stakeholders – ship owners, kayakers, riverfront communities, and the river's living creatures – were all represented at a series of workshops in the fall of 2017. This year a Hudson River Safety Committee was launched, with the same groups represented. We are proud to be a voice for the river's life.



"Riverkeeper Sweep is part of a new phase in our battle to claim our forgotten waterfronts. We can now get close enough to the water's edge to begin to care for these neglected shorelines. We are turning toward our waters for refuge, recreation, education, inspiration and tranquility." — Lisa Bloodgood, Newtown Creek Alliance

PHOTOS BY CHRISSY REMEIN AND LEAH RAE

ACHIEVEMENTS

How we're fighting for clean water

Challenges continue to mount, and Riverkeeper is rising to meet them.

Improving water quality

MAKING NYC SWIMMABLE Filed suit against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with partner groups over insufficient standards for protecting the rapidly increasing number of people who swim and boat in NYC waters.

TOXICS STUDY Collaborated with Cornell University on a study, the largest of its kind, that identified 168 different pharmaceuticals, pesticides and industrial chemicals present in the Hudson River Estuary.

PHARMACEUTICALS Won passage of the Drug Take Back Act, requiring New York's pharmacy chains to provide safe pharmaceutical disposal. It will go a long way in protecting the state's waterways from pharmaceutical contamination.

FARM WASTE Successfully challenged a deeply-flawed state permit to provide better public participation and more aggressive oversight to prevent disease-causing animal waste from being discharged from factory farms (CAFOs) into our waterways.

IMPAIRED WATERS Advocated successfully for New York State to add the 88-mile Wallkill River, along with Newburgh's two reservoirs, to the state's list of "impaired" waterways, ensuring the full power of the Clean Water Act can be used to restore water quality.

Protecting drinking water

'HUDSON 7' Convened seven river communities that draw their drinking water from the Hudson to better protect this critical supply, which serves over 100,000 New Yorkers. Communities in the new Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council call themselves 'The Hudson 7.'

SOURCE WATER SCORECARD Created a Drinking Source Water Protection Scorecard to help communities understand the degree to which their own water supplies are protected, and to argue for sufficient state and federal resources to increase protections. (P. 18)

Restoring toxic sites

HUDSON RIVER PCBs Successfully advocated against EPA finalizing a determination that the clean-up was working as promised, resulting in renewed collaboration between EPA and New York State to review the most recent science. Urged EPA to compel GE to remove additional PCB-contaminated sediment in the Upper Hudson and order a full remedial investigation and feasibility study in the Lower Hudson.

GOWANUS CANAL Pushed government agencies toward the quickest, most thorough cleanup of the canal as possible.



EPA has begun dredging of toxic sludge in the Gowanus Canal.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Preventing oil spills, fostering safe energy

CRUDE OIL Successfully challenged Global Partners' plan to expand its Albany terminal to ship tar sands crude oil by rail and barge.

INDIAN POINT Partnered with communities affected by the closure of Indian Point to foster prompt and effective decommissioning and cleanup of the site within 20 years. (P. 22)

CPV GAS PLANT Successfully pressed DEC to deny renewal of air quality permit for the fracked-gas power plant located in Orange County.

ANCHORAGES Won a major battle against industry's request to drastically expand anchorages for oil barges and other commercial vessels. After an unprecedented public outcry – 10,000 comments calling for protection of the Hudson – the U.S. Coast Guard shelved the proposal.

NAVIGATION SAFETY As an outcome of the anchorage battle, helped launch a new committee aiming to improve navigation safety and environmental protection along the Hudson.

CONSTITUTION PIPELINE Helped ensure defeat of a fracked-gas pipeline that would have carved a swath through four NY counties and cross waterways 251 times.

Restoring life to our rivers

DAM REMOVAL Achieved formal agreements for removal of four obsolete and unnecessary dams as part of a new effort to open habitat for migratory fish and restore historic fish runs. (P. 14)

STORM BARRIERS Mobilized opposition to plans being considered by the Army Corps of Engineers for ill-conceived storm barriers in NY Harbor that would permanently damage the Hudson. (P. 16)

ESTUARINE SANCTUARY Partnering on a proposal for \$134 million in habitat restoration and research funding for the Hudson River Park and Estuarine Sanctuary.



