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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.

In the **United States**, a large array of activities is being organized by Riverkeepers among many others. A small sampling of these range:

- From celebrations by the [Resources Legacy Fund](#) who supports a significant dam removal program that has removed 66 stream obstructions opening up 836 stream/river miles
- 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**
- 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

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 - [event details](#)
- 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
- The **Hope Mountain Center for Outdoor Learning** is organizing a giant flotilla of canoes, kayaks and voyageurs that will travel 25 km on the Fraser River from Hope to Agassiz - [event details](#)

- In North Delta, Surrey, the **Cougar Creek Strem Keepers and the BC Wildlife Federation** will be holding a 2-day workshop on Fish Habitat Stewardship - [registration](#)
- A special promotional event on September 20, in Burnaby along Guichon Creek by the **BC Institute of Technology** focusing on tours, displays and stream side planting
- In Ontario, an indigenous led group of Anishnaabe, Dene, Metis among others, known as the **Water Walkers for the Missinnihe** (Credit) River, will conduct ceremonies to raise awareness of various threats such as aggregate mining, development and pollution facing the river's watershed
- 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**
- In Maple Ridge, the **Alouette River Management Society** will host their 30<sup>th</sup> annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day celebration
- On September 22, to kick off BCRD and WRD weekend, the **Rivershed Society** has organized a voyageur canoe trip down the lower Fraser from Dewdney Regional Park to Glen Valley Regional Park
- In Vancouver, there will be a launch of Peter Rowland's new book, **Stikine Odyssey on Saturday, September 23** - [event details](#)
- There will be the launch of expanded fishing line recycling efforts by the **Freshwater Fisheries Society** and the ORCBC in British Columbia
- In Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, there will be some amazing activities on the "**Art of Nurturing Nature**" including the Story of Beach Creek and other fish tales - [event details](#)
- In Carman, Manitoba, the **Boyne River Keepers** will be hosting a special WRD event
- And a special Riverfest celebration will be held in the town of **Lytton BC**

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

- The **Home River BioBlitz** who teams up with WRD every year and which is an incredible communal citizen led science effort across Europe and elsewhere to record species along local waterways
- A major 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, from the **Rhine, to the Douro, to the Danube**, the renowned river cruise line, **Uniwold**, will be acknowledging and celebrating WRD

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 21<sup>st</sup> of September

- And the incredibly successful **Totally Thames Festival** organized by the Thames Festival Trust will unfold with a huge assortment of education and entertainment activities in the run up to WRD, including the **River of Hope**, an arts-based learning project linking schools around the world through the study of rivers

**Australia** where examples include:

- The great work of our long-time partner, the [International River Foundation](#) based in Brisbane, who in the run-up to WRD will launch **Voices for Rivers**, an incredibly informative video series aimed at increasing public awareness of some of the excellent river-related work being undertaken (previous segments are available on the IRF website)
- At the Australian National University, the [Water Justice Hub](#) is organizing the event “**Delivering a Safer and More Just Water Future**” to promote the Water Justice and Security Fund as well as their new project “Improving remote Indigenous Community Health through Good Quality Drinking Water”
- The exciting efforts by primary school students promoting the protection of local waterways while also organizing a major cleanup day along the **Balmain Foreshore** in Sydney.

Plans are forming across **Africa**:

- Including the great work of the **River Ethiope Trust Foundation** focusing on the granting of [legal rights](#) to the **River Ethiope in Nigeria**
- The amazing efforts of the **Friends of the Ololua Forest in Kenya**, who will conduct a major cleanup of the **Kandisi River**, the largest river within the forest
- In **South Africa**, the group ARMOUR will be celebrating WRD and All Spruits Day with a large number of events along rivers throughout FHE catchment areas of Johannesburg. ARMOUR encourages positive Action for the Responsible Management of Our Rivers
- In **Kenya**, north of Nairobi, the **Gatharaini Water Resource Users Association** will hold a series of activities including cleanups and bamboo plantings to raise awareness on the Rights of Rivers, and the importance of river restoration, while also advocating for sustainable waste management

**In India:**

- 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
- The **Foundation for Ecological Security** will be conducting river health assessments with community members and a number of schools along the **Narmada River** and its tributaries throughout Mandla District, Madhya Pradesh

**In Bangladesh:**

- 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
- The **River and Delta Research Center** (RDRC) will be hosting a very special Rivers Day 5A side football tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh

**In Dominica:**

- Festivities planned by river advocates include a series of activities ranging from poster, speaking and essay competitions; river cleanups, tree planting to a cultural night along the Portsmouth River

- The River Advocates of Dominica and the Dominica World Rivers Day Committee will study the impacts of major construction works taking place in the headwaters of the **White River**

And elsewhere, various river-related initiatives and local cleanups being planned across **South America** from Peru to Chile, while across many boundaries, the **Global Environmental Justice Film** collection will be working with video librarians to review 17 key documentaries that involve rivers.

The [list goes on and on](#) and many other specific events will be included 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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