



Connecticut River Conservancy

The 29th annual Source to Sea Cleanup was once again a triumph of community action. People from across the Connecticut River watershed in NH, VT, MA, and CT came together to care for the rivers and ecosystems we all call home.

It's hard to capture the impact of 2,029 volunteers (as reported from registrations and trash tallies—the real number is even higher!), but within these pages you'll find powerful stories and photos from across the watershed. Group leaders, schools, businesses, nonprofits, individuals, and families all played a critical role in making this event a success. They gathered in groups large and small, working through mud, rain, and sunshine to collect litter, remove debris, and restore miles of riverbank.

Yet the cleanup is about more than picking up trash; it's a reminder to give back to the environment that gives so much to us. Everything we do on land affects our rivers and the wildlife that depend on them.

Throughout the year, the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) builds on this momentum with ongoing work—from water quality monitoring and dam removals to community science and advocacy. The cleanup is a vital part of broader efforts to ensure cleaner, healthier, life-filled rivers for all.

As we near three decades of the Source to Sea Cleanup, its legacy continues to grow. What began as a local volunteer effort has become a regional movement uniting thousands with a common purpose: ridding our waterways of trash and caring for the rivers that sustain us.

We hope you'll join us again in 2026 for the Source to Sea Cleanup's 30th Anniversary! Save the dates: September 18-19 (or a nearby date that works best for you and your crew).

For every volunteer, sponsor, partner, in-kind contributor, trash sorter, and community organizer—THANK YOU. This would not be possible without your dedication and support.

Community Photo Gallery



Black River Action Team



NMH School



Academy at Charlemont



Four Rivers Charter School



Essex Land Trust



Kimball Union Academy



Florence Bank



Elms College

Wethersfield Cove, CT



Nourse Farms



Treeworks



Cub Scout Pack 303



Eversource



Ecotone Community



Mik Muller

"I felt so satisfied and accomplished as I was walking back with a big bag of trash over my shoulder knowing that I helped to prevent some creatures from being harmed."

- Eve S.

Featured Community Stories

Essex 3 Villages Cleanup

This event was a collaboration with Sustainable Essex, the Connecticut River Museum, and the Essex Land Trust in CT. The land trust focused on two of its preserves, Turtle Creek and Great Meadow, where volunteers, including members of the Valley Regional High School's Environmental Club, collected substantial amounts of trash: styrofoam, all kinds of plastic items and bottles, glass, cans, and many more odds and ends.



Easthampton Beautification Team

The Easthampton Beautification Team returned for their seventh year of participation. With incredible leadership from Owen Zaret, Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity, and the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee, this team organized seven separate cleanup groups that spread across the town. After picking up trash, the groups rejoined and helped each other with the trash tallying.



Franklin County Rivers Cleanup

Over 579 volunteers fanned out across Franklin County, MA, this year, comprising 38 distinct cleanup events, spearheaded by a long-standing collaboration between the Green River and Gill-Montague Cleanups and CRC. Featured at the Greenfield site was Greening Greenfield who assisted volunteers in upcycling single-use grain bags into reusable shopping bags.

"Very high-spirited day at the Green River Cleanup where we gathered well over 16 tons of debris from the Town's four rivers and abundant brooks and streams."

- Michael Pattavina, Group Leader



State Legislators

We are honored to have local legislators who are so committed to clean and healthy waters that they make time to roll up their sleeves to join and host some of our groups. Enormous thanks to: Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, Sen. Jo Comerford, Rep. Natalie Blais, and Rep. Renee LeMark Muir for their dedication.

Don't see your rep here? Call them to encourage them to get involved. Next year will be our 30th Anniversary year, and they won't want to miss it!

Cheshire County Cleanups

The Cheshire County Conservation District returned this year, hosting two cleanups in Keene and one in Swanzey, NH. The 55 overall volunteers included students from Keene State College Eco-Rep, Keene High School, and other local youth, and diverted over 1,800 pounds of trash from the Ashuelot River and Beaver Brook. Thanks to all!

Photo credit: Ethan Weston, Keene Sentinel staff





Black River Action Team and Hypertherm

Hypertherm and Black River Action Team (BRAT) in Springfield, VT joined forces to clean up a total of 17 tires (including a very large tractor trailer tire down in a setback near Hoyt's Landing), 15-5 shopping carts, a relatively new bicycle, 4 bags of recyclable plastic, a full bag of redeemable cans & bottles, 10 bags of straight trash, and more. Shoutout to Kelly Stettner and all the RiverSweep teams!



Fort River Cleanup

The Fort River Watershed cleanup in Amherst, MA, boasted some impressive numbers. With over 200 volunteers, they collected and counted 1,016 cigarette butts, 4,236 pieces of foam packaging, 288 nips, and 161 pounds of scrap metal. That is now all trash diverted from our rivers and streams. This effort was led by Fort River Watershed Association members Brian Yellen and Victoria Quill.

