



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

ANNUAL REPORT



2022

A note from the President

As we reflect on 2022, a lot of moments stand out. Restore America's Estuaries hosted our 11th Biennial Summit, we added two new grant programs to our scope, and we witnessed the largest investment in coastal restoration in our nation's history from the federal government.

In December, our team returned from New Orleans where RAE hosted our 11th Coastal & Estuarine Summit. This was my first experience attending the Summit in person and I'm still in awe of the value this event holds in the coastal restoration community. More than 1,375 restoration professionals, practitioners, and policy makers made the trip to Louisiana or joined us virtually to share their experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations for the future.

In addition to the 1,300+ that participated in the Summit, we were also honored to have received support from more than 60 sponsors and exhibitors, which allowed us to grow the agenda to include more than 500 presenters and more than 100 sessions. The Summit also hosted more than 140 poster presenters and with the help of our sponsors, we were able to provide scholarships for more than 50 students and early career professionals from traditionally underrepresented communities to attend.

The success of this year's Summit comes on the heels of the passage of historical level of support for investments in coastal restoration. RAE has long advocated that natural infrastructure, like healthy estuaries, is infrastructure. Between the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in late 2021 the federal government has dedicated more than \$5 billion in new funding over the next five years to directly support projects that will improve coastal resilience and our growing coastal communities. This level of support for restoration represents the single largest investment in restoration in our nation's history, and lays the foundation of what is needed to protect our coasts and coastal communities

RAE continues to grow, as well, with new staff members joining our team this year. In addition, we've partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate two new grant programs: the National Estuary Program Watershed Grants and the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund. These new programs will not only allow us to continue funding restoration along our coasts but will also give us the ability to implement lessons learned from our Inclusive Coasts Initiative to improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in grant making and project implementation.

The theme of the 2022 RAE Summit was aptly Resilient Coasts. Resilient Communities. We throw the word resilience around a lot, though, and as we look ahead, I realize we may be setting our aspirations too low. To paraphrase Jessica Dandridge, Executive Director of the Water Collaborative in New Orleans, let us aim instead for thriving coasts and thriving coastal communities in 2023 and beyond.

We are excited to advance thriving coasts and thriving coastal communities in 2023 and we look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hayden
President & CEO

Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation.

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national alliance of 10 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts. RAE member organizations, and our Affiliate Member partners, restore habitats in estuaries nationwide, stretching from coast to coast. As the leader of a national alliance, we provide a unified voice for coastal conservation in Washington D.C. and advance the science and practice of habitat restoration through on-the-ground projects, groundbreaking science, high-level meetings, and our biennial National Coastal and Estuarine Summit.

Member Groups

ABOUT US



Affiliate Members





2022 COASTAL & ESTUARINE SUMMIT

Hosted By Restore America's Estuaries

For almost 20 years, Restore America's Estuaries has been convening the coastal restoration, management, and policy community for our biennial gathering. As we stare down the threats of climate change, rising seas, deadlier storms, and coastal land loss, it seemed fitting that we return to New Orleans for this year's Summit.

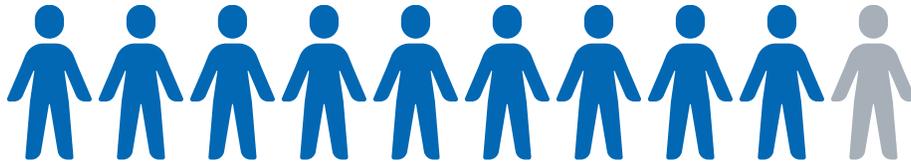
We could not have imagined the overwhelming support we received, though. More than 1,375 participants joined us in person and through our virtual platform. This in addition to more than 60 sponsors and exhibitors that contributed to make this year's Summit our largest to date.

The breadth of topics covered at the 2022 Summit were emblematic of the multifaceted approach needed to tackle the most pressing issues facing our coasts. Throughout the more than 100 sessions, presenters touched on the benefits of nature-based solutions to solve coastal erosion and sea level rise, the value of coastal ecosystems in storing and sequestering carbon, and the critical need for restoration to be centered around the most vulnerable members of our community - not just those that can afford it.

