

Summit 2017

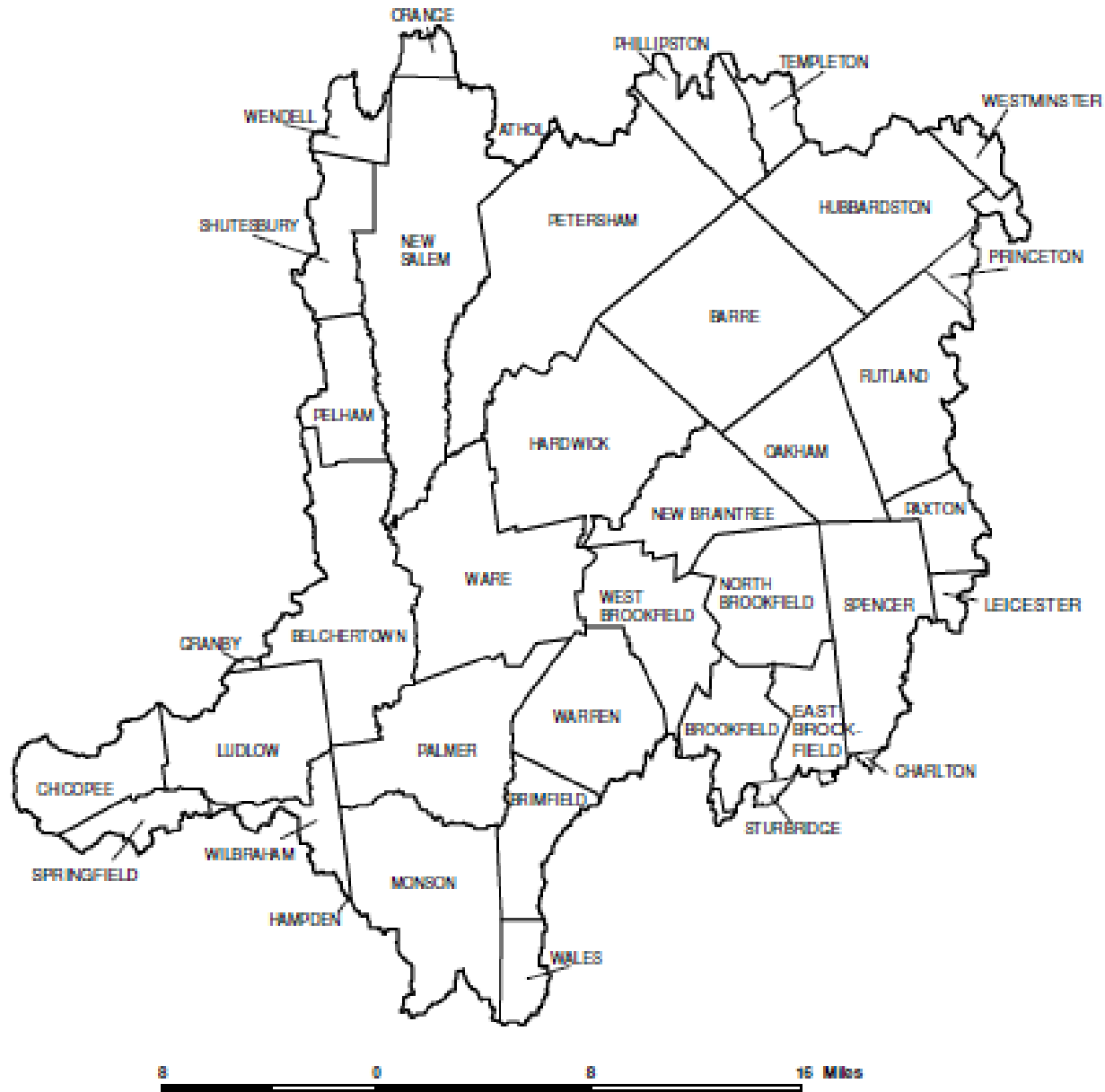


"Our rivers, Our Future, Our Vision"

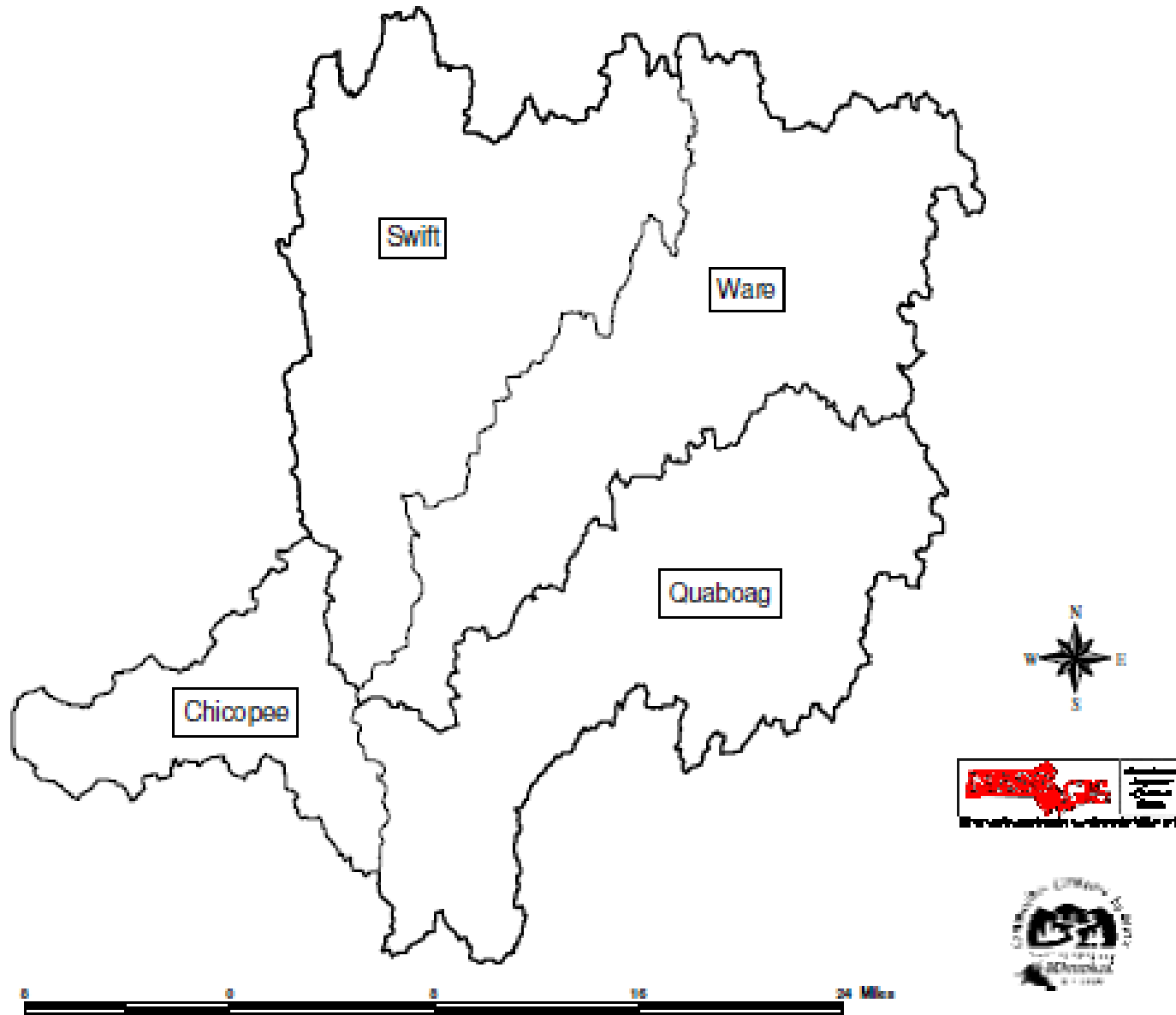
Chicopee, Ware, Swift, Quaboag

C4R - Care 4 Rivers

Where are you from?



