



# Royal River Conservation Trust

Donor Impact Report | Spring 2018



*THANK YOU*

I'M GRATEFUL for you and your commitment to conserve land, farms, and trails in the Royal River watershed and along Casco Bay.

I know you'll be encouraged to see where your contributions are having an impact. In just this past year, your generous gifts have helped expand many of our preserves and continue to create additional open spaces. You've helped ensure our trails, preserves, programs and events remain free and open to the public. Thank you.

As we strive to protect the natural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, and historic resources of the Royal River region, you play a crucial role. The health of ecosystems and waterways depend on us working together to preserve and protect them. We cannot do this without you.

Thank you for your devotion to our community, its beauty, ecology and people.



*Alan*

ALAN STEARNS  
Executive Director



Our family is **stronger and healthier** because of the work of the Royal River Conservation Trust. Because we joined our local land trust, our children are growing up with a **sense of wonder** exploring Maine's outdoors.

—JILL SADY & OAKLEY DYER, YARMOUTH ME.

## YOUR IMPACT

### *Saving Our Precious Lands, Habitats, & Ecosystems*

Forrest Waterhouse was born in the farmhouse on his family's property in 1920. He passed away 96 years later in the same home. The Waterhouse Farm operated for many years as a dairy and transitioned to a beef cattle operation in the 1970s. Your donations helped RRCT secure an agricultural easement working closely with Maine Farmland Trust, fulfilling Forrest Waterhouse's desire—ensuring the property will always remain as a farm.



See **IMPACT** on page 3

# RAIN OR SHINE CLUB:

## *Cherishing and Celebrating the Outdoors*



A grandmother points her grandson to the broken shell of a recently hatched bird.

He picks it up and feels its texture with his fingers. A father and son watch as an osprey soars overhead the Littlejohn Island preserve. “Breathtaking,” declares one of the participants. “Access to these lands and these experiences—just magnificent.”

Thanks to you, more people than ever—babies to grandparents, individuals and families—are getting outside and growing in awe of our area’s natural resources. Your support makes it possible.

The Rain or Shine Club offers an introduction to some of our favorite places with a focus on land stewardship. Participants grow in their appreciation of lands, habitats, and shores. They also learn about how and why we work to protect this land for perpetuity.



We’ve recently established the *Rain or Shine Fund*. When you give to this fund, you help ensure all our programs, including *Rain or Shine Club*, remain free and open to all. This fund allows us to invest in free and better access to Maine’s outdoors for everyone. Through your generous donations and collaborations with other land trusts, we purchased numerous state park passes, which are now available at local libraries for patrons to use. We also



My children are learning to appreciate special places that are preserved and accessible to the public. The Rain or Shine Club is a healthy, fun and free experience that we can count on each week.

—GENNIFER GIULIANO,  
POWNAI, ME

helped to fund gardening and outdoor education for children from low-income backgrounds in collaboration with Auburn Police Athletic League and the Androscoggin Land Trust.

Through your support of Rain or Shine Club and the Rain or Shine Fund, you are providing many people access to the great Maine outdoors.

JOIN THE CLUB



Thursdays @ 10AM | Contact Kyle Warren, [kyle@rrct.org](mailto:kyle@rrct.org) or (207) 632-6112 with questions

## The Trail Crew & You

Another way you can help preserve the lands and waters we all treasure is by rolling up your sleeves and digging in—

This spring we've launched a new Trail Crew program through which volunteers are lending their skills to creatively, safely, and efficiently address needs. Whether raking gravel or removing fallen trees, securing wetland and stream crossings or trail building, picking up litter or hauling debris from waterways, there's always something to do—and it's all important.

Your support helps provide resources for these weekly work sessions. These precious lands require our stewardship and our attention. If you're up for an adventure, join our Trail Boss, Kyle Warren, any Wednesday morning.



*RRCT provides tools for Trail Crew jobs, but participants are encouraged to bring and use their own tools as well.*

### What is stewardship?

Stewardship is the on-going, long-term commitment of time and resources to the conservation of land, and its implementation is essential to RRCT's ability to protect land in the future.

**Learn more about getting involved at [rrct.org/events](http://rrct.org/events).**



### IMPACT *continued from page 1*

More than just a historical property, the 427-acre Waterhouse Farm is an iconic piece of Maine scenery. Located on North Pownal Rd. in New Gloucester, the farm lies between two of the Royal River Conservation Trust's primary focus areas for land conservation, Pisgah Hill in New Gloucester and Runaround Pond in Durham. Thanks to you, we're connecting more of our area's most precious unfragmented land blocks, retaining our area's scenic beauty and protecting its natural habitats.

Through your strong support this past year we were also able to purchase some of the last remaining Royal River shorefront in the town of Yarmouth and preserve a 70-acre parcel of land on the Intervale in New Gloucester. As the population of the Royal River watershed continues to grow, land continues to be developed. Without initiatives to save



*Waterhouse Farm located in New Gloucester.*

land like this, we risk losing access to incredibly special natural habitats and ecosystems.

Together, we're saving these places so that they can be celebrated and enjoyed—by our families today, and by future generations.



# Because of you—

2017 was a tremendous year. Here are some of the highlights you helped make possible:



**70 acres and more than a mile** of Royal River shoreline and a new (second) canoe access point added to the Intervale Preserve, New Gloucester

**50 acres and a half mile** of shoreline conserved at Runaround Pond in Durham



Alongside the Maine Farmland Trust, **427 acres of farms and forests** conserved, Waterhouse Farm, New Gloucester, Pownal town line

Stone Stairs, a **new coastal erosion and access project** at the Littlejohn Island Preserve



**One mile of new trail** along with major new park improvements at Runaround Pond Recreation Area in Durham

**Two miles of new trail** opened in Pownal along Chandler Brook connecting to Bradbury Mountain State Park

**\$5K financial support** for Yarmouth's West Side Trail Phase II expansion

**\$200,000**

**Total contributions** to Riverfront Woods in Yarmouth, a private charitable campaign completed *(2018 project completion)*

**25% increase** in households or individuals financially supporting RRCT



**Royal River  
Conservation Trust**

P.O. Box 90, Yarmouth, ME 04096 | RRCT.org