



# Restoring the Housatonic River Watershed



## Protecting Habitat

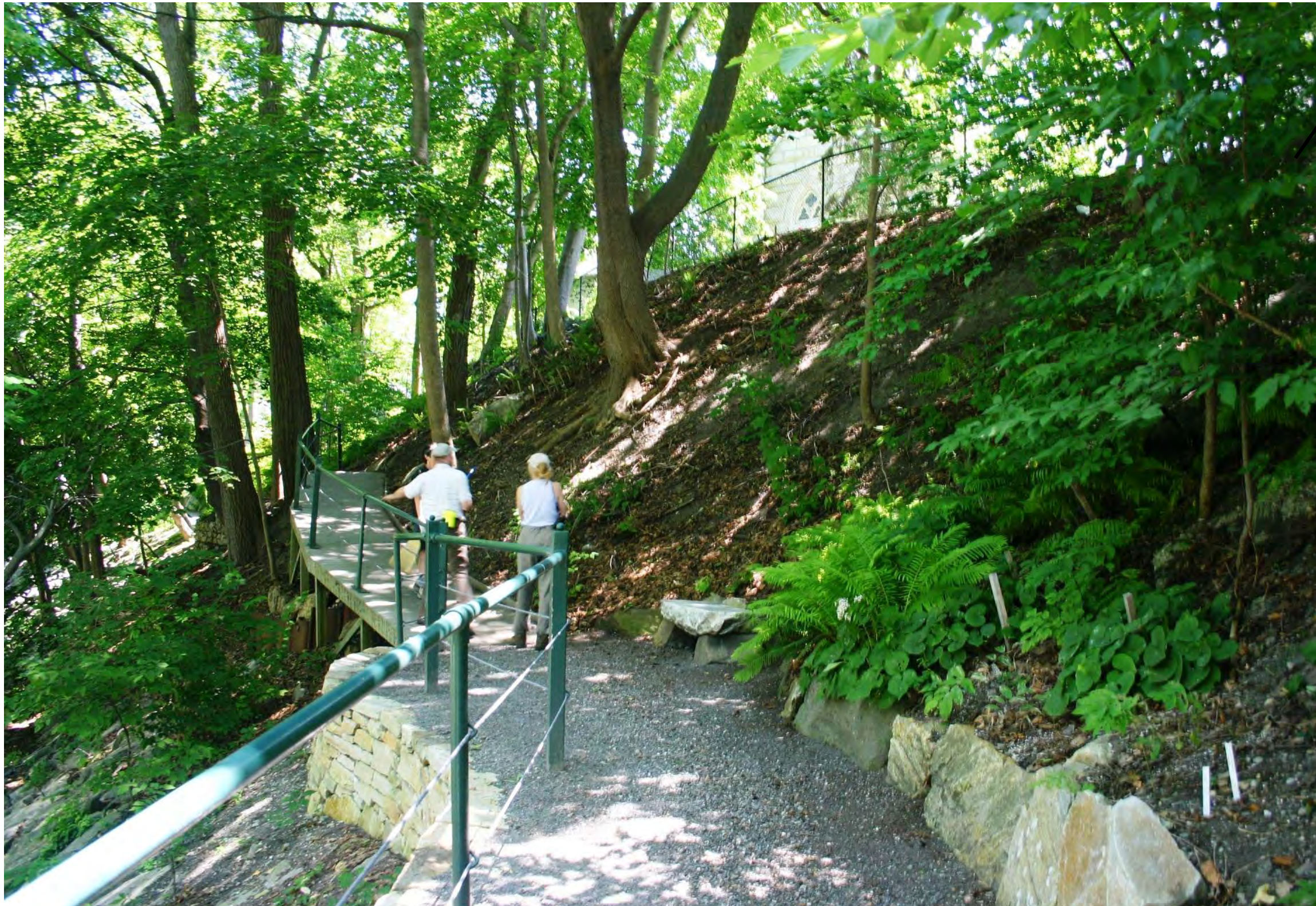
Working with numerous partners, the Trustees have protected hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat in MA and CT, primarily riparian floodplain forests and fields adjacent to the Housatonic and its tributaries. Many parcels are actively managed to reduce invasive species and restore native vegetation. Additional protection efforts are expected in both states in the next few years.



Vernal pools are protected on the 25-acre Indian Fields parcel in New Milford, CT.

