



# Ontario Streams 2021 Annual Report

A highlight of the achievements made possible by our supporters



## Contents

Letter from the Board of Directors	3
Meet the Team	4
What We Do	6
Why We Do It	7
2021 in Review	8
2021 Financial Highlights	17
Supporter Recognition	19



Springbrook Creek, Brampton

Ontario Streams is a registered environmental charity dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of streams and wetlands, through education and community involvement. Established in 1995, we have worked closely with numerous organizations, corporations, communities, landowners, and school groups to develop lasting partnerships in education and environmental stewardship.

## Our achievements in 2021

- Installed **45** in-stream habitat enhancement structures to improve **586.5 m** of riverbanks
- Removed **186.5** contractor-sized garbage bags filled with litter from **35 ha** of riparian habitats
- Removed **26** detrimental in-stream woody material blockages
- Planted **6,360** native trees and shrubs over **2.55 ha** of land
- Released **11,452** Atlantic Salmon fry
- Mapped **5,016 ha** of wetlands
- Engaged **557** volunteers in projects contributing **1,284** hours of in-kind support
- Delivered **49** outreach programs where we reached **1,029** community members, professionals, and students

**Thank you for your support!**

# A letter from our Board of Directors...

Looking back on 2021, I am moved by both the progress we have made in 2022 as a recognized charity and the steps we have taken to grow as an organization while navigating the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. We remain focused on continuing to grow the depth and reach of our conservation and rehabilitation endeavors through our education and community involvement initiatives. Ontario Streams has engaged over 2,400 community members in stream and wetland conservation in 2022, as we continue to increase our outreach capacity and continually grow our presence in the environmental conservation community.

As a former Project Biologist with Ontario Streams, I know firsthand the demands, but also the successes of working within the non-profit and charitable space. Ontario Streams makes a lasting impact on their staff by providing an unmatched learning experience, evident from the growing group of alumni Summer Habitat Technicians who continue on to meaningful careers in the environmental field. Ontario Streams has a small but dedicated team made of people passionate about their work and the positive impact they have on streams and wetlands. They turn a constrained budget into meaningful results which are physical and measurable; the results of this hard work can be seen from the riverbanks in watersheds across Ontario. Although no longer working for Ontario Streams, I am proud to have transitioned to a board member to continue to be a part of this important work.

I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to be involved with this organization and am excited about the future of Ontario Streams as we continue to evolve and remain committed to this important work. On behalf of the employees, Board of Directors and volunteers of Ontario Streams I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

*Heather Wilton*



Stewardship Program in Richmond Hill



**Heather Wilton**  
Member, Board of Directors

# Meet Our Team

## **Doug Forder**

GENERAL MANAGER  
RESTORATION ECOLOGIST



Doug has a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. specializing in wetland ecology and restoration. He has worked for Ontario Streams since 1996 in a variety of roles and responsibilities. As General Manager, Doug guides Project Biologists and Field Supervisors in the planning and implementation of all of Ontario Streams' field projects by providing technical advice and project management.

## **Krystal Athanassiou**

PROJECT BIOLOGIST &  
FIELD SUPERVISOR



Krystal has a B.A. and a post-graduate diploma in Ecosystem Restoration. She has worked for Ontario Streams since 2015. Krystal supervises the project management, fund raising, reporting, and implementation of Ontario Streams' field projects and provides guidance and training to junior staff members.

## **Madeline Tregenza**

PROJECT BIOLOGIST



Madeline has a B.Sc. and a post-graduate diploma in Ecosystem Management Technology. Madeline was promoted from Habitat Technician to Project Biologist in 2021. Madeline's responsibilities include project management, fund raising, reporting, data collection and interpretation, and stream and wetland restoration.

## **Kat Lucas**

OUTREACH AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR



Kat has a B.Sc. and a Master of Environmental Science. Kat is an experienced science communicator, and her responsibilities include coordinating and delivering in-person and virtual programs, creating educational content for social media, fund raising, developing partnerships with community groups and corporations, and supporting stream and wetland projects.

# Meet Our Team

## Corey Stinson

GIS SPECIALIST



Corey has a H. BSc in Conservation and Environmental Biology from the University of Toronto.

