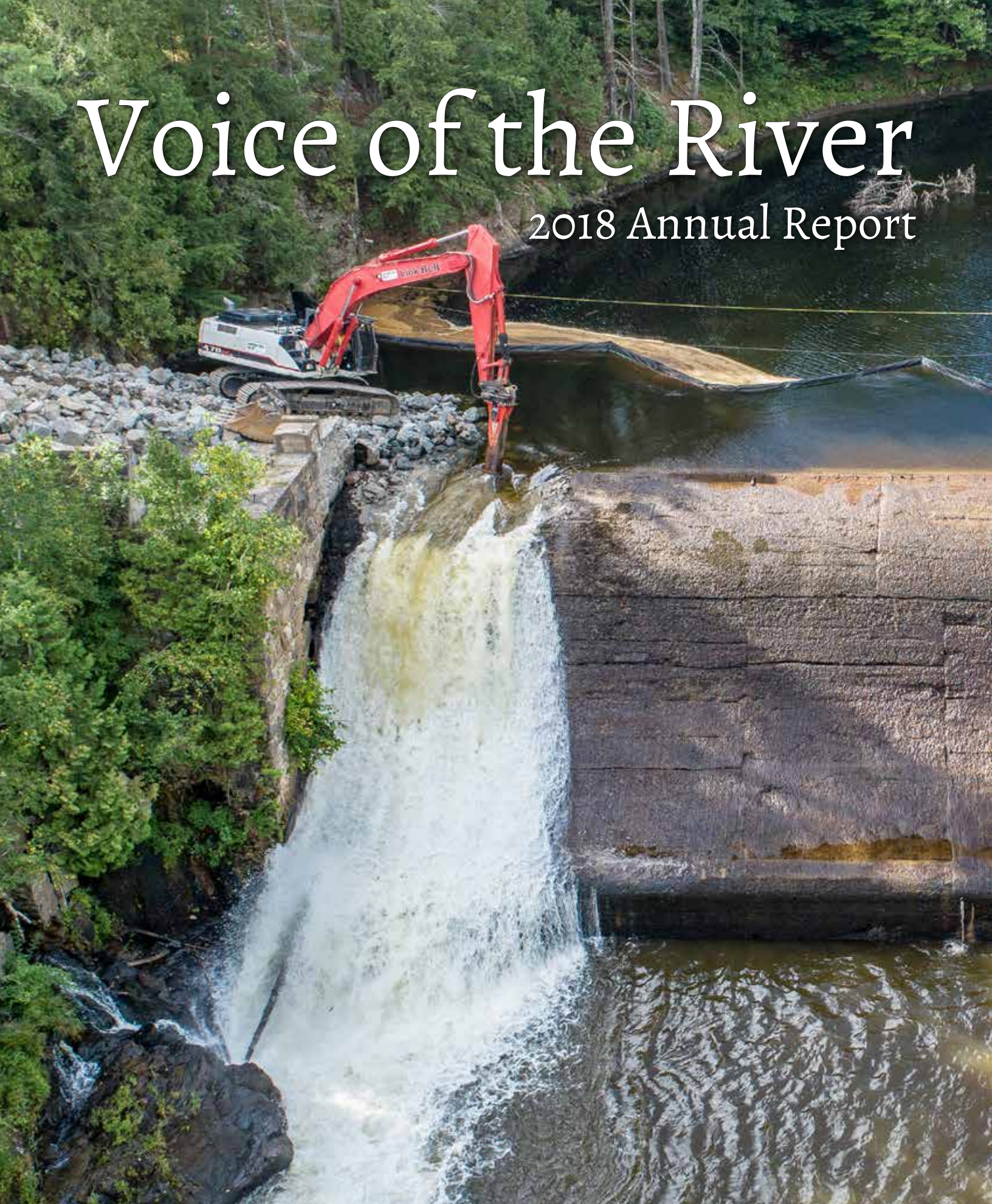


Voice of the River

2018 Annual Report



Groundwork

Every nonprofit – indeed, every business – must shift and grow, staying true to its mission and goals while serving the community to which it is dedicated. The Ausable River Association is no exception. If you've been following our story for the past few years, you'll know we've grown from a one-person volunteer organization with an annual budget of \$50 to 90,000 to a professionally staffed, science-based organization focused on practical solutions for our community. In 2018, that meant four full-time staff members and expenses of over \$300,000.

