

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lindsey Blank, Chair
Kevin Lester, Deputy Chair
Catherine Strother, Secretary
Ronna Stuller, Treasurer
Diane Hansen
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Financial Report - FY2020

RIVERSIDE PARK CONSERVANCY

Beginning Balance 01/01/2020 \$12,864.95

2020 Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Memberships & personal donations | \$1,025.00 |
| Corporate contributions | 119.78 |
| Other fundraising/income | 390.15 |
| Grants, unrestricted | 2,100.00 |
| Grants, restricted | 1,370.00 |

Total Income \$ 5,004.93

Grants Receivable 2,567.00

Total Assets 12/31/2019 \$20,436.88

2020 Expenditures

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Insurance | \$ 1,551.00 |
| Projects & programs | 5,480.05 |
| Office expenses | 156.00 |
| Fundraising expenses | 22.10 |
| Events | 1,943.35 |

Total 2019 Expenditures \$ 7,209.15

Ending Balance 12/31/2020 \$13,227.73

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN Dedicated savings account

Beginning Balance 01/01/2020 \$ 376.38

| | |
|--|--------|
| 2020 Income (rental fees/interest) | 175.34 |
| 2020 Expenditures (repairs: shed/pump) | 390.15 |

Ending Balance 12/31/20 \$ 161.64

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**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
New London, Connecticut
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<http://riversideparkconservancy.org/>
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A LOOK BACK AT 2020

Projects

Riverside Park Facility Improvement

Riverside Park Conservancy installed 2 benches next to the Emilie's Shady Spot memorial playscape, to allow families to supervise their children and enjoy the river view in comfort. In addition, RPC utilized Community Development Block Grant funds to purchase a gazebo to be installed in the pine grove, a popular picnic spot for many years. The Department of Public Works has grills which will be installed nearby in spring 2020, to encourage more public utilization of the area, which is located near the expanded designated park parking lot.



Invasive Removal, Native Plantings and Stormwater Management

Thanks to grants from the New London Water Authority and the Letz Environmental Fund, RPC has been able to expand pollinator-friendly plantings within Riverside Park, in the hellstrips around its perimeter on Crystal Avenue and Adelaide Street, and surrounding the bioswale near the park entrance. Though it will take a couple years to fill in, the plantings already provide color from late spring through fall.



The Impact of COVID-19

Like so many organizations in 2020, Riverside Park Conservancy was forced to cancel most planned events due to the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in large social gatherings. Unfortunately, many of the activities we usually participate in – New London Neighbor Day, Yale-Harvard Regatta, and CT Trails Day Weekend – have already been canceled by their host organizations for 2021.

We hope to return to hosting our monthly park clean-up and planting days starting in May, and have tentatively scheduled this year's (10th anniversary) Down by the Riverside Festival for Saturday, September 18. As a large, spread-out open space, Riverside Park remains an ideal location for passive recreation and small group activities.

Improvement of the park's facilities continues, and we hope you'll find time to visit!



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.

Partnerships

Riverside Community Garden

Following guidelines set by Ledge Light Health District, the community garden remained active, in spite of restrictions on taking in new members and tool sharing. The fruit-bearing trees and shrubs continue to grow and prosper, and we are looking forward having our first crops of apples, pears, peaches, plums, and berries available to the community this summer. Additionally, in partnership with Eastern CT Community Gardens Association and FRESH-New London, four snack beds were installed outside the fence for community use; planted and maintained by RPC, the beds provided blueberries, tomatoes, tomatillos, cucumbers, green beans, potatoes, and greens free to neighborhood residents as part of the Edible NL initiative. A greater variety - including strawberries, carrots, lettuce, and herbs - is planned for 2021.



Greening New London

Riverside Park Conservancy is a partner in the New London Pollinator Pathway project, and plays a significant part in connecting insect-supportive open spaces by prioritizing native plants in all of the ornamental flower beds within and around the park.

