

Summer 2021

Eno River Currents





Photo by Madeline Fowler and Felipe Vargas

SUMMER 2021

AN UPDATE FROM ENO'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking a few moments to read this edition of Eno River Currents; to celebrate with us our accomplishments of the past 17 or so months. This year has been flying by, so our newsletter is coming out a little later than usual and is doing double duty: the enclosed 2020 Annual Report reflects all we were able to accomplish during the pandemic, while other articles highlight those areas where we have already exceeded our expectations for outreach and conservation in 2021.



What a SUMMER we have had! We have put away the Festival Big Top tent, wrapped up our third and final week of summer camp, honored outgoing Resilience Corps NC AmeriCorps staff member Antonia Brown, gone under contract on 110 acres to add to Eno River State Park, initiated the transfer of 8 acres to add to West Point on the Eno Durham City Park, and are underway on a 70-acre conservation easement in Orange County on the historic Moorefields property. That's not to mention our winter and spring successes: over 200 of you joined us for Bing-ENO, our winter & spring hike series served 112 individuals, and our new hiker series served more than two dozen folks new to the Eno!

I hope you were one of the approximately 8,500 guests at our Festival for the Eno this July 3 & 4th. It was truly a beautiful and heartwarming sight to see you skip into the park, hug your friends, sip lemonade, splash in the Eno, and dance to the variety of musical performers. Putting on the Festival with just two months' notice was a grand reminder of what the Eno community can do because of YOU. Your support through giving, volunteering, and championing the Eno means the world to us. We couldn't have pulled off the 2021 Festival without you; we couldn't have gotten through 2020 without you. And now we look forward to many more years together with you. Onward!

Warmly,

Jessica L. Sheffield, Executive Director

Our mission is to conserve and protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Eno River basin.

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Cover photo by Kenneth Pugh

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS



Hello Fellow Eno River Lovers!

I am honored to have been elected to the Eno River Association Board in January of 2021 and I look forward to serving this organization and its community.

My relationship with the Eno River started during my very first trip, as a prospective graduate student, to Durham. A group hike at Few's Ford introduced me to this wonderful resource for learning, exploration, and recreation. I enrolled in the Biology program at Duke and haven't strayed far from the Eno since that interview visit!

My family and I love spending cool mornings hiking the Cox Mountain Trail or walking the Confluence site, and hot afternoons "swimming" (really, wading) with our dogs in the river. The Eno provided much of the comfort and solace I sought during 2020 and 2021; I'm sure I'm not alone on this one.

I joined the Eno River Association because I wanted to participate meaningfully in the critical conversations on land use and environmental justice with our many communities – I hope you will join me and my fellow members in this endeavor.

Thanks,



It is an honor and a pleasure to have joined the Eno River Association Board. As a former Durham County Commissioner and long-time member of the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, I have worked actively with the Association over the past 3 decades.

When my family moved to Durham in 1980, we bought a home in a subdivision that had direct access to the Eno. My husband and I could lace up our hiking boots, put our one-year-old in a carrier and get to the trail along the Eno a few minutes from our home.

As a result, we have been members of the Association for about 40 years and have attended many meetings and special gatherings, including the annual meetings, New Year's hikes, and the calendar parties. I had the special pleasure of working with Margaret Nygard to implement her vision for a Durham County Matching Grants Program to provide funding for non-profits that preserve open space or enhance recreation opportunities in Durham County.

I currently serve on the Eno Finance, Land Use and Advocacy, and Strategic Planning committees.

“Volunteers make the Eno Festival happen, and we need lots of them to support Festival guests as they listen to music, buy t-shirts, renew memberships, bid on auction items, and have FUN! Volunteers were wonderful in welcoming folks, serving in their assigned roles and being advocates -- using their voices in favor of the Eno River Association.”

-- Sarah Woodard, Board Member



By Kat Occhipinti,
Volunteer Coordinator for
EnoFest 2021

One of the first things Greg Bell said to me was, "We couldn't do this without our volunteers." At the time I had NO idea of the magnitude of that statement. When I got a look at the volunteer portal (with its word salad of 61 job descriptions, 350 shifts, and 670 spots), I wondered what I had gotten myself into.