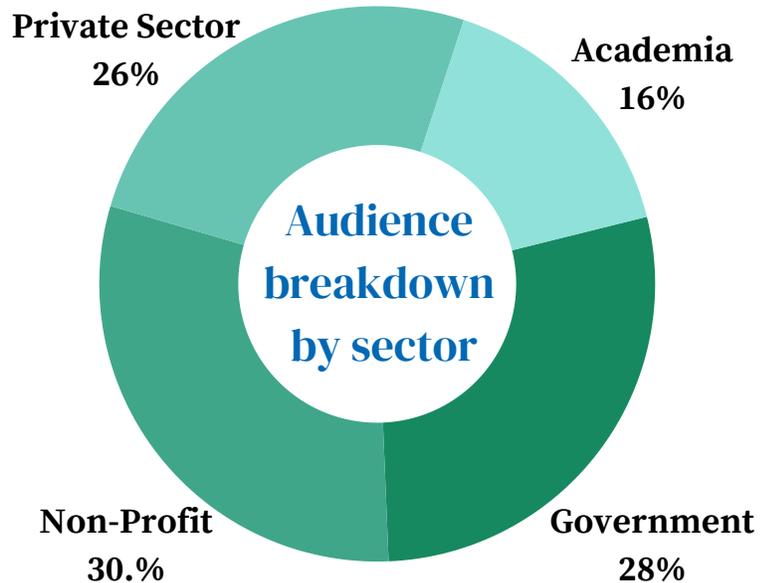
We would like to send a special thanks to RAE Member Group, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL), for inviting us to New Orleans and for helping to make this year's Summit a success. We can't wait to see you all again in Washington, D.C. in 2024.

2022 COASTAL & ESTUARINE SUMMIT

By the numbers



9/10 attendees would recommend the Summit to a colleague



“The RAE Summit has been the best conference for habitat restoration practitioners, hands down. I wouldn’t miss one for anything!”

-Tom Ries, President - Ecosphere Restoration Institute

2022 COASTAL & ESTUARINE SUMMIT

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



THE OCEAN FOUNDATION
THE CURTIS & EDITH MUNSON FOUNDATION



National Audubon Society | Industrial Fabrics | Chesapeake Bay Program | J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
 Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation | Living Shoreline Solutions | EConcrete | Lynker
 ecoSPEARS | NOAA Sea Grant | Envirolok | Osprey Initiative | Environmental Science Associates
 RES | Flexamat (Motz Enterprises, Inc.) | Roscoe Moss Company | Freese & Nichols | SouthWings
 In-Situ | Voss Signs | Indian River Lagoon Council | YSI/Sontek, Xylem Brands
 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | Ducks Unlimited | PyroScience
 National Association of Conservation Districts | RBR | TerraCarbon | Tulane ByWater Institute

INVESTMENTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCE

In August, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law. Among the notable measures taken to curb emissions and combat the negative impacts of climate change was a \$2.6 billion appropriation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to restore and protect coastal ecosystems.

This investment comes on the heels of a roughly \$3 billion investment in coastal restoration from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021. Additionally, more than \$60 billion in funding from the IRA will be directed to environmental justice priorities.

To close out the year, Congress passed, and the President signed, a bi-partisan \$1.7 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September of 2023. Included in the omnibus spending package was just under \$1 billion for RAE priorities.

RAE is proud to have advocated for these investments and we look forward to working with our partners in the federal government to ensure this money is put towards effective and equitable projects that further coastal resilience.

\$3
Billion

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2021)

The Infrastructure law allocates \$3 billion in grant funding to create transformational habitat restoration and coastal resilience, improve resilience in underserved communities, and address marine debris.

\$2.6
Billion

Inflation Reduction Act

The IRA directs more than \$2.6 billion for contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance to NOAA to restore and protect coastal ecosystems and accelerate the transition to clean energy.

\$926
Million

2022 Omnibus Spending Bill

Passed in the last week of 2023, this Bill includes funding for RAE priorities such as the NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation and Restoration, USFWS Coastal Program, and EPA Geographic Programs.