Connecting communities to the water

VISION PLANS Unveiled and launched community-driven Vision plans to restore, revitalize and transform two long neglected waterways in New York City, Newtown Creek and Flushing Bay and Creek. (P. 20)


FLUSHING BAY Challenged the Port Authority's inadequate environmental review timeline of the proposed LaGuardia Airport AirTrain.

BIG SWEEP Mobilized 2,200 Riverkeeper Sweep volunteers, who removed trash and invasive plants from 120 shoreline locations in our biggest one-day cleanup yet.

PHOTOS BY LEAH RAE (FACING PAGE), JESSICA ROFF (TOP) AND ELIZABETH ALLEE



In 2018, nearly 50 organizations partnered with Riverkeeper to collect more than 5,400 samples of water along the Hudson and a dozen of its tributaries.



Our biggest battles, starting with Storm King,
were won on behalf of the fish. With our newest initiatives,
Riverkeeper renews a commitment to restore

A Living River



RESTORATION

Freeing the river

The Hudson is a wilderness, hidden beneath the surface. By removing old dams along its creeks, Riverkeeper is moving to restore the routes that life once took.

PHOTOS (L-R) BY GEORGE JACKMAN, LEAH RAE AND NEW YORK DEC

It would be easy to assume that as we succeed in reducing pollution from sewage and industrial waste, life in the Hudson will rebound.

But reducing pollution, by itself, won't bring back the fish. Simply put, we've harvested too many fish of almost every species. We built power plants that pull in river water and destroyed the life within it. We filled shallow habitat areas and hardened shorelines. To give the fish a fighting chance, we have to give back the feeding and spawning grounds that were taken away.

In New York, one way to begin is to remove obsolete dams along the creeks and streams that nourish the river. They not only block fish, but trap sediments, nutrients and minerals vital to the food web.

We've just taken a historic step toward that goal. In 2016, a rusting metal dam was lifted out of the Wynants Kill, a stream that meets the Hudson in the City of Troy. Riverkeeper had spotted the opportunity during patrols, and partnered with Troy and the state DEC to remove the dam successfully. It was the first barrier

Just below the surface of the Hudson is a great wildlife migration. River herring come into the estuary every spring, crossing the salt barrier. In a brilliant evolutionary strategy, they adjust the salt concentrations in their tissues and kidneys to transition between saltwater and fresh. Why? Tucked away in the protected reaches of rivers and tributaries, their young can mature with less danger than would be found in the open ocean.

along the Hudson removed expressly for fish passage.

Within days, hundreds of alewives, a species of river herring, were swimming upstream for the first time in 85 years.

Now we are working to replicate that success. The Wynants Kill is one of 67 tributaries feeding into the Hudson River Estuary from Troy south. About half are dammed, many times over. Research has helped identify prime opportunities to clear dams

Defending the Hudson against a new threat

Riverkeeper leads the fight against ill-conceived storm surge barriers

Riverkeeper mobilized quickly when plans emerged for massive, in-water storm surge barriers throughout New York Harbor that would choke off the river where it meets the ocean.

Such barriers are among the options being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect the region against flooding from coastal storms. They are nothing less than a threat to the river's life: They would block the tidal flow and the migration of fish, and trap sediment and contaminants from leaving the harbor.

They would also leave our communities vulnerable. A rational approach would protect against flooding from both storms and rising seas. But storm barriers, with gates that remain open for ships to pass, would do nothing against sea level rise. Shoreline-based measures – dikes, dunes and levees – would protect against both, while letting the river run free.

In July, Riverkeeper shined a light on this momentous decision being driven by an opaque, bureaucratic process. Soon, thousands were speaking out, and communities were adopting resolutions demanding a voice. In response, the Corps allowed more time for public comment and more than a year's time before it will narrow down the options.

