



RIVERKEEPER

2022 IMPACT REPORT



A year of victories



1,516
TREES & NATIVE SHRUBS PLANTED
and maintained to foster healthy streams



7,514
WATER QUALITY MEASUREMENTS
taken by Riverkeeper and partners



19
TONS OF TRASH REMOVED
from the river by 1,203 volunteers in 1 day

5,640
VOLUNTEER HOURS
dedicated to shoreline cleanups

\$4.2
BILLION

environmental bond act approved by NYS voters



160
MILES OF LOWER HUDSON TO BE STUDIED
for PCB contamination by GE

\$1

MILLION
added to NYS Hudson River Estuary program

17
ABANDONED & SUNKEN BOATS
removed from the Hudson



300
MILES
of river monitored by Riverkeeper boat patrols

14
LEGAL CASES
in process

11,000
LETTERS
to lawmakers & decision-makers

1
MILLION ACRES OF FRESHWATER WETLANDS
protected by new state law



Our commitment



I'M PROUD TO SHARE THIS REPORT on Riverkeeper's biggest achievements and brightest aspirations as I complete my first year in the role of President and Hudson Riverkeeper. This 2022 Impact Report provides highlights of Riverkeeper's success: restoring free-flowing streams that support life; helping communities protect their sources of drinking water, and driving progress toward higher standards for water quality, faster cleanup of polluted sites, bigger investments in infrastructure, and greater access to local shorelines.

Our time-honored tools of science, law and community partnerships combine to achieve these wins. And you, as volunteers, activists and supporters, are the driving force.

To meet global challenges – climate change above all – we're doubling down on our core mission, here on the Hudson. We're identifying, championing, and in many cases implementing adaptation projects that can heal and strengthen our river system and our communities. And we're seeing results from that work. Communities along the Hudson are getting better equipped to safeguard their drinking water from new and emerging threats, ranging from PFAS “forever chemicals” to the intrusion of salt water further up the estuary with sea level rise. Dam removal is taking off in the Hudson Valley thanks to our pioneering work, and inspiring more projects that will restore habitat and replenish our depleted fish species.

The hard fought victories of New York's environmental bond act and the federal Infrastructure Act will advance these goals. With your support, our water testing program is ready to grow, to provide more data and insights that can drive our conservation efforts. We are leading efforts in NYC for a unified approach to stormwater management and better investments in rain gardens and green roofs – essential as we face increasingly intense downpours.

I hope you will see yourself in these pages, as collaborators who share our vision of a healthy, thriving river that sustains us as we work to heal and protect it. A young generation is demanding action on climate, shining a light on systemic racism, standing up for democratic ideals of equality. They are bringing new energy into our movement. That's one of the reasons I remain hopeful even as the challenges mount. It's one of the reasons I'm confident we're going to keep doing better.

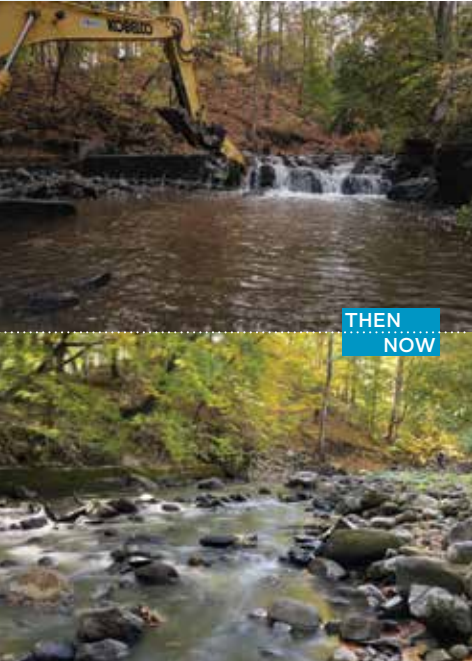
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Brown".

Tracy Brown, President & Hudson Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper
protects and restores
the Hudson River from
source to sea and safeguards
drinking water supplies through
advocacy rooted in
community partnerships,
science and law.



Wins for the water



REMOVING DAMS, RESTORING LIFE TO RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Riverkeeper is pressing forward with one of the biggest opportunities we have for restoring the abundance of native fish in the Hudson: removing obsolete dams in Hudson Valley streams that block the migrations of river herring and eel. We're seeing life return to three streams where Riverkeeper and the New York State DEC have removed dams already – Wynants Kill in Troy, Quassaick Creek in Newburgh and Furnace Brook in Westchester. We have many more projects in the pipeline awaiting funding.

