The River Connects Us.

Connecticut River Watershed Council

Welcome New River Steward

Samplepalooza Results

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8 Upcoming Events

Coming Soon to a Town Near You: More Floods

YOU CAN GET FLOOD-READY WITH NEW FUNDING FOR LANDOWNERS & RESOURCES FOR TOWNS

looding is a reality in our region. And with the changing climate it's predicted that floods will be more intense and more common in the future. Storms like Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene have shown what sort of flooding we might expect again. To help individuals and communities adapt to this challenge, CRWC is bringing money, expertise, and inspiration to the task.

Thanks to a \$10 million two-year grant from the federal USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program, CRWC and six partners will be able to continue great work all across the Long Island Sound region. This grant will be matched dollar-for-dollar to bring \$20 million for climate adaptation and clean water projects to landowners. CRWC is involved because the Connecticut River contributes over 70% of the freshwater to Long Island Sound. Protecting our riverbanks now will give us cleaner rivers, a healthier Long Island Sound, and hundreds of flood-ready towns and residents.

Projects funded by this grant will focus on protecting productive farm and forest land, improving our rivers and streams, as well as the Long Island Sound. CRWC will continue to work with landowners in New Hampshire and Vermont



Flooding causes streambank erosion, which dumps sediment into our waters. Restored streambanks provide flood protection for healthy rivers & Long Island Sound.

where, over the last two years, you have built fencing and animal trails to keep livestock out of rivers, improved manure and wastewater handling and storage, developed nutrient management plans, and protected heavy use areas.

To tell the positive



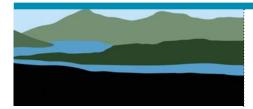
Root wads are a natural way to restore flood-eroded stream banks. Trees will be planted this year to further stabilize the bank & provide wildlife habitat.

stories about this work and help you and your community leaders prepare now for future floods, CRWC and the State of Vermont have released six new videos. The videos feature experts explaining why rivers move and erode in the first place, how to build better culverts and stream crossings, how to stabilize streambanks more naturally, and how to use mitigation funding. The videos are posted on the new Flood Ready Vermont website: www.floodready.vermont.gov. Flood Ready Vermont is filled with expert information by and for community leaders to reduce flood damage and qualify for better post-disaster funding.

One of the projects featured in the video "Stabilizing Streambanks Naturally" shows a recent CRWC project along the Waits River at the Bradford Golf Course in Bradford, VT. Last fall, CRWC and project partners inserted 16 root wads and other large woody debris into the streambank to prevent erosion and create fish habitat. Natural restoration works better and provides more benefits than rock rip rap (or tires or junk cars!) to stabilize riverbanks. This spring, CRWC and project partners will return to the area to plant more than 500 native trees and shrubs. The plants will further

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Mission

CRWC works to protect the Connecticut River basin's diversity of habitats, communities and resources. We celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore, and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come.

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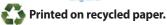
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Welcome Alicea Charamut



We are pleased to welcome Alicea Charamut, the new Lower River Steward in our Connecticut office. Alicea has been an advocate for Connecticut's rivers and streams for nearly a decade with a strong background in biology and water resource issues. She currently serves as the President of the Farmington Valley Chapter and on the Executive Committee of the State Council of Trout Unlimited. Her work as a well-known and respected volunteer leader has given her many

useful skills and knowledge of water issues, which she is eager to put to work for our rivers.

"Water is one of our planet's most critical resources," notes Alicea. "Unfortunately, our rivers and streams are taken for granted. It is up to organizations like CRWC with its passionate members, staff, and volunteers to protect and restore our watersheds for future generations. I consider myself fortunate to join the staff and begin work on behalf of the Connecticut River watershed."

You can reach Alicea at 860-704-0057 or acharamut@ctriver.org.

