



Turners Falls High School
Cleanup Group at Unity Park.
Photo: Ricky Pareja



Cleanup Chronicle

26th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup
Fall 2022

Connecticut River Conservancy

Special edition
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What began as a seasonal volunteer activity has grown into an immensely popular and impactful annual cleanup event throughout four states of the Connecticut River. Our 26th straight year of the Source to Sea Cleanup inspired 126 groups and over 1,300 volunteers to join an event near them, resulting in over 37 tons of trash being removed from the river and 85 miles of shorelines cleaned! From riverbanks to hiking trails, boat launches and beaches, once again you've shown that you're not afraid to get your hands dirty for the sake of clean rivers. Along the way, we've heard incredible stories of friendships made, kids motivated to do more for the environment, and priceless community connections strengthened. That's the power of working together for a common goal.

While the Source to Sea Cleanup is all about picking up trash in our waterways, streets, and parks - it is also a catalyst for lasting change, and part of a cycle of efforts that includes reducing and recycling our waste, upcycling wherever possible, and speaking up for legislative actions to stop trash in the first place. It is a local effort of the Northeast states through which the Connecticut River runs—New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut—and it is also a recognition that our river connects to the ocean where there is already significant trash pollution. Taking care of the planet begins right here, close to home.

We are immensely fortunate to have a thriving river and many tributaries that are swimmable and fishable. For anyone who has spent time on the water with friends and family on a beautiful day, this is a priceless resource worth every effort to sustain for future generations. The cleanliness of the water is vital to its health not only for the many local communities who enjoy it, but for all the wildlife calling the Connecticut River home. This includes animals like freshwater mussels, snapping turtles, brook trout, catfish, frogs, striped bass, crawfish, and many others, including many different types of birds. A clean river is not just beautiful, it's a food chain full of interconnected biodiversity.

The incredible dedication of the many volunteers who participate in these events is always apparent. Donating to support environmental nonprofits is a wonderful thing to do but giving up a morning or afternoon to pick up trash—which is sometimes heavy, smelly, or unwieldy to dig up or transport—is not for the faint of heart. You are the true heroes and defenders of nature, and the kind of role models this world needs more of. And while we are acutely aware that the problem of trash requires many more solutions, such as putting pressure on producers to be more sustainable and ensuring local waste management is conducted wisely, we must also be empowered to act directly for the land and water. Even when it's someone else's trash. Our vision is a clean and healthy Connecticut River, and we won't stop until that dream becomes a reality. Until then, THANK YOU for all your hard work!

While the Source to Sea Cleanup is an annual initiative, our #RiverWitness community is active all year round on social media! In addition to capturing the beauty of nature in its purest form, we invite you to show the dirty truth of trash in our rivers and the need for trash solutions. Join us in being a voice for our local rivers by sharing what you see on social media using the hashtag #RiverWitness, and check out the tag to see what others have posted.



Manchester Youth & River Slipway, CT



Amherst College Sustainable Ocean Alliance



Pecosic River Clean-up



Photo: Victoria Quill



DNV. Photo: Tom Coughlin



Eversource, MA



Sustainable Essex, CT



Essex, CT
Photo: Alison Brinkman

Jonah Center, CT. Photo: John Hall



Green River, MA. Photo: Beth Pelton



RICOH, CT. Photo: Al Maximino



Farmington River Water Association, Bloomfield, CT



Hypertherm, VT



Great Meadows Conservation Trust, CT



Green River, MA. Photo: Beth Pelton



University of Hartford

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

This list represents those who registered or submitted a trash tally. There were likely more groups out there!