The states of New York and New Jersey have a critical role to play. As co-sponsors of the Corps' study, they have the power to reject the barrier options at any time.

We will make sure the river gets to speak. Experts will help document the potential harm, and the public will deliver the message. We will not sacrifice our river to protect real estate.

STAY UP TO DATE
Visit Riverkeeper.org/barriers
Text RIVER to 21333
(msg & data rates may apply)

A threat to the very life of the river

One of the drastic plans being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to build a gigantic barrier stretching 5 miles from Sandy Hook, N.J., to Breezy Point, N.Y., and two additional barriers in Long Island Sound.



"We welcome good, common-sense ideas to prevent massive flooding in our region. A 5-mile 'sea barrier' is not one of them." — **Editorial, The Record (N.J.)**

RESTORATION

and reopen streams to river herring and American eel.

As of late 2018, Riverkeeper has secured written agreements for the removal of four dams to allow passage of these migratory fish. In 2019, we will continue reaching out to dam owners and educating the public, and a new film, "Undamming the Hudson River," will help bring the issue alive.

At Gay's Point in Columbia County, another landmark success is taking shape. This area, the upper estuary, was reshaped in the 1800s by dikes that were built to confine the flow and improve navigation. Dredge spoil was dumped in the numerous side channels.

In a restoration project meant to compensate the river for environmental damage caused by the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement, a side channel was opened up, restoring essential tidal flow to shallow areas lost due to dredging and filling. In time it will provide high quality habitat for fish and birds.

On the Mohawk River, we have helped develop the state's agenda in ways that protect fish. The DEC's new Mohawk Basin Action Agenda will investigate ways to prevent invasive species from migrating from the Great Lakes, and support migratory fish passage through the Erie Canal locks and dams, which segment the natural flow.



Laura Wildman, PE, Water Resources & Fisheries Engineer, Princeton Hydro, and George Jackman, Ph.D., Riverkeeper Habitat Restoration Manager, appear in the Patagonia-supported film "Undamming the Hudson River" by National Geographic filmmaker Jon Bowermaster.

These initiatives expand Riverkeeper's commitment, from its founding days, to defending the life in the river.

The successful, epic fights of Westway and Storm King were won on behalf of striped bass that take refuge under city piers and spawn at the foot of the mountain. The battle to close Indian Point nuclear plant was waged with laws that protect fish.

Recovering lost habitat – healing the river – will take sustained effort. But we have faith. We've enlisted allies all along the river's course, from the Adirondacks, down the valley, through our city to the sea.

We're in it together

Riverkeeper began testing the water more than a decade ago in search of answers. Now a small army of community scientists, researchers and activists are working alongside us, driving discoveries and finding solutions for cleaner, healthier water.



INTRODUCING "THE HUDSON 7"

Convened by Riverkeeper, seven communities joined forces in 2018 to protect and improve the Hudson River, the shared source of drinking water for 100,000 residents.

Riverkeeper's Water Quality Program is built on community science – and both the science and the community are integral to its success.

In 2018, nearly 50 organizations and 180 individuals partnered to collect more than 5,400 samples of water along the Hudson and a dozen of its tributaries. The data we've gathered since establishing our estuary monitoring program with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and CUNY Queens College in 2008 have illuminated some of the river's challenges.

We've identified areas where wastewater infrastructure is failing, and seen investments pay off in improved water quality. We've defined critical baseline information about the presence of pharmaceuticals, pesticides and other trace contaminants. We've developed watershed-based approach-

es to tackling pressing problems, such as Harmful Algal Blooms in the Wallkill River.

Our approach to engaging communities and gathering essential data has given Riverkeeper a central role in defining solutions. We've provided leaders across the state with a tool, the Source Water Protection Scorecard, to help extend the world-renowned protections given to New York City's reservoirs to more public drinking water supplies around the state.

We will continue using the data — and the power that comes from working with communities to gather it — to advocate for local programs to protect and restore the healthy streams that are needed for a healthy Hudson; state policies to better protect public drinking water supplies and improve infrastructure; and the first-ever dedicated federal funding from Washington for Hudson River restoration.