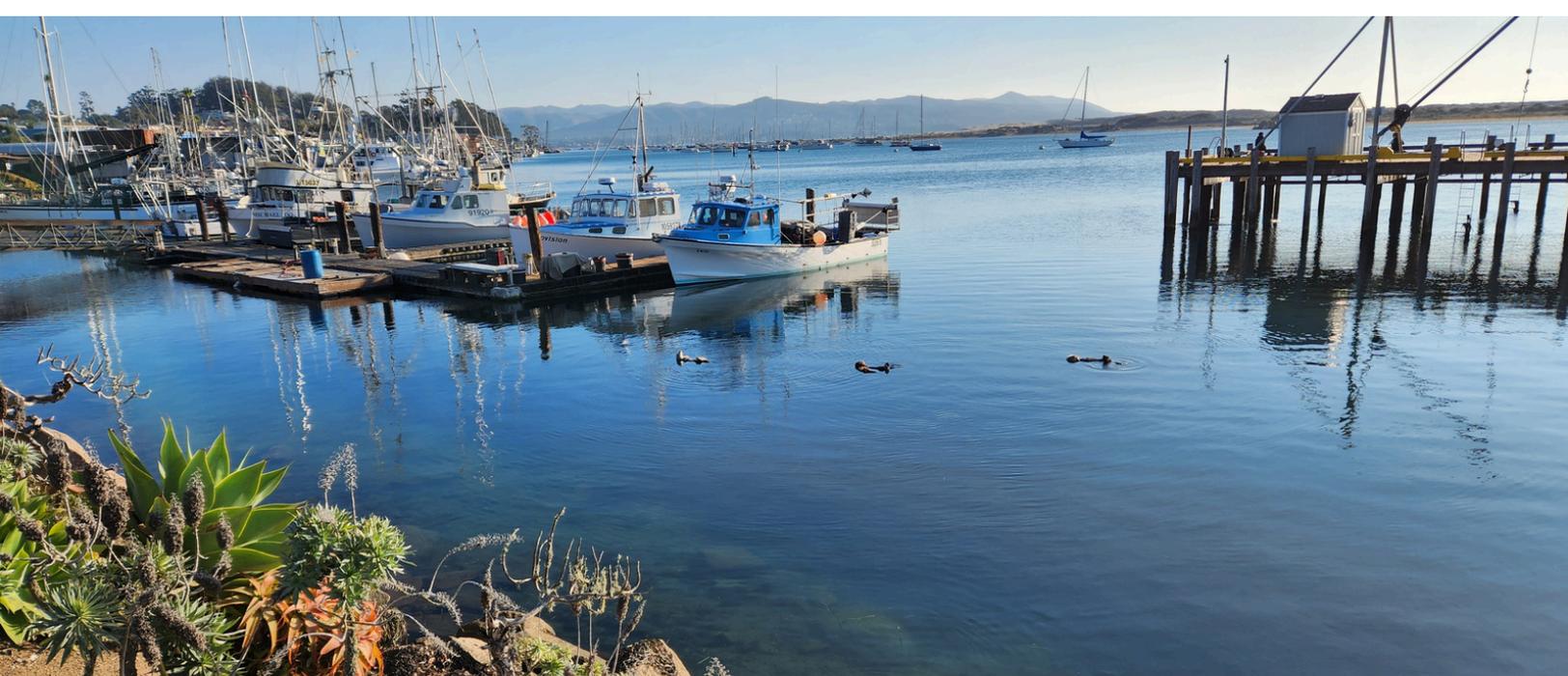
NEP WATERSHEDS GRANT

In September, the U.S. EPA and Restore America's Estuaries announced a new \$18 million award over the next six years to support our administration of the National Estuary Program Watershed Grants. In the prior iteration of this program, RAE has awarded more than \$1.1 million in funding since 2020 to combat climate change, improve clean water, remediate habitat loss, and reduce pollution in National Estuary Program watersheds.

The request for proposals for the initial funding round of the NEP Watershed Grants began in December of 2022. We are excited to continue working with partners on the ground to facilitate critical restoration for coasts and estuaries and continue our relationship with the EPA in meeting the federal priorities of the National Estuary Program.

“ EPA is committed to helping protect these important coastal waters through the National Estuary Program, which includes 28 estuaries of significance around the country. EPA’s \$3.5 million will support future projects for these important coastal ecosystems. ”

-Radhika Fox, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water



GRANT PROGRAMS

Restore America's Estuaries continues to be a leader in coastal restoration through the administration of multiple grant programs. In partnership with the federal government and private sector partners, RAE awarded more than \$3.3 million in 2022 to organizations, municipalities, and state and local agencies in 2022.



SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants

In 2022, SWIG awarded \$1.8 million to 11 organizations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

- A total of \$6 million was requested
- \$1 million in non-federal matching funds
- 30 applications received

Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund

In partnership with the Tampa Bay Estuary Partnership and our corporate partners, \$785,905 to 8 organizations.

- \$754,954 in non-federal match
- \$1,605,030 total requested
- 12 total applications received



NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant

In partnership with EPA, RAE awarded more than \$762,000 awarded to 4 organizations.

