



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

resources restored.
lives changed.



"My service term really showed me that I can do a lot more than I thought I could. It made me push my boundaries and experience things I never would have thought of trying on my own."

-Claire, AmeriCorps member

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Corps,

It is a pleasure to greet you as the executive director of Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa in this 2018 annual report. With its rich history in developing young people, promoting service-learning in environmental stewardship and natural resource management, and cultivating generations of alumni and friends committed to building healthy ecosystems, it was an honor to be hired by the Board this past September and given the opportunity to contribute to the Corps' legacy and future.

In this report you'll learn the positive impact our programs have on the environment, in the community, and for the youth and young adults who join the Corps. You'll read about how we're collaborating with communities through valued partnerships, responding to the changing climate through natural resources work and disaster response, and developing leaders who create future change.

We truly couldn't do this work without our partners, supporters, alumni, and friends. Our loyal stakeholders believe in the Corps because of the keen experiences or value we have provided to them personally, to someone close to them, or within their community. I have heard them say how meaningful our work is and how our programs connect young people to the outdoors, provide technical skills training, and build important relationships and networks. **Our supporters and alumni are invaluable to helping our work and mission endure for future generations.**

Today our mission is as relevant as ever. With a devoted board, a new leadership team, recent investments in financial and project management systems, and a three-year strategic plan in the works, we are excited and recharged. We are focused on getting fit to face challenges being felt in the service-learning and national service sectors across the country.

Fortunately, thanks to members and supporters like you, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa has a solid base and great reputation to build upon. We are optimistic and enthusiastic about the future.

Thank you for what you do to help us amplify our reach and impact.

Regards,

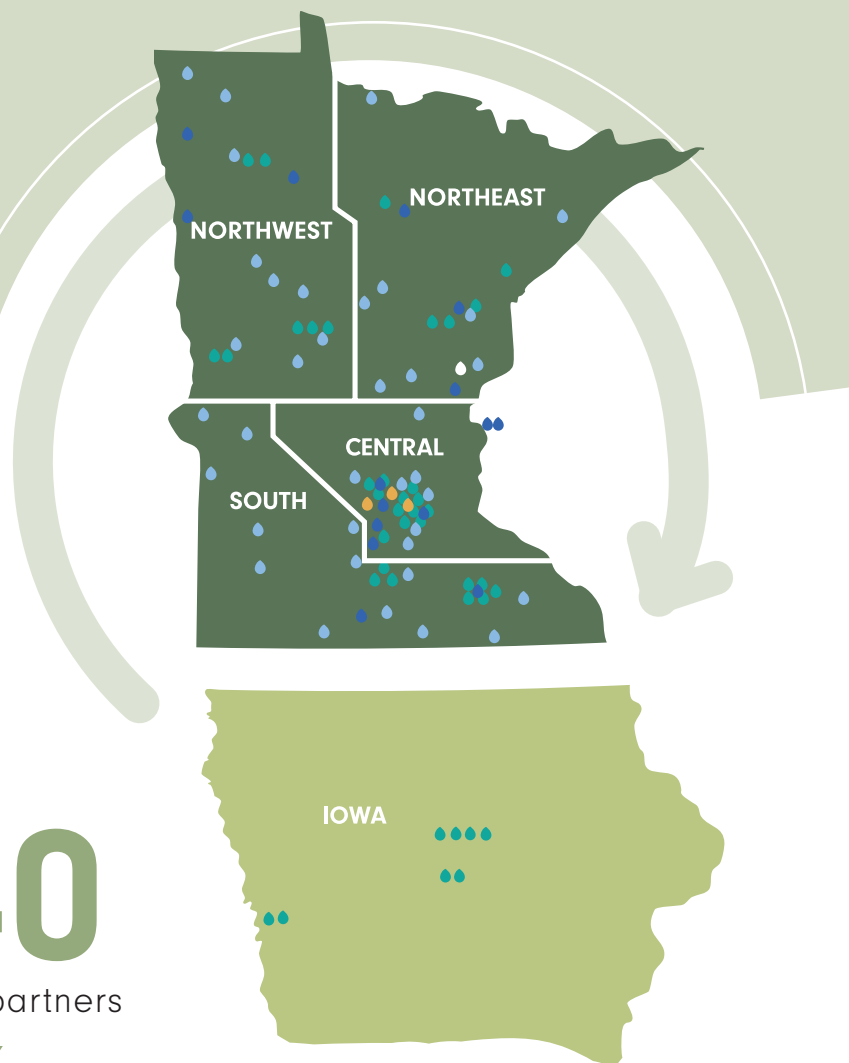
Mark Murphy
Executive Director

Mission

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while accomplishing conservation, natural resource management, and disaster response work.

