A Look Back at the First 25 Years of the National Heritage Corridor and a Look Ahead to the Next 25
In Touch
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To our Members, Donors, Partners and Sponsors

I hope you and your families are well. I am writing to let you know that even as TLGV staff operate remotely, we are at your service, working hard to strengthen our communities during these difficult times. As we continue to pivot our programs to meet emerging community needs, your support makes it all possible – thank you for helping us care for and pass on The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor for future generations to enjoy!

Get Connected - The Last Green Valley is blessed with wide open spaces, 500+ miles of trails and dozens of farms close to home. Our job is to connect you to them. If you are looking for places to explore with your kids or grandkids, for quiet places of peace and solace, or for farms selling fresh food in season, please let us help. You can call us at 860-774-3300 (we may not pick up but leave a message and we’ll call you back) or email Chief Ranger Bill at Bill@tlgv.org for personalized recommendations. You can also check out our website and social media feeds for great tips and fun facts about the world around us.

Pay-What-You-Can Memberships - We understand the challenges facing our members and the National Heritage Corridor may not be your top financial priority. But we also want you to know that having you as a TLGV member makes a difference. Because your support energizes and shapes our work, we have made it easier to join or renew by launching a pay-what-you-can membership program. You can join or renew at previous levels, pay at a level that feels good to you or sign up for a free membership. Regardless of your choice, you are entitled to all TLGV membership benefits, including our publications mailed to your door, a discount in our online shop, exclusive programs and invitations and more.

Keeping The Last Green Valley Clean - We have modified our popular cleanup program and encourage you and your family to participate. Send us your photos and a completed trash tracker to win prizes!

Innovative Capacity-Building Grants - For our non-profit partners, we have re-envisioned our grant program to better support your efforts. TLGV will provide up to $1,500 for equipment, services and training to help you improve communication or provide alternative means of engaging the public.

Tastes of the Valley Takes to the Road - For our farm, food and beverage partners, it’s more important than ever for us to send customers directly to your place of business. We have compiled a list of retail farm stands, CSAs and farmer’s markets on our website so customers can easily find you. We are also planning to change our annual one-day Tastes of the Valley fundraising event into a two-month, Corridor-wide tour to support our farm, food and beverage partners.

The 30th Anniversary of Walktober in 2020 – While this year’s celebration will look and feel different, we know with some creative planning we can still showcase The Last Green Valley’s natural and cultural resources. Last year more than 95,000 participants enjoyed Walktober and this year’s Walktober is an opportunity to help drive economic recovery.

Now more than ever, The Last Green Valley’s landscape is critical to our physical, mental and emotional health. While we cannot all gather together, we can come together to ensure this special place is here for future generations to care for, enjoy and pass on! Thank you again for your support.

Lois Bruinnooge, Executive Director

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Lois Bruinnooge, Executive Director
Looking Back

by Francesca Kefalas

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 25 YEARS AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

1988-1990

The Shetucket Region of Connecticut is designated as a national heritage corridor.

1991

The first Walking Weekend is held with 22 walks, hikes, paddles and more showcasing the region.

1992

A Mills Work conference attracts 200 people.

1993

Larry Lowenthal, National Park Service Historian, makes the case for national heritage corridor designation in a "Historical Overview of the Shetucket-Shetucket Region of Connecticut." The land is dense and foreboding, a “howling wilderness” full of reasons to seek other places to settle. Yet, it became for those very same reasons the backbone of the American Revolution, the place that sent men willing to fight, fed the troops from its farmlands and sheltered leaders as they plotted and planned. It was home to the only Colonial Governor to side with the revolution. It was home to the man, Samuel Huntington, tagged to lead the new country once the war was over and before the Constitution was ratified. The most famous spy (Nathan Hale), most notorious traitor (Benedict Arnold) and the woman willing to defy everyone to educate young women of color (Prudence Crandall) called it home. It was the heart of the Industrial Revolution and a world power in textile manufacturing.

Fast forward to 1988, however, and the spirit and sense of individuality that drove the region’s early days were difficult to find. This place was rural in the middle of the urban sprawl stretching from Boston to Washington, D.C. The local economy had crumbled. The region had become an afterthought.

A far-fetched idea rekindled the trail blazing spirit when then-U.S. Representative Sam Gejdenson thought a huge part of his second congressional district was worthy of becoming one of the first national heritage corridors in the nation. “I had an idea,” Gejdenson said. “But it was the people here on the ground who made it possible. From the start this was about the will of the people, about shaping the region’s future for themselves. This happened because local people cared.” That idea needed leadership on the local level, Gejdenson said, and he was both lucky and excited to find a trio willing to forge new ground. Roger Hunt was president of the Quinebaug Rivers Association. Already passionate about the environment and the region’s waterways, Hunt saw an opportunity to think bigger and at the 1988 annual meeting of the association formed a subcommittee with himself, Marge Hoskin and John Boland. Together the trio led a committee of about 50 people through two variations and two congressional terms to get the legislation passed that would create a national heritage corridor.

“People were just really understanding what had been done to the natural world,” Hoskin said. “A lot of people were asking ‘will it ever be the same?’”

“The level of commitment we had from people over a long period speaks to the passion people have for this area,” said Boland, who is now a judicial officer in Connecticut and speaks here only about his personal experiences as a witness to history.

To say the region is unique on a national level is not an understatement. The committee organized river paddles that included National Park Service staff, then U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and other state and federal leaders to prove it. They also launched a program called Walking Weekend in 1991. Gejdenson urged the subcommittee to develop one regional tour to highlight all of its best qualities. Instead, the committee created a weekend with more than 22 walks, hikes, paddles and more.

“I thought they really had made a major mistake,” Gejdenson admits with a laugh. “I was completely wrong. It was a brilliant idea.”

“Oh, yes, he thought we were going in the wrong direction,” Hoskin said, smiling at the memory. “We were sure it was a good idea, even if he wasn’t so convinced.”

The first Walking Weekend attracted thousands of participants. It was the first major effort of the committee to create a program highlighting the future corridor, and it was a major success. But it was soon followed by a major blow. Gejdenson’s first attempt to get the legislation passed never made it to the senate for a vote.

1994

Congress passes legislation to create the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, encompassing 26 southern Connecticut communities. It is the 4th heritage corridor in the nation, today there are 55.

1995

The Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. (QSHC) is formed as the oversight to administer the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor. Paddles and more.

1996


1997

QSHC opens an office and hires its first full-time staff person. Vision to Reality: A Management Plan is completed with technical assistance from the National Park Service and the State of Connecticut. The corridor’s first mission statement informs our work today: “Shetucket and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor will preserve its natural, historical and cultural assets while its residents enjoy a quality of life based on a strong, healthy economy compatible with the character. This will be accomplished through local, regional and state cooperation, and partnerships with businesses, organizations, and residents. The corridor will plan the pivotal role, as land use decisions will remain, as they historically have been, at the local level.”

1998

QSHC hires a part-time outreach rider to assist communities with land use planning, open space conservation and historic preservation.

