

2013-2014  
RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE  
ANNUAL REPORT

# Rollin' on the River







**Sustain the momentum  
...and build for the future**

Big Mo', our annual fundraising event, celebrates the momentum that we see in so many different ways along the river in Hartford and East Hartford. That momentum is making the Riverfront one of Connecticut's most popular destinations – with more than 800,000 visitors last year.

There's increased participation in activities like dragon boat races, which grew by 36% last year – with a third of the 93 teams coming from out of state. Our rowing regatta also set a record, with participation growing by 23% – to more than 3,000 rowers.

Even more people come into the parks on their own, to walk, jog, bike, fish, or to enjoy some quiet time in a beautiful natural environment – where they might even see a bald eagle. Clearly, the Riverfront parks are priceless amenities that make our region a more attractive place to live, work, and visit.

Landowners and developers are recognizing that the Riverfront parks add value to their projects – and we're seeing an unprecedented wave of investment near the river. In East Hartford, renovation of an existing hotel and the continued expansion of the Goodwin College campus are bringing new life to the Riverfront area. In downtown Hartford, Front Street is taking shape as an exciting neighborhood of

restaurants, entertainment venues, and a new UConn branch campus.

One thousand new apartments are in construction

within walking distance of the river and, for the first time in many years, companies are relocating from the suburbs into downtown.

The positive momentum continues to build – but we also know that the Riverfront parks need constant maintenance and upkeep in order to remain attractive regional assets.

Parks located on the banks of a river that floods periodically and freezes over in winter need special care. Parks that are used by 800,000 people a year need daily attention to keep them in good shape – and ready for more visitors. And the first Riverfront improvements, now 30 years old, are showing signs of wear – and the need for repair or replacement.

That's why we are starting a conversation with our supporters about the long-term sustainability of the Riverfront parks – to preserve this precious community resource for future generations.

Riverfront momentum is producing impressive results. With your help, we'll sustain that momentum – and build on it.



  
THOMAS P. CODY, Chairman

  
JOSEPH R. MARFUGGI, President and CEO



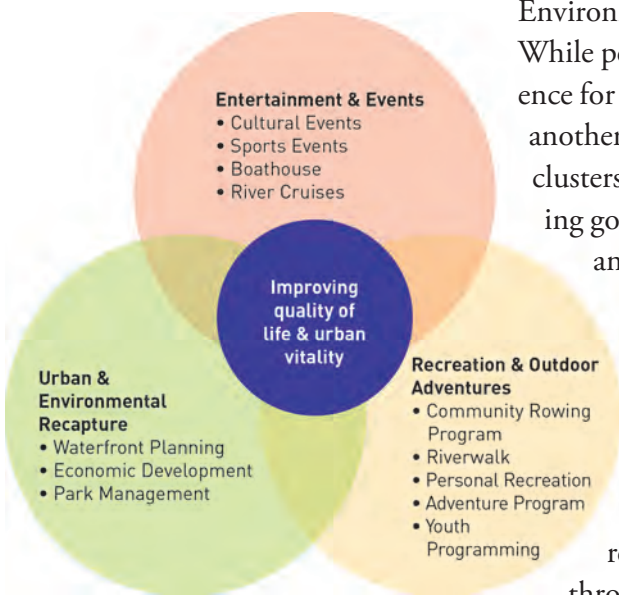
**We asked our donors to tell us, in their own words, why they support Riverfront.**

Not surprisingly, the responses were as varied as the Riverfront parks and the activities in them.

Riverfront activities are organized into three clusters: Recreation and Outdoor Adventures, Entertainment and Events, and Urban and Environmental Recapture. While people may have a preference for one type of activity over another, they like that all three clusters support a single unifying goal: to improve urban life and vitality.

