

From: [info@fortriver.org](mailto:info@fortriver.org)  
To: [info@fortriver.org](mailto:info@fortriver.org)  
Subject: All Call for Annual Sea Lamprey Larvae Rescue!  
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 9:56:53 AM

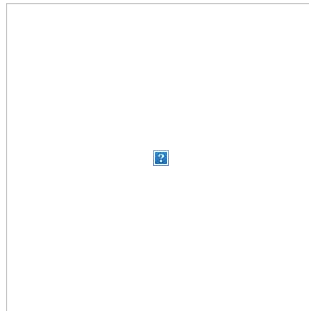


# News and Updates on the Fort River

September 2021

## Annual Sea Lamprey Rescue This Sun 9/19 in Turner's Falls

BK-Riverfish LLC and our own local resident lamprey expert, Dr. Boyd Kynard, will lead the annual lamprey rescue and count at the Cabot Station canal in Turner's Falls - *and you are invited!*



*Dr. Boyd Kynard with a handful of rescued juvenile lamprey at the annual Turner's Falls drawdown in 2020.  
Photo credit: Ailiki Fornier*

### WHEN:

We will meet at 8am on Sunday Sept 19, 2021 at the parking area at the end of Depot Street, a one block long street off Montague City Rd, only a block or so East from the Farren Memorial Hospital in Turners Falls. Please note the bridge crossing the Connecticut River just West of Farren is closed to traffic.

### WHO:

We welcome anyone interested in seeing what the bottom of the drained canal looks like, plus the chance to see lots of stranded fish and other river critters.

Participating in the count and rescue requires walking down steep slopes, trudging through thick mud and carrying buckets with water and critters in them across slippery areas. Kids are absolutely welcome if accompanied by an adult! There is also a paved public trail overlooking the canal for anyone who wishes to watch the rescue!

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- Rubber boots are needed to cross the short muddy area to reach the sandy bottom where the lamprey are. Knee or hip boots are best. Prepare to get dirty.
- Bring some water to drink, sunscreen and any other gear to keep you comfortable during the collection—we go rain or shine. Collection usually takes 2-3 hrs.
- We will have fish holding containers and air pumps to supply air. Please bring 1 or 2 1-gallon buckets for collecting larvae (if you don't have a bucket, you can cut the top off of a 1-gallon jug!).
- Be prepared to count all the larval and pre-juvenile lampreys you pick up. We need a count of the lamprey present. There will be paper, please bring a pen or pencil.
- First Light requires all to sign a Liability Release Agreement form before entering the drained canal. Dr. Kynard will have that form at the meeting site.

*CRC's Ailiki Fornier tunes in from the 2020 lamprey rescue with a short tutorial and intro to this awesome annual event!*

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:

Sea lamprey are an anadromous migratory fish that visits the Fort River each June to spawn and end their life cycle. They are an important watershed neighbor of ours!

After lamprey young hatch from their nests in the rocky bottom waters of the Fort and other local rivers, their larvae (or, baby lamprey) spend 5 to 7 years in the river bottoms and filtering food out of the water as it flows by. When they have developed into juvenile lamprey, they slowly make their way down river in hopes of reaching the ocean to live out their days as adults before returning to the many tributaries of the Connecticut River - like the Fort - to spawn and end their lives.

The Cabot Station at the Turner's Falls dam along the Connecticut River drains their canal for maintenance purposes each year. This process, unfortunately, leaves thousands of juvenile lamprey, among with other river species, stranded and exposed to the harsh elements.

We only have a few hours to find and rescue as many of them as we can before they are lost to the elements. Unless otherwise instructed, we plan to release the rescued lamprey back into the Connecticut River mainstem at the Sunderland or Hatfield boat ramps.

To RSVP, please email: [volunteer@ctriver.org](mailto:volunteer@ctriver.org)



## Fort River Cleanup on September 25, 2021!



*ForWA Board Member and Fort River enthusiast Brian Yellen offers a welcome to a mighty group of cleanup volunteers at our 1st Annual Fort River Cleanup in 2019.*

*Photo credit: Christine Hatch*

[Register for the Fort River Cleanup 2021 here!](#)

Mark your calendars for this year's 3rd Annual Fort River Cleanup, part of the Connecticut River Conservancy's 25th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, happening Saturday, September 25, 2021!

Here are the details for this year's Cleanup:

- All Fort River Cleanup volunteers will be welcome to meet for an in-person roundup at 10AM at Groff Park in Amherst for supplies & t-shirts, site assignments and announcements. **Masks will be required for this gathering regardless of vaccination status.**
- From there, we will dispatch our incredible team of cleaner-uppers to their respective cleanup sites throughout the watershed! We have 19 sites on our radar from past cleanups. If you have a site in need of some cleaning, please email us

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

- Cleanup supplies, t-shirts and a central location for trash drop-off will be available to all volunteers. Our cleanup crew is also available to help ensure your trash gets tallied and sent in to be counted towards the total impact of the Source to Sea Cleanup.
- All volunteers will be required to register for this year's cleanup and each participant will need to complete a registration form - including kids. This step is particularly important this year, as it offers us the information we need to contact all volunteers in case of a change or emergency before or after the event. *Registration can be completed online by following [this link](#) - please be sure to select 'Fort River Cleanup' from the affiliate group drop down menu!* For volunteers without online access, paper registration forms will be available on site at the cleanup.

[Register for the Fort River Cleanup 2021 here!](#)

We will be keeping a close eye on what is happening with COVID and ready to pivot if necessary to keep our community safe. Please know that every effort will be made to make sure you are safe, comfortable, and able to joyfully contribute your time to this meaningful effort in the watershed!

*Still have questions about this year's cleanup?*

*Interested in being part of the planning team for this year's cleanup? We can use help and hands of all kinds, sizes, and abilities and we would love to work with you!*

Email us at [fortriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:fortriverwatershed@gmail.com) - we'll get you connected with our cleanup team!

Image



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)



[Donate to FoRWA](#)

Image



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)

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 updating your [Subscription Preferences](#). Thanks for your support of healthy rivers in our community!