

From: Fort River Watershed Association
To: Sarah Rippe
Subject: Summer on the Fort River is HERE!
Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 4:27:11 PM

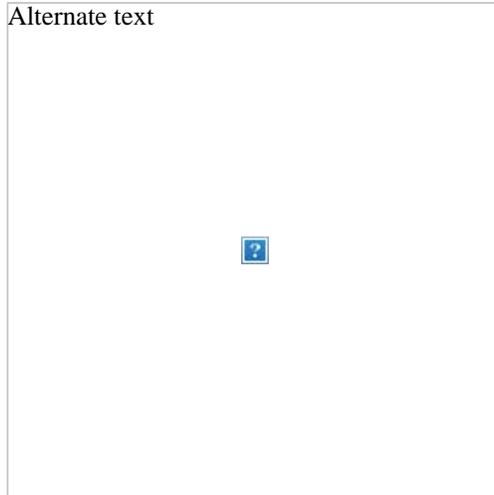


News and Updates on the Fort River

JUNE
2021

Opportunities to volunteer this summer on the Fort River!

Alternate text



*ARPS rising senior Sylvie Hope started collecting water quality samples at Amethyst Brook and Groff Park to continue building our water quality monitoring.
Photo credit: Brian Yellen*

Summer has officially begun, and we can't wait to emerge from the confinement of the pandemic and find ways to explore and honor our local natural spaces. We hope you and your loved ones are enjoying the season - and that you'll consider joining us for some work and play on the Fort this summer!

Here are just a few of the ways we're back to work on the Fort this summer:

Sea Lamprey Monitoring in the Fort River - Volunteers Wanted THIS WEEKEND!

Our annual sea lamprey survey with board member and fish biologist Boyd Kynard is

coming up this weekend, Sunday (6/27) at 1 pm. We need volunteers to walk the river and help count lamprey nests. Please [sign up here if you would like to participate](#) (good for adventurous kids 7 and older accompanied by an adult guardian).

As a reminder, mid-late June brings the return of sea lamprey from the Atlantic Ocean to spawn (or, have babies) here in the fresh, rocky-bottom waters of the Fort River. They are incredibly important to our river's health - and we think they're pretty special! To learn more about sea lamprey and Dr. Kynard's research, check out [our newsletter from last July here](#).

Tracking Down Bacteria in the Fort River

Last week, the Town of Amherst found high bacteria in the Fort River swimming hole next to Kiwanis Park (Jump Bridge, Stanley Street). This continues a pattern from last summer. It is a top priority for our group to help diagnose and fix the water quality concerns in the river and restore safe swimming throughout the watershed.

Two initiatives are underway to help solve this problem.

1. We have resumed our biweekly water testing at of the Fort River. You can view the data for [Amethyst Brook here](#) and for [Groff park here](#). These data are critical to help us understand long term patterns and solve the bacteria issue. ARPS high school senior, Sylvie Hope (pictured above) is heading up this sampling. *Thanks Sylvie!*
2. A team of Amherst College students, advised by FoRWA board member and Amherst College professor Anna Martini, is conducting widespread sampling on a few select dates to figure out spatial patterns of bacteria in the river and its tributaries. This effort will help us advocate and raise money for restoration.

Stormwater Outfall Monitoring on the Fort River - Volunteers Wanted

Wonder what's washing in to the Fort River from our roads and yards? We do too! We are looking for two volunteers to hunt down sources of dirty water entering the river from storm sewers. We will give you the equipment and some training and set you loose to hunt down the dirty water. Equipment for this effort is funded through an EPA grant. This program is ideal for college-age or older volunteers who are physically able to move in and around the river and steep or rocky riverbanks. [Please sign up here](#).

However you are observing the start to summer this year, please know that we are grateful to be working alongside you and sending you best wishes for safety, serenity and health. Hope to see you on the river soon!

Alternate text



*Fort River confluence with the Connecticut River
Photo credit: Christine Hatch*

SAVE THE DATE - Fort River Cleanup 2021 this September!



*Board member and
Cleanup Planning Leader
Will Daniels checking in
volunteers at the Fort
River Cleanup 2019*

*Photo credit: Christine
Hatch*

This year's 3rd Annual Fort River Cleanup, part of CRC's 25th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, is right around the corner! More details to come on this awesome community event soon - in the meantime, mark your calendars for the weekend of September 24-26, 2021.

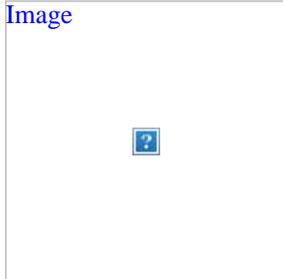
Interested in being part of the planning team for this year's cleanup? We can use help and hands of all kinds, sizes, and abilities and we would love to work with you!

Email us at fortriverwatershed@gmail.com - we'll get you connected with our cleanup team!

Thank you for your support of this work!

Thanks to generous supporters like you, FoRWA continues to raise funds to continue this year's work - monitoring the quality of the Fort River waters, taking strategic action to ensure a safe and thriving watershed ecosystem, and continuing to partner with our community to safely and enjoyably connect everyone to this natural treasure. Interested in supporting more of this work in 2021? [You can make a donation here.](#)

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Stay safe,
your neighbors at the
Fort River Watershed
Association

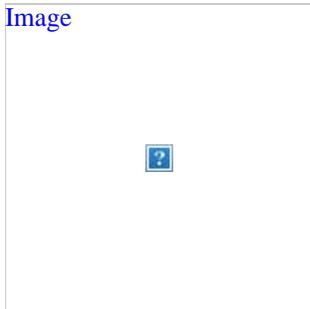
**Have updates on what's happening
in the watershed?**

Please send us your local Fort River
news at
fortriverwatershed@gmail.com



Donate to FoRWA

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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

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!