Spanning from June 26 through July 6, 470 individual people contributed their time and energy to make the Festival for the Eno happen. From erecting the Big Top to selling drinks and t-shirts to manning the ticket booths to cleaning up the trash, volunteers worked over 2000 hours. Add in the behind-the-scenes volunteers (committee members, site personnel, money

handlers) who worked for months before and after the event, and we had over 500 volunteers touching every aspect of the Festival. We could not do this without our volunteers.

But the numbers aren't a true representation of the benefits we get from volunteers. Our volunteers recruit their successors. They recruit friends and family. They train first-time

volunteers. They train first-time staff! They propose and implement new ideas. They manage the stages. They chronicle the Festival. They talk about the Eno. They ease the burden on staff. They get us from 61 jobs, 350 shifts, 470 individuals, 670 spots, and 2000 hours to a Festival. And they come back, year after year after year. We could NOT do this without our volunteers.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

In 1972 the Eno River Association formed an alliance with the Nature Conservancy and presented to the North Carolina Board of Conservation and Development their case for preserving the Eno River. As a result, the Board of the Nature Conservancy and its State Parks Committee endorsed acquiring property along the river for a state park. Through a cooperative effort between the City of Durham, Orange County, the State of North Carolina, the Nature Conservancy, and the Eno River Association, on June 15, 1973, Governor James Holshouser welcomed the Eno River State Park into the NC State Parks system. The Association's relationship with Eno River State Park has continued since that historical accomplishment. The Association's efforts over the years have grown Eno River State Park into a 4,500-acre public amenity through numerous land protection projects.

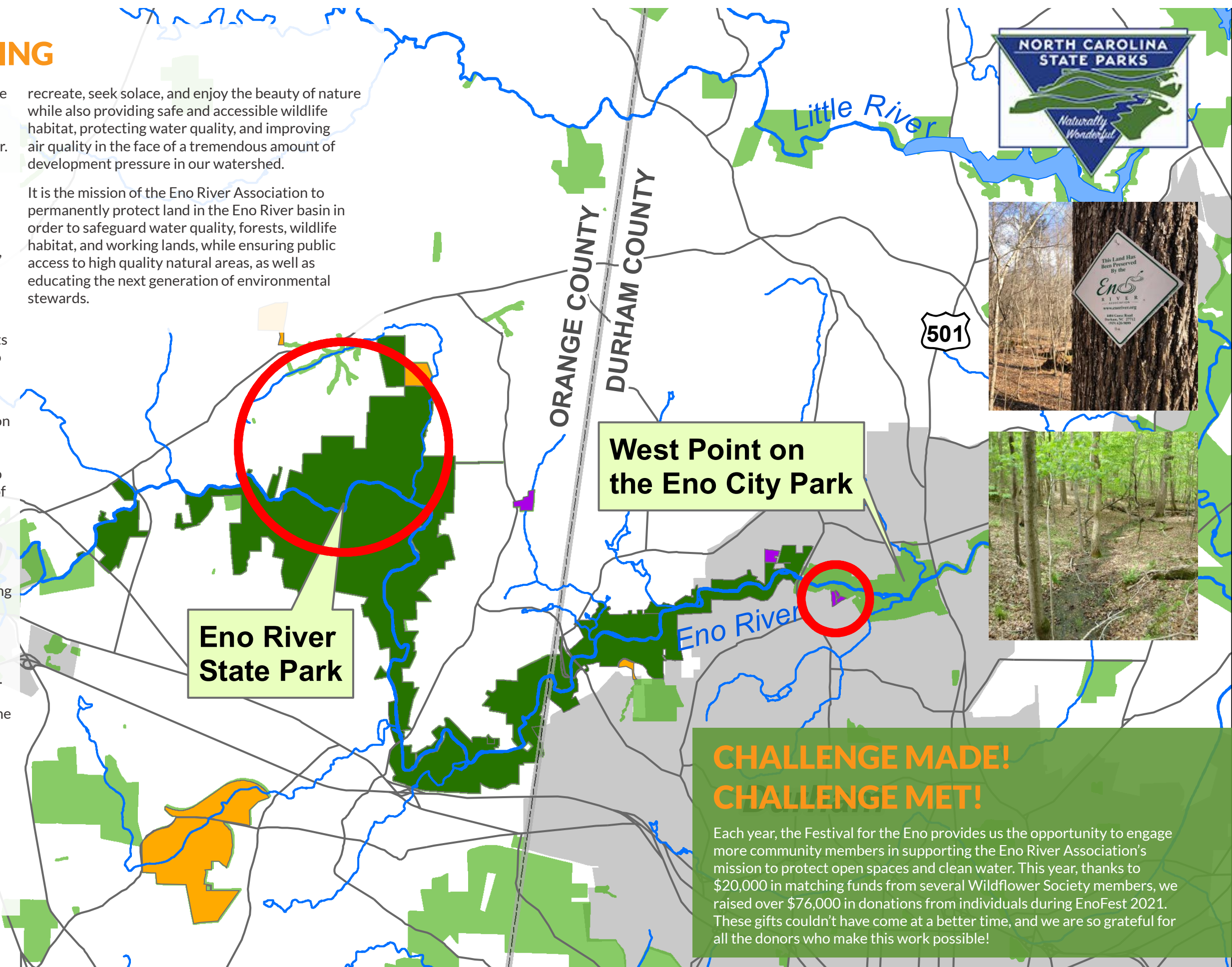
The Association was also instrumental in the creation of another public park: the City of Durham's West Point on the Eno, which has preserved natural and cultural features along a two-mile stretch of the Eno River adjacent to Eno River State Park. In fact, one of the first parcels the Association helped protect was for West Point on the Eno City Park.

