



# WaterWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Protecting our Waters Since 1970



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## Building for the Future: A New Home for the Rivers

By Samantha Woods,  
NSRWA Executive Director



Fifty-five years ago, a small group of local conservationists gathered on a back porch, united by a shared conviction that the North and South Rivers—two of the South Shore’s most vital natural resources—deserved protection. From that grassroots beginning, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA) was born.

Over the past five decades, NSRWA has grown into a respected regional environmental leader. The organization has successfully advocated for state and federal protections for rivers, challenged illegal discharges, restored habitat, expanded public access, and educated generations of residents about the ecological and recreational value of their waters.

But as I look at the challenges facing

our environment today, I realize that protecting our past is not enough. We must build for the future.

### A Vision Set in Motion

I am thrilled to share our most ambitious project yet: a five-year, four-phase plan to establish a permanent River Center with direct access to the North River—a place that will anchor the Association’s work for decades to come and serve as a regional hub for environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and sustainability on the South Shore.

The North River is a place of incredible significance. As the only designated scenic river in Massachusetts, its preserved salt marshes and landscapes are a window into our ecological history. It also holds the stories of our past, first as a home with abundant natural resources that sustained millennia of native peoples, to serving as a world-renowned center for

colonial shipbuilding. By establishing a home here, we are anchoring ourselves in the very heart of the ecosystem we defend. A permanent River Center will allow us to deepen our impact, welcome the public to the river’s edge, and inspire the next generation of river stewards.

### Our Roadmap to Tomorrow

“Building for the Future” means creating a space where the next generation can fall in love with the rivers and their watersheds just as we have. Our plan ensures we have the infrastructure to lead for the next fifty years:

**Phase I** - (Completed December 2025): I am proud to announce we have officially closed on a property in Pembroke. For the first time, NSRWA has a physical presence directly on the water.

**See New Home, Continued on Page 9**

## **NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

*Our purpose is to Protect Our Waters.*

*We believe that an educated and engaged citizenry will result in healthy rivers and watersheds, thus Educate + Engage = Healthy Rivers.*

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*Lead Pontoon Boat Captain – Willard  
Boulter*

### **NSRWA**

*P.O. Box 43/214 South Street  
Norwell, MA 02061  
phone: 781-659-8168*

# **Building for the Next 50 Years**

By Rick Mayfield,  
NSRWA President



As we shared with you earlier this year, your NSRWA is taking a bold next step in our mission by purchasing and developing a new River Center on the shores of the North River. We have been working on this idea and location for the past five years and feel, more than ever, that this investment and development align with our needs for the next fifty years. There are so many areas that will benefit from this investment in our future. This new facility will allow us to expand public access, deepen educational opportunities, and support our scientific research and monitoring. As I look to the future, I am excited about how this investment can help advance our mission.

Here are a few thoughts on the potential impacts:

First and foremost, it protects over 14 acres of North River waterfront and marsh from future commercial development. It gives us a canvas to welcome the public to direct waterfront access, where we can offer programming and experiences that, today, we have to use public facilities to explore. Our plan calls for the construction of a boardwalk and dock, creating safe, accessible access to the

river for educational programming, scientific monitoring, and public engagement.

The new facility will include an on-site learning laboratory to support our water quality monitoring and other scientific research that we currently have to outsource to other providers. This enables us to leverage the new facility in our educational programming, where youth will gain hands-on experience and knowledge.

The new indoor and outdoor community engagement space will allow us to offer on-site programming that we currently do not have the space to deliver. Programs like our annual WaterWatch Lecture Series can now be held in-house.

Lastly, our redevelopment focuses on putting into practice what we preach. Our plan is for the facility to include sustainability features like solar power and heat pumps to keep our carbon footprint as low as possible. We also plan to install rain gardens and native plantings, and our outdoor community engagement space will include composting toilets.

Through all of this, our focus will continue to be fostering stronger connections to the youth and families on the South Shore. We hope that everything we do within the River Center will be focused on a 'Living Lab' principle where learning is reinforced with hands-on experiences for our youth and adults alike. The future for NSRWA is bright due to your continued support and involvement in everything we do!

**Visit us online at [nsrwa.org](http://nsrwa.org)  
and connect with us on:**

- **Facebook ([nsrwa.org](http://nsrwa.org))**
- **Instagram ([northandsouthrivers](https://www.instagram.com/northandsouthrivers))**
- **LinkedIn ([north-and-south-rivers-watershed-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-and-south-rivers-watershed-association))**