1999

Congress authorizes federal funding for 10 years and expands the corridor by one Massachusetts town. The first Walking Weekend with more than 22 walks, hikes, paddles and more.

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2001

A Mills Work conference attracts 200 people.

The Quinebaug-Shetucket (QSHC) is licensed to provide enhanced land use education and technical assistance to corridor communities. Over the next decade, QSHC helped establish 15 conservation commissions, conducted greenways planning with 21 towns to improve natural regulations, assists 27 towns with natural resource inventories and holds more than 500 training sessions attracting almost 9,000 participants.
Global Positioning System (GPS) developing courses introducing GVI brings cutting-edge resources and an Air Line Rail Design Manual is corridor’s resources and to balance A Community Compact is signed 2002 towns in Connecticut.”

“...was somewhat isolated and neglected by the rest of the state is now part of its charm, and Massachusetts has the same problem. It doesn’t fit well into the other regions of the state, but it’s part of a distinct area with the towns in Connecticut.”

Gejdenson kept pushing and he had a new staff member, Scott KOVAROVICS OF ASHLAND, leading the charge. Kovarovic, now executive director of the The Izaak Walton League, a national conservation organization, said the took the entirety of the ’93 and ’94 sessions to get the bill passed. Kovarovic said it was only possible because of the dedication of the local team and a willingness from Gejdenson and his staff to trust their ongoing commitment.

“There was such a well-organized grassroots effort from the Massachusetts border down to Norwich that really propelled this concept forward,” Kovarovic said. The prevailing issue was governance, and it may be the single most important decision that propelled the heritage corridor forward after the designation. Unlike the preceding three corridors, the Quinebaug-Shetucket legislation did not create a governor’s council that would draft a management plan, and it did not require the National Park Service to designate any staff. It left the door open for the grassroots committee to become a non-profit organization that could manage the federal dollars that might follow. And it took until the last minutes of the 1994 session to get it done.

“I went down to the wire,” Kovarovic said. “Literally, it was passed in the final hours of the session.” The legislation was signed by President Bill Clinton on Nov. 2, 1994.

Boland knew in those years from 1988 to 1994 he was witnessing history. He sees the creation of the corridor as the planting of two seeds, one by Gejdenson and the second by Hunt, who saw an opportunity to think bigger. “Sam prodded us along,” Boland said. “But Roger was the whip that kept us moving.”

Looking back more than 25 years, however, Boland sees a group of 50 people who worked together to build consensus at every turn, with a passion for the place they called home.

“That was one of the important things,” Boland said, “we all loved living here.”

Boland presided over the first meeting of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. It wasn’t until 2014 the nickname that had been with the region from the start of the process, The Last Green Valley, became the official moniker. Hoskin, however, soon became the chairman of the board.

“Marge is a born leader,” Boland said. “She has a quiet determination, and she is full of ideas.”

For her part, Hoskin sees her role as chairman partly as one that arose because she was retired from the U.S. Navy and not juggling a full-time law practice, as Boland was. Hoskins served 20 years in the Navy, toured the world, frequently visiting Hong Kong, San Francisco and Guam just to name a few. When it was time in 1975 to settle in one place, she and Boland wanted to come back to her hometown of Plainfield.

“Before I went into the Navy, I didn’t really appreciate it here,” Hoskin said. “But you get to know what you had when you’re away from it.”

Home, however, was not quite the place it had been when she was a child or the place it would become in the last 25 years. “People were just starting to understand the impact we have on the natural world,” Hoskin said. “They were asking ‘will it ever be the same?’”

When Hoskin, Boland and Hunt came together in 1988 they were looking at a landscape that was only just starting to rebound from the effects of the Industrial Revolution on its waters and woods. And yet, it was still the greenest, cleanest place to be found for hundreds of miles.

Gejdenson had noticed the environmental changes beginning and realized his district needed a boost — the potential of federal dollars was certainly a consideration. But the potential to rejuvenate the energy and give people a reason to rally was perhaps even more important.

“Our history and our landscape have always been connected and it’s that history and landscape that make this place special,” Gejdenson said.

“But when I was a kid you never saw a wild turkey, a bobcat or a deer. Our rivers and streams were a mess. Some days they ran red. Some days they were yellow. You had to drive with the windows rolled up in August — and our car didn’t have air conditioning — because they smelled so bad. The rivers powered our mills and the mills made the rivers stink.
But because of that no one built anything on the rivers. So, when we stopped polluting those same rivers, they became spectacular again. We haven’t over-developed the shores of our rivers, and that’s been good.”

The mills were shuttering, a boon to the environment, but a burden to the economy. Other major employers, such as Electric Boat, built a new plant on the shoreline and Sikorsky and Pratt and Whitney to the west were not employing the numbers they once were. Interstate 395 had done its job and ferried people north and south right through the middle of the region, yet there was little to make travelers want to stop and see what might lie off the exits.

Today, Gejdenson will say he was only helping the people of his district accomplish something they wanted. Kovarovics, however, noticed something different. “This was personally important to Sam,” Kovarovics said. “Yes, he wanted to support his constituents, but I think he really saw the long-term benefits for the region and believed this was the kind of thing that could restore some pride and some hope.”

In Kovarovics, Gejdenson had a staff member who understood not only why the corridor would benefit the region, but why the region was more than worthy of the designation. “I grew up playing in the woods,” Kovarovics said. “My dad still lives in Ashford. Of all the things that I worked on for Sam this is a thing I look back on and can say is one of great personal pride that I was able to play some small role in.”

While the hard part for Gejdenson’s office was over once the designation was achieved, the real work began for the committees. They became a non-profit organization and secured the blessing of then Connecticut Governor John Rowland to manage the corridor and handle any financial resources that might flow from the federal government. They then set about figuring out what to do with any money that might show up.

For Cutler, dissuading people of the notion the heritage corridor was meant to control them and show, instead, the corridor was there to support them and build partnerships is an achievement not to be overlooked. “There were times when we did work in six months. I was thrilled when we hired her. She was the right person to get us moving.”

The early partnership building led directly to the expansion of the corridor just five years after it was designated. Lowenthal had always maintained there were towns in Massachusetts that should be part of the corridor. However, this effort had been hampered by the strong support of both states’ senators.

The legislation also reauthorized the corridor for 10 years and provided an opportunity to create a community compact, which was signed by all 35 towns. Cutler said, “We were able to give every town their show support for the corridor.”

Tom Chamberland was a ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Massachusetts when the corridor was expanded and said it was an opportunity for both the Corps and the corridor.

“The Army Corps had recently completed assessments on about 24 miles of trails. The team has now completed challenges. The team has now completed 22 listening sessions with 256 participants representing 67 organizations. Since 1996, TLGV has awarded $3,896,509 in grants to community partners, matched by $15,920,459 in state, local, private and non-profit contributions.

