

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lindsey Blank, Chair  
Catherine Strother, Secretary  
Ronna Stuller, Treasurer  
Diane Hansen, Deputy Treasurer  
Kevin Lester



### **Financial Report - FY2024**

#### **RIVERSIDE PARK CONSERVANCY**

**Beginning Balance 01/01/2024    \$26,682.51**

##### 2024 Income

Memberships & personal donations	\$ 1,100.00
Corporate contributions	26.15
Foundation grants, restricted	1,000.00

**Total Income                                \$ 2,126.15**

##### 2024 Expenditures

Insurance	\$ 1,741.00
Projects & programs	4,472.15
Events	1,682.23
Facilities and equipment	3,671.26
Office expenses	238.63
Fundraising expenses	27.52

**Total 2024 Expenditures                \$11,832.79**

**Ending Cash Balance 12/31/2023    \$27,750.96**

**Grants receivable                        5,294.00**

**Total Assets                                \$32,044.96**

#### **RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN Dedicated savings account**

**Beginning Balance 01/01/2024        \$ 477.05**

2024 Income (rental fees/bank interest)	235.20
2024 Expenditures	389.00

**Ending Balance 12/31/2024            \$ 323.25**

**Riverside Park Conservancy**  
P.O. Box 1082  
New London, CT 06320

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



**RIVERSIDE PARK  
CONSERVANCY**

The purpose of Riverside Park Conservancy, Inc., is to restore, manage and enhance Riverside Park, in partnership with the public and local government, for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and to improve the quality of open space for all New Londoners.

P.O. Box 1082  
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<http://riversideparkconservancy.org/>  
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## Park Projects & Programs

### Environmental Remediation

Replacement of invasive plants with native pollinators continued on the slope, which stretches from Stanners Street into the park. To make the pollinator pathway more accessible, plant markers have been placed both on the slope and along the wall near the park entrance. We're also clearing a pathway which winds through the trees, shrubs, and perennial beds so that visitors can get a closer look. Thank you to the NL Water Authority Community Grant program for the funds to purchase our label printer and plant stakes!



In addition to our clean-ups and planting sessions at Riverside Park, the conservancy and its members have supported the efforts of Bates (Woods) Friends Forever, a group of park neighbors and other community members working to improve conditions at New London's largest public park. In addition to its sports and picnicking facilities, Bates Woods boasts old stone campsites as well as both forested and open areas, but, like Riverside Park, it is located in one of New London's low-income census tracts and is plagued by invasive plant infestation, dumping, and neglect.



## A LOOK BACK AT 2024

### Events

#### NEIGHBOR DAY & Art in the Park!

"Art in the Park" has also been added to our New London Neighbor Day celebration, held annually on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend. Artists who've participated in plein air painting at "Down by the Riverside" were invited to enjoy the Riverside Park's scenery in a different season, and a variety of art supplies were distributed to children and community members taking part in the fun.



#### Down by the Riverside Festival & Scenes from Riverside Park Plein Art Exhibit

"Down by the Riverside 2024" featured music, a magic show, plein air art, live animals, and pizza for lunch.



Paintings from both Neighbor Day and the Down by the Riverside Festival were displayed at Rico Chow for our annual plein air art exhibit. Opening Reception was held on October 29, and paintings could be viewed until December 2.

Riverside Park Conservancy is a community-based non-profit organization and is not part of city government. Recognized as a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

## Ongoing Projects

### Stanners Street Wall

Since 2023, Riverside Park Conservancy has been working to secure funding to repair and restore the deteriorated retaining wall along Stanners Street near the park entrance, which we hope will prevent flooding in the park and ensure the integrity of the 100-year-old wall for years to come. Thanks to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and other funders, we are beginning to solicit bids to evaluate and upgrade a 100' length of the most damaged portions of the wall and hope that the work will be completed by summer 2025.



### Riverside Community Garden

The community garden, which has served dozens of families since its establishment in 2013, began a period of transition in 2024, as the City of New London has determined that the parcel will be used for construction of 3 duplexes by Habitat for Humanity. Relocation of the garden within the East New London neighborhood seems likely, and the gardeners, with support of local food justice organizers, are reaching out to the city to find a suitable location to rebuild the garden, which is the only one in NL north of I-95.

