



Institute for Conservation
LEADERSHIP

ANNUAL **REPORT**

20 18



At ICL, we know that collaboration across geographies, sectors, and differences is key to reclaiming our environment, our communities, and our future.

In our work to build networks with key players, informed by data, and addressing the most strategic focus areas, we have witnessed time and time again that together we can enrich learning, foster innovation, and have greater impact.

In the last year, we are proud to have strengthened the work of collaborations boosting the critical monarch butterfly population, protecting natural landscapes across the US, improving the water quality from the Delaware River Watershed to Lake Erie, conserving the vital forests of New England, and creating accessible, equitable trails in our nation's capital, among other initiatives.

ICL is helping communities come together and create a better world and healthier environment, now and for future generations who are counting on us.

MISSION:

To support healthy communities and a healthy Earth, the Institute for Conservation Leadership strengthens leaders, organizations, coalitions, and networks.



HIGHLIGHTS

To create positive solutions, we need each other. Here are a few highlights from 2018:

PROTECT A WATERSHED SPANNING FOUR STATES

The Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), funded by the William Penn Foundation, launched its second phase in April.

A first-of-its-kind, multi-state collaboration of 65 organizations working together to protect and restore the Delaware River and its tributaries, the DRWI improves water quality and protects the drinking water for 15 million people in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.

As DRWI changes the game for the ecosystems and communities within the Delaware River Watershed, ICL supports this collaborative by organizing the Initiative's leaders to work together, supporting the cooperative to advance and refine work plans, and facilitating convenings to promote strategizing, learning, and relationship building. In just its first four years, DRWI partners have protected 19,604 acres, restored 8,331 acres, and monitored and sampled water quality at more than 500 sites across four states.



THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE IS A REALLY COMPLEX SYSTEM THAT ICL UNDERSTANDS AND EASILY NAVIGATES. THEY GET HOW THE DIFFERENT PARTS CONNECT AND RELATE TO EACH OTHER, AND THEY BRING A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO COMMUNICATION DYNAMICS IN A COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT.

PATRICK STARR,
PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL

BOOST THE MONARCH **BUTTERFLY POPULATION**



Illinois is a critical state in the national efforts to restore the habitat necessary to keep monarch butterflies – the state insect of Illinois – off of the endangered species list. The Illinois Monarch Project is led by staff at the University of Illinois and supported by the State Wildlife Grant Fund within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

ICL supported the steering committee as they develop a statewide strategy to coordinate the planting of 150 million milkweed stems over the next 15 years. Their work to boost and protect monarch habitat coordinates across leaders in transportation, agriculture, and urban and natural areas.



THE WORK ICL HAS HELPED SUPPORT WILL EXTEND BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR MONARCH PROTECTION AND WILL HELP BUILD AND SUPPORT CONNECTIONS ACROSS THESE SECTORS THAT WILL CARRY OVER INTO OTHER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES.

IRIS CALDWELL,
ILLINOIS MONARCH PROJECT



Photo by: Bob Myers

CREATE INCLUSIVE **OPEN SPACES**

Washington Area Bicyclists Association asked ICL to lead the annual planning meeting of the Capital Trails Coalition. Their vision is to transform public life in the nation's capital through multi-use trails. Through a dynamic, engaging meeting, ICL tapped the ideas and experience of all committee members. This allowed the group to identify ways to achieve their ambitious vision of a trails network that will connect urban spaces and natural surroundings in a way that is safe, reliable, sustainably designed, and accessible to all.



STRENGTHEN OHIO LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Funded by the George Gund Foundation, ICL supports targeted efforts to build effective collaboration and advocacy initiatives within Ohio. ICL is developing cooperative efforts with groups working across the state to increase electric vehicle use; facilitated work to protect the watersheds of Lake Erie, Upper Scioto, and the Greater Miami Rivers; participated in Ohio Food Policy Summit and Clean Fuels Ohio's Green Fleets Conferences; and continues to consult with dozens of advocates and environmental partners on the ground.



BUILD SKILLS FOR **COLLABORATION**

ICL piloted a new Collaborative Leadership program for environmental and conservation leaders working in networks and coalitions. We also partnered with RE-AMP, a group of 150 organizations addressing climate change and clean energy issues in the Midwest, to equip their network leaders with stronger facilitation skills.



ICL'S TRAININGS SHOW THAT ANYONE CAN BE A LEADER - LASTING LEADERSHIP CAN COME IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS FOR MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE.

AMALIE LIPSTREAU,

OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION



IT'S NOT JUST ICL SHARING INFORMATION - WHICH I DO APPRECIATE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A WEALTH OF IT - BUT IT'S ALSO ABOUT THEM ENCOURAGING US TO DISCOVER WHAT'S BEST FOR OURSELVES. THEY WERE GOOD AT GIVING US INFORMATION WE COULD WALK OUT OF THE DOOR AND USE RIGHT AWAY.

BETH KNORR,

SUMMIT FOOD COALITION, AKRON, OHIO



PRESERVE HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

If you've noticed those special brown signs as you travel the interstate highway system, you've seen a National Heritage Area. These unique places are where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form a nationally important landscape. Designated and supported by the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas depend on local groups for their programming, development resources, and public engagement.

ICL facilitated workshops focused on organizational sustainability and building partnerships for more than 40 National Heritage areas across two dozen states, helping these groups to develop strategies and plans for their current realities while becoming more resilient and connected.



MORE THAN **1,000**
LEADERS



FROM **400**
ORGANIZATIONS



ACROSS **42** STATES



OVER **550** DOWNLOADS
of our free online resources,
including The Less Visible Leader,
Working Together, and a new
Partnerships Self-Assessment.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

- FOUNDATION GRANTS
- PROJECT FEES AND CONTRACTS
- CONTRIBUTIONS
- OTHER INCOME
- INTEREST/DIVIDEND INCOME

\$3,470
\$8,652
\$39,435
\$317,539
\$1,464,120

TOTAL: **\$1,833,216**

EXPENSES

- PROGRAM EXPENSE
- GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE
- FUNDRAISING EXPENSE

\$14,051
\$111,861
\$783,326

TOTAL: **\$909,238**

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