Farewell to Jacqueline

We bid farewell and much success to Jacqueline Talbot, the former Lower River Steward who was with us since 2010. Jacqueline offers thanks "for allowing me to be a part of work that is meaningful. Through our collaboration we have stewarded hundreds of miles of land and water trails, removed hundreds of tons of trash and recyclables



from our natural spaces, prevented trash from entering our rivers and Long Island Sound and made new community connections through the shared joy of hard work and committed action."

More Floods continued...

stabilize the streambank, improve stream health, provide shade to reduce water temperature, and offer habitat and food for fish, songbirds and other wildlife. River restoration projects like these can help reduce flood damage by protecting public infrastructure and personal property while also creating important fish and wildlife habitat.

For more information on how the Regional Conservation Partnership Program will work, contact Andy, afisk@ctriver.org, or Ron, rrhodes@ctriver.org.

"Thank you for the very professional level of service and expertise. It was a pleasure working with you. The resulting project looks terrific. We have already received many positive comments from our club members and the golfing public in general. It was exciting to see that the fish had already found the slower moving water!"

Randy Odell, President,
Bradford Golf Club, Inc.

SPRING 2015 3

The Power of Water, The Power of Words

A THOUSAND STORIES TO MAKE THE CONNECTICUT RIVER CLEANER AND HYDROPOWER GREENER

hat does the Connecticut River mean to you? Your community? Your family? CRWC is working with River of Words Along the Connecticut River and Art for Water to gather your stories for the Stream of Conscience art project. The Stream of Conscience will be a monumental and inspiring community-created art installation. More importantly, it will be a unique way of providing your input to the State and Federal government as they make decisions about how five hydroelectric dams will operate over the next 30 to 40 years and impact 200 miles of Connecticut River.

This is an exciting opportunity to engage civically and creatively in a policy-making process that builds community, nurtures our sense of ownership, and provides an outlet for our voices to be heard. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has begun relicensing five hydroelectric facilities in northern MA and southern VT. These dams produce over 30% of hydropower generation in New England. As owners of our rivers, now is the time to speak up for a positive impact that will last for a generation.

Are you ready to share your story? Participants write their aspirations, thoughts, and feelings about their river on

individual pieces of heavy-weight paper. Individual voices and papers will join hundreds of others to build an art installation of a river, which will be created at the culmination of the project. We can bring this FREE program to your organization, group, or school and provide an engaging presentation that can be made to groups ranging in size from a dozen to over 100. The





You can share your river story to tell decisionmakers to protect our rivers & be part of the Stream of Conscience art installation.

event works well for a wide range of ages and interests.

For more information, please contact Andy Fisk at 413-772-2020 ext. 208. This program is supported by a generous grant from the Putnam Foundation.

Your Voices Heard Through Our Seat at the Table

An important part of our work is to directly engage in talks and debates about how to implement our vision of economic and ecological abundance. The technical expertise and diverse experiences of CRWC's staff have earned us a number of seats at important regional and national tables. Here's where you can find us working on behalf of you and your rivers:

- 15 Mile Falls Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Advisory Committee
- Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center Advisory Committee (VT)
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee of Franklin Regional Council of Government (MA)
- Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission
- Connecticut River Basin Conservation Design Pilot Project, Steering Committee, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Connecticut River Joint Commissions
- Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee
- Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
- Infrastructure Funding Taskforce (MA)
- Massachusetts Rivers Alliance Board
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Advisory Board
- Metropolitan District Commission Citizen Advisory Committee (CT)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committees (NH & VT)

- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee, Wetlands Water Quality Standards Subcommittee
- New Hampshire River Restoration Task Force
- New Hampshire State Legislature Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
- Phosphorous Criteria Working Group, Scientific Methods Subcommittee (CT)
- Vermont Community Foundation Incorporator/Member
- Vermont Dams Task Force
- Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Panel
- Water Environment Federation Infrastructure Financing Ad Hoc Work Group
- Water Supply Citizen's Advisory Council (MA)
- Windham Regional Commission Board (VT)

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Out About

WATERSHED-WIDE



Locations of water samples taken for Samplepalooza in August, 2014.

