



Deer Paths
Nature
School

Cleanup Chronicle

24th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup
September 2020

Connecticut River Conservancy

Special edition
Volume 69 Issue 3

Thank you for getting dirty for cleaner rivers! You made the 24th annual Source to Sea Cleanup a success, despite the challenges of this year. So many people turned to their rivers this summer for beauty, fun, and healing. And so many slobos left their trash behind to pollute rivers. It was clear the Source to Sea Cleanup was needed more than ever and had to be different this year.

For the first time, the Source to Sea Cleanup lasted an entire month. Hundreds of volunteers with masks, work gloves, and trash bags gathered in small groups across the four Connecticut River states from Stratford, NH near the Canadian border to Old Saybrook, CT near the Long Island Sound. And, another first, many of you reported your trash

“Sustaining the environment for generations to come drives our decisions as a family and company. The Source to Sea Cleanup is very special to us—our family of employees and their families participate in this cleanup year after year, while we donate dumpster services to ensure the waste collected is disposed of in a responsible manner. We are proud to be a part of it!”

—Frank M. Antonacci, COO, USA Waste & Recycling

Source to Sea Cleanup: Like Never Before

directly from your cleanup site using the new Clean Swell app. It wasn't possible this year to coordinate removal of large debris like abandoned cars and boats, an oil pipe and platform, tanks, and multiple tire dumps. If anyone wants to help and has boats, large trucks, winches, or SCUBA skills, please get in touch—cleanup@ctriver.org

Even though we couldn't connect as much in-person, you helped create an online river community by sharing your photos and stories using #RiverWitness. You showed off the beautiful places you love and want to protect. You showed the piles of trash pollution you kept out of your rivers. You showed that getting involved to make a difference for your rivers and your community is

fun and feels good, too.

You've cleaned up more than 1,202 tons of trash from rivers over the past 24 years. We won't stop until we put ourselves out of the river clean-up business. But we can't clean our way out of this mess. Head to page 8 to learn more about what we can do to stop trash before it starts.



While the Source to Sea Cleanup may be over, the online #RiverWitness community lives on! Keep getting out there to connect with your rivers and keep sharing your photos, videos, and stories.

Here is a small selection of the many wonderful images shared online during the Cleanup using #RiverWitness. Search that hashtag on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see more great photos and connect with new river friends.



Plogging = Picking up litter + jogging! Photo: Hoang Trinh



Photo: Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge



Cleaning up rivers is a family activity! The Source to Sea Cleanup is a great way to get your family outside and create good habits and traditions that can last a lifetime. Photo: Monique Heller



Photo: PV Squared Solar



MA State Representative Natalie Blais joined the League of Women Voters of Franklin County for cleaner rivers. Photo: Rep. Natalie Blais



Louis, age 16, helped the Greenfield (MA) Fire Department clean and stack tires for recycling. Photo: Lea Douville



Photo: Walpole Recycling & Savings Bank of Walpole, NH



USA Waste & Recycling sponsor the Cleanup and make sure trash gets disposed properly. Thank you! Photo: USA Waste & Recycling



Photo: Northeast Solar



Plastic foam like this breaks off docks and pollutes rivers. Photo: Deer Paths Nature School



Photo: Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club (Springfield, MA)



Photo: Micah Goldstein



In addition to cleaning up trash, people showed their river love via art shared via #RiverWitness. Photo: Rita Jaros

Photo: Jane Beatrice Wegscheider

PARTICIPATING GROUPS:

#TeamExquisite • #THERIVERHOUSE • Alyssa, Ozzy and Leo • Amherst League of Women Voters • Aquaculture group • Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook • Backcountry Hunters and Anglers • Bement Family Association • Benesch • Bill Hesse • Bill's Clean-up • Biocitizen • Black • Bondi's Island Cleanup • Brattleboro Rotary Club • Campion Hill Cleanup • Carew/Varnon Crew • CEEMA • Charter Oak Cleanup • Claremont NH Conservation • Commission • Clean River Warriors • Clean up buddies • Clean, Clear and Free Flowing • Co-creators • Cohen • Connecticut River Clean Up • Juicy Trespassers • Coral Sands • Cove Clean up with Amy for State • Rep • Craft Crew • CRC-High Tea • CRC-The Vaneks • CRC-TOMRA • Creek Bed Elementary • Homeschool • Cromwell High School Carbon Club • Crystalseas • CT DEEP Adopt-A-Park Volunteers • CT Green Pickers • CT River Plogging • CTAWWA • Dartmouth Club of Pioneer Valley • Deer Paths Nature School • Deerfield Academy • Deerfield River Cleanup • Deerfield River Shelburne • Deerfield River Trout Unlimited • Defcon One • Dempsey Knox • Ducks • Earthly Heaven • Easthampton Oxbow Cleanup/Tighe & Bond, Inc. • Elizabeth Davis • Fall River camps • Fia+Liv • Fishels • Fort River Cleanup/Bay Road • Fort River Cleanup/Dork at Work • Fort River Cleanup/Fort River Watershed Association • Fort River Cleanup/Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge • Frazer Clean Up • FRCPS 7th grade • Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River • Fuss & O'Neill • Garth LaPointe • George Street Family • Gill Montague Supergroup • Granby Clean Up Crew • Great Falls Discovery Center Staff • Great Meadows Conservation Trust • Green River Cleanup/Deerfield River Watershed Association • Green River Cleanup/Masons • Green River Cleanup/PV Squared Solar • Green River Cleanup/The Brick House • Green Up VT Stewardship Partner • Greenfield Girls Soccer • GZA Glastonbury Green Team • Hampshire College Outdoor Programs • Hartford Area Hikers • Hartland Conservation Commission • Hartman's Haul • High Tea • Hilltown Trash Ramblers • Holyoke High School • HTCA • Ijwmpa • Kate • Keney Park Cleanup • kickALSbutt • Kleinfelder • Landmark College Civic Engagement Class • League of Women Voters Franklin County • Lindsay's Clean Team • Lions, Pegasi, and Bears Oh My! • Lower CT River Cleanup • MACSUN (Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise) • Mettabasett River Clean up • Middletown Rotary Club • Mill River Amherst MA • Mill River Clean Up Team JFK • Milone & MacBroom, Inc. • MMBC • MMI Vermont • Moi • Mountain Valley Community Clean up • Mushroom • My Reflection Matters Village CT • Mystical Mountain Maple Syrup, L.L.C. • Neato Trash Collectors • North Beach Rozilla Project • North Charlestown • Northeast Solar • NRG • Parnoff Purgers • Patterson Family • Paul and Lan • Philip & Pat • Physically Distant Paddling Club • Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club • Pitch in • Private • PV Squared • PSCI Environmental Club • River Valley Community College • River Warriors • Riverledges • RiverLove • RobThomasTeam • Rockville Clean up • Rozalia Project • Ruli & Feli • Sawmill Clean up • SBS Service and Sustainability Team • Scantic River Cleanup/East Windsor American Heritage River Comm. • Scott Family • Shewchuk • SHHS National Honor Society • Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp • Source to Sea • State Representative Daniel R. Carey • STS-Grove Beach • Sunderland Families • Susie • Swamp Foxette • Take Care Cape Cod • Team Ballantine • Team Bardwellfairy • Team Birchmore • Team BLUROC • Team Central CT Cleaning • Team Christie • Team Cleanup • Team Deep Divers • Team Delles • Team EHLC • Team Eldridge • Team Ever-source • Team Flinchbaugh • Team Geo SubSea • Team Guilford • Team HCWM • Team Hypertherm • Team LaRoche • Team Lucas • Team Mama and Luca • Team Perseverance • Team POONerz • Team SBW • Team Schwagnus • Team SWCA • Team Vaneks • Team Varnon/Carew • Team Welborn • The Chestnut • The Greenwood School • The Salty Dogs • The Sprites of the Salmon • The Thiesen's • The Windsor Crew • Trash Vacuums • Troop 428 • Turners Falls Hot Tickets • Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst • USA Hauling & Recycling / All American Waste • Valley Ultimate • Vujs Family • Wadsworth Falls State Park • Wadsworth Park via Middlesex Rotary • Westerberg family • Westfield River Watershed Association • Wethersfield Cove cleanup • Wethersfield ecology club • Wethersfield High School Ecology Club • Weyers Family • White River Partnership • Windsor St. Cleanup Crew • WLCT • Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions • WRWA, WSEC, AMC •

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



CONGRATULATIONS

to the winners of the 2020 Source to Sea Cleanup Photo Contest! This year, participants submitted images online using #RiverWitness. Winners were chosen using a random selector tool in two categories: Dirtiest Kids and Strangest Trash. Visit Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and search #RiverWitness to see tons of great Source to Sea Cleanup images and stories.



