

# 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!

## We have a new website!

It's a beautiful spring here on the Fort River! We hope that you and all the people you are connected to have been able to safely enjoy the greening-up of our watershed while sheltering in place.

While we are still unsure as to when we can resume our in-person meetings and events, we are very pleased to report that this time has allowed us to get hard to work on a website that we can use to stay connected to you and our community, at any time.

**We welcome you to visit us online at [www.fortriver.org](http://www.fortriver.org) - and hope you find something interesting to keep you connected to the Fort River!**

### Fort River Watershed Association

Promote Access. Education. Advocacy. Science.

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Explore the Fort River watershed

🏠 Explore the Fort River watershed



*Here are some suggestions:*

- Only use the marked parking areas and access points, and honor areas that are marked as being off limits.
- Follow park rules.
- Respect private property.
- Don't leave your litter, and safely pick up any trash that you find.

The Fort River and its upper reaches (Amethyst Brook and Hop Brook) have numerous public access points suitable for hiking, dog-walking, nature viewing, fishing, wading, and paddling. Some areas are ADA accessible. When you visit the river, please be respectful, safe, and do your best to leave-no-trace.

English ▾

**TEXT TOO SMALL?**

ARCHIVED EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

COVID Check-in and Grants Update April 2020

State of the River March 2020

Hickory Ridge Update Jan 2020

Fort River Cleanup Participant Thank You Oct 2019

Hickory Ridge Update Sept 2019



Explorations in and around the Fort River continue!

If you're safely able to get outside, we hope you are also getting to embark on some new and fun explorations of the Fort River and its diverse watershed.

No matter where you find yourself we hoped to continue to bring the Fort River to you by way of these photos collected by our very own group of volunteers and partners during travels along the Fort River and through the watershed.



*Between South East Street and Groff Park in Amherst*

Photo Credit: [berniekubiak.zenfolio.com](http://berniekubiak.zenfolio.com)



*Jack-in-the-pulpit tucked under a protective canopy of leaves in the watershed woods*



*Arrowhead in bloom*

*Photo Credit: Jennifer Lapis*





*Spring has brought a variety of new animal residents to the watershed, like this garter snake, pickerel frog(?) and painted turtle hatchling.*

If you have photos of the Fort River watershed you'd like to share with us, please email them to:

[fortriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:fortriverwatershed@gmail.com)

## ***Fort River Feature:*** **Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge**

**Looking for a place to get outside and enjoy spring on the Fort River?**

The Silvio. O Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge offers year-round accessible opportunities to see, feel and experience the beauty of the Fort River - and it's right here in our backyard.



Located within parts of four New England states: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is the only refuge of its kind to encompass an entire watershed - the Connecticut River watershed - in the interests of protecting migratory fish, wildlife and native habitat.

The 293-acre Fort River Division, located in Hadley, Massachusetts, is named after the major body of water flowing through it: **the Fort**

**River.** There are a variety of habitat types found within this division, including hardwood forest, floodplain forest, and grasslands. The Fort River Birding and Nature Trail is a one-mile long, fully-accessible natural trail located at the Fort River division. The trail is open to the public from sun-up to sun down, year round. This division is open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

**You can find more information on the official Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge Facebook page [here!](#)**



*Photo credit: Jennifer Lapis, US Fish & Wildlife*

## Volunteers Needed on the Fort River



**Are you interested and able to walk the Fort River and count sea lamprey nests?**

Lampreys are ancient fish that predate the dinosaurs by 200

million years. They migrate from the ocean up the Connecticut River and into the Fort River every June. They are a magical animal and important part of the Fort River ecosystem. FoRWA member and UMass emeritus scientist Boyd Kynard has been studying lamprey populations in the Fort River for roughly 40 years. In 2020, he would like **YOUR HELP** in surveying the total number of lampreys that spawn in the Fort River. If you are interested in getting outside for a few days in mid-June and early July, [please let us know by filling out this survey.](#)

*Fun fact: in Britain, lamprey pie is a treasured delicacy. One was used to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II when she became the **longest serving British monarch**.*



If you're safely able to get outside, we'd *still* love your help locating storm drain outfalls along the Fort River.

**For more information, please email us at:**

**[fortriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:fortriverwatershed@gmail.com)**



Promote Access · Education  
· Advocacy · Science

*Environmentally Active*



Stay safe,

your neighbors at the  
Fort River Watershed Association

**Have updates on what's happening in the watershed?**

***Please send us your local Fort River news at [fortriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:fortriverwatershed@gmail.com).***

Photo credits: Ben Barnhart /Brian Yellen

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

