

Deerfield River Watershed Association News - Spring 2022

1 message

Deerfield River Watershed Association
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To: drwa@deerfieldriver.org

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www.deerfieldriver.org

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When are the best times to paddle or float?



Head on over to our website at deerfieldriver.org/boating to find links to the spring and summer water release schedule, daily water release flow rates, number of hours it takes for the high flow to reach your favorite river put-in, river safety, and more.

For a completely **uncrowded experience with plenty of parking**, we highly recommend paddling or floating on a **Wednesday, Thursday, or even Friday**. Please, first confirm there are scheduled water releases from the Fife Brook dam for that day and that rains have not made the water level too high to be unsafe.

Graffiti Removal, Part II – 2022



Graffiti removal

In 2020, **Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA)** and the Town of Shelburne Open Space Committee removed **a lot** of fresh graffiti from the river rocks on the Shelburne side of the Deerfield River, across from the Gardner Falls Hydropower Plant. That area remains graffiti-free to this day (knock-on-wood).

It turns out there was also a lot more graffiti upstream on the Town of Buckland side of the river, too. The DRWA tackled removal of this older graffiti in full force on **April 30, 2022**. When it comes to keeping our landscapes looking as natural as possible, we believe these volunteer, labor-intensive projects are worth the effort.

River Recreation Planning Bringing Positive Change to River Recreation



Temporary Porta-potties
at Shunpike Rest Area – July
2021

The DRWA has been actively working for a **safe, clean, and user-friendly river system with adequate public access**. A few positive changes to river safety, sanitation, and convenience were made in 2021, and with fingers crossed, more are on the way for 2022 and beyond. To this end, we have been advocating to our partners and local governments for the creation of a **River Recreation Plan**. Plan development is now fully funded and underway!

Franklin County Rivers Cleanup Opportunities



A small portion of the litter collected during the Franklin Rivers Cleanup. Photo: Charlie Olchowski

The **Franklin County Rivers Cleanup** was expanded last year to include other river systems throughout the county and additional local events. Mark your calendar for September 24th for our biggest annual cleanup event. We will gather at Greenfield's Green River Recreation and Swim Area on Nash's Mill Rd., in Greenfield, at 9:00 AM. Check out deerfieldriver.org/franklinrivers for the latest information on 2022 cleanup opportunities. Create a team or sign up as individuals and plan on joining us!

Deerfield Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislation is Ready to Move



DRWA has been working for the past months with legislative aides for Representative Jim McGovern-MA and Senator Edward Markey-MA, to craft a study bill to determine if segments of the Deerfield River can be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River.

According to Representative McGovern's office, that bill is now ready for introduction in Congress. A copy of the proposed legislation is available for viewing at deerfieldriver.org/wild-and-scenic.

Mohican-Mohawk Trail – Updated Maps

Updated maps of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail System are now available.

Maps can be found at the Franklin Land Trust trailhead near the State Police barracks on Route 2, in Shelburne.



A PDF map can be found online at www.mass.gov/location-details/mohican-mohawk-trail.

News from Vermont

On March 24, an in-person event was organized by the Connecticut River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited to **review current and recently completed work done in the headwaters of the Deerfield River**. This event, the “Somerset Integrated Resource Project 2022 Status Update,” focused on progress made since 2019 and plans for the next three years. Meanwhile, the local chapter of Trout Unlimited was awarded a grant to do wood loading in Box Cover Brook, a tributary to the Deerfield River. This mitigation activity **will improve fish habitat** damaged by stream straightening and flooding.

From the President



For a small, volunteer-run organization, I am impressed with how we keep adding accomplishments each year. This is all due to a highly motivated Board and your generous donations. Thank you! We all hope to see you on the river system or its trails this summer!

Jim Perry

President
DRWA Board of
Directors

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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