PHOTOS (THIS PAGE) BY DAN SHAPLEY AND JOHN LIPSCOMB; (FACING PAGE) BY EVA DEITCH



Communities have shown when they stick together, they can be powerful forces for change. Keeping that momentum going for a cleaner Hudson is one fight worth a mighty effort. — Editorial, Poughkeepsie Journal

This green roof at Kingsland Wildflowers in Brooklyn is an example of the solutions already underway near city waterways, helping to reduce stormwater pollution and make space for birds. The roof was funded through an oil spill settlement with ExxonMobil.



A new vision for neglected waterways



PHOTOS BY MIKE AZIZ AND CHRISSY REHEIN (FACING PAGE) AND PERKINS+WILL

In the public imagination, it's becoming easier to grasp the potential for restoring health to New York City's waters and vitality to its 520 miles of shoreline. Riverkeeper and its local partners are fueling those ideas, and pushing hard toward those goals, with two detailed, community-driven "Vision" plans, along with our continuing advocacy citywide for toxic cleanups, stormwater controls, better water quality standards and bigger investments to address chronic sewage pollution.

We have a long way to go in making these waters "swimmable" and supportive of life. But we believe that even the most badly degraded areas can become thriving places of refuge for wildlife and recreation. We are working with dedicated partners to make it happen.

Early in 2018, Riverkeeper, Newtown Creek Alliance, Guardians of Flushing Bay and architecture and design firm Perkins+Will unveiled plans listing 135 opportunities to revitalize two of the city's worst-polluted waterways. The plans start with improving the health of the water and ecosystem – restoring oyster reefs, marshes and wildlife – and expand into shoreline projects that connect neighborhoods with waterfronts they've had little access to.

On Newtown Creek, the border of Brooklyn and Queens, we've seen steady progress since beginning patrols in 2002 and driving legal action to clean up massive amounts of oil seeping into the creek. A Superfund action plan is taking shape, along with plans to reduce sewage discharges by 60 percent. The "Vision" projects are designed to set precedents and seize opportunities that will unfold during these longer term efforts.

As one small example, we're giving nature a foothold along the flat, sheet-pile bulkheads. With Newtown Creek Alliance, Billion



Oyster Project and design firm SITU, we are testing structures to attract mussels, oysters and grasses, where fish can take refuge.

Likewise, Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek are overflowing with pollutants, but we and our local partners see acres of opportunity. These historic salt marshes in northern Queens have the potential to be engines of marine life, with a large-scale oyster reef that can provide both habitat and resiliency from storms.

Riverkeeper has joined with local groups to protect the Bay and Promenade from a proposed AirTrain route and instead promote a new ecology and boating center, along with other means of enjoying the water. This area, home to two World's Fairs and now one of the most ethnically diverse places on the planet, deserves a world class, resilient, living waterway.



READ THE VISION PLANS
Riverkeeper.org/FlushingWaterways
Riverkeeper.org/NewtownCreek



Powering past Indian Point

CLEAN ENERGY

While decommissioning issues remain, NY's grid operator says we'll have plenty of power after this dangerous nuclear plant shuts down.

Over the past several years, Indian Point repeatedly suffered major malfunctions — pump and power failures, a transformer explosion, failing o-rings, radiation leaks, a fire and an oil spill. Twice, inspections discovered unprecedented failures in the bolts holding the inner walls of the reactors together. The plant also kills a billion fish and fish larvae every year; there are three dangerous high pressure gas pipelines nearby; the risk of

meltdown due to an earthquake is the highest in the nation; and, there's no viable evacuation plan.

That's why Indian Point's stipulated closure in 2021, under the agreement between Entergy, New York State and Riverkeeper, is the right move. However, we need to ensure that the decommissioning is done right and community interests are addressed.

