Dear friend of the Valley,

2022 WAS A REMARKABLE YEAR in the Valley for an unusual reason: it felt almost "normal." For Kestrel, the first full year at our headquarters with a growing staff was like setting up a new home with a big family. And that family was busy in 2022, as you’ll see in this report!

Of course, behind each of these efforts is YOU. Our work to conserve, care for, and connect people to the land is only possible with a strong web of supporters. In 2022, that web became even stronger as we successfully concluded our Promise to the Valley campaign.

Thanks to more than 500 people who love the Valley, we raised $5.7 million to serve as a springboard for Kestrel's future. In the next five years, this outpouring of generosity will enable us to conserve at least 5,000 acres of forests and farms, create welcoming access and community programs to connect to parks and trails, and provide strong stewardship for our public nature retreats.

Already, we’ve leveraged this extraordinary opportunity. In 2022, we completed 15 conservation projects with our partners—a total of 692 acres—in which $178,000 in campaign funds allowed us to leverage $3.2 million in public funding and landowner gifts. At the same time, we secured $6.7 million in public funding and grants for 17 more projects totaling 1,269 acres to be completed in 2023. This work is only possible because you are with us: Thank you!

Kristin DeBoer, Executive Director

Here’s some of what YOU helped accomplish in 2022...

NORTHAMPTON GREENWAYS
With the City, added 3 key parcels to expand Mineral Hills, Saw Mill Hills, & Parsons Brook for recreation & habitat

MOUNT TOBY, SUDDERLAND
Protected 19 acres of wildlands as part of larger effort to save vital forest habitat in this unique mountain area

FAMILY FARMS IN THE VALLEY
41 acres in Hadley and 33 acres in Whately protected as Forever Farmland for local agriculture
2022 Highlights: What YOU made possible!

CARE: For the lands you love
Conserving the land is only the first step. With your support, Kestrel staff and volunteers visit and assess the condition of conservation lands around the Valley every year.

6,337 acres under our care as of December 2022

Conservation restrictions: Private or town-owned lands for which Kestrel holds a legal obligation to ensure the land is used only for conservation purposes.

FEE lands: Kestrel owns and manages the land.

CREATE: Parks & trails for everyone

20.5 miles of new trails created or maintained across 6 conservation areas

$121,000 secured for improvements to Robert Frost Trail, NET & Ames Pond

153 volunteers gave 862 hours to monitor conserved lands, improve trails, build kiosks, enhance wildlife habitat & monitor Kestrel nest boxes

1,435 people enjoyed 32 public events including hikes, guided nature walks, plein air painting & online climate change programs

350 members attended appreciation events, including our gala Valley Celebration

GIVE: A legacy for the land

Dona Drumm Motts helped found The Kestrel Trust in 1970 and devoted decades to protecting conservation areas and wetlands that we enjoy today. A generous gift to Kestrel from the Motts family will honor Dona’s legacy in the Valley with a trail and resting place overlooking the Valley she loved.

2022 Financial Overview

In 2022, your membership support leveraged more than $3.2 million in public funding and grants to protect 692 acres of forest, farmland, and wildlife habitat. And, from 2019 – 2022 our extraordinary supporters also contributed more than $5.7 million to our Promise to the Valley campaign to expand our capacity and provide seed funding for important new projects over the next 5 years.

2022 Projects & Operations

Public Funds
Individual Gifts
Foundation Grants
Landowner Donations
Other Income

Total: $4,060,350

Land Conservation
Project Management, Stewardship, Community Programs & Operations

Total: $4,045,710

(All data from unaudited financial statements.)