All Out Adventures

All Out Adventures hosted its first-ever cleanup, bringing 20 paddlers—including 6 in-patient veterans, seniors, Smith College students, and community members—to remove debris from Elwell Island. Veterans expressed how meaningful it felt to give back to the river, while students shared their drive to connect activism with action.



[Steppenwolf 1969 Magic Carpet Ride](#)



Wethersfield Cove and Great Meadows Conservation Trust

"Friday evening was a wonderful experience. We started at 4pm and went right up until dusk and then enjoyed some pizza provided by the Dad's Club. Saturday morning is always major - we have so many volunteers and it covers such a large area that we have to have them check out when they leave to make sure we have not left anyone "out there!" -Group Leader and CRC Board of Trustees member, Tim Lewis



Lost and Found

Wallet Returned After Missing for 25 Years!

During the Deerfield River Trout Unlimited cleanup in Franklin County, a black purse covered in moss was found and almost landed in the trash! Fortunately, it was opened and inside was a set of keys and a fully intact wallet from about 25 years ago. Charlemont Transfer Station Attendant Thorne Palmer Googled the name on the multiple cards in the wallet, and made contact with the owner, a teacher from Rhode Island. In the year 2000, as she and her friends tubed down the river, her car was unfortunately broken into and her purse stolen. It ended up in the woods of Charlemont... until cleanup day! The owner was amazed to get the call from Thorne and said it made an unfortunate experience into a great story.

Trash Tally 2025



Total Volunteers: 2,029



Total Cleanup Groups: 126



Total Beverages: 16,079



Total Tires Collected: 389



Total Miles Cleaned: 82.3



Total Weight: 35.74 Tons (71,480 lbs)

Frequently Found Items:

Nip Bottles: 4,578*

Toys & Balloons: 1,344

Scrap Metal: 7,255.5 lbs.*

Electronics: 73

Cigarette Butts: 3,443

Automotive Waste: 219*

Mattresses: 25

Clothing: 622

Construction Materials: 404

Personal Hygiene: 453

Styrofoam pieces: equivalent to 811 kitchen-sized garbage bags

Total tons since 1999: 1,182

Unusual Items Found:

Eyelash curlers, toilet seat, gumball machine, hot dog roller machine, fireworks, hoverboard, antique harness for a horse, silly string, shrimp, etc.

*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.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Academy at Charlemont • All Out Adventures • Amherst College • Barlow Construction + Franklin Co. Sheriff's Dept • Batterson Park Pond Team • Benesch 2025 • Black River Action Team • Cailin & Patrick • Canalside Rail Trail Group • Carter's Garbage Carters • Cavendish Town Elementary School • CDM Smith • Center School Uppers • Cheshire County Clean Ups: Ashuelot River Park, Beaver Brook, and Swanzey - Cresson Bridge • Chroma Technology • Claggett, Sykes & Garza • Clean, Clear and Free Flowing • Connecticut River Academy • Connecticut River Expeditions • Connecticut Water Company • Cromwell Public Schools • Cub Scout Pack 3 + Scout Troop 5 • Cub Scout Pack 303 • Davanaskas Family - Fort River Cleanup • Deer Paths Nature School • Deerfield Academy • Deerfield Academy EcoReps • Deerfield River Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Dover Elementary School Grade 5+6 • Eaglebrook • Easthampton Beautification Team • Easthampton Oxbow Cleanup • Ecotone Community • Ed Wagner • Elms College Cleanup • Erving Eco-Nerds • Erving Explorers • Essex 3 Villages Cleanup • Eversource CT • Eversource MA • Eversource NH • Fall River Foragers • Florence Bank • Fort River Source to Sea Cleanup • Forward Fam • Four Rivers Charter Public School 7th grade • Four Rivers Climate Club • Friends of Lake Wallace • Frontier Regional School • Farmington River Watershed Association: Avon-Canton Rotary Club, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, and Windsor Boat Ramp • Fuss & O'Neill: Hartford and Springfield • Gill-Montague Super Group • Girl Scout Troop 10037 • Girl Scout Troop 64980 • Goodwin University • Great Meadows Conservation Trust • Green River Cleanup • Green River Super Sorters • Greenfield High School • Greenfield Trash Pick Up Club • GZA • Hampshire College • Hart's • Hartland Conservation Commission • Hawlemont Elementary School 5th Grade • Hockanum River Cleanup • Holyoke High School • Holyoke Rotary Club • Hypertherm Group #1 and #2 • ISO New England: Holyoke and Windsor • Jo Comerford & Natalie Blais • Kleinfelder Rocky Hill • League of Women Voters Franklin County • Ledyard Canoe Club • Leverett Cleanup Crew • Love Manchester, Live Green • Marina Waterfront • Mayberry Elementary • Middletown Pratt & Whitney • Miscio's Little Rascals • Mystical Mountain Maple Syrup • Nourse Farms • O'Reilly Talbot & Okun • Ondatra Odyssey • Over the Rainbow Crew • Pratt & Whitney Quality Team • Putney Rowing Club • Chris Ellis • PV Squared Solar • Rep. Sabadosa's Clean Up Team • River Bend Crew • Rockville Rotary Club • Roy Lab • SEAG • SLR Vermont • So Greenfield Neighbors • South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association • South Hadley Volunteer Conservation Corps • Spirit Waders • Springfields Scouting America • Stream Ecology Class • SWCA Cleaning Crew • Team Erving • Team Holyoke DPW • Team Tide-y • Team Verdantas • The Bement School • The Eagles • The Grammar School • Tidy Cats • Town of Manchester • Treeworks • UCCHH • UMass Amherst • USA Waste & Recycling / All American Waste • VHB • Wards of the Woods • Wethersfield Dad's Club • Wildcats for Clean Waterways (Kimball Union Academy) • WNE ASCE Club