Riverkeeper submitted its comments on the State's Closure Task Force's plan for early reuse of parts of the site. However, Entergy has said it will not make

any part of the site available until the entire site is decommissioned, scuttling that approach. But the report failed to examine one of the best options: decommissioning and cleaning-up the whole site within a reasonable period such as 20 years, as has been done elsewhere. We argued that prompt decommissioning is the best option for all, keeping workers at the site, yielding greater reuse value, cleaning up contaminated groundwater, and ensuring spent fuel is moved rapidly into safer dry storage. We also



Battling fossil fuel expansion in the Hudson River Valley

We partner with communities to fight dangerous fossil fuel shipments and the expansion of unneeded fossil-fuel infrastructure. This past year, we stopped Global Partners from installing boilers to heat heavy crude at the Port of Albany to facilitate its transport; we successfully pressured the DEC to deny an Air Quality Permit renewal for the massive CPV fracked-gas power plant; and we continue to demand a governmental response to grave risks posed by a high-pressure gas pipeline running next to Indian Point where 1,500 tons of radioactive spent fuel are stored.

are working with communities to ensure that there is good oversight of the decommissioning process, something that federal regulations fail to provide.

There's good news regarding replacement energy. The operator of New York's electrical grid has con-

firmed that we'll have enough power to replace Indian Point and that with smart policies on efficiency and renewables, we can close Indian Point without needing a single additional cubic foot of natural gas, let alone any new gas-fired power plants.

Celebrating solutions

Film, music & craft beer create a ripple effect.

SHIP ROCKED IPA: Craft beer for a cause

Ship Rocked IPA, brewed by Poughkeepsie's Mill House Brewing Company, is a one-of-a-kind craft beer with a mission to promote clean drinking water and protect the Hudson River. True to its brewing heritage, Mill House fermented this IPA in barrels stored on the Hudson Sloop Clearwater, a replica vessel modeled after the Dutch cargo vessels that sailed the Hudson River in the 18th and 19th centuries. In August, we joined a few dozen revelers and sailed on the Clearwater to sample this year's batch. Some 100,000 people get their drinking water from the mid-Hudson, and regional craft breweries, like Mill House, also draw their water from the river. The event kicked off a series of tastings for the public to try the beer and to learn about our work to protect the river as a drinking water source.



Films: Patagonia's *Blue Heart* and Bowermaster's *Hope on the Hudson*

Riverkeeper is honored to work with filmmaker Jon Bowermaster in presenting his *Hope on the Hudson* series of short films, and engage in conversation about the river. *Source to Sea* explores how our Water Quality Program answers the question, "How's the water?" *Undamming the Hudson River* — supported by a grant from Patagonia — examines the importance of restoring habitat by eliminating obsolete dams.

We were also honored to join Patagonia at Brooklyn Bowl for the premiere screening of *Blue Heart: The Fight to Save Europe's Last Wild Rivers*, concerning the battle to save the largest undammed river in Europe. Andrew Bird, who scored the movie, played music from the film, and Riverkeeper's Habitat Restoration Manager George Jackman spoke about our regional work.



Free Dead concert in Central Park

Last Spring, Stella Blue's Band defeted Riverkeeper as they played at Central Park's iconic Naumburg Bandshell. The band's Free Dead in the Park event commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Grateful Dead's historic concert at the same location in 1968. Some 800 enthusiastic fans — our new friends — showed up for the two-set revue, featuring new Riverkeeper board member Steve Liesman. A group of committed Deadheads helped to fund the production and to Riverkeeper.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH ALLEE (TOP) AND LEAH RAE



People vs. plastic

For the 7th year, thousands of volunteers descended on their shorelines the first Saturday in May for Riverkeeper Sweep and cleared 37 tons of trash — mainly plastic. Our fight for a Trash Free Hudson has extended into a year-round campaign to address the pervasive, damaging, entirely solvable problem of plastic pollution.

Sweep volunteers collected signatures for a statewide "BYO Bag Act" banning single-use plastic bags and placing a 10-cent fee on alternatives. In Ossining, volunteers stenciled anti-pollution messages next to 75 storm drains, revealing the path of curbside litter into the Hudson. From Albany to New Paltz to NYC, communities are finding ways to cut down on Styrofoam, plastic bags and plastic straws. The momentum is clearly rising. We're proud to be leading the charge.

