

Nantucket Land & Water Council

The Island's ONLY Environmental Advocate

THANK YOU 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



We Defend Clean Water with Clear Action

The **Nantucket Land & Water Council** is Nantucket's environmental advocate.

Thanks to YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT the NLWC acts as the Nantucket Waterkeeper all year long: **paying attention, raising awareness and taking action** on behalf of our island's treasured fresh and saltwater resources.

We are the eyes and ears for Nantucket's waterways with the goal of preserving FISHABLE, SWIMMABLE, DRINKABLE WATERS for all!

See something? Say something.

Email **RJ@nantucketlandwater.org** with your water resource questions and concerns.

With YOUR help, the Nantucket Land & Water Council has been protecting Nantucket's land and water resources for more than 50 years.

THANK YOU!



Message from our Executive Director and Board President

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The Nantucket Land & Water Council achieved a significant milestone in 2024 as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the organization. Founded in 1974, the NLWC has a truly remarkable history of land and water protection, environmental research, education, and advocacy.



We celebrated our anniversary with a series of community testimonials reflecting on the contributions of the organization over the years, the launch of a beautiful new website, and a special 50th Anniversary Film by September Productions. At our 50th Annual Meeting, we invited former NLWC Executive Director John Roe to speak about the organization's increased focus on protecting Nantucket's waters throughout the 1980's, and we invited long time NLWC Land Use and Legal Advisor Jon Witten to share a more regional perspective on the importance of the advocacy role the NLWC plays in the Nantucket community.

Throughout the year, our small but mighty staff worked on putting the Board's new strategic mission and vision into action with new programs and ongoing initiatives. We continued our research and restoration efforts in Nantucket Harbor to inform policy for the long- term protection of our eelgrass habitat and our work to monitor the health of island ponds,

We helped to explore and develop new policies such as Inclusionary Zoning to support year round housing on the island, we continued to pursue research, education and advocacy opportunities around the impact that PFAS chemicals are having on our island and community, and we launched an exciting new initiative called *Grow Native for Nantucket* to celebrate and encourage a broader use and incorporation of native plants in our island landscapes. *Grow Native for Nantucket* promotes a great opportunity for all residents to contribute to a healthy island ecosystem by using more native plants.

Finally, in 2024, we continued to fulfill one of our most important roles: providing a voice for Nantucket's land and waters. The NLWC is Nantucket's only environmental advocate, and we continue every day to *Pay Attention, Raise Awareness, and Take Action* so that future generations have clean, resilient natural resources on which they can depend, and which they can enjoy for the next 50 years and beyond.

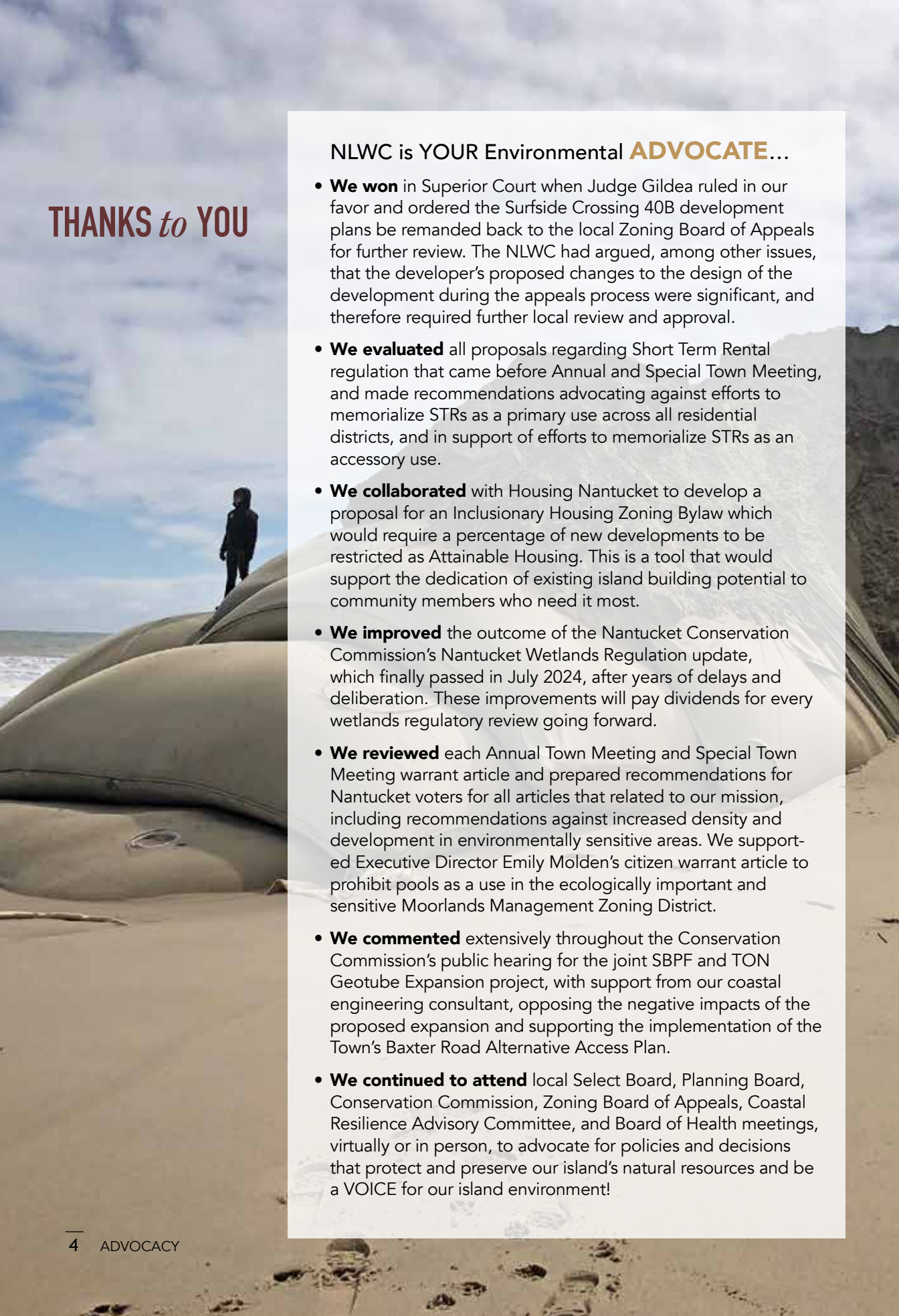
With Gratitude,

Emily Molden

Executive Director

Judy Bleske

President



THANKS *to* YOU

NLWC is YOUR Environmental **ADVOCATE**...

- **We won** in Superior Court when Judge Gildea ruled in our favor and ordered the Surfside Crossing 40B development plans be remanded back to the local Zoning Board of Appeals for further review. The NLWC had argued, among other issues, that the developer's proposed changes to the design of the development during the appeals process were significant, and therefore required further local review and approval.
- **We evaluated** all proposals regarding Short Term Rental regulation that came before Annual and Special Town Meeting, and made recommendations advocating against efforts to memorialize STRs as a primary use across all residential districts, and in support of efforts to memorialize STRs as an accessory use.
- **We collaborated** with Housing Nantucket to develop a proposal for an Inclusionary Housing Zoning Bylaw which would require a percentage of new developments to be restricted as Attainable Housing. This is a tool that would support the dedication of existing island building potential to community members who need it most.
- **We improved** the outcome of the Nantucket Conservation Commission's Nantucket Wetlands Regulation update, which finally passed in July 2024, after years of delays and deliberation. These improvements will pay dividends for every wetlands regulatory review going forward.
- **We reviewed** each Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting warrant article and prepared recommendations for Nantucket voters for all articles that related to our mission, including recommendations against increased density and development in environmentally sensitive areas. We supported Executive Director Emily Molden's citizen warrant article to prohibit pools as a use in the ecologically important and sensitive Moorlands Management Zoning District.
- **We commented** extensively throughout the Conservation Commission's public hearing for the joint SBPF and TON Geotube Expansion project, with support from our coastal engineering consultant, opposing the negative impacts of the proposed expansion and supporting the implementation of the Town's Baxter Road Alternative Access Plan.
- **We continued to attend** local Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee, and Board of Health meetings, virtually or in person, to advocate for policies and decisions that protect and preserve our island's natural resources and be a VOICE for our island environment!

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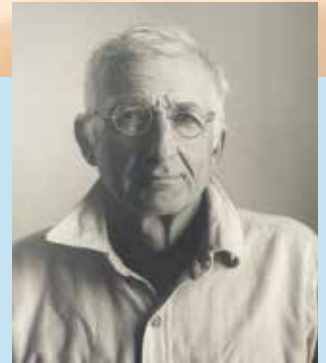
articles reviewed for
2024 Annual and Special
Town Meetings

160+

hours spent reviewing
proposals & attending
Coastal Resilience
meetings, writing letters
& commenting

500+

hours spent reviewing
proposals, writing letters,
and attending municipal
meetings



Nantucket Land & Water Council Legacy Advocate

**In Memory of Steve Bender, Dedicated Defender of Nantucket's Waters
Stephen L. Bender (April 1934 – January 2025)**

The Nantucket Land & Water Council is pleased to honor **Steve Bender** in 2025 as a **Legacy Advocate for Nantucket's waters and the environment**. Steve was a scholar, a traveler, a restaurateur, a waterman, a caterer, a fisherman, and an advocate.

Steve moved to Nantucket in 1970 and opened a restaurant on Main Street called The Sandpiper. He eventually started scalloping and, in 2003, he started oyster farming. **Steve saw the eelgrass disappearing and began speaking up.** He felt strongly that if you were going to use the harbor, you would have to help protect it. He wanted to see his grandchildren digging for clams. He heard many stories about the declines he was witnessing being part of the natural cycle, but Steve didn't buy it.

Steve's passion for justice for the water continued to burn throughout his life. He was driven to get more involved in local government and politics after watching, firsthand, the health of the harbor decline. **Steve served a 3-year term on the Nantucket Select Board in the early 2000s, participated on the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board, and generally built a name and a reputation for himself as an advocate for the Harbor.** He was arrested twice when his quest for answers about wastewater discharge practices of vessels within Nantucket Harbor led to confrontations out on the docks. His frequent participation in Annual Town Meetings led him to earn the nickname "Bender the Amender". Steve cared deeply, and through the years he gave NLWC staff plenty of encouragement to Stay the Course. **We are so grateful for his contributions and his voice. He will be missed.**

The NLWC is Committed to **PROTECTING** Open Space and the Health of Our Environment

In 2024, the Nantucket Land and Water Council continued to serve as a steadfast advocate for the island’s land, water, and community. Through conservation, education, and policy engagement, we remained focused on protecting the natural character and ecological health of Nantucket. Our staff **participated in key public forums, reviewed development proposals, and monitored regulatory changes** to ensure that decisions affecting the island reflect long-term environmental priorities.

- 2024 marked the launch of our **Grow Native for Nantucket** initiative, with financial support from Remain Nantucket, an **outreach and education** effort encouraging island residents to **plant native species and reduce the use of harmful chemicals** in landscaping. By promoting the use of locally adapted plants, the campaign **supports key areas of concern, including water quality protection, biodiversity, and coastal resilience**. Grow Native for Nantucket has already sparked meaningful conversations about how we care for our land, starting right in our own backyards.

Through *Grow Native for Nantucket*, we:

- Hosted **a series of landscaper education events** focused on native plant selection and organic land care practices, helping to build professional capacity for sustainable landscaping across the island.
- **Engaged students and youth organizations** in native plant programs, fostering early connections to ecological stewardship.
- **Collaborated with local organizations** to promote native plantings in both public and private spaces.

- For the last 50 years, **the NLWC has been a leader in permanent land protection through our Conservation Restriction (CR) program**. These legal agreements made in partnership with community members across the island, allow us to conserve land in perpetuity while respecting private ownership. Thanks to the ongoing commitment of these generous landowners, our network of protected landscapes continues to grow.
- As of 2024, **the NLWC holds 94 Conservation Restrictions**, each representing a shared vision for the future of Nantucket’s open space.
- We also **maintain our deep and long-standing relationships with conservation partners across the island**, including the Tuckernuck Land Trust, the Nantucket Islands Land Bank, and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Sconset Trust. Through these joint efforts, we expand the reach and impact of land protection on Nantucket, Tuckernuck, and Muskeget.





Grow Native for Nantucket

Grow Native for Nantucket is reshaping how our island thinks about landscaping. In 2024, the initiative deepened its roots, spreading awareness and action. Through hands-on programming, outreach, and collaborations with local community members and landscapers, we're helping shift the cultural norm toward more sustainable, ecologically informed land care. Native plants are more than just beautiful; they're essential infrastructure for healthy soils, clean water, and resilient habitats.

NLWC Summer Staff

In 2024, NLWC welcomed a dedicated group of interns and seasonal staff who played a key role in advancing our conservation work. **Tristan Ene** and **Prerana Patil** co-managed our Eelgrass Restoration Project, supporting the health of Nantucket's coastal ecosystems. **Bella Cichy** served as our Waterkeeper Intern, assisting with water quality testing and clean water advocacy. **Luke McKay** joined as our Policy Intern, researching local issues such as PFAS, zoning, and fisheries management. **Dylan Damian** served as our Development Intern, providing essential support through administrative and research tasks. Their contributions strengthened our efforts across land and water, and we are grateful for their hard work and passion.



L to R: Luke McKay, Tristan Ene, Bella Cichy, Prerana Patil



Community Partners

Almanack Arts Colony	Nantucket PFAS Action Group
Egan Maritime Institute	Nantucket Shellfish Association
Fairwinds Counseling Center	Nantucket Yacht Club
Great Harbor Yacht Club	ReMain Nantucket
Linda Loring Nature Foundation	University of Massachusetts Boston, Nantucket Field Station
Maria Mitchell Association	The Wauwinet
Nantucket Conservation Foundation	Toscana Corporation
Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative	Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department
Nantucket Islands Land Bank	Town of Nantucket Wastewater Department
Nantucket Island Resorts	Town of Nantucket Water Department
Nantucket Lighthouse School	
Nantucket New School	
Nantucket Pond Coalition	
Nantucket Public Schools	



THANKS to YOU

Emily Molden and RJ Turcotte working with project partners to launch a new stormwater sampling program.



“The Nantucket Land & Water Council’s efforts through education, advocacy and policy on our island’s major environmental issues are so important to our community

In a world filled with politics and opinions, our environment needs a voice. The Nantucket Land & Water Council provides our community with information and research on what our environment needs and what we can do to help. I have enjoyed and cared for our island environment since I was a child and am grateful to be involved with a group that prioritizes protecting our unique natural resources.”

—Margaret Troast, NLWC Associate

NLWC is a Leader in Island-wide Environmental **RESEARCH**

The Nantucket Land & Water Council relies upon in-depth scientific research to further our land protection, education, and advocacy roles. In 2024, NLWC’s Research initiatives and partnerships successfully:

- **Harvested and planted over 100,000 eelgrass seeds** to restoration sites in Nantucket Harbor as we continue to explore the best methods for restoring this critical habitat.
- **Partnered with USGS to automate a second groundwater monitoring well** off Milestone Road. This solar-powered station collects real-time data and uploads to the public USGS website so the public can see what Nantucket’s sole-source aquifer is doing twenty-four hours a day, year-round.
- Continued to **work on the Pilot PFAS Screening Project**, including intensive testing of a subset of the screening locations

as we worked with our project partners to refine this promising method. We also **released a preliminary community report** based on this information. This project continues on into 2025, so stay tuned.

- Continued **collecting water quality data on Capaum and Gibbs ponds**, directly influencing how they are being managed for water quality concerns such as Harmful Algal Blooms.
- Partnered with the Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department to conduct **additional water quality sampling** nearer to shore than the Town’s established sentinel stations.
- Received a research grant from the Great Harbor Yacht Club Foundation to launch a **new stormwater monitoring program** with the Town of Nantucket and other local partners.

THANKS *to* YOU

RJ Turcotte and Sam Banas of USGS measuring ground water levels.

NLWC is Helping **EDUCATE** Future Generations of Environmentalists!

Education and outreach remained central to NLWC’s mission in 2024, as we worked to engage the Nantucket community in the protection of our island’s natural resources.

Through a combination of public programs, school partnerships, and community events, we reached audiences of all ages with information about conservation, native landscapes, and sustainable living.

- **Raising community awareness was a key focus of the NLWC’s Pilot PFAS Well Project in 2024**, as we worked to shed light on this complex and emerging threat to water quality. Recognizing how difficult PFAS can be to understand, **NLWC staff prioritized clear, accessible communication through collaborative events and independently hosted discussions.** One of the year’s highlights was a free public forum at the Nantucket Dreamland, where residents heard from leading experts on PFAS policy, health risks, and strategies for reducing exposure.
- The **Downtown Oyster Upweller Project** enjoyed its second season, spending 2024 at Straight Wharf—providing engagement and education to numerous passersby in a highly visible and high-traffic location.
- The NLWC facilitated another series of **Winter Wellness Walks** in partnership with the Nantucket Land Bank, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, the Linda Loring Nature Foundation, and Fairwinds, Nantucket’s Behavioural Health Center —inspiring people to get outdoors during the coldest part of the year to support mental health.

- The NLWC engaged over 100 community members through **Tree and Kayak Tours** with the Nantucket Waterkeeper, raising awareness of the ongoing need to protect our land and water resources.
- NLWC staff also partnered with island schools and youth organizations to provide hands-on environmental education. **From science fairs to water quality demonstrations, we aimed to foster early connections** between young people and the natural world around them. Our team took part in classroom visits during the school year and visited various camps and summer programs to promote environmentalism all year long.

Highlights include:

- Nantucket Junior Yacht Club **tidepooling and water quality sampling** with the Great Harbor Yacht Club **Youth Harbor Education Program** engaged kids on Nantucket Harbor.
- **Public vernal pool tours** with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation at Squam Swamp.
- **Native Plant programs** with the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club, which enabled campers to take home their own species of native plants that they transplanted into appropriate soils themselves.
- **Discussions on Microplastics and Nutrient Loading** with the Nantucket Intermediate School’s 5th Grade classes.

Through these educational efforts, NLWC continues to build a more informed and engaged community—one that is empowered to help steward Nantucket’s land and water for generations to come.

15

public and private
educational programs

150+

Nantucket students
impacted by our
school grants

4,800

dollars of school grant
funding provided

THANKS *to* YOU



Nantucket,
Waterkeeper,
RJ Turcotte
tidepooling
with Junior
Yacht Club Kids



RJ teaching groundwater modeling
and automated sampling to the 8th
Graders of Nantucket New School



RJ explaining oyster
upwellers and water
quality with NLWC
volunteer, Carley Ray

NLWC is **CREATING AWARENESS** of the Critical Mission We Work to Uphold Year-round, Island-wide: Protecting and Preserving our Natural and Water Resources. JOIN US!

- In 2024, we kicked off the year by announcing our 50th anniversary! We were **grateful to celebrate this milestone with our members and community** through special events, outreach, and a 50th-anniversary film at our Annual Meeting.
- On February 13th, the Nantucket Land & Water Council organized a conversation with Analytical Chemist Kristen Mello, Dr. Courtney Carignan of Michigan State University, and Dr. Timothy Lepore of Nantucket to **better understand the history and effects of PFAS** providing a **valuable discussion** about this **complex and developing issue**.
- The NLWC was thrilled to co-host our annual **Friends Fête** again with the Almanack Arts Colony in July, with nearly 200 attendees. **Enormous thanks to our 2024 Host Committee and Event Sponsors: PURE Insurance, Donelan Family Wines, and Cisco Brewers.** Guests enjoyed live music by Coq au Vin, dancing, delicious seafood from YoHo Raw Bar, and a fantastic spread by Mark and Eithne of Nantucket Catering Co.
- The NLWC was thrilled with the turnout for its **8th Annual State of the Harbor Forum**, held on July 18th at the Great Harbor Yacht Club. Nearly 150 community members attended to learn about **stormwater runoff and its effect on Nantucket Harbor's health**. The event featured presentations from Emily Molden, Anne Kitchell of the Horsley Witten Group, Charles Johnson of the Town of Nantucket, and Rachael Freeman from the Nantucket Land Bank.
- **3,641 observations were recorded by more than 400 participants** this year as a part of our **NLWC Associates "Bioblitz" citizen science project** in July alone! Thanks to our partner, the Linda Loring Nature Foundation, and our NLWC Associates for executing this fun community science event!
- On August 1st, the NLWC and PFAS Action Group hosted **"Unraveling PFAS—A Nantucket Imperative,"** featuring a panel of experts who discussed the risks of PFAS contamination on Nantucket and beyond. The event provided **valuable insights into these "forever chemicals" and explored solutions** to mitigate their effects.
- At the **NLWC's 50th Annual Meeting**, the Nantucket Land & Water Council **celebrated 5 decades of protecting Nantucket's land and water resources**. Guests enjoyed the premiere of our 50th Anniversary Film, produced by September Productions, and heard from special guests John Roe, Former Executive Director, and Jon Witten, Land Use Advisor.
- **Thank you to everyone who supported the NLWC's Annual Labor Day Weekend Dinner!** Over 150 guests enjoyed the beautiful harbor location generously provided by Mark & Deborah Beale and Will Kinsella, delicious wines from the Donelan Family and libations from Cisco Brewers, and a viewing of our 50th-anniversary film. Special thanks to our co-Chairs, Mary-Randolph Ballinger and Susan Baer, and our 2024 Table Hosts for their presence and support!
- Our **beautiful and informative Winter and Water Newsletters** were distributed island-wide and are available on our website anytime. Stay up-to-date with the NLWC's programs, projects, tours, and events by reading our newsletters, subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, and following us on social media @nantucketlandwater—we love to hear from the community.



THANKS *to* YOU

L to R: Former NLWC Executive Director, John Roe; NLWC Board President, Lucy Leske; NLWC Executive Director, Emily Molden; NLWC Land Use & Legal Advisor, Jon Witten at NLWC's 50th Annual Meeting



Above & left: Guests enjoy good food, drink, music and company celebrating the work of the NLWC at our Friends Fête event and (below) Annual End of Season Dinner



Treasurer's Report

Dear Nantucket Land and Water Council Members,

The Nantucket Land & Water Council ("NLWC") maintained financial strength through 2024, with continued focus on fiscal responsibility, mission-driven expenditures, and strategic stewardship of our island's natural resources.

Fifty years on, your gifts remain central to our organization. Our dedicated organization has permanently protected over 2500 acres of land, helping to preserve iconic areas, including Squam Farm, Bartlett's Farm, and Eel Point. Your contributions allow us to continue focusing resources on land preservation, protecting our drinking water, conducting research, and performing advocacy year-round on the island.

Our fundraising efforts led to \$954,783 in restricted and unrestricted gifts last year, an increase of 28% over 2023. This is largely thanks to our donors supporting us in record numbers during our 50th-anniversary campaign. We continue to be humbled by the island-wide support we receive from a large and diverse body of like-minded stewards of our island.

Our operating loss after expenses was \$113k, which was a greater deficit than usual, on account of 2024 being an anniversary and expansionary year for the NLWC. We invested more into our programs, into our outreach to the community, and into our PR efforts. Programmatic spending remained our top priority, with nearly 70% of all expenses directly supporting mission-aligned efforts including water quality initiatives, land protection and stewardship programs, and community education and outreach.

Specifically, in 2024, your donations have gone directly towards funding critical eelgrass monitoring and restoration; PFAS research and education; groundwater policies and protection; monitoring of the 94 conservation restrictions that we hold; classroom and community education, outreach to homeowners in both English and Spanish translations in critical matters like water quality and harbor health, informing voters via our annual Town Meeting recommendations, and advocacy before local regulatory boards including the Conservation Commission, Select, Zoning, and Planning Boards and the Board of Health. Our strength is derived from the collective contributions and efforts of our entire Nantucket community. We express deep gratitude to members who contributed to the NLWC by volunteering their time in addition to their resources.

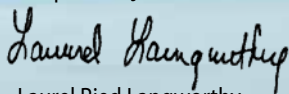
With respect to the NLWC's endowment, in 2024 it grew by over \$2.5M, representing a 15.5% increase for the 12 months ending 12/31/24. This is inclusive of the withdrawals taken to fund our operations and the investment management fees we pay. We continue to be pleased with the investment managers we have hired, with our return comparing favorably to our main benchmark.