- \$276,400 in non-federal match
- \$10,750,664 requested
- 58 applications received

Caring for our Coasts Gulf Region Grants

In partnership with Citgo Petroleum, RAE awarded \$30,000 to nine organizations in the Gulf of Mexico.

- 1,500 volunteers contributed 5,200 hours of service at 39 different events
- Planted 4,776 native species, collected 23,737 lbs of trash along 362 miles of shoreline



INCLUSIVE COASTS INITIATIVE

Following our launch in 2021, RAE's Inclusive Coasts Initiative (ICI) pushed diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice in coastal restoration and grant making forward again in 2022. We hosted five workshops, three aimed at grant makers and two aimed at project implementors, where we explored opportunities to remove barriers for communities to access funding and engage with decision makers. At the 2022 RAE Summit we were able to bring together a diverse group of professionals to discuss current issues in restoration and share ideas in a small group workshop. Participants at these workshops included federal and state agencies, foundations, non-profits, community organizations, and businesses.

Additionally, in association with the Initiative, RAE awarded more than 50 scholarships for students and early career professionals from historically underrepresented communities to attend the 2022 RAE Summit. With support from the Island Foundation, the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, and the Ocean Foundation, these scholars presented their research, networked with potential partners and future employers, and contributed to the overall success of the Summit.

SPOTLIGHT ON BLUE CARBON

RAE has long been a leader in the emerging science of blue carbon, or the ability of coastal wetlands and estuary ecosystems to store and sequester carbon dioxide deep in the soils. We've also been fortunate to have great leadership in Congress help incorporate this science into policy that benefits coastal communities and the planet.

One of these champions is Representative Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon's 1st district. RAE was fortunate enough to interview Rep. Bonamici earlier this year for a piece in ECO Magazine's Blue Carbon Special Edition. The Congresswomen spoke about her Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, the importance of coastal ecosystems in the fight against climate change, and her role as a co-chair of the Congressional Estuaries Caucus. Click the photo to the right and scroll to page 47 to listen to this full interview and read about our National Blue Carbon Action Plan.

Restore America's Estuaries Podcast



Restore America's Estuaries would like to thank Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1) for taking the time to join us and discuss important legislation she and her colleagues in Congress are working on to address the climate crisis and advance blue carbon science and research.

Rep. Bonamici has long been a leader on Blue Carbon in Washington, D.C., serving as the Co-Chair of both the Congressional Estuary Caucus and the House Oceans Caucus. In the interview, we'll take a deep dive into the win-win-win potential of coastal blue carbon ecosystems.

We hope you enjoy this conversation and feel free to reach out with any questions:

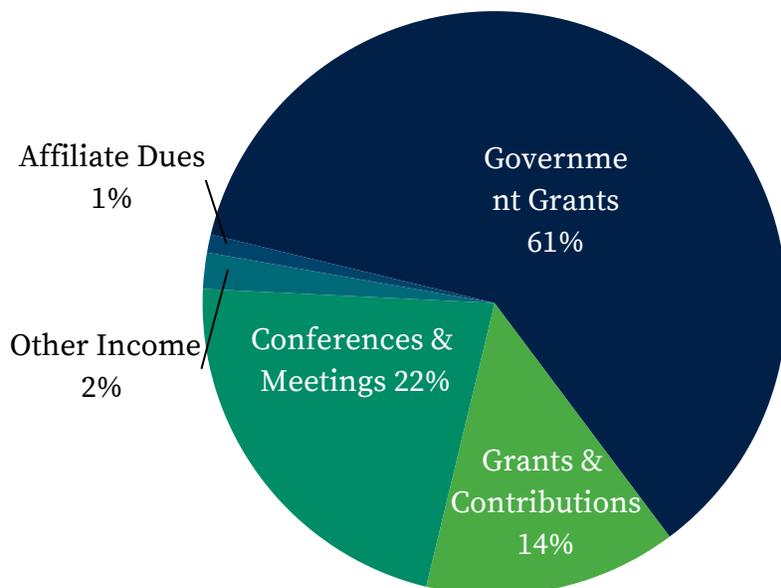
> www.estuaries.org

Podcast: 

