



Connecticut River Conservancy

The annual Source to Sea Cleanup is dedicated to reducing pollution in the Connecticut River through community action. The fall of 2023 was the 27th year in a row that the Connecticut River Conservancy gathered with dedicated group leaders, families, businesses, nonprofits, schools, and diverse volunteers united in their commitment to cleaner, healthier rivers. Trash tally results throughout the 4-state watershed show that 132 groups consisting of over 1,251 volunteers collected over 34 tons of trash.

2023 was a year of significant flooding in the Connecticut River watershed, affecting communities, homes, businesses, and farms throughout our region. The flooding resulted in an increase in both large debris and lightweight trash carried down our tributaries towards the Connecticut River and downstream communities: a stark reminder of how interconnected our watershed truly is.

Clean water is not only vital for a healthy human population. It is essential for the wildlife that thrives in and around our rivers.

Sea lamprey, American shad, snapping turtles, river otters, freshwater mussels, beavers, and many species of birds are part of this biodiverse ecosystem, and our annual cleanup efforts help protect them too.

The annual Source to Sea Cleanup is an opportunity for all of us to come together as a watershed community crossing state and town boundaries, called by the many ways we feel connected to the river – as lovers of nature and recreation, or as an act of service with our neighbors. The Cleanup shows that passion for our watershed is alive and well – even when it involves waking up early on a rainy Saturday to venture onto a prickly riverbank to remove garbage.

We all have a role to play. If you participated in this year's cleanup, then you are a river hero. If you support the river in other ways such as through donations, environmental clubs, community science events, or by picking up trash along the road as you walk your dog – you are a river hero too. THANK YOU for all that you do to support a healthy Connecticut River watershed!

CLEANUP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Wethersfield Cove



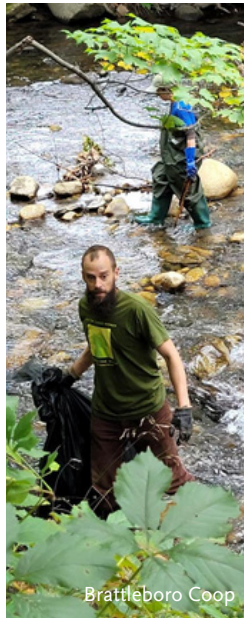
Farmington River



Black River Action Team - BRAT



SLR Consulting



Brattleboro Coop



Eversource CT



Deer Paths Nature School
Photo: Beth Pelton



Hypertherm Associates



USA Waste & Recycling



Verdantas



Green River Cleanup



Willa & Friends



Great River Hydro



David Yates



Northampton Meadows



Academy of Charlemont



Several legislators joined cleanups in Massachusetts, including State Rep. Mindy Domb, State Rep. Natalie M. Blais, Senator Jo Comerford, and State Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa. We greatly appreciate the involvement of local leaders who not only support legislation that helps keep our rivers clean, but who roll up their own sleeves to get involved!



"I started doing the Source to Sea Cleanup when I was 10 years old. It instantly made an impact on me. I've been back a few times over the years, and I was happy to help organize a group of volunteers this year." –Willa (17 years old) at the Oxbow in MA



The Great Meadows Conservation Trust and Wethersfield Cove Dads Club collected trash by boat and on foot in Connecticut.

Approximately 1/3 of Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers were youth this year! From schools to independent youth-led groups and many kids who participated with their parents, it is inspiring to see so many young people involved and having fun – they are our future River Stewards!



The Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District in Vermont collected 60 bags of trash totaling a whopping 891 lbs. along the West River! Thank you to the US Army Corps of Engineers for helping to dispose of the trash.



The UMass Five College Credit Union had a great cleanup and found a message in a bottle! We recommend more sustainable activities for kids and methods of communication, but we're glad this sweet message was received and appreciated.



Eversource Energy, in addition to being a lead sponsor of the overall cleanup, had 3 separate staff volunteer groups in CT, MA, and NH. They were fiercely dedicated to making a big impact and collected an incredible amount of trash.



20 YEARS OF THE GREEN RIVER CLEANUP

Join us in celebrating the Green River Cleanup and their 20 years of local organizing! With over 180 volunteers, theirs was one of the largest groups participating in the Source to Sea Cleanup. Awards were given in special recognition to David Boles, Charlie Olchowski, and Michael Pattavina for their incredible dedication and hard work through the years.

This year volunteers tackled 31 sites in the Greenfield vicinity and collected nearly 20 tons of trash! The Green River Cleanup is part of the larger Franklin County Rivers Cleanup, co-organized by the Deerfield River Watershed Association, Connecticut River Conservancy, the greater Gill-Montague Cleanup, and local businesses. We're so grateful for this team effort.



FORT RIVER CLEANUP

The Fort River Watershed Association held a great cleanup with over 80 volunteers collecting trash at 15 sites around the Fort River. This has become a wonderful community event with many families returning year after year.

