



KINNICKINNIC RIVER LAND TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2021**



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*Land Stewardship
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710 N Main Street, Suite 205

P.O. Box 87

River Falls, WI 54022

715.425.5738 www.kinniriver.org



Financial Overview

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. This annual report represents the activities and financials from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Please contact the KRLT office if you would like to receive a copy of our published financial statements for FY2021.

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$212,964
Investments	\$273,382
Accounts Receivable	\$192,984
Promises to Give	\$3,350
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,428
Total Current Assets	\$684,108

Noncurrent Assets

Promises to Give	\$16,085
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Property and Equipment

Total Assets	\$1,951,024
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Current Liabilities	\$28,996
Total Net Assets	\$1,276,208
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,305,204

34 Conservation Easements

4 Nature Preserves



REVENUES

Individual Restricted/Unrestricted Contributions - \$188,399

Corporate/Foundation/Grants - \$523,612

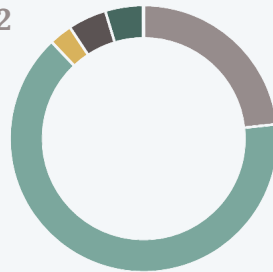
Debt Forgiveness (PPP Loan) - \$22,534

Investment Income - \$37,655

Special Events - \$36,934

Other Income - \$577

Total Revenue & Other Support - 769,025



FIXED ASSETS

Land - \$1,231,110

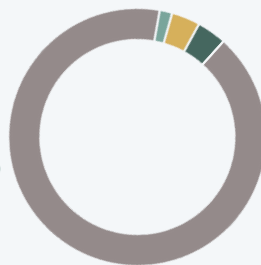
Land Improvements - \$21,200

Equipment - \$48,527

Easements - 34

Accumulated Depreciation - -\$50,040

Total - \$1,250,831



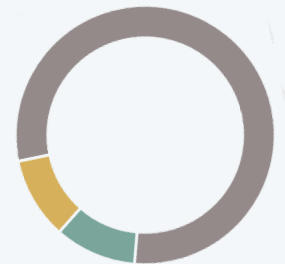
EXPENSES

Program Services - \$185,494

Management & General - \$23,815

Fundraising - \$23,815

Total Expenses - \$233,124



Greetings From The Incoming Board President



CHARLES RADER

Fiscal year 2021 was an eventful year for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. The organization is on solid financial footing as we conclude the year, and we are well positioned to continue our stewardship and conservation work. In January 2021, we fully funded and closed on the purchase of The Community Forest. This land protects the Rocky Branch, an important tributary to the Kinni, and provides access to the River Falls School Forest and several public trails. The COVID pandemic posed a challenge for our community events, such as the annual river cleanup, but also saw a marked increase in the public use of our preserves. With the new fiscal year, we began implementing the priorities in our revised strategic plan and prepared for a fundraising event featuring popular comedian and podcast host, Charlie Berens. Thank you to staff, board, and volunteers for their active work and all who contributed financially toward protecting the Kinni.

Preserves Accessibility and Charlie Berens

During the era of COVID, the impact of green space has been powerful. It showcased a need for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust to improve the accessibility for all user groups and people of all physical capabilities at our preserves. This will include changes such as improving and creating new trails that are ADA friendly, providing bilingual options on our signage, and establishing funding to provide needed annual maintenance. On September 9th, we are hosting a fundraising event in partnership with local organizations to raise funds to support our accessibility efforts. The event's headliner will be Wisconsin comedian, Charlie Berens. His midwestern humor provides an incredible opportunity for the community to gather together for a wonderful cause. Visit www.kinniriver.org for more details.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Don't Cha Know
**CHARLIE
BERENS**

September 9th, 2021 | 7:30 PM
First National Bank of River Falls Field





CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE KINNI

The watershed is changing. The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is in the process of thoughtfully working to understand our role on addressing climate change in the watershed. We understand that all change begins on a local level. Our work has protected and conserved properties in the Kinni watershed in perpetuity. We have also facilitated the protection and transfer of almost 1,000 acres with partners like the WI DNR which are now protected forever. By doing this we are preserving places that help keep the water of the Kinnickinnic clear, clean, and cold. Besides the conservation and ecological benefits, KRLT protected prairies, forested lands, and wetlands filter groundwater and act as carbon sinks; holding carbon so it's not released into the atmosphere. We look forward to sharing our future goals for managing climate change along the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed.