COMMUNITY

The Fishermen's Ball

We gathered to celebrate a year of victories and a decade of citizen science.

Set against the backdrop of the Hudson River in May, Riverkeeper honored Patagonia at the Fishermen's Ball and celebrated a decade of water quality testing by the organization and its volunteers. Hundreds of clean water advocates from around the state attended the event at Chelsea Piers, making this one of the largest gatherings of environmental activists in New York. Honored at the Ball were clothier Patagonia, outgoing Board Chair Joseph L. Boren and activist Mary McNamara. Chicago rhythm and blues performer Zeshan B serenaded the audience.



PICTURE THIS Supermodel Heidi Albertsen is elated to find rocker Deborah Harry strutting toward the red carpet.



TREND SETTERS Rick Ridgeway, Patagonia's Vice President of Public Engagement and one of the world's foremost mountaineers, accepted the Big Fish Award — presented by clothier Eileen Fisher — on behalf of the company.

FISHERMEN'S FRIENDS Our Master of Ceremonies was CNBC's Steve Liesman (far left), he is pictured with Riverkeeper President Paul Gally. Newly elected Vice Chair, Kate Sinding Daly is joined by incoming Chair, Ernest Tollerson.



HUDSON HERO Mary McNamara (flanked by Ariana Tashjian and Chris Cooper) was honored for leading the fight against a private water bottling facility in Ulster and advocating for a healthy Hudson River watershed.



PHOTOS BY ANN BILLINGSLEY

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

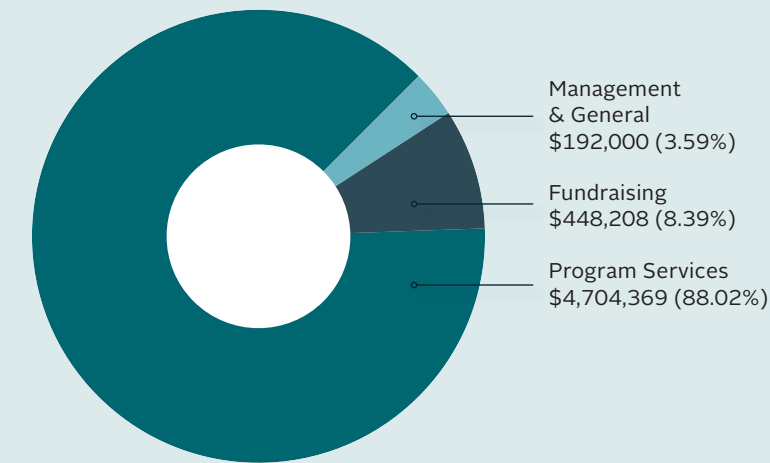
Fiscal Year 2018

Riverkeeper increased both its investment in program work and our total support and revenue during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of our private, corporate, and public supporters and members, who number more than 5,000 a year. Without your generous support, we would not be able to continue to carry out our important work on behalf of the Hudson River, New York City's drinking water supply and the communities that rely on the health and protection of these waters. We hope you will take pride in all that we have accomplished together and all that we plan to accomplish.

For a detailed Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Activities for Fiscal Year 2018, please visit riverkeeper.org/financials.

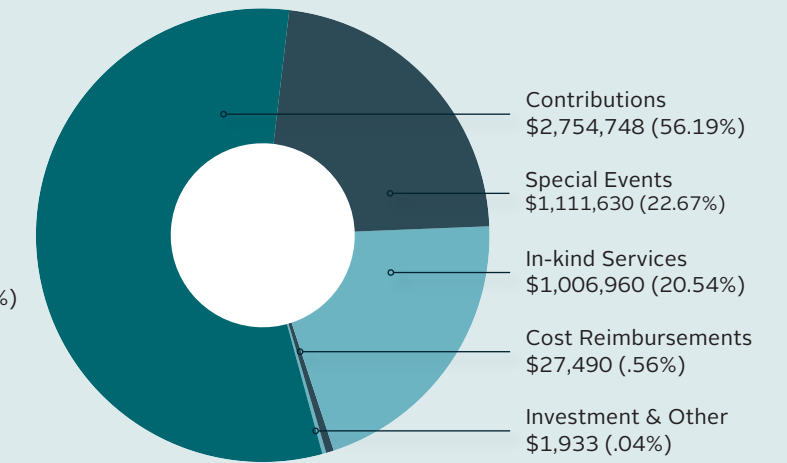
OPERATING EXPENSES

Total \$5,344,577



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total \$4,902,761



Awarded top rating by Charity Navigator for the 6th straight year

Riverkeeper is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt membership organization incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1984 and a top-ranked 501(c)(3) charity.

