

RPC OFFICERS

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

Financial Summary - FY2025

RIVERSIDE PARK CONSERVANCY

Beginning Balance 01/01/2025 \$18,044.32

2025 Income

Memberships & personal donations	\$ 2,526.00
Corporate grants & contributions	509.25
Foundation grants, restricted	460.00
Government grants, restricted	4,496.74

Total Income \$ 7,991.99

2025 Expenditures

Insurance	\$ 1,785.00
Projects & programs	5,858.43
Events	2,770.91
Facilities and equipment	2,092.72
Administrative expenses	465.66
Publicity and Fundraising	585.23

Total 2025 Expenditures \$11,561.22

Ending Cash Balance 12/31/2025 \$14,475.09

Grants receivable (DEEP/CDBG) 28,550.27

Total Assets \$43,025.36

BATES FRIENDS FOREVER

2025 Income

Personal donations/fundraising	\$1,915.20
Reimbursement from invasive grant	1,996.73

2025 Expenditures

Equipment for invasive removal	\$1,996.73
Administrative expenses	334.48

Ending Cash Balance \$1,580.73

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN Dedicated savings account

Beginning Balance 01/01/2025 \$ 323.25

2025 Income (rental fees/bank interest)	30.12
2025 Expenditures	0

Ending Balance 12/31/2025 \$ 353.37

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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
New London, Connecticut
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<http://riversideparkconservancy.org/>
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Projects & Partnerships

Environmental Remediation

Replacement of invasive plants with native pollinators continues on the slope from Stanners Street into the park. While controlling the invasives still requires a lot of effort, our native plantings have expanded every year, and we've been able to give away 'volunteer' seedlings at community events. As an added bonus, clearing knotweed has exposed the park's impressive rock formations. We would also like to thank New London Trees for supporting our work by planting native trees both in Riverside Park and in the Cole Street pollinator garden.



Bates (Woods) Friends Forever

Under the fiscal sponsorship of Riverside Park Conservancy, Bates Friends Forever applied for and received 2 grants from CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the purpose of improving the environmental conditions and enhancing public utilization of the natural areas of New London's largest park: (1) Creation of a Forest Management Plan for Bates Woods, and (2) Invasive Plant and Vine Removal in Bates Woods.

BFF's activities have included weekly work days, park walks, community engagement programs, clearing & mapping the trails in Bates Woods, and advocating for New London's open space. For more info, visit their website at <www.batesfriendsforever.org>



A LOOK BACK AT 2025

Events

NEIGHBOR DAY Pizza & Art in the Park!

Our annual New London Neighbor Day celebration was held on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend. Local plein air artists were invited to attend and enjoy the beauty of Riverside Park in spring, and art supplies were distributed to New London children and families.



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

"Down by the Riverside 2025" featured live music, a magic show, plein air art, live animals, and hotdogs.



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 19, and paintings could be viewed until December 5.

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.

East NL Community

Cole Street Pollinator Pathway

A gift from the New London Pollinator Pathway group provided Riverside Park Conservancy with the opportunity to begin planting a native garden on Cole Street, replacing the invasive burning bushes and ailing Japanese cherry trees with a colorful mix of pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. The project will be completed over the next several years, with existing plantings being removed and replaced a little at a time, so that neighbors will continue to have a vegetative buffer between them and the bridge while the new plants grow to full size.



Riverside Community Garden

At the close of 2025, relocation of the community garden was in process, with remediation of the new site (a former parking lot across the street) nearly complete and plans being made to move the fence, shed and garden beds before spring planting. We are hoping to save several of the fruit trees and shrubs, and plant them outside the fenced area so they'll be accessible to the public. Here is the tentative site plan:

