

2020



ANNUAL REPORT



4 new members joined the CREA Board bringing a diverse array of experience and expertise to the organization

895
People enjoyed CREA's virtual Speakers series



1 new CREA office at 179 Neptune Drive in Brunswick



4 In person teacher trainings

960 Wild Wonders activity kits distributed to community libraries and MCHPP food pantry to get children outdoors on home learning days

261
CREA Members



2 StoryWalks for self-guided family adventures (Brunswick Landing & the Preserve). Translations available in French, Portuguese and English at the Brunswick StoryWalk.

177
Virtual meetings and webinars

96 People attended in person guided walks

436
Views of Sarah & Carey's (CREA Educators) virtual field trips and online nature-based science lessons



13
community programs

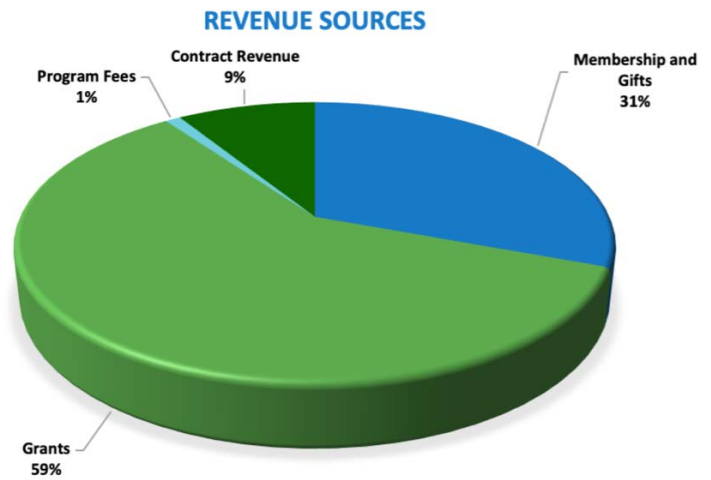
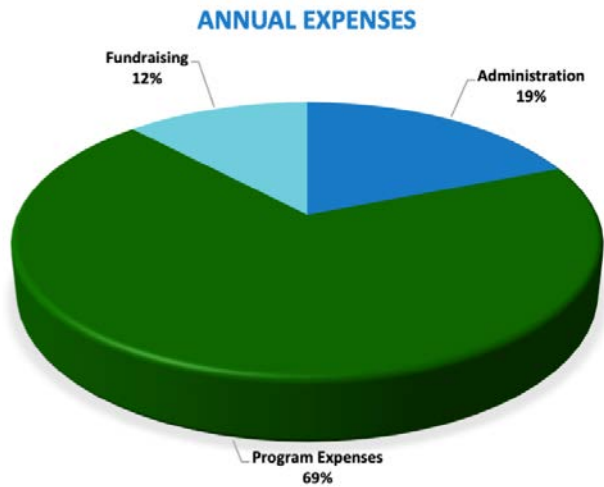
15 CREA Nature Investigator videos created by 2020 summer interns to engage youth in summer adventures, nature-based art and hands-on science exploration.



OUR MISSION

To deepen ecological awareness through nature-based learning among students, educators, and the public; to promote environmental stewardship; and to foster wise use of the Cathance River Nature Preserve.

FINANCE



CREA ADAPTS

We believe in the power of in-person, nature-based programs to educate and inspire and that will remain our chosen method of delivering services. But denied that option in most of 2020 due to the pandemic, we pivoted to new ways of providing teachers, students, and community members the means to independently teach, learn, or experience the wonders of the natural world. The past year gave us a unique opportunity to explore new ideas and tools.

We assisted schools by facilitating outdoor learning, training teachers (virtually and in person), enhancing outdoor learning spaces, creating curriculum-integrated, virtual field trips for elementary classes, and developing remote-friendly, nature-based science lessons for student home learning days.

We hosted a broad array of monthly virtual speakers on topics ranging from loons to bird decline to the role of fire on the Maine landscape. The pause in in-person programs allowed us to undertake some key improvements to trail infrastructure and maintenance of the Ecology Center.

We moved our office, where we're meeting new community

members. In collaboration with Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, our new neighbor at Brunswick Landing, we supported families with nature-based activity kits that children could do at home, distributed through Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and local libraries.

We got children adventuring outside with our CREA Nature Investigators video series and a new Storywalk in the meadow behind our office. And, our new translation team is making Storywalk books available to a broader audience.

Looking back on 2020, the theme of gratitude comes to mind. First, gratitude for the donors who were able to continue their support for CREA, enabling us to support nature-based learning from home. Second, gratitude for the wide community of people and organizations that make our work possible. And last but not least, gratitude for the natural world and the solace it brought to many of us during a solitary and difficult time. More than ever, we value our partnership with you in the all-important mission of connecting people with nature and ensuring a sustainable future.

THANK YOU

CREA thanks the following community members, foundations and organizations for their steadfast support during fiscal year 2020-2021.

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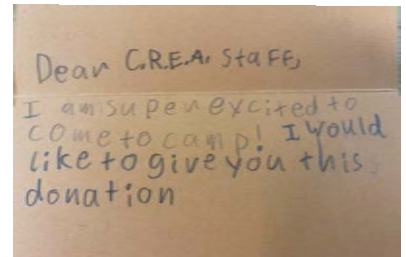


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OUR FUTURE

Your membership and legacy gifts keep CREA strong. Together, we are inspiring a sustainable future by engaging people of all ages with the wonders of the natural world.

creamaine.org/give-now

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"My favorite part about nature is when it's just starting to turn to summer and all of the flowers are starting to bloom and all of the animals are starting to come out of hibernation. It's so peaceful and the perfect getaway from all your troubles."
 Darby (12), Soul Design Trio



"The presenters have been such interesting speakers and despite the challenge of being virtual have managed to keep the presentations challenging and eye catching. Great pictures and stories added to each presentation. You have done a great job of choosing interesting and diverse topics. Keep up the good work."



"Breaking News about the Enchanted Forest! The second half of the forest trail is now OPEN. It is blazed with bright green ribbon. And, over the break, our fabulous CREA volunteers (could they be the real fairies of the forest??) have installed new decking for the bridge at the turning point of the trail."
 Kate Furbish Elementary Teacher,
 Jeanne Stinson