2018 Program Locations

- FIELD CREWS
- YOUTH OUTDOORS
- SUMMER YOUTH CORPS
- INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS
- APPRENTICE ACADEMY



325

AmeriCorps members served 404,802 hours

140

project partners

255

youth served 31,889 hours

*This map illustrates where our crews and programs are based. Service and project work was completed in a total of 18 states and 1 territory in 2018.

"One of the great surprises of my work has been the opportunity to collaborate with Conservation Corps, to bring so many young adults into this work – whether for a season or for a career."

-Craig, project partner from National Park Service; 21st Century Service Conservation Corps Champion of the Year awardee

2018 Impact

Engaged

580

total Corps members in service
(AmeriCorps and youth)

47,467



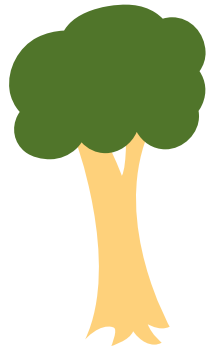
acres improved and restored,
including **24,467 acres** improved
through prescribed burns

436,691

total service hours

1,558 miles

of trail constructed or maintained, including water trail improvement



105,826

trees/shrubs/forbs planted

79%

reported being better
prepared for their next job

developed workforce readiness
skills by improving their ability to
work on teams

86%

96%

more knowledgeable about the
environment

56,542

education hours including personal development training, technical skills
training, and professional networking

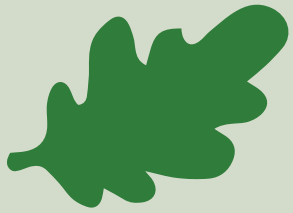


"In my two terms with the Corps, I have not only learned things I never thought I would, like how to fell a tree or fight wildland fires, but also interpersonal and leadership skills that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life."

-Erin, AmeriCorps member

Photo by Lee Vue
Mississippi Park Connection

Collaborating with Communities



"School Forests create inspiring, accessible, healthy, and safe outdoor learning areas and have positive effects on students, teachers, parents, and the community."

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

One of our many long-standing and valuable partnerships continues to be with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Since 2017, through a grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Conservation Corps has supported the DNR's Minnesota School Forest Program through a designated School Forest Crew. Our crew and staff have helped support the program through projects such as: trail construction and maintenance, invasive species control, outdoor classroom construction, boardwalk and bridge construction or repair, and hazard tree removal. In many cases, crews engaged students in service-learning experiences and helped train school staff and volunteers in land management practices. As the grant-funded projects involving a dedicated crew conclude in 2019, we're proud to have been part of the 67 school forest renovation and restoration projects completed.

Find more information about the DNR's School Forest Program: dnr.state.mn.us/schoolforest

Our impact is amplified through collaborations with government entities, nonprofit organizations, individuals, and other key partners.

For a full list of our 140 project partners from 2018, please visit conservationcorps.org/project-partners



PROUD MEMBER OF

The CorpsNetwork

Strengthening America through service and conservation

"My Corps experience gave me an understanding of how all community stakeholders must collaborate to conserve and benefit the land, and I was proud to take part in it."

-Daniel, AmeriCorps member

Responding to the Changing Climate

With stronger storms and erratic weather patterns becoming the norm, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa continues to step up to the important task of responding to natural disasters across the country.

Conservation Corps MN & IA is a member of the AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service Disaster Services Unit and 18 other conservation corps. This collaboration allows for coordinated response to disaster, shared policy and efficiencies, and more streamlined processes, all which result in better service to communities after natural disasters.

"...it's amazing to see how much the AmeriCorps members grow in 30 short days [on deployment] and what an impact we can make in communities. Not only do the people in distress get the help that they desperately need but the AmeriCorps members learn flexibility, teamwork, physical strength, and I believe it also provides an inner strength that pushes our members to strive for bigger and better things once their term is done." **-Dillon, AmeriCorps**

member who served during three disaster deployments



2018 Deployment Details

AmeriCorps members deployed: 32

Staff members deployed: 4

Service hours responding to natural disasters: 9,624

Locations and disasters responded to in 2018:

Puerto Rico (Hurricane Maria); North Carolina and South Carolina (Hurricane Florence)

Developing Leaders

"You simply cannot leave this program without being a better communicator and a more confident, strong leader."

-Ida, AmeriCorps member



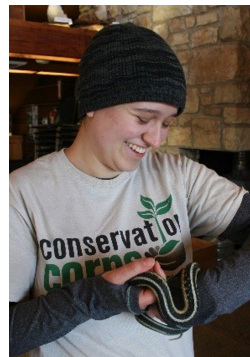
Pictured L-R: Jill Mahon Johnson (Board Chair), Trevor Delamater (Youth Outdoors Program, 2018), Drew Evans (Iowa Young Adult Program, 2018), Caroline Fazzio (Individual Placement Program, 2018), and Mark Murphy (Executive Director)

Every year we hear from AmeriCorps members that they have developed self-confidence and leadership skills through their service. To highlight these young people and their achievements, we created the Minnesota & Iowa Corps Member of the Year awards. **Caroline Fazzio, Trevor Delamater, and Drew Evans** were selected as our 2018 Corps Members of the Year because they embodied the mission and heart of Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps, met and exceeded expectations during service, and displayed positive leadership skills. We look forward to staying connected with our young leaders to support and celebrate their accomplishments now and in the future.