# Restoration as Unbuilding for the Future

Becky Malamut, River Restoration Coordinator



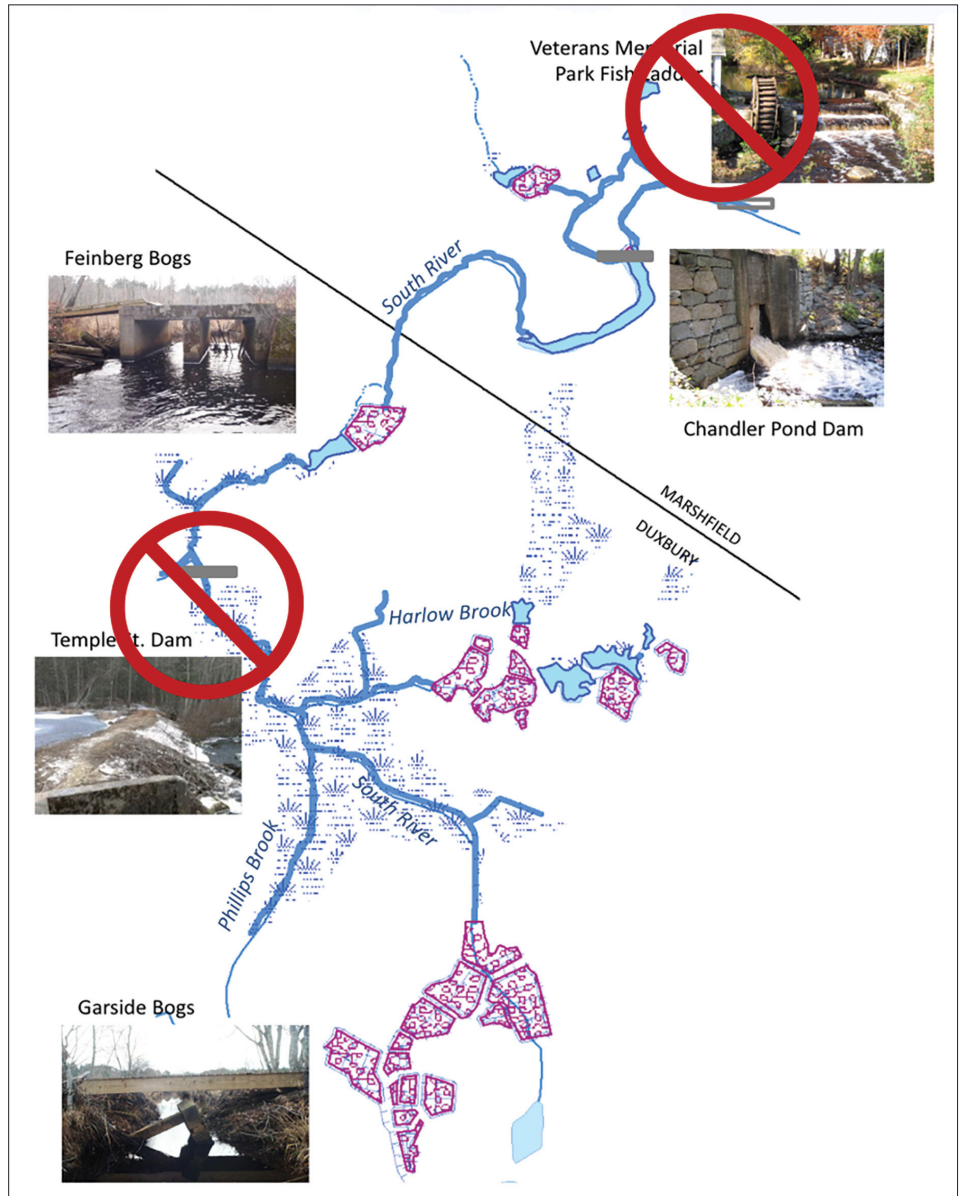
When it comes to NSRWA's restoration work, the goal is actually "unbuilding" for the future—removing the infrastructure that has defined our recent past in order to build resilience and healthier habitats for generations to come. With building often comes destruction and degradation; with unbuilding comes renewal and restoration. NSRWA's path forward is clear: remove the remaining major barriers to fish passage so that our rivers and streams can once again flow freely and function as a connected, living system.

In February, NSRWA embarked on our fifth dam removal with the deconstruction of the Temple St. Dam in Duxbury. As the uppermost major barrier on the South River, removing this dam will open the upper reaches of the South River and provide access to 6.5 acres of open water wetland. This project began more than a decade ago and we have worked closely with our partners at the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration and the Town of Duxbury to find a design that satisfies the needs and priorities of all involved—reconnecting the river, restoring fish passage, and removing liability for the town, all while not impacting flooding downstream and preserving recreational opportunities. All three partners also contributed funding to bring this project to life.



Temple St. Dam, Duxbury

The last remaining dam on the South River is on Chander's Pond in Marshfield, and it lies between the Temple St. dam removal site and Veterans Memorial Park, which was the site of our fourth dam removal last January. We are thrilled to share that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience



Fund has awarded NSRWA with a grant to advance this project through final design and the early stages of permitting.

Lasting restoration requires more than just the unbuilding of infrastructure. In order to create impact that endures well beyond any one project or any one organization, that work must be woven together with community engagement. That connection—between people and place—may be the most important thread of all.

Through art installations that spark curiosity and public events that bring people to the river's edge, we can reach a broader audience and foster a deeper sense of shared stewardship. Building on the mural we created at Hanover Crossing, we are working with local artists and the town of Marshfield on an art installation to

highlight the dam removal at Veterans Memorial Park this spring. Funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, this installation will raise public awareness around the impacts that dams and other barriers have on our rivers, and our work to restore the habitats that support river herring and other migratory fish.

The North and South Rivers and their tributaries are supported by a growing network of advocates—people who care deeply about their history and their health, and have already done so much to restore it. Together, we are shaping a healthier, more resilient watershed and ensuring that the rivers' stories continue—stronger, more connected, and full of life.





One of the culverts in Rockland slated for an upgrade. Photo by Beth C. Howard.

## Building Infrastructure Capacity for Streamflow

By Beth C. Howard,  
Fish Habitat and GIS  
Field Technician



Many years ago, before European colonists began to populate this continent, rivers and streams could run freely from their headwaters to the sea. Rivers were highways, with people and fish moving constantly up and down them. As the population and development in our watershed increased, rivers were dammed for industry. But by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, other forms of energy had risen to prominence, and industry no longer relied on these dams.

You might already know that there are thousands of derelict dams left in Massachusetts, with very few still fulfilling a purpose. NSRWA began the long process of removing these dams almost twenty years ago, and have removed four so far, with more in progress. Although many people have become aware of the downsides of derelict dams and support their removal, there is another, even more prevalent category of objects that can pose challenges to streamflow, and

these often escape public awareness.

