



Dear River Advocates,

On behalf of World Rivers Day founder and Chair Mark Angelo, I wanted to let you know that events across the globe are now being planned in preparation for **World Rivers Day (WRD)**, set for **Sunday, September 25, 2022**.

[Please let us know of your plans by sending an email to worldriversday.info@gmail.com.](mailto:worldriversday.info@gmail.com)

More than 100 countries will be participating this year across 6 continents, in what has become one of the planet's biggest environmental celebrations. The events being organized are incredibly diverse and will be either physical or virtual in nature.

The types of river-related celebrations and events that can take place are limited only by our imagination and creativity. On one hand, we hope to see many of our traditional physical events, such as stream clean-ups, or stream-side planting and restoration efforts, along with educational outings and community riverside celebrations. There are also many river-related events of a digital nature being planned. Among these are school projects, art festivals, the launching of new campaigns, the celebration of milestones (such as the ongoing work of the international year of the salmon), online essays and poems, digital photo galleries, new research projects, online river trivia events, river-related song posts, live-stream panels, and virtual film initiatives such as *Global Environmental Justice* documentary series, that includes a number of films about rivers.

As a small sampling of events, there will be a huge number of small scale, socially distanced river and stream cleanups that are being promoted and encouraged around the globe by World Rivers Day, from **Austria to Mexico** - and from **Australia to Kenya**. Many of these will be organized by families, neighborhoods and communities.

There will also be many activities across **Canada**,

- Red River Paddling Challenge in Winnipeg, Manitoba to kick off the weekend
- Tours of the Humber River in Toronto, Ontario.
- BC Rivers Day organized by the Outdoor Recreation Council, which will see dozens of events unfold throughout the province. As just a few examples among these, there will be:
 - streamside planting activities hosted by BC Institute of Technology in the run-up to WRD
 - the annual Chilliwack River cleanup coordinated by the Chilliwack/Vedder Cleanup Society
 - Haig-Brown Festival in Campbell River
 - book signings at Indigo in Surrey for the best selling children's book "The Little Creek That Could" centering on restoring rivers and healing nature
 - the huge Riverfest Celebration in New Westminster hosted by the Fraser River Discovery center
 - the annual Creekside Celebration at the Burnaby Village Museum
 - a community festival in Langley, as well as a special screening of the award winning film, *Last Paddle*, hosted by the renowned Langley Environmental Partners Society
 - the annual estuary cleanup and planting event organized by the Seymour River hatchery in North Vancouver
 - while a fleet of canoes, kayaks and boats will travel the Harrison River on an interpretive journey organized by the Hope Mountain Center of Outdoor Learning, to name just a few.

Across **Africa**, there will be a range of events, for example:

- in **Nigeria**, in the River Ethiope's catchment basin of Delta State, the River Ethiope Trust Foundation and its partners will mark World Rivers Day by focusing on "[the Rights of Rivers in Nigeria](#)". They will be undertaking an impressive array of conservation/advocacy activities including the celebration of the first anniversary of the "Stakeholders Declaration of Rights of the River Ethiope". Also, the federal government of the Republic of Nigeria will be formally launching a "National Adopt-a-River Program". Other activities will range from art and photo exhibitions and testimonies from indigenous elders, to a showing of a documentary on the River Ethiope and a 2 day river symposium.

Meanwhile, across the **United States**, there will be many activities. As a few examples:

- WRD celebration and guided walk along the White River at Hazel Landing Park in Carmel, Indiana organized by Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation
- Invasive plant removal at the Argo Nature Reserve in Ann Arbor Michigan organized by the Stewardship Network
- Guided walks by the Carmel River Nature Conservancy in Carmel, California, among many many others

A number of other events will be spearheaded by local Riverkeepers affiliated with the Waterkeepers Alliance. There will also be river clean-ups throughout the US, as well as other events, both virtual and physical in nature. These range from online forums and workshops, film fests (both virtual and in person) - to river-related art and photo contests - to community riverside celebrations.

- Also, commencing September 26, Conservation Northwest is spearheading a 2-day hybrid conference in Wenatchee, Washington on the risk of mining near transboundary rivers along with a round table with indigenous leaders.

In the **Caribbean**, on the great nature island of **Dominica**:

- the Glanvillia Development Committee in Portsmouth is planning a major celebration that includes river boat trips, tree planting along the Portsmouth Indian River, educational and public awareness events, children's activities and entertainment.

In **Taiwan**, they will be hosting the Belmont World Rivers Day Conference – more information on this can be found [here](#).

Across **England**, among many events taking place:

- The River Thames Conservation Trust (which helps steward this great tributary of the Thames northwest of London) is organizing a host of activities through the entire week running up to WRD
- Meanwhile, the Thames Festival Trust, as part of their Totally Thames Celebrations, has an array of activities along the Thames. Among these:
 - The River of Hope at the National Maritime Museum in London (an exhibition of magnificent artwork created by young people around the world reflecting on their hopes and aspirations for the planet)
 - Hands on History: Bankside Foreshore Walk along the Thames
 - "The River, Moon and You" presentation focusing on the connections between the river, moon and body
 - There will also be an assortment of tours, art-related projects, and photo essays.

Across the **Europe**, there will be many events and activities celebrating the historical, cultural, natural and recreational values of the continent's great rivers, as well as a large number of river clean-ups. In addition, the **River Collective**, a network of students, researchers, and activists, that shares a love of rivers, are organizing the Home River [Bioblitz](#) across Europe and elsewhere throughout World Rivers Day weekend. This is an amazing global citizen science event where people can learn to explore the biodiversity of their own "home river." There will also be cleanups in the run-up to WRD, organized by groups such as River Cleanup.

In **Bangladesh**, a consistent major supporter of WRD for many years, several major events will take place including those organized jointly by the Bangladesh River Foundation, including 20 organizations, and the Ministry of Water Resources in Dhaka. - Similarly, in **India**, many groups are already planning a host of river related activities and celebrations.

In **Australia**, there will be a range of activities such as "river dreaming" canoe trips down the Lachlan River in the town of Forbes that will include camping on the riverbank, meetings with indigenous elders, and stargazing.

The list goes on and on and many others will be detailed between now and September 25. We'll elaborate on more events and activities in the weeks to come.

We also extend a very special [thanks to our WRD sponsors!](#)

We are excited to again be working with the [Sitka Foundation](#), a wonderful organization that serves as a catalyst in the protection of the environment and the promotion of biodiversity -- as well as the [Pacific Salmon Foundation](#), a widely respected organization that is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon. In addition, we want to thank the [Real Estate Foundation of BC](#) for their valued support over the last several years. We have also been proud to work over the years with groups such as the International River Foundation based in Brisbane, along with our other valued sponsors/supporters such as the United Nations University, the International Network on Water, Environment and Health, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, River Ethiopie Basin Institute, and the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning.

We hope to hear from you and please let us know of your plans!

Yours truly,

Tunde Murphy
WRD Communications Manager



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