We have selected some responses to our survey to highlight why people feel Riverfront is worth supporting; their responses appear throughout the annual report. One supporter summed it up nicely:

**“Riverfront’s parks, paths, sporting and recreational opportunities, and events contribute to the region’s richness, well-being, and livability.”**







## **“We will lose it, if we don’t preserve it.”**

**T**oday’s Riverfront bears little resemblance to the isolated, overgrown dumping ground that lined a polluted river when Riverfront Recapture was created in 1981.

A clean river and more than \$60 million in capital improvements have transformed the Hartford and East Hartford Riverfront into a vibrant network of parks that offer exciting venues for a wide array of community activity on land and on water.

Key to the Riverfront’s success is an agreement between Riverfront Recapture and the Metropolitan District (MDC) that since 1998 has provided for first-rate maintenance of the parks, on both banks of the river. The agreement has received national recognition as a model for urban park operation.

MDC has funded this maintenance work through the District’s water rate structure. Less revenue is being generated today, however, because conservation awareness and more efficient appliances have significantly reduced water consumption.

In addition, the Clean Water Project, a multi-billion dollar effort that will eventually result in a cleaner, healthier Connecticut River, has stretched MDC’s resources. So, while maintaining a significant level of support for the Riverfront parks,

MDC has reduced its 2014 financial commitment to parks maintenance by \$250,000, a 25% decrease.

For the short-term, Riverfront Recapture will need to take on some additional responsibilities for park maintenance. Looking ahead, we are working with MDC and other stakeholders – including the City of Hartford and the Town of East Hartford – to develop an achievable plan for the parks’ long-term sustainability. This will include identifying new funding sources and developing an asset management plan that inventories the current condition of all park improvements – and lays out a schedule for repair and replacement.

At the same time, Riverfront Recapture is starting a strategic planning process that will help the organization build on its strengths, and more effectively meet current and future challenges.

We’re pleased by how far the Riverfront has come but we know that recapturing the Riverfront is an on-going effort.

Preserving the investment that we’ve made in the Riverfront – and enhancing it – will require a rekindled commitment from our loyal supporters as well as commitments from new friends. Together, we will preserve the Riverfront as a priceless regional asset – well into the future.



**“The parks...  
provide the  
opportunity for fun  
and exercise.”**

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**\$100,000+**

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
City of Hartford  
The Metropolitan District  
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation  
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**\$50,000 – \$99,999**

The Richard P. Garmany Fund at The Hartford  
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**\$25,000 – \$49,999**

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## Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

Support from corporations, foundations, and government provide more than half of Riverfront Recapture's annual funding. We hope you will share your thanks with representatives of these organizations:

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**“Riverfront Recapture plays an  
important role in creating  
clean environments for all  
living things. Support of  
Riverfront Recapture goes  
straight to where it's needed.”**

The Thadd Gnocchi Charitable  
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Weinerman Foundation  
Wethersfield Chamber of  
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Willow Creek Charitable  
Foundation



# FRIENDS OF THE RIVER



Your support of Riverfront Recapture changes the community – for the better. Attractive and well-kept parks for recreation and outdoor adventures, entertainment and events attract nearly one million visitors annually to the destination known as the Riverfront. Nature – on land and in the water – abounds as the tidal river flows.

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## **\$25,000 - \$49,000**

**Alison Coolbrith and Barry Lastra**  
**Marjorie E. Morrissey**

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## **\$20,000 - \$24,999**

**Mary and Tom Mullaney**  
**David R. Robb**

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## **\$10,000 - \$19,999**

**Mary and Edward Budd**  
**Ellsworth S. Grant†**  
**Larry and Carle Mowell**  
**Mr. and Mrs. William R. Peelle, Jr.**  
**Mr. and Mrs. John H. Riege**

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## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

**Thomas P. and Mary Ellen Cody**  
**Paul Eddy and Elizabeth Normen**  
**Jordan, Janice, and David Klein**  
**Joe Marfuggi**  
**Michael J. Puckly**  
**Chrissie and Ezra Ripple**

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## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