To address the recent growth in the use and enjoyment of our natural spaces, the Eno River Association is thrilled to announce that we are adding 110 acres to Eno River State Park and 8 acres to West Point on the Eno! The 110 acres being added to Eno River State Park will expand the northernmost extent of the park and provide protection to over 4,500 linear feet of tributaries of the Eno River. This land is a priority acquisition in the State Park's Master Plan and thus represents a top priority for the Association. Similarly, the Association is donating 8 acres of land located off Landis Drive to the City of Durham for inclusion into West Point on the Eno.

The addition of nearly 120 acres to these parks comes on the heels of record-setting crowds in our parks and natural areas. 2020 demonstrated that accessible outdoor spaces are vital to the physical and mental health of our community. The growth of these parks will allow more space for visitors to

recreate, seek solace, and enjoy the beauty of nature while also providing safe and accessible wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, and improving air quality in the face of a tremendous amount of development pressure in our watershed.

It is the mission of the Eno River Association to permanently protect land in the Eno River basin in order to safeguard water quality, forests, wildlife habitat, and working lands, while ensuring public access to high quality natural areas, as well as educating the next generation of environmental stewards.



West Point on the Eno City Park

Eno River State Park

**CHALLENGE MADE!
CHALLENGE MET!**

Each year, the Festival for the Eno provides us the opportunity to engage more community members in supporting the Eno River Association's mission to protect open spaces and clean water. This year, thanks to \$20,000 in matching funds from several Wildflower Society members, we raised over \$76,000 in donations from individuals during EnoFest 2021. These gifts couldn't have come at a better time, and we are so grateful for all the donors who make this work possible!