CAROLINE FAZZIO

Service year(s): 2017, 2018, 2019

Program(s): Young Adult Program (Central District and Northwest District), Individual Placement Program, Apprentice Academy



"Caroline embodies the mission of Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa and the purposes of AmeriCorps by displaying a passion for service. Caroline has participated in multiple programs across multiple years. Caroline also stepped up in 2017 to serve on a Florida hurricane disaster deployment."

-Brian Hubbard, Individual Placements Program Manager

TREVOR DELAMATER

Service year(s): 2017, 2018

Program(s): Youth Outdoors Program

"Trevor grew into someone who could make confident decisions while listening to and respecting the opinions of those around him. He took every opportunity provided to him to ask insightful questions – constantly taking his learning to the next level. He would then pass along his knowledge to his crew. Trevor went above and beyond during his service term."

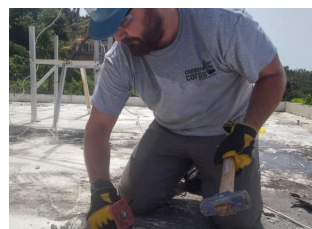
-Tess Kelley, Youth Outdoors Assistant Program Manager



DREW EVANS

Service Year(s): 2017, 2018

Program(s): Young Adult Program (Iowa)



"As a crew leader, Drew provided a fantastic service environment for his crew members and his crew. He also volunteered for multiple disaster deployments, taking on leadership roles in response to Hurricane Harvey in Texas for 60 days and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico for 30 days. He lived the motto of 'See the need, meet the need.'". **-DeWitt Boyd, Iowa Program Manager**

Financials

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2018



For a list of our donors who contributed during fiscal year 2018, please visit conservationcorps.org/donors

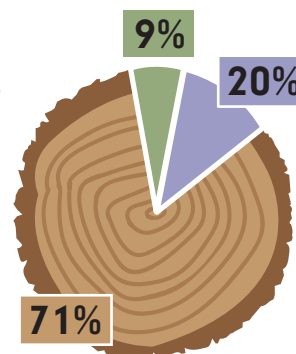
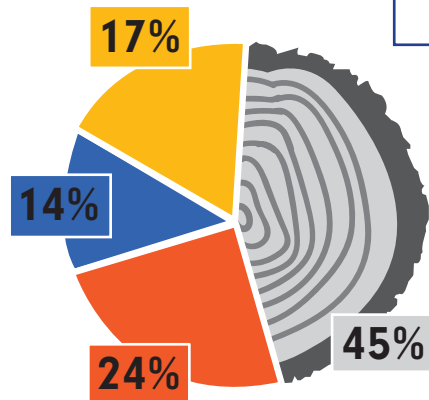
Support and Revenue	
Federal grants	\$976,459
State grants and appropriations	\$945,000
Contributions	\$185,892
Partner support and earned revenue	\$7,096,456
Investment and miscellaneous	(\$22,953)
Total Support and Revenue	\$9,180,854
Expenses	
Programs	\$7,945,951
General, management, and fundraising	\$1,619,310
Total Expenses	\$9,565,261
Net Assets	
Beginning net assets	\$5,074,709
Ending net assets	\$4,690,302
Change in net assets	(\$384,407)

Organization Expenses

- Participant Stipend & Benefits
- Supplies, Equipment, Fleet, & Other Program-related Expenses
- Program Staff
- General, Management, & Fundraising Expenses

Program Expenses

- Individual Placement Programs
- Youth Programs
- Young Adult Field Crew Programs



View our latest audited financial report and 990 online at conservationcorps.org/annual-report

Amplifying Our Reach

Our 2018 financial resources were amplified through the support of 2,881 volunteers, engaged through outreach, events, AmeriCorps member projects, and Adopt-a-River activities.

Since 1989, the Adopt-a-River program has resulted in over 6.5 millions pounds of trash collected by over 90,000 volunteers statewide, including nearly 44,000 pounds of trash collected since the program transitioned from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to Conservation Corps in 2016. Learn more at conservationcorps.org/adoptariver



"The two best things [about Conservation Corps] were getting to meet professionals in natural resources and gaining a new insight on Minnesota's wildlife."