With robust endowment returns, committed support from our loyal donors, and prudently managed expenses, we grew the NLWC's NAV from \$40.3M at 12/31/23 to \$42.7M by 12/31/24

The NLWC remains in sound financial health. As a result, in our 51st year as an organisation, the NLWC is well positioned to continue our expansive island-wide efforts in conservation, advocacy, scientific research, and water quality monitoring which are essential to preserve and protect the natural resources on our special island. Thanks to your support, we stand ready to serve our remarkable Nantucket community for the next 50 years and beyond.

I invite you to explore the 2024 financial summary on the following pages.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurel Ried Langworthy
Treasurer



Nantucket Land & Water Council

2024 Financial Summary

INCOME STATEMENT

	FY 2023*	FY 2024*
Restricted Contributions	\$190,068	\$302,622
Unrestricted Contributions	554,388	652,161
Endowment Draw	284,283	220,231
Event Net Revenue	73,742	126,828
Rental Income & Other Income	24,800	19,701
Operations Income	\$1,127,281	\$1,321,543
Programs and Projects	703,100	953,301
Supporting Services	297,206	311,506
Fundraising	150,586	169,666
Operations Expenses	\$1,150,892	\$1,434,473
NET OPERATING INCOME, AFTER EXPENSES	-\$23,611	-\$112,930

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Jackson Property Campaign	\$50,000	-
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BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$224,400	\$133,248
Unconditional Promises to Give	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	8,400	8,400
Endowment Assets	16,269,628	18,973,202
Fixed Assets	638,644	622,806
Land and Conservation Restrictions	23,148,721	23,148,721
Other Assets	20,864	-

TOTAL ASSETS

\$40,310,657	\$42,706,377
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LIABILITIES & NET ASSET VALUE

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$12,747	\$33,484
Other Liabilities	\$20,864	-
Total Liabilities	\$33,611	\$33,484

NET ASSET VALUE**

\$40,277,046	\$42,672,893
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* Fiscal years ending December 31

** Year end 2023 net asset value with donor restrictions totals \$502,810 and without donor restrictions totals \$39,774,236.
Year end 2024 net asset value with donor restrictions totals \$554,579 and without donor restrictions totals \$42,118,314.

Legacy Circle & Planned Giving

YOUR LEGACY IS OUR FUTURE

Planning Your Legacy

By including the Nantucket Land & Water Council—the island’s environmental advocate—in your estate plans **you are electing to become a steward of Nantucket’s treasured land and water resources for future generations.**

There are a variety of ways you can make a gift. Please visit <https://www.nantucketlandwater.org/legacy-circle> for detailed suggestions. We encourage you to consult with your attorney or tax advisor for the various tax benefits and restrictions that may apply to your specific situation and to make certain that your gift fits well into your overall circumstances and planning. We are available to work with your attorney or advisor to answer questions or help arrange a planned gift to the NLWC.

If you’d like to discuss any of these options please contact NLWC Development Director Michelle Whelan at michelle@nantucketlandwater.org.

Nantucket Land & Water Council Legacy Circle

Anonymous
Mary-Randolph Ballinger
Larry Breakiron†
Jean Haffenreffer†
Adrienne McCalley†
Virginia and Alan Nathan

H. Brooks and Meredyth Smith
Eva Howe Stevens†
Jonathan C. Swain
Judith Wegner†
† Deceased

We determined this was the perfect organization to support...through the Legacy Circle in our will.



We have been coming to Nantucket every summer since 1968, drawn by its beautiful and accessible beaches and water. Many changes have occurred since, but we are still attached to its natural beauty. In recent years, the harbors and ponds have experienced a nitrogen overload. Fortunately, the Nantucket Land and Water Council is focusing its attention on these issues and the aquifer. We determined this was the perfect organization to support yearly as well as through the Legacy Circle in our will.

—Virginia and Alan Nathan

Conservation Restrictions

This year, the Nantucket Land and Water Council continued to expand its Conservation Restriction (CR) Program in partnership with landowners across the island, helping to permanently protect open space and vital natural resources. CRs are voluntary legal agreements that safeguard land in perpetuity while honoring each landowner’s vision of the future for their property. By entering into these agreements, landowners become long-term stewards of Nantucket’s landscape, playing a critical role in shaping a more resilient and ecologically sound island.

- **The NLWC now holds 94 Conservation Restrictions**, permanently protecting over 1,500 acres across Nantucket, Tuckernuck, and Muskeget. NLWC staff works diligently to maintain and expand upon these important conservation relationships throughout the year. This work includes annual property inspections, thorough documentation and record-keeping, and ongoing communication with landowners to ensure each property’s conservation values are upheld over time.
- Beyond stewardship, **NLWC also provides guidance to prospective CR donors**, helping them understand the legal, ecological, and financial aspects **including the potential for generous tax benefits** of placing a restriction on their land. By offering this hands-on support, the Council continues to grow the CR program strategically, prioritizing parcels with significant ecological, scenic, or hydrological value.