The results? Identification of a serious contaminant threat to Mirror Lake and a path toward a scientifically verifiable solution. Removal of a large structurally unsound dam on the West Branch that threatened life and property downstream. Technical surveys and analyses that led to the first comprehensive plan to restore form, function, and resilience to the East Branch, with the West Branch not far behind. And so much more.

Of course, the success lies in the details. Biweekly water quality monitoring in rain, sleet, wind, and snow. Multi-year experiments to determine the best native plant species for revegetating streambanks. Extensive temperature logger networks. Thoughtful efforts to communicate and educate. Time consuming surveys of river form and structure in low and high water. Hiking through dense forest along steep headwater streams to obtain water samples. Mountains of administrative paperwork to qualify for, responsibly administer, and track on state grants, private funds, expenses, contracts, and events.

We don't do it by ourselves. We're small, but we're more efficient when we work with multiple partners, especially our communities. But we are also ready to grow. We're ready to expand our science-based, solution-oriented skills.

Watch us.

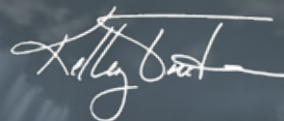
Support us.

Where else can you protect the lakes and streams you know and love and get this big a bang for your buck? Real work, protecting, monitoring, restoring. Making a difference.

You want to be a part of this.



Elizabeth Clarke
Chair - Board of Directors



Kelley Tucker
Executive Director

Clean Water

To ensure that our streams, lakes, and wetlands can support a full complement of human and ecosystem needs, AsRA identifies and addresses threats to clean water in the Ausable River watershed.

- Our staff identified the nature and extent of road salt pollution across the watershed and are working to find solutions. Our focus: Mirror Lake, the jewel of Lake Placid and the lake most threatened by road salt in the Adirondack Park.
- AsRA and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) released a report on Mirror Lake documenting that lake turnover is being interrupted as a result of road salt runoff.
- Work by AWI on groundwater contamination, along with AsRA's work on Mirror Lake, was presented to the commissioners of the New York State Departments of Health, Environmental Conservation, and Transportation.
- In response to AsRA's findings, the New York State Department of Transportation launched a pilot salt reduction program along Mirror Lake and the West Branch Ausable River.



Healthy Streams

We're protecting the shaded, cool waters of the river and its tributaries, restoring their form, function, and resilience for the benefit of wildlife and human communities.

- The 125-year-old Rome Dam on the lower West Branch has been demolished. AsRA advocated for the decaying dam's removal and was a member of the deconstruction team. Now free, the river tumbles through a steep bedrock gorge, rebuilding habitat, and providing a home and safe passage for native fish.
- Hemmed in by local infrastructure, the West Branch's Dream Mile has experienced a slow unraveling of capacity, balance, and resilience. AsRA is working with The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Trout Unlimited Adirondack Chapter to restore form and function to this treasured reach, creating stable habitat for trout.
- AsRA and our team of experts have developed a landmark comprehensive plan for restoring the lower half of the East Branch. Extensive surveys and analysis identified 13 projects in the Town of Jay that will increase resilience for communities and ensure the health of the river. Construction on the first two projects will begin in 2020. AsRA is seeking additional funds to expand the comprehensive plan to the Town of Keene and the West Branch.

Biodiverse Habitats

AsRA protects habitats and ecosystems that foster native plant and animal species in and alongside streams, lakes, and wetlands.

