

Deerfield River Watershed Association

A tributary of the



Connecticut River
Conservancy

Dear Friends,

May 2024

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.

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

Wild & Scenic River Study Announced

Great news! **DRWA has led the way**, and with the help of Senator Markey, Representative McGovern and our bi-state Congressional delegation, the National Park Service has agreed to fund a Reconnaissance Study which will serve as an initial assessment of the Deerfield River and its eligibility for National Wild and Scenic River status. This is a first step toward congressional designation of the Deerfield River as a National Wild and Scenic River. Survey work is expected to begin sometime after October 1, 2024.

River Pollution Prevention

The DRWA works with our partners and local governments to help ensure adequate restroom facilities along the river. This has been an ongoing issue. **However, some good news!** The Town of Charlemont has agreed to fund porta-potties at the MassDOT Shunpike Rest Area, on Route 2 during the Deerfield River's 2024, high-use season.

Franklin County Rivers Cleanup

The December 2023 flooding of the Green River **was massive** and so will be the need for cleaning debris out of the watershed. Please sign up later this summer to join us for the Franklin County Rivers Cleanup on September 28!

Water Quality Monitoring



We have been helping to restore creek and river riparian areas with newly planted trees and shrubs. (C. Olchowski)



On June 2, we plan to lead a free, guided hike in search of Pink Lady Slippers at Mass Audubon's High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website to stay up-to-date.

We recently partnered on a successful grant from Mass DEP to help fund the water quality monitoring program in Massachusetts through June 2024. In addition to our usual focus on bacteria, we are starting to monitor for nitrogen this year to better understand the Deerfield River's impact on Long Island Sound.

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

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, safety, and restroom facilities along the river to keep the river clean and meet the needs of the public.
- Continue to work with our MA and VT congressional delegations and the National Park Service to identify which sections of the river system might qualify for **Wild & Scenic River status**.
- 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 and ensure we are able to monitor the whole watershed through the entire recreation season.
- 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 Deerfield River Watershed Association (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