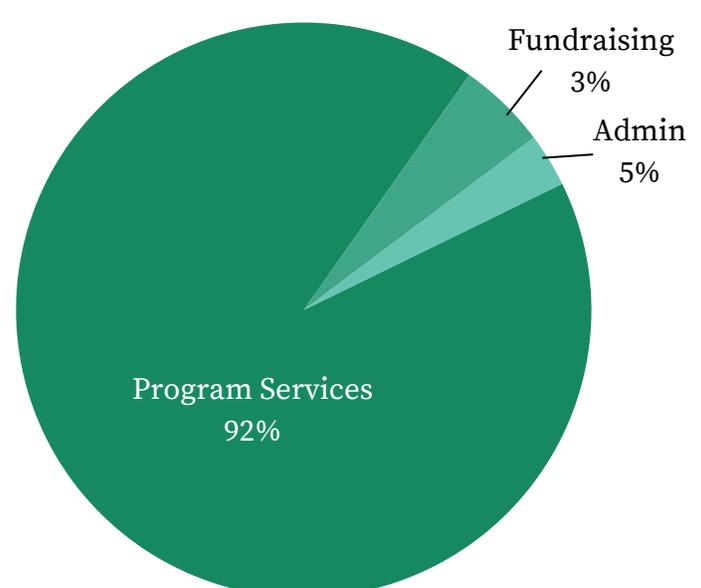
2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ended December 31	2022	2021
Revenue		
Government Grants	\$2,668,064	\$3,314,199
Grants and Contributions	611,212	667,486
Conferences and Meetings	972,553	152,795
Affiliate Dues	45,300	45,300
Investment Income	-279	207
Other Income	80,000	3,867
Total Revenue	\$4,376,850	\$4,183,854
Expenses		
Program Services	\$3,950,213	\$3,520,069
General and Administrative	195,291	164,964
Fundraising	125,312	113,834
Total Expenses	\$4,270,816	\$3,798,867
Net Income	\$106,034	\$204,987

Income



Expenses



2022 SUPPORTERS

\$100,000+

- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

\$50,000 - \$99,999

- CITGO
- Mosaic
- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

\$10,000 - \$49,999

- Cheniere Energy
- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
- SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
- Stantec
- The Clayton Fund
- The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
- The Dudley Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- The Ocean Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Walton Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- AECOM
- AquaTech Eco Consultants
- Association of National Estuary Programs
- Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
- Cargill Salt
- EA Engineering, Science and Technology
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Federal Highway Administration
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- HDR
- Island Foundation
- Land Trust Alliance
- Moffatt & Nichol
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Wildlife Federation

- Ocean Conservancy
- Reef Ball Foundation
- Restore the Mississippi River Delta
- Storm Water Systems
- Tetra Tech
- The Ocean Foundation - SeaGrass Grow
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tulane University Law School

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- A2E Solutions
- American Littoral Society
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Clean Foundation
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation
- EarthCorps
- ECOcrete
- ecoSPEARS
- Envirolok
- Environmental Science Associates
- Flexamat (Motz Enterprises, Inc.)
- Freese & Nichols
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Industrial Fabrics
- In-Situ
- IRL Council
- J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
- Living Shoreline Solutions
- Lynker
- National Audubon Society
- NOAA Sea Grant
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Osprey Initiative
- RES
- Roscoe Moss Company
- Save the Bay - Narragansett Bay
- Save the Bay - San Francisco
- Save the Sound
- Southwings
- Tampa Bay Watch-TBW
- Voss Signs

- Woods Hole Group, Inc
- YSI/Sontek, Xylem Brands

\$1 - \$999

- Barbara O'Hare
- Billion Oyster Project
- Bob Stokes
- Bonnie Rubesha
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Courtney Phelan
- Chris & Curt Kaiser
- Dan Gabbay
- Daniel Silver
- David Lewis
- Ducks Unlimited
- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
- Jeff King
- Jeffrey Benoit
- Jimmie Williams
- Jonathan Stone
- Joseph Lomax
- Joy Newburn
- Kathy Fletcher & Kenneth Weiner
- Leah Schmalz
- Leslyn Hayden Thorne
- Marjorie Burdetsky
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Nenningers Naturals
- Nicole Sayre
- Patricia O. Wainright
- Patricia Packer
- PyroScience
- RBR
- Richard Engel
- Selma Al-Salam
- Sam Wainright
- TerraCarbon
- Thomas Wells
- Tim Dillingham
- Tom Bigford
- Todd Miller
- Tulane ByWater Institute
- Wolfgang Oesterreich

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop



PRESENTED BY



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



GALVESTON BAY
FOUNDATION

October 23-25, 2023
Galveston, TX

[ESTUARIES.ORG/LIVING-SHORELINES](https://estuaries.org/living-shorelines)





Restore America's Estuaries

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www.estuaries.org