## Increasing Public Use

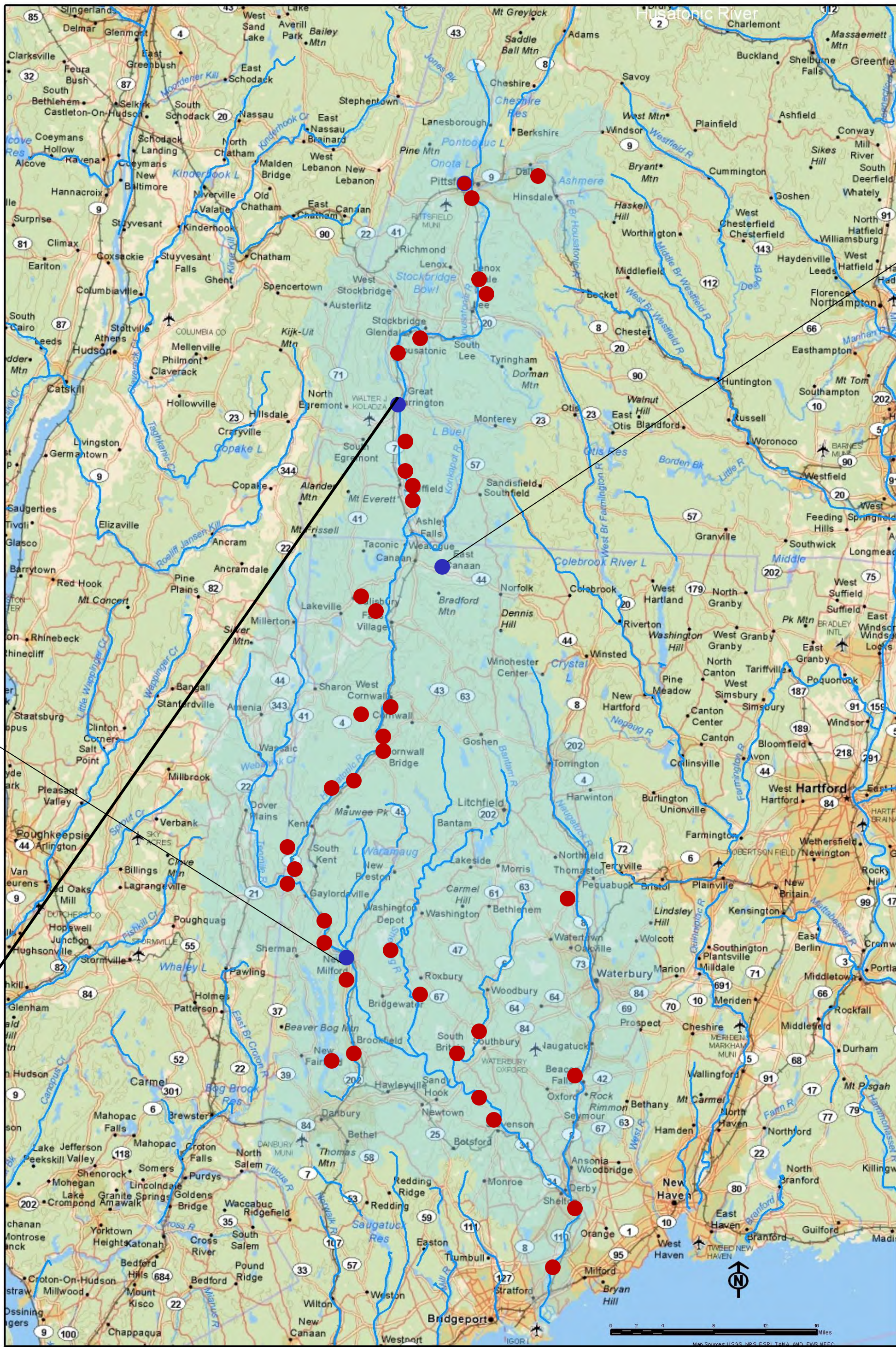
Numerous canoe launches, fishing platforms and walking trails will increase public access to the River and adjacent natural areas. These features promote public enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors.



Housatonic River Walk, Great Barrington, MA.

## History of the Housatonic NRDAR

Under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) provisions of the Superfund Act, the General Electric Company settled with Natural Resource Trustees (USFWS, NOAA, Massachusetts and Connecticut) for \$15 million in 1999 for historic releases of PCBs to the Housatonic. Funds are being used to restore injured natural resources at a variety of projects throughout the watershed.



Housatonic River Watershed with Project Locations

Project Types	Number of Projects		Expected Acres/Miles	
	CT	MA	CT	MA
Land Protection	6	1	300 ac	78 ac
Fisheries Restoration	8	4	11 mi	8 mi
Wetland Restoration/ Invasive Species Mngmt	6	3	523 ac	390 ac
Boat Launches	7	4		
Trails	8	2	4.5 mi	2 mi

MA also funded rare species inventories, educational programs and assistance to Towns for wetlands protection.

## Restoring Aquatic Resources

Funds are being used to remove several dams, repair existing fishways and enhance riparian buffers to improve cold water fisheries.



Removal (or breaching) of dams such as the one at this site on the Blackberry River in North Canaan, CT will restore resident fish populations.

## Partnerships Make the Difference

Partners throughout the watershed implement restoration projects and bring additional funds and expertise to enhance and expand Trustee-funded efforts. We celebrate the efforts of everyone involved, including:

Berkshire Natural Resources Council  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission  
Connecticut Audubon Society  
Connecticut Bass Federation  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
Crane & Company, Inc.  
ESS Group, Inc.  
Flying Cloud Institute  
Great Barrington Land Conservancy  
Housatonic River Initiative  
Housatonic Valley Association  
Kampoosa Bog Stewardship Committee  
Mass Division of Ecological Restoration  
Mass Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Naromi Land Trust  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Northwest Conservation District  
Project Native, Inc.  
Schaghticoke Tribal Nation  
Sheffield Land Trust  
Simon's Rock College  
Stantec  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trustees of Reservations  
Trout Unlimited  
Valley Council of Governments  
Webster Ingersoll

Massachusetts Cities and Towns:  
Dalton  
Great Barrington  
Hinsdale  
Lee  
Lenox  
Sheffield  
Pittsfield

Connecticut Cities and Towns:  
Beacon Falls  
Harwinton  
Kent  
New Fairfield  
New Milford  
Newtown  
Southbury

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