If you are a landowner interested in preserving your property and protecting it from overdevelopment, contact the NLWC to learn more about how a Conservation Restriction can help protect what you love forever.

From 1986 through 2024, the following generous individuals protected their lands for public benefit by granting Conservation Restrictions to the Nantucket Land & Water Council:

Edith Andrews	Thomas Fisher III	Stephen W. Jay	William Seidman
Ginger Andrews	M. Pat Gardner	Joanne Ledbetter	Nancy J. Sevens
Clifford and Dorothy Barbour	William P. Graves II and Lydia B. Graves II (Reed Pond Nominee Trust)	Christopher and Virginia Lewis	Sheep Common Realty Trust
Bartlett Family Trust, Henry Bartlett, Trustee	Marie Francis Guildehaus and Brad Henke	Linda Loring The Linda Loring Nature Foundation, Inc.	Catherine Snow
Diana Bartlett Sclafani	Great Point Nominee Trust	Frank and Clara Low	Crocker Snow
Nathaniel Bartlett W. Scott Bartlett, Jr.	Erwin Greenberg	Gary and Susan McCarthy	Deborah and Peter Solbert
W. Scott Bartlett III	Priscilla Grace	Margaret McElderry	Ruth Phinney Stevens
Philip D. Bartlett, as Trustee	Mary Hardy	Eileen McGrath	Susan Coffin
Walter and Susan Birge	Priscilla Harper	Debora and James McIntosh	Dammin Stone
Bluefin Partners, LLC	Edward and Jacqueline Harris	Leon and Betty Miller	John M. Taylor, Jr.
Karen and Carl Borchert	Jane Fay Harter	Mira Mar Nominee Trust	Estate of Susan Timken
Borchert Nominee Trust	John Taylor Hopkins	MSPCA	David C. Todd
Natalie Brewer	Edgar B. Howard III	Edward A. Murphy	Town of Nantucket
Diana Brown	William T. Howard	Nanahumacke Preserve	Tuckernuck Land Trust, Inc.
Miles G. Carlisle	Hummock Pond of Nantucket Homeowners Association	Homeowners Association	Elizabeth Van Duyne
Christopher Clark	Laura Hussey	Nantucket Conservation Foundation	Via Vai LLC
A. Byron Coffin, Jr.	Karen Jackman	Nantucket Islands Land Bank	Diana Walker
Edward and Sarah Crane	Richard Jackman	The Nature Conservancy	John D. Walker, Jr.
J. Tristram Coffin	Robert and Cynthia Jay	Offshore Animal Hospital	Joseph Walker
Dammin	Alexander D. Jay	Irene Parent	Washing Pond Trust
Donald Denninger	Alida Jay Boye	Morris Phinney Jr.	Christine, Breckenridge, Blair and Christopher Wilcox
Michael Egan, Trustee	Anne O. Jay	Joan Pratel	John Wittman
Catherine Felleman	Daniel G. Jay	Robert and Nancy Puff	Wright’s Landing LLC
Finback Homeowners Association Trust	David A. Jay	Sachem’s Path, Greg Segall	Nominee Trust
Eleanor Fisher Thompson	Paul M. Jay		Wynndhill, LLC
Anne Fisher Falby			
Thomas Fisher, Jr.			

NLWC Annual Giving Stewardship Program

We are deeply grateful to the founding participants of our annual giving stewardship program, whose vision, dedication, commitment, and steadfast support enable us to plan ahead and strategically allocate resources to specific programs and initiatives designed to protect, preserve, and restore the health of Nantucket’s environment.

NLWC Stewards \$25,000 & Above

Cox Foundation
Robert and Barbara Friedman
Todd and Anne Knutson
Peter and Bonnie McCausland
Jay and Nancy Nichols

NLWC Sustainers \$10,000-\$24,999

Bill and Margi Brenizer
The McNear Family
Annalise and Tom Nelson
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NLWC Special Project Challenge Grant

In 2024, the Nantucket Land & Water Council **was fortunate to receive a generous, anonymous 1:1 Matching Challenge Grant from donors particularly interested in aiding the NLWC with Special Projects**—projects that are not high-profile yet are essential elements underpinning our success. For every dollar raised, our anonymous Challenge donors promised a matching dollar up to \$60,000 for a total of \$120,000 to fund our

- **Policy & Advocacy work**—hiring consultants to perform research and aid our ongoing policy and advocacy work, particularly in the areas of municipal planning, zoning policy, and local and regional permitting of proposed industrial, commercial and residential projects impacting the health of our environment
- **Program Resources**—strengthening our programs by funding a policy intern and summer staff housing
- **Infrastructure and equipment support**—including a redesigned website and essential office equipment

We are incredibly grateful to our Special Project Challenge Donors
for their dedication to ensuring long-term viability and sustainability.