New Board Members



KEVYN JUNEAU

I am an assistant professor of conservation and environmental science at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and have been a member of the Kinnickinnic River community since 2016. My formal training is in entomology and forest science, specifically in invasive species ecology and management. I grew up playing in the Great Chazy River in northern New York, and I am very excited that my children have such an amazing river to grow up playing in. I am eager to be able to help protect the river and advocate for the diverse uses of this invaluable resources for all members of our community and beyond.



MARK RITZINGER

I am a retired optometrist and lifelong resident of River Falls. I have always had an interest in nature, the physical sciences, and local ecology. I strongly support protecting our environment. There is no better way to do this than becoming an advocate for the jewel of our community; the Kinnickinnic River in our own backyard. Supporting the KRLT and photographing nature has become my retirement passions.

The Community Forest

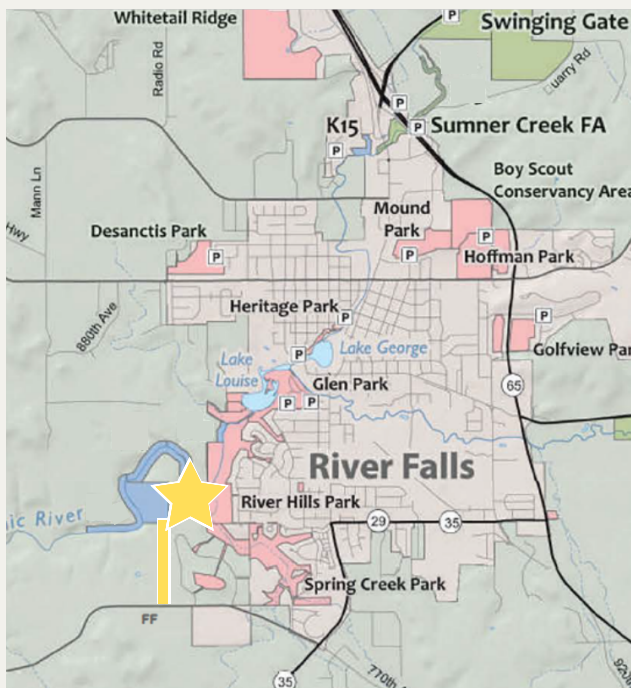
Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) is proud to announce that with the help of the community and countless other organizations, foundations, and individuals we have forever protected 44 acres of pristine old-growth forest and shoreline now known as The Community Forest. As of January 29th, 2021, this incredible piece of land will always remain undeveloped and will be a place to create memories and adventures for generations to come.

This past year we have gained a deeper sense of connection with the green spaces around us and have truly understood the value of these treasured places. In the coming months, KRLT will begin the work of developing trail systems and improving the ones that already exist while keeping an emphasis on retaining the natural landscape. Additionally, KRLT will be adding informational signage and a small parking lot off of County Road FF to help allow all individuals the experience of being able to explore this gem on the Kinni.



KRLT will be engaging with the community on topics such as types of recreation and development of The Community Forest on the Kinni. Please visit www.kinniriver.org for more information on these upcoming discussions and how you can help create forever on the Kinni.

Support for this project was funded by the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, this project was made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Streambank Protection Grant Program, Alison and David Page and Family, Trout Unlimited Kiap-Tu-Wish Chapter, Trout Unlimited Twin Cities Chapter, Bye, Goff & Rohde, Ltd., and Star Prairie Fish & Game Inc. KRLT would like to acknowledge the Ailport-Dreistadt Estate as well as The River Falls School District for their role in the purchase of The Community Forest on the Kinni.



Access road and The Community Forest are shown in yellow

Connecting, Preserving, and Educating

I grew up in River Falls near Glen Park. I biked across the Swinging Bridge almost every summer day on my way to the pool. I had no idea that there were trails along the river until a friend introduced me to this magical place when my kids were small. The confluence of the Rocky Branch and Kinni River became a favorite destination. My family has explored every path in The Community Forest in every season. We hike the bluffs or play in the sand. We soak up the sunshine or the coolness of the water. We sit quietly or connect with friends and neighbors. It feels like home to me. Every time I visit, I am grateful that such a place exists in our town and open to all.

