



Wild & Scenic Designation

Over 78 miles of the Westfield River's headwater tributaries and three major branches are designated as a National Wild & Scenic River. A "Wild & Scenic" river must have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, historical or cultural features.

The federal designation encourages residents and visitors to be stewards of the River by promoting and protecting it. Communities in the watershed are