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF 2020

2020 WAS FULL OF HIGHS AND LOWS, BUT THE ENO AND OUR WORK FLOWED ON!



HIGHLIGHTS

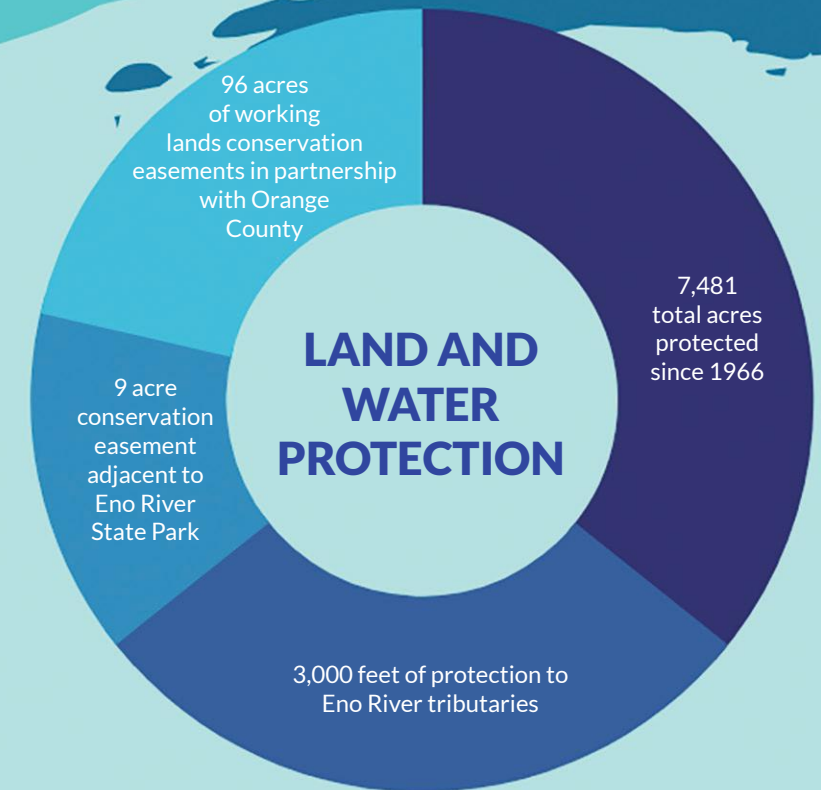
- Helped support Eno River State Park & West Point on the Eno with traffic and parking volunteers during peak visitation times
- \$2.36 million dollar gift established the Roberta & Herman Brown Land Preservation Fund
- Record new donors giving to support the Eno
- Launched an online store in April, selling more than \$30,000 of unique Eno items!



ONE ENO

Broadcast streamed live from the Carolina Theatre on July 3, 2020

- Hosted by Joe Newberry, a musician well-known to Eno audiences and a frequent guest on NPR's Prairie Home Companion
- Our Festival website featured local crafts resources: artists, galleries, demonstrations, and classes which were highlighted via the broadcast
- 8,500 views on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitch



PARK VISITATION SKYROCKETED

1,087,863+ visitors

to Eno River and Occoneechee Mountain, plus more who used neighborhood accesses

129,000 guests

May & July 2020 State Park visitation was highest on record with over 129,000 guests

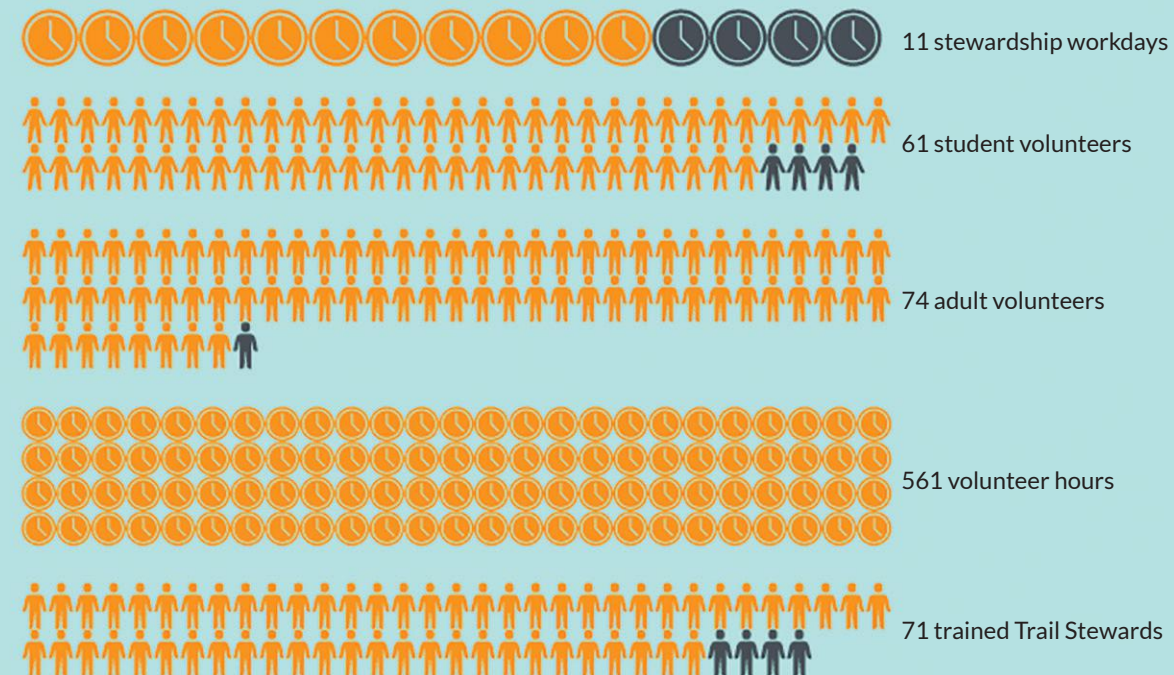
3rd out of 41

NC State Parks for 2020 for visitation!

