

A full-page background photograph showing a group of five conservation workers from behind, walking along a grassy ridge. They are wearing hard hats and carrying backpacks. The ridge is covered in tall green grass and leads down to a sandy beach and a body of water. A dense forest of green trees is in the background under a clear blue sky.

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



## OUR MISSION

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa engages youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship.

## OUR VISION

A world where everyone has equitable access to nature, is equipped to succeed in career and life, and is empowered to make a difference in conserving natural resources.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- › Safety
- › Service
- › Respect
- › Equity
- › Community



*"I'm so grateful for the opportunities IDEC has afforded me in my pursuit of higher education to be of service to the environment and all that it impacts."*

– Alyssia Bell, IDEC Fellow



## OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

In response to the urgent need to create an inclusive and equitable program experience, and create more accessible opportunities in the environmental field, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa established a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee in 2018. The committee built from the work of a previous task force and the advocacy and input of staff and AmeriCorps members before that. In 2021, CCMI published its Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion statement to guide our organizational work, hold ourselves accountable, and further our commitment to equitable access to our programs and to nature.

In our JEDI statement we commit to:

- » **Use equity as a lens for all the work we do and the decisions we make.**
- » **Build a shared vision surrounding Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion goals with our partnering organizations and communities.**
- » **Provide an equitable training environment and high-quality programming to all our participants.**

Read our full JEDI statement and learn about our progress towards these goals at [conservationcorps.org/about/jedi/](https://conservationcorps.org/about/jedi/)





**299,617**

total service hours

**66,696** ACRES

improved and restored



**852** MILES

of trail constructed or maintained, including water trail improvement



**78%**

reported being better prepared for their next job

**ENGAGED 326**

total Corpsmembers in service (AmeriCorps and youth)



**94%**

more knowledgeable about the environment

**90%**



developed workforce readiness skills (work better on teams)



**91,325**

trees/shrubs/forbs planted

**28,738** EDUCATION HOURS

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



## PROTECTING POLLINATORS

Corpsmembers had a successful summer kicking off the new Monarch Habitat Project in Iowa. The Monarch Crew surveyed and collected data on monarch butterflies and their habitat, contributing to a national database managed by Monarch Joint Venture. This data is vital to understanding how butterfly populations are doing at a large scale and can help inform land management decisions to preserve and protect the species. In 2021, our crew doubled the data collected in Iowa, filling gaps in the data and helping to improve our understanding of monarch migration. Our Monarch Habitat Project will continue working to protect this critically endangered species.

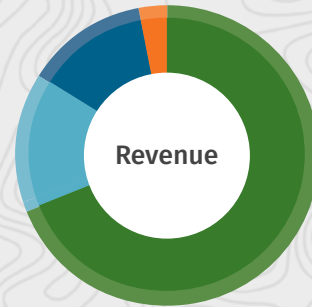


# FINANCIALS

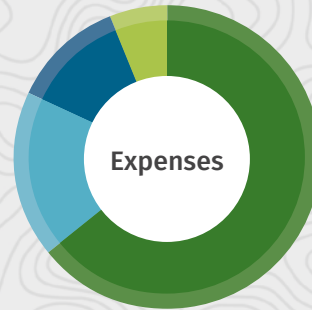
For the year ended December 31, 2021

| Support and Revenue                | Total              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| AmeriCorps Grants                  | \$1,358,444        |
| Contributions                      | \$284,864          |
| State Appropriations               | \$1,207,676        |
| Partner Support and Earned Revenue | \$6,511,159        |
| Investment and Miscellaneous       | \$22,939           |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>   | <b>\$9,385,082</b> |
| Expenses                           | Total              |
| Programs                           | \$7,154,341        |
| General and Administrative         | \$1,515,557        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>              | <b>\$8,669,898</b> |
| Organizational Totals              | Total              |
| Change in Net Assets               | \$715,184          |
| Beginning Net Assets               | \$5,500,057        |
| <b>Ending Net Assets</b>           | <b>\$6,215,241</b> |

