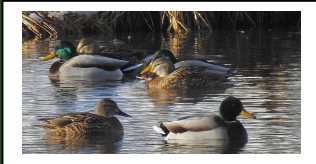




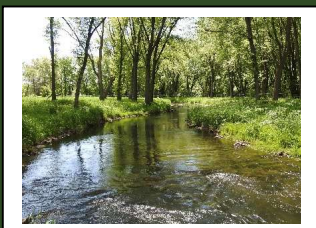
KinniKeeper

A Publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust



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Happy 30th KRLT Anniversary!

As we move into our 30th year, the KRLT has a great deal to celebrate. The KRLT has protected close to 3000 acres in the watershed, most are in conservation easements with local landowners who have a commitment to seeing the Kinnickinnic River run cold, clear and free...forever. In addition, we have transferred over 700 acres to state and federal control for further protection of the river. We have protected 10 miles of streambank and operate four preserves in different areas along the perennial flowing section of the river. This work has all been made possible by a dedicated staff over the years, individual members, volunteers, corporate and foundation donors, government grants, citizens, communities, and a board of directors. We are a large and varied community that shares a love of the river and want to see it maintained. We have our successes, but our work continues!

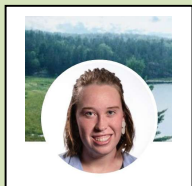
Short-term and long-term, we have a number of challenges in the watershed as we all work to preserve and protect the Kinni. Development pressure in the watershed is a constant undercurrent and we need to continue to be vocal advocates for protection of the river. Preserving land in its natural state is one of the best strategies for mediating with the impacts of climate change and creating a resilient environment. Restoration of sections of the riverway, especially the upper watershed, is also critical for our continued work. The KRLT is committed to the continued protection of the river in perpetuity. To do this, it takes this watershed community.



We appreciate the support that we have received over the years from all of you and look forward to your continued support as we move into our next 30 years!

The KRLT board wishes to acknowledge and thank Chris Bye for his service as a board member over the past six years. In this time Chris has been a tireless advocate for the river and the work of the KRLT. Chris is an expansive thinker and creative in his approach for fundraising ideas (some of you may recall The Charlie Berens event). We greatly appreciate his time and efforts and look forward to engagement as a community member.





Welcome Violet Penman!

Violet Penman was elected to the KRLT Board at the June 20, 2022, Board of Directors meeting. Violet, originally from River Falls, graduated in Conservation and Environmental Planning at the University of Wisconsin River Falls (UWRF) in 2021. Violet left River Falls at the age of 3 years old and grew up in Hudson, WI, but came back for her college education. She remembers feeding the ducks at the Kinni when she was a toddler. When she came back to River Falls, she fully realized the beauty of the Kinni River as well as it being a fantastic recreational town. She's kayaked the Kinni and has noted the wonderful biking and walking trails in the area. While completing her undergraduate degree she worked at the UWRF Sustainability Office as well. She discussed the student enthusiasm and the recent creation of the Green Team and Bee Club, in which both clubs will be assisting at KRLT's Kinni Guardian event early fall.

Violet recently became the Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator for the cities of Farmington, Hastings, and Rosemount. She works closely with Dakota County on working to reduce, reuse, recycle, and properly dispose of waste throughout these three communities. She is very impressed that the waste system at Dakota County tries to minimize landfilling as much as possible. Citizens can utilize items that others have discarded and Dakota County has workers and volunteers to repair equipment and even mend clothing for reuse!

The KRLT Board is very happy that she is very engaged in the Kinnickinnic River Watershed!

Spring & Summer Inspirations

Julie Smith, Executive Director, julie@kinniriver.org

I have been blessed to be provided this KRLT adventure and learning opportunity as executive director. This spring and summer, I have met many fantastic environmentally-oriented organizations and people! With the Staff and Board, I have been connecting to numerous groups, such as the School District on their School Forest, Kinni Corridor Collaborative and the dam removal efforts (congratulations to KCC on their plans and funding), Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Grow to Share, and UWRF's Sustainability Office to name a few. Community events have also been very successful this spring and summer, like Hope for Creations' Earth Fest and the Nibi Walk and Poetry Fundraiser led by River Urke, River Falls Poet of Place.

For KRLT to continue its conservation easement endeavors, the Board and I are looking for potential capital campaign options for our Land Stewardship program. Because our easements are in perpetuity, we need to ensure a financial future to continue to increase and care for the number of easements to protect the Kinni River. We need annual monitoring and conservation activities to ensure its health. Also, we have been pursuing project grant opportunities, one for ADA accessibility on Kelly Creek Preserve, and another to fund a liaison forest coordinator between The Community Forest and School District's School Forest activities. Lots to do!

Please help us through donations and volunteering!

May 17, 2022 Kelly Creek Burn

Photo credit: Mike Wurm



July 10, 2022 Kelly Creek Rebounds!