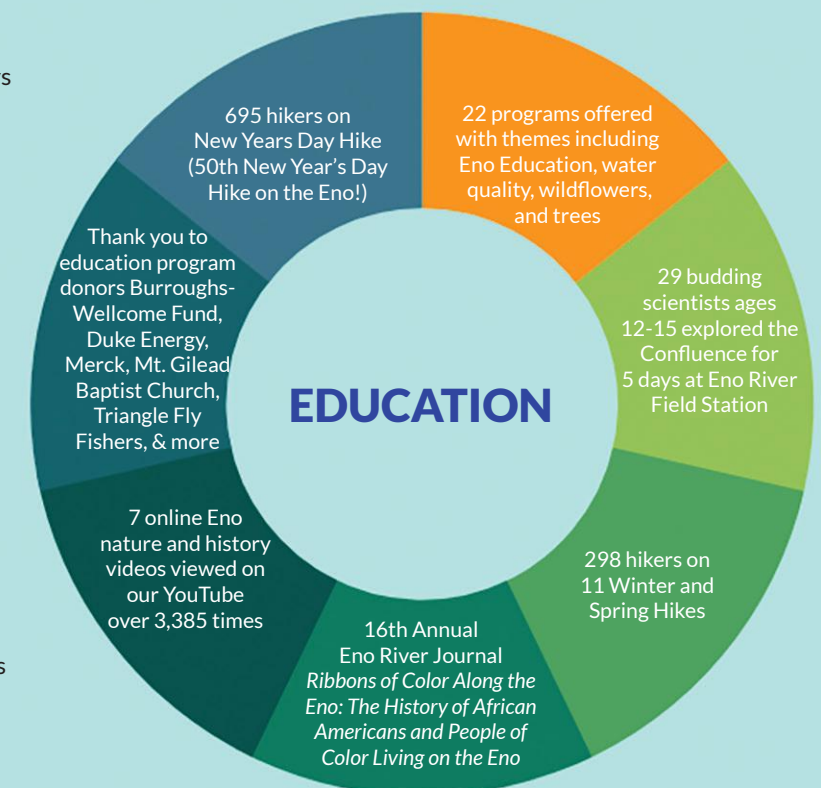
Many-fold

increased visitation at other parks & natural areas along the Eno

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LANDS



Due to Covid-19, stewardship workdays were canceled for most of the year. Opened the Confluence Natural Area 7-days a week from dawn until dusk!





42ND FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO!



Over **470** volunteers contributed more than **2,000** hours!



Over **97%** of Festival waste was recycled or composted.



More than **1,750** tee shirts printed and sold!



First major in-person event to return to the triangle!



\$85,000 dollars raised for land protection along the Eno!



2021 CAMPS

After making the difficult decision to cancel iWalk the Eno Science and Nature Camp in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were ecstatic to be able to offer it once again this June. Following guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS, we limited capacity, required masks and social distancing, and increased hand washing and disinfection of surfaces between activities. Despite the challenges posed, we held a successful two weeks of nature exploration and fun with 80 campers at Eno River State Park and West Point on the Eno City Park. Our NC certified teachers and student mentors facilitated a variety of fun and educational activities along the river. Favorite activities this year included designing and building mini beaver dam replicas, cane pole fishing with Durham Parks and Recreation staff, and a stewardship project with the State Park Rangers.

In mid-July of this year, we spent a week at the Confluence Natural Area in Hillsborough with a group of 30 high school students at Eno River Field Station. This program invites students who have a passion for the sciences and may be considering a career in a STEM-related field for a week of field study and research with career professionals. Our NC certified teacher group leaders and guest educators from local organizations, including NC State Parks, Duke University, and NC Wildlife Resources Commission, led the groups in field study projects throughout the Confluence Natural Area. Favorite subjects this year included hummingbird banding, herpetology, fish surveys, and bat banding.