Amherst College Sustainable Ocean Alliance · Amherst High School Environmental Action Club · Amherst, MA · Atlantic Beach Keepers · Bement School · Benesch · Bethlehem Elementary School · Black River Action Team · Bob&Son Floor Sanding · Bobo's Beach Busters · Boy Scout Troop 263 · Brattleboro Food Coop · Brattleboro Outing Club-Rowing · BUHS Clean Up Crew · Canalside Rail Trail · Change the World Kids · Choate Environmental Action Coalition · Clean, Clear and Free Flowing · Climate Change Club · Cuginchaug River Vets Park Crew · Comp Outdoors · Cromwell High School Carbon Club · Cromwell Public Schools · CT DEEP Adopt A Park · DCPV · Deer Paths Nature School · Deerfield River Chapter of Trout Unlimited · DNV · Eaglebrook School · Easthampton Beautification Team: Easthampton, MA · ECOS @ Forest Park: Springfield, MA · Essex 3-Villages Cleanup · Farmington River Watershed Association · Fort River Cleanup · Four Rivers Charter Public School 7th grade · Franklin Co Rivers Cleanup · Friends of Bliss and Laurel Park · Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River · Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise · Friends of the Trail · Frontier Regional High School · Fuss & O'Neill · Geo SubSea · Girl Scout Troop 64980 · Girl Scout Troop 65201 · Girl Scout Troop Cromwell, CT · Goodwin University · Great Meadow and Brockway Island · Great Meadows Conservation Trust-Cove Crew · Great Meadows Conservation Trust-River Crew · Greater Gill-Montague Supergroup · Green River Cleanup Group · Green River Recycling Group · Green River Tree Police · Greenfield Center School · Greenfield HS 8th grade · GZA* · Hartford, CT · Hartland Conservation Commission · Hillside Plastics · Holyoke High School · Holyoke Partners · HRHS APUSH · Human-scale · Hypertherm* · Jewish Community of Amherst · Jonah Center · Lindsay's Clean Team** · LWV of Franklin County · Meriden Motor Boat Club · MGM Springfield · Middletown Rotary Club · Milena · Montague Transfer Station Haulers · Mount Holyoke College Jewish Student Union · Mystical Mountain Maple Syrup · Northampton Meadows · Northeast Paving · Northfield, MA · Office of the MA Attorney General · Oxbow & Manhan River Cleanup · Prentiss Smith and Company* · Putney Rowing Club · PV Squared* · PW Sustainability Employee Action Group · RICOH USA · River's Edge · RUHS Interact Class · Savings Bank of Walpole* · Sigma Lambda Upsilon Sorority · SLR Community Outreach Team-CT* · SLR Consulting-VT* · SLR Trash Slayers-MA* · Solenis · South Hadley Volunteer Conservation Corps · Springfield, MA · Sunderland Bridge Crew** · SWCA Sustainability Team* · Team Cromwell · Team Eversource CT* · Team Eversource MA* · Team Eversource NH* · Team Wellness · Team Wood · The Adventurers · The Greenwood School · The MacDuffie School · The River House · Trash Slinging Trashers · Trinity College · Troop 428 · Turners Falls High School · Turners Mid-Hill Cleanup · UMASS CLEANS · University of Hartford · USA Waste & Recycling/All American Waste* · VHB · VT Academy · Wallingford, CT · WaterWay(s) Whetstone Cleanup · West Lebanon Team · Westfield River Watershed Association-Agawam · Westfield River Watershed Association-Westfield · White River Partnership · Windsor Locks Conservation · WNE ASCE

*Source to Sea Cleanup Sponsor

**Legislator



Unusual Items Found

- 2 metal bed frames
- A pontoon boat, and the side of another fiberglass boat
- Large deflated float
- Recliner snowblower (OLD and heavy!)
- Hide-a-bed sofa and a LA-Z-Boy chair
- 3 televisions and 1 microwave
- A tractor seat
- Wagon wheels
- Styrofoam spheres
- Mystery mechanical objects, car parts, and much more!

Below: Diana Chaplin, CRC's new Director of Communications, volunteered in Northampton, MA, and pulled this mystery item from the river – our guesses so far are old phone, tv, elevator floor indicator, or time machine! What do you think? Email us at crc@ctriver.org if you know what this is.



