

www.deerfieldriver.org

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2022 Accomplishments

Thanks to incredible community support, we've made great progress in our mission to keep our river system scenic and clean. Here is some of what we've achieved in 2022.

Continued to Erase Graffiti Along the Deerfield River



Removing graffiti at Gardner Falls.

Even though there are ten dams within the mainstem of the Deerfield River, most of the river looks incredibly natural. That is why it pains us when there is unnecessary defacement. In addition to the graffiti removed from river rocks near Wilcox Hollow in 2020, we discovered even more graffiti upstream of the Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Power Station. The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) tackled removal of this older graffiti in full force on **April 30, 2022.**

For keeping our landscapes looking as natural as possible we believe these volunteer-led and labor-intensive projects are worth the effort. More details here:

deerfieldriver.org/gardner-falls-graffiti

Worked With Legislators to Successfully Introduce Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Legislation in the US Congress

After much effort, the DRWA's initiative to seek a National Wild and Scenic River study bill and eventual Wild and Scenic designation for select sections of the Deerfield River is now in the hands of our elected representatives in the US House and Senate. Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) introduced proposed legislation for a study bill to determine if segments of the Deerfield River and its tributaries could qualify for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. A copy of the proposed legislation is available for viewing at: deerfieldriver.org/wild-and-scenic



Sunset on the Deerfield River in Charlemont, MA.

Cleaned up Rivers in Franklin County



The **Franklin County Rivers Cleanup**, formerly known as the Green River Cleanup, celebrated its 19th year! We expanded our local Green River cleanup last year to include other river systems throughout the county and to help promote additional local events. As always, many of the volunteers met at the Green River Recreation and Swim Area in Greenfield for our signature event. Volunteers made massive progress towards cleaning up urban areas and local rivers.

Volunteer group from Trout Unlimited cleans up by

the upper Deerfield River in MA.

Leading by example, they even sort out recyclable materials—a service now provided by other Source to Sea cleanup partners and volunteers watershed-wide. We would like to thank the businesses that generously donated cash and food so that we could have a successful and enjoyable event for all participants. We also promoted specific cleanups throughout the year with our other partners, including Earth Day and the City of Greenfield's Blue Bag Cleanup Month. Deerfieldriver.org/franklinrivers

Updated the Mohican-Mohawk Trail Maps & Trail Maintenance

As part of a large, collaborative effort, we worked with Franklin Regional Council of Governments and other partners to update the brochure and maps of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail System. The updated brochure and maps can be found at the Franklin Land Trust trailhead near the State Police barracks on Route 2 in Shelburne, or a PDF map can be accessed online at mass.gov/location-details/mohican-mohawk-trail



Volunteers clearing downed trees on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.

Besides the updated maps, DRWA also removed fallen and dangerous trees, and removed the encroaching brush along approximately one mile of trail.

Led Our First Guided Hikes in Many Years



Guided hike in Shelburne.

This year we led four guided educational hikes, choosing the Town of Shelburne for our first series of hikes. Hikers enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. To keep up with any activity plans we might have in the future, be sure to follow us on

Facebook:

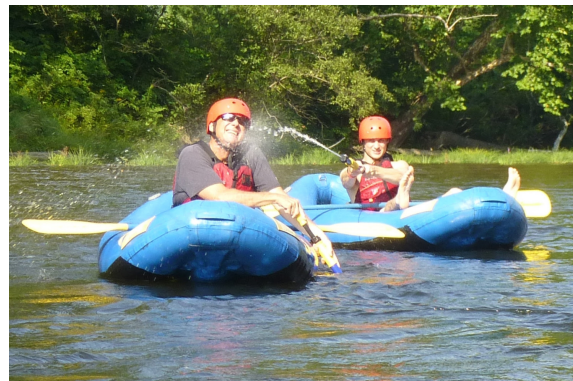
Facebook:

[facebook.com/DeerfieldRiver](https://www.facebook.com/DeerfieldRiver), and Instagram:

[@deerfieldwatershedassoc](https://www.instagram.com/deerfieldwatershedassoc).

Monitored Water Quality in Massachusetts and Vermont

We have been helping to fund water quality monitoring along the **Deerfield River and its tributaries** for a number of years and as budgeting allows. **What are we discovering? After rain events**, water quality in the rivers generally deteriorates as contaminants are flushed into the river and the river bottom is stirred up. **The good news** is that water quality remains clean below Fife Brook (where the river receives the most water contact users), even after rain events.



Tubing on the Deerfield River in clean water.

The bad news is that water quality can suffer as it passes through farmland and developed areas such as Wilmington, VT and the City of Greenfield, MA. These are areas where we hope to work with others to address water quality degradation.

[Deerfieldriver.org/water-quality](https://deerfieldriver.org/water-quality)

We Continue our Work Bringing Positive Change to River Recreation



Fly-fishing the Deerfield River at Sunburn Beach.

The DRWA has been actively working for a **safe, clean, and user-friendly river system with adequate public access**. We have been advocating to our partners and local governments to create a **River Recreation Plan** that is now fully underway. A few positive changes to river safety, sanitation, and convenience were made in 2021 and 2022; with fingers crossed, more are on the way for 2023 and beyond. We even updated our River Recreation web page: [Deerfieldriver.org/boating](https://deerfieldriver.org/boating)

From the President



Thank you for your interest and support this past year! We hope to see you enjoying the Deerfield River and its many tributaries in 2023.

—Jim Perry
President, DRWA Board of Directors

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Deerfield River Watershed Association is an affiliate of Connecticut River Conservancy. This working partnership makes us a more effective advocate for this special watershed. Your donations go to the Deerfield River Watershed Association and our many projects.



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