

Deerfield River Watershed Association

A tributary of the



Connecticut River
Conservancy

May 2023

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for the community of people who help to keep the Deerfield River and its watershed clean and full of life. Whether you **paddled, floated, fished, hiked, snowshoed, or picnicked** along its waters, you know we can't take this beautiful outdoor resource for granted.

Thank you to our friends throughout the watershed who have united to improve the health of our entire river system this past year.

Support and membership made many projects possible last year, including:

Deerfield River System Wild & Scenic River Study Bill Re-Introduced in the US Congress!

After much effort, the **Deerfield River Watershed Association's (DRWA) initiative** Study Bill seeking National Wild and Scenic River designation for sections of the Deerfield River and its tributaries is once again in the hands of our elected representatives in the US House and Senate.

River Recreation Planning

The DRWA works with our partners and local governments for a safe, clean, and user-friendly river system with adequate public access. Our work includes advocating for river access, improved river safety, adequate restrooms, river cleanups, river trail maintenance, graffiti removal, and improved river recreational facilities.

We have expanded the **Franklin County Rivers Cleanup** to include other river systems throughout the county. We also help coordinate targeted cleanups during other times of the year, including **Earth Day** and the **City of Greenfield - Blue Bag Cleanup Month**.

Yet, there is so much work left to do. Our local rivers urgently need your help.



With a new Congress appointed in 2023, the House and Senate have reintroduced legislation to study sections of the Deerfield River and its tributaries for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.



On May 21, we plan to lead a hike in search of Pink Lady Slippers and the elusive Yellow Lady Slippers at Mass Audubon's High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary. Add us on Facebook to stay up to date with all our planned activities.

(Over, please)

The coming months offer the chance to come together to improve the health of the river system and its watershed. With your support...

We will...

- Work with our partners to continue improving your river access.
- Pursue river recreation planning, including increasing parking and restroom facilities along the river to keep the river clean and meet the needs of the public.
- Continue to work our MA and VT congressional delegations as they guide a Wild and Scenic study bill for the Deerfield River through the US House and Senate.
- Continue to organize a wide variety of river cleanups and attack graffiti where we find it along the river.
- Monitor water quality so that we can identify specific areas in need of pollution control.
- Continue our support of scenic and educational trails and hikes within the watershed, and much more!

Thanks to generous volunteers and supporters like you, the DRWA is ready for another ambitious year of river work!

Will you help the DRWA continue progress for the watershed with a financial donation?

It's quick and easy to donate by check or online at our website www.deerfieldriver.org. Your financial contribution will ensure critical river work on the Deerfield and its tributaries continues!

Thank you for considering a thoughtful gift!

For the river,



Jim Perry – President
Chris Curtis – First Vice President
Charlie Olchowski – Second Vice President
Patrick McCoy – Treasurer
Terry Atkinson – Secretary
Sheila Kelliher – Board Member
David Boles – Board Member
Chris Bathurst – Board Member
Bruce Lessels – Board Member