



milwaukee RIVERKEEPER®



2012 2013

Annual
Report

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Milwaukee, WI. 53202

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Dear Friend of the Rivers,



Mustafa Emir



Cheryl Nenn

We are pleased to publish this annual report for our 2013 fiscal year. It was a busy year full of exciting work and progress towards fishable and swimmable rivers. Here you will find some highlights from the year of our projects and achievements toward protecting and improving water quality in the Milwaukee River Basin.

Organizationally, we said a fond farewell to Karen Schapiro, our Executive Director, who led us in legal efforts to remove the Estabrook Dam, advocated to improve state and federal bills affecting our waterways, and grew our organization in a difficult economy. We wish Karen well as she teaches a new generation of environmental lawyers, and thank her for her years of dedicated service!

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is deeply grateful to all the people who helped make 2013 a success including our members, sponsors, donors, volunteers, partners, friends, and staff, and for all the countless ways and hours our supporters gave to our rivers. Thank you for your support and commitment to Milwaukee Riverkeeper. We look forward to working with you towards cleaner and healthier rivers in 2014!

With much gratitude,

Mustafa Emir, Board President

Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

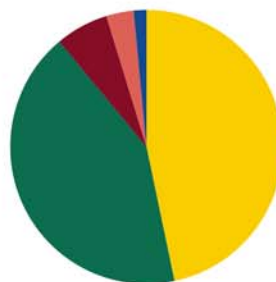
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$267,462
Grants receivable	\$105,174
Rent security deposit	\$1,816
Fixed assets	\$4,624
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	\$47,766
Total Assets	\$426,842

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$2,489
Payroll liabilities	\$13,417
Total Liabilities	\$15,906

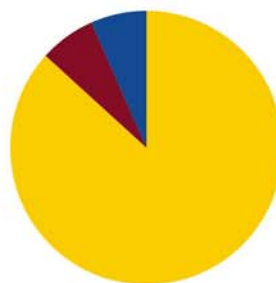
Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$125,999
Temporarily restricted	\$237,171
Permanently restricted	\$47,766
Total Net Assets	\$410,936
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$426,842



2012 - 2013 Source of Funding

Foundation Grants	\$163,606	47%
Individual & Corporate Contributions	\$148,023	42%
Government Grants	\$21,980	6%
Events & Programs	\$11,410	3%
Interest & Other	\$5,293	2%



2012 - 2013 Use of Funds

Program Services	\$399,161	87%
Fundraising	\$29,563	6.5%
General & Administrative	\$459,266	6.5%

2013 Achievements

Our Mission is to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in the river corridors and to advocate for sound land use in the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic River Watersheds.

We envision a future in which people from all walks of life can enjoy the healthy waterways of the Milwaukee River Basin.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is a licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international coalition ensuring clean water and strong communities.

Advocating for Healthy Waterways

The voice of the Riverkeeper was heard far and wide at public hearings and meetings throughout the entire region advocating for water quality and wildlife habitat protection in the Milwaukee River Basin. We rallied for compliance with environmental laws and for better laws and ordinances to minimize pollution to our waterways caused by stormwater runoff, industrial discharge, and various development and transportation projects. We influenced Waukesha's proposed Great Lakes diversion application to include a comprehensive environmental review that meets the letter and spirit of the Great Lakes Compact. Other advocacy efforts included fighting for the removal of the Estabrook Dam and supporting other dam removal and restoration efforts.

Measuring Water Quality

Our citizen water quality monitoring program provided us with quality data to help us further our mission and focus our work to best serve our rivers. The monitoring program grew to over 88 volunteers testing the water at over 95 monitoring sites. In addition to testing for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, turbidity, pH, stream flow, and macroinvertebrates, volunteers also monitored phosphorus and chloride, which are major impairments to water quality in our watersheds. This data allowed us to publish our 3rd Annual River Report Card, summarizing water quality in the watersheds.

Since 2008, Milwaukee Riverkeeper has partnered with Dr. Sandra McClellan's lab at the UWM-School of Freshwater Sciences to monitor hotspots of human bacteria pollution from our stormwater systems that are discharging into waterways in the Menomonee and Kinnickinnic River Watersheds. Between 2008 and 2013, we found that nearly 50% of the stormwater outfalls tested (which should only carry rain and snowmelt) were positive (at least once) for human sewage contamination. We are now working with municipalities, MMSD, WDNR, and Milwaukee County to prioritize diagnostic and repair work to reduce this pollution source to our rivers.

As a member of Sweet Water (Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust), we collaborated to advance policies and projects that achieve the most cost-effective pollution reductions. We also advised on science and policy issues, including implementation of phosphorus water standards to minimize nuisance algae and water quality problems. Through the leadership of Riverkeeper and our partners, the Menomonee River Watershed became the first "watershed based" stormwater permit in the country. This permit requires watershed municipalities to work together to develop protocols for finding and fixing sources of human sewage to the stormwater system and requires them to work together to implement cost-effective projects to improve water quality.

Improving Fish Habitat

Staff and 10 tireless volunteers surveyed almost the entire Menomonee River and several tributaries to identify fish passage impediments and opportunities for aquatic habitat restoration in the watershed. We advocated for and advised on concrete channel removal projects on the lower Menomonee River (near Miller Brewery) and throughout the Kinnickinnic River Watershed. We supported MMSD and Ozaukee County projects to remove fish passage barriers in our watersheds.

Renewing Our Rivers

Our 18th Annual Spring River Cleanup was, again, a huge success! We organized over 3,500 volunteers at over 50 sites throughout the watershed to pull trash out of the river and pick it up along the riverbanks. We also hosted over 10 other corporate and community group river cleanups throughout the year, and removed invasive species and planted native trees and plants along several other river sites.

Educating River Citizens

We were found at many public events, ranging from Sturgeonfest to the Gathering Waters Festival, educating the public on river pollution solutions, getting out on the water, and other timely water topics. We educated our Senior Water Advocates Network (SWAN) to get involved in advocating for river protection using creative and water-minded presentations and field trips.

Getting Wet!

2013 did not pass by without some fun on the water too. We connected the community to the rivers through hosting many events, including the Milky Moonlight Paddle, the Riverkeeper Bash, and other fun "river-focused" events.

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Riverkeeper

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Director of Operations

Christina Taddy
Membership &
Communications Coordinator

Members & Donors

We are indebted to the many individuals and organizations who made donations in fiscal year 2013. Due to space limitations, we regret that we cannot list them all.

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Brico Fund
The Joyce Foundation

[\\$10,000 and up](#)

Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
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