- Old sewing machine—North Stratford, NH
- Plastic doll house—North Charlestown, NH
- Wooden wagon wheel—West Lebanon, NH
- Old IBM computer—Colrain, MA
- Leather toe of fancy shoe—Amherst, MA
- Old basketball with Bob Cousy autograph—Avon, CT
- Leprechaun Plunge (S. Hadley, MA) giant charity check—Cromwell, CT (pictured)

Trash Tally 2020

This year volunteers used Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app as well as CRC's Trash Tally form to report trash data. Hardworking Source to Sea volunteers haul so much trash from in and around rivers and streams that it's impossible to account for everything. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here.



Additional Items*

Item	Quantity Reported
Construction materials	181 items of construction waste, 32 paint cans, 1 can of spray paint, decking materials, and plastic construction covering
Styrofoam	108 pieces of plastic foam dock float parts (varying sizes); 600 foam cups; 33 cubic feet of plastic foam particles (equal to 10.5 kitchen-size garbage bags of foam particles)
Electronics & appliances	98 items including a microwave oven and a "wicked old" IBM computer (circa 1995)
Automotive	217 items including 4 Jeep seats, 1 car seat, 2 car axels, and old farm machinery
Pharmaceuticals & personal care	332 reported condoms, diapers, syringes and tampons/tampon applicators, and 192 pieces of personal protection equipment (PPE)
Scrap metal	8,002 pounds and 8 shopping carts
Mattresses	13
Furniture	86 items including 1 chair, 25 tents, and 50 tarps
Toys	103 items including 6 bicycles, 1 doll house, 9 play balls, rubber duck, and legos

You proved them wrong! Tire manufacturers deny that illegal tire dumping is still happening. They claim that dumped tires are old and it's a historic problem. Thanks to data you collected on tires you found this year, you proved them wrong! Of the 368 tires you were able to find manufacture dates for, over 5% were made in the past 20 years. CRC will use this is critical information to help put an end to illegal dumping. **Thank you!**

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.



As local, family owned companies, **USA Waste & Recycling** and **All American Waste** recognize and embrace their role as a leader in the community. Giving back to communities has always been a value of its management and has been embraced and embodied by its employees. They are proud to be a steward of the environment and support the communities in which their employees live and work.

WATERSHED SPONSORS

Brookfield Brookfield Renewable creates value by developing innovative, natural power solutions that accelerate the world towards a low-carbon future. We provide clean and reliable power to millions of households and businesses.

TOMRA TOMRA is the preferred partner for reverse vending solutions for easily collecting and recycling cans and bottles. With over 84,000 installations around the world, TOMRA's reverse vending machines capture 40 billion used beverage containers every year—ensuring fewer containers end up in streets, oceans and landfills. Learn more: www.tomra.com.

MAIN STEM SPONSORS



RIVER SPONSORS



STREAM SPONSORS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Aquarion Water Company of CT | Milone & MacBroom/SLR |
| Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc. | Northeast Solar Design Associates, LLC |
| Casella Waste Systems, Inc. | Princeton Hydro |
| Connecticut Society of Women Environmental Professionals | Savings Bank of Walpole |
| Greenfield Savings Bank | Suez |
| Jamrog HVAC | SWCA |
| King Arthur Baking Co. | Wells Fargo Advisors LLC |

