

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ELLIOT BRINKMAN

It is truly an honor to bring you the 2021 Prairie Rivers Network Annual Report. As we reflect on yet another remarkable year, there is so much to celebrate and be grateful for. In an uncertain and ever-changing world, we have continued to be successful in carrying out our mission to protect water, heal land, and inspire change.

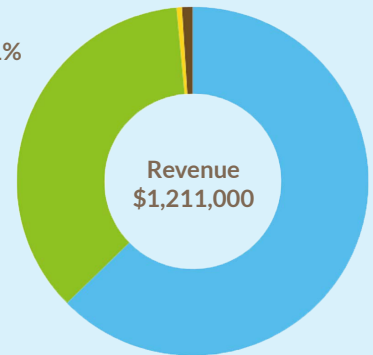
We celebrated many accomplishments and victories last year, many of which were the culmination of years of hard work and persistence. We also received overwhelming support from our network of partners, members, and donors, ensuring our continued financial strength and sustainability.

We are working on some of the most important and pressing issues of our time, from addressing the unfolding climate crisis to protecting our communities from the threat of pollution. Our skilled and dedicated staff show up every day, organizing the grassroots, leading and convening effective partnerships, and helping craft and carry out policy solutions that lead to systemic change. Thanks to their resolve, we accomplished big things like passing some of the most comprehensive and equitable climate legislation in the nation and permanently protecting our state's only National Scenic River from the threat of toxic coal ash pollution.

I hope in reading this report you recognize your vital role in the strength and success of Prairie Rivers Network. Together, we are having a real and measurable impact protecting our rivers and creating lasting change for the health of our environment and our communities. Thank you for being a member of Prairie Rivers Network.

2021 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Endowment Payout 1%
Donations* 36%
Grants 63%
Other <1%



Revenue
\$1,211,000



Expenses
\$914,600



Programs 81%
Fundraising 12%
General & Admin 7%

*A bequest gift of \$150,000 from a long-time PRN member was received at the end of 2021.

Our financial statements are audited each year by an independent certified accountant and are available along with our Federal 990 at prairierivers.org.

THE BIG WINS OF 2021

2021 saw amazing successes that were decades in the making. You helped achieve these big wins through the actions you took, the calls you made, the letters you wrote, and the donations you gave in support of our work.

HELPING PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES THROUGH CEJA

Your support of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) helped Illinois pass the most equitable climate bill in the nation. How will it really impact people's lives?



For over a century, the boom and bust economy of fossil fuels has left communities and workers behind. Loss of tax revenue from coal plant closures has devastated school districts and public services in Illinois communities. CEJA will invest millions in the communities hardest hit by the transition away from fossil fuels. Some coal plant sites will be redeveloped into solar farms and energy storage projects, and these projects can provide good paying jobs to those hurt by plant closures and bring much needed revenue to struggling communities.

YOU helped make this happen by being a part of PRN. This is just one example of how PRN members like you are making real progress towards confronting climate change and helping people.

PROTECTING THE WATERS & WILDLIFE OF THE MIDDLE FORK RIVER

Your membership in PRN tells us that you love rivers as much as we do. The Middle Fork of the Vermilion is one of our favorites. It is a unique and cherished place. The river is the first and only National Scenic River in Illinois, a place where families go to explore nature firsthand and where wildlife thrives.

Whether you are new to the fight to protect the Middle Fork from coal ash or you have been with us from the beginning, 2021 saw a momentous victory when Dynegy/Vistra agreed to move the coal ash out of the river's floodplain. This is a giant win for the river and the people who love it! This took years of tireless efforts of PRN staff and our partners. It also would not have happened without you, our members, who wrote letters, attended hearings, traveled to Springfield to talk to legislators, and supported us financially. THANK YOU!



REDUCING THE POLLUTION DRAINING OFF ILLINOIS FARMLAND

You may not be physically in the fields planting cover crops to reduce pollution runoff and protect the rich soil of Illinois, but your support still made that happen. Agricultural runoff is one of the biggest contributors to water pollution, running downstream to impact our neighbors and wildlife who depend on clean water.

But the advocacy power of our membership and statewide network showed through in 2021 when Partners for Conservation funding was included in the 2021 Illinois budget, increasing funding for cover crop programs! Grassroots advocacy works! This is the first time Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy will have dedicated state funding. So the next time you are driving by farmland and see cover crops in the field, you can smile a little bigger knowing that YOU helped make that happen.



PROTECT WATER.
HEAL LAND.
INSPIRE CHANGE.



CAN YOU FIND THE WORDS?

Take a break from reflecting on 2021 and enjoy this challenging word search, brought to you by the staff at PRN!

- Prairie
- Healthy Soils
- Rivers
- Illinois
- Network
- Monarchs
- Allerton
- Nature
- Clean Energy
- Sangamon
- Clean Water
- Solar
- Climate Change
- Wildlife

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PRN IN 2021!

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, hybrid work schedules, and protecting our rivers and wildlife, the PRN family looks forward to seeing our members in 2022!

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N	A	H	E	I	R	U	M	O	T	R	O	N	E	A	R	C	H	S	W
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N	L	E	S	E	K	L	I	R	I	R	I	R	I	R	I	R	I	R	P

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2022

Celebrating Prairie Rivers Network's 55th Anniversary with more great things planned for 2022! Here's what you can look forward to this year:

- Ensure the Illinois State Water Plan protects water resources, prioritizes human health, and holds polluters accountable.
- Support bills like the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative to bring restoration funds to communities in the Mississippi River basin.
- Expand our herbicide drift monitoring to include more priority habitat areas, in order to better protect them.
- Broaden and grow the ReGenerate Illinois and IDEA Farm Networks to create a fair, just, and equitable food system.
- Ensure communities benefit from Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) policies.
- Remove barriers that keep small, emerging, and BIPOC businesses from operating in Illinois' solar development market.
- Raise awareness of nitrate pollution through our nitrate well testing project in Pembroke.
- Ensure more families have solar on their homes, particularly in low income and environmental justice communities.
- Continue to inspire change through engaging and informative conversations in our *Stories from the Floodplain* podcast.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER!

All we accomplished in 2021 is thanks to the continued support, actions, and donations from you, our members. We could not do it without you! Thank you for being a member of Prairie Rivers Network, and we cannot wait to work with you in 2022 as we protect water, heal land, and inspire change across Illinois.



Headwaters Circle
\$5,000+



River Champions
\$2,500-\$4,999



River Protectors
\$1,000-\$2,499



River Stewards
\$500-\$999



River Guardians
\$250-\$499



River Defenders
\$100-\$249



Members
\$1-\$99