Greetings River Advocates,

On behalf of our World Rivers Day Chair, Mark Angelo, I wanted to let you know that we are now only a couple of weeks away from World Rivers Day 2025, set for Sunday, September 28, 2025 (as always, falling on the fourth Sunday in September). This will be our **20th anniversary** - and as the world's largest celebration of rivers and the many communities and lifeforms they sustain.

The celebrations and events taking place will be incredibly diverse, limited only by our imagination. We're hoping that river advocates from around the globe will be involved as part of this year's World Rivers Day Celebration, which commenced in 2005 and is now one of the planet's largest environmental events. Also, this year marks the **45th anniversary of BC Rivers Day**, which eventually evolved into World Rivers Day.

Many exciting events are happening before, during and after World Rivers Day, as just a sampling;

- In the run-up to World Rivers Day, New Taipei in **Taiwan** will spotlight Nanzai Creek as a symbol of urban river restoration and the city's commitment to sustainability with inspiring river stories and the premiere of the ecological film "Return to Nanzai Creek"
- In **New Zealand** the Nelson City Council is organizing a Paddle event on the lower Maitai River

Across the UK and Europe;

- Leading up to World Rivers Day, The River Trust Society will be running The Big River Watch event, a citizen science app-based survey that helps build an important picture of river health across the **UK and Ireland**
- On the day of WRD 'The River' single by Ric Herrington's Audiatic Orchestra will be released as a free download
- Also in Pershore, **England** the first formal Sister Rivers twinning agreement will be signed, creating an inaugural pair. The initiative has already gained national traction as civic authorities unite to amplify their influence over regulatory inaction.
- While **Totally Thames Festival** will be celebrating the River Thames with arts events, active adventures, environmental initiatives, heritage and education programmes
- The River Severn in the Arlingham Village Hall in England will be celebrating with speakers, arts, poetry, crafts, dancing while asking people to wear blue, green or white!
- Sixth annual riverside gathering at the OXO Tower Brasserie, London will offer a panel talk "From pollution to protection: harnessing nature to heal our rivers" and river clean-up
- International Atiyoga Foundation is planning a special edition of "Khaita Forever" meeting in **Spain** to discover the meaning of some songs, talking about preciousness of water and its deep symbolic meaning in Tibetan culture, while sing and dance along to them
- While in the **Check Republic**, the organization Kreativní Praha in cooperation with the Prague City Hall and dozens of other partners are organizing a World Rivers Day Festival exploring the River Vltava with art, education, and community
- A major cleanup of the Tiber River will take place in **Rome, Italy** by Più Blu
- As well as **Continent-wide celebrations** organized by **Uniworld** river cruises

Meanwhile in Canada

- The German Embassy in Ottawa invites professional and hobby photographers of all ages Canada-wide to submit photographs that express the vital role of rivers and the threats they are facing - World Rivers Day Photography Contest – So German!
- Annual activities planned by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in Ontario
- Ecologos/WaterDocs in collaboration with RegenTO are planning an event at the Evergreen Brick Works site by the Don River in **Toronto.** They will be leading **a** Water Cycle Walk as well as an information booth where they will be engaging visitors about clean freshwater ecosystems, rivers and wetlands through various activities
- While in **Quebec**, the Foundation Rivieres is planning a public gathering of 350 kayakers, canoeists and windsurfers celebrating Quebec's 4,000 rivers
- Margaree Salmon Association and Museum, in Inverness**, Nova Scotia**, will be running a special community celebration of their river heritage with live music, interactive youth science activities, river updates, special guests, community BBQ, and much more.