Photo: Diana Chaplin

Trash Tally 2022

Organizing the events and volunteers is just the first step in the process; tracking the amount and types of trash collected is vitally important! And while many groups submit their trash tallies, it's impossible to account for everything. Volunteers used Ocean Conservancy's Clean-Swell app as well as CRC's Trash Tally form to report trash data. CRC received this information from 82 of the 126 registered Cleanup groups. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here.



- 4,301 plastic bottles
- 3,482 aluminum cans
- 3,393 glass bottles
- 1,665 nips*

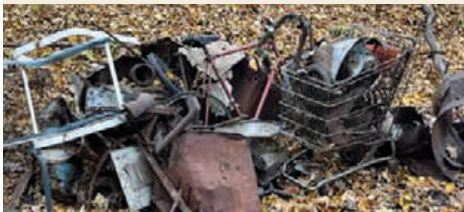


by state: CT: 38, MA: 66, NH: 6, VT: 16

*Data reported from CRC Trash Tally only. All other data is reported from CRC Trash Tally + Clean Swell app.

Additional Items

Item	Quantity Reported
Styrofoam	89 kitchen-sized bags
Scrap Metal*	7,853 pounds
Electronics & Appliances	50
Pharmaceuticals	333
Automotive*	24
Clothing & Shoes	233
Construction Materials	221
Mattresses	11
Toys & Balloons	166
PPE	1,202



LEAD SPONSORS

EVERSOURCE Eversource harnesses the commitment of approximately 8,300 employees across three states. The company is empowering a clean energy future in the Northeast, with nationally recognized energy efficiency solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system.



All American Waste is a local, family-owned company committed to its customers, their communities, and the planet. For generations, giving back to local communities has been a value of its management. This is embraced and embodied by its employees, making the areas they live and work a better and cleaner place.



Family owned and operated since 1974, **USA Waste & Recycling** is committed to their communities and the planet.

Sustainability and the environment have remained at the forefront of all company operations. For decades, USA Waste & Recycling has invested in cleaner technologies for healthier people and a healthier planet.

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RIVER SPONSORS



STREAM SPONSORS

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SumCo Eco-Contracting
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Wright Builders

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a collaborative effort! Special thanks to all those who help make it an annual success.

169 Marlboro Road, LLC
Agawam Dept. of Public Works
All Waste Inc.
American Rivers
Audacy
Baker's General Store
Big Y Amherst
Brattleboro Dept. of Public Works
Casella Transfer Station Holyoke
Charlemont Dept. of Public Works
Chicopee Dept. of Planning & Development
City of Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Division
City of Greenfield Public Works Dept.
City of Hartford, Dept. of Public Works
City Of Lebanon Dept. of Public Works
City of Middletown
City of Northampton, Dept. of Public Works
Cold River Materials
Cold Spring Orchard
Connecticut River Museum
East Hartford Parks and Recreation
Easthampton Dept. of Public Works
Essex Fire Dept.
FirstLight Power
Friends of Reusable Bags Committee
Great River Outfitters
Holyoke Dept. of Public Works
Home Depot-Greenfield
James Plumbing & Heating Co.
Keney Park Sustainability Project
Ledyard Canoe Club
Leverett Town Transfer Station
Longmeadow Dept. of Public Works
Montague Dept. of Public Works
Northeast Paving
Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup
Pete's Tire Barns, Inc.
Pioneer Valley Brewery
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters
Springfield Dept. of Public Works
Springfield Parks Dept.
Tapestry Health Systems: Greenfield & Northampton Syringe Access Programs
The Henion Bakery
Town of Amherst
Town of Hartland
Town of Hinsdale DPW
Town of Norwich
Town of South Hadley-Planning and Conservation
Town of Thetford
Triple T Trucking
USA Waste & Recycling
Windham Solid Waste Management District
WRSI The River
WHMP-AM