**Kim and Chris Byrd**  
**Ranjana and Surendra Chawla**  
**Susan and Brian Clemow**  
**Jim and Susan Gleason**  
**Chris and Gail Johnson**  
**Steven Konover**  
**John W. Powell and Mary Hills Powell**  
**Don and Jean Wilson**

## **Founders' Society**

This Annual Report identifies in bold all individual donors who have contributed to Riverfront for 10 or more consecutive years. They, and their gifts, offer wonderful testimony to the impact of what Riverfront Recapture offers to the community. Our Founders' Society members are leaders among the many people who realize and appreciate access to the Riverfront – and the parks, the festivals, and the programs that bring people to this beautiful natural oasis alongside the Connecticut River.

We welcome and thank the following who became new Founders' Society members in 2013:

Ron and Carlene Bush  
Ian and Traci Hazelton  
Albert Ilg  
Robert and Jill Lautensack  
Sandra A. Lee  
Paul and Janet Lewis  
Elaine Tittle Lowengard  
Aaron and Sheila Ment  
Charles H. Miller and Joann Yannotti  
Pat and Peter Murphy  
Bryan L. Obermeier  
Max and Dottie O'Meara  
John W. Powell and Mary Hills Powell  
L. Everett Seyler, MD  
Keith and Catherine Stevenson  
Beth Weber  
Joe and Susan Wilson



## MARFUGGI PARKS FUND

Created in 2011 to recognize and honor President and CEO Joe Marfuggi's 25th anniversary with Riverfront, this special fund provides a source of long-term support that can be used to make essential repairs and improvements in Riverfront parks such as building a replacement dock at Charter Oak Landing. We especially thank the following contributors for their support in 2013:

Joyce and Harold Buckingham  
Edward and Mary Budd  
Ranjana and Surendra Chawla  
Susan and Brian Clemow  
Thomas P. and Mary Ellen Cody  
Alison Coolbrith and Barry Lastra  
Christopher R. Hayes  
Jordan, Janice, and David Klein  
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Thomas F. and Mary Mullaney  
Dan and Beth Papermaster  
Chrissie and Ezra Ripple  
David R. Robb  
The Waterfront Center

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**Brooks and Carol Lee Joslin**

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We appreciate the generosity of companies who match gifts of their employees. In sharing our thanks with them, we also extend our gratitude to the employees who inspired and requested those gifts:

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"It provides unique cultural events."





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A vibrant Riverfront leaves a lasting impression on visitors from near and far as they explore the parks via the Riverwalks, promenade, and wooded trails or enjoy our festivals and performances. We thank the following individuals who have included Riverfront in their wills or other estate plans – leaving a legacy for future generations:

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Mainstay donors have committed to convenient monthly giving through credit card transactions – they know their regular contributions to Riverfront add up throughout the year, making an impact and helping Riverfront to carry out our mission to:

- create accessible Riverfront parks and public recreational facilities to improve Metro Hartford's quality of life;
- make the Riverfront an attractive destination for visitors and residents;
- and use the revitalized Riverfront as a catalyst for investment to create jobs and improve residents' standard of living

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**The downtown stage at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza welcomes large crowds for a variety of free performances and festivals.**







**“We should support Riverfront Recapture because it helps us realize who we are and why we’re here. It helps us recapture our past and our future and ourselves. It’s our legacy and Riverfront Recapture helps us become active stewards of that legacy.”**

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**Riverfront Adventure programs instill teamwork and help to build self-confidence.**





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WE ARE GRATEFUL for those individuals who choose to honor or remember their loved ones with a contribution to Riverfront.

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Moe Belanger  
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**"It's the region's greatest natural resource."**



Outdoor recreation is thriving on the Riverfront. Established activities such as rowing (above) and dragon boating (left) were joined by the Merrell Down and Dirty Mud Run, which took competitors through a series of obstacles, including mud pits.