Samplepalooza 2014 Round-up

On August 6, 2014, volunteers and state employees from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts as well as CRWC and Yale University organized the first Samplepalooza. Water samples were collected from 55 locations in a single day. All 66 samples were analyzed for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, chloride, and total organic carbon. With samples coming from three states and then heading to three

different labs, the event posed a logistical challenge that went off with surprisingly few glitches. One near-disaster occurred when a VT state vehicle's hatch opened up in-transit, spilling a cooler onto Route 4 in Queechee, VT! Luckily the cooler stayed shut and no sample bottles broke.

Lab results are in and CRWC is working on a summary of the data and results. So far, it looks like areas with the highest amount of forest land had the lowest total nitrogen values and there are locations with higher than expected nutrient concentrations. The goal is to find nutrient hot spots and areas for further sampling. Future sample events will focus on a smaller number of sites and will happen at different times of year. This will help identify the best places for best management practices to reduce nutrients in our rivers. Ultimately, this will lead to cleaner and healthier rivers and Long Island Sound.

Stay tuned for information on how you can help with this year's coming monitoring work.

VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

A New Lake for Snow

Mount Snow in West Dover, VT recently received a permit to use the nearby Cold Brook as a new



water source to make snow for skiers. A dam and other instream structures will create a reservoir, to be known as West Lake, which will supply water to pump houses and snow-making equipment.

CRWC has followed this issue since the application process began in 2007. Our comments on this permit aimed to balance human water uses with the water needs of the river. The new permit sets guidelines to maintain proper minimum water flows in Cold Brook to support wildlife in and along the river. Also, should the dam not be used for two seasons, the permit requires the removal of all structures in the river and restoration of the river to natural conditions. This requirement will prevent yet another unused deadbeat dam left blocking our waterways. We feel this is a good example of a compromise for the use of our rivers.

NATURE NOTES: What do fish do in the winter?

Think for a minute about cold-blooded fish that live in freezing water all winter long. Where do they go? What do they do? How do they survive?

To deal with low oxygen levels and little food, fish reduce their heart rate and their entire metabolic rate drops as they sit out the cold. This means they need less energy to survive. But they also have less energy to do anything else, like escape danger.

There are two main sources of dissolved oxygen for aquatic life: mixing of air and water at the surface and photosynthesis by aquatic plants. But neither can happen when a water body is frozen and snow covered. If oxygen levels get too low and fish can't move to other areas, this can result in a die-off. Winterkill is most common in shallow lakes or bodies of water that are frozen over for months.

Rivers and streams seldom completely freeze over yet river ice can be a problem. Ice along the water surface, ice attached to the river bottom, and floating ice crystals

just below the surface can all cause injury or death. So, as water temperatures drop, fish retreat to deeper pools where currents are slower and less ice exists.

Winter is a time of stress for fish. Luckily, our resident species of fish have made major adaptations to survive this annual challenge.

Originally published & adapted from Upper Valley River Steward David Deen's 'River Currents' column. Is there a topic you want to know more about? Let us know and we may cover it here. editor@ctriver.org SPRING 2015

MASSACHUSETTS

Chickley River Restoration Continues This Spring

The Chickley River in Hawley, MA will have new trees planted along its banks this year. CRWC won a competitive bid process that will provide \$40,000



The Chickley River restoration will continue this spring with the planting of new trees.

from settlement funds administered by the MassDEP. You may remember that the Chickley, a tributary of the Deerfield, is a coldwater river that experienced major flooding during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Unfortunately, the former Town leaders' mistaken response to the damage was a 1930's approach—hiring a construction company to straighten, dredge and berm the river for 5 miles, some of it through endangered species habitat. CRWC raised an alarm to state agencies and then intervened in an enforcement appeal. The enforcement action served to get the river channel restored in 2013 and provided funding to plant trees, invasive plant control, and monitoring. With the channel restored and stabilized it is now time to finish the restoration work on the riverbanks.

