

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 finalized 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.

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**.

In Australia:

- In NSW, the Parramatta River Catchment Group and the Parramatta Riverkeeper will be running the Riverfest 2022, over 9 days culminating in World Rivers Day. The events are a mixture of litter removal, litter advocacy and citizen science activities
- Meanwhile Jed Coppa's much anticipated new documentary entitled, ***Following the Flow***, which looks at the waterways of the Murray Darling basin, will have its television premiere on WRD. The film tells the story of the Macquarie River in New South Wales through the eyes of the people that know it best; First Nations people, fishers, environmentalists and farmers. *Following the Flow* will play on SBS in Australia at 4pm (AEST) on Sunday, September 25
- Also, the Global Water Forum, a widely read water research blog based in Canberra, Australia, that aims to share emerging water research with water scientists and members of the general public all around the world, will celebrate WRD by running a series of river research stories on the GWF throughout the month of September.
- 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.

In Malaysia,

- The **Global Environment Centre**, who has been involved with World River Day for the past 15 years, will launch the Upper Kinta Basin (UKB) Environmental Education Hub at the source of the Kunta River. This will highlight the importance of the river that provides multiple ecosystem services in Perak, one of the states in Malaysia, while also increasing public awareness of the importance of protecting the river.
- Also, on WRD, the **Friends of Klang River Basin**, a network of 42 community groups, education institutions and NGOs within the Klang River Basin (the most urbanized basin in Malaysia) will be celebrating with a number of fun and interactive activities ranging from water quality and biodiversity monitoring to public awareness initiatives.

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 **Albania**, they are hoping for a special press conference in Tirana about the formal establishment of Europe's 1st Wild River National Park, on the Vjosa river. This is a great initiative for the Vjosa and a beacon of hope for rivers in general!
- From **Austria to Germany to Spain** and elsewhere across Europe and overseas the **River Collective**, a network of students, researchers, and activists, who share a love of rivers, are organizing the Home River Bioblitz 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."
- On the great rivers of the continent - from the **Danube** to the **Rhine** - and from the **Douro** to the **Rhone** - there will events and acknowledgements of World Rivers Day thanks to the efforts of **Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection** who has been a staunch support of WRD for more than a decade.
- There will also be an assortment of large scale, and small scale WRD cleanups, across the continent from **Finland to Portugal to Switzerland**.
- In **Belgium**, the much anticipated European Rivers Summit will commence shortly after WRD on the eve of September 28, in Brussels
- On the Monday prior to WRD, the World Fish Migration Foundation, the European Center for River Restoration, along with others, will be having a webinar on Large Wood for Living Rivers, focusing on techniques for renaturing rivers with large wood.

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

- Along the **River Dee in Chester, England**, there will be a major clean-up by volunteers after which they'll create visual images, text and art along with environmental messages from their collected litter.
- 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

In **Bangladesh**, the [Bangladesh River Foundation](#) is organizing an event on the Turag River, Dhaka commencing September 24 with a Traditional Boat Rally and that will then kick off the **River Clean Week** that will take place on dozens of rivers across the entire country throughout WRD weekend and then running up to October 1. [Clean River Bangladesh](#) will also be organizing a major clean up program and the Bangladesh River Run 2022 with more than **6000** of dedicated volunteers.

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

- The Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) will present Riverfest, a free film festival beside the LA River that will include entertainment, educational booths, and environmental film screenings including a showing of *River of Angels* produced by BeAlive.inc.
- In Berlin, Maryland, the Lower Shore Land Trust (info@lowershorelandtrust.org) will be hosting the River Rally for kayakers, paddle boarders and others on WRD from 9 am until noon on Ayers Creek in celebration of local waterways
- 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
- WRD is also the day set for the release of Patricia Newman's much anticipated children's book about the Elwha River dam removal and restoration in the beautiful book entitled, **A River's Gifts**.
- 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.
- In Fort Wayne, Indiana, there will be a two-day **Clean Drains Fest** being planned for the weekend of September 24-25, at Promenade Park
- The Mississippi River network will be organizing a new WRD event (details to be announced shortly)
- In Indiana, in celebration of WRD, Metea County Park will have a special event on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. The program invites young children to explore, discover and celebrate this noteworthy holiday and connect to our local waterways with stories, hands-on activity and adventure!

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.

In **Canada**, there will also be a great array of activities. 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 newly established [Thompson Nicola Conservation Collaborative](#) will be celebrating BCRD along the Thompson River, the birthplace of BCRD, with an assortment of activities throughout the watershed
 - Streamside planting activities and educational tours along Guichon Creek in Burnaby will be hosted by the [British Columbia Institute of Technology](#) on the Wednesday in the run-up to WRD to help promote the event across the Province
 - 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
 - In Burnaby, there will be the annual WRD celebration at the Burnaby Village Museum

- o The Chilliwack River Salmon Run will take place on September 24, organized by The Water Wealth Project
- o The Squamish Rivers Day Celebration hosted by the Squamish River Watershed Society at McNaughton Park in Valleycliffe, Squamish from 11 AM to 3 PM
- o The Annual Chilliwack River Cleanup coordinated by the Chilliwack/Vedder Cleanup Society
- o In Campbell River, there will be the annual Haig-Brown Festival
- 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 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 In BC's southeast, the Village of Fruitvale will be hosting a community volunteer event as part of Beaver Creek Clean-up Day on WRD from 2 to 4 PM
- 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 Ethiopie's catchment basin of Delta State, the **River Ethiopie 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 Ethiopie". 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 Ethiopie 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
- In Warri, Nigeria, the eastern Urhobo River Basins Foundation will undertake an array of activities including presentations, speeches, and boat tours.

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

- The Glanvillia Development Committee in Portsmouth, in collaboration with community stakeholders, and public and private sector stakeholders, has organized a clean up and tree planting activity of the banks of the Indian River and its tributaries, the Barry River and Ravine Dleau Chaud on World Rivers Day along with 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](#).

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