RIVER ROADS FESTIVAL CLEANUP

Laudable Productions held the River Roads Festival in Easthampton with Connecticut River Conservancy as a beneficiary. The day after the event, Council Member At-Large Owen Zaret led a cleanup group including music artists Dar Williams, the Nields, and Heather Maloney, along with nearly 60 volunteers. They had the most impeccable organization system for trash tallies we've ever seen, collecting over 1,000 cigarette butts and several hundred nip bottles in just 2 hours!



TRASH TALLY



1,251
VOLUNTEERS

132
GROUPS

34.2
TONS OF TRASH
OR 68,400 LBS.

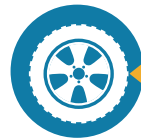
161
MILES CLEANED



9,241 BEVERAGE
CONTAINERS



13,781 LBS OF
SCRAP METAL*



148 TIRES



1,657 NIPS*



Unusual Items:

Hot tub, bowling ball, Hibachi grill, fishing boat, refrigerator, case of whipped cream, message in a bottle, snowboard, car engine, 90's cellphone, ironing board, children's rocking chair, flatscreen TV, couch, bathroom vanity, horseshoes, vending machine, soda dispenser.



The Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited group found a hot tub!

Frequently Found Items:

Plastic bottles: 3,690
Aluminum cans: 2,294
Glass bottles: 1,600
Electronics: 123
Automotive*: 105
Clothing/footwear: 598
Pharmaceuticals: 202

Styrofoam: 25 kitchen bags
Construction materials: 349
Mattresses: 8
Toys: 216
PPE: 131
Cigarette butts: 2,866



TOTAL TONS
1,107
SINCE 1999

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

All data based on submitted information from volunteers which does not include all volunteers or all trash collected. True totals are likely higher.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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 efficient solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system.

USA

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.

RIVER SPONSORS



STREAM SPONSORS

Chroma Technology
Florence Savings Bank
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc - CT
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc - MA
Inter-Fluve, Inc
Jamrog HVAC
Prentiss Smith & Co.

Savings Bank of Walpole
SLR Consulting
SumCo Eco-Contracting
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Urban Lodge Brewing
Walmart - Northampton, MA
Wright Builders

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Adam's Donuts • Agawam Department of Public Works. • American Rivers • Army Corps of Engineers • Barlow Paving & Excavation • Black Sheep Deli
Casella Transfer Station Holyoke • Charlemont Department of Public Works • Chicopee Department of Planning & Development • City of Glastonbury
Water Pollution Control Division • City of Greenfield Public Works Department • City of Hartford Department of Public Works • City of Lebanon
Department of Public Works • City of Middletown, CT • City of Northampton, Department of Public Works • Clarkdale Fruit Farm • Cold Spring Orchard
Connecticut River Museum • Cromwell Public Works Dunkin Donuts Greenfield • East Hartford Department of Public Works • East Hartford Parks and
Recreation • East Lyme Public Works • Easthampton Department of Public Works • Essex DPW • Essex Fire Department • FastLights, LLC • FirstLight
Power • Fogbuster Coffee Works • Foster's Market • Four Phantom's Brewery • Franklin County Sheriff's Dept. • Franklin County Solid Waste Management
District • Friends of Reusable Bags Committee • Glastonbury Public Works • Greenfield Recreation Department • Haddam Public Works
Holyoke Department of Public Works • Joan Plummer • Leverett Town Transfer Station • Longmeadow Department of Public Works
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation • Manchester Public Works Department • Mesa Verde • Montague Department of Public Works
Nartowicz Tree Service • New Fortune • Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup • Panera Bread • People's Pint • Pete's Tire Barns, Inc. • PV
Squared Solar • Real Pickles • Ropes Park Equipment • Ryan and Casey Liquors • Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters • Silvio O. Conte National Fish and
Wildlife Refuge • Southington Department of Public Works • Springfield Department of Public Works and Parks Department. • Tapestry Health Systems
The Wagon Wheel • Town of Amherst, MA • Town of Cornish, NH • Town of Hartland, VT • Town of Hinsdale DPW • Town of Norwich, VT Selectboard
Town of South Hadley, MA - Planning and Conservation • Town of Thetford, VT Town Manager • Town of Winchester, CT • Town of Windsor, CT • Town
of Windsor, VT • USA Waste & Recycling • Waste Material Trucking • West Hartford Department of Public Works • Windham Solid Waste Management
District • Yoni Glogower, Director of Conservation and Sustainability, City of Holyoke, MA



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.

TRIBUTARY SPONSORS



REYNOLDS'



Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc.

ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS.
Foundation

SUPPORTERS

Beyond Green Construction
Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast
Holyoke Gas & Electric
Stone Environmental

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Academy at Charlemont 7th Grade • Adirondack Mountain Club • Agawam Girl Scout Troop • American Solutions • Amherst College SOA • Amherst DPW • Ashgreen Families • Ashuelot River Cleanup • Beachgrounds Park • Benesch • Black River Action Team • Bobo's Beach Busters • Brattleboro Food Coop • Brattleboro Museum & Art Center • Brattleboro Outing Club Rowing Program • Canalside Rail Trail • Center School • Clean, Clear, and Free Flowing • Cleveland & Birch • Colonial Daughters 17th Century • Connecticut Children's Research Institute • Connecticut River Academy • Connecticut River Defenders • Cromwell RTC • CT DEEP Adopt-a-Park CTAWWA and CTWEA • CTriverDowntown • Dartmouth Club of Pioneer Valley • Deer Paths Nature School • Deerfield Academy Cross Country • Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited • Dover Elementary School 6th Grade • Eaglebrook School • Easthampton Oxbow Cleanup • ECOS@Forest Park • Essex 3-Villages • Farmington River Watershed Association • Florence Bank • Fort River Cleanup • Four Rivers Charter Public School 7th grade • FPI • Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks • Friends of the Trail - Lake Wallace Frontier Regional School • Fuss & O'Neill (CT & MA) • Geo SubSea • Goodwin University • Great Meadows Conservation Trust • Great River Hydro • Greater Gill Montague • Greenfield Center School • Green River Cleanup • Green River Super Sorters • Greenfield Coca-Cola • Greenfield High School • Girl Scouts Troops 65201, 62105, & 64980 • GZA Green Team • Haddam CT Group • Hartland Conservation Commission • Holyoke High School • Holyoke Partners • Hypertherm Associates (NH & VT) • Jewish Community of Amherst • JohnGreener • K Street Kids • Kleinfelder • League of Women Voters Franklin County • Lindsay's Clean Team • Love Manchester, Live Green! • MacDuffie School • Mascoma River Cleanup • MGM Springfield • Middletown Rotary Club • Mill River at Florence Fields • MMBC • Moxi on the Rocks • Mystical Mountain Maple Syrup, LLC • New Chapter • Northfield Mount Herman North Meadows • Northampton Meadows • Passumpsic River Clean-Up • Penn Game Studios • Pratt & Whitney • Prentiss Smith & Company • Putney Rowing Club • PV Squared Solar • Reynolds Subaru and Boats • RICOH USA • River Roads Festival Cleanup River's Edge • Scout Troop 5 • SEAG • SLR Consulting (CT, MA, VT) • Smith Academy • South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association Southington Land Trust • Springfield Cleanup • Starling Ultimate • Sulis Studio • SWCA Cleaning Crew • Team Erving • Team Eversource (CT, MA, NH) • Teams Blais and Comerford • The Hartford TDAC • TRIUMPH • UMass Clean Crew • Unitarian Society of New Haven • USA Waste & Recycling/All American Waste • Verdantas • Vermont River Conservancy • VHB • Western Mass Communist Party • Westfield River Watershed Association • White River Partnership • Willa and Friends Cleanup Team • Windham NRC • Windsor Locks Troop 263 • WNEU ASCE • Woods Revival • Woodstock Inn & Resort • Xtream Clean Care Club

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



SUPPORT A CLEANER, HEALTHIER CONNECTICUT RIVER!

THANK YOU for all you do to contribute to cleaner, healthier rivers. While the Source to Sea Cleanup is a major annual event, the work of Connecticut River Conservancy and our many regional partners happens all year round. From removing old dams and invasive species to advocating for better policies and testing water quality in our lab, we take a watershed-wide approach to just about everything we do. And your support makes this possible!



Connecticut River Conservancy staff in November, 2023.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR CLEANER RIVERS. VISIT [CTRIVER.ORG](https://ctriver.org).

If you'd like to support our work on the Connecticut River, please consider making a contribution.

To donate, please return the enclosed envelope with your gift, 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 to get in touch or become a Source to Sea Cleanup sponsor for next year!

Connecticut River Conservancy:
15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-2020
CRC@ctriver.org
ctriver.org

River Updates: ctriver.org/news
Events: ctriver.org/events
E-newsletters: ctriver.org/email





Connecticut River Conservancy

15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301

CLEANING UP TRASH IS JUST ONE PART OF THE SOLUTION

While the Source to Sea Cleanup is all about picking up trash in our waterways, streets, and parks – it is also part of a greater effort that includes recycling our waste, speaking up for legislative actions to reduce pollution, and advocating for producers to develop products that are less harmful for the environment.

We are pleased to see that after years of advocacy by Connecticut River Conservancy and partners, a Tire EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) bill has passed in Connecticut, becoming the first of its kind in the nation. This new legislation will decrease illegal tire dumping, save municipalities money, and boost tire recycling. On the flip side, legislation does not always go as we hope, as in the case of Vermont's bottle bill – which would add containers like water bottles, juice bottles, and wine bottles to the list of redeemables – getting vetoed in 2023.

Our River Stewards regularly comment on permits and legislation to steer policy in a more river-friendly direction, and we encourage you to sign up to our state-based eblasts at ctriver.org/email to get river updates and action opportunities in your state.



Finally, a friendly reminder that while you may not be the one responsible for trash in your part of the watershed, you can still help by picking up litter when you see it. Keep trash bags and gloves in your car for impromptu cleanups on hikes, organize do-it-yourself group cleanups, and speak up for the environment in your community. There are many ways you can be part of the solution, and we appreciate all your efforts!

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