Corey spent 6 years working in applied plant ecophysiology before joining the team as our GIS Technician. An OMNRF certified wetland evaluator, Corey's role focuses primarily on wetland mapping and GIS support for projects.

## Mark Heaton

SR BIOLOGIST &  
PARTNERSHIP  
SPECIALIST



Mark was one of the founding members of Ontario Streams in 1995. He retired from MNRF after 34 years of service.

He now works with Ontario Streams where he focuses on his passions of protecting the endangered Redside Dace and restoring Atlantic salmon to several Lake Ontario watersheds.

## Eric Buitter

DATA MANAGEMENT  
TECHNICIAN



Eric graduated from the Niagara College, School of Environment and Horticulture, Environmental Technician program, and continued his studies in Ecosystem Restoration. In summer 2021, Eric started at Ontario Streams as a Habitat Technician where he progressed in his role and continued on in the fall as a Data Management Technician.

## Habitat Technicians

SUMMER CONTRACT



Each summer Ontario Streams hires 6-8 contract positions who gain hands-on working experience in the restoration field that not only helps to build their careers, but also encourages sustainable behaviour and instills a sense of environmental stewardship into the future.

# What We Do

Our 2021 Projects were conducted in areas where they were heavily impacted by factors such as:



## Erosion Control

Stream bank erosion in the GTA is generally caused by the increased runoff of water from impervious surfaces such as paved roads and parking lots. This fast-moving water carves out riverbanks and widens channels. As the channels widen, the water temperature increases due to increased surface area absorbing the sun's heat. Erosion is also linked to sediment loading. To reduce erosion, we secure fallen trees and branches to the banks to create a protective barrier from quick-moving storm flows.



## Sediment Loading

Sediment loading occurs when excess soil enters the stream, causing it to become cloudy. Many fishes rely on their vision to catch their prey and cloudier water can impact a fish's ability to hunt. Some fishes are especially sensitive to sediment loading, such as the Redside Dace, a species-at-risk which require clear water to catch their food in the air. While working in streams, we use sediment fences to reduce our impact on the ecosystem and trap sediment that occurs as we restore the ecosystem.



## Reducing Pollution

Pollution sources such as litter (especially plastics), fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides all contribute to decreased stream health. An ideal river will have lots of vegetation in the riparian zone which can filter the water entering the stream. We frequently lead community stewardship events to improve ecosystems. With volunteers, we remove garbage and plant native trees and shrubs in riparian areas to help protect the stream from pollution.



## Barrier Mitigation

Man-made and naturally occurring obstructions can impede the movement of wildlife through rivers. These barriers can block access to preferred habitats for spawning, foraging, and over-wintering. This can impact genetic diversity as populations are prevented from intermixing. We carefully remove in-stream barriers to improve the quality of habitats and allow for genetic diversity to build resiliency.

# Why We Do It

In 2021, Ontario Streams targeted restoring the habitat of species with significant natural heritage value including:



## **Redside Dace**

*Clinostomus elongatus*

This iconic fish is the only minnow in Canada who jumps out of the water to catch their prey, such as mosquitos. Over 80% of their population in Ontario is found in the Greater Toronto Area and they are threatened by decreased water quality in this urban environment.



## **Atlantic Salmon**

*Salmo salar*

Ontario Streams is one of many organizations working to restore the population of Atlantic Salmon in Lake Ontario. This population has been considered locally extinct (extirpated) for over 100 years due to overfishing by settlers and habitat destruction during industrialization.



## **Brook Trout**

*Salvelinus fontinalis*

The only native Trout in the tributaries of Lake Ontario, Brook Trout are sensitive to water quality changes. Urban development and climate change pose significant threats to its survival.



# 2021 In Review

Our projects occurred in streams in Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario watersheds in 2021

Ontario Streams works on the traditional territories of many First Nations including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, the Mississauga's of the Credit, and the Chippewa. We acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples were the first stewards of the land, and we are committed to reconciliation and recognizing the vital role Indigenous Peoples have played and continue to play in environmental stewardship.

The following pages provide an overview of priority targets and achievements.



