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November 2020

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Deerfield River Watershed Association



DEERFIELD RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

An affiliate of
Connecticut River Conservancy

Fall News + Giving Tuesday

DONATE

Thanks to generous volunteers, new and long-term Board Members, and supporters like you (and in spite of COVID-19) the Deerfield River Watershed Association has creatively accomplished amazing things this year and is gearing up for another big year of river work in 2021.

We held off on our regular fundraising this year due to the impact of COVID-19 on our local communities and businesses. [We now humbly ask for your gift this Giving Tuesday](#), December 1, so that we can cover our 2020 project bills and continue making progress for the watershed in 2021.

It is quick, easy, and secure to [donate online](#) and you will ensure critical river work on the Deerfield and its tributaries continues despite the pandemic.

Thank you for considering a thoughtful gift on December 1 for Giving Tuesday.

Here are a few of the more interesting 2020 accomplishments...



Jim Perry – President,
Deerfield River
Watershed Association

River Restoration on the North River



The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) teamed up with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) to complete a very successful river restoration project on the East Branch of the North River in Colrain, MA this fall. Both

nonprofit organizations are recipients of grant money from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to implement the project on two parcels of private property.

Flooding and erosion during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 cut into the river bank and wiped out the forested buffer along the river on both these properties. The entire project, which used all local contractors, included installing wood buttresses along 560 ft. of exposed riverbank, establishing a vegetated buffer along 870 ft. of bank, and planting nearly 780 native trees and shrubs.

DRWA Launches Wild & Scenic River Initiative



DRWA's Board of Directors has decided to launch a new initiative to evaluate the potential designation of segments of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River. Wild and Scenic designation would bring federal technical and financial resources to help

enhance and protect the river. The first step in this process will

be to seek federal funds for a feasibility study, to determine whether certain sections of the river and its tributaries are eligible and feasible for designation, and that it is locally desirable they become designated.

The Deerfield River is an outstanding resource for many reasons. It offers perhaps the best whitewater boating and rafting in Massachusetts, some of the best dry-fly fishing for wild trout in the East, and the Mohawk Trail is historically significant. DRWA has begun reaching out to, and meeting with, Selectboards in communities throughout the watershed to seek their endorsements for a Wild and Scenic River study. Already, DRWA has met with Selectboards in Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Deerfield, Savoy, and Shelburne, and they all voted affirmatively to endorse seeking Wild and Scenic designation for the river.

Graffiti Removal at Wilcox Hollow

DRWA Board members volunteered to complete an extensive graffiti removal project at one of the Deerfield River's most scenic recreational spots. One "artist" left dozens of "graffiti artworks" that defaced the beautiful river rocks at Wilcox Hollow. It took a lot of experimentation and donated equipment, tools, and supplies, but we finally figured out how to remove virtually all of the graffiti paint.

Green River Cleanup



DRWA coordinated with CRC on a month-long cleanup of the Green River this fall. We spread the cleanup over a month to ensure COVID-safe social distancing for volunteers. The cleanup featured removal of nearly 4,000 tires from a tire dump.

And we continue working on...

Water quality monitoring, river trail maintenance, initiating work on an entirely new website, defending your right to public river access as State agencies and a local government actively worked to restrict it, etc...

Thanks again!!

DONATE

#GIVING
TUESDAY

**DRWA 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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