-Aishat, youth member

Board of Directors

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Urban Forester

Deb Berg, Vice Chair
Vice President, Business Insurance Information
Technology, Travelers

Troy Rosenbrook, Treasurer
President, Highland Bank

Louise Pesavento, Secretary
VP of Risk and Governance, SunStream Business
Services

Matthew Bialick
Banking, Commercial, and Agriculture Finance
Attorney, Johnson Bialick

Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin
President and CEO, Regenerative Agriculture
Alliance

Brett Emmons
CEO and Water Resources Engineer, Emmons and
Olivier Resources

Jennifer Goepfert
Responsive Education Coach, St Paul Public Schools

Mary Hilfiker
Coordinator, Friends of Upper Landing Park

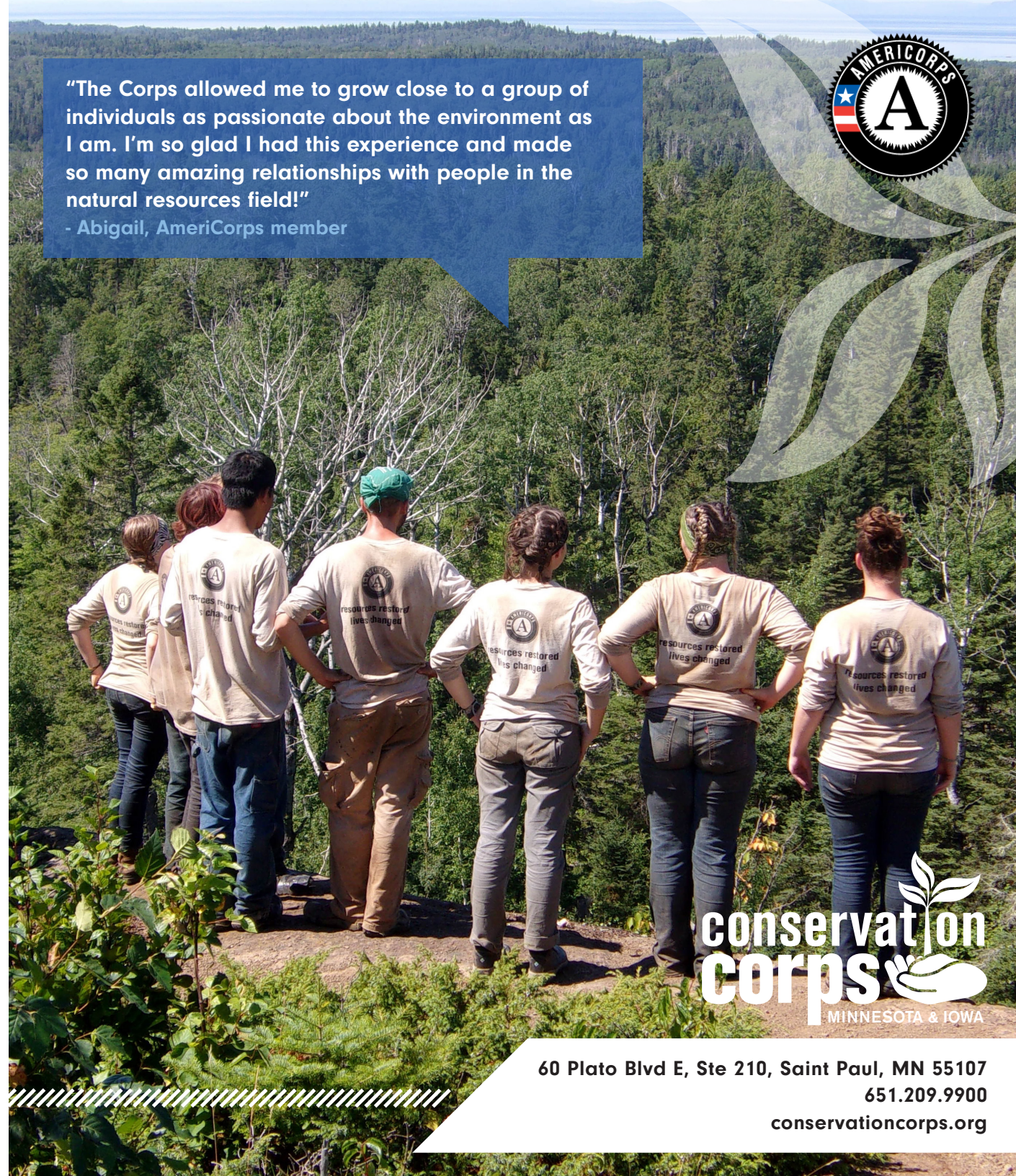
Liz McAllister
Director of Development, Iowa State University

Alyson Quinn
President, Minneapolis Nature Preschool



"The Corps allowed me to grow close to a group of individuals as passionate about the environment as I am. I'm so glad I had this experience and made so many amazing relationships with people in the natural resources field!"

- Abigail, AmeriCorps member



**conservation
corps**
MINNESOTA & IOWA

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