For 25 years we have inspired, planned, organized, created, promoted, celebrated, conserved, protected, engaged, educated, catalyzed, connected and advocated for the people and significant resources of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. We look forward to 25 more years of leading the way towards a better future for our residents, our visitors and our communities.
railblazing sparked creation of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, but its future is far from written in stone. Twenty-five years after designation of the national heritage corridor, it will take more trailblazing to ensure the region’s unique character and landscape are not eroded slowly over time. “The work is harder now,” said Sam Gejdenson, who launched the effort to have the region designated as a National Heritage Corridor during his 20-year tenure as U.S. Representative from the 2nd-Congressional District. “You used to be able to smell and see the pollution and now it’s invisible to the average person. It’s harder to get people to pay attention when they can’t see the problem.” From late summer 2018 through autumn 2019, staff and Board members of The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) undertook a listening tour, meeting with dozens of groups and hundreds of individuals to ensure stewardship of the national heritage corridor remains a grassroots effort. The information gathered and the voices heard will help create the next vision plan for The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, to be released later in 2020.

Listening tour participants expressed a variety of concerns, from a lack of youth engagement to the challenge of providing access for all to corridor resources. Many attendees were particularly distressed by ever-increasing mounds of roadside trash, perhaps a reflection of our throw-away society or a lack of community pride. But throughout the listening sessions, participants overwhelmingly valued the mosaic of history, culture, agriculture, green forests and flowing waters that make the region unique. They also realize change is inevitable and the importance of working to shape that change.

“We have more cars, more people,” said Marge Hoskin, one of the leaders of the grassroots effort to create the corridor. “It is something we have to consider. How do we keep what we have and support the local economy at the same time?” That balance of open spaces and economic development, history and the future, clean water and vibrant downtowns, has been at the crux of the heritage corridor since before it was founded. It was a major driver for the creation of the heritage corridor concept in the first place. How we manage that balance over the next 25 years will determine whether the heart and soul of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor remains intact. None of us will be able to do this alone. Partnerships and collaboration will remain essential. In addition, we will need to be creative and innovative, drawing inspiration from those who have already proven they can embrace diversity and change while successfully preserving what matters most.

At Allen Hill Farm in Brooklyn, CT, land preservation, agriculture and enhancing the local economy come together. Charles Langevin and brother-in-law Roland Gibeault lead a whole-family effort that dates back to 1891 to run a farm on some of the most picturesque land in the national heritage corridor. The farm sits on both sides of Allen Hill Road and sweeps down to the Quinebaug River, where it is easy to forget civilization is nearby. The property is not just historic from a colonial perspective, fish weirs created by Native Americans can still be seen in the river. “Sometimes when I walk along the river, I feel like I’ve stepped back in time,” Gibeault said. “This was probably a farm since the 1600s,” Langevin said. Bricks dating from 1772 found on the property make up a portion of the chimney in Langevin’s home. When Langevin, an English teacher by trade, and Gibeault, a contractor, first planted Christmas trees in 1980 on the property, they were looking for a way to make the family farm, which had been a dairy farm,
productive again. Langevin’s uncle, George, was the owner and happy to have someone to pass the land to. “He loved this place, so he was happy to have us experiment,” Langevin said.

Today, Allen Hill is an iconic Christmas tree farm. It’s also a wedding and event venue and an orchard that will serve as the ingredients for hard cider that is a little piece to put a house on, said. “They ask us if they can buy how beautiful it is here,” Gibeault “We often have customers tell us to enjoy the way we did.”

Langevin said. “It feels pretty good of hardships to keep this land working. It seemed like a way to honor them and ensure there was something for the next generations of their generation preserved 330 acres of the 350-acre farm in 2010. “As long as there is a state of Connecticut this land is protected,” Langevin said. “It feels pretty good to say that. The generations that came before us endured all kinds of hardships to keep this land working. It seemed like a way to honor them and ensure there was something for the next generations to enjoy the way we did.”

“We often have customers tell us how beautiful it is here,” Gibeault said. “They ask us if they can buy a little piece to put a house on, but if we did that it wouldn’t be this beautiful.” Langevin and Gibeault know first-hand how hard farming in southern New England is. Obtaining grants, having the expertise to maintain and build anything they need on the farm and having a small army of family to diversify has helped Allen Hill Farm become a model of what can work. Langevin is hopeful the future of farming in the region is one of diverse farmers that keep the land working. “It can’t be a hobby,” Langevin said. “But you almost need to have some other income too. I’m not sure we could have made it, especially in the early days, if this was our only income.”

For Susan Mitchell, owner of Cloverleigh Farm, producing organic vegetables in Mansfield, the struggle to farm is compounded by the struggle to find land. Mitchell needs less than 10 acres, but she can only find farms of 100 acres or more. Leasing has meant she can’t establish the roots she needs to maximize her land. In six years, Cloverleigh has been on three different properties.

“I know I will have to move eventually, and that is really unfortunate,” Mitchell said. “I know there is land out there that is fallow, but there’s a disconnect between some of the newer farmers and the landowners. If we want to continue being an agricultural region, we have to make the connections, we have to support local food more than we do.”

Mitchell runs a CSA and frequents farmers markets. She drops off her produce as far as Manchester. It’s not far lack of effort that she does not have more customers. But the modern farmer must not just be an expert in their product, they must be part entrepreneur, part marketer. When the growing season is over, Mitchell can’t sit back and plan. She must work another job to build up savings to purchase land.

“We have to start thinking about farms as businesses,” Mitchell said. “We’re trying to support ourselves and our families just like any other businessperson. We’re also trying to feed people. I don’t know a farmer who is not concerned about the quality of our food system.”

Mitchell said too much farmland is being used for other thing. “Once the land is out of production it’s much harder to get it back to food production.”

Newlyweds Regan Miner and Dayne Rugh can relate to the concerns of lost farmland. As historians they have witnessed the loss of the region’s history due to decay and neglect.

“You realize that you can’t save and preserve everything,” said Miner, who is executive director of the Norwich Historical Society. “It’s unfortunate, but decisions have to be made.”

Miner and Rugh, who is director of education at Slater Memorial Museum and president of the Society of the Founders of Norwich, which oversees Leffingwell House Museum, met while students at UConn Avery Point. Miner’s infectious love of hometown Norwich and its history was easy for Rugh to understand. “Overnight I felt like oh my goodness what a unique history with so much potential,” Rugh said.

Together, Miner and Rugh are bringing a fresh perspective to historic and cultural preservation, and it’s easy to see why. As millennials they are often decades younger than the other historians in the room and that has its benefits in a variety of ways. “People like history,” Rugh said. “But the people I know, they never liked history class in school.”

“People like to have experiences,” Miner said. “You can give them that experience and teach them a lot about history while you are doing it.” Miner points to the Norwich Historical Society’s hugely popular Ghost Tours of Norwichtown Cemetery as an example of seeing an issue just a little differently. “The ghosts are the hook, but the truth is the tours are all about colonial Norwichtown and the people who lived here.”

It’s a lesson Benedict Arnold taught the region. Born in Norwich, Arnold is a traitor second only to Judas in world history. Yet generations of Norwich residents never knew he was born in their town.

