

# News and Updates on the Fort River



You are receiving this email because of your interest in the Fort River Watershed Association and our work. Please let us know if your interests have changed by replying to this email. Thanks for your support of healthy rivers in our community!

## 100+ acres for conservation! ...help make it happen.



### Did you hear the great news?!

The town of Amherst has entered into a buy-sell agreement with the current owner of Hickory Ridge Golf Club.

The next step is for the Amherst Finance Committee to review the purchase agreement - **THEY MEET TODAY, 9/5/2019!**

Can you join us in [emailing the Finance Committee right now](#) and advocate for their support of this purchase agreement?

Here are some talking points about the financial benefits of the purchase of Hickory Ridge:

- Proposed project is fiscally responsible for Amherst, with guaranteed solar payments higher than what will offset current property taxes.

- The Hickory Ridge property offers unparalleled (an invaluable) habitat along the longest un-dammed tributary of the Connecticut River in the entire state.
- Great potential for fantastic recreational opportunities for one of the most densely populated areas in Amherst, that currently lacks access to trails and nature.

We're so excited to support this purchase by the City of Amherst, and hope you'll consider joining us in communicating your support to the finance committee TODAY.

**Email the finance committee staff liaison, Sonia Aldrich:**  
[aldrichs@amherstma.gov](mailto:aldrichs@amherstma.gov)

## Join us to clean and celebrate the Fort River!

### RiverFest and Fort River Cleanup!

**Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019**

Cleanup: 9:30am-12pm

Celebrate: 12-2pm



Register for the  
Cleanup!

**Rain or shine - all are welcome!**

The Fort River Watershed Association is hosting a FREE community event in Amherst to clean-up and celebrate the Fort River.

Before we celebrate the Fort River, we are going to clean it up! The Fort River Cleanup, part of the Connecticut River Conservancy's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, will take place before the festival. Anyone interested in joining us can meet at 9:30am at Groff Park in Amherst, MA. **All ages and abilities are welcome!** Bring your boots, long pants, and a water bottle. Everything else will be provided! Please register online by following [this link](#) and selecting 'Join This Team. -

<https://www.ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-cleanup/join-a-group/join-a-group-map/entry/2469/>

Please consider joining us in contributing to this impressive and impactful regional effort!

**If you're interested in volunteering as a cleanup site leader, festival logistics wrangler or being an event sponsor - please email us directly at: [fortriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:fortriverwatershed@gmail.com). Thank you!**

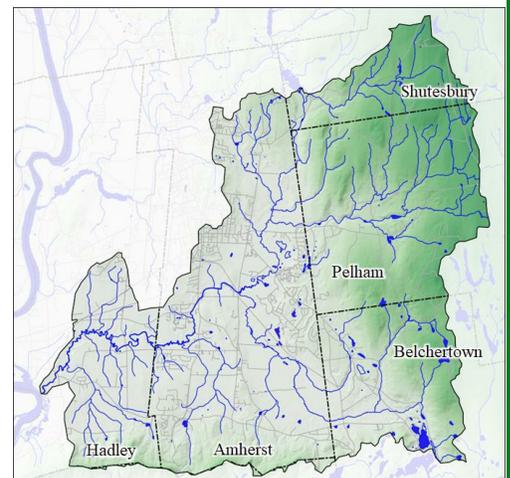
## #FortRiverFacts

The Fort River is the longest tributary of the Connecticut River with free passage for fish and other species. Our community impacts the health of the river and the species living in it. It's a biological treasure in our backyards and we're excited to celebrate it!

Drink water here? The Fort River feeds the drinking water supply for both Amherst and Shutesbury. The Fort River watershed (the river and the land that drains in to it) run through parts of Amherst, Shutesbury, Pelham, Belchertown and Hadley.

The Fort River is home to several species of freshwater mussel, including one species federally listed as being endangered - the dwarf wedgemussel. Mussels are extremely sensitive to pollution and degraded water quality.

**Map of the Fort River watershed**



Promote Access • Education  
• Advocacy • Science

*Environmentally Active*

---

Sincerely,



## your neighbors at the Fort River Watershed Association

The Fort River Watershed Association has partnered with the Connecticut River Conservancy, a local non-profit organization advocating for the Connecticut River watershed since 1952. This working partnership makes us both more effective advocates for our rivers.

For more information on the Connecticut River Conservancy, please visit their website: [www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org)



Connecticut River  
Conservancy

---

### STAY CONNECTED