Photo credit: Mark Ritzinger



From Our Treasurer, Mark Ritzinger

The current state of KRLT finances is sound. We exceeded budget expectations for Kinni Guardians this last fiscal year. And we have adopted an updated strategic plan. KRLT has received three grants from local foundations and has outstanding applications for two others which help to underwrite the Trust's operating costs. We are working to continue to be an attractive recipient of such funds in a changing philanthropic environment.

Grant funds supplement but cannot replace the contributions of members. Each Kinni Guardian commits to an annual donation of \$1200. Despite the current state of the economy which has led to a drop in individual donations at KRLT as at many organizations across the US, the generosity of these donors has kept us on strong footing.

In order to best use these funds, we have refined our strategic plan to focus on climate change. Marty developed a five-year plan for managing, updating, and improving our four preserves to improve accessibility and usability at each preserve for all populations. For instance, we will work to make Kelly Creek trail ADA accessible all the way to the spring. To do this will require funding over and above our current resources. We are working hard to secure funds. But we depend on the generosity of our membership to turn this plan into reality. If you wish to sponsor improvements at a preserve, please contact us.

Our privately held, public lands, are our commitment to a healthy community!

INTERESTED IN A MEMORIAL BENCH OPTION?



<https://kinniriver.org/gifts-in-memory-or-tribute/>

From the Managers...

Molly Barritt, Donor and Community Relations Manager
molly@kinniriver.org

What a beautiful Midwest summer we have had! I hope that you have been able to get out and enjoy it. If you have recently visited The Community Forest or Headwaters Preserve, you may have seen some temporary signs added to the kiosks. These signs include our website and a QR code that provides information regarding the rules and regulations at these properties. We would like to thank the local printing company, Hub-70, for their generous donation of these signs. We have been busy in the office working on the final signs that will be placed there. These permanent signs will tell the unique story of each preserve and will include different plant, animal, and geological features you can look out for. Our goal is to have The Community Forest sign completed by the fall of this year and then start the work of telling the story of The Headwaters Preserve.

Another new addition to our nature preserves is the opportunity to purchase a memorial or tribute bench to celebrate a loved one. The style and location options were thoughtfully decided based on the ecological features of the preserves. We are offering a wood with metal frame style and a limestone option that complement the natural landscape. The benches will be a wonderful opportunity for visitors of the preserves to reflect, remember, and enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of these protected spaces. For more information, please visit the above QR Code or visit <https://kinniriver.org/gifts-in-memory-or-tribute/>.

Marty Engel, Land Stewardship Manager
marty@kinniriver.org

KRLT staff and the Conservation Committee has been busy developing a five-year operational plan for the KRLT's four preserves. The plans include an annual budget and a five-year capital budget for future development and habitat work. The annual plan includes monthly trail mowing and parking lot maintenance over the summer growing season. Habitat plans for the second quarter of 2022 included a prescribed burn of 40 acres on Kelly Creek which was successfully completed on May 16th through a contract with Habitat Creations, LLC. Funding was provided by grants from Tropical Wings and Star Prairie Fish and Game. Fire breaks were paid by KRLT donations (*see page 2*).

Trail repair and rerouting work was also completed on the Drewiske Preserve on June 8 using KRLT volunteers (*right*). Work included trail brushing, signing, erosion control, a minor trail re-route to prevent bank erosion and development of a scenic overlook near the river. The overlook will have a memorial bench placed later this year. KRLT staff also continue to work with the School District of River Falls to develop a trails and facilities plan. Currently, KRLT, the School District and City of River Falls are working on developing trail maps of the Community Forest, School Forest and River Hills Parkland to be placed on the three kiosks located at the entrances. In the area of Conservation Easements and Acquisition, three new Conservation Easements are under negotiation. The potential for success is high. In addition, the Land Trust is considering a land donation within the city limits of River Falls with the possibility of additional land purchases adjoining the donated property.



June 8 Drewiske Work Party

Board of Directors

Charlie Rader, President, River Falls, WI

David Gregg, Vice President, River Falls, WI

Mark Ritzinger, Treasurer, River Falls, WI

Deb Wulf, Secretary, Troy Township, WI

Holly Dolliver, River Falls, WI

Kevyn Juneau, River Falls, WI

Aleisha Miller, River Falls, WI

Violet Penman, Savage, MN

David Sienko, River Falls, WI



Earth Day Work Party, April 23, 2022

Thank you Chris!

Many thanks to Chris Bye for his six years of KRLT Board service. Chris was also the lead inspirer and coordinator of the successful Charlie Berens KRLT fundraising concert last year.

Save the Date!

Community Showing! A Mike Wurm Production - *Stories from the River* Sept. 10, 2022

KRLT - *Kinni Guardian Members' Event* (RSVP by 9/12) 5-8:30pm, Sept. 24, 2022

Land Trust Days - *Autumn Hike at the Community Forest* 6-8pm, Sept. 30, 2022

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

710 N. Main Street, Suite 205

River Falls, WI 54022

www.kinniriver.org

info@kinniriver.org

715.425.5738

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