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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 finalized in preparation for **World Rivers Day (WRD)**, set for **Sunday, September 24, 2023**.

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 will take place. Below is a sampling:

In **Canada**, 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 - [link](#)
- In Kamloops, the **Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative (TNCC)** and **Kamloops Naturalist Club** will be getting together on BC Rivers Day, September 24, for a cleanup on the banks of the Thompson River from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Join the **Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS)** and their community partners In Langley at Williams Park, as they celebrate the importance of our local water resources! This family friendly event which runs from 11 to 2 will feature interactive activities and opportunities to learn what residents can do to protect and conserve Langley's watersheds.
- 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 - [register here](#)
- 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
- The **BC Watershed Security Coalition** is taking a group of decision-makers on a river trip down the majestic Fraser River from Coquitlam to Richmond on Sunday, September 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
- **West Creek Awareness** and Eddie Gardner of the **Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance** are planning a Rivers Day Celebration from Hope to Fort Langley. They will be highlighting the importance of saving and protecting the Fraser River wild salmon.
- There will be the always popular World Rivers Day celebration in Burnaby, at the **Burnaby Village Museum** with lots of displays, streamside activities, and entertainment
- In New Westminster, on Saturday September 23, the annual Riverfest celebration will be held in honour of WRD, and organized by the **Fraser River Discovery Center**.
- 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**
- 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 **Canadian Water Resources Association SYP Ottawa Chapter** will be running a " Water Social Networking Event" on Sep 24, on World Rivers Day in **Ottawa**, Ontario at Remic Rapids Park near Ottawa River - [details](#)
- Also in Ontario, Canada, The **Coalition for the West Credit River** has a Live-Stream camera in the river filming a cold-water ecosystem - [details](#)
- In Ontario, the nationally acclaimed group, [Blue Fish Canada](#) is announcing the **Blue Fish Exploration Center**. Their Crown lease has been secured and the building purchased. Blue Fish volunteers have been busy throughout August and into September preparing the new fully accessible Blue Fish Youth Exploration Centre and Research Station. One of the nearby freshwater sources we plan to study and explore is Quebec's Pontiac region's Coulonge River.

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

- In Massachusetts, the renowned conservation group, The **Charles River Watershed Association**, is profiling a great "story map" about the Charles River called "[A River Interrupted](#)" on why removing defunct dams is critical for restoring the Charles River
- In Chicago, Illinois, the renowned group, the [Friends of the Chicago River](#) is organizing a Community Paddle on Saturday, September 23 to get beginner paddlers on the water and showcase the riparian plantings they've installed with the help of volunteers to improve water quality, habitat and make the river more resilient to climate change
- Throughout the Mississippi watershed, "**1 Mississippi**", the national public program of the Mississippi network will join celebrated Mississippi River historian, author, and storyteller Dr. John Anfinson on Tuesday, September 26, from 6 - 7 pm CT, for **The Long Journey of the Great River**. John is a featured speaker on American Cruise Lines, and his spellbinding presentation includes stories of the people, land, water, and wildlife of one of the world's greatest rivers, the mighty Mississippi. Join this unique event from anywhere; all are welcome to this special online *1 Mississippi* World Rivers Day event. - [event details](#)
- In Washington, the **Outdoor Learning Store**, will be releasing "[I Am Elwha](#)" as part of World Rivers Day virtual event that will include biologist and indigenous elder Robert Elofson, on September 20, 2023 in advance of World Rivers Day on the 24 - [link](#)
- 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 **Australia**, 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)
- In **Sydney**, **Bright Sparks** invites their fabulous community to roll up their sleeves and get involved in this terrific opportunity to help protect waterways for years to come and to celebrate the magnificent foreshore with a picnic afterward! Groups will meet at 10 a.m. around the Balmain area to clean up rubbish and save it from entering the drains and waterways. They'll conclude the cleanup walk with a community picnic lunch
- In **Melbourne**, **The River Basin Management Society** (RBMS) with the **West Gippsland CMA** present the release of the CMA's new short film 'Durt'Yowan (Latrobe River): The Life Source'. Durt'Yowan, the Gunaikurnai name for the Latrobe River, is one of Victoria's iconic rivers and a life source for people in Gippsland for thousands of years - [details](#)
- **Following the Flow**, the compelling documentary narrated by passionate urban geographer, and spatial scientist, Jed Coppa, and directed by Nicholas Allan (One Last Dance) will air on **SBS for World Rivers Day at 4:10pm across Australia**. The film brings impassioned storytelling and cinematic vision of our inland waterways together to tell the stories that echo across the Murray-Darling Basin. It showcases the harsh beauty and unique characters of rural Australia without shying away from the difficult questions of how we let our rivers end up in their current state and how we might make better decisions in the future - [details](#)
- 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.

In **Europe**, among many events:

- In **Rome, Italy**, the renowned conservation group, the **PIUBLU** is organizing a major cleanup day dedicated to the **TEVERE River in Rome** in partnership with the Italian Rowing Federation in Lazio, rowing clubs, the Canoe Kayak Federation, and various riverside communities along the Tevere River
- A major workshop being planned in **Rome, Italy** by the **Institute for Environmental Protection and Research** (ISPRA) on the monitoring of riverine plastic [details](#)
- The **World Fish Migration Foundation**, who does amazing work, is organizing a quiz about rivers on our Instagram profile "fishmigration" from Monday 18 to Friday 22 September, and it will end with a slideshow of questions and answers on Sunday 24, celebrating World Rivers Day 2024
- In Zurich, Switzerland, the group **MYBLUEPLANET** is organizing a community cleanup event along the **Sihl River** on Sunday, September 24, from 2-5pm CET. All are encouraged to join the event - [registration](#)
- 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
- 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, **Uniworld**, will be acknowledging and celebrating WRD