We'd like to thank the businesses that supported our affiliate groups—Deerfield River Watershed Association and Fort River Watershed Association at their respective Cleanups:

In-Kind supporters—Franklin Co Rivers Cleanup

Adam's Donuts
Antonio's II Pizza & Grinders
City of Greenfield Public Works Department
Clarkdales
D'Angelos
Dunkin Donuts
Fosters
Four Phantoms Brewery
Franklin Coop
Mesa Verde
Nartowicz Tree Service
New Fortune Restaurant
People's Pint
PV Squared
Real Pickles

Ryan and Casey's
Subway
The Wagon Wheel

In-Kind supporters—Fort River Cleanup

Black Sheep Deli
Panera Bread, Hadley, MA
Town of Amherst Dept. of Public Works
University of Massachusetts Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center
USFWS Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge, Fort River Division



Photo: Rep. Nafalie Blais

Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Natalie Blais joined a Source to Sea Cleanup in Deerfield, MA. "I look forward to the coming session and supporting legislation to end the use of single-use plastic and expand the bottle bill to include nips!" said Senator Comerford.

Help make the Connecticut River cleaner and healthier!

We hope you enjoyed this year's Source to Sea Cleanup. The Connecticut River is a beloved and shared resource that faces many challenges, and your support helps keep the river clean. To donate, please return the enclosed envelope with your contribution, or support us online at ctriver.org/donate. You can also contact Brett Morrison, Director of Development, at bmorrison@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext. 218 or 802-375-4519 to get in touch or become a Source to Sea Cleanup sponsor for next year!



Photo: Victoria Quill

"After my mother passed away, we started volunteering more as a family. Volunteering for CRC efforts has provided us with a special way to bond while making a positive impact on our environment" said Victoria Quill, Volunteer Leader for Source to Sea Cleanup in Northampton, MA.



Be part of the solution for cleaner rivers. Visit www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

Connecticut River Conservancy is the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your river and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies.

CRC is a membership organization and relies on your support to protect our rivers. Visit www.ctriver.org to become a member and sign up for our email news.

Main headquarters: 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301
NH & VT 802-258-0413
MA 413-772-2020
CT 413-772-2020 x216





design to postconsumer recycling or reuse. EPR is a successful solution that saves consumers and municipalities money—and often leads to producers creating products and packaging design that are more easily recycled.

One example of this—Connecticut will introduce a Packaging EPR and Tire EPR bill this upcoming session. How does that tie into our work? During our Cleanups, volunteers find endless amounts of packaging in and along our rivers—from chip bags to bits of Styrofoam to candy wrappers. This year we found 204 tires. What if producers were responsible for the entire lifecycle of these products? Tire EPR in Toronto virtually

eliminated illegal dumping. We can work towards that in our watershed.

During and after the Cleanup, volunteers take some time to tally their trash and send us their results. By taking this extra step, they help us see patterns over time, understand what types of trash are out there, and determine which sites need more support. This data also informs our advocacy—so we can help stop trash before it ever gets to our rivers!

Trash data helps us advocate for stronger solutions to the trash problem. But we can't do it alone. Thank you for joining us to speak up for rivers and for being part of the solution. Get involved, sign up for Action Alert emails, and more at www.ctriver.org/TakeAction.

CRC now has four River Stewards—one in each state of the Connecticut River watershed. Kate, Kathy, Kelsey and Rhea advocate for our rivers on a variety of issues—including trash. River Stewards regularly meet to talk trash and come up with advocacy strategies. This ensures that the hard work of our Source to Sea volunteers doesn't end in September but continues throughout the year.

Trash is a huge problem that affects every corner of our watershed. One solution is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR is a law that holds producers responsible for their products and packaging beyond manufacturing—from product



Special thanks to our national nonprofit partners, Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup and American Rivers National River Cleanup for teaming with CRC's Source to Sea Cleanup to support cleaner waterways around the U.S. and the world.