“Tired of Salem can tell the story of the witch trials, why can’t Norwich tell the story of Benedict Arnold?” Miner said. “It’s not about celebrating him. It’s about being honest. He was a complicated man. He was a hero before he was a traitor. Let’s tell his whole story.”

“I think historians are more willing to explore difficult history,” Rugh added. “By its very nature it’s uncomfortable, but it’s important. The past will always continue to shape our present and future. How do we learn from it if we’re not honest about it?”

Norwich has been working for several years to unify its effort around its own history. Miner and others have been leading the charge to turn that into visitation. “History and heritage are economic development,” Miner said.

Spreading the word and getting people to think differently about history is essential if the history that makes the region special is to be preserved for future generations, she and Rugh agree.

Lois Bruinooge, executive director of TLGV, said the concerns and thoughts expressed during the organization’s listening tour
reinforced the need for innovative ideas – some of which are already being applied to ongoing projects. The $6.1 million federal grant funding the Southern New England Heritage Forest initiative is one example.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is the heart of a 1.49 million-acre unfragmented forest corridor stretching along the Connecticut and Rhode Island border to the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. With 77 percent forest, the national heritage corridor is a green oasis in the middle of the urban megalopolis of the east coast. The Southern New England Heritage Forest extends that oasis, creating a vital north-south corridor of open land for birds and other wildlife. Most of that open land, however, is in private hands.

“The region relies on private landowners to protect many of its forests,” Bruinooge said. “Recognizing that, we have led the Southern New England Heritage Forest initiative to educate landowners and bring the idea of conservation to the front of their minds. To do so we have brought together a coalition 19 non-profit, academic, government and business partners, all working together to achieve the same goals.”

The $6.1 million Southern New England Heritage Forest initiative is now in phase two where landowners are applying to create forest management plans with a special emphasis on bird habitat assessments. Phase one saw 30 landowners apply to permanently protect more than 2,500 acres of land. The highest scoring properties are currently being evaluated.

Even with a $6.1 million federal grant and another $6.1 million being infused into the initiative through the work of partners, the effort will protect or create management plans for only a fraction of the Southern New England Heritage Forest.

“So we are asking,” Bruinooge said, “how can we extend this project? How do we further help landowners protect the woods they love? It’s just one example of how we are asking, not only with land conservation but with farmland and historic and cultural efforts, how do we help people see problems in new ways? How do we partner to make the efforts that much more effective and longer lasting? How do we inspire new stewards, engage more youth and become even more effective advocates for the corridor? We know every answer involves collaboration and partnerships, and the kinds of grassroots, roll-up-your-sleeves mentality to think differently that created the corridor in the first place.”
Scenes from TLGV’s 25th Anniversary Celebration

The event was held at iconic Allen Hill Farm, with perfect weather and wagon tours arranged by Charlie Langevin and his crew.

Chief Ranger Bill Reid spoke about the mill history of the Quinebaug River, the central artery of the corridor.

State Senator Mae Flexer, State Representative Pat Boyd, State Representative Anne Dauphinais and State Representative Rick Hayes present a citation from the Connecticut Legislature to honor the national heritage corridor’s 25th anniversary.

U.S. Representative Joe Courtney and former Congressman Sam Gejdenson were on hand to celebrate with TLGV.

Special thanks to the Brooklyn Agriculture Commission and Town of Brooklyn for helping organize this event.

Attendees were treated to a hearty lunch complete with an anniversary cake!

TLGV Executive Director Lois Bruinooge thanked all of the Walktober leaders in attendance for their knowledge, passion and desire to pass on what they love.

TLGV capped off a successful Walktober with a special 25th anniversary celebration on November 2, 2019, exactly 25 years to the day the national heritage corridor was created.

After wagon rides down to the river, State Archaeologist Emeritus Nick Bellantoni shared his extensive knowledge of early settlements in the region, pointing out the locations of Native American fish weirs in the Quinebaug River.
“Unique race, unique place” – Tackle the Trail is a fundraiser that could only exist in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.

When Monique Wolanin, director of institutional advancement at QVCC, dreamed up Tackle the Trail in 2014 she saw the opportunity to bring together her love for her community and the landscape and her passion for trail running. The race – open to both teams and individuals – is a major fundraiser for the QVCC Foundation, which supports students and programs at Quinebaug Valley Community College.

“We’re taking advantage of our location,” Wolanin said. “We’ve got this amazing natural resource. Let’s share it. Let’s share our love of it and have other people appreciate it and support the community that surrounds it.”

Tackle The Trail grows up in 2020 from a 20-mile trail run to a full marathon through The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, along the Air Line State Park Trail from Windham to Putnam, with some extra loops in the middle. The race is Oct. 17 in 2020 and is always the third Saturday in October. A marathon was always part of the plan for Tackle the Trail. As a 20-mile race, it had the potential to become the foundation’s largest fundraiser. Fundraising allows the QVCC Foundation to infuse more than $240,000 into programs and direct student aid. Because of the community’s support for the foundation, every QVCC graduate in the last nine years has left the college with no federal debt.

Peter Deary, president of the QVCC Foundation, said when he hears the stories of how the college and the foundation have impacted lives, he knows all the volunteer work is worth it.

“The race has a local flavor because of where it is and the cooperation of the state and the towns the race runs through. But the race brings together the community and also attracts runners from far and wide, Deary said.

“Not to sound corny, but what we do is life changing,” Deary said. “We’re helping people who could not afford an education get one. They can go on to get jobs, not minimum wage jobs, but good paying jobs that may help them go on to further their education and then get even better jobs. When you hear those stories, you know what we do is important.”

The benefits of the foundation’s work ripple out beyond the individuals who might receive aid, Deary said. Those good jobs help fuel the economy and support the community in many ways. Tackle the Trail is similar. It takes the efforts of dozens of volunteers and the cooperation of the state and the towns the race runs through. But the race brings together the community and also attracts runners from far and wide, Deary said.

“The race has a local flavor because of where it is and the community members who support it,” Deary said. “Why not show off how beautiful it is here to runners and make them aware of what we have? What better way to spread the word about this area?”

The 2019 edition of Tackle The Trail raised $52,000 for the foundation. It is second only to the much longer tenured golf tournament. But Tackle the Trail grows every year and has the potential to become the foundation’s largest fundraiser.

Deary credits Wolanin’s commitment to the region and the college with fueling the success of Tackle the Trail. “We knew if Monique wanted to do this race it was going to be a success.”

Wolanin said while the race will be a marathon, there will also be half-marathon and the traditional relay team format for Tackle The Trail. Because of the length of the race, two legs will be loops off the Air Line Trail and include more technical running. “It’s important for runners to train appropriately,” she said.

To help get runners started on their training, the foundation has teamed up the Hale Youth and Family YMCA for a stretching and mobility class followed by a trail run. There will also be a post-run gathering for “brews and bites” at Jessica Tuesday’s.

