



Connecticut River Conservancy

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Al Braden

Thanks to the efforts of dedicated staff, regional partners, volunteers, members, and donors, we've made a positive impact for the Connecticut River in 2022. Here are just a few highlights and accomplishments.

## 26TH Annual SOURCE TO SEA CLEANUP

**1,363** volunteers across 4 states  
**12,841** beverage containers collected  
**126** cleanup groups  
**37.4** tons of trash removed  
**204** tires  
**85** miles cleaned

Our rivers are cleaner and safer thanks to many dedicated volunteers throughout the watershed.



## RESTORING THE RIVER

### 3 Dam Removals

In Guildhall, VT; Colebrook, NH; and Post Mills/Thetford, VT.

### 1 Floodplain Forest

10 acres of former hayfield restored to floodplain forest on the Johnson Farm Wildlife Management Area in Canaan, VT.

### 9,600 Trees Planted

Across 11 different planting projects in 10 towns including Bath, Colebrook, Lisbon and Lyme, NH; Lyndon, Norwich, Townsend, West Windsor, and Windham, VT; as well as Hartford, CT.

### 900,000 Water Chestnut Rosettes Removed

Throughout dozens of removal events in CT and MA alongside volunteers and 50 participating organizations, businesses, & agencies. Invasive Hydrilla was also removed, along with benthic barrier testing for growth prevention.



## RECREATION



**133**

More miles mapped for the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail with maps now available in NH, VT, MA, and CT.



**20**

Sites along the Connecticut River have updated educational or informative signage related to recreation, river access, fishing, or water quality.



**4**

Campsites and access points rebuilt along the Connecticut River for greater safety and enjoyment.

All projects conducted with the support, leadership, and collaboration of regional partners.

## COMMUNITY SCIENCE VOLUNTEERS

### 1,200 Water Samples

CRC volunteers collected over 1,200 samples in 2022 that were for E.coli, nitrogen, phosphorus, chloride, turbidity, conductivity, or microplastics.

### 1,737 E.Coli Results at 201 Sites in 4 States

As part of the Is It Clean network, 10 regional partners including CRC, Deerfield River Watershed Organization, and Chicopee 4 Rivers, posted 1737 results for E. coli tests at 201 sites across all 4 states.

This data supports regional river science, informs local agencies about the presence of pollutants, and guides advocacy for cleaner, healthier rivers.



### 237 Sea Lamprey Nests Found in 6 Tributaries

This data helps drive negotiations around dams and hydropower facilities to restore fish passage in the river. When nests are found, the removal of upstream barriers can be negotiated so future sea lamprey generations can access upstream habitats.

### 40 Volunteers Rescued 458 Juvenile Sea Lamprey

Volunteers rescued an estimated 458 larvae and juvenile sea lamprey at the Turners Falls Canal drawdown. Thanks to this project the young lampreys were released south of the Turners Falls dam to continue their journey to the ocean.



## ADVOCACY FOR CLEANER RIVERS

In addition to on-the-ground programs, CRC regularly provides comments on bills that may affect our rivers, submits expert testimony when requested, and collaborates with local partners to advance conservation priorities in permitting processes.

### Summary of advocacy achievements in 2022:

Lobbied congressional staff for federal policy & funding for cleaner rivers.

Presented a session on hydroelectric relicensing at River Rally in Washington, DC.

Successfully argued for the passage of Act 135 for surface water withdrawal documentation & permitting in VT.

Provided 5 river trips to over 30 legislators in VT & NH to educate them about our rivers.

Held 4 events along the Whetstone Brook in Brattleboro to educate the community about a new access area & the healthy trout fishery the Brook supports.

Successfully advocated with state-wide partners to restrict some types of outdoor watering during droughts in MA.

Pushed hydropower to protect and sustain life in the river in MA.

Successfully advocated to open an Office of Aquatic Invasive Species in CT.

Advocated for legislation to stop illegal tire dumping in CT.



We now have a River Steward dedicated to public advocacy, engagement, and unique issues in every state of the Connecticut River. Kate (NH), Kelsey (MA), Kathy (VT), and Rhea (CT).



CRC organized the first annual Riverfest and New England Paddlesport Championship Race in Brattleboro, VT and Hinsdale, NH.



ctriver.org

THANK YOU for your support in 2022. We look forward to building upon all these accomplishments for cleaner rivers, healthy habitats, and thriving communities in 2023 and beyond!