Stream crossings (often culverts, sometimes bridges) occur anywhere where a road crosses over a waterway. In early 2025, NSRWA released the results of a two-year study we conducted to assess the impact of the stream crossings in the Indian Head River watershed, which forms the upper reaches of the North River watershed. According to the stream crossing database, there are approximately 185 stream crossings just in the Indian Head River watershed! The goal of this study was to identify areas with restoration potential, where we could promote efforts to enhance streamflow for the benefit of both fish and humans.

As you may have already seen, one way we are promoting immediate streamflow improvements is through our volunteer Stream Stewards program, which clears debris blockages at impacted culverts. However, this immediate action must be paired with long-term infrastructure upgrades in order to truly build the systems our towns need in order to pass water effectively now and into the future.

To that end, we are thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the

Rockland Highway Department to pursue funding to replace three culverts along Cushing Brook. These culverts are undersized, and cannot effectively move the amount of water they receive. This has resulted in blockages, loss of structural integrity, localized flooding, and partial collapses. Our goal is to upgrade each of the three culverts to a design that meets the current Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards, which will build capacity to handle current and future streamflow, fish passage, and stormwater needs.

This project is in its incipient stages, so keep an eye out for updates! In the meantime, you can scan the QR code to view the results of our culvert assessments.



**How did your neighborhood do?  
Scan here to find out!**

# Building Partnerships and Resilience for Tomorrow – Eelgrass Restoration in Massachusetts Bay

By Alex Mansfield, NSRWA Watershed Ecologist and South Shore Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership



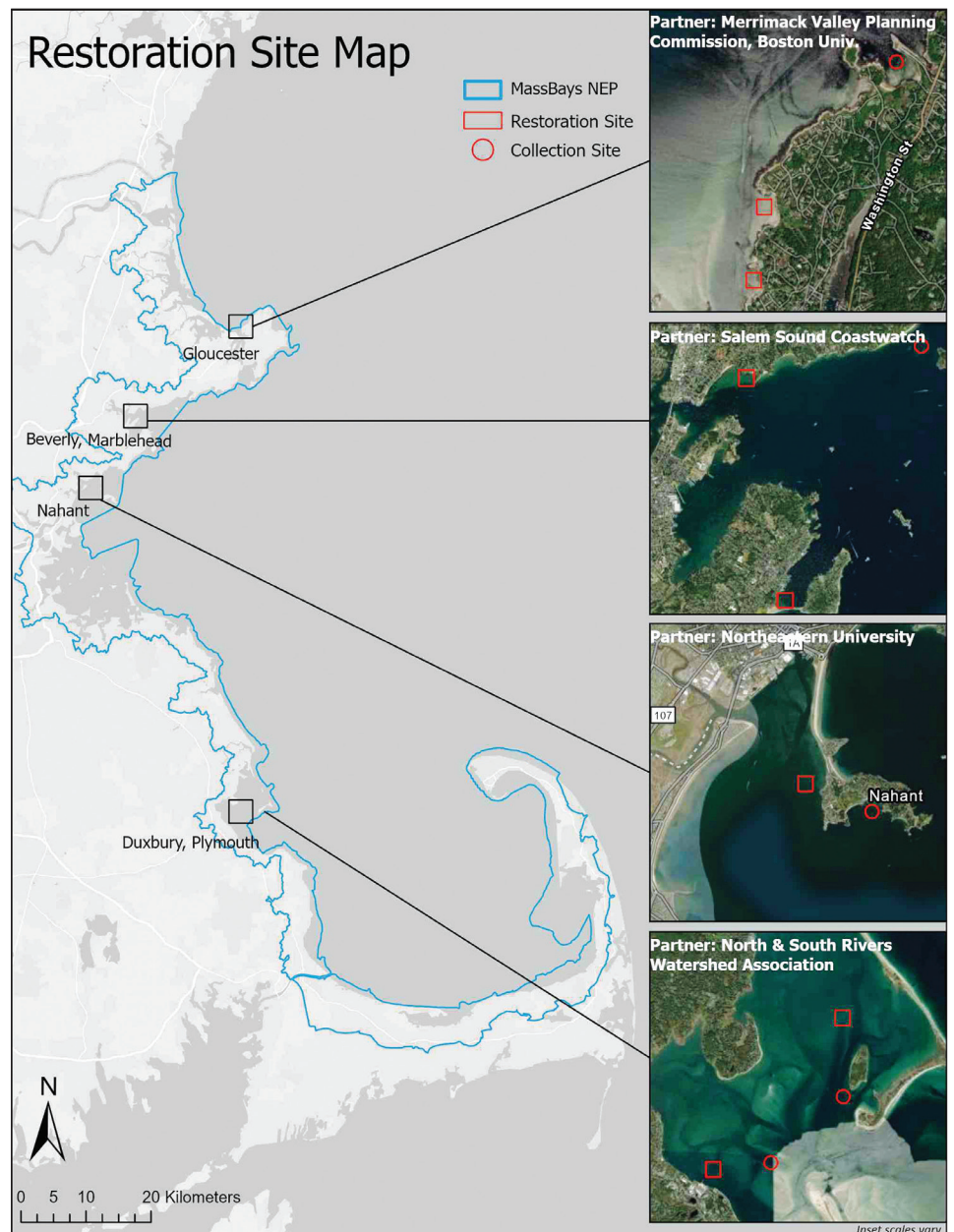
Part of my role here at NSRWA is serving as the South Shore Regional Coordinator for the MassBays National Estuaries Partnership (NEP) aka MassBays. MassBays is one of 28 NEPs within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary Program, a joint local/state/federal program established under the Clean Water Act to protect and enhance nationally significant estuarine resources. MassBays’ vision is a network of healthy and resilient estuaries, sustainable ecosystems that support life and communities dependent upon them. To achieve this, we very much focus on building key partnerships.