# Taking a look back at 2021



## Starting Something New: Jefferson Salamanders

At the end of 2021, Ontario Streams began exploring opportunities to include new local species at risk target for habitat restoration projects. We applied for funding to monitor Jefferson Salamanders, construct a new ecopassage, and restore breeding ponds through shrub plantings and other habitat enhancements. In early 2022, we were awarded a grant through the Ontario's Species at Risk Stewardship Program and details of our success with this program will come in our 2022 Annual Report.



## Corporate Stewardship Program

One of our priorities when hiring our new Outreach Coordinator was to build new programs that could generate revenue. Our Corporate Stewardship Program has been a big success. In 2021, we hosted eight paid programs with four corporate teams in the Greater Toronto Area. This program blends stewardship and team building for a fun day outdoors supporting our local environments. If you'd like more information about our corporate program click [here](#)!



## 2021 Annual General Meeting

November 20, 2021 - For a second time, Ontario Streams held our AGM in a virtual format. Ontario Streams staff shared project successes from 2021 joined by guest speaker Steve Varga (Ontario Streams volunteer) who spoke about the importance of wetlands in the Greater Toronto Area. Check out the video [here](#) if you missed the last AGM!

## Thank you to our 2021 volunteer Board of Directors

**President**  
Bob Giza

**Vice President**  
David Gambin

**Treasurer**  
Grant Baverstock

**Secretary**  
Sally Innanen

**Directors**  
Pete Davis  
Eligio de Marco  
Michael F. Giza  
Ron Gray  
Asif Pradhan  
Tino Romano  
Horst Truttenbach

# 2021 Achievements

45 in-stream habitat enhancement structures built (+1 compared to 2020)

Using woody materials these structures restore streams to their natural form and combat erosion while providing habitat for invertebrates, fish, and other wildlife.

BEFORE



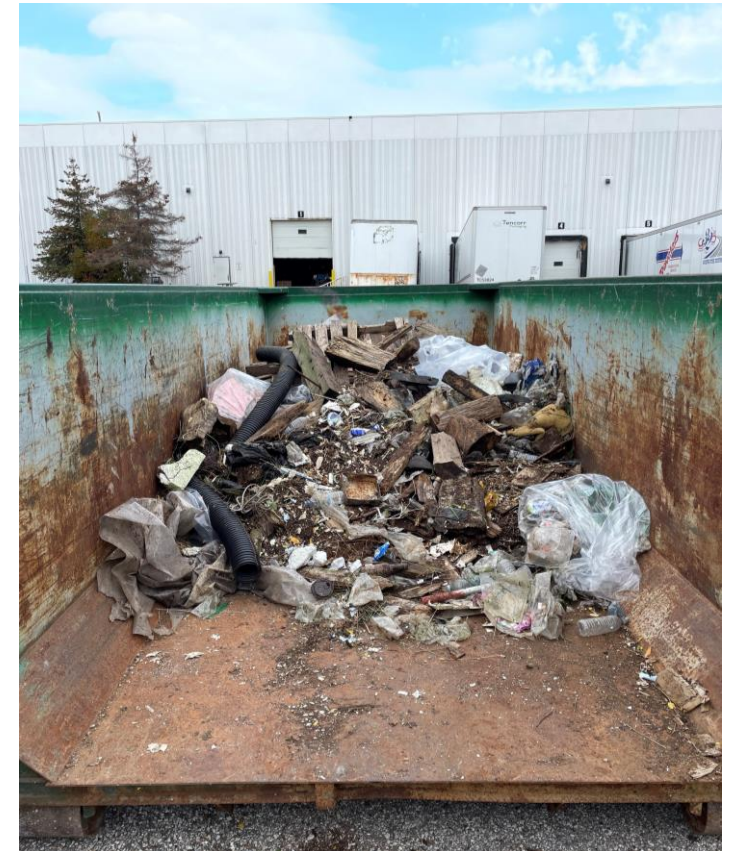
AFTER



# 2021 Achievements

186.5 contractor-sized garbage bags filled with litter (+53.5 bags compared to 2020)  
from 35 hectares of stream and riparian area

Litter leads to degraded habitats, impacts the health of animals, and can leach harmful chemicals into the water. Ontario Streams staff and volunteers work to remove litter from streams and riparian areas.