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the Riverfront parks  
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for our visitors.**

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Karen Whitney  
Katherine Wickham  
Sarah Wilhoft  
Joe and Susan Wilson  
The Zoppa Family  
Johanna Zuber  
Nancy Zuber

## Many Hands Make Clean Parks and Fun Events

In 2013, 1,554 people volunteered 7,181 hours in service to Riverfront, including 19 local businesses, corporations, and organizations participating in "days of caring" on the Riverfront. Some of them donated multiple days of service, and all of them made the Riverfront a more beautiful, welcoming place for everyone to use and enjoy. Volunteer activities ranged from trail maintenance to dock building, gardening to cleaning sculptures, as well as supporting events and festivals. Many thanks to all who donated their skills and tireless efforts!

Capital Community College  
Capital Preparatory Magnet School  
CHCACT Community Health  
Covenant Prep  
CT AHEC AmeriCorps  
ESPN  
Greater Hartford Arts Council  
The Hartford  
Hartford Community Court  
Hartford Job Corps Academy  
Hartford Marathon Foundation  
Xtreme 5K Scramble  
Volunteers  
Hartford Police Athletic League  
Head of the Riverfront Regatta  
Volunteers  
Immaculate Church  
Jewish Teen Learning Connection  
Lincoln Financial Group  
Merrell Down & Dirty Mud Run  
Volunteers  
Movies After Dark Volunteers  
Northeast Utilities  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Pathways to Technology  
The Phoenix Companies Inc.  
Pipes in the Valley Celtic Festival Volunteers  
REI  
Riverfront Community Rowing Program Volunteers  
Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival Volunteers



**"It should be  
maintained in  
perpetuity."**



Riverfront Latin World  
Rhythms Festival Volunteers  
Riverfront Summer Pops  
Volunteers

Riverfront Tournament of  
Champions for Veterans  
Volunteers

Riverside Cricket Club

A Sporting Chance for Youth  
Volunteers

Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk  
Festival Volunteers

Travelers

Trinity College

University of Hartford

If you are interested in getting  
involved, or signing up a  
volunteer group for 2014,  
contact Margie Girardi-Telech at  
860-713-3131 x305 or  
mgirardi-telech@riverfront.org.  
Visit riverfront.org for a listing of  
volunteer opportunities!

## Gifts In Kind

Many Riverfront activities are  
supported with contributed  
gifts and/or services. We  
thank the following donors:

Adams Ahern Sign  
Solutions Inc.

Agave Grill

Allstate Fire Systems

Ambulance Service of  
Manchester LLC

American Medical Response

# "The Connecticut River is the region's greatest natural resource."

Andale Mexican Restaurant  
Arch Street Tavern

Atlas PyroVision Production

Black Eyed Sally's

Burnside Ice

Cabela's

Camp Shalom

CBS Radio

Connecticut Bass Inc.

Connecticut Children's  
Medical Center – Injury  
Prevention Center

Connecticut Department of  
Environmental and Energy  
Protection

Connecticut Distributors Inc.

Connecticut National Guard

Connecticut Party Rental

Connecticut Science Center

Connecticut State Police  
Troop H

CT Whale Community  
Foundation

CT1 Media

The Counter – Custom  
Burgers

DATTCO

East Hartford CERT

East Hartford Fire Department

East Hartford Founders LLC

East Hartford Parks and  
Recreation Department

East Hartford Police  
Department

East Hartford Public Works  
Department

Eastern Mountain Sports

Effie's Place Restaurant

Eli Cannon's

ESPN

Fast Signs/Manchester

Fireside Bar & Grill

The First Tee Connecticut

FL Roberts & Company

Fleet Feet Sports

Freightliner of Hartford

The Fremont Group LLC

Fuel Up to Play 60

Golden Nozzle Carwash

Hampton Inn & Suites/East  
Hartford

Harpoon Brewery

City of Hartford

Hartford Belle Cruises

Hartford Childhood Wellness  
Alliance

Hartford Distributors  
Hartford Fire Department  
Hartford Marathon Foundation  
Hartford Marine Patrol  
Hartford Marriott Downtown  
Hartford News