- Established in 2018, AsRA's newest program is on the cutting edge of science, using environmental DNA to understand the presence, absence, and abundance of native brook trout. We mapped trout distribution in 35 kilometers of local streams.
- Warmer waters seriously threaten the survival of many native Adirondack species, most notably brook trout. We expanded our year-round temperature monitoring network, doubling its size and our capacity to measure where waters are warming and whether our restoration efforts have a stabilizing effect.
- AsRA is identifying and testing native plant species that provide the greatest success for revegetating streambanks and riparian areas in our watershed. An expert botanist assisted AsRA's staff to survey and assess past planting success and identify key native species for riparian planting projects.

Enjoying The River

We promote responsible, low-impact recreational opportunities that help protect Ausable waterways and adjacent lands.

- AsRA's river steward maintained eight wader wash stations for West Branch anglers and provided outreach and streamside education for over 500 river users in 2018. Of these, 22 users came directly to the Ausable from a watershed with known aquatic invasive species. Intercepting these anglers allowed us to ensure their gear was properly cleaned. Our riverside surveys show that larger numbers of anglers are choosing non-felt boots and using wader wash stations to prevent invasive species from entering the Ausable.
- The 7th Annual Ride for the River was a great success. Almost 100 riders participated, biking along the river – stopping along the way to learn about how best to protect it – and joining the community party that followed the ride.
- AsRA's network of Porta-Johns helped ensure a clean and healthy river and provided convenient facilities for travelers and river users.





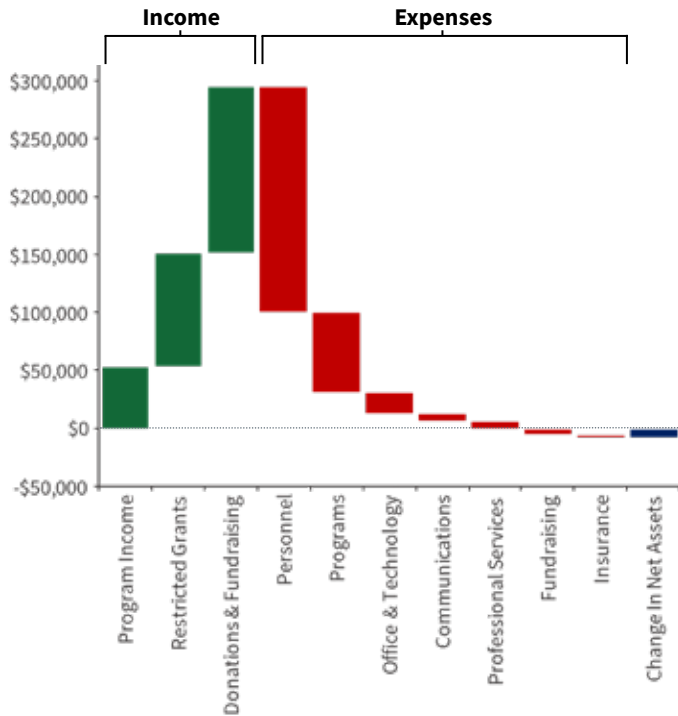
Engaged Communities

AsRA provides information to inform residents and visitors so they may better care for the health of the watershed where they live, work, and play.