# 2021 Achievements

11,452 Atlantic Salmon fry released (-802 compared to 2020)

We are working collaboratively to bring the locally extinct Atlantic Salmon back to Lake Ontario through incubation tubes and classroom hatcheries. 31% survival rate (+5% compared to 2020) from incubation tubes and 5 classrooms engaged.



# 2021 Achievements

23 detrimental in-stream woody material blockages removed (+3 compared to 2020)

Woody material blockages have the potential to block fish passage and cause excessive erosion and sedimentation which can lead to habitat loss and property damage.

BEFORE



AFTER



# 2021 Achievements

6,360 native trees and shrubs planted (+2,106 compared to 2020) over 2.55 hectares of land

Planting native trees stabilizes soils on streambanks, filters runoff from urban areas, cools streams by providing shade, and provides habitat for wildlife.

BEFORE



AFTER



# 2021 Achievements

**49 outreach and stewardship programs delivered (+22 compared to 2020)**

Engaging volunteers in rehabilitation efforts in their neighbourhoods educates community members on the importance of our environment and fosters a sense of stewardship over their local streams.

**557 volunteers (+267 compared to 2020) engaged in projects totaling 1,284 hours of volunteer support!**

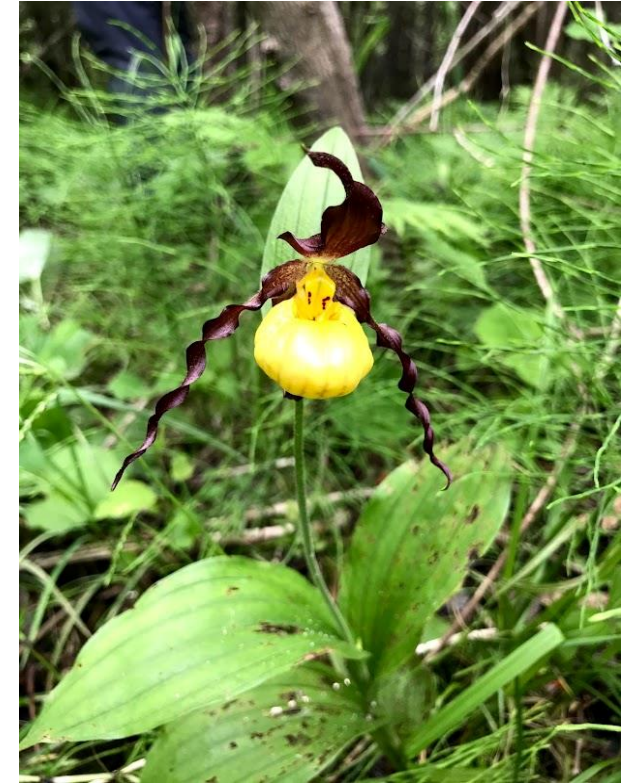
Volunteers are vital to supporting our stewardship projects. We believe that community involvement is a critical component to conservation. **Thank you** for joining us at our stewardship events!



# 2021 Achievements

## Mapped 5,016 ha of wetlands in Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe watersheds

Our GIS Specialist works with municipalities to lead projects on wetland mapping, vascular plant surveys. We contributed to the evaluation of 8 ha of provincially significant wetlands. We surveyed 209 ha and identified 440 plant species, 88 of which were significant species.







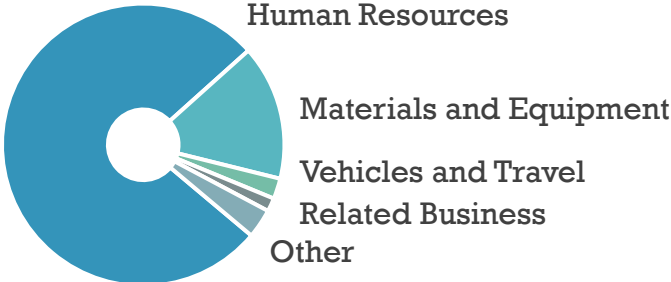
# 2021 Financial Highlights

The following is a brief overview of our 2021 financial details.