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a collaborative effort with many helping hands. This list is sure to miss some. Thank you to all who help make the Cleanup a success.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Agawam Department of Public Works | Home Depot—Greenfield |
| Agri-mark/Cabot Cheese | Leverett Town Transfer Station |
| American Rivers | Longmeadow Department of Public Works |
| Bridgestone Americas - Tires4ward Program | Montague Department of Public Works |
| City of Greenfield Public Works Department | Northeast Paving |
| City of Lebanon NH Department of Public Works | Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup |
| City of Middletown | Ropes Park Equipment |
| City of Northampton | South Hadley Department of Public Works |
| Department of Public Works | Springfield Parks Department |
| Community Eco Power (formerly Covanta) | The Art Garden and the Collaborative Community Art Response Team (CCART) |
| Drunken Rabbit Brewing | The People's Pint |
| Easthampton Department of Public Works | Town of Amherst |
| FirstLight Power | Town of Hartland |
| GG Inks | Town of South Hadley—Planning and Conservation Department |
| Glastonbury Refuse Disposal, Water Pollution Control Division | Town of Walpole Recycling Center |
| Greenfield Fire Department | USA Waste & Recycling |
| Harpoon | Windham Solid Waste Management District |
| Holyoke Department of Public Works | WRSI |



Thank you for getting dirty for cleaner rivers...safely!

This year, instead of t-shirts we offered Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers a free bandana that can be used as a face covering (or many other uses). Didn't get your bandana or would like more? Head to CRC's online store to order for FREE. It's our small way of keeping you safe and thanking you for making a difference in a challenging year. www.ctriver.org/shop



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.

Headquarters: 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301
NH & VT 802-258-0413
MA 413-772-2020
CT 860-704-0057



Photo: Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club

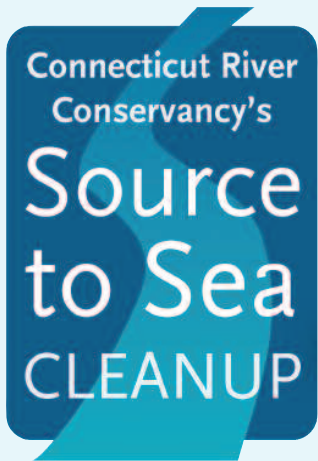
Support your rivers all year long!

Together, we all own our rivers. And together we will protect them. Please join us in this work by becoming a CRC member today. Donate online at www.ctriver.org/donate, return the enclosed envelope, or contact Corey Kurtz, Development Director, at ckurtz@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext. 202.

Sign up now
to be a 2021 Source to Sea Cleanup sponsor. Contact Corey Kurtz at ckurtz@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext.202.

Thank you Windham Solid Waste Management District for your trash disposal support!

Thank you Business West for your media sponsorship of the Source to Sea Cleanup!



Connecticut River Conservancy
15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301

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Speak up for your rivers to stop trash before it starts. Watch CRC's events calendar and social media for upcoming events on long-term trash solutions. Get involved, sign up for Action Alert emails, and more at www.ctriver.org/TakeAction.



Trash-Free Future, One Action at a Time

Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have to clean up every year? If we didn't trash our rivers in the first place? We didn't always live this disposable, trash-filled lifestyle. And just like we got rid of lead paint and smog, we can achieve a future free from single-use plastic and dumped tires.

Overhauling our trash and recycling systems to be more effective is a big job. And changing the way products are manufactured to be more sustainable and river-friendly is a big job. But it all starts with a simple choice. The choices we make each day really do add up to make a big difference for our rivers... especially when we all work together. And together we must urge our legislators, businesses, and other decision-makers to make the choice of putting people and planet above

profit. But first they need to hear from us, and it needs to be clear that we demand solutions to our trash crisis.

Corporations and manufacturers are profiting from this trash and they won't make the choice to change willingly. So, join us in contacting your legislators to tell them how bad the trash problem is in your town. Urge them to pass laws to ban unnecessary single-use items like plastic bags, bottles, and packaging. Tell them to improve recycling and disposal of hard-to-get-rid-of items like tires by extending producer responsibility to include the entire life cycle of products. We need to show our legislators, businesses, and manufacturers just how bad the problem is and tell them—as their constituents and customers—that we won't ignore this problem any longer.

This change is going to take time, decades even. And we'll keep at it as long as it takes. But our rivers need us to start now. It's a big job but just like tons of trash get removed from our rivers one piece at a time, we can change the world one action and one choice at a time.

Thank you for joining us to speak up for your rivers and for being part of the solution.