SUPPORT A CLEANER, HEALTHIER CONNECTICUT RIVER!

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



Connecticut River Conservancy staff in 2025

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR CLEANER RIVERS. VISIT 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
CTRIVER.ORG
ctriver.org

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

LEAD SPONSORS



All American Waste is a 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.



Family owned and operated since 1974, USA Waste & Recycling is at the forefront of waste and recycling solutions while delivering on a promise of outstanding customer care every day.

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.

Reynolds' Boats and Reynolds' Subaru are family-owned businesses in Old Lyme, CT since 1859.

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SUPPORTERS:

Inter-Fluve, Inc., Stone Environmental, Walmart (Ware)

In-Kind Contributors:

- City of Chicopee, MA – Planning & Development
- City of Easthampton, MA – Public Works
- City of Greenfield, MA – Mayor's Office, Unhoused Committee, Opioid Task Force
- City of Greenfield, MA – Public Works & Recreation Department
- City of Hartford, CT – Public Works
- City of Keene, NH – Public Works
- City of Lebanon, NH – Public Works
- City of Middletown, CT
- City of New Britain, CT – Public Works
- City of Northampton, MA – Public Works
- City of Springfield, MA – Public Works
- Towns across MA, CT, NH, and VT – Public Works, Parks, Recycling Centers, and Transfer Stations

- Atkins Farms
- Barlow Paving
- Barnet Transfer Station
- Casella Transfer Station – Holyoke
- Clarkdale Fruit Farms
- D'Angelos – Greenfield
- Dunkin Donuts
- Fairview Landscapes & Tree Service
- FastLights
- First Light
- Fogbuster Coffee Works
- Foster's Supermarket
- Greening Greenfield
- Hatfield Transfer Station
- James Plumbing & Heating Co.
- Nartowicz Tree Service
- New Fortune
- Panera Bread
- Pierce Brothers
- Real Pickles
- Ryan and Casey Liquors
- Silver Screen Design
- The People's Pint
- The Stewardship Network / Gloves for Good
- The Works
- County & Regional Support:
 - Franklin County, MA – Sheriff's Office & Solid Waste Management District
 - Town of Windham, VT – Solid Waste Management District

Become a 2026 Sponsor!

2026 will be the Source to Sea Cleanup's 30th anniversary, and your business or organization can support this watershed-wide milestone event by becoming a sponsor.

Visit criver.org/cleanup-sponsor for more information.



Connecticut River Conservancy

15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT CLEANER RIVERS? TRY THESE ACTIONS:

Be prepared for a cleanup any time of year – Carry a reusable bag and gloves when you’re out in nature so you can safely collect litter. Encourage friends or coworkers to join you for a quick cleanup whenever possible.

Raise awareness – Share facts about river health on social media or in conversations. The more people understand the issue, the stronger the movement for change.

Choose sustainable products – Opt for items that are durable, refillable, or compostable. Avoid single-use plastics and packaging that often end up in waterways.

Model good habits – Take care of waste responsibly, recycle when you can, and show others that small actions add up. Your example can inspire your community.

Support policy solutions – Stay informed about local and state legislation that impacts rivers. Sign up for email alerts, write to your representatives, and speak up when decisions are being made.

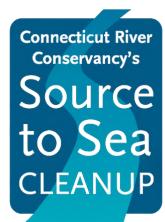
For more actions visit:

sourcetoseacleanup.org/share-your-impact



In addition to organizing the Source to Sea Cleanup, the Connecticut River Conservancy works to support clean water, healthy habitats, and resilient communities in many ways. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer opportunities, community events, and ways to get involved in spring 2026. Visit ctriver.org for more details.

Special thanks to our national nonprofit partner, Ocean Conservancy (OC), and their International Coastal Cleanup. CRC has teamed up with OC for 20+ years, working towards cleaner waterways around the U.S. and the world.



CRC's trash data is sent annually to OC and is integral to the [TIDES database](#) of ocean trash, used to advocate for better trash solutions - nationally and globally!