For more detailed information, visit [www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial](http://www.ontariostreams.on.ca/Legal-Financial)

In-stream structure in Rouge River

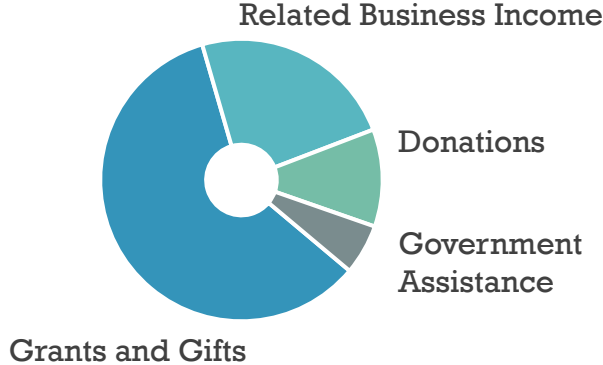
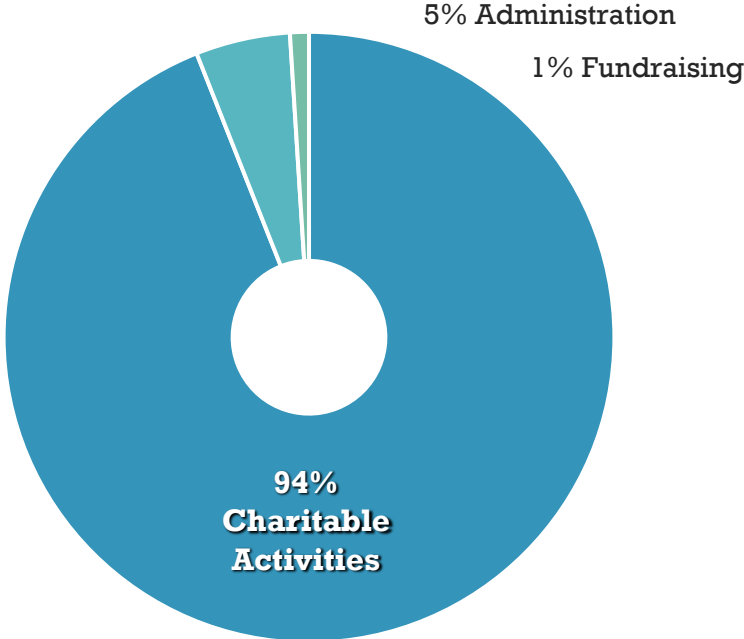
# Ontario Streams 2021 Financial Highlight



Expense Breakdown

Category	Expenses	Percent
Human Resources	\$393,446	77%
Materials and Equipment	\$78,943	16%
Vehicles and Travel	\$11,969	2%
Professional Fees	\$7,850	2%
Overhead	\$17,047	3%
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>\$509,255</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total Expenditures



Total Revenue

Category	Revenue	Percent
Grants and Gifts	\$381,347	59%
Related Business Income	\$151,939	24%
Donations	\$71,637	11%
Government Assistance	\$37,044	6%
<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>\$641,967</b>	<b>100%</b>

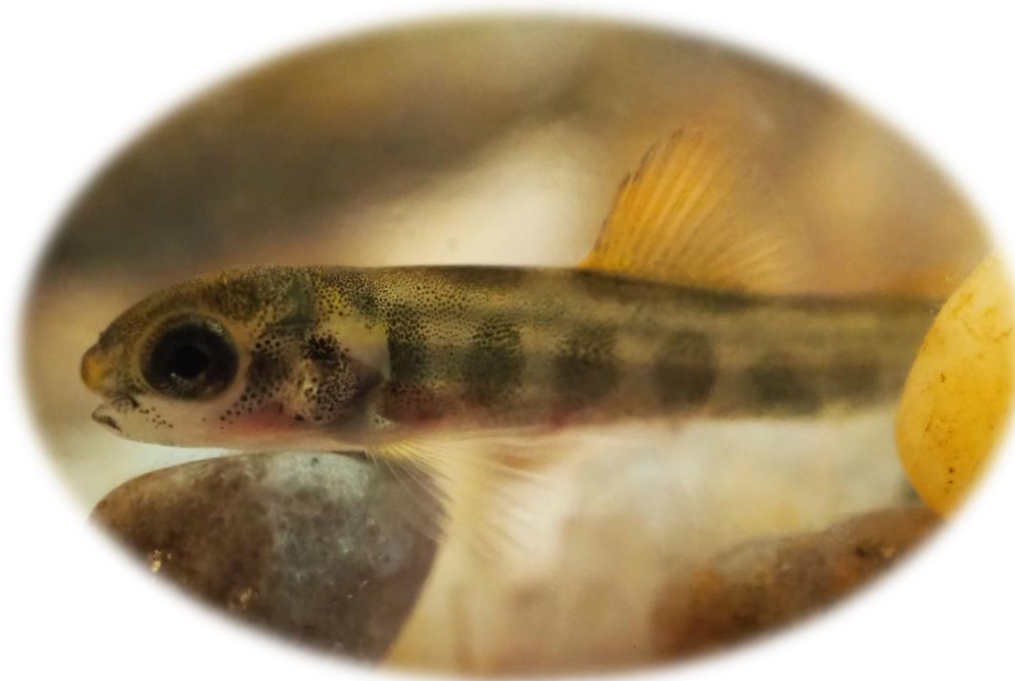
# Thank you to our 2021 project supporters!