An example of this partnership building is our new project “Seeding the Future: Restoring Eelgrass and Building Community Engagement Across the MassBays NEP”. Eelgrass provides essential resilience to the coastline and against climate change by storing carbon, filtering water, reducing wave energy, and stabilizing seafloor sediment. While eelgrass habitat has long been a defining feature of Massachusetts coastal waters, it has recently experienced significant declines. Since the state started mapping eelgrass in 1995, over 50% (~19,000 acres) of areal coverage has been lost. Declines have been attributed to a number of factors including degradation of water quality due to increased nutrients, suspended sediments from urban and agricultural wastewater and runoff, and physical impacts from boating and coastal development. To combat eelgrass loss and ensure continued benefits for our communities and environment, MassBays is leading a significant restoration effort. With funding from Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE), a collaborative team is working to restore eelgrass at several locations across the Massachusetts coast. By advancing eelgrass restoration techniques using seed-based approaches, our group aims to bring eelgrass back to key sites

across the state while piloting techniques that will inform and guide future efforts. The sites represent four of the five MassBays regions and partners: the Gloucester site is led by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, Marblehead and Beverly sites are led by Salem Sound Coastwatch, Northeastern University is taking the lead in Nahant, and NSRWA is focused on sites in Duxbury and Plymouth.

Even within each region, partnerships are the key to success. Locally we are partnered with the Duxbury Bay Maritime School and Island Creek Oysters. By work-

ing with local municipalities, neighbors, recreators, schools, and community groups, the team aims to restore one acre of eelgrass at each site between the spring of 2026 and the fall of 2027. Based on the outcomes, we hope to scale up these efforts in subsequent years. MassBays and our partners have set a goal to restore eelgrass habitat to 1995 levels by 2050.



2026-2027 Eelgrass restoration sites. Credit: Jill Carr, MassBays.

# Building the Next Generation of River Huggers

By Brian Taylor,  
Environmental Educator



At the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, “Building for the Future” is more than just a theme for 2026—it is a daily practice. While we are thrilled to announce plans for our permanent home at the new River Center on the North River, the true foundation of our future lies in the people who will protect these waters for the next 50 years.

This season, our outdoor programs like River Adventures Camp, South Shore Explorers, FISH School, and Estuary Explorers have become increasingly popular with local teachers, partners, and families alike.

## Full Circle: From Students to Leaders

For families on the South Shore, the NSRWA has evolved into more than just a non-profit conservation group; we have become the trusted partner for meaningful outdoor engagement. Parents consistently tell us they are seeking safe, screen-free environments where their youth can not only have fun, but can connect with the waterways in their communities and natural world around them. Whether it is a middle schooler mastering their first kayak excursion or a curious student seeing migrating herring for the first time, our programs offer experiences that turn a summer afternoon into a lifelong relationship with nature. By balancing professional safety standards with authentic exploration, we provide the “wild” experiences that modern childhood often lacks, solidifying our role as a go-to resource for those looking for education and adventure in their own backyard.

As a result of the success of our outdoor programming, we are now taking this experience a step further. The NSRWA has launched the Counselor in Training (CIT) program to provide young outdoor enthusiasts with leadership experience at the professional level, as well as ensuring the NSRWA has quality educational staff for future seasons.

For the first time, we have hired staff members who began their journey with us as campers. Years ago, they were

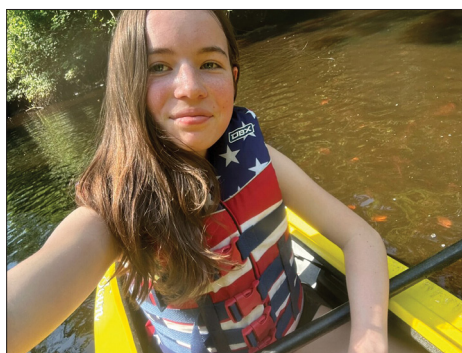


A past NSRWA summer program session group posing for a quick photo before embarking on a wilderness adventure. NSRWA CIT Tenley Grey is fourth from the left.

among the curious middle schoolers paddling kayaks in our River Adventures Camp, learning to read the tides and spot osprey. Today, they return not just as participants, but as leaders, bringing a passion for the watershed that was ignited by this very program. These hires prove that our youth education programs do more than teach science; they cultivate careers and lifelong commitment.

As the organization continues to expand our educational impact, let’s hear what our future professionals have to say about building for the future:

## From Student to Teacher



Hi! I’m **Tenley Grey**, a CIT at NSRWA. I’m a freshman at Pembroke High School, where I’m part of the swim team and chamber choir.

I first started as a 10-year-old camper

in the Outdoor Explorers program five years ago. My favorite activities are kayaking and geocaching, but mostly I love exploring all the new trails and sites we go to. I’ve also participated in River Adventures, which is geared toward older age groups. The River Adventures program is an all-day experience where campers can kayak and explore the North and South Rivers and other areas.

When I participated in River Adventures as a camper with two of my friends, we had incredible experiences. I love the beach area a lot. One day, the only other girl at River Adventures camp and I went to the ocean with the rest of the group and explored tide pools, where we found lots of crabs and even collected abandoned sea snail shells!

As a Counselor-In-Training now, I help Brian and other staff lead activities and help supervise the participants. Being a female counselor means a lot to me because there are always fewer girls than boys, so being able to hang out with them and make them feel comfortable is always a goal of mine!