The Outdoor Recreational Council compiled a list of submitted BC Rivers Day events that will also take place on World Rivers Day. Among these;:

- Honoring World Rivers Day, **BC Place** in Vancouver will **light up blue,** as will many other landmarks and facilities.
- **Several River Cleanup events** are planned across BC leading up to and on World Rivers Day such as:
    - The **Seymour River** Hatchery in North Vancouver is planning to host their annual estuary cleanup and planting event
    - A special Guichon Creek cleanup and planting will take place at the **BC Institute of Technology**
    - Annual **Chilliwack Vedder River** cleanup will be held once again
    - Tranquille Watershed Cleanup will take place in **Kamloops**
    - As well as Rivers Day Clean up on the Serpentine in **Surrey**
    - Litter Cleanup at Cameron Elementary, in **Burnaby** is organized
    - In addition, river cleanups will be happening elsewhere by the Kitimat River, Cowichan River, Squamish River as well as by the Elk River in Fernie, Elkford, Sparwood while cleanup events are planned at the Confluence in Grand Forks and by the Cottonwood Creek in Nelson

Other World Rivers Day Celebrations will take place in BC such as:

- In **Maple Ridge** the 32nd Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day event promises to be filled with lots of fun and interactive environmental displays, various exhibitor booths, live performances hatchery tours and forest/riverside walks
- Little Campbell Watershed Society in **Langley, BC** is planning a 'Creatures of the Night' community Lantern Walk in the riparian zone of the Little Campbell / Ta'talu River in addition to an information session talking about how a once-buried salmon spawning stream (in Vancouver BC) was revitalized
- The **Pacific Salmon Foundation** will be running a Salmon Spotting campaign
- While **Hope Mountain Centre** for Outdoor Learning will be running a Guided Paddle Event with kayaks and voyageur canoes once again on the Fraser River from Hope to Agassiz
- BLUE ECOLOGY will be holding a public talk as well as an art display at Berwick in Qualicum Beach
- **Burnaby Village Museum** is organizing a family-friendly event where visitors can learn about our local waterways and restoration efforts to help protect the environment. WRD Chair, Mark Angelo will attend part of the event and from 12:30 to 1:30, will be signing copies of his new book, "**River Magic**", written in concert with the 20th anniversary
- As well as the great Riverfest celebration at the **Fraser River Discovery Centre** in New Westminster among many others
- Celebrations will be held all over BC to list a few, in Golden, Vanderhoof, Revelstoke, Pemberton, North Vancouver, Victoria, Port Hardy, Parksville, Logan Lake and Chase
- See more BC Rivers Day events and details for each event on the **Outdoor Recreation Council's** website

Across the United States, examples include:

- **Friends of the Chicago River** is organizing a McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum visit from June until October
- They also teamed up with the **Chicago Ornithological Society** to offer a unique way to experience the magic of migration through a guided paddle on the river
- Many activities are being organized by stream keeper groups and Water Keeper Alliance members
- The Great Works Regional Land Trust in **Maine** is holding a lobster fundraiser to help support their great conservation efforts across the region
- To the work of the **California Institute of Environmental Design and Management** in Arcadia, California where their event is going to take place as part of the ongoing Project EcoBlue at and around the Arcadia Ecohome, to reduce storm water pollution in waterways in the San Gabriel River watershed, and to showcase what local grassroots and average people can do for contributing to river health and restoration
- To **Utah** and the many Jordon River festivities, from walks to plantings
- While in California, the **American Whitewater** is preparing to hold its annual Feather River Fest, one of the country's premier paddling events
- Meanwhile the organization, SOLVE in **Bonneville, Washington** inviting people to join U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' park rangers in cleaning up trash from the Columbia River shoreline and help control invasive weeds from nearby areas followed by a tour of powerhouse and underwater fish viewing

In **Australia,**

- The World River Run Event by **Thirst Foundation** in Melbourne, Australia is inviting participants around the world to **run, walk or move for their local river, lake, or waterway** by taking one small action to protect it,

for example - pick up litter, share a photo, post a story, donate, or do something simple that reconnects them with their river
- The **Australian River Restoration Centre** is running a #ShoutOutOurRivers campaign asking people to share a picture or short video of their river or themselves by a river anywhere in the world
- **Artists for the Anglesea River** will be running an artists led gathering in acknowledgement of the UNSEEN in and around the river, with handmade lanterns inspired by creative imaginings of river movements
- While the **International River Foundation's** Symposium will soon be held in Brisbane, Australia

While in **Africa,**

- Events are being planned from **South Africa to Egypt**
- While river advocates, the **Hope Givers Foundation** is planning a major cleanup up of the Lingadzi River in Lilongwe**, Malawi**
- The African Rivers in **Zambia** is organizing a wide range of events such as exhibitions, environmental seminars, tree planting, water quality testing, marathon run and much more
- Meanwhile in Kisumu, **Kenya,** Happy Life 4 Development CBO is planning a river cleanup along the River Auji in Manyatta B
- As well as the tremendous annual events along the **River Ethiope in Nigeria**

Among many other events across the planet;

- In **Portsmouth, Dominica, Pope Leo XIV** has given a great injection to River Advocates and the Catholic Church with his institution of the **New Care of Creation** Mass in the liturgy of the Church which will take place on World Rivers Day
- Also in **Dominica** the National Swimming Association is planning a special event in line with our 20th anniversary
- Major festivities planned in **Bangladesh** by the **Bangladesh River Foundation** along the Buriganga River
- While the SAPNO organization is planning a march to raise awareness to protect the **Bogura Karatoyya River** also in Bangladesh
- Plans are set in Batu Gajah, Malaysia for a Riverbank Cleanup
- Meanwhile the Autonomous University of Nuevo León (UANL) and the Faculty of Civil Engineering (FIC) are planning a Metropolitan Rivers Forum in **Monterrey, Mexico** where aim is to share experiences with national and international experts in urban river restoration, as well as to discuss real solutions in the face of climate change
- To numerous activities set for dozens of locales along **the Ganges River in India**
- The **Yamuna Drive** by YSS Foundation is a flagship initiative under the campaign "Jal Hai To Kal Hai", dedicated to restoring the lifeline of North India – the River Yamuna
- Forum for a **Better Hyderabad** in association with Deccan Heritage Academy Trust are planning to also celebrate along the Manjeera River Bed, inTelangana, to highlight the importance and the many values of our rivers, increase public awareness, and improved stewardship of all rivers around the world

The list goes on and on!

We are excited to again be working with the **Pacific Salmon Foundation** as a gold sponsor. They are a widely respected organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon and the organizer of global Wild Salmon Day.
Also, a gold sponsor is the **Sitka Foundation**, a wonderful organization that catalyzes the protection of the environment and the promotion of biodiversity.
Another key sponsor is the **Real Estate Foundation of BC** which has provided valued support over the last several years.
We also remain thankful to the **International River Foundation**, based in Brisbane, along with our other valued supporters such as **United Nations University**, **International Network on Water, Environment and Health, United Nations Water Action Decade, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, River-cleanup.org,** and **Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning.**

Visit our website at **www.worldriversday.com** to find out more about World Rivers Day!

Promoting River Stewardship
World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness while also encouraging the improved stewardship of rivers around the world. Rivers in every country face an array of threats, and only our active involvement will ensure their health in the years ahead.

International Partners
World Rivers Day is intended to complement the broader efforts of the United Nations water-related programs,

ranging from the UN's initial **Water for Life Decade** to their current **Water Action Decade** initiative. We also look forward to continuing to work with groups such as the United Nations University and the International Network on Water, Environment and Health which were very supportive in launching World Rivers Day back in 2005.

Special thanks to our World Rivers Day partners and sponsors:
Pacific Salmon Foundation - gold sponsor
Sitka Foundation - gold sponsor
Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
International River Foundation
United Nations University
International Network on Water, Environment and Health
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (coordinator of BC Rivers Day)
Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning
River-cleanup.org
United Nations Water Action Decade

To find out more about water issues, and how to get involved with World Rivers Day, visit the websites below for more information:

World Rivers Day
BC Rivers Day
United Nations University - International Network on Water, Environment and Health
United Nations Water Action Decade

Thanks for your great efforts,
Tunde Murphy, WRD Communications