Which is your local river?



2017 Summit Agenda

Welcome: our vision moving forward

2017 accomplishments:

- **Bac-T program**
- **Blue Trails**
- **Stormwater study w/PVPC**
- **Paddles, Clean ups**
- **Outreach**

Guest Speakers:

Andy Fisk-CRC *“Refocusing our vision, rebranding, and the importance of partnerships with regional river groups, what we can do together”*

Kristen Sykes/AMC *“Water Trails, a great way to know a river!”*

C4R’s vision

Q&A

Concluding thoughts

Thanks

Why C4R?

Though the Clean Water Act, CWA, has helped our rivers, we should avoid complacency, there is room for more improvements.

Many communities are taking steps to reconnect with their rivers through recreation and renewal. Rivers are again becoming a focal point for communities and a destination for boating, fishing, and other recreation. In fact, three out of every four Americans participate in active outdoor recreation each year and paddle sports are among the fastest growing segments of the industry. More people go fishing each year than go to Disney World.

A clean and healthy river system is good for our communities!

A Watershed group can help make it happen.....

C4R = Care 4 Rivers

Mission

Promote stewardship, conservation, enjoyment, and restoration of the rivers, ecosystems and wildlife habitats of the Chicopee-4 Rivers basin, while balancing and fostering river friendly city & town economies and community life.

We will accomplish this by:

- 1. Increasing awareness and appreciation of the rivers of the Chicopee-4R basin through improved river access and water quality monitoring**
- 2. Advocate and encourage conservation and responsible use of the rivers and their adjoining lands**
- 3. Actively participate in long range planning for the stewardship of the rivers and lands along their banks through the cooperation of land owners, various government agencies, public and private organizations**
- 4. Encourage participation in the Council by holding regular meetings and sponsoring activities related to the rivers**
- 5. Promote and implement river and habitat restoration projects where possible**
- 6. Support sustainable and river friendly community projects**

2017 Accomplishments

- **Monitoring – Bacteria @ 10 sites**
- **Stormwater Study w/PVPC**
- **Blue Trails – Upper Quaboag BT Map refined**
 - **DCR Trail Grant Award for 2018 work!**
 - **Presented @ Mass Trails Conference**
- **Fun Paddles**
- **River Clean ups**
- **Outreach**

2017 Bacteria

- Sampled 10 sites
 - 3 along upper Chicopee River
 - 3 along Quaboag River
 - 3 along Ware River
 - 1 Swift River
- Trained volunteers
- Community Support: 5 towns, 2 lake org, 1 business
 - *Springfield, Wilbraham, Palmer, Warren, Ware*
 - *QQLA, LWPA, Country Bank*
- Reported results publically within 24 hr
- Results useful for recreation and WQ awareness

River Health

- “Is It Clean?”
- Bacteria Sampling
- Posted on line

Swift R - First Street access

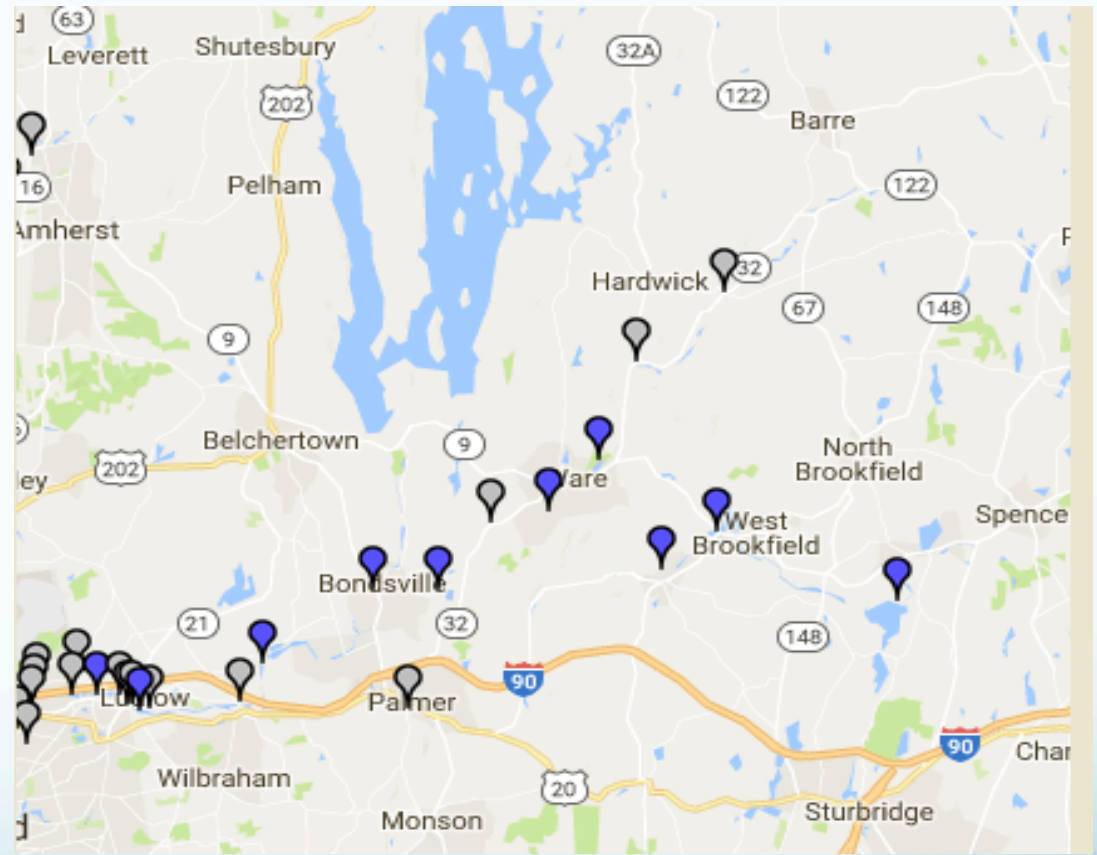
First St
Bondsville-Palmer, MA
Longitude/Latitude: -72.35008 / 42.2085

This is a proposed river access site for the lower Swift River and is managed by the Palmer Conservation Commission. There is a land trail system along the river.

Is It Clean?

C4RWC is monitoring the river for bacteria.