AMERICORPS UPDATES

On July 31st, we said goodbye to our Resilience Corps NC AmeriCorps member, Antonia Brown. Antonia served as an Environmental Educator for the Association and joined us in September 2020, a challenging time to begin a new position. She jumped right in though, assisting with facilitation of virtual programs, filming and presenting various Eno YouTube educational videos, and becoming an integral member of our Environmental Justice, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee.

Antonia was the first of three AmeriCorps members the Eno River Association will have as a part of the team over the next three years. She has helped lay the groundwork for our future Members who will be tasked with increasing our capacity to reach our underserved communities within and nearby the Eno River watershed. She will be missed greatly! We look forward to introducing you to our incoming AmeriCorps Environmental Educator Audrey Vaughn!

EXPANDING UPON SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

As summer comes to a close, we are looking forward to the cooler months and the education and outreach opportunities they present. This summer we were awarded a \$48,000 grant from the City of Durham through the Participatory Budget Cycle 2. Durham city residents had the opportunity to vote on their favorite grant proposals for up to \$50,000 in funding. Out of 60 applicants, proposals were narrowed down to 31 and voted on during the month of June. The Eno River Association is among those who won the vote and were awarded funding through this program. This funding will help us to increase our outreach to local public schools, particularly Title One Schools, who were among those most affected by the pandemic. Our aim is to lower barriers that dissuade schools from participating in field trips and other educational opportunities in the community. We will be inviting public schools in Durham to learn about and explore the Eno River through field trips and other educational opportunities at little to no cost to them.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

You make protecting the land, water, wildlife, and history in Durham & Orange counties feasible. Each and every gift we receive is vital to making our work possible. The following lists highlight our Wildflower Society members, funding partners, and special honorary & memorial gifts. We make every attempt to ensure accuracy when acknowledging donors and appreciate you notifying us of any errors at development@enoriver.org.

Wildflower Society

Members of our Wildflower Society have made a special commitment to the Eno River Association with their annual contribution of \$500 or more between July 2020 and June 2021.

BLAZING STAR - \$5,000 & ABOVE

Anonymous (3)
Carol & Bill Charping
Lonna & Richard Harkrader
Rosemary & George Kolasa
David & Olivia Singleton
Clare & Richard Weinberg
The Wilson Family: Chuck & Jean Wilson, Charlie Wilson
The Wilkinson Family: Charles T. & Kathie Wilkinson, Aaron & Mandy Wilkinson, Andrew & Hilary Wilkinson, Jennifer & Lance Rogers

LADY'S SLIPPER - \$2,500 & ABOVE

Anonymous
Donna Baird
Andrew Balber & Frances Kerr
Ann Louise Barrick & Joyce Elaine McNeill
Lynn Bowlby & Neal Ready
Brenda Brodie
James Brosnan
David & Carol Bunnel
Virginia A. Gilbert
Richard Low & Anne Almond
Mary Love May & Paul Gabrielson
Linda & Stuart Paynter

CRESTED IRIS - \$1,000 & ABOVE

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Lucy Wilson & Chris Richmond

TRILLIUM - \$500 & ABOVE

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Thomas & Susan Carson
Rachel Caspar
Jeanne & Bob Chamberlin
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Christina Chia & Gary Ashwill
Sara & Rush Childs
Tom Cole

Catherine Cole
Sandra Cook & Chuck Darsie
Dave & Sheila Cook
Amanda De Hoedt
Donna L. Deal
Margaret Donnelly
Katie Eimers & Sam Berger
Anne Christine Emler
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Karen Fieselman
Dale & John Fluke
Larry & Harriette Frank
Mike & Ruth Freeman
Susan Garrity
Jane Gledhill
Gita & Edd Gulati-Partee
Amy Laura Hall
Maggi & Ron Hall
Lynn & David Harrington
Albert & Elizabeth Harris
Margaret Heraty & David Roswell
Duncan Heron
Emily K. Hill
Sarah & Jonathan Hodges
Benjamin & Nancy Hollifield
Joyce Hopkins
Elvira & Tom Howard
Sally & Rob Jackson
Peter & Sandra Jacobi
Robin & Barry Jacobs
Helen Kalevas & Todd Dickinson
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Harriet & Michael Lakin
Joe & Judy Liles
Charles Lohr
Croft Long
Virginia Lovvorn
Laura Lunsford
Chris & Anna Lynch
Jennifer D. Maher
John Manuel & Cathy Murphy
Janis McFarland & Richard McLaughlin
Hervey & Jane McIver
Lisa McQuay & Chris Eubank
Deborah Moehring
Don Moffitt & Sidney Cruze
Jonas & Maggie Monast
David Montgomery
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Allison Rosenberg & Logan Everett
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Janis McFarland & Richard McLaughlin
Hervey & Jane McIver
Lisa McQuay & Chris Eubank
Deborah Moehring
Don Moffitt & Sidney Cruze
Jonas & Maggie Monast
David Montgomery
Pamela Morse
Morgan & Michael Moylan
Amy & Kerry Mullenix
Todd & Kathleen Nance
Thomas Narten & Susan Rodger
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Gene & Sara O'Neill
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Emily & James Pearce
John Petranka & Sally Gewalt