CRWC will work with the Town, local landowners, and other partners to plant trees and other vegetation this spring. To help ensure these plantings survive, there will also be efforts to control the invasive Japanese knotweed plant.

To learn more or to get involved, contact Andrea Donlon at 413-772-2020 ext. 205.

CONNECTICUT



Too many nutrients in water cause algae growth, seen here. Too much algae can drain our waters of oxygen needed by aquatic life.

Reducing Nutrient Pollution

Often, making our water healthy and clean comes down to a number. A number that is created for a rule or regulation that then makes its way into a permit and becomes a limit. That number can be

30 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids, or 5 parts per million of dissolved oxygen. However, one of the more important clean water problems today is the addition of nitrogen and phosphorous to our waterways. These nutrients come from wastewater treatment plants, runoff from lawns and farm fields, and fall from the sky in rain. And when you have too much of a good thing, it becomes a pollutant.

Today's challenge is to reduce this type of pollution to

improve and protect our water resources. But the biology and chemistry of these nutrients is complex. You can't just set one number as a limit. So throughout New England and the country, government and stakeholders are working to create state-of-the-art protective limits for nutrient pollution. In Connecticut, CRWC has been actively involved in a yearlong workgroup created by the state Legislature to explore how to best fight nutrient pollution. We have worked hard to support the strong scientific framework put forward by the CT Department of Environmental Protection. The Connecticut General Assembly will be reviewing the report of this workgroup this year.

For more information on nutrient pollution, regulations and this workgroup visit http://goo.gl/WPyog1

5 Ways to Make Your Yard Greener

Use native plants in your garden or home landscaping. Native plants are adapted to the climate here in New England and typically require less water once established. They also attract native birds and insects!

Reduce lawn size. Lawn watering uses more water than many native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Limiting lawns to places where it serves a specific function can reduce the need for fertilizers and chemicals, which can pollute rivers through runoff.

Pick-up waste. Any waste, including dog poop and trash, can get washed into storm drains and eventually pollute rivers.

Water slowly & set a timer.

Allowing water to penetrate gradually helps plants establish healthy root systems, while limiting runoff into rivers. Once you know how much water your plants need, a timer can help you make sure you do not over water and reduce runoff from entering rivers.



Pancake doesn't want her yard or her dog waste polluting our rivers.

Use mulch in the garden and around shrubs to help reduce evaporation. You can even use grass clippings from mowing the lawn as mulch. Mulch also reduces weed growth—limiting need for fertilizers or chemicals.

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Valley Gives Day - You Did It Again!



More than \$15,000 was raised online for our rivers by 182 generous donors on Valley Gives Day. Including off-line matching gifts and prizes, you helped us raise a total of \$23,408.95! Thank you to everyone who donated and helped spread the word about Valley Gives.

Valley Gives is an on-line celebration of generosity created by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. On December 10th supporters joined together for 24 hours of special events and an online campaign to make gifts to their favorite charities. Overall, this event raised over \$2.6 million for more than 400 participating non-profits across western Massachusetts.

Thanks for joining us and welcome along!

As the newest members of our river family, you join a community of people committed to protecting the Connecticut River watershed. Together, we celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come.

The following new members joined us between August 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

Mark Abramson Clark Amadon Robert and Louise Amyot Alan Aronow Margaret Babbott Carrie Baker Marty Banak and Carol Stedman Billings Farm and Museum Kari Blood Sam Burton Julia Cafritz Nan Carey Maureen Carney Sean Casey Sara Chaffee Alicia Charamut Ferdene Chin-Yee David Cohen Bill and Christine Copeland

Wayne Crouch David Dodge

Linda Donnelly David and Kirsten Eastman Donovan Eatman Ella Erway Renee Fall Jennifer Fromm Gerrish Honda James Gerrity Abigail Golde Ann Hallstein Peggy Hart Catherine Hawks Norb and Peg Heil Marlo Henderson Linda Hickman Jane Hillman Robert Jonas Nancy Jones Grant Kendrick Pam Kimball **David Koester**