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NLWC Waterkeeper Program

IN 2024 ~100,000 eelgrass seeds were harvested and planted at Fourth Bend and Monomoy—two sites where we are exploring the viability of restoration seeding techniques. The Oyster Upweller built by 2023 Advocate of the Year Carley Ray enjoyed a second successful season at a new location on Straight Wharf. We also continued to monitor and collect data at Capaum and Gibbs ponds, which both face significant eutrophication and future management questions. We continued our Private Well PFAS Screening program—sampling a subset of twenty of these homes with established lab techniques to compare what we found via the pilot screening technique. We have begun to explore how to incorporate sea level rise and climate change concerns into zoning and land use regulations following the successful updates for the local Wetlands Regulations. These efforts will carry on into 2025 as we work with our partners to protect clean water, whether it be the stuff falling from the sky, sitting in our ponds and harbors, or flowing underneath our feet. I hope you'll join us; it takes a village!



NLC Waterkeeper, RJ Turcotte



“The NLWC has been an important partner”

“The Nantucket Land & Water Council (NLWC) has been an important partner for the Town of Nantucket’s Water Department in many ways, including the NLWC’s long-term monitoring of Nantucket’s groundwater. Their work with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to take monthly water level measurements at ten locations across the island over the past 30+ years has generated a valuable data set that has helped us understand our drinking water resource. This research and their ongoing water education and advocacy are a great service to the island.”

— Mark Willett
Director, Town of
Nantucket Water Department

2024 Water Fund Challenge Grant

Through our donor-restricted Water Fund, the Nantucket Land & Water Council supports marine and freshwater projects on Nantucket and devotes substantial resources to water quality monitoring, research, advocacy, and education. The NLWC is the Nantucket Waterkeeper and an active member of the Waterkeeper Alliance—a global network of community organizations advocating for healthy water systems worldwide.

In order to encourage contributions to our Water Fund in 2024, members of the NLWC Board of Directors got together and created a generous “Water Fund Challenge Grant”, matching gifts to the NLWC’s Water Fund up to \$75,000.

We are deeply grateful to our 2024 Challengers:

*Susan and Michael Baer, Mary-Randolph Ballinger,
The Cox Foundation, Robert and Barbara Friedman,
Peter and Bonnie McCausland, Alan and Virginia Nathan,
Lars and Jane Soderberg*

We
Love Our
Nantucket
Waters



Thanks to the generosity of the following donors, our 2024 Water Fund Challenge Grant was a success!

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Great Harbor Yacht Club Foundation
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NLWC staff and volunteers working together on PFAS research

Volunteers

In 2024, we had a small, dedicated group of volunteers who helped us with our projects—without them, we could never have completed PFAS sampling, run the Downtown Oyster Upweller, prepped eelgrass seeds for fall planting in Nantucket Harbor, or returned our Waterkeeper vessel to the Harbor after that September storm! Thanks to everyone who helped chip in one way or another in 2024!

- Ashley Erisman
- Ayesha Barber
- Kristen Mello
- Carley Ray
- Leah Hill
- Tobias Glidden
- Neil Foley
- Nate Scott
- Charlie Sullivan



HONORING Lucy Dillon

The NLWC would like to extend its warmest and most sincere thanks to Lucy Dillon for serving as President of the Board for the past 10 years. A steadfast leader for the organization, Lucy has been an incredible asset to the success and direction of the NLWC. Matt Liddle, NLWC Director and Vice President reflects “Lucy’s tireless efforts, unwavering commitment, and invaluable contributions have steered this organization through calm and turbulent seas over the last ten years. And while Lucy’s leadership will be missed dearly, I am grateful for the lasting legacy she will be leaving behind.” “Unfortunately, the work of the NLWC will never be done. That is the nature of what we do.” Lucy added, “But I am extremely proud to be stepping down with the staff and the Board that we currently have in place to usher us forward into our 51st year.” Lucy looks forward to continuing her work with the NLWC as a Director and supporter. She has enjoyed the time in her capacity as President and is proud of the NLWC’s role in supporting the health and well-being of Nantucket and its community.

Gifts in Memoriam

In Memory of
Thomas Devine
Ethan Devine

Ann Holmes
Peter Holmes

Suzanne Mueller
Henrey Mueller and Gerilyn Brewer
Charles Mueller • Anne Redman

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Thank You to all the individuals, families, businesses and foundations who supported the work of the Nantucket Land & Water Council during our 2024 Fiscal year. We are especially grateful for the extra support we received in honor of our 50th anniversary in 2024. Together, we are making a difference!



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6 Ash Lane
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In 2024

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, throughout the year, the Nantucket Land & Water Council continued to: **Pay Attention**—attending all Nantucket regulatory meetings and voicing concerns regarding projects that could negatively impact our environment; **Raise Awareness**—encouraging our community through online and print campaigns, educational activities and awards to shift perceptions and alter practices that are detrimental to our environment and **Take Action**—advocating for by-law and policy changes to proactively protect our natural resources. We also opposed regulatory decisions that could negatively impact our environment through litigation and created and administered programs to increase the health of our fresh and saltwater resources.

Thank You

Read about our 2024 initiatives, outreach and programs designed to further our mission and **protect Nantucket's precious land and water resources.**