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ABB Foundation
Adele & Willard Gidwitz Family Foundation
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The BIN Charitable Foundation
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Broadcom
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Microsoft
Mt. Gilead Baptist Church
Murphy's Naturals
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NC Solar Now
North Coast Brewing Company
PHE, Inc
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Rotary Club of Durham
The Silver Foundation
Snap Pea Catering
Southern Energy Management
State of North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Topsail Technologies
Triangle Community Foundation
Triangle Fly Fishers
United Way of the Triangle
Vaguely Reminiscent
Zarazua Painting Company

Special Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

Donations given since July 2020.

Faila Allen
From Anne Atwell
Kathi Beratan
From Naomi Miller
Larry Burke
From Tobin Freid & Scott Schwartz
Wallace Burke
From Marie Burke & Sara Corriher
Hazel Cash
From Cathy Cozart
Kevin Cook
From J & Gail Cook
Gary Cutick
From Peter & Roslyn Fanello
Linda Davis
From Charlie Dill
Daniel Deter
From Gretchen Wolf
William Taylor Dickerson
From Norman & LaRue Davenport, William K. Davis, Lillie Jones, Melinda Killenberg, Dale Koethe, Nancy Lau, Fran Parker, Sylvia Pearce, & Karen Webbink

Carolyn Donald
From Julie Tuttle
Emma, the best dog ever, who loved the Eno
From Melissa McCullough
The Eno River Indian Tribes
From Jason Tickle
Ray Eurquhard
From Mark Schulz
Una Evans
From Gary Evans
Kermit Gilbert
From Virginia A. Gilbert
Casey & Shady Gilmore
From Caroline Gilmore
Ginger
From Robb Levinsky
Geoffrey Gledhill
From Jane Gledhill
Gertrude V. Henderson
From David Henderson & Nancy Scott
Norman & Ronnie Guttman
From Majorie Guttman
Penny Hall
From Maggi & Ron Hall
Sallie Ray Harris
From Teresa Moore
Becky Heron
From Carol Anderson, Duncan Heron, Jane & Phil Korest
Laura Herrmann
From Jessica Herrmann
Silvia Heyden
From Kenny Dalsheimer & Marybeth Dugan
Kinchen Holloway
From David S. Holloway
Sarah Moore & Kate Howard
From Cathy Chandler & Nancy Blood
Wes Horner
From Katherine Hyde
Jake
From Elaine Martell & Richard Wilkinson
Dongyun Ke
From Charles Lohr
Tom Kelleher
From Michelle Kelleher
Deborah Kindschi
From Will Murphy
Mary Ann Koon
From Janet Cromer
Allen Lloyd
From Chip & Melanie Liner
Dr. Caroline Becker Long
From Croft Long
Vic Lucas
From Karen Verhaeghe
Judy Martell
From Lynn A. Maguire
Moonpie
From Molly Wofford
Scott Nunnally
From Debbie Absher
Margaret Nygard
From Patricia S. Dickson, Cornell Johnson, Trish Kohler, Kerstin Nygard, John & Terry Wall
Wendy Olson
From Ellen McRae
Edward Panek
From Mary Panek
Lois J Pearson
From Phillip Goodling
Jessica Pitner
From Bruce Pitner
George & Mary Pyne
From Milo Pyne

Gerhard Richter
From Shannon Brown & Stephen Brown
John & Mary Scarlett for Ribbons Of Color
From Yolanda Scarlett
Florence Shackelford
From Elizabeth McCarthy
David Southern
From Michele Hodgson
Jonathan Steere
From Peter & Susan Steere
Phyllis Steven
From Bob Warren & Karen Fisher
Rob Witt
From Mary Ann Witt
Dr. Woodhall "Sandy" Stopford
From Thomas Augspurger
Greg Taylor
From Carol Taylor
Jane Mary Umstead
From Beth Ashton, Joan Curry, Laura Lunsford, Dennis & Janice Nicholson, Jo Anna Walker, & Cynthia Walker
From Edith King Yoder
From Ashley Montague & William Yoder

IN HONOR OF

Donations given since November 2020.

