

# Rivers Alliance of Connecticut



*The United Voice  
for  
Connecticut's Rivers  
and  
All State Waters*

## Who We Are

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing Connecticut's rivers, streams, and watersheds.

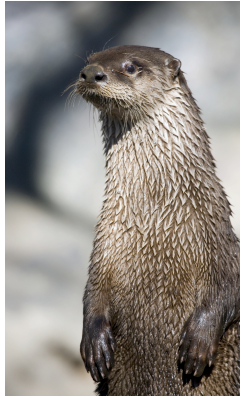
Rivers Alliance was founded in 1992 by the state's leading river and watershed groups in recognition of their need for consistent, reliable collaboration, networking, and unity in public policy development and public education.

We are led by a small dedicated staff and a thirteen-member Board of Directors with representatives from environmental organizations, business, and the law. Our members are individuals, organizations, and businesses concerned with the health and protection of Connecticut's rivers and watersheds.



## Our Mission

The mission of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is to protect and restore our state's invaluable and imperiled waters. To this end, we:



- **Promote sound, science-based environmental policies.** We encourage supportive state laws, regulations, and programs regarding water allocation, watershed planning, and river protection.
- **Work collaboratively and in coalitions to get results.** We coordinate the efforts of the state's many river and watershed groups.
- **Encourage and aid local groups and persons working on water protection.** We support them and provide resources to help them achieve their conservation goals.
- **Educate the public to help them understand, value, and defend our water resources.** We provide speakers, hold conferences, and create informational materials on the importance of waterway preservation and restoration.



## Accomplishments & Accolades

*Since 2000, Rivers Alliance and its partners have gained ...*

- Funding for the state's USGS Water-Monitoring Network
- A ban on the use of MTBE in gasoline
- A law protecting drinking-water aquifers
- A law requiring protective flow standards for all streams
- A ban on "packaged" sewer-treatment plants in drinking-water watersheds
- Protection of drinking-water watershed lands from mining
- Reform of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act regarding state projects
- Mandate of low-impact certification for hydroelectric plants receiving state funds

*For our work, Rivers Alliance has received dozens of awards and honors, including ...*

- *Outstanding River Advocate Award*, from American Rivers
- *Environmental Champion Award*, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- *Clyde O. Fisher Award*, from the Connecticut Bar Association's Environmental Section
- *Montgomery Hare Environmental Defender Award*, from the Housatonic Valley Association



Photo courtesy of Solar Youth, Inc.

## Our Programs



**Connecticut Watershed Conservation Network.** Begun by Rivers Alliance in 2002, this vibrant group has more than 130 members, including individuals and people from environmental organizations, state and local governments, and recreational groups. Through e-mail conversations and twice yearly conferences, members identify effective ways to coordinate their watershed protection efforts statewide.

**Water Trails Program.** Teaming with a group of paddlers, outfitters, and others interested in conservation recreation, Rivers Alliance began the Water Trails Program in 2008. The program promotes the use and appreciation of Connecticut's recreational waterways by collaborating with local and regional groups, publicizing existing trails, helping to develop new trails, promoting responsible stewardship of our waterways, fostering connections to communities, and advocating boating safety.

**Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program.** Rivers Alliance administers this program, which is funded by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Since 2005 this program has made more than 60 grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, totaling over \$200,000, to more than 40 groups throughout Connecticut.

**Help Line.** Our signature program, the Help Line — **860-361-9349** — is available, day and often night, for use by anyone who has a water-related problem or question, whether in policy or in the field.

**Educational Conferences.** Since 1999 Rivers Alliance has held the following major conferences: Deregulation & the Siting of Power Plants; Streamflow (with Yale University); Water Law in Connecticut (with Yale University); Hydropower in Connecticut & New England (with the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund); and Risks, Rewards & Recreational Liability.

## How You Can Help

### BECOME A MEMBER:

Yes! I'd like to join Rivers Alliance and help protect the rivers, streams and watersheds of Connecticut. I enclose my tax-deductible gift.

- Individual or Family ..... \$35
- Nonprofit Organization ..... \$50
- Friend ..... \$75
- Patron ..... \$100
- Sponsor ..... \$250
- Benefactor ..... \$500
- Champion ..... \$1,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEER:

Yes! I'd like to volunteer to help Rivers Alliance protect waterways. My skills/interests are:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks out to*  
**Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, Inc.**

*and mail with this form to*  
**P.O. Box 1797, 7 West Street, 3rd Floor**  
**Litchfield, CT 06759**

*Or*

*Donate online, using the "Donate" button at*  
**www.riversalliance.org**

*For more information:*

**860-361-9349**

**rivers@riversalliance.org**