



Deerfield River Watershed Association <drwa@deerfieldriver.org>

## Fall News - Deerfield River Watershed Association Accomplishments

1 message

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### Wild & Scenic River Study



Sunburn Beach  
on the Deerfield River

If you have ever boated or floated down the Deerfield or fished the river or some of its tributaries, you will immediately recognize why key sections of this river system should be part of the National Wild & Scenic River System. The Deerfield River Watershed Association's (DRWA) initiative to seek **National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Deerfield River and its tributaries** has advanced substantially over the past few months.

DRWA representatives have been meeting with communities across the watershed to discuss this initiative with Selectboards and Mayors. To date, **18 communities** in Massachusetts and Vermont and 12 organizations and businesses have voted to support seeking Congressional authorization and funds for a planning study. We have also **met with the Congressional delegations** from Vermont and Massachusetts and await their filing legislation of a Wild and Scenic study bill.

## River Restoration - One Year Later



North River Restoration –  
monitoring photo, one year later

Last year we completed a **major river restoration project on the East Branch of the North River**, in partnership with Connecticut River Conservancy, to restore healthy river habitat and function lost during Hurricane Irene flooding. Well, as you know, it rained really hard this year, so we went to the restoration site to see how the project work held up.

We are pleased to announce that with the exception of some minor erosion, the project looks great. The revegetation was fully successful, Japanese knotweed is under control, and the log and brush superstructure is holding up well. Of course, with climate change, other Hurricane Irene-type storms will likely hit us again and again, and that will be the real test.

## River Recreation Planning A Long-term Process



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. To this end, we have been advocating for our partners and local governments to **create a River Recreation Plan**. As a positive first step in this direction, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) worked with key players and members of the public to identify issues that could be solved prior to the 2021 river use season.

For example, from July through September, for the first time in many years, **porta-potties were installed at the Shunpike Rest Area on Route 2!** There may not be porta-potties next year unless more money

can be found, but this was a great start and finally an acknowledgement of ongoing sanitation and convenience issues.

Also, if you recall last year, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) had restricted all parking at Shunpike Rest Area (river put-in and takeout, fishing, and swimming access) to only 30 minutes. **The Town of Charlemont and the DRWA developed and presented a compromise parking plan** recommendation. As a result, MassDOT has now re-signed the large parking lot as “No Overnight Parking,” thereby allowing daytime river use parking. We are off to a good start and meetings will continue this fall and winter identifying problems and searching for solutions.

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## Franklin County Rivers Cleanup



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

The annual Green River Cleanup has been renamed as the Franklin County Rivers Cleanup and was greatly expanded to include other river systems throughout the county. The Cleanup was held in September in conjunction with the Connecticut River Conservancy’s Source to Sea Cleanup and drew hundreds of volunteers to help pick up trash throughout the county. Please join us again next year!

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## From the President



Jim Perry

President  
DRWA Board of  
Directors

What a year! So many of us took this opportunity to spend more time outdoors, and we hope you did too.

Please check our website at [www.deerfieldriver.org](http://www.deerfieldriver.org) for river use information.... and please don’t forget to hit the Donate button to help support efforts to protect our watershed.

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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