Keeping the Hudson flowing free. In 2019 the Hudson River was listed as one of the nation's "Most Endangered Rivers." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was considering building storm barriers across the Hudson River where it meets the ocean – colossal structures made of gates, walls and islands that would restrict the tidal flow, impede fish migration and cause untold ecological damage. As the Corps studied an array of options with little public input, Riverkeeper took a stand and raised the alarm. We are happy to report that the worst-case scenarios for these storm gates have been set aside. A new plan, with smaller barriers around New York Harbor and a range of shoreline measures, has been selected by the Corps through a cost-benefit analysis of flood protection plans. This too will require a thorough vetting, but knowing the colossal structures are not the chosen path is an important win for the Hudson.

Helping communities protect their drinking water. In the 25th anniversary year of a landmark agreement to protect the unfiltered drinking water supplies that serve 9.5 million people in New York City and the Hudson Valley, Riverkeeper argued for climate studies and continued land preservation as cornerstones of the next generation of watershed management. Meanwhile, we sought to "stop the mud" and minimize the downstream impacts on the Lower Esopus Creek from NYC's management of the Ashokan Reservoir, especially in light of increased erosion due to climate change. In response, New York State directed the city to study alternatives to dumping muddy water into the creek.

Riverkeeper also worked hand-in-glove with Peekskill, Newburgh, Ossining and the Hudson 7 communities to implement new state water source protection programs and address both present and emerging threats, including the northward migration of the salt front in the Hudson, a consequence of sea level rise. Finally, spurred by the advocacy of Riverkeeper and its allies, NYS proposed a new suite of drinking water standards that would better protect all water supplies from PFAS "forever chemicals."

Keeping eyes on the water – and spotlighting the risks. Riverkeeper continued to patrol all navigable waters of the Hudson River watershed – the Hudson River Estuary, Upper Hudson and Mohawk rivers and New York Harbor – while testing the water at more than 75 locations. Volunteers and our community science partners from the Media Sanctuary in Troy to the Center for the Urban River at Beczak in Yonkers monitored an additional 125 locations along NYC shorelines and Hudson River tributaries throughout the watershed.



ALGAE When harmful algal blooms emerged on the Walkill River and Rondout Creek, Riverkeeper coordinated scientists to bolster data collection and helped raise awareness.

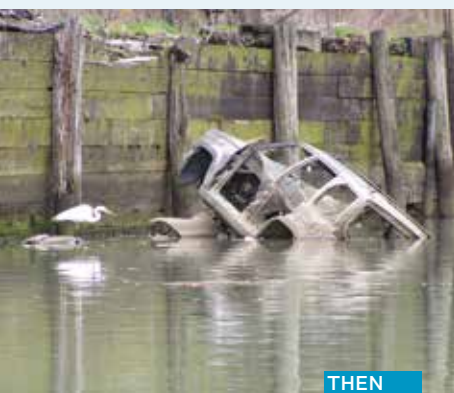
PEOPLE VS. PLASTIC More than 1,200 volunteers braved cold, wet weather to pitch in for the 11th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep on May 7. Dozens of partner groups from NYC to the Adirondacks completed 124 shoreline cleanup and planting projects, netting 19 tons of trash in one awe-inspiring day.



VICTORIES

HOLDING COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTE.

Riverkeeper's 5-year push for more investigation of the "lower" Hudson succeeded as EPA announced a plan to study the 160-mile stretch from Troy to NYC, to examine the extent of General Electric's PCB contamination there. It's an overdue and critically important step to address PCBs that remain in fish, sediment and water throughout the Hudson despite the Upper Hudson dredging project. We also continue to press for cleanup of NYC's worst-polluted waters: while dredging has begun in Gowanus Canal, Newtown Creek lags behind. We are working alongside Newtown Creek Alliance to speed up the process and recently celebrated 20 years of partnership to help the creek.



THEN
NOW



Newtown Creek



WHERE DO YOU WADE IN?

An interactive map of recreation spots can help make the case for clean water. Find it at <https://wikimapping.com/water-recreation.html>

Raising the bar for 'fishable, swimmable' water quality in NYC.