Hartford Parks and Recreation  
Department

Hartford Police Department

Hartford Police Union

Hartford Restaurant Group

Hartford's Camp Courant

Harvest Wine and Spirits

Thomas Hooker Brewing  
Company

Image Works

Infinity Music Hall & Bistro

Joey Garlic's

Kohl's

Konover Commercial  
Corporation

LAZ Parking

Lincoln Culinary Institute

Little Angels Bicycle Program

Major Steven Roy Andrew  
Fishing Outreach Program

Marcus Communication

Margaritas

Mr. Sparkle Car Wash

Mr. Trophy

Mullaney, Keating & Wright Inc.

Nurturing Hands

Olde Burnside Brewing

Company

Mr. and Mrs. William R.  
Peelle, Jr.

The Pita Group

Pope Park Pool

Praxair Distribution Inc.

REI

Richter & Cegan Landscape  
Architects and Urban  
Planners

River Rock Yoga

Sacred Rivers Yoga

Salute Restaurant

Service Press

Sound Guyz

Sports Association of Gaylord  
Hospital

Sullivan & LeShane Public  
Relations Inc.

Sun Splash Bar & Grill

Taylor Rental of Manchester

Telemundo

Hartford/Springfield

Travelers Championship

United States Coast Guard

West Hartford Magazine

Yelp

Zoppa Studio

# "Ensure this asset flourishes."

## RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(AS OF APRIL 24, 2014)

A diverse group of men and  
women, representative of the  
MetroHartford community,  
generously contributes time  
and talent to Riverfront  
Recapture's Board of  
Directors.

Paul Alfonso

Robert M. Annon\*

Harold Blinderman

Jodi Brennan

Christopher Byrd

Patrick Caulfield

Ranjana Chawla\*

Peter Christian

Susan B. Clemow

Thomas P. Cody\*

Frank C. Collins, Jr.

Julio Concepcion

John Henry Decker

Thomas Deller\*##

William DiBella\*##

Ryan Gardner

Donald S. Gershman

James F. Gleason\*

Margaret Gregg

Astrid T. Hanzalek

Peter Holland\*

Don Hunt

Dave Jenkins\*

Evan Johnson

Jae Junkunc

David Klein\*

Barry N. Lastra

Robert G. Lautensack, Jr.

Marcia Leclerc\*##

Kathy Lilley

Chris Montross

Marjorie Morrissey

Thomas F. Mullaney, Jr.

Rita Ortiz\*

Agnes Peelle\*

Leslie Perry

Marilyn Pet

Kenneth A. Pouch, Jr.

Kenneth Provencher

Michael J. Puckly

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John H. Riege

Christina B. Ripple\*

David R. Robb

Ken Safft

Camilo Serna\*

Chuck Sheehan\*##

Robert R. Simpson

Joyce Smith

Tobin Treichel

Donald Trinks\*##

Andrew Wallace

Marc Weinberg\*##

Donald K. Wilson, Jr.

Lyle Wray\*##

\*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

# EX-OFFICIO

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Thomas P. Cody

CHAIR

David Jenkins

VICE-CHAIR

Joseph R. Marfuggi

PRESIDENT AND CEO

David Klein

TREASURER

Rita Rivera Ortiz

SECRETARY

David Jenkins

CHAIR, AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chrissie Ripple

CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

David Klein

CHAIR, FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

Agnes Peelle

CHAIR, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Peter Holland

CHAIR, GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Camilo Serna

CHAIR, PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Melody Currey

Robert M. DeCrescenzo

S. Frank D'Ercole

Paul Eddy

Carole Bailey French

R. Nelson Griebel

Mary M. Heslin

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Timothy D. Larson

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Lawrence V. Mowell, Jr.