“The Foundation’s mission has never changed,” Wolanin said. “Our community realized from the start that it would need to fundraise to ensure local students had the means to enroll at QVCC. Since 1971, thanks to events like Tackle the Trail, the QVCC Foundation has provided a ‘hand up’ to thousands of local students, helping them to transform their lives and in return, improving our community.”
“I’d like the lake to be as good for them as it’s been for me,” Benoit said. “I’ve lived here essentially all my life. I love it here.” Here, is Point Breeze, on the end of the peninsula with rare undeveloped land surrounding him. He has a great view of Webster Lake’s peninsula with rare undeveloped land surrounding him. He has a great view of Webster Lake’s Point Breeze, on the end of the peninsula. It’s been for me. I’ve lived here essentially all my life. I love it here.”

Benoit prefers to leave to others the one water-based activity he remembers trying it as a child, bringing a fish to his mother who refused to make it into a meal. The experience was not exactly pristine. In truth, parts of the area were literally dumping grounds. “About 40 years ago a group of us decided to start cleaning up the point,” Benoit said. “Back when I was growing up people would dump things in the swamp or up over the hill. There were some places that were really bad, so we decided to do something about it.” Benoit’s love of the water led him to become a citizen scientist in the early 2000s as he joined both the French River Connection and Webster Lake Association to support their efforts to steward the waterways. Benoit has been an active member of the Webster Lake Water Quality Monitoring Team, a team which is a critical cog in The Last Green Valley’s Water Quality Monitoring Program. “With all the testing we’ve done we know the lake is in pretty good shape and we’re not seeing any pollution coming into it from the streams,” Benoit said. For Benoit, all the volunteering hours add up to the opportunity to continue enjoying the lake and making sure future generations will too. “My favorite time is when the crowds leave in the autumn and we can get out on the boat to watch the sunset,” Benoit said. “The foliage is beautiful.”

Putnam Bank

For more than three decades Tom Borner has been in a leadership role at Putnam Bank. In that time the bank has donated millions of dollars to non-profits and community organizations. Ask Borner what fuels the philanthropic drive and he bristles a little. “It’s not charity, it’s about community,” said Borner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Bank. “We never give handouts. We give a hand up.”

Putnam Bank is one of the oldest community banks in the nation. Founded in 1862 in Putnam, it now has eight branch locations and a loan center. Both the bank and its charitable arm, The Putnam Bank Foundation, have been generous to The Last Green Valley and other organizations in the national heritage corridor. The bank and foundation have donated $41,675 to support TLGV’s Acorn Adventures, Walktober and Tastes of the Valley since 2001. “We were one of the first financial supporters of Walktober back when it was just Walking Weekend,” Borner said. “The national heritage corridor is about the community and celebrating what we have here. It made sense for us to support that.”

Putnam Bank is merging with Centreville Bank of Rhode Island and will be known as Putnam Bank, a division of Centreville Bank in the coming months. Borner said The Putnam Bank Foundation will continue to support community endeavors. Knowing the bank was merging with a like-minded community-oriented bank was critical for Borner. While he attended primary and high school in western Connecticut, his family’s roots are in the Pomfret area, where his mother, grandmother and great-grandparents were born. Every summer, he, his parents and his seven siblings would live in a family home in Brooklyn and later he would stay in Pomfret to work on the family farm. The family stayed summers through the Brooklyn Fair, at the end of August, and then went back home to prepare for school. On his 18th birthday, the day after high school graduation, Borner moved in with his great-aunt in Pomfret full-time and worked on the farm to put himself through college and law school.

Lydia Bourque, a senior vice president and branch administrator at Putnam Bank, said Borner is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get dirty, literally, to support his community. It’s that spirit, mentality and work ethic that drives all the funding decisions made by the bank, she said. “We’re a close-knit community and we have a lot of good things happening here,” Bourque said. “We support the organizations that are working together to make a difference.”

“I’d like the lake to be as good for them as it’s been for me. I’ve lived here essentially all my life. I love it here.”

“It’s not charity, it’s about community. We never give handouts. We give a hand up.”
The Last Green Valley awarded $75,000 in grants in 2019 as part of its largest funding program in more than a decade. TLGV offered the grants to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its national heritage corridor designation.

The Community Food Collaborative in Sturbridge, MA received $6,000 for enhancements to make the community garden more efficient and productive. The garden ensures a food pantry in Southbridge can offer fresh produce to Sturbridge and Southbridge residents in need.

Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society in Killingly, CT was awarded $1,000 for its “Preserving the Past” project. The project will catalog and preserve historic photographs, postcards, maps and other items and make them more accessible to the public.

Killingly Intermediate School in Killingly, CT received $3,424.48 for the creation of three nature trails on the school property. The trails will be part of a larger curriculum-based initiative on ecosystems and forest health.

Town of Mansfield, CT received $7,500 for trail work, including signage, improvements and a trail guide, on its new Simpson-Wood Preserve. The town will be working with Boy Scout Troop 56 and students from EO Smith High School on improvements to the property. The preserve also connects to the town’s 35-acre Mt. Hope Park.

Norwich Historical Society in Norwich, CT was awarded $4,000 for its project called “Restoration of the circa 1759 David Greenleaf House.” The house is a historic property on the grounds of the Leffingwell House Museum and the funds will go directly toward restoration of the rear lower level of the home to create an accessible space to accommodate more visitors for events and programming. Renovation of the space will allow both the Leffingwell House Museum and the Norwich Historical Society to expand programming and events.

Town of Oxford, MA was awarded a $3,000 grant to assist in the purchase of a 1.23-acre parcel adjacent to an existing town recreation area. Oxford has made significant investments in the last two years to its recreation area on Carbuncle Pond. The property being purchased allows the town to protect more of the pond’s shoreline while expanding opportunities for fishing, swimming and kayaking or canoeing.

Restoration has begun at the David Greenleaf House in Norwich. Above: the front of the 1759 structure. Right: the back of the home where the restoration work will take place.
**TLGV Grants at Work**

Reducing Light Pollution

John Bartok Jr. loves to stargaze. But the Big Dipper, Pleiades, Cassiopeia, the Milky Way and other night sky features many residents of The Last Green Valley can see regularly have disappeared for Bartok.

“I can’t see the stars here,” said Bartok, a resident of PierceCare’s Creamery Brook Retirement Village in Brooklyn, CT. “I’ve had conversations with other residents about it, and they would like a chance to look at the night sky too.”

Armed with TLGV’s Night Sky issue of In Touch, published in 2019, and a news clipping about the 2019 Community Enhancement Grant program, Bartok suggested to the leadership at Creamery Brook the installation of night-sky-friendly lighting to dramatically reduce the light pollution created by 26 lighting fixtures surrounding the grounds.

“The dam is essential to the maintenance of the 4-H Camp pond on its 265-acre property. The pond is the center of activity during summer camps and is integral in the programming of the Ragged Hill Environmental Science programs.”

The Windham Region Community Council in Willimantic, CT received $10,000 for its Trail City Family Garden Outdoor Classroom. While the council and its GROW Windham effort are the applicants, it is truly the Windham Youth Core, a high school leadership group, that is leading the effort to build outdoor classroom and gathering space at their existing half-acre Trail City Family Garden.