View our latest audited financial report and 990 online at [conservationcorps.org/about/impact/](https://conservationcorps.org/about/impact/)



- 14% – Federal Grants
- 13% – State Grants & Appropriations
- 3% – Contributions
- 69% – Partner Support & Earned Revenue



- 18% – Participant Stipend & Benefits
- 65% – Program-related Supplies, Equipment, Fleet, & Other
- 12% – Personnel
- 6% – General and Administrative



## SUPPORT THE CORPS

Donors make it possible for us to start new programs and initiatives, like the Monarch Habitat Project, and help us reduce barriers for Corpsmember to join CCMI through the Member Assistance Fund.



Please consider making a gift today or joining our community of recurring Evergreen Circle donors with a monthly gift. [conservationcorps.org/donate](https://conservationcorps.org/donate)



## FIGHTING WILDFIRES

In 2021, Corpsmembers spent triple the number of hours fighting wildfires compared to previous years, over 22,000 hours total. Our Corpsmembers support the Minnesota DNR's firefighting efforts by being strategically placed on standby for quick response, supporting camp logistical duties, and actively participating in fire suppression on the fire line. Much of the time in 2021 was spent on active fire suppression. These Corpsmembers worked directly with firefighters from over 25 different state and federal agencies from across the country. Crews worked on small wildfires of only a few acres; to large wildfires, like the Greenwood fire at over 20 thousand acres.





## IMPROVING URBAN WATERSHEDS

Youth and AmeriCorps members helped install 130 new raingardens throughout the Twin Cities in partnership with Metro Blooms in 2021. Field Crews installed these projects throughout the year, but for a few months, Summer Youth Corps joined in as part of their service. All together, they helped establish roughly 18,407 square feet of clean water project installations with thousands of new native plants. These new raingardens will capture over two million gallons of runoff annually.

“[The best thing about the program was] being away from all the technology around me and seeing nature, going on hikes, and seeing state/national parks.”

– Joseluis, Summer Youth Corps Youth Member



44 FELLOWS



participated in the Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program receiving fellowship, mentorship, and paid internship opportunities during their academic journey. IDEC is a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

247 AMERICORPS MEMBERS  
served 291,832 hours



97 PROJECT PARTNERS

79 YOUTH  
served 7,785 hours

See our 2021 project partners at  
[conservationcorps.org/partner/our-partners/](https://conservationcorps.org/partner/our-partners/)



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During Fiscal Year 2021

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Erin Anderson</b> , Vice Chair   | <b>Shirley Nordrum</b>          |
| <b>Deb Berg</b> , Chair             | <b>Troy Rosenbrook</b>          |
| <b>Eric Chien</b>                   | <b>Nicholas Sannito</b>         |
| <b>Robert W. Craggs</b>             | <b>Yordi Solomone</b>           |
| <b>Brett Emmons</b>                 | <b>Stephanie Stein</b>          |
| <b>Vern Fish</b>                    | <b>Katie Tedson</b> , Secretary |
| <b>Mary Hilfiker</b>                | <b>Justin Tomljanovic</b>       |
| <b>Liz McAllister</b>               | <b>Dr. Michael G. Wulf</b>      |
| <b>Janet M. Newberg</b> , Treasurer |                                 |

## REGIONAL OFFICES

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Duluth, MN</b>    | <b>Fergus Falls, MN</b> |
| <b>Mankato, MN</b>   | <b>Granger, IA</b>      |
| <b>Rochester, MN</b> | <b>Waterloo, IA</b>     |



“Throughout my service term with the Corps, I gained skills and knowledge about myself and the environment that I will take with me and build upon for the rest of my life.

– Sarah Longville, Field Crew  
AmeriCorps Member



60 Plato Blvd E, Ste 210  
Saint Paul, MN 55107  
651.209.9900  
[conservationcorps.org](http://conservationcorps.org)  
[@conservcorps](https://twitter.com/conservcorps)