## Community Groups

Caledon East Wetland  
Environment Team  
Galloway Family  
Islington Sportsman's Club  
Lost Rivers Toronto  
Orillia Probus Club  
Peel Environmental Youth Association  
Richmond Hill 6<sup>th</sup> Scouts  
YMCA Cedar Glen

## Corporations

BMW Group Canada  
Cascades Canada ULC  
SAP  
PurNat  
Turner and Townsend  
Volunteer Canada  
Wasserman  
WSP Corporation



Join us to conserve and restore  
Ontario's streams and wetlands

[Click here to donate!](#)

## Organizations

Credit Valley Conservation  
CultureLink  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
Markham Public Library  
Newmarket Public Library  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
Ontario Land Trust Association  
Richmond Hill Public Library  
St. Francis Center

## School Groups

Caledon East Public School  
Humberview Secondary School  
James Bolton Public School  
Macville Public School  
Redstone Public School  
Robert F Hall Catholic Secondary School  
Sandalwood Heights Secondary School  
St. Andrews College  
University of Toronto  
Fleming College – Ecosystem Management

# Thank you to our generous financial supporters!

## \$25,000 - \$50,000

Cabela's Canada  
City of Brampton  
City of Richmond Hill

ECHO Foundation  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ontario Trillium Foundation

Regional Municipality of York  
Service Canada  
TC Energy

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
King Township

The McLean Foundation

SC Johnson

## \$1,000 - \$9,999

BMW Group Canada  
Cascades Canada ULC  
City of Markham

Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
EcoCanada  
Ontario Wildlife Foundation

RJ Burnside  
Town of Caledon  
Volunteer Canada

## \$500 - \$1,000

McKesson Brampton  
SAP

St Andrews College  
Turner and Townsend

Warren Young  
Wasserman

# Thank you to our generous financial supporters!

## < \$500

Anonymous (2)  
Michael Athanassiou  
Mary Buitter  
Jakob Butrimas  
Katie Castelo  
Daria Comas  
Doug Forder  
Michael Giza  
Alina Gonzalez

Mark Heaton  
Emma Helfand-Green  
Scott Hildebrandt (monthly)  
Sally Innanen (monthly)  
Kostantino Kostopoulos  
Catherine Laird  
Lianna Lopez  
Kat Lucas  
Laurie Lucas  
Gloria Marsh

Victoria Pickett (monthly)  
Sam Scheerle  
Benjamin Schmidt  
Ashley Smith  
JJ Smith (monthly)  
Corey Stinson  
Carol Thomas  
Peeranut Visetsuth  
Ashley Visneski

Every Ontario Streams program you are involved in supports the conservation and rehabilitation of streams and wetlands through Ontario Stream's projects.

Thank you for your support!



# Thank You!

We hope to continue to enhance the health of our watershed with your support for another year of success in 2022!

We are so grateful for your financial, volunteer, and in-kind support. Without you, our projects would not be possible. Thank you for your vital contributions to the enhancement of our local streams and wetlands.

Together, we built in-stream habitat enhancement structures to restore fish habitat, removed litter and plastics from streams, planted thousands of native trees and shrubs to stabilize soil while providing habitat for wildlife, and motivated hundreds of members of our community to donate their time to get it all done!