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Joseph Musumeci

Michael A. Petruzzello

Lewis Rome

Shelley Rubino

Bernadine Silvers

Tyler Smith

Margaret Tedone

## RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE STAFF

(AS OF APRIL 24, 2014)

Joseph R. Marfuggi

PRESIDENT AND CEO

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Peter Morse

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Venus Dickson

FINANCE MANAGER

## DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Baker

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Ricardo Reyes

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Elizabeth Patterson

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Tricia Theobald

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER

## EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Charles W. Myers

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Craig D. Mergins

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS AND PARK OPERATIONS

Joshua Urrutia

EVENTS MANAGER

William Sullivan

ADVENTURE PROGRAM MANAGER

Margaret Girardi-Telech

VOLUNTEER & PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

## PARK DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION

Marc A. Nicol

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PARK  
DEVELOPMENT

## RIVERFRONT RANGERS

Rich Lopa

DIRECTOR OF RANGER SERVICES

## ROWING

Brian Wendry

ROWING DIRECTOR

Christopher Hayes

DEPUTY ROWING DIRECTOR



# RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE, INC.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	OPERATIONS	CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ENDOWMENT
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 310,394	\$ 49,314
Investments	579,650	1,559,363
Pledges Receivable	115,841	47,063
Grants Receivable	121,843	—
Prepaid Expenses and Security Deposits	18,282	—
Accounts Receivable	12,307	—
Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	259,972	—
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,418,289</u>	<u>\$ 1,655,740</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 108,924	\$ 0
Refundable Advances	48,525	—
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>157,449</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,218,943	—
Unrestricted-Board Designated	—	589,356
Temporarily Restricted	41,897	866,334
Permanently Restricted	—	200,050
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u>1,260,840</u>	<u>1,655,740</u>
<i>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,418,289</u>	<u>\$ 1,655,740</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Government Grants	\$ 516,026	\$ 1,536
Corporate Support	313,294	—
Contributions from Individuals	239,406	6,032
Foundation Grants	210,280	20,000
Bequests	10,000	—
Special Events Net Revenue	126,793	—
Program Fees	441,570	—
Other Earned Income, Net	349,997	—
Investment Income/Gains	94,341	217,226
Reallocation of Investment Income to Operations	58,434	(58,434)
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<u>2,360,141</u>	<u>186,360</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	2,151,801	16,362
General and Administration	125,984	10,000
Fundraising	320,949	—
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>2,598,734</u>	<u>26,362</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	52,712	57,877
Temporarily Restricted	(291,305)	102,071
Permanently Restricted	—	50
<i>Total Change in Net Assets</i>	<u>(238,593)</u>	<u>159,998</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,499,433	1,495,742
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,260,840</u>	<u>\$ 1,655,740</u>

These condensed statements are derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013. A copy of the complete statement is on file and available at the offices of Riverfront Recapture, Inc., 50 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. Riverfront Recapture's auditor is CohnReznick LLP.



**CLEAN WATER** is key to a successful water-front destination – so we're fortunate that the Metropolitan District began improving the river's water quality even before Riverfront Recapture started building parks. MDC continues to play a leadership role in making the river the clean, healthy center of recreational activity that we offer in the parks. It's a combined effort – and it's making the region a better place to live, work, and visit.



