



A Note from the President

In 2022, we led six free & easy interpretive, nature hikes. This year we led two. If you would like to join a low-key hike in 2024, follow us on Facebook for the latest hike announcements facebook.com/DeerfieldRiver. This is also where we post water quality monitoring information during the summer and places where you can meet Board Members at our booths during a multitude of events.



If you have any questions during the year, please feel free to send us an email at: drwa@deerfieldriver.org

See you on the river, trails, & mountains!

Jim Levy

Wild & Scenic River Progress

After much effort, the Deerfield River Watershed Association's (DRWA) initiative seeking National Wild and Scenic River designation for sections of the Deerfield River and its tributaries, is in the hands of the U.S. House and Senate. Senator Edward Markey and Congressman Jim McGovern are leading a bi-state Congressional delegation seeking passage of a bill to authorize a study of the Deerfield River and its Wild and Scenic River eligibility. A hearing on the Study Bill was held in the U.S. Senate, and the bill was marked up.

Passage of the bill is more challenging on the House side, so we are looking into other options to keep moving forward. One option is to seek funding from the National Park Service for a "Reconnaissance Study" of the river, as a first step toward designation. In the meantime, the Connecticut River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has generously donated \$500, from a movie fundraiser we partnered on, to help support our Wild & Scenic River initiative.



More Than Just Hydropower Relicensing!

We participate in hydropower relicensing efforts at the state and Federal level. That is a given. What is also quite important is that the Deerfield River Watershed Association is there to monitor the implementation and maintenance of these long-term permits. You would be shocked at the commitments companies make as a condition of their permits, but do not follow through on.

One example is providing required recreation facilities, access to those facilities, and proper maintenance. Without the intervention of nonprofits like the Deerfield River Watershed Association, a lot of required mitigation would disappear and we would all be left without reasonable access to our river.





20 Years of the Green River Cleanup!

The Franklin County Rivers Cleanup (formerly the Green River Cleanup) celebrated its 20th anniversary year on September 23rd. Water Quality on the Green River currently enters Greenfield as quite clean and becomes polluted as it passes through and leaves Greenfield on its way to the Deerfield River! It is time to recognize not only solid waste issues, but also chemical and bacterial issues too. Let's make it clean!

We would like to thank the best side of human nature... In addition to our MANY volunteers, here is a list of our cleanup sponsors: the Connecticut River Conservancy; Deerfield River Watershed Association (us); Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Inc; Greenfield Savings Bank; PV-Squared; Franklin County Sheriff's Dept.; Barlow Paving; Nartowicz Tree Service; Greenfield Department of Public Works; Greenfield Recreation Dept.; Subway-Federal St.; People's Pint; Four Phantoms Brewery; Mesa Verde Restaurant; New Fortune Restaurant; Foster's Market; Antonio's Pizza, Bernardston; Clarkdale Fruit Farms; Adam's Donuts; Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters; Ryan & Casey Liquors; Real Pickles; Fogbuster Coffee Works; Dunkin Donuts-Mohawk Trail; The River, WRSI 93.9-FM; WHAI 98.3-FM, Greenfield; Bear Country WPVQ 95.3-FM, Greenfield; New England Public Media; Deerfield Academy; Northfield Mount Hermon School; The Center School, Greenfield; Four Rivers Charter Public School. And, thanks also go to the several groups that cleaned up the middle section of the Deerfield River too, including: Zoar Outdoor; Mohawk Trail State Forest; Deerfield River Watershed - Trout Unlimited!



Water Quality Monitoring “What have we learned?”

E. coli is a bacteria found in the guts of all warm-blooded animals, including humans, and is used as an indicator to test water for fecal contamination (poop). If you look at the local water quality monitoring results published during the summer on our Facebook page or DRWA website, deerfieldriver.org/water-quality there are key findings of importance for you. Except for the upper reaches of the Deerfield River and its tributaries, and the middle section of the Deerfield (where most of the kayaking, rafting, tubing, and swimming occurs) ... in most other sections of these waterways, bacteria levels increase following heavy rains.

However, during dry periods, most of these contaminated areas typically remain relatively low in E. coli bacteria. So, if you are going to swim in a lake, stream, or river, it is recommended you wait 24 – 48 hours after the last significant rainfall.