**Pierce Care in Brooklyn, CT received $10,000 for a light pollution reduction program at its Creamery Brook Retirement Village.**

The grant will help fund replacement of fixtures which create significant sky glow on the 12-acre campus. See “TLGV Grants at Work” for more details about this project.

**Thompson Together in Thompson, CT was awarded $4,000 for its project called “Thompson Cemetery Restoration II.” The grant will fund cleanup and repair work at six of the town’s 24 cemeteries.**

The grant will help fund an ongoing effort of the committee to preserve and conserve the cemeteries, which had been neglected for many years. All the cemeteries play an important role in Thompson’s history.

**Town of Thompson, CT was awarded $2,500 for its Garden by Work project called “Thread City Family Garden.”**

The garden will include a classroom space, an outdoor classroom and gathering space at their existing half-acre Thread City Family Garden.

**Union School in Union, CT was awarded $9,747 for its Union United effort on the school grounds. Effort have been underway for several years to make Union School both the educational and community center of Connecticut’s smallest town by population.**

The grant will fund enhancements to outdoor classroom space, an outdoor gathering space and the creation of a community garden.

**Windham County 4-H Foundation in Pomfret, CT was awarded $10,000 for dam repairs.**

“The dam is essential to the maintenance of the 4-H Camp pond on its 265-acre property. The pond is the center of activity during summer camps and is integral in the programming of the Ragged Hill Environmental Science programs.”

**The Windham Region Community Council in Willimantic, CT received $10,000 for is Thread City Family Garden Outdoor Classroom.**

While the council and its GROW Windham effort are the applicants, it is truly the Windham Youth Core, a high school leadership group, that is leading the effort to build outdoor classroom and gathering space at their existing half-acre Trail City Family Garden.

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While the council and its GROW Windham effort are the applicants, it is truly the Windham Youth Core, a high school leadership group, that is leading the effort to build outdoor classroom and gathering space at their existing half-acre Trail City Family Garden.
Are Your Woods Bird Friendly?

The Last Green Valley launched the second phase of the $6.1 million Southern New England Heritage Forest Program with two grant rounds for landowners to obtain forest management plans with bird habitat assessments. To date, more than 40 landowners with approximately 3,000 woodland acres have applied. Additional funds will be available in 2021 for landowners who would like to improve woodland habitat for important bird species and manage their woods for wildlife and people.

A professional forester will walk your property and coordinate with the Audubon Society in your state to produce a high-quality forest management plan with a bird habitat assessment of your woods. To get started, contact the lead partner for your state. The partners can assist with the application process.

Grant funds are available to pay for most of the forester’s costs and to completely fund the bird habitat assessments. Landowners will be responsible for choosing a forester from an approved list and paying a percentage of the total cost of the forest management plan. This program is ideally suited for landowners who have never had a forest management plan and own more than 10 acres of woodlands.

Program requirements vary by state. To get started, contact the lead partner for your state. The partners can assist with the application process. The application deadline for Connecticut and Rhode Island is December 31, 2020, but we recommend you begin the process early to ensure the application is complete before the deadline. Massachusetts is accepting applications on a rolling basis so you may apply at any time.

Visit www.thelastgreenvalley.org for links to the application materials, including a list of communities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island that are included in this program.

CONTACTS

For Connecticut Projects – Bill Reid, 860-774-3300; bill@tlgv.org
For Massachusetts Projects – Christopher Riely, 401-225-6135; christopher@sweetbirchconsulting.com
For Rhode Island Projects – Kate Sayles, 401-934-0840; ksayles.nricd@gmail.com


The Southern New England Heritage Forest is a 1.49 million-acre upland forest corridor stretching along the Connecticut and Rhode Island border to the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. Bounded by more heavily urbanized areas, with more than one million nearby residents, the SNHF has an astonishing 76 percent forest cover and offers one of the last viable wildlife corridors from southern to northern New England.

The program is part of the $6.1 million Southern New England Heritage Forest conservation effort, an unprecedented three-state collaboration made possible through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS funding is being matched by project partners, bringing the economic infusion into the region to $12.2 million.

A TRIBUTE TO Larry Lowenthal

Larry Lowenthal, one of the people integral to the creation of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, passed away in March. It was Lowenthal who the National Park Service sent to investigate whether the claims of the grassroots committee and then-Congressman Sam Gejdenson, that the area was worthy of national designation, were accurate. As a National Park Service Ranger and Historian, Lowenthal’s report not only convinced the park service the locals were right, it’s a primer on what makes The Last Green Valley special.

“Larry was an extraordinary person to The Last Green Valley for so many reasons,” said Lois Bruinooge, executive director of TLGV. “Most important was his love for the region, its history and its landscape. Larry’s insight into how the land shaped the history of the region set the tone for everything the corridor has done these last 25 years. His enthusiasm and reverence for the region inspired many people.”

Larry’s professional involvement only signified the start of his relationship with The Last Green Valley. He had been a dedicated volunteer ever since. “I lived in it,” Larry said in a 2018 interview. “It gave me a connection I didn’t have with too many other places that I had worked on. This was personal.”

Lowenthal led Walktober adventures, all the way back to when the event was known as Walking Weekend. In 2018 Lowenthal was named Mr. Walktober and led several walks. Lowenthal is survived by his wife, Kitty. He and Kitty have volunteered for many years as TLGV Rangers, giving talks about various aspects of The Last Green Valley and assisting the organization in other, behind-the-scenes ways, such as reviewing grant applications.

Thank you, Larry, for caring so deeply about The Last Green Valley. We are grateful for your passion, expertise and vision, a legacy that will continue as we strive to pass on the national heritage corridor for future generations to enjoy.
By the Numbers

22 listening sessions conducted by TLGV with 256 participants representing 67 organizations to plan for the next 10 years.

$1,169,865 in match contributed by TLGV partners.

13 support letters written by TLGV for projects that advance the Vision 2020 management plan.

738 attendees at TLGV Acorn Adventures and Member Programs.

22 landowners applied for forest management plans with bird habitat assessments covering 1,300 acres.

39 organizations involved in capacity building projects with TLGV.

8 bald eagle chicks hatched from 5 nests monitored by TLGV volunteers.

22 landowners applied for forest management plans with bird habitat assessments covering 1,300 acres.

12 miles of trail assessed for people with mobility challenges by TLGV’s team.

1,975,473 people visited National Heritage Corridor attractions and events.

48 community events attended by TLGV Rangers.

EIGHTEEN farmers at the table enjoyed speaking with guests at Tastes of the Valley.

$75,000 in grants awarded to 13 projects in The Last Green Valley.

16 new Night Sky Rangers trained.

73 volunteers monitored 67 sites (stream, lake and pond) for water quality, collecting more than 3,330 pieces of valuable data.

1,870 volunteers from 29 organizations participated in 69 cleanups, picking up 95,376 pounds of trash.

34 volunteers surveyed 31 locations and sighted 22 bald eagles during the annual midwinter eagle survey.

22,349 people enjoyed Spring Outdoors.