## Moving forward

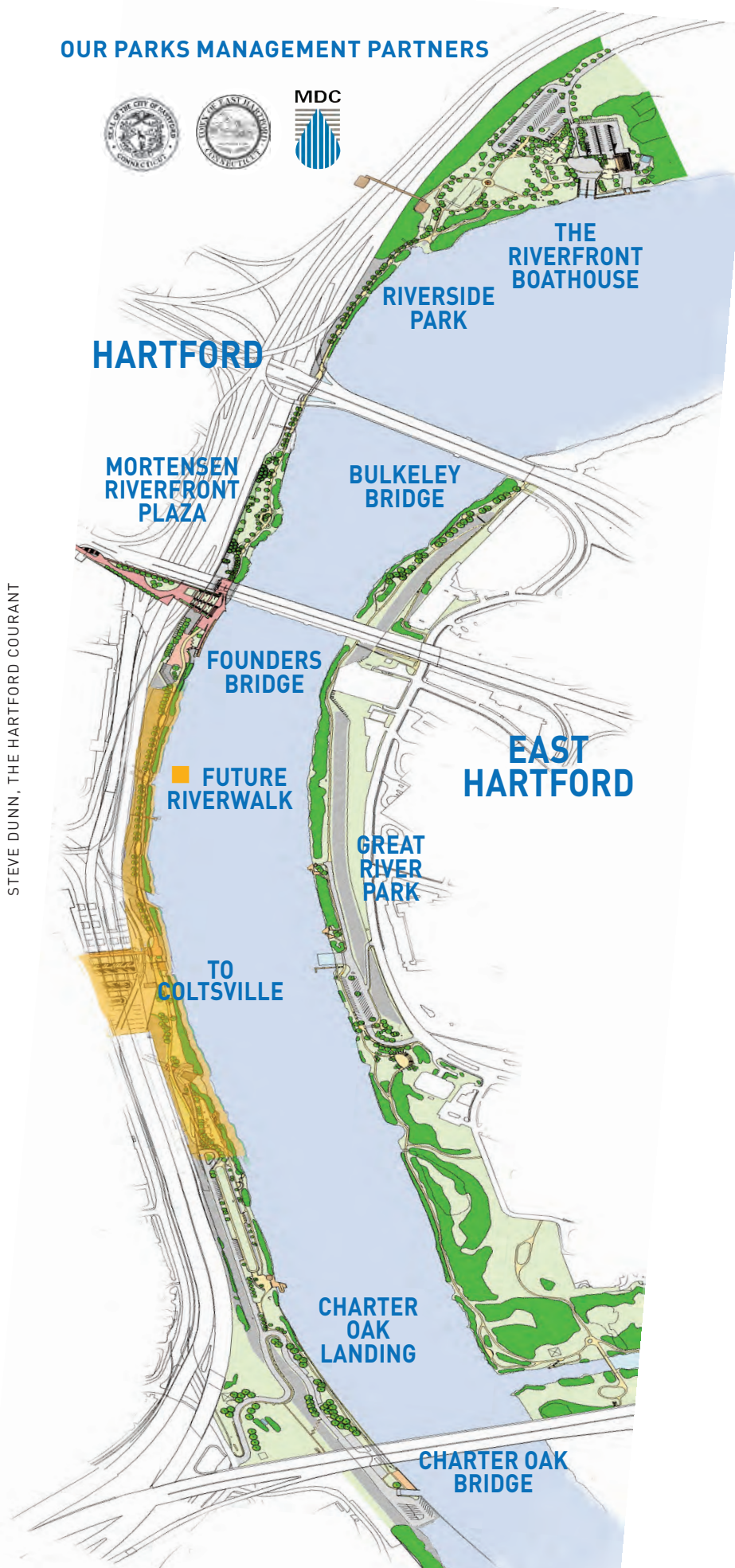
The State Bond Commission approved \$1.5 million to continue design and permitting work for Riverwalk South, which will connect downtown Hartford with Charter Oak Landing and create a new entrance to the Riverfront from Coltsville. This future entrance will include a wide opening in the dike wall, with a gate structure that will close during periods of flooding. Funding also will provide for a temporary walkway to open up access between the parks while planning continues, along with fundraising for the permanent improvements.

Bald eagles have returned to the Riverfront — a sure sign the river and its surrounding environment are clean and healthy.



STEVE DUNN, THE HARTFORD COURANT

## OUR PARKS MANAGEMENT PARTNERS







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Hartford, CT 06106-1984

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