I am now a 4th grade teacher at Rocky Branch Elementary. Part of the reason I love working at Rocky Branch is our easy access to The Community Forest. Many times a year, my class leaves the school grounds, and we walk through the neighborhood to the river. As we walk, we are also learning about living things that surround us, rock types in our region, or historical sites like the limestone kiln. One of our favorite activities is to just sit by the river and write or draw. The students are separated by 10-15 feet to encourage focus and we sit in silence for a while. You might think that 9 year-olds would find this boring, but they crave quiet and connection just like we do. And, of course, they love to play in the water. Spending time in the Community Forest is a highlight of each school year and my students often tell me about the return visits they make with their families. We are grateful to the KRLT for protecting this beloved place for generations to come.

Anna Zalusky

Teacher, Rocky Branch Elementary



Fiscal Year 2021 Contributors

THE PROTECTION OF THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER AND WATERSHED
ARE MADE POSSIBLE WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

\$10,000 +

Laird-Norton Family Foundation
∞River Falls School District
∞The Mortenson Family Foundation
Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen
Foundation
*Dan and Mary Wilkening
Cabela's Outdoor Fund
∞David and Alison Page

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Fidelity Investments
∞Trout Unlimited Kiap-TU-Wish
Chapter
Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK
Foundation
∞Trout Unlimited Twin Cities Chapter
*∞Mike Miller and Susan Goode
*∞Bye, Goff & Rohde, Ltd.

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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*∞Peter and Linda Dahm
*∞Dale and Linda Jorgenson
*Shawn Monaghan and Greg Plotnikoff
*∞Keith Rodli and Katharine Grant
YourCause, LLC/ United Way
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*∞John and Mary Ellen Lundsten
*∞Sally Haskins
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*∞Mark & Jean Ritzinger
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∞Leitch Insurance Agency, Steve Leitch

*Mary Bolla and David Dayton
*Tri Star Engines and Transmissions
David Steine
Tropical Wings Inc.
Community Health Systems
*James & Judy Freund
∞The Prairie Enthusiasts

\$250 - \$999

IBM Corporation Matching Grants
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Judie and David Babcock
Charity Aid Foundation of America
St. Croix Valley Foundation
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∞Anna and Joe Zalusk
∞Byron and Vicki Dopkins

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AAMS
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Morgan Stanley Global Impact
Funding Trust - Tim Faricy
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∞Kendra Morgan

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Kim Koeppen
Dwayne (Tom) Johnson by:
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Calvin Jennings by:
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Tribute-
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Daniel Krieg
Holiday Gift Donation by:
Rich and Amy Beckham
Judy Edgar by:
Barbara Nelson
Mark Ritzinger by:
Barbara Johnson
Holiday Gift Donation by:
Margaret Gardner

*KINNI GUARDIANS

The Kinni Guardians are individuals that give at the \$1,200 level or more each year.

∞THE COMMUNITY FOREST CONTRIBUTORS

These individuals generously contributed to the purchase and protection of The Community Forest.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Thank you to the following individuals who are leaving a legacy of land stewardship with a conservation easement on their property. Original owners of the easement are italicized.

Robert Chambers
(Clarke & Florence Chambers)
Gregory Erickson & Jamie McNaughton
Jeffrey & Nancy Christensen
(Peter Bloch & Bonnie Rubenstein)
Richard Purdy & Maureen Ash
Ronald Evensen & Pamela Thurow
John & Carrie Kaplan
Patrice Veit
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Allan Klein & Harriet Lansing
Steve and Carolyn Cooper
(Keith & Barbara Avise)
Steven & Shelly Rucks
(Mary Swanson-MacLeod)
Edgar Family Trust
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Doug & Olivia Gavic
(Michael Miller & Susan Goode)
Justin & Jill Kaufenberg
(Gregory Erickson)

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust would like to thank the generous supporters of FY2021

We apologize if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Please contact us at 715.425.5738 and we will make a correction.

KRLT IS A NON-PROFIT, 501(C)3 PUBLIC TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

EIN 39-6593121

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www.kinniriver.org 715.425.5738

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Kinnickinnic River
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*Thank you
Volunteers!*