Sample Date	Status	CFU/100ml	Wet
2017-09-07	📍 Clean for Boating and Swimming	30.9	Y
2017-08-24	📍 Clean for Boating and Swimming	18.7	Y
2017-08-10	📍 Clean for Boating and Swimming	16.1	N
2017-07-27	📍 Clean for Boating and Swimming	25.9	N
2017-07-13	📍 Clean for Boating and Swimming	37.3	Y



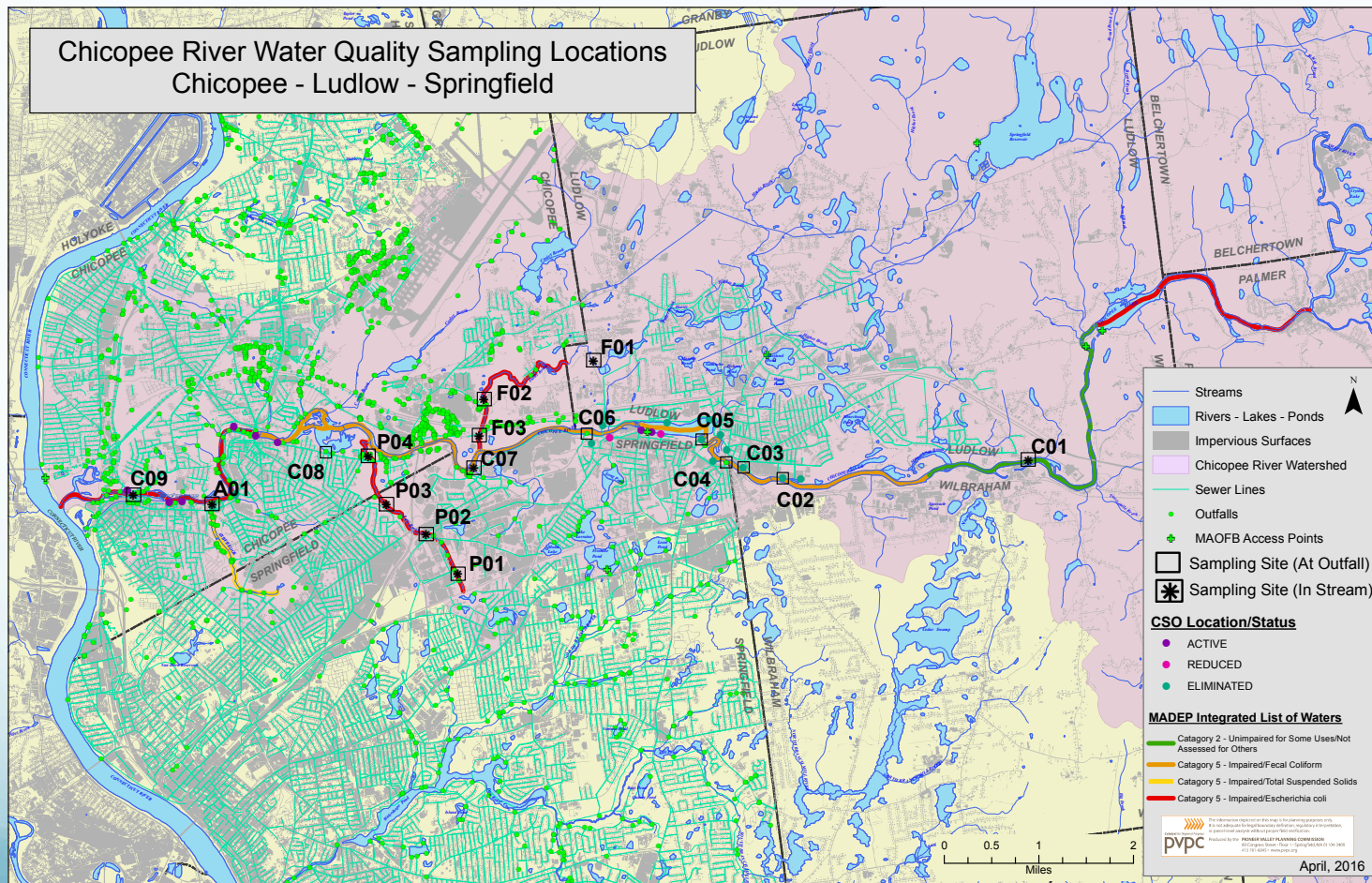
- <http://connecticutriver.us/site/content/sites-list>

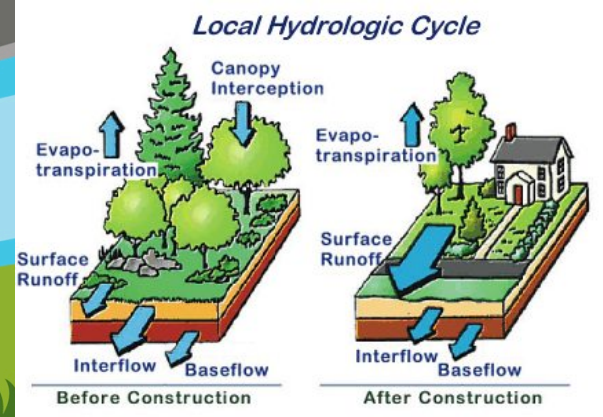
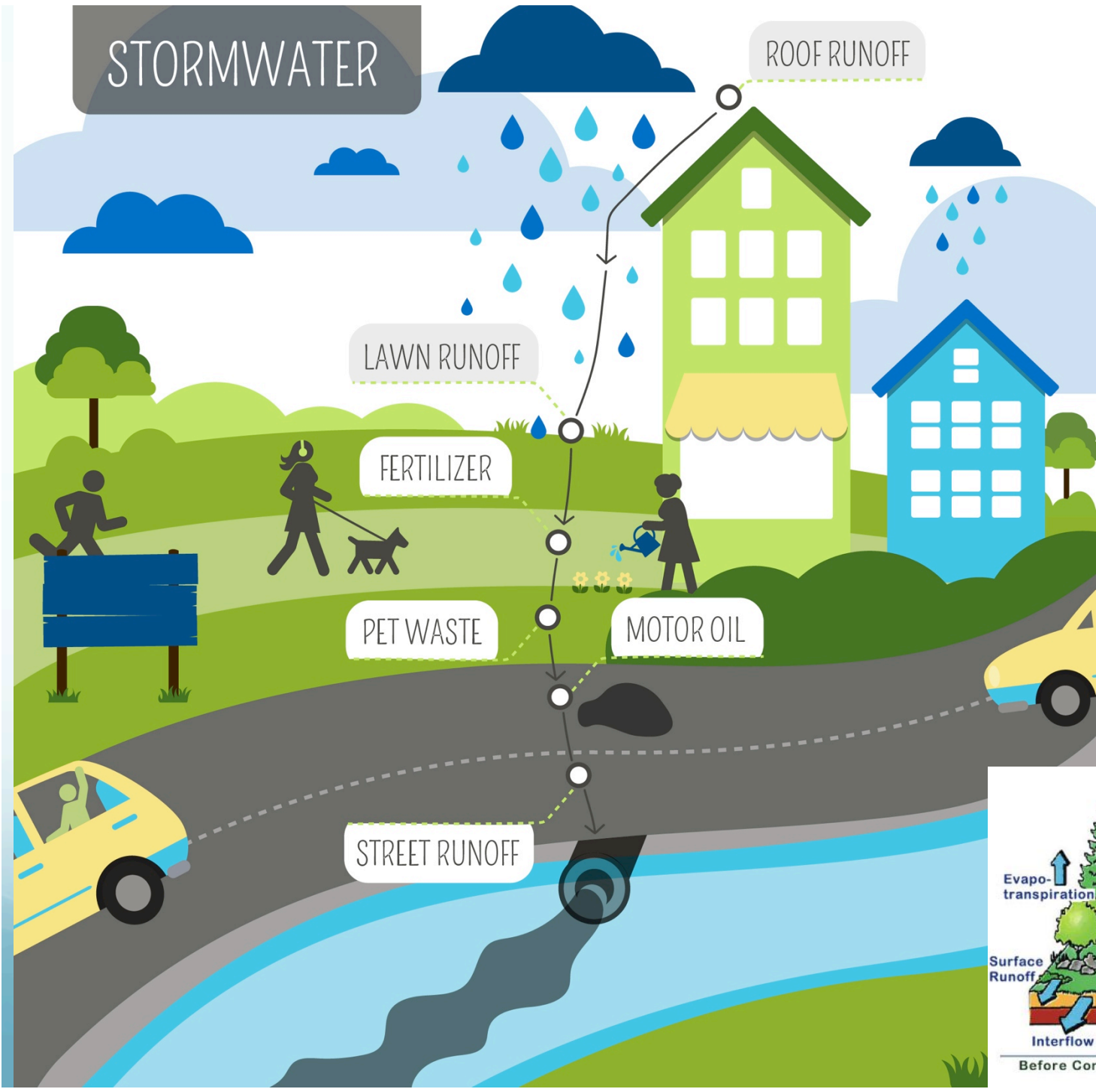
2017 Bac-T Results

