

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ELLIOT BRINKMAN

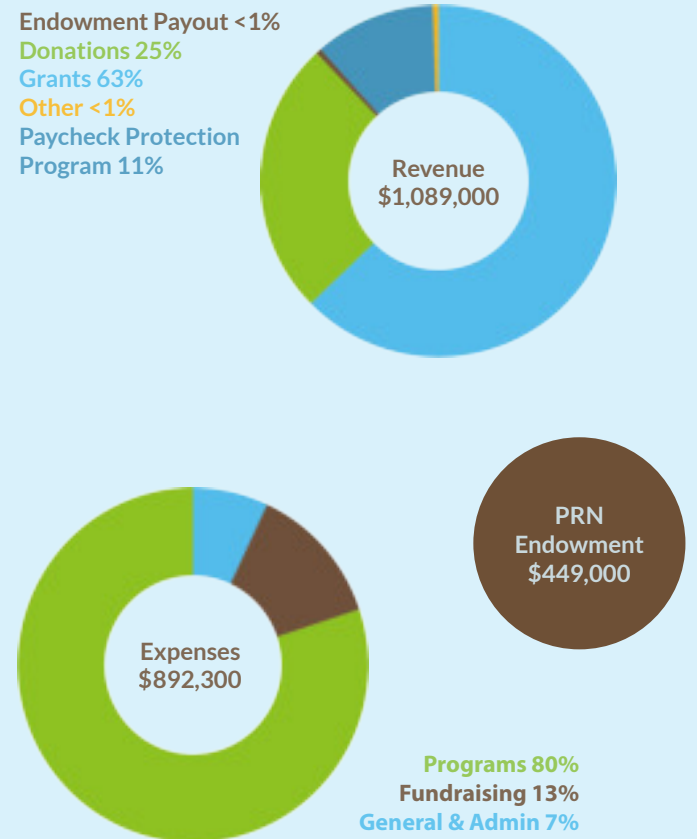
Unprecedented. The new normal. Uncertain times. These words came to describe a tumultuous 2020. The instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the reckoning of continued racial and environmental injustices across the country put into perspective the important work of Prairie Rivers Network. Despite the challenges we faced, we celebrated many accomplishments and strengthened our resolve to protect people, communities, and the environment.

During a time of great uncertainty, our staff did an amazing job adapting their work and carrying out effective programs remotely. We engaged communities across the state through increased online communication, staff videos, Zoom and Hangout meetings, and a virtual lobby day where over 1,000 people participated. We continued our efforts to protect the health of people and the environment through outreach and education, organizing, advocacy, and litigation.

The importance of our members has never been more apparent. We saw an outpouring of support throughout the year, with many of you sharing our message, responding to our action alerts, and supporting our work through generous financial contributions. Our members and major donors stepped up and donated big last year, bringing in an additional \$25,000 through two matching campaigns at the end of 2020. And thanks to many of you, our first-ever virtual Annual Dinner was also a huge success!

Thanks to our network, I have confidence we will come out of this pandemic stronger than ever and able to face the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. In 2021, you can expect more good things to come from our staff and board, as well as our committed network of members, supporters, and partners. As long as we have the support of caring, dedicated members like you, we will continue to have a positive impact on the health of our communities and our environment.

2020 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



This financial snapshot shows our 2020 operating revenue and expenses plus the current value of our endowment at the end of 2020. Our financial statements are audited each year by an independent certified accountant and are available along with our Federal 990 at prairierivers.org.

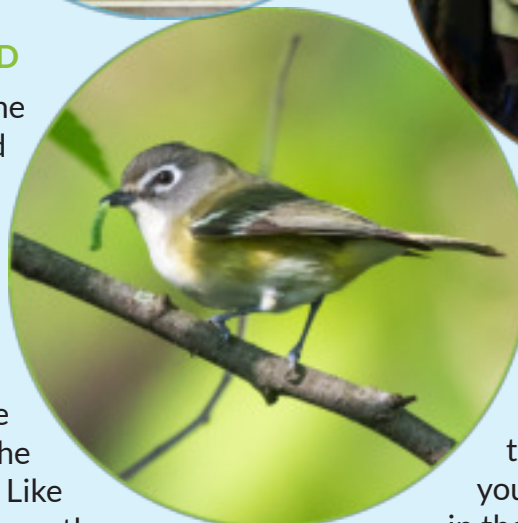
YOU MADE PRN A SUCCESS

Each year, we report our accomplishments. For 2020, we'll show how you had an impact on how PRN protects water, heals land, and inspires change!



YOU KEPT US INFORMED

In 2020, PRN issued the 2018-2019 Tree and Plant Health Monitoring Report, a result of hundreds of hours of work by PRN members and volunteers Marty Kemper, Lou Nelms, and Seth Swoboda. They are just one example of the "network" that is PRN. Like them, you have your finger on the pulse of the environment where you live. You tell us when a polluter is dumping into a river, or when a special place is threatened. You are part of a statewide network that works for and with you!



YOU TOOK ACTION AND MADE A HUGE IMPACT

In 2020, PRN members from across the state took action to protect water. You wrote letters to protect the Mississippi River, American Rivers' #1 Most Endangered River for 2020. You wrote in support of science on the Upper Mississippi River. And you signed our petitions for strong coal ash rules, to stop fossil fuel bailouts, and to oppose stripping the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), one of our nation's bedrock and signature environmental laws. You took action when action was needed most. Thank you!



YOU INSPIRED US

In early March, over 700 advocates descended on Springfield for Lobby Day. COVID-19 disrupted November's return to the Capitol, but it didn't stop you from making your voices heard. Over 1,000 people participated in the virtual Lobby Day and virtual rally. That is an amazing turnout! Thanks for inspiring us in 2020!



PROTECT WATER.
HEAL LAND.
INSPIRE CHANGE.



2020 KEPT US APART, BUT YOU KEPT US GOING!



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GOALS FOR 2021

We have a lot in store for this year. Here are some of the many important goals we look to accomplish in 2021. Your help and support are vital to making these happen!

- Pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA)
- Implement finalized coal ash rules and advocate for proper cleanup at coal ash sites throughout Illinois
- Increase solar participation by low income households throughout the state
- Complete the second round of shallow rural well surveys
- Expand our herbicide monitoring program to reach more areas of Illinois
- Put community and environmental health at the forefront of floodplain management
- Expand the ReGenerate Illinois Network for a fair, just, and equitable food system
- Ensure the Illinois State Water Plan protects water resources, prioritizes human health, and holds polluters accountable
- Continue to highlight engaging and informative conversations through our podcast *Stories from the Floodplain*

PRN MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Thank you for being a member of Prairie Rivers Network. With your donations and support, we were able to accomplish so much in 2020. We look forward to working with you in 2021 to continue our efforts to protect the people and environment of Illinois.

Headwaters Circle	River Champions	River Protectors	River Stewards	River Guardians	River Defenders	Members
\$5,000+	\$2,500-\$4,999	\$1,000-\$2,499	\$500-\$999	\$250-\$499	\$100-\$249	\$1-\$99