In **England and elsewhere in the UK**:

- In **Devon, UK**, the **Friends of the Dart** will be working on remedying the water quality of their beloved Dart River. They've organized a signature gathering event to coincide with world river day - [details](#)
- **The Rivers Trust** will launch its new citizen science campaign on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September called the **Big River Watch!** This is an invitation for communities to be part of the movement demanding better for our waterways and rivers. It consists of a free app containing a simple survey, and anybody in the UK and Ireland, who can access a river, can take part - [details](#)
- The **River Thames 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
- 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. Among these:
  - The Crossing | The experience of walking across one of London's bridges is never the same twice, weather is everything.
  - The Line at Greenwich Peninsula & Royal Victoria: Discover public art installations by the waterways on The Line.
  - Pump by KNOT: Performance | Performance duo Knot, premier online their latest performance in collaboration with the Crossness Pumping Station in Abbey Wood.
  - Hands on History: Mudlarking Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum | Mudlark's exhibit thousands of artefacts found on the river Thames foreshore - get your hands on history at this interactive exhibition
  - Kayak Taster Sessions at Kew Bridge | Would you like to try kayaking on the Thames in a sea kayak? London's only dedicated sea kayaking club CKC is running some taster sessions.
  - From The Mouth of The Thames | A journey from the Thames estuary to the source, this show responds to multiple dimensions of the river in poems and photographs.
  - Arcadian Thames: Twickenham's Riverside Heritage | From poets to princes, naked ladies to rock gods, artisans to working river folk - all feature on this fully illustrated stroll alongside the Thames.
  - Hands on History: Thames Discovery Maritime History at Greenwich | Thames Discovery Programme archaeologists discuss the maritime history of ship building and ship breaking at Greenwich.
  - Paddle Steamer Waverley Cruises | Waverley is the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world. Offering day, afternoon and evening cruises from a port near you!
- And elsewhere between England and Wales along **the River Wye**, the Erwood Station Craft Center near Builth Wells will be holding an eco-awareness weekend specifically around the state of the River Wye on Sunday, September 24. This will also include an exclusive art exhibition focused on the river by local artist David Bellamy - [details](#)

In **Africa**:

- Including the great work of the **River Ethiopie Trust Foundation** focusing on the granting of [legal rights](#) to the **River Ethiopie** in **Nigeria**

- In Zambia, Africa, the **Media Network Action on Climate Change (MENACC)**, a Zambian based Non-Governmental Organization, will for the first time hold celebrations to mark this year's World Rivers Day by conducting a media learning visit to the **Luangwa River** and discuss the pressures confronting this great river. The Luangwa River is one of the major tributaries of the Zambezi River, and one of the four biggest rivers of Zambia
- 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 Paraguay, South America,

- The **Fundación Para La Tierra and Voces de la Naturaleza** will be organizing a river beach cleanup in Pilar, Paraguay. This will take place along the recreational area Yegros Paso next to the river Arroyo Ñeembucú, together with the children of our eco-clubs, the municipality and the community of Pilar - [details](#)

#### In Belize,

- **The Environmental Club** (eco-warriors), consisting of our youths, in Big Falls Village, is planning an educational bird-watching and a clean-up event along the river. The goal is to bring awareness of the bird species on the banks and the importance of a clean waterway

#### 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**

#### In the Philippines,

- In the Philippines, the Municipal Government of Socorro in the province of Oriental Mindoro, Philippines will also be celebrating World Rivers Day by raising awareness of the need to better protect the Pula River by holding Lectures on protection and conservation, River Clean Ups, Tree Planting, and Tilapia Fingerlings Dispersal. The community and other stakeholders will be part of this momentous event.

#### In Taiwan,

- In the run-up to WRD, in Pinglin District, New Taipei City, as part of the World Rivers Day series, all are invited to step into the rivers, engage in conversations with water, explore life by its side and discuss how we co-exist while protecting water sources and sustaining livelihood. - [details](#)

#### In Nepal,

- The **Nepal River Conservation Trust (NRCT)** is planning to celebrate World's River Day through a variety of events and festivities - [details](#)

#### In India:

- Work has commenced on the development of river revitalization models for 45 rivers of the country. To start this work of river revival in the whole country, the **Indian River Council** were formed with the aim of converting despair into hope
- In West Bengal, India, the organization, **Save Jalangi**, will be organizing a compelling street drama in Krishnanagar, Nadia district, to draw attention to the critical need to protect our rivers. This street drama will serve as an engaging and thought-provoking way to inspire and educate the public about the importance of preserving our rivers
- 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
- While in Nadia District, West Bengal, the group for the "Protection, Pollution Remediation, Reformation of RIVER of Nadia, will be holding a 12-hour sit in and hunger strike in sympathy with the organizers working for the welfare of the river everywhere

#### 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. Activities include a Policy Discussion Seminar on the rights of rivers, a Mime Show Against River Pollution, and a special showing of Art and Photography for the River
- Also, in Bangladesh, the **River Club, River Travellers Network and Green Voice** and the **University of Chittagong Chapter** will be celebrating World River Day for the first time. Their Vice Chancellor will be their Chief guest and Pro Vice Chancellor will preside over an awareness program involving 500 youth
- The **River and Delta Research Center (RDRC)** will be hosting a very special Rivers Day 5A side football tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Gazipur Logistics & Shipping Lines (GLSL) will be organizing a program with messaging about the importance of protecting rivers

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...

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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