New York's water quality standards are woefully out of date, and Riverkeeper is using a combination of public pressure, data and legal tools to reclaim the "fishable, swimmable" goals set 50 years ago by the Clean Water Act. Riverkeeper launched an interactive map inviting the public to document where they fish, paddle or swim – and help prevent any weakening of pollution protections. Together with our allies, we're also advancing solutions, including 12 ways the city can clear the bureaucracy and create more rain gardens and green roofs – essential to absorbing stormwater, reducing sewage overflows and adapting to climate change.

Supporting clean energy – with accountability.

Riverkeeper is working with allies in support of New York's transition to cleaner sources of energy, and using legal tools to prevent a natural gas power plant

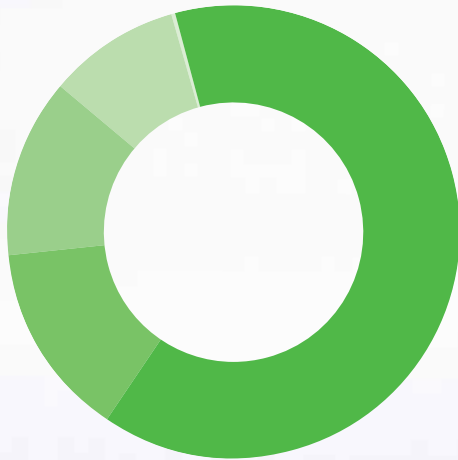
from opening at the Danskammer facility on the banks of the Hudson. At Indian Point, Riverkeeper is monitoring the decommissioning of the nuclear plant to help ensure a safe, transparent and fair process. We also continue to play a critical watchdog role over projects like the Hydro-Québec transmission line set to be buried in the river, for example – making sure community concerns are heard and trying to prevent further harm to the Hudson.

Supporting essential research on Hudson River fish.

Riverkeeper helped secure continued support for the Hudson River Biological Monitoring Program, which has surveyed fish populations in the Hudson since the 1970s and is unique among estuarine studies, given its duration and the number of species included. A new website features the study's history, scope, and research opportunities. The next generation of the survey begins in 2023.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

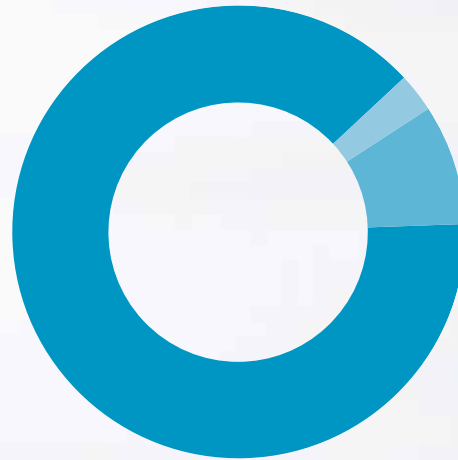
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE the generous contributions of our private, corporate, and public supporters and thousands of members. Without your amazing support, we would not be able to continue to carry out our important work on behalf of the Hudson River, New York City's drinking water supply, and the 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 2022, **please visit riverkeeper.org/financials**.



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total \$5,065,794

- Contributions \$3,223,784 (63.64%)
- Special Events \$709,250 (14%)
- Contributions of Nonfinancial Assets \$651,362 (12.86%)
- Government Grant PPP \$473,385 (9.34%)
- Investment & Other \$8,013 (.16%)



OPERATING EXPENSES

Total \$5,103,121

- Program Services \$4,516,714 (88.51%)
- Fundraising \$444,687 (8.71%)
- Management & General \$141,720 (2.78%)



Help make an impact

Riverkeeper is an independent voice for the Hudson. We are powered by a wide range of supporters and partners, and that's our greatest strength. Facts, science, community voices, and a love for the river are the foundation of our work. Your partnership is essential – our work literally depends on your involvement and your support. Help spread the word, and help achieve results. Members provide the financial resources that fund our campaigns, and their membership gives us standing when we bring cases in court and influence the state Legislature.

Find out how you can get involved. Visit [Riverkeeper.org/impact](https://www.riverkeeper.org/impact)

Phone: 914-478-4501 / Email: info@riverkeeper.org / Website: [riverkeeper.org](https://www.riverkeeper.org)

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