



This year has been an exciting year for the Merrimack River Watershed Council in a number of ways. We have had positive changes and additions to staff, we have refined our mission and we have grown our programs.

Staff Update

MRWC is a small non-profit, but we accomplish much with little. This past year, Tracie Sales, our water resources manager went from part-time to full-time staff. We hired two interns this past summer. And this past September, we hired Janice Pokorski as our office manager. Murielle Georges and Christine Tabak are still with us as our Membership Coordinator and Executive Director, respectively.

Mission

The board met with the executive director on several occasions this past year to evaluate our current course of action and what changes were necessary to grow. The board and director agreed to change the wording of our mission statement to clarify its meaning and determined the vision statement for the organizations. Our mission is *to protect the Merrimack River and promote the wise use of its watershed*. Our vision is *a pure Merrimack River, respected and enjoyed*. Furthermore, the board and director agreed that we accomplish our mission through water quality monitoring (and science), watershed education and outreach, advocacy and recreation. With these goals and means in mind, we have expanded our programs.

Projects

The Merrimack River is the drinking water supply for over 300,000 people in Massachusetts alone. As such, we have been working diligently to determine the ways to accurately measure the health of the river and protect it. Our *Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting (MAPP) Program* has been the core of our efforts. The MAPP Project, which officially began in July 2007, is now in its second year of assessing the “vital signs” of the Merrimack River. Over the past year and a half, volunteer teams have collected important water quality data that help us, the state, and EPA determine how clean the Merrimack River is, what areas are dirtiest, and where the pollution is likely coming from. Water quality monitoring results from 2007 are available on our website at <http://www.merrimack.org/publications/watershedreports.html> and the 2008 results will be added in the same location in spring 2009.

The *2008 Merrimack River Shoreline Survey*, funded in part by the Massachusetts Riverways Program, was a combined effort of MRWC and the newly formed Merrimack River Stream Team to determine the condition of the river and its banks and locate all of the discharges into the river. Stream Team volunteers from northeast Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire helped MRWC during spring 2008 determine the most critical threats and opportunities in the 50-mile mainstem of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. The *Merrimack River, Massachusetts Shoreline Survey: Project Report and Action Plan 2008* can be found on MRWC's website at the link listed above.

PROGRAMMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Membership Program

- Ⓢ Obtained a grant from the Parker Foundation to upgrade our membership software and hire an office manager.
- Ⓢ Increased the number of members by 10% from the previous fiscal year.
- Ⓢ Increased the membership donations by 30% from the previous fiscal year.
- Ⓢ Created a new website and launched it in April.
- Ⓢ Purchased new membership software to further our membership program and trained all staff on the program.

MAPP Program

- Ⓢ Obtained new grants from the EnTrust Fund, the Massachusetts Riverways Program and the Greater Lowell Community Foundation to fund the MAPP Program.
- Ⓢ Produced two reports from the MAPP Program (both available on our watershed publications page (<http://www.merrimack.org/publications/watershedreports.html>))
 - ◆ *Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting Project (MAPP Project): 2007 Annual Report*
 - ◆ *Merrimack River, Massachusetts Shoreline Survey: Project Report and Action Plan 2008*
- Ⓢ Merrimack River Shoreline Survey was the first survey of its kind in Massachusetts, and possibly in the country, to be completed on such a large scale on a major river:
 - ◆ Surveyed 44 River Miles (88 miles of riverbank)
 - ◆ Involved 37 Volunteers
 - ◆ Searched for:
 - Outflows (330 pipes, 84 tributaries, 77 rills)
 - River Access (117 public, 179 private)
 - Erosion (81 significant instances)
 - Lack of Buffer Area (147 areas)
 - Wildlife Habitat or Scenic Locations (44 areas)
- Ⓢ Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting (MAPP) Project has completed its 2nd year of monitoring, providing information on potential pollution problem areas and the baseline data necessary to expand future monitoring to target specific areas and pollutants. In 2008 MRWC:
 - ◆ Monitored 44 days on the mainstem between May and October
 - ◆ Collected 23 sets of bacteria samples
 - ◆ Involved 35 volunteers
 - ◆ Conducted targeted hotspot monitoring on several Merrimack tributaries and the Powwow River.

Paddling Program

- Ⓢ MRWC conducted 39 free paddling trips throughout the watershed in the 2008 paddling program (April – October).
- Ⓢ These wonderful trips were lead by 29 of our volunteer paddling trip leaders.
- Ⓢ These trips exposed 77 new people (non-members) to our organization. Of these new MRWC paddlers, 10% subsequently became members (8 people).

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS			
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash equivalents	\$	34,393	\$ 14,441
Accounts receivable, net	\$	12,700	\$ 34,319
Prepaid expenses	\$	4,550	\$ 3,263
Total Current Assets	\$	51,643	\$ 52,023
Property & Equipment, net	\$	470,309	\$ 478,741
Agency Endowment & Investments	\$	226,858	\$ 256,943
Total assets	\$	748,810	\$ 787,707

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$	4,727	\$ 15,778
Accrued Liabilities	\$	1,779	\$ 2,792
Total Current Liabilities	\$	6,506	\$ 18,570
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	\$	465,465	\$ 501,373
Temporarily restricted	\$	150,956	\$ 141,881
Permanently restricted	\$	125,883	\$ 125,883
Total Net Assets	\$	742,304	\$ 769,137
Total liabilities & net assets	\$	748,810	\$ 787,707

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Total public support & revenues	\$	116,512	\$ 171,372
Expenses			
Program Services	\$	119,625	\$ 148,320
Management & general	\$	13,636	\$ 14,660
Fundraising	\$	10,084	\$ 12,351
Total expenses	\$	143,345	\$ 175,331
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$	(26,833)	\$ (3,959)
Net assets, Beginning of year	\$	769,137	\$ 773,096
Net assets, End of year	\$	742,304	\$ 769,137