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A sold-out crowd enjoyed the 14th Annual Tastes of the Valley – A Farmer at the Table held at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, MA, in August.

Guests enjoyed locally-grown foods prepared by the region’s best chefs during a sit-down, multi-course dinner in the company of a farmer, brewer, vintner or forester at each table, including: Linda Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery; Mike Bartlett, Hull Forest Products; Steve Broderick, Town Line Tree Farm; Robert Chang, Echo Farm; Margaret Chatey & Summer Webster, Westford Hill Distillers; Katie & Rick Hermonot, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm & Brown Cow Café; Elm Farm, Fairholm Farm, The Farmer’s Cow, Himmelstein Homestead Farm, Lapsley Orchard, Maple Lane Farms, Taylor Brooke Winery and Woodstock Sustainable Farms.

Tastes of the Valley is farm-to-table dining at its best, with products donated by Apis Verdi Farm, Blackmer Farm, Bright Acres Farm Sugar House, Buddha’s Bees Apiary, Buell’s Orchard, Colgon Farm, Creamery Brook Bison, Echo Farm, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm & Brown Cow Café, Elm Farm, Fairholm Farm, The Farmer’s Cow, Himmelstein Homestead Farm, Lapsley Orchard, Maple Lane Farms, Taylor Brooke Winery and Woodstock Sustainable Farms.

Dick Woodward placed the winning bid to become “Honorary Mayor of The Last Green Valley” for the upcoming year.

Gene Michael Deary entertained guests while helping raise almost $8,000 during the live auction, for an event total of more than $35,000 in support of TLGV’s programs. Thank you to all who donated auction and raffle items.

Chefs from Grill 37, Inn at Woodstock Hill and Willimantic Brewing Company shared our host Publick House Historic Inn’s kitchen to create one-of-a-kind dishes using fresh local ingredients. Additional tastes and sips were provided by Ben’s Beans, The Courthouse Bar & Grill, The Farmer’s Cow, G Seven Catering Company, Himmelstein Homestead Farm, Metro Bistrot, Renee’s Working Girl Catering, Taylor Brooke Winery, These Guys Brewing Company, The Vanilla Bean Café and Westford Hill Distillers.

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting Tastes of the Valley: Host - Publick House Historic Inn; Platinum - Rebecca Harvey, Nancy Polydys and Simonds; Gold - Fiberoptics Technology; Keith & Elaine Knowlton, Putnam Bank and UNH Helping Hands; Silver - Groton Open Space Association, Marjorie Hoskin, Savings Institute Bank & Trust (now BerkshireBank) and Titan Energy; Bronze - Cornerstone Bank, Dexter, Gerardi Insurance Services, Jewett City Savings Bank, Sturbridge Tourist Association and Village Electric.

Once again, we could not have held a successful event without the hard-working Tastes of the Valley Committee, led by Laura and Scott Moorehead. Thank you!
The Last Green Valley’s 2019 Annual Meeting was held May 30 at the UConn Alumni Center in Storrs, CT. We celebrated 25 years as a National Heritage Corridor with a reception in the Alumni Center’s Husky Heritage Sports Museum, dinner in the Great Hall, and cake and ice cream from the UConn Dairy Bar!

Prior to the meeting, attendees were able to enjoy three optional activities: a guided tour inside the Ballard Institute of Museum and Puppetry; a campus art walk led by staff from the William Benton Museum of Art; or a tour of Horsebarn Hill with staff from the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

We also welcomed two new Board members for 3-year terms: 1) The Reverend Doctor Susan Foster from Woodstock, who is a long-time TLGV member and pastor of the East Woodstock Congregational Church. She enjoys kayaking, biking and hiking in The Last Green Valley and will bring a deep appreciation and environmental ethic to the Board; and 2) Cody Elvin from Griswold, a new TLGV member with a passion for this region. He is a manager for the UConn branch of Key Bank, allowing us to develop stronger connections with UConn students, faculty and staff.

TLGV members also elected the following Officers for 2-year terms: Chairman – Mike Nelson; Vice Chair – Elsie Bisset; Secretary – Myra Ambrogi; and Treasurer – Joan St. Ament.

The US Army Corps of Engineers was named Team Walktober 2019. The Corps’ staff have always worked hard to promote, care for and celebrate their recreational resources, despite very limited budgets and duties that pull them in other directions. They’ve been part of Walktober since 1992, when it was Walking Weekend, and they offered a tour of West Thompson Dam. Since then, they have consistently offered walks, talks, tours and paddles not only during Walktober but year-round.

During the business meeting, TLGV members re-elected the following Board members for 3-year terms: Myra Ambrogi from Sterling, Donna Baron from Lebanon, James Gothreau from Putnam, Mike Nelson from Norwich and Mark Winne from Charlton. Marty Nieski from Dudley was re-elected to fill a 2-year vacancy.

Retiring Board members Debra Burns, Janet Blanchette and Bill Jobbagy were recognized for their service and Bill Jobbagy was surprised with a special Boland Hoskin Volunteer Award. This award is named for two of our founding members, John Boland and Marge Hoskin, and has only been given a few times to recognize exceptional volunteer service to The Last Green Valley. Bill was recognized for his support and steady leadership over the last 14 years. He has presided over some interesting challenges with grace and humor, and has been unfailingly thoughtful, respectful and kind in his approach to our work. We have leaned on his business expertise as well his passion for all parts of our mission. He has encouraged discussion, debate and engagement by our Board and is leaving the Board in a much stronger position than when he began.

The Publick House in Sturbridge, MA was presented with TLGV’s Business Partner of the Year award in recognition of their staff’s outstanding commitment and participation in Tastes of the Valley. They have been with us since the first Tastes of the Valley but have gone above and beyond our wildest expectations for the last three years as our host restaurant.
### The Last Green Valley, Inc.

#### Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2019

From Audited Financial Statement - Copies Available Upon Request.

**Assets**

**CURRENT ASSETS:**
- Cash: $263,120
- Certificate of Deposit: 303,265
- Grants Receivable: 156,506
- Investments: 175,845
- Inventory: 494
- Prepaid Expenses: 4,339

**Total Current Assets:** $903,569

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:**
- Machinery and Equipment: 6,739
- Less Accumulated Depreciation: (4,896)

**Total Current Assets:** $903,569

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:**
- Property: 1,843
- Less Accumulated Depreciation: (4,896)

**Total Current Assets:** $903,569

**CURRENT LIABILITIES:**
- Accounts Payable: $5,575
- Advances from Grantors: 16,212
- Total Current Liabilities: $268,133

**CURRENT ASSETS:**
- Cash: $263,120
- Inventory: 494
- Grants Receivable: 156,506
- Certificate of Deposit: 303,265
- Total Current Liabilities: $903,569