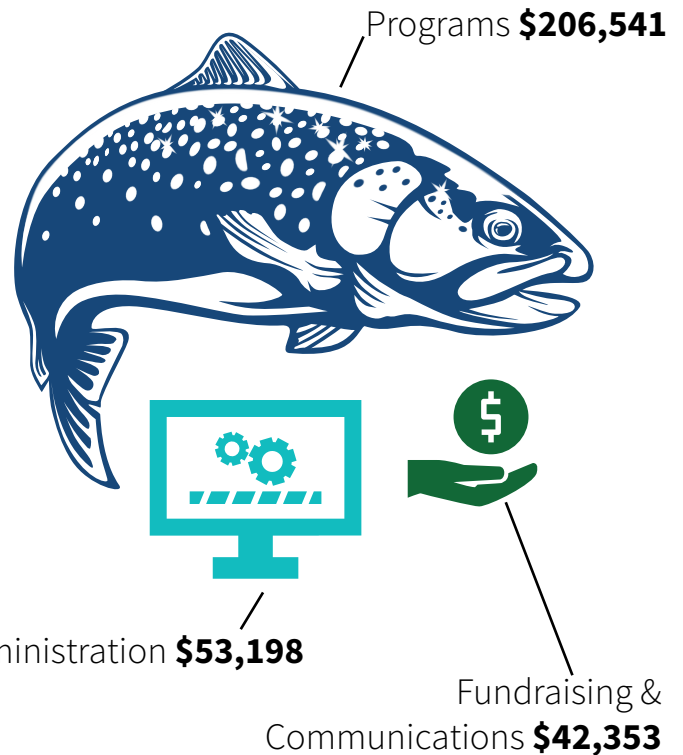
- AsRA's stewardship brochure, *Caring for the Ausable*, was mailed to every household in the Ausable watershed. That's 7,000 opportunities to promote land stewardship and protect our lakes and streams through simple practices in homes, yards, and at work.
- Our public programs provided information and practical tools to hundreds of watershed residents and visitors. Topics included river protection, stream restoration, and science that promotes clean water. And our weeklong intensive teen stewardship program completed its fourth year.
- AsRA's weekly e-newsletter audience grew to over 600 subscribers in 2018, and our social media following is over 4,000. Added to our growing membership, that's over 5,000 engaged and informed residents and visitors.
- We planted 300 trees and shrubs on the shoreline of Mirror Lake and at a stream restoration site on the West Branch Ausable River. This project was supported by an Earth Day Initiative Grant from Humanities New York and included volunteers from Mirror Lake Watershed Association and Northwood School.



Financial Activities



How Your Support Was Allocated



Activities

As of December 31, 2018 (unaudited)

Support and Revenue

Program Income.....	\$52,695
Restricted Grants.....	\$97,859
Donations & Fundraising.....	\$144,114
TOTAL	\$294,668

Expenses

Personnel.....	\$194,929
Programs.....	\$68,872
Office & Technology.....	\$17,887
Communications.....	\$7,521
Professional Services.....	\$6,475
Fundraising.....	\$4,489
Insurance.....	\$1,919
TOTAL.....	\$302,092

Financial Position

As of December 31, 2018 (unaudited)

Assets

Cash & Savings.....	\$134,586
Other Assets.....	\$500
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$135,086

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities.....	\$69,783
Unrestricted Net Assets.....	\$65,303
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets.....	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS.....	\$135,086

A copy of the latest annual filing for the Ausable River Association, Inc. may be obtained, upon request, from the organization (AsRA, PO Box 8, Wilmington, NY 12997) or from the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Records Access Officer, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 (www.charitiesnys.com) or by contacting 212-416-8401. You can obtain a description of the programs and activities that your contribution will support by contacting us at the above address.

756
Anglers and Others Educated About Aquatic Invasive Species

13
River Restoration Projects Identified

43,003
Views Of Mirror Lake Livestream On YouTube

79
Sites Sampled For eDNA Analysis

1,952
New Followers Online

279
New Members & Donors

61%
River Users Using Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Techniques

Thank You

We rely on the support of members who care about the Ausable River, its lakes and tributaries. Together, we make a difference.



Headwaters Council

Great Range: \$10,000+

Carol and Edmund Blake Foundation
 Cloudsplitter Foundation
 Evergreen Foundation, Inc.
 Johanson Family

Sentinel Range: \$2,500-\$9,999

Adirondack Foundation - Adirondack Gives
 Adirondack Foundation - Holderied Family Community Fund
 IRONMAN Foundation
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 Nancy Adams Sweet
 Village of Lake Placid

Soda Range: \$1,000-\$2,499

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 High Falls Gorge
 Larry Master and Betty Spence
 John Sargent
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