John and Aminda Baird
From Kenny Dalsheimer
Beavers
From Rob Dewoskin
Greg Bell
From Lucy & Niklaus Steiner
Lori Berstein
From Jeremy Merrill
Lanier Blum
From Stephen Jaffe & Mindy Oshrain
Lucky Buhrmann
From John K. Buhrmann
Betsy Chapman
From Chips Chapman
Julia Gartrell & Bec Conrad
From Ellen G. McGeorge
Dave & Sheila Cook
From Jo Anna Walker & Nancy S. Gustavson
Dave Cook
From Carol Ann McCormick & Mark Peifer
Dayna and Abby, two amazing educators
From Sally Wood
JD, Malia, Fifer, & Felix Dove
From William Dove
All ERA Staff and Friends
From Sarah Bickley
Jen and Hal
From Marjorie Raley & Anthony Treston
Jason Hallman
From Susan Hallman
Benson David Harrington
From Lynn & David Harrington
Adam Dovenitz
From Leslie Norber
Claire Ellington
From Richard & Alice Ellington
Sarah Ellington
From Richard & Alice Ellington
The Fiori Hill Neighborhood
From Kate Kryder
Dorothea Gardens
From Jessica Tisdale
Virginia Gilbert
From Ann & Donald Sweeney
Mel Gilles
From Christine Cody

Duncan Heron & Fran Thompson
From Erik Daubert & Andrea Miele
Emily Hill
From Margaret Cochran, Susan Garrity, Martha Shepherd, Snap Pea Catering, & Marlon Torres
In Honor of The Eno!
From Karen Gantt & Bob Warren
Sue Jarrell & Sherry Kinlaw
From Martha Jarrell
June the Wonderdog and Chris
From Holly Leddy
Jared Kirkpatrick
From Ruth Pershing
Jane Korest
From Ellen & Ken Reckhow
Joyce Kurpiers
From Stephen Crum
Leslie and Adam
From August Conlin
Joe Liles
From John & Laura Campbell
Alexa Mckerrow & Milo Pyne
From Jill Staton Bullard
Don Moffitt
From Charlene Reiss
Mountains to Sea Sect 9 & 10 Trail
Crew Leaders Fred Dietrich & Bill Boyarski
From Lucy Piner & Beverly Bell
Barbara Pringle
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Nick Tansey
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Julie Thomson
From Jenny Leaf
Travis Wardell
From Katie Heineman
Hope Wilder
From Kathryn Fritz
Essential Workers
From Diana Neunkirchner

Named Funds & Endowments

The following funds have been named to honor those who have generously contributed to the Eno River Association

Allen Lloyd Fund for the Upper Eno
The Confluence Fund
Conservation Land Stewardship Endowment Fund
Festival for the Eno
Margaret C. Nygard Land Acquisition Fund
Roberta & Herman Brown Land Preservation Fund



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Upcoming Events

Eno River Association Stewardship Workday

September 11th 9AM-12PM.
Blue Indigo Properties near Penny's Bend
Contact tom@enoriver.org
for more information and to RSVP.

Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail Stewardship Workday

September 18th 9AM-3PM.
Eno River State Park, Laurel Bluffs Trail.
For more information and to RSVP
e-mail fred.dietrich@duke.edu.

Stream-In!

Family friendly Eno
environmental education
September 18th, 1pm-4pm at
Fews Ford Eno River State Park.
Pre registration required. Space is limited.

GivingTuesday

November 3rd
www.enoriver.org/donate

Membership Sale!

Monday, November 29th -
Sunday, December 5th

Eno River Association Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, December 5th at 2pm

New Years Day Hike

January 1st, 2022 at Eno River State Park