NSRWA has become a special place for me to get outside—which is important because I’m usually an indoor person.

**See Leaders, Continued on Page 7**

## Leaders

Continued from Page 6

I'm grateful to work for NSRWA and offer these amazing experiences to kids. I'd encourage any potential campers to join because NSRWA provides a structure that allows you to explore while also being safe.

I am honored to work under Brian and hope to be an assistant counselor next summer when I turn sixteen! I'm excited to take on more responsibilities, like setting up activities and helping to create the same experiences for campers that first drew me to NSRWA five years ago.

## From Camper to Colleague



Hi! I'm **Cruz Cabral**, Assistant NSRWA Educator. When I was a camper, the counselors made learning outdoors fun and engaging. The small groups allowed them to pay individual attention to each camper. They always created a safe, kind, and inclusive environment.

My fondest memory as a camper was spending time on Jacobs Pond. I remember back when we would canoe rather than kayak. Everyone had to work together as a team to launch the canoes and paddle in unison. We were able to explore more remote parts of the pond, making it an adventure.

NSRWA helped show me the beauty and freedom of being outdoors, away from screens and the daily stresses of life. Now, as an assistant educator, I get to share this feeling with younger kids, helping them feel connected to nature as well as to each other. I try to make sure that each child feels like they belong.

## Building the Foundation for our Growth: Harnessing the Power of Volunteers

By Kezia Bacon,  
Community Engagement  
Manager



NSRWA is a small group with big ideas. I am consistently impressed and inspired by how much we accomplish! Our passionate and industrious staff all have to-do-lists as long as their arms. We're diligent, but there is always more to do.

Meanwhile, our volunteer database continues to grow. Currently, more than 500 individuals have created profiles in VolunteerLocal, identifying the tasks that interest them most. With their wide range of professional and practical skills, we're excited to find more ways to work with them.

Here in my second year as NSRWA's Community Engagement Manager, I've gained a better grasp of what it takes to do the things we do. One of my goals for 2026 is to increase collaboration with our volunteers on specialized, longer-term projects.



For example, last year, **Rachel Thomas**, a communications executive, helped NSRWA develop a strategy for spreading the word across digital and social media about our Striper Fishing Tournament, Great River Race, and other major NSRWA activities. Her 20 hours of volunteer work enabled our staff to focus on other, equally-important tasks. Working together, we were able to meet our goals efficiently. Rachel says, "Growing up on the North River, I saw firsthand how much this

organization has done to protect and celebrate our local environment. It was incredibly meaningful to apply my professional experience in support of a place that helped shape who I am today and continues to have such a lasting impact on the community."

NSRWA will always need large teams of volunteers to ensure the success of such annual events as Herring Counts, our Striper Fishing Tournament, and the Great River Race. Ready to lend a hand? Click the Get Involved tab on our website to find a range of current opportunities.

Prefer to dig deeper? If a more regular, more involved, or more specialized commitment appeals to you, let's talk! Below are a just few examples of Extended Volunteer Projects for which we're seeking support. Don't see your skill set on the list? Email me! Let's find a way to work together.

### • App-Savvy Event Support:

Provide "behind the scenes" support for our annual Striper Fishing Tournament, June 5-7. Requires keen organizational skills plus experience with Canva and WordPress.

### • Graphic Design Projects:

Create fun, interactive, family-friendly materials such as scavenger hunt maps, watershed Bingo, and coloring book-style pages/placemats. Professional experience required.

### • Project Leader - Invasive Species Management:

Document invasive species on public lands. Work with towns to plan invasive species removal projects and disposal. Lead teams of NSRWA volunteers. Ideal for an experienced project manager who enjoys working with volunteers and local communities.

### • River Stories Team Leader:

Take the lead to help NSRWA collect stories from our community! We're looking for a team of volunteers to meet with individuals and capture their personal river stories in audio and video. Professional experience required.

If any of these sounds like a good fit for you, please email [kezia@nsrwa.org](mailto:kezia@nsrwa.org)

# A Lifelong Champion for Our Rivers

We extend our deepest gratitude to Janet Fairbanks for her remarkable 20+ years of dedicated service on the board. A lifelong 'river rat' from Scituate, Janet possesses an unparalleled understanding of the North and South Rivers, their wildlife, and their history. During Janet's time on the board, she helped spearhead the NSRWA's Pontoon Tour program, provided guidance and support for clamming expeditions, and supported fundraising for our endowment. Plus, she always raises her hand to help unload boats at the Great River Race! Her commitment to caring for the South Shore's environment has been exemplified through her service to the NSRWA, the South Shore Natural Science Center, and the Scituate Conservation Commission. While she is stepping down from the NSRWA board, Janet continues to serve as a Trail Walk Leader for the Scituate Council on Aging and will continue to share her wisdom and time as a trusted NSRWA volunteer. Thank you for your service, Janet!



Alida Alberts and Janet Fairbanks manning the NSRWA table at the North River Pop Up Museum at the Cushing Center in Norwell. Photo by Samantha Paige Photography.

## Welcoming New Members to the NSRWA Board



### Rick Black

I am retired from a career in finance and corporate insurance. Needing to stay active, both mentally and physically, I established a custom woodworking business 12

years ago building furniture and some household items. My wife and I recently moved to Scituate and live on the Herring River. It puts us closer to our two children and grandchildren who live in neighboring Cohasset. I am an avid boater, both power and sail. I also love to fish and alpine ski. And I serve on the Executive Committee at the Cohasset Yacht Club. I am passionate about the preservation of our watershed, having served on a board of an organization in Rhode Island, which shares a similar mission. Their focus being on the major coastline, salt ponds, and associated watershed. I am a member of the the NSRWA Development Committee, leading the Annual Striper Tournament and am on the Capital Campaign Committee serving as a Co-Chair.



