

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.

As a small sampling of events, there will be a huge number of small scale river and stream cleanups, that are being planned for WRD, from **Greece to Peru, Austria to Mexico** and from **Australia to Kenya**. Many of these will be organized by **families, neighborhoods and communities**.

Across the **United States**, there will be many activities. As just a small sampling:

- In Fort Wayne, Indiana, there will be a two-day **Clean Drains Fest** being planned for Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25, at Promenade Park
- The Mississippi River network will be organizing a new WRD event (details to be announced shortly)
- There will be a WRD community 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 others
- 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.

A number of other events will be initiated by local Riverkeepers, affiliated with the Waterkeepers Alliance. There will also be a massive number of school projects ranging from essays to art projects. In addition, there will 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) through river-related art and photo contests to community riverside celebrations.

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

- The Thames Festival Trust, as part of their Totally Thames Celebrations, has an array of amazing activities along the Thames. Some of many examples include:
  - Moonlit Mudlark; an evening of film and music on the Thames South Dock Marina
  - 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
- The River Thame 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

Across **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. Leading off the week prior to WRD, and to kick off the continent's celebrations, in **Chalabre, France**, there will be a major River Summit bringing together international voices and experts to discuss the protection of our waterways. 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 a huge assortment of large scale, and small scale cleanups, across the continent both in the run-up to WRD, and on the day itself.

There will also be a great array of activities across **Canada**. Among these:

- Green Teacher, Education for the Planet Earth, will be producing podcasts across Canada and elsewhere in the run-up to WRD that will encourage an array of classroom activities and other innovative ideas related to rivers
- The Red River Paddling Challenge in Winnipeg, Manitoba will kick off the weekend
- There will be 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:
  - The annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day in Allco Park in Maple Ridge organized by the Alouette River Management Society
  - New recycling stations for the recycling of fishing line will be established by Freshwater Fisheries Society in concert with Clearyourgear.ca, the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, and the BC Federation of Drift Fishers
  - The Chilliwack River Salmon Run will take place on September 24, organized by The Water Wealth Project
  - The Squamish Rivers Day Celebration hosted by the Squamish River Watershed Society at McNaughton Park in Valleycliffe, Squamish from 11 AM to 3 PM
  - 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

- o Haig-Brown Festival in Campbell River
- o 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
- o The huge Riverfest Celebration in New Westminster hosted by the Fraser River Discovery center
- o The annual Creekside Celebration at the Burnaby Village Museum
- o 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
- o The annual estuary cleanup and planting event organized by the Seymour River hatchery in North Vancouver
- o While a fleet of canoes, kayaks and voyageurs 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 Centurion, **South Africa**, the group Hennops Revival, an NPO focused on reviving, restoring and healing the Hennops River will host a major river cleanup
- 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
- In addition, the **Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority** will be celebrating World River Day with river cleanups and educational events centering on the importance of the river

Meanwhile,

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**,

- there will be the **Belmont World Rivers Day Conference** hosted by the Department of Geography, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan. The event is organized by the Taiwan Team of Belmont ABRESO – more information on this can be found [here](#).

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**:

- in Oxley Creek Common in Rocklea, a suburb of **Brisbane** City, Queensland, there will be a celebration honouring catchment volunteers and volunteer working groups along with a festival featuring speakers along with bird walks, riparian restoration workshops.
- There will also 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 Ethiope 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



Join us on Facebook and Twitter and share your Rivers Day stories with us

