

Promoting a fishable, swimmable Hoosic River!



Reflections on Gratitude

As I look back over this year, I feel so thankful for the many gifts HoorWA has received—monetary contributions to be sure—from our members and major donors, and business sponsors, and grants. And I am thankful for businesses, organizations, and coalitions HoorWA collaborates with to ensure a happy Hoosic River Watershed. I am especially grateful to our two delightful summer interns Zee Taylor and Jakob Revett, each with their unique gifts. Together they attended to bacteria and nitrate monitoring, obtaining data to help assess our River’s health, helped us with RiverFest, and installed a memorial bench. Additionally, Zee used her artistic skills to produce a riverbank flora booklet, a river coloring sheet, and a watershed scavenger hunt. She also explored the Watershed, taking photos and sharing her trips on social media. Jakob created monitoring maps to highlight the various monitoring activities we do.

It is clear that there is tremendous love for this Watershed we call home or favorite fishing spot or place of work.

Cheers,
Arianna

SAVE THE DATE!

**State of the River & Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 7:00pm**

**Fall Appeal slipped away? No worries.
You can make a year end gift today!**

**From \$25 to \$225 to \$2025 to any other amount—
all donations are welcome to support HoorWA’s
work in looking after the River! Ways to give:**

- ⇒ **Donate online at HoorWA.org**
- ⇒ **Mail: PO Box 667, Williamstown, MA 01267**
- ⇒ **QR code**

**Thank you for your generosity!
Your kindness ripples
throughout the Watershed!**



What the River is teaching us

- That our aging infrastructure impacts water quality.
- That trash that ends in the River affects aquatic life
- That rising summer water temperatures stress our native Brook Trout

But the River is resilient!

The River shows us where it wants to flow: eroding banks, creating islands, expanding and contracting through the storms.

And we can take action.

- Fixing aging sewer systems.
- Picking up trash.
- Planting trees along the riverbanks.



Here's what we can report on thus far from this season:



E.coli

Escherichia coli may be just one pollutant in our waterways, but by knowing its presence we can determine that other human-caused pollutants are also in the River. Even though Geese may cause a temporary issue, it is our aging infrastructure that allows for fecal matter and whatever else we flush down the pipes to enter the River. High bacteria counts are a hindrance to our swimming pleasure but that is not the only issue. When pollutants are flushed into the River, our cleaning products and medicines have an adverse effect on riverine

species, including our beloved Brookies, damaging their gills. Look for non-toxic products for a healthier you and River.

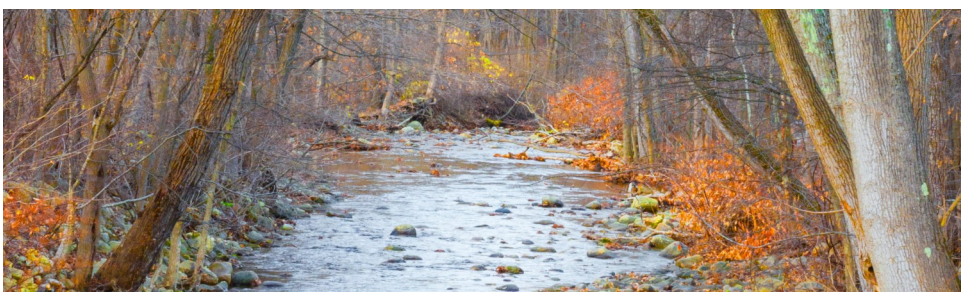
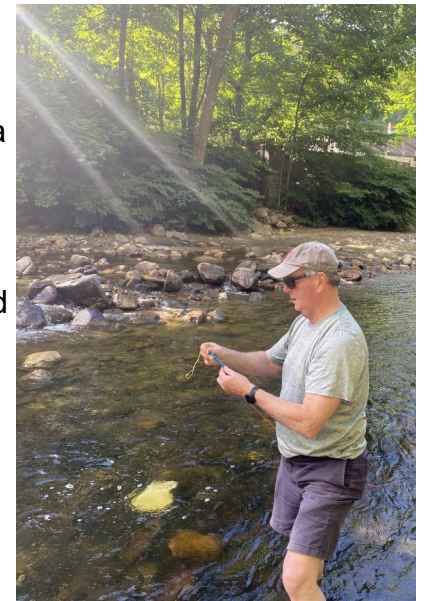
This year we added 5 sites in the North Adams flood control chutes to inspect where the trouble spots may be. In the data results we noticed that two different times HRMS300, a site just below the flood chutes, spiked. And FCRS2800, along River Street near the green gas chutes, also spiked. Rainfall was moderate within each 72 hour period. However, this was not a pattern. And though heavy rains can flush pollutants into the River, this is not what was taking place. Next season we will study these 5 sites again to see where the effluence is entering the River. We will also be adding sites in Adams because the Lime Street site spiked at odd intervals as well. MA DEP has our data and will be including it in their next report.

Temperature

The Hoosic River Watershed Association has been collecting stream temperature data in the Hoosic River Watershed since 1999, with the objective of better understanding the conditions that make the Hoosic a cold-water fishery. We monitor stream temperature to assess how cold the water stays in the face of warming trends.

Generally, tributaries contribute cooler waters to the next higher order river segment they connect to. This summer several tributaries reached above 68 degrees, a marker for stressing native Brook Trout among other fish. As we watched water temperatures rise we put out alerts on social media to please not fish so as to not stress them more and give them a fighting chance.

If you live along a streambank, consider what you can do to help keep that stream cool: plant native trees to a) stabilize the riverbank against erosion and b) shade both the bank and the stream to create a cooling effect.



*We are here for the River
as the River is here for us.*



HoorWA is a citizens group dedicated to looking after the River.
Become an effective steward.

**Consider Serving:
On Our Board**

We are looking for community members passionate about our Watershed and who want to help grow and diversify our board.

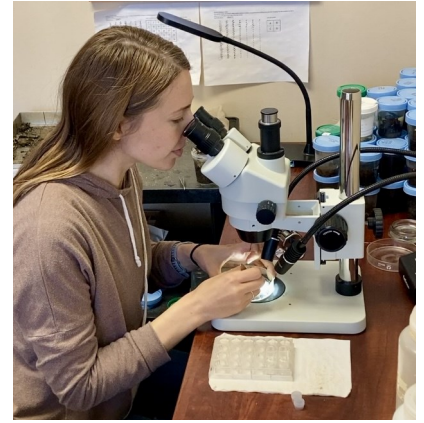
On a Committee

Development & Membership: Contribute to friend and fundraising efforts

Activities: Help us create and implement more public programming, including tabling at events

Water Quality Monitoring: Help by sharing your expertise and/or water sampling

Contact HoorWA to explore these and other opportunities at office@hoorwa.org



Watch for our annual River Health Report Card, this year produced by our new benthic macroinvertebrate contractor Cole Ecological, based in Greenfield, MA.

**Many thanks to Jean Noel
for her service
on the HoorWA Board!**



Many thanks to our volunteers from Trout Unlimited Taconic Chapter & Hoosic River Revival and to our interns from MA College of Liberal Arts & Williams College who help us immensely with monitoring!



**Many thanks to our business sponsors
and grantors!**

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HooRWA is dedicated to the conservation, habitat restoration and enjoyment of the Hoosic River and its watershed, through education, research, and advocacy.

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HOOSIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HooRWA