### Peter Tyack

Peter and his wife Paula moved in 1984 to live where the Third Herring Brook meets the North River in Hanover. The river was a constant presence

as their 3 children grew up, and their son Nik became involved with NSRWA hosting the Wampanoag Paddle and with NSRWA efforts at dam removal.

Peter worked in the Biology Department at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution from 1982-2011 and at the University of St Andrews in Scotland from 2011-2023. He continues to run research projects and advise students as emeritus at both institutions. His research specialty is bioacoustics of marine mammals. Spending time at sea studying these animals, he became aware of how noise from human activities disturbs wildlife. His work on the effects of noise on marine wildlife has broadened into research on the cumulative effects of multiple stressors on wildlife populations.



### Keith Walo

With a background in leadership, Keith brings experience, integrity, and a dash of curiosity to everything he does. Before launching Harbor Mooring Custom Docks, Keith spent years as a District Manager for Sodexo Corporation, where he led teams and fine-tuned his expertise in operations and customer service.

Today, Keith channels that same dedication into building custom docks that stand the test of time—crafted with care, precision, and an appreciation for coastal living.

When he's not out on the water, you'll likely find Keith watching a documentary about American history, especially the Civil War era, where his fascination with leadership and perseverance runs deep. Watching alongside Keith would be his three dachshunds, Flossie, Stevie Nicks, and Button. Keith also loves spending time with his four children—Douglas, Tamarra, Abigail, and Rebecca, and his three grandchildren—Caleb, Sam, and Jake.

# Building Relationships for the Future

By Lori Wolfe, Director of Marketing and Communications



This year is my tenth year as a part of the NSRWA team. As the Director of Marketing and Communications, my job isn't just about hitting media metrics, it's about communicating important information to you about our waters and communities. In nature, the strongest forests are those with interconnected root systems. In the nonprofit world, our "roots" are the relationships we cultivate today to ensure a sustainable planet tomorrow.

Our website is your resource for valuable information on ways to Get Outdoors, to keep up on the latest news in citizen science, culvert assessments and clearing, and dam removals. It is also your resource for ways to engage with us and others. Events like our Walking Club offer ways to make connections with new people as well as enjoy the outdoors with like-minded individuals. Our website is constantly changing to keep you updated with the latest information.

Social media is often criticized for being surface level, but for us, our social media platforms are tools for up-to-date information. We use Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to convey real-time information like the closing of our shellfish beds or the latest information about water quality. We use social media to

foster a community where our supporters feel like part of the team.

We also offer volunteer opportunities for you to be a part of the important work we do. Once you participate in one of our activities, it becomes personal. You become invested, as we are, in the protection of our valuable resources on the South Shore. Engagement turns passive use of information into becoming an informed advocate.



2016 NSRWA and MA DER paddle. One of my first team building activities, with then Ecology Program Director for Jones River Watershed Association/future staffer Alex Mansfield.

These are your resources, and we hope you will use them. Building relationships for the future requires us to invest in you. It's about shifting the narrative from "we need your help" to "we are doing this together." By participating in our offerings, we are not just providing entertainment, we are creating a movement and a vision for change. So come be a part of our team!

## New Home

Continued from Page 1

**Phase II** - (2026-2027): We will focus on access, permitting, and constructing a boardwalk and dock. This will be our "outdoor classroom," providing safe, sustainable access for water monitoring and public engagement.

**Phase III** - (2028): We will begin redeveloping the property into a state-of-the-art headquarters, designed with a focus on environmental sustainability and public awareness.

**Phase IV** - (2029): The official opening of the River Center to the public, marking a transformative new chapter in NSRWA's history.

## A Home for the Next 50+ Years

This center will be a regional hub for recreation, science, and advocacy. It will allow us to expand our work with local schools, deepen our scientific research, and provide a permanent home for the passion that started on a back porch half a century ago.

Out of deference to the existing business still operating on-site, we are not disclosing the specific address at this time, but I look forward to inviting you all to the river's edge very soon.

We aren't just celebrating where we've been; we are building the foundation for where we are going. Thank you for being part of this journey.

## Upcoming Events

### After School Spring

**Adventures** - Wednesday and Thursday Afternoon Programs in May. Register through Norwell and Scituate Recreation Departments.

### Spring into Shellfishing! Clamming the South River

- Saturday, May 9, 10:00-Noon

### Indian Head River Day -

Guided Kayak Paddles and Walks  
- Saturday, June 13, 9:00am - 1:00pm

### South River Marsh Habitat Exploration

- Kayak Paddle with Shuttle back to Launch - Tuesday, June 23, 11:00am - 1:00pm

### North River Guided Kayak Paddle

- To Couch Beach and Back - Friday June 26, 10:00am - Noon

### NSRWA Summer Youth Outdoor Explorers

- 4-Day/ Half-Day Youth Adventure Programs. AM and PM Sessions. Fishing, kayaking, geocaching, and wilderness survival skills. Registration and more information through the town's recreation department listed below:

- June 29 - July 2 Pembroke AM/ Norwell PM
- July 6 - 9 Norwell AM and PM
- July 13 - 16 Scituate AM/ Rockland PM
- August 1 -20 AM Scituate AM/ Rockland PM

### NSRWA's River Adventures Kayak Camp

- July 27 - 31 and August 10 - 14 Marshfield Boys and Girls Club



To see events, scan QR code.



# North and South Rivers Watershed Association 2025 Annual Report

## 2025 Treasurer's Report

By Ariel Hurley,  
NSRWA Treasurer



In 2025, NSRWA continued to operate from a position of financial stability while advancing its strategic mission of education, engagement, and watershed protection. Total operating revenue for the year was approximately \$1.03 million, reflecting a modest increase from 2024. Donations remained the largest source of operating income, accounting for approximately 73% of total revenue, underscoring the continued generosity and confidence of NSRWA's donor community.

Fundraising results in 2025 reflected a balanced mix of support across donor categories. Individual giving remained strong, while corporate and foundation contributions continued to play a critical role in supporting programmatic and strategic priorities.

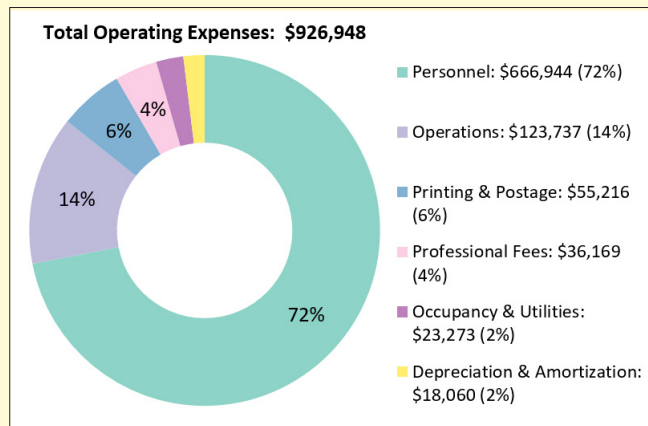
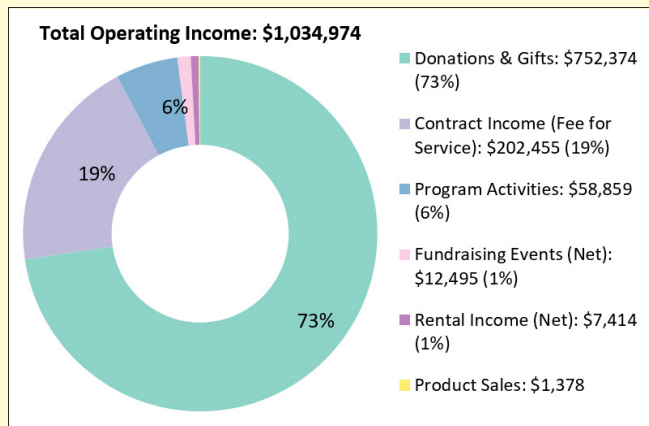
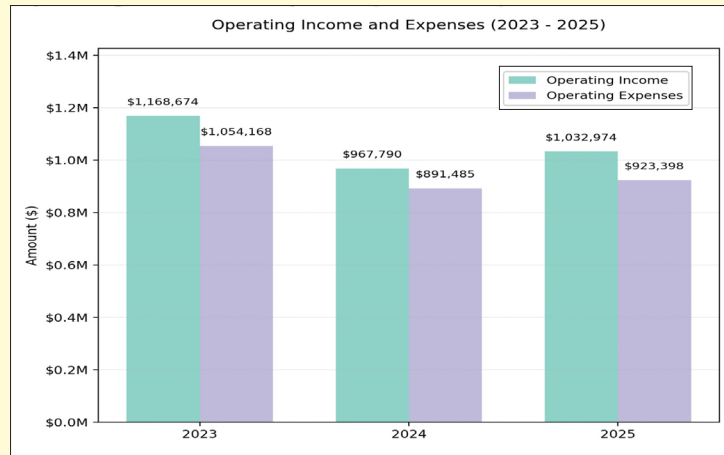
Contract services represented another meaningful source of income, totaling approximately \$202,000 in 2025. These contracts primarily involve reimbursable or pass-through activities administered by NSRWA staff in collaboration with external

partners. As in prior years, contract revenue fluctuated based on the timing and scope of awarded projects, with corresponding changes in related expenses.

NSRWA effectively managed operating expenses throughout the year, aligning spending with earned income. Total operating expenses were approximately \$927,000, with personnel costs comprising the largest share, reflecting continued investment in professional staff to deliver high quality programs and services. This disciplined approach resulted in a positive net operating income of approximately \$108,000. The accompanying charts reflect operating income and expenses, excluding investment income and adjusting restricted revenue and expenses to the period expended. Audited

financial statements are available upon request.

Importantly, NSRWA completed the purchase of the River Center in December 2025, marking a major organizational milestone. Thanks to generous donor support and prudent financial planning, the organization completed this acquisition while maintaining a consistent cash and investment balance relative to the prior year. NSRWA carries no debt and remains well-positioned to meet current obligations. With the River Center now acquired, NSRWA is financially well-positioned to partner with donors over the coming years in a multi-year fundraising and development effort to bring the site fully to life in support of its mission and long-term growth.



# Thank You for Your Support!

By Joe Regan, Development Manager



The entire NSRWA team wishes to thank our generous members, volunteers, and business and organizational partners, for their ongoing commitment to healthy waters!

## Support from Corporations and Organizations in 2025

### \$25,000 and Above

Anonymous, Battelle, Eglemere Foundation

### \$10,000 and Above

The Michele E. Dufault Foundation

### \$5,000 and Above

Briteway Car Wash, Island Foundation, Webster Printing

### \$2,500 and Above

Clean Harbors, FM Global Foundation, Rockland Trust, Roht Marine

### \$1,000 and Above

Anchor Capital Advisors, Atlantic Pratt Energy, Bank of America, Beyond Dental Health, Black Pond Veterinary Service, Cape Cod Lumber, Clearwater Recovery, Coastal Heritage Bank, InfraNet Solutions, Levitate Foundation, Protectowire, Rand-Handy Oil Company, RiverWay Marina, The Women's Club of Norwell, Tiny and Sons Glass Co.