With gratitude & appreciation

Riverkeeper gratefully acknowledges generous contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

\$100,000+

Anonymous (2)
The Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation
Alexandra and Paul Herzan
New York State DEC Hudson River Estuary Program
David and Sarah Kowitz
Dale and Laura Kutnick
Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
Carolyn Marks Blackwood
The Nancy and Edwin Marks Family Foundation
New York State Department of Health
Park Foundation
Jonathan G. and Jennifer Spanier
Sun Hill Family Foundation
Leslie K. Williams and James A. Attwood

\$25,000-\$99,999

Anonymous
1199 SEIU New York's Health & Human Service Union
Joseph and Daryl Boren
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Robert H. Boyle

1928 - 2017

We honor the life and legacy of Riverkeeper's founder, Robert H. Boyle, after his passing in May 2017. All the work that Riverkeeper has accomplished, all the work it will accomplish, and all the work being carried out by Waterkeepers around the globe is the result of Bob's inspiration, initiative and vision – his absolute unwillingness to accept harm to the Hudson and his dedication to protect living rivers. Bob Boyle has shown us how one person can truly change the world.

PHOTO BY LEAH RAE

Get Involved

Please join our team and be a voice for the river. Find ways to get involved, support our work and stay informed by visiting Riverkeeper.org.

Members

A gift of any amount makes you a member, and full membership benefits start with annual donations of \$50. Our Sustainers Program includes members who make monthly donations—the most valuable kind of gift because we can count on your continued support while reducing overhead costs. Contact Monica Dietrich at ext. 222.

Young Advocates Council

The Young Advocates Council is an active group of young professionals who serve as Riverkeeper ambassadors and are dedicated to increasing Riverkeeper's visibility through events, social media and fundraising. Contact Jen Benson at ext. 234.

Gifts of Stock

Riverkeeper accepts gifts of appreciated stock, which are sold upon receipt to support our work and programs. Contact Monica Gutierrez at ext. 246.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is a lasting way of ensuring our clean water mission endures for generations. Special gifts can be achieved through bequests or charitable trusts, and can include real estate, bonds or other tangible assets. Contact Linde Ostro at ext. 229.

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A growing number of employees at major corporations and government agencies have access to EarthShare New York, making it easy to designate Riverkeeper as the beneficiary of charitable giving via payroll deduction. You can also ask your employer about matching gifts. Contact Monica Dietrich at ext. 222.

Business Membership

Businesses support Riverkeeper in a variety of ways, including through direct donations, sponsorship of the Riverkeeper Sweep, purchase of tickets to our Fishermen's Ball, and participation in our corporate volunteerism and engagement programs. Contact Linde Ostro at ext. 229.

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When it's time to make a big noise, Riverkeeper needs its supporters. Sign up to stay informed about issues and special events, and to take action by visiting our "Get Involved" page on Riverkeeper.org. Sign up for alerts by texting RIVER to 21333 (msg & data rates may apply).

Contact Us

Phone: 914-478-4501 **Email:** info@riverkeeper.org **Mailing Address:** Riverkeeper, 20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562 **Website:** riverkeeper.org



PHOTO BY GIL LOPEZ

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We envision a Hudson River teeming with life, flowing with clean, swimmable waters from end to end, and healthy, abundant drinking water for all New Yorkers.

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ON THE COVER: Our special thanks to photographer Michael Neil O'Donnell for the gift of his Hudson River images on the cover and pages 12-13 of this Journal.



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