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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 24, 2023**. Please let us know of your plans by sending an [email](#).

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.

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

There are also many exciting events that are in the planning stages. Just a sampling are as follows!

In **Canada**, a few of the events include:

- The "salmon spotting campaign" of the Pacific Salmon Foundation
- BC Rivers Day celebrations organized by the **Outdoor Recreation Council** of BC
- The **Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC** and the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) will be releasing a much-anticipated film on **Blue Ecology** (or water-based ecology to some) that outlines an incredibly progressive and much needed ecological philosophy interweaving indigenous and western perspectives
- A special promotional event along Guichon Creek in the week prior to WRD by the **BC Institute of Technology**
- The **Red River Paddling Challenge** in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 23-24
- The **Seymour River Hatchery** in North Vancouver will be hosting their annual estuary clean-up and planting in conjunction with MV staff and volunteers
- Large community celebrations in New Westminster (Riverfest organized by the **Fraser River Discovery Center**) and Burnaby (at the **Burnaby Village Museum**)
- Major cleanups on rivers such as the one organized by the **Chilliwack/Vedder Cleanup Society**
- Expanded fishing line recycling efforts by the **Freshwater Fisheries Society** in British Columbia
- Guided Paddle on the Fraser River from Hope to Agassiz organized by **Hope Mountain Centre**
- To efforts elsewhere in the country such as those of The **Boyne River Keepers** in Carman, Manitoba
- and Riverfest in the town of **Lytton BC**

In **England**:

- The **River Thame Conservation Trust** will be organizing River Week events with community groups across the entire catchment culminating on WRD
- Elsewhere, the OXO Tower Restaurant in Southwark London will be organizing a breakfast panel and river litter cleanup in the run-up to WRD on the 21st
- And the incredibly successful **Totally Thames Festival** organized by the Thames Festival Trust will unfold with a huge assortment of activities (more details in the next update)

In the **United States**, where a large array of activities is being organized by Riverkeepers among many others, a sampling of these ranges from:

- The **Potomac Riverkeeper Network** Boat Parade that will travel from Alexandria, Virginia to the Wharf in Washington DC to raise funds in support of PRKN's great efforts to clean and protect the river
- Washington, DC where the **Potomac River Partners and the DC Community** will hold a rollicking **Rolling on the River**, a free, 60-minute outdoor pop concert on the floating stage at the DC Wharf starting at 2 PM
- The **Feather River Fest**, California's biggest white-water festival, organized by American Whitewater
- To the "**Clear Drains Fest**" in Fort Wayne Indiana, that promotes the message "only rain in the drain" – to the great clean up and preservation efforts of the **Narrow River Preservation Association** in Rhode Island.

Across **Europe**, a few of many activities will include

- A workshop being planned in **Rome Italy** by the **Institute for Environmental Protection and Research** (ISPRA) on the monitoring of riverine plastic
- In **Poland**, with the help of YouMove Europe, events will highlight a major [petition](#) being launched by the group **Save Europe's Amazon** and others to help protect **Polesia**, a labyrinth of bogs, swamps and streams

threatened by a proposed regulated channel to be built connecting the Black and Baltic Seas

- In **Austria**, many libraries across the country will be preparing exhibitions on Austrian rivers (starting with G this year) such as the Gusen, Grunbach, Graslbach, Gollarsbach, Golsen, Glan, and Gasteiner Ache
- And on many of the great rivers of Europe, the renowned river cruise line, **Uniwold**, will be acknowledging and celebrating WRD

In other parts of the world:

- Plans are forming across Africa, including the great work of the **River Ethiope Trust Foundation** and others in Nigeria
- In **India**, where once again a "**River Side Classroom**" will be conducted to observe World Rivers Day at Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal providing lessons to students on how to observe a river, get closer to a river and how to love and conserve the river
- To festivities across **New Zealand** and **Australia**, including the release of video relating to WRD from our longtime friends with **International River Foundation**, based in Brisbane
- The great efforts of the **Bangladesh River Foundation** in association with **Bangladeshi Conservationists for River Conservation and Environment** (ABCR) who will hold a 2-day celebration starting at different places along the Buriganga River and ending with an Art Camp for River Conservation
- To various river-related initiatives and local cleanups across **South America** from Peru to Chile
- Festivities planned by river advocates in the Caribbean and especially **Dominica**, who is planning a series of activities ranging from poster, speaking and essay competitions; river cleanups, tree planting to a cultural night along the Portsmouth River

While cross-boundaries everywhere are the great work of the **Global Environmental Justice Film** collection who will be working with video librarians to review 17 key documentaries that involve rivers.

A sampling of specific events will be regularly included in future updates.

The [list goes on and on](#) and many others will be detailed between now and September 24. 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



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