



Monitoring the White River:

A School-Based Watershed Education Program

Fall 2025 Newsletter

Since 2013, Monitoring the White River (MWR) programs have kept students of all ages engaged with fun in and around the water, cultivating vital relationships in caring for water resources within walking distance of nearly any location. After significant flooding in 2023 and 2024, followed by historic drought conditions in 2025, our relationships with water take on extra significance and present ample teaching opportunities.

A 28 minute VT Public “Brave Little State” podcast that WRP staff contributed to has become a favorite resource for background info on understanding how much our streams and rivers have changed, why that matters in both understanding and addressing the impacts of floods and droughts, and some specific examples of what steps can be taken. Probably most appropriate for grades 6 and up, it is very accessible and we recommend educators have a listen and see if there are portions that fit for their students of all ages: ***What ‘Old Streams’ Can Teach Us About Flooding*** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha8iU8tvMWM>)

White River Partnership’s MWR network represents a variety of place-based educators with a wealth of knowledge and experience. We are pleased to be a participating member of the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative (<https://vitalcommunities.org/upper-valley-teaching-place-collaborative/>), and often support these efforts by providing experiences that connect students directly to our waterways. The immediacy of the flood and drought conditions noted above have also led us to stay closely involved with the Equitable Climate Action Partnership (ECAP) and its efforts to empower teachers and students. These include updating the publication ***“Right Here!***

An Educator’s Guide for Equitable Climate Action in the Upper Valley and Beyond”

(<https://bit.ly/equitableclimateaction>) and continuing to tell Hopeful Stories about these efforts (<https://www.uvtpc.com/ecap>).

Foundational experiences in our **Snorkeling** and **Trout in the Classroom** programs exemplify our commitment to working Partnerships, and model curricular ties to other core offerings.



White River Partnership’s core MWR offerings include downloadable, free use ‘units’ found on our website (<https://www.whiteriverpartnership.org/teacher-resources/>):

- **Trout in the Classroom** (with Trout Unlimited, brook trout from eggs to fry release)
- **Freshwater Snorkeling** (with the US Forest Service, exploration of the inhabitants of the pools and riffles of a restored stream)
- **Crayfish** (covering invasive species concepts through river and riparian food webs);
- **Waterbugs** (i.e., macroinvertebrates – indicators of river health and water quality);
- **Winter Track & Sign** (wildlife activities along river corridors);
- **Watershed restoration** (including culvert replacements and retrofits, trees and shrubs along streams, alternative stream bank restorations)



All of our MWR offerings are tied to our recognition that ***Water is Life***, and ***Water Connects Us***. We are committed to the health of the White River watershed

and its communities, and we always have an eye to watershed protection and restoration. If you have any questions, are interested in learning more about MWR program opportunities, or would like to know more about our Lending Library, please contact Dan 'rudi' Ruddell at rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org.

Snapshot of MWR's Watershed Education Network (participants since 2012)

<u>MWR Schools</u>	<u>MWR Schools (cont'd)</u>
Albert Bridge School* Barnard Academy Bethel Elementary School Blue Mountain Union School* Braintree Elementary School Brookfield Village School Brookhaven Learning Center (Chelsea) Chelsea Public School Dothan Brook School (Hartford) East Valley Academy (East Randolph) First Branch-Chelsea First Branch-Tunbridge Hartford Memorial Middle School Hartford Area Career and Technical Center Killington Elementary School Marion Cross School (Norwich) Mid-Vermont Christian School (Quechee) The Newton School (Strafford) Newbury Elementary School* Ottauquechee School (Hartford) Oxbow High School* Prosper Valley School (South Pomfret) Randolph Elementary School Randolph Union Middle/High School Randolph Technical Career Center Rochester School Samuel Morey Elementary* Sharon Elementary School South Royalton Elementary School State Street School* Stockbridge Central School The Sharon Academy Thetford Academy* Thetford Elementary School* Tunbridge Central School Vermont Technical College Vermont State University-Randolph Waits River Valley School*	White River Valley High School (South Royalton) White River Valley Middle School (Bethel) White River School (Hartford) Williamstown Middle/High School Woodstock Elementary School Woodstock Union High School *Trout in the Classroom participants via Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited partnership <u>Supporting Organizations & Agencies</u> Canaday Family Charitable Trust Clear Water Carbon Fund Couch Family Foundation Ecotone Education (Verdana Ventures LLC) Four Winds Nature Institute Friends of the Winooski Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited Green Mountain National Forest Hope Foundation (Hypertherm) Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation Lamson-Howell Foundation Lake Sunapee Bank (Bar Harbor Bank & Trust) Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District Regeneration Corps Upper Valley Linkages for Environmental Literacy Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Vermont Center for Ecostudies Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation Vermont Water Quality Division Wellborn Ecology Fund Vermont Energy Education Program Vermont Institute of Science White River Natural Resources Conservation District
Questions about MWR? Dan 'rudi' Ruddell WRP Watershed Scientist rudi@whiteriverpartnership.org	Visit the White River Partnership's website for: White River watershed information and maps, links to Water Quality Reports and other resources, and more: www.whiteriverpartnership.org .