



Spring 2019

News from the Deerfield River Watershed Association

“Advocacy” is the word for 2019.

This continues to be a busy year for the Deerfield River Watershed Association volunteers, advocating for your river system. We have been long-term environmental partners in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. The Bear Swamp power project relicensing has been a long-term review and commenting effort. We also continue to push for desperately needed restroom facilities at the Route 2 Shunpike Rest Area floater put-in and take-out. (Why are restrooms needed? See photo bottom of pg 2.) It is so important to have a consistent, reasonable, holistic environmental player at the table offering solutions to difficult problems, and we fill that role. We will continue advocating for your incredibly special river. Please join us! You can reach me at: drwa@deerfieldriver.org. See you on the water or trails this summer!



Jim Perry, President,
Deerfield River Watershed
Association

2019 Water Sampling Sites

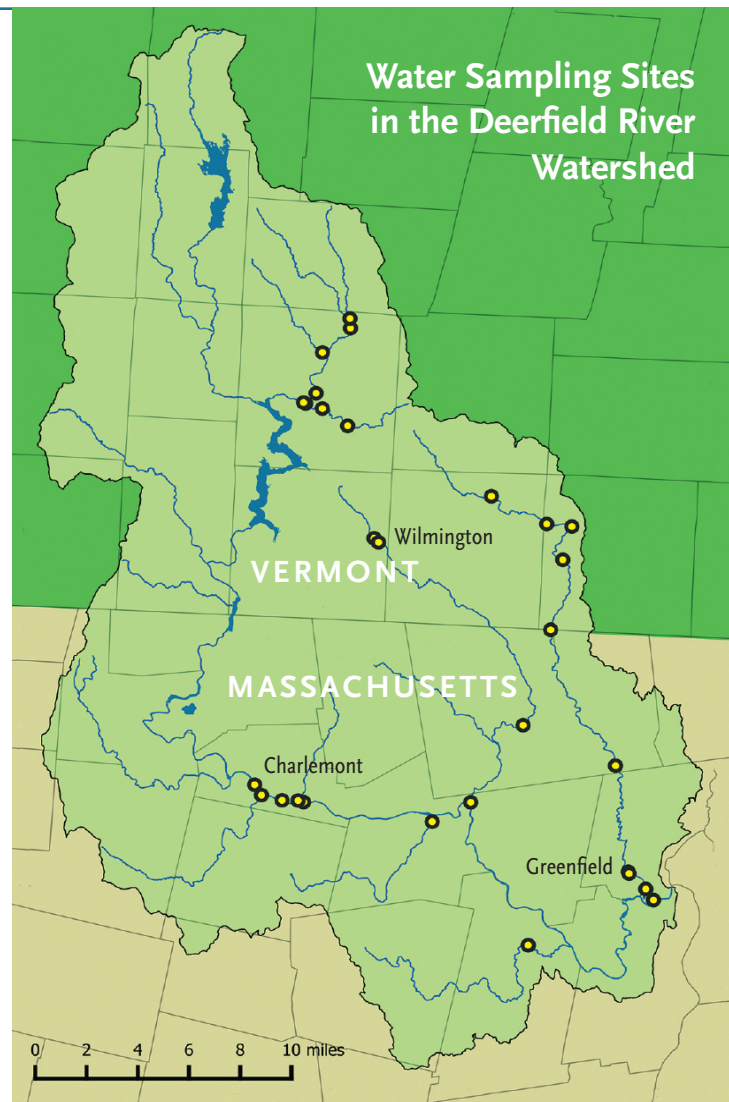
For the third year, Deerfield River Watershed Association will be monitoring water quality in both Vermont and Massachusetts. Volunteers will be out every other Wednesday morning collecting samples at 29 sites on the Deerfield River and its tributaries. The samples will be tested for bacteria, nutrients, and other water quality parameters. We work with State and local officials to select sites that will show where the high quality waters are, in addition to sites where we should be concerned about pollutants.

Results from 2018 showed some areas of concern around the downtown areas of both Wilmington, VT and Greenfield, MA for high levels of bacteria. In the upper Green River, we saw very turbid waters after heavy rains caused severe erosion.

In 2019, we will continue to partner with the Green River Watershed Alliance to study the Green River watershed in depth. We will also be adding the Mill Brook (Charlemont, MA) to the list of tributaries that we monitor.

Reports about the water quality results can be found at our website:

deerfieldriver.org/science/water-quality





New Mahican-Mohawk Trail Map (Free)

There is an all new and extremely cool Mahican-Mohawk Trail Map available for free. The map, unlike any you have probably ever seen, shows the history, photos, elevations, and routes of the many sections of trail passing through the Deerfield River watershed to North Adams. The map also includes something new—a water trail with river floating information including put-ins and take-outs along the Charlemont section of the Deerfield River. The Deerfield River Watershed Association serves as the steward of the trail between the towns of Deerfield and Shelburne Falls. We also participated with the Mahican-Mohawk Trail Council in the design of the new trail map.



Deerfield River in Charlemont

You can find free trail maps at the Shelburne Falls Visitor Information Center, Franklin Land Trust office at 5 Mechanic Street in Shelburne Falls, and at the trailhead to the Shelburne Fire Tower on Halligan Avenue just north of the old Sweetheart Restaurant on Route 2.



Green River Cleanup—Mark Your Calendar!

Save the date—16th Annual Green River Cleanup—September 28, 2019. 9:00AM, Green River Swimming and Recreation Area, Nash's Mill Road, Greenfield. (Schools participate Sept. 27.) To RSVP, or for more information, call (413) 772-2020, Ext 211. WHY IS A CLEAN GREEN RIVER IMPORTANT?! The Green River is a tributary of the Deerfield River, which then flows for just under two miles where it meets the Connecticut River. The Green River is classified as a Class-A public water supply and a cold-water fishery, supporting many different varieties of aquatic life. Thirty-five percent of the water supply for the town of Greenfield comes from the Green River. So, bust out your waders or work boots and join your neighbors as we keep the Green clean!



Restrooms will help keep our rivers clean during summer recreation season.