**Net Property and Equipment:** $1,079,132

**Long Term Liabilities:**
- Mortgages and Loans Payable: 14,045

**Total Liabilities:** $917,614

**Net Assets:**
- Without Donor Restrictions: 730,346
- With Donor Restrictions: 26,933

**Total Net Assets:** $757,279

---

#### Revenues and Gains (FY 2019 Income Sources):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>$717,482</td>
<td>$717,482</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales – Merchandise</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>39,580</td>
<td>39,580</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>127,529</td>
<td>133,724</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships/Fees</td>
<td>17,555</td>
<td>17,555</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>3,938</td>
<td>3,938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized Investment Gains</td>
<td>6,876</td>
<td>6,876</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising Income</td>
<td>14,045</td>
<td>14,045</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>978,800</td>
<td>984,995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### Expenses (FY 2019 Expense Allocations):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>80,249</td>
<td>80,249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>41,209</td>
<td>41,209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>872,174</td>
<td>872,174</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Changes in Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – Beginning of Year</td>
<td>623,720</td>
<td>20,738</td>
<td>644,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – End of Year</td>
<td>730,346</td>
<td>26,933</td>
<td>757,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES:**
- Accrued Expenses: 37,675
- Advances from Grantors: 16,212
- Grants Awarded: 88,671

**Total Current Liabilities:** $148,133

**Total Liabilities:** $148,133

**Net Assets:**
- Without Donor Restrictions: 730,346
- With Donor Restrictions: 26,933

**Total Net Assets:** $757,279

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**Thank You to All of The Last Green Valley’s Corporate, Non-Profit and Government Sponsors and Partners**

From 10/01/2018 – 12/31/2019

**FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING**
- National Park Service, National Heritage Areas Program
- US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Regional Conservation Partnership Program

**CASH CONTRIBUTIONS**
- $10,000+ Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
- $5,000+ Millennium Power Partners, L.P.
- Putnam Bank
- River Alliance of CT

**$500+**
- Berkshire Bank

**$1,000+**
- Anonymous
- bankhometown
- Cornerstone Bank
- Farm Credit East
- French River Connection
- Ivanhoe Tool & Die Co., Inc.
- Jowett City Savings Bank
- Savers Bank
- Simonds, Inc.
- Town of Brooklyn
- UMF, Helping Hands Committee

**$500+**
- Cigna Foundation
- Gorton Open Space Association
- Jowett City Savings Bank
- KeyBank
- Title Energy
- Town of Coventry

**$250+**
- The Denaill Foundation, Inc.
- Dexter Russell, Inc.
- Gerard Insurance Services, Inc.
- Sturbridge Tourist Association
- Town of Chaplin
- Town of Hampton
- Village Electric

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**ENHANCED PARTNERS**
- Allen Hill Farm, LLC
- Anonymous
- Atlantic Broadband
- bankhometown
- Bed & Breakfasts of Mystic Coast & Country
- Berkshire Bank
- Blackmer Farm
- Bogey Lanes
- Boston & Maine Farm Sugar House
- Brooklyn Historical Society
- Burr’s Orchard
- Byrnes Insurance Agency
- Captain Hill Nature Sanctuary
- Chamber of Central Mass South
- Columbia Canoe Club
- Cook’s Farm Orchard
- Cornerstone Bank
- Coventry Historical Society
- Daughters of the Holy Spirit
- ECFELA
- Farm Credit East
- Finnish-American Historical Society
- Florence Griswold Museum
- Fort Hill Farms & Gardens, LLC
- French River Connection
- Friends of Pachaug Forest Inc.
- Girl Scouts of Connecticut
- The Governor Samuel Huntington Trust
- Huntington Homestead
- Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
- Gorton Open Space Association
- Halvey YMCA Youth & Family Center
- Hansen Family Tree Farm, LLC
- Hart’s Greenhouse & Florist
- Hay Burn Inn
- Highland Festival Association of Scotland, CT
- Horizon Wings
- Hull Forest Products
- Ivanhoe Tool & Die Co., Inc.
- Jowett City Savings Bank
- Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts
- Joshua’s Tract Conservation & Historic Trust
- KeyBank
- Ladd’s Garden Center
- Lakeview Marine - Paddlesport Rentals
- Lupisley Orchards
- Lebanon Historical Society Museum
- Millennium Power Partners, L.P.
- Morning Becks Farm
- Northeast Connecticut Farmers’ Market
- Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce
- Opumac Land Trust, Inc.
- Optical Historical Society
- Pfizer
- PfizerCare
- Pine Hill Alpaca Farm
- Poutsing & Passages
- Preston Ridge Vineyard
- Putnam Bank
- Putnam Business Association
- Putnam Elms
- Quiet Corner Inn
- Quiet Corner NEMBA
- Rosiland Park
- Samuel Smil, Pittoe Sotheby’s International Realty
- Savers Bank
- Select Seeds
- Semaki & Bird
- Sharp Hill Vineyard
- Sturbridge Tourist Association
- Taylor Brookew Winey
- TNECT at the Bradley Playhouse
- Town Line Tree Farm
- Town of Killingly
- Town of Voluntown
- Voluntown Peace Trust
- Wheelabrator, Lobl
- Willimantic Brewing Co., LLC, Rest.
- & Pub Brewery
- Willimantic Road Co-op
- Willimantic Whitewater Association
- Windham County 4-H Foundation
- Woodstock Building Associates, LLC
- Woodstock Business Association
- Woodstock Sustainable Farms & Manton Green B & B
- Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.

**PARTNERS**
- 101 Business Solutions
- 85 Main
- The Adventure Park at Storrs
- The Arc Eastern CT
- Arc Emporium & ARC Redemption Center
- Archambault Insurance Associates
- ARTicles Gallery
- Arts in the Garden
- Ashford Business Association
- Continued on next page
Thank You to All of The Last Green Valley's Individual and Family Members and Donors

From 10/01/2018 – 12/31/2019

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

$10,000+
Michael J. & Tereney G. Nelson
Robert Palumbo & Joanne Moore
Ken Parker
Bruce & Linda Parsons*
Jeff & Lindsay Paul
Anne Roberts-Pierson*
Lynne W. Pfan*
Jane Powell*
Howard Raphaelson
Elizabeth Paul & James Corcoran
William B. Reid
Bill & Edith Rash
Joyce M. Rice
Bernice L. Rocque
Mary Sosnowy
Gerald W. Szazma*
William Shanahan
Charlie & Nancy Sandler
Caroline & Andrew Stot of Am
St Joa St. Ament
David Taylor
James & Elaine Tenie
Ted Theodoses*
Lisa & Thomas* Thomas*
Nico & Rachel Wall
Robert & Susan Vincent
Christine C. Walden
Suzanne & Dennis Lands
Lucille A. Langlois*
Scott & Rebecca Lehmann
Glenn & Christine Lissig
Frank Liberty
Barry & Gina Lipperhu
Emily Logan Weller
Mark & Michelle Winne

$5,000+
Anonymous*
Mashikian

$2,500+
Anonymous*
Nancy Polydys

$1,000+
Anonymous*
Wayne & Mary Beth Schmidt
Glen Warner & Marguerite Davis

$500+
Anonymous

donations of $500 or more for the calendar year 2018.

$250+
Anonymous

$100+
Anonymous

$50+
Anonymous

$25+
Anonymous

$10+
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$5+
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$1+
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