C4RWC 2017 Bacteria Sampling Results summary

Site Name	ID#	Bacteria Counts							Geometric Mean count	Use Note
		Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date		
		15-Jun	29-Jun	13-Jul	27-Jul	10-Aug	24-Aug	7-Sep		
Quaboag Pond access	CQPd1	12.1	8.5	7.5	13.4	114.5	29.8	4.1	14.65	primary
Quaboag 67/9 access	CQ67-9	53	47.9	53.8	98.7	67	83.6	248.9	78.76	primary
Quaboag-Lucy Stone Park	CQLSP1	58.3	54.6	53.8	98.2	57.6	57.3	613.1	85.73	primary
Swift - First St	CSFS1	26.2	41.4	37.3	25.9	16.1	18.7	30.9	26.73	primary
Ware - Grenville Park	CWGP1	63.7	116.9	178.5	93.3	90.5	178.5	2420	174.10	secondary one high event
Ware - Banas Farm	CWBF1	110.6	108.1	119.8	155.3	107.6	218.7	1732.9	190.40	secondary one high event
Ware - Bennett St	CWB1	63.8	74.8	105	160.7	105	155.3	980.4	144.05	secondary one high event
Chicopee Red Bridge lower access	CRB1	65	104.3	178.5	104.6	49.6	95.9	228.2	104.64	primary
Chicopee Putts Bridge access	CPB1	48	42.2	146.7	104.6	86	54.8	214.3	84.75	primary
Chicopee Indian Orchard access	CIO1	21.8	344.8	62	41	35.5	101.4	69.1	64.71	primary
Rain Data within 48 hr		0" - dry	0.5"+ wet	0.25" wet	0" dry	0" dry	0.2-0.4" wet	0.95-1.5" wet		

Lower Chicopee River Stormwater Study





Results

- Project identified 1 sewage issue, reported to City
- Stormwater does affect water quality in lower river
- 2 areas of concern
 - Fuller Brook – Moody St
 - Abbey Brook – Chicopee/Szot Park
- Identified solution options
- Communities could seek funding to implement

Blue Trails

A **Blue Trail** (or water trail) is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating and other recreation. **Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, blue trails help people discover rivers. Blue trails provide a fun, exciting way to get kids and families outdoors, connect communities to treasured landscapes, and are economic drivers benefiting local businesses and quality of life.**

Trails Update

- **Ware RBT**

- Barre Plains to Gilbertville
- Gilbertville to Ware-Grenville Park
- Ware to Thorndike

2018 layout & draft

- **Quaboag RBT**

- E Brookfield to Warren – ***DCR Grant supports final work, 2018 opening***
- Warren to Rt 20 Brimfield-*white water*

- **Chicopee RBT**

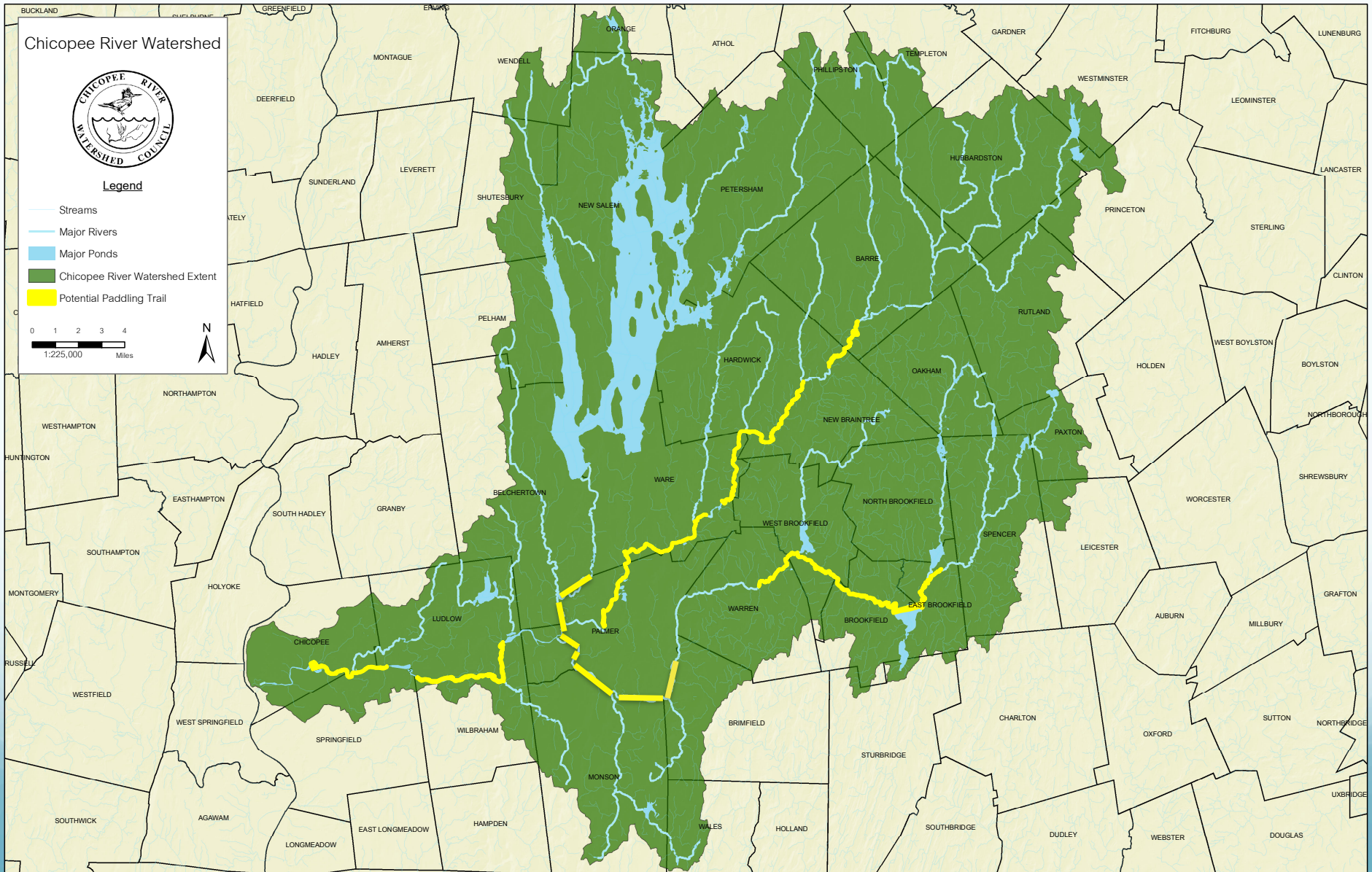
- Red Bridge to Ludlow/Wilbraham
 - ***DCR Grant supports final work, 2018 opening***
- Ludlow/IO ***part of UCBT***
- Oxford Marsh-Chicopee

- **3 Rivers/Swift RBT**

- Ware R – Thorndike to 3R
- Quaboag – Rt 20 to 3R
- Swift – Cold Spring Rd launch, Bondsville, 3R

2018 layout & draft

Opportunities!



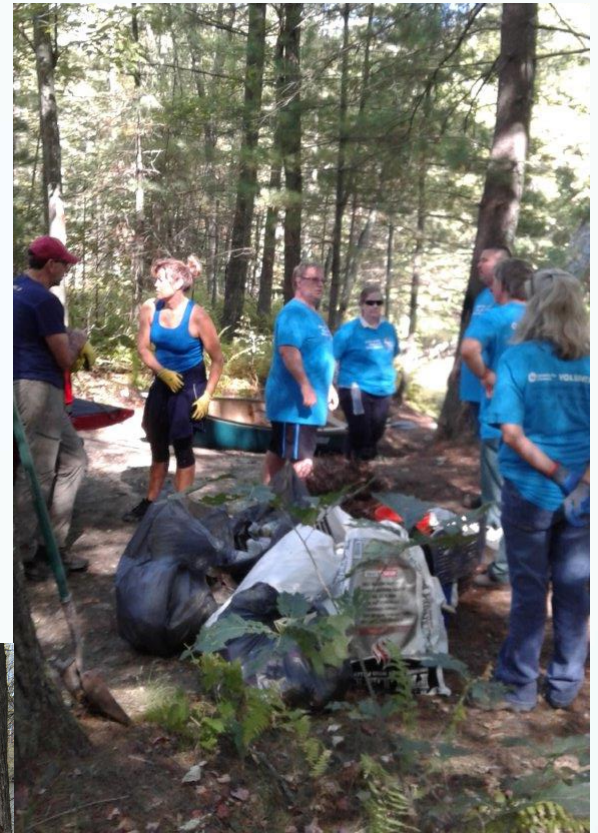
On the water making a difference....

Paddles & Clean Ups!











Outreach

- Celebrate Ludlow
- Hardwick Fair
- Three Rivers TRACK
- Brookfield Apple Fair



Meet our Guest Speaker

Andy Fisk

- *Andy became executive director of CRWC in 2011, since then he has guided and reset the course of CRWC thru the 2017 rebranding of CRWC as the now CRC – Connecticut River Conservancy.*
- *The focus is about advocacy and access, caring for our rivers and encouraging people to enjoy our great river and its tributaries.*
- **Four States, One Mission**
- Connecticut River Conservancy is the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your river and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies.



Meet Kristen Sykes

- Kristen is the Director of Conservation Strategies with AMC and is a leader in expanding the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail in MA & CT.



- AMC has established 2 camp sites in MA (another soon) and a site in Connecticut.

2018 Vision





The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council, (C4R),

will serve as the active voice of its four rivers;

Chicopee, Swift, Ware, Quaboag

By envisioning and focusing efforts on supporting an ecologically healthy region comprised of engaged communities, we'll foster a vibrant place with healthy rivers, to live, play and work.

2018 Vision

- Complete Blue Trails Grant!
- Monitoring (*Bac-T, Adopt a Stream*)
- Lay Out New Blue Trails (Ware & Swift)
- Identify needs and develop Education programming
- Paddles & Clean ups (each river)
- Strengthen membership
- Fund Raise to support project work & staff

UPPER QUABOAG DRAFT

Welcome to the Quaboag River Blue Trail!

This Map/Guide is designed to familiarize visitors and local residents with some of this river segment's interesting but less well known natural and historical features and recreational opportunities.

The C4Rivers Quaboag Blue Trail is a community partnership working to strengthen river stewardship and community vitality throughout the South Central Massachusetts Region and the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed.

The Upper Quaboag Blue Trail offers a smooth water paddle through a scenic and wildlife rich area. Much of the bordering lands are part of a wildlife management area managed by MA F&W. Marshland and floodplain are the dominant landscape features. The trail covers a segment length of approximately 10 miles with 5-6 access points. Within this 10-mile stretch from Quaboag Pond to Warren, a paddler can witness one of the most impressive natural areas in the entire Commonwealth.

The Quaboag: (facts)

Beginning as tributaries in Spencer and North Brookfield, which flow into Quaboag Pond, the Quaboag River officially begins as the pond's outflow. It flows westerly for 25 miles to Three Rivers in Palmer where it helps create the main stem Chicopee River upon meeting the Ware and Swift rivers.



Named from an Algonquian term meaning "beyond the pond", likely referring to Quaboag Pond, the Quaboag River was a central focus for the Quaboag Indians; one of the three local tribes of Central Massachusetts.

The modern highlight of this section of the Quaboag

River is the Quaboag Wildlife Management Area (WMA), one of the largest marsh systems in all of Massachusetts and considered the most important site in all of southern New England for the American bittern. Long's Bulrush is a rare, robust sedge found in places along the trail. Over three contiguous miles of this deep marsh habitat lines the Quaboag, and an early morning paddle south from Route 148 during May and June will often have the still air reverberating with the booming calls of bitterns that have become quite rare elsewhere in the state. Although the size



of the habitat is here is important, what really makes the marshes of Quaboag WMA special is their quality. The plant community here is a diverse mix of cattails, sedges and even bog elements, while the periphery of the marsh is still a wild interface with surrounding forests. Studies have shown an inverse relation between the presence of marshbirds to the presence of development around a marsh, and it is no surprise that the Quaboag still supports impressive numbers of American bitterns, along with other rare species of marshbirds, while so many other marshes in central and eastern Massachusetts have lost their marshbirds to the disturbance, pollution and general degradation brought on by marsh-side sprawl. (MassDF&W)

River Etiquette:

The upper Quaboag River flows relatively smoothly between between Quaboag Pond and Lucy Stone Park in Warren throughout the paddling season. One section might get shallow at low flows (<45 cfs). Also, paddlers should always be on the lookout for downed trees, rocks and other obstacles that can pose hazards. Enjoy your trip and be respectful of other paddlers. Please respect private property and avoid trespassing and littering at all times. *Enjoy wildlife quietly and from a safe distance.*

Wearing a life jacket is recommended--and required October through May.

Flow Gage info:

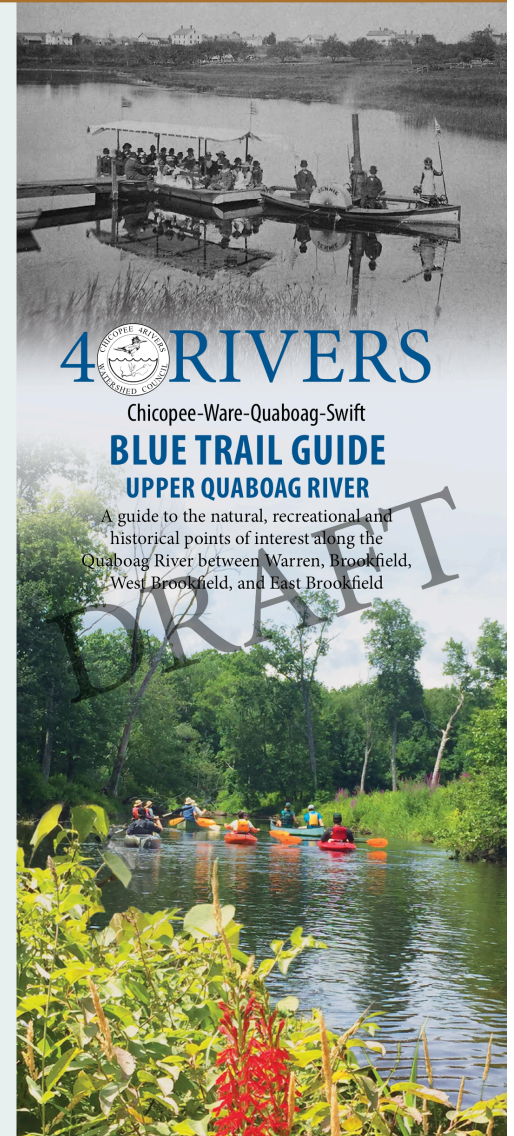


About C4RWC:

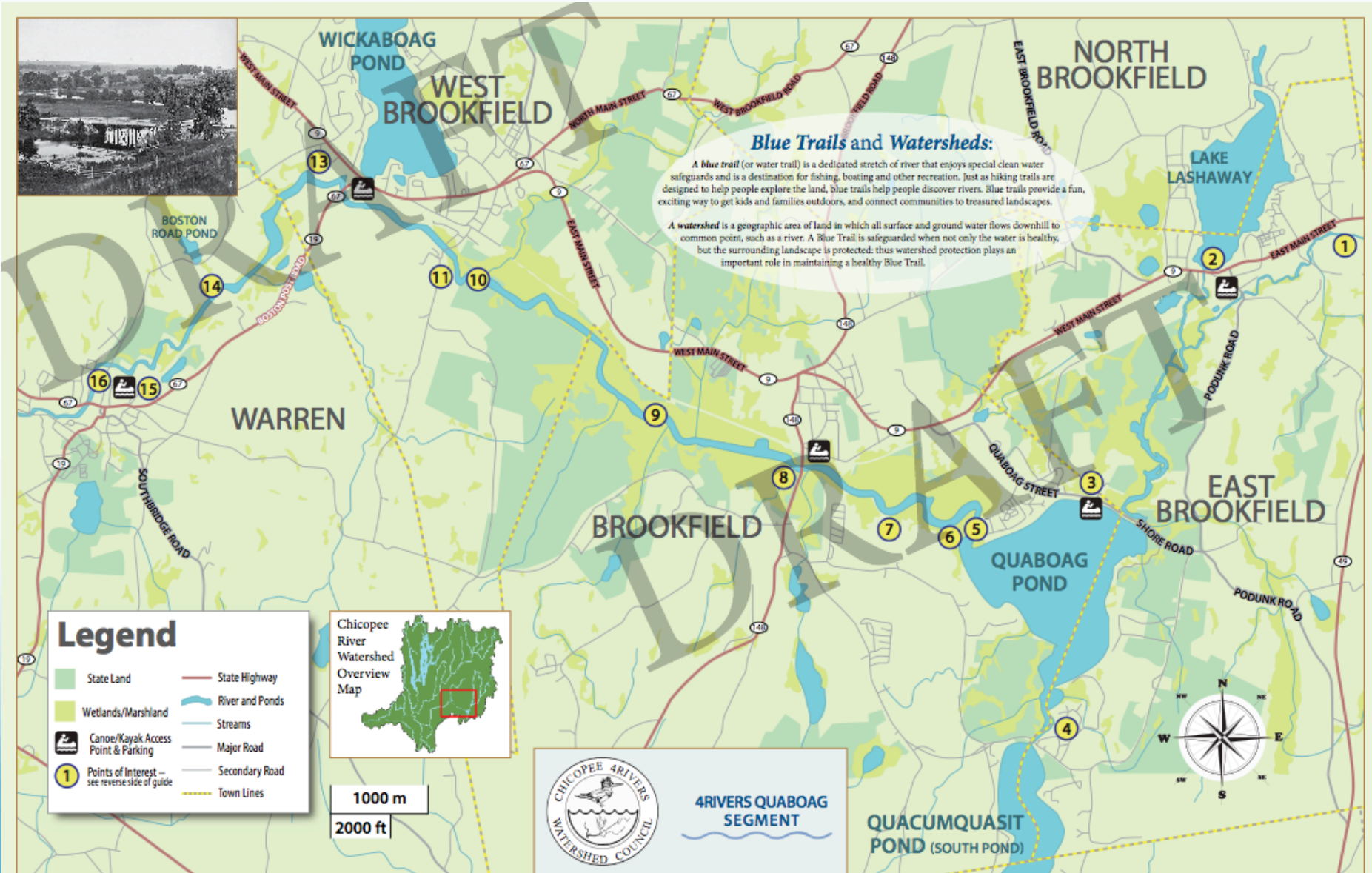
The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council's mission is to "Promote stewardship, conservation, enjoyment, and restoration of the rivers, ecosystems and wildlife habitats of the Chicopee-4 Rivers basin, while balancing and fostering river friendly city & town economies and community life. C4RWC is focused on providing volunteer water monitoring, as well as recreational and educational activities for watershed residents. C4RWC works collaboratively with towns, government agencies and community members to provide effective long-term watershed protection solutions. We welcome your help and support. www.chicopeewatershed.org The 4 Rivers are: Chicopee, Ware, Swift, and Quaboag.

POINT OF INTEREST

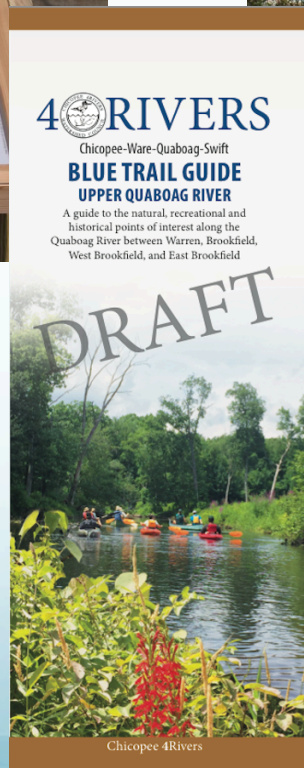
- 1 The Seven Mile River offers paddling at adequate flows. Access is possible at Rt 9 and near the Spencer Fair Grounds. Adequate flows are generally over ____cfs as measured at the SevenMile USGS flow gage.
- 2 EB access on Stevens Rd off Cottage st (off Rt 9). River here to Quaboag Pond can be shallow at low flows. In low water it may be best to paddle up from Quaboag Pond and explore. Be prepared for beaver dams, too.
- 3 Quaboag Pond access is on Shore Rd at the state boat ramp.
- 4 Explore the channel that leads to "South Pond" where bricks were once made and from where "Brick Barges" steamed.
- 5 Look for bald eagles as you exit the pond and enter the meandering river. This area may also have been the site of Native American encampment.
- 6 Notice a small side channel cut into the left bank? This may have been a short cut channel cut from when barges brought bricks from the Quacumquisit Pond area to the E Brookfield train depot.
- 7 There were a number of Native American encampments in the Quaboag Pond area and along this stretch of river.
- 8 Rt 148 State boat launch & White's Landing access: this site has been a river crossing since the early 1700's, was once known as the "fording" place.
- 9 The area beyond Quaboag Pond and Rt 148 is the Quaboag WMA section, great for birding and quiet exploration.
- 10 As you approach W Brookfield, paddlers will see an odd structure in the river, this may have served to deliver water to trains at the nearby station.
- 11 The Long Hill Rd bridge area was the site of a steambot dock where partiers could go for an excursion upstream. A condensed milk plant was also situated near the south bank.
- 12 Rt 67 and 9 access, off of Rt 67.
- 13 Near where the outlet from Lake Wikaboag meets the Quaboag River, there was believed to be an Native American encampment.
- 14 The river segment after the entrance of Sullivan Brook can be shallow at river flows under 45 cfs. Passable. But you may rub bottom.
- 15 Lucy Stone Park: Lucy Stone (born nearby) was a prominent American orator, abolitionist, and suffragist, and a vocal advocate and organizer promoting rights for women. In 1847, Stone became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree.
- 16 Final access to upper Quaboag Blue Trail. River below here is more white water like and not passable at low flows nor recommended unless you are a skilledpaddler and reconnoiter the river. C4RWC intends a separate map for this segment in the future.



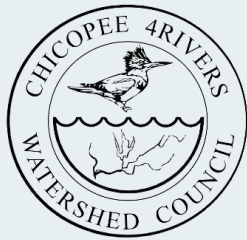
UPPER QUABOAG DRAFT MAP



Trail stuff



Chicopee River BT



Welcome to the Chicopee River Blue Trail!

This map guide is designed to acquaint local residents and visitors with some of this river segment's many special but lesser known natural and historical features and recreational opportunities. The 4Rivers Chicopee Blue Trail is a community partnership working to strengthen river stewardship and community vitality throughout the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed.

The upper Chicopee Blue Trail offers a smooth water paddle through a scenic and historic area, which also is wildlife rich. Bald eagle can be seen and one will be pleasantly surprised by the quiet in many stretches of this area. The trail covers a segment length of approximately 7 miles with 2-3 access points.

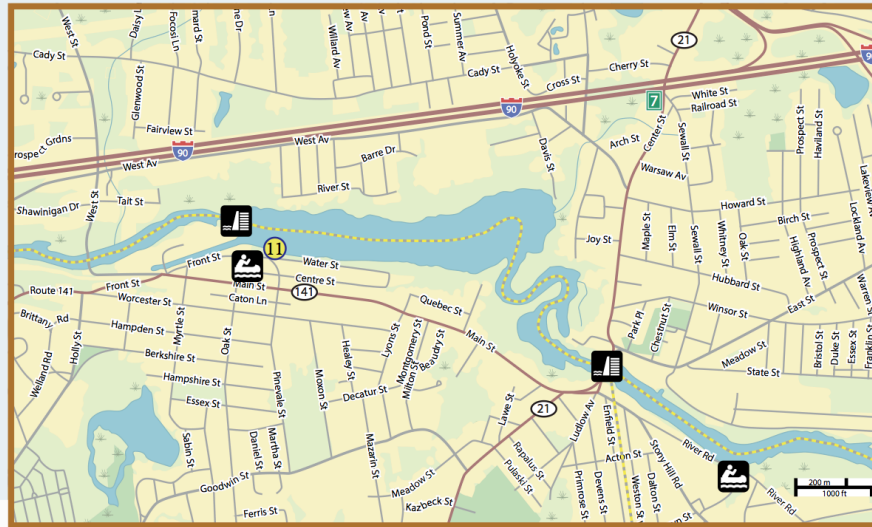


Blue Trails and Watersheds: A blue trail (or water trail) is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating and other recreation.

Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, blue trails

help people discover rivers. Blue trails provide a fun, exciting way to get kids outdoors, connect communities to treasured landscapes, and are economic drivers benefiting local businesses and quality of life.

A watershed is a geographic area of land in which all surface and ground water flows downhill to common point, such as a river. A Blue Trail is safeguarded when not only the water is healthy, but the surrounding landscape: thus watershed land protection plays an important role in maintaining a healthy Blue Trail.



Indian Orchard River Segment

The Chicopee River: (facts)

Flowing from tributaries (Ware, Swift, Quaboag) that meet in the Three Rivers section of Palmer, the Chicopee River flows some 17 miles and drops some 250 feet till it meets the Connecticut River in the City of Chicopee. The river delivers an average flow of 909 cfs to the larger river. The Chicopee is the Connecticut's largest tributary.

Named from an Algonquian/Nipmuc term meaning "place of violent waters", likely referring to the many waterfalls in the lower river, the Chicopee River was a lifeline for the many local native Americans. Later, these many waterfalls would be replaced by some 7 dams along the river's length and power the area's local industrial growth. People then moved away from the river as its water quality suffered, but in the past 35 years, environmental protections have gradually improved the river and offered people the opportunity to return and enjoy its beauty.

River Etiquette:

The upper Chicopee River flows relatively smoothly from Red Bridge in Wilbraham to the Ludlow Mills area throughout the paddling season. Access at Collins Dam area unsettled. One section below the Collins Dam might get shallow at low flows. The impoundment above the Indian Orchard Dam is flat water to Indian Leap, and a bit quicker above till the power plant outflow. Paddlers should always be on the lookout for downed trees, rocks and other obstacles that can pose hazards. Enjoy your trip and be respectful of other paddlers. Please respect

private property and avoid trespassing and littering at all times. Enjoy wildlife quietly and from a safe distance. Wearing a life jacket is recommended-- and required October through May.

Flow Gage Info:

Chicopee River @ Indian Orchard

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ma/nwis/uv?site_no=01177000

About C4RWC:

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C4RWC is a small organization focused on providing volunteer water monitoring, as well as recreational and educational activities for watershed residents. C4RWC also serves as an advocate for local concerns and works collaboratively with towns, government

agencies and community members to provide effective long-term solutions. We welcome your help and support. www.chicopeewatershed.org

The 4 Rivers in the basin are the: Chicopee, Ware, Swift, and Quaboag.



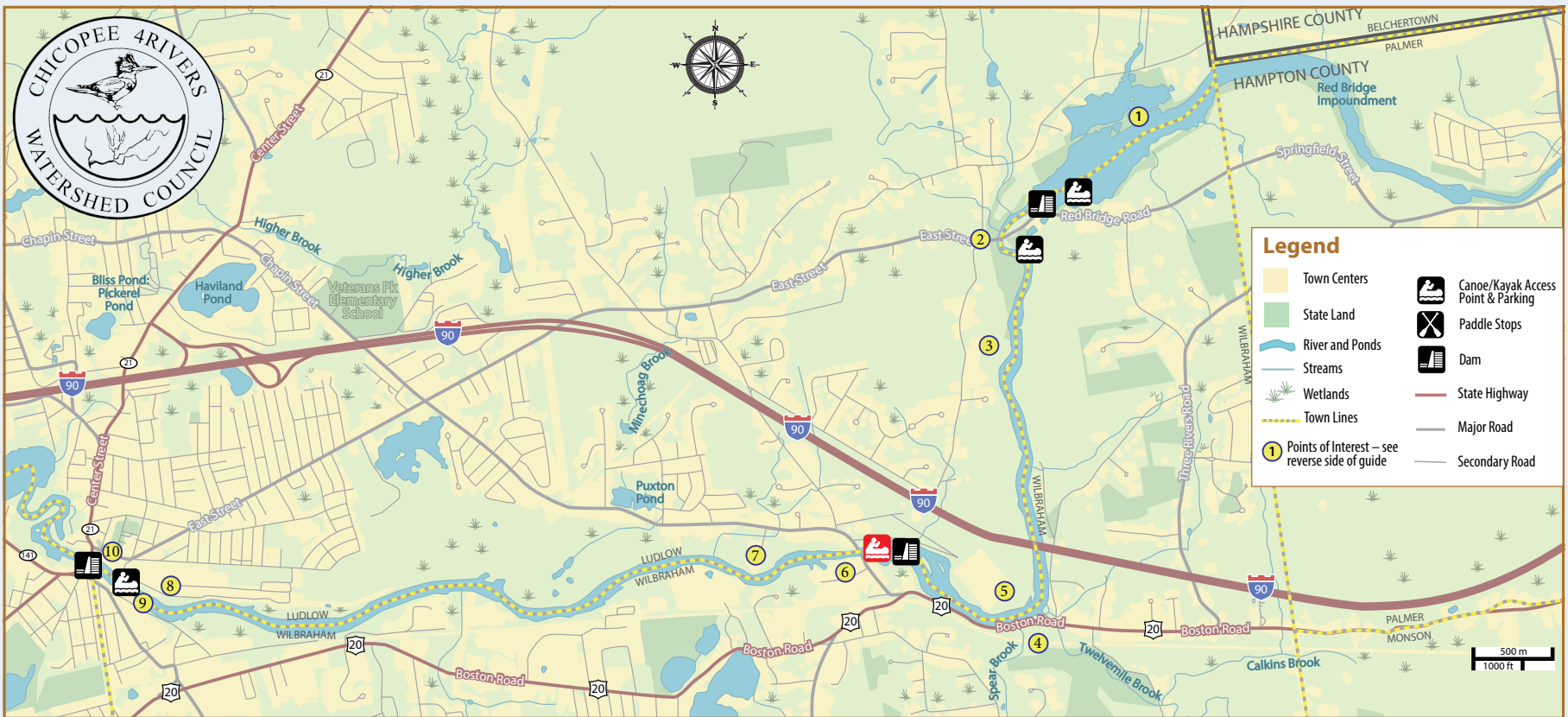
Chicopee River BLUE TRAIL

Paddling the river in Wilbraham, Ludlow, and Springfield, MA

A guide to the River's history and nature



Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council



POINT OF INTEREST

1 The area above Red Bridge Station can be paddled up to Three Rivers. The current gets stronger as you progress upstream. This area also id used by power boats.

2 The Red Bridge canoe/paddle access is below the dam. The power plant was built in 1900 to provide electricity to the Ludlow Mills downstream.

3 Along the west bank of the river, about a ½ mile below the launch, you can see the berm of the old Springfield to Athol railroad line. This is the system that ran through what is now the Quabbin Reservoir. The run was called the Rabbit Run due to all its stops.

Below here, the river flows under the Mass Pike and by the large LNG facility – NO Trespassing along this shore.

4 At the bend of the river, Twelve Mile brook enters.

5 The trail now parallels Rt 20 or Boston Road. In 1775, General Henry Knox's men carried cannon along this road to George Washington in Boston.

6 Proposed Collins Mill access: details History of Collins Mill area

7 The area below Collins Mill is initially shallow for a hundred yards, but easy to “walk” your boat. The stretch below is quite pleasant, you may even see a bald eagle. An island can also be found and may have had a house on it before the flood of 1938!

8 Near the end of this segment, the Ludlow Mills will appear on the right bank. The Wallamanumps Falls which are now dammed have supported mills here since the late

1700 and early 1800s. By 1900, the Mills were the largest producers of jute products in the world!

9 The Putts Bridge access is located on the Wilbraham side of the river. The

Putts Bridge was the name of the old covered bridge which spanned the river near the falls and dam.

10 The Wallamanumps Falls which are now dammed have supported mills here since the late 1700 and early 1800s. By 1900, the Mills were the largest producers of jute products in the world!

11 The access for the Indian Orchard Mills impoundment is on Water St, a small one-way road off Oak St. The Mills here were..... story

12 The Indian Leap section of the river is characterized

by steep cliffs that shroud the river. The legend of this area says that in 1675, during the King Phillip's war, after attacking Springfield, some Indians camped the night near this area. A day or so later, they were confronted by a large group of settlers and they retreated towards the cliffs. Seeing no other escape, Chief Roaring Thunder has his group “leap” into the river below (there was no impoundment then) where some likely died, perhaps some escaped.

13 Two railroad bridges crossed at the leap in more modern time, they has spectacular iron frames.

The river winds upstream to the base of the power plant and dam. The current can be quick, but if the paddler is strong, you may get a glimpse of the base of Wallamanumps Falls.

○ Fund Raising/Membership

C4R will run membership drive in 2018

Membership support is important to draw grants and larger support

Seek grants

Seek corporate support

Fund staff coordinator

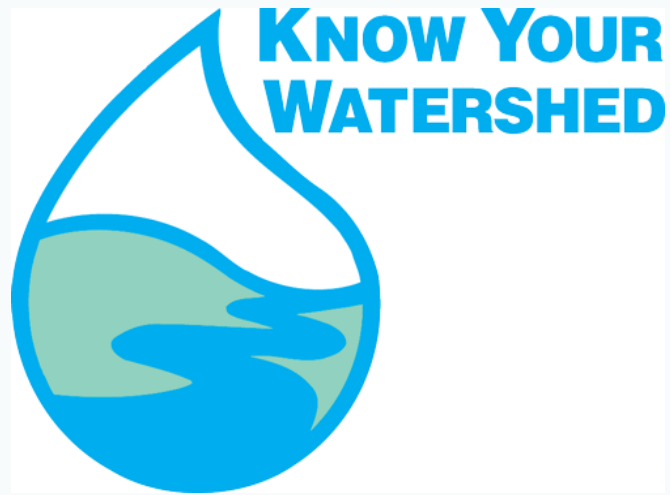
Managing these efforts

- **C4RWC Organizational Structure**
 - Board of Directors, 7-9 members preferred
 - Coordinator runs programs, coordinates volunteers, maintains consistent action...
 - Volunteer committees help with specific events/projects
- **CRC will facilitate grants, serve as non-profit sponsor, fiscal overview**

Questions / Discussion



Thank You!



Thanks for coming!

Together
We can make 2018 great...