Dr. and Mrs. David Krulee **Brian Lapis** Susan LaScala Maura Leary Denise Lepley Jonathan Levin Aja Lippincott Andrew Loew Judith Luddy David Martin John McLanahan Cara Morano Congressman Richard Neal

Melissa Ocana Susan Peck

Marc and Mary Pelletier Sally Popper Mari Pullan Sarah Rankin Jean Rioux Joshua Ryan

Judy Scherer Carl Schmidt Garth Shaneyfelt Meg Sheehan Mary Sirum Jane Smith Suzanne Smith Elizabeth Solomon Jim Sotiropolis Janice Stone Stuart Strothman John Wadlegger Linda Wagner

Thomas Wartenberg and Wendy Berg Lindsey Wilby Dena Willmore Mark Wineburg Susan Worgaftik Masako Yanagita

Rebecca Zumbruski

Gifts in Honor:

Alan Morgan, from Pam Kimball Andrea Donlon, from James McAuliff and Carole Donlon-McAuliffe Andrea Donlon, from Sam Lovejoy Angela Mrozinski, from Kari Blood Annette Spaulding, from Peter Ketcham Brad, Missy and Ace, from Lindsey Wilby CRWC staff, from Liz Austin Dana Gillette, from Sean Casey and Jennifer Ladd Ernie Avery, from Michael and Jill Dynia

H. Clay Hawkins, from Chris Hawkins, Sayre

Hodgson, and Jasper Hawkins

John & Wendy Sinton, from Barbara Wilson Marion Griswold, from Carla Cooke Myron Powers, from Staney Powers Peter Anthony Mazen, from Alan and Marianne Ron Rhodes, from Norwood and Joanna Long and Jane Smith

Janice Rhodes, from Ron and Betsy Rhodes

Janet Hamilton, from Leigh Rae

The blackie, clementine and spotsie, from Dana

The fish in the river that escaped me so very many times, from Joshua Ryan

Gifts in Memory:

Alexandra Dawson, from Janice Stone Dr. Tony Lovell, from Jack Madden George H. Watkins, from Harriet Mooney Otto L. Stein, from Mrs. Otto L. Stein Thomas Kelliher from William Kelliher and Patricia Kelliher and Valerie Mathes My brother Mike, from Paul Beaulieu Terry Blunt, from Rutherford Platt

If you joined during this time and don't see your name or you prefer a different listing, please contact Marion at 413-772-2020 ext. 201 or mgriswold@ctriver.org.

Not a member yet? You can join us in working together for our rivers. CRWC commits to spending your donation wisely and efficiently to protect and restore our rivers. You can donate online at www.ctriver.org or contact Marion (above). Thank you! SPRING 2015 7

Leaving a Legacy for Our Rivers

THEODORE BACON LEAVES BEQUEST TO CRWC

"Thanks for protecting our river!" wrote Theodore (Ted) Bacon in a 2011 note to CRWC. Ted Bacon died last May at age 95, leaving a bequest to the Connecticut River Watershed Council to help protect the river.

Ted enjoyed hiking and paddling on the river. He served as a CRWC trustee, and also chaired the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission. "My father worked hard during his life," said his son, Douglas Bacon. "He lived simply and was generous during and after his life." Ted Bacon grew up in Springfield, MA and attended Deerfield Academy, Amherst College, and MIT where he earned his Master's Degree in City Planning.

"First and foremost, he loved New England. He loved conservation, the Connecticut River, and the whole Pioneer Valley area," said Doug. Ted Bacon's family had a long connection to the Connecticut River. Ted's mother, Mabel Arms Rice, grew up in South Deerfield and attended Mount Holyoke College in the late 1890s. "In the winter," tells Doug, "her father would take her to and from college by sleigh on the Connecticut River."

A veteran, Ted Bacon served in the Navy during World War II. Ted met his future wife, Sarah Hogate, when both were working in New York as Navy cryptographers. After the war, he was an Amherst College Dean and professor of Political Science. He then taught City Planning and



When Ted Bacon passed away last May, he left a gift that will continue protecting our rivers for years to come.

Urban Development at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst while maintaining his own city planning and urban development consulting business until his retirement in 1986.

Ted Bacon moved from the Pioneer Valley, spending his later years in Peterborough, NH, though he always remembered the river. We are grateful for his bequest which will be placed in CRWC's endowment, to be used where most needed to protect the river.

To learn more about bequests or other ways you can support our rivers, contact Dana Gillette at 413-772-2020 ext. 202.

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Individuals like you have helped to transform the Connecticut River from "the best landscaped sewer in the nation" into a nationally-recognized treasure. Since our founding in 1952, CRWC members have come together to form a powerful force for positive environmental change in New England.

Please join us today.

Yes! I want to help protect and preserve the Connecticut River and its watershed.

☐ Enclosed is my gift of \$
☐ I'd like to become a sustaining member with a monthly gift of \$
Payment method: □Check □Visa □Mastercard
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Checks: payable to CRWC

Donate online: www.ctriver.org

CRWC Membership Benefits

- Current & Eddies newsletter
- Invitations to the Annual Celebration and other special events
- · Priority on event sign-ups
- Discounts on paddles and other events
- Email updates, news and action alerts
- Opportunity to vote for CRWC Trustees
- CRWC decal
- Access to CRWC's research library
 And most important.....The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a contribution

knowing that you are making a contribution to the present and future health and vitality of a most precious natural resource.

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Upcoming Events

We've packed 2015 with fun & informative events to connect you to your rivers. Here are a few events coming up soon. **Visit our online calendar for more:** www.ctriver.org/news-events/

CRWC OPEN HOUSE & VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 25, 4-6pm CRWC Offices & Lab, Greenfield, MA

We invite you to join us for an open house to explore our offices, lab and chat with staff & trustees. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for a few hours. We'll provide the food & drinks. Hope to see you there!

RIVER WALK: NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Saturday, May 2, 2015; 10am-12pm

Turners Falls, MA

Join the Nolumbeka Project and CRWC to learn about 10,000 years of Native American presence near the Great Falls. Learn from and speak to experts in the Native American history of this area, culminating in the Turners Falls massacre during King Phillips War in 1676. Meet at the Unity Park/bike path gravel parking area on First St in Turners Falls. Involves leisurely walking along paved bike path for 1-1.5 miles. Accessible to all; dogs on leashes welcome. Free (donations appreciated).

THE RIVER'S SONG: A CT RIVER CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 16, 2015; 11am-9pm Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, MA

Join us for a parade, music and dance performances, art exhibits, and workshops celebrating the waters of the Connecticut River. The River's Song Project culminates a yearlong series of activities on the Connecticut River basin by conservationists, artists, community members, and school children exploring parallels between the Nile and Connecticut Rivers. Presented in collaboration with the Great Falls Discovery Center, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Turners Falls Riverculture, UMass Amherst's Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning, CRWC, and individual artists.

SOLSTICE PADDLE

Saturday, June 20, 2015 Path of Life Garden, Windsor, VT

Join fellow CRWC members, staff, and trustees at this annual gathering. Good times, good food, and great



speakers are the tradition. We heard a rumor Tom Bodett might even stop in. Details coming soon.

Source to SEA CLEANUP Source to Sea CLEANUP September 25 & 26, 2015

Where in the Watershed?



Where in the watershed was this photo taken? Answer will be posted in the next newsletter.

Give this newsletter a second life.

Please share this newsletter with your friends, family or neighbors when you are finished reading. You could drop it off at a local library, doctor's office, or coffee shop to help spread the word of the good work being done for our rivers. Thank you.