### \$500 and Above

Anderson Fuel, Atlantic Coast Engineering, Auto Shine Auto Body - Abington and Braintree, AW Perry, Axiom Architects, Bayside Marine, Boston Gutter Guys, Citizens Bank, Coastal Home Services & Construction, Conway Insurance, Copeland Street Auto Body, Cultural Councils of Hanover, Marshfield, Norwell, and Scituate, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Horsley Witten Group, Hubbard Plumbing & Heating, Image Resolutions, Inter-Fluve, Joseph's Garage, Maggie's Dog House, Medtronics,

Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors, North River Gardeners, Norwell Chamber of Commerce, Perry Supply, Scituate Harbor Vision Source, Sea Tow Boston & South Shore, St. Ours & Co., Standish Capital, Summit Landscape, The Laurie Detwiler Team at William Raveis, Waypoint Growth Advisors

### \$250 and Above

Cultural Councils of Hingham, Pembroke, and Rockland, Friends of Church Hill Cemetery, Stantec, The Tanglewood Club

### Below \$250

AstraZeneca, BNY, Draper Laboratory, First Parish of Norwell, Franklin Templeton, GE Foundation, Google, Historic Winslow House Association, Hull Garden Club, IBM, Liberty Mutual, Manulife, Mattakeesett Garden Club, Norwell Garden Club, Plymouth Rock Assurance, S & P Global, Scituate Garden Club, Scituate Historical Society, Scituate Sister City Project, South Humarock Civic Association, The Clorox Company, The Scituate Rotary Foundation, T.K.O. Malley's, Untold Brewing, Walnut Hill Garden Club, Wampanoag Paddlers

### Gifts In Kind

Barrington Coffee Roasting Company, Bartlett Tree Experts, Belsan Bait and Tackle, Billington Sea Kayak, Black Forest Custom Woodworks, Blue Stem Natives, Bond Printing & Marketing, Cohasset Maritime Institute, Design Refinery, Edible Excursions, Edible Southeastern Massachusetts, Environmental Resources, Fast Signs-Quincy, FISH Northeast, Goose Hummock, Greenhouse, Greenhow, Hanover Crossing, Holly Hill Farm, Indie Ferm Brewing, Island Creek Oysters, Jake's Seafood, JC's Dairy, JPH Organization at Ferry Hill, Kennedy's Country Gardens, King Jewelers, Mill Wharf Restaurant, Mom On the Go Food Truck, Mullaney's Seafood, Natalia Mirabito Fine Art, Plymouth Philharmonic, Roht Marine, South Shore Permaculture, SWCA Environmental Consultants, The Colonnade Hotel Boston, The Company Theatre, The Huntington, Wild Birds Unlimited - Norwell, Wild Ones South Shore

## There's a New Way to Increase Your Impact!

Thousands of employers have programs that offer matching gifts for their employees' charitable giving, and yours may be one of them! NSRWA has recently partnered with Double the Donation to make requesting an employer match of your gift easy. Visitors to our giving pages will now find a tool to search for their employer's matching gift program, and in many cases will be able to submit their matching gift request at the same time! Please consider this easy way to maximize the impact of your gift! Visit [nsrwa.org/give/](https://nsrwa.org/give/)

## NSRWA Legacy Circle

Our Legacy Circle members have ensured that their support for healthy waters will last for years to come by including NSRWA in their estate planning. We are grateful for this special group of donors for their thoughtful, lasting gifts:

Anonymous • Barbara Ayotte • William and Susanne Bottiggi • David DeGhetto • Betsey and Robert Detwiler\* • Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler\* • Herb and Pauline Emilson\* • Craig and Danny Hannafin\* • Richard and Jackie Leach\* • Deborah Lenahan\* • Holly and Rick Mayfield • Pieter and Susan Mimno • Brad White • Michael and Susan Wolfe\*

\*Founding members

*"Several years ago we became more aware of the concerted outreach of the Watershed Association to the local schools in the area. These efforts have been positive and effective for the children, teachers, and parents. This introduction and education about our versatile North River has inspired us to be Legacy Members."*

~ Richard and Jackie Leach



# WaterWatch

NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 43, NORWELL, MA 02061  
www.nsrwa.org • 781-659-8168

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## Inside This Issue:

- Building for the Future: A New Home for the Rivers
- Building Infrastructure Capacity for Streamflow
- Building Partnerships and Resilience for Tomorrow – Eelgrass Restoration in Massachusetts Bay
- Building the Next Generation of River Huggers
- 2025 Annual Report



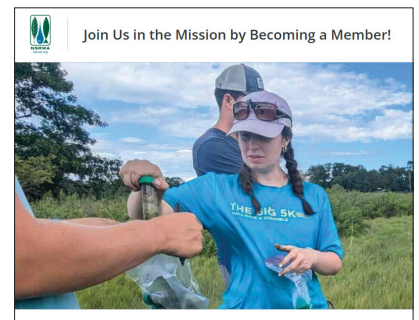
## Save the Date South Shore Striper Tournament

Friday, June 5-  
Sunday, June 7  
All anglers get a FREE  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hat



## Join or Renew Your Membership Online

Use the QR Code, receive 1 Free Yoga Class, and you will be entered to win a Pontoon Tour for 6!



## Join Us for Walking Club

Every second Saturday of the month from 10-11:30am at various locations. Go to our website's Events page for more information.



## 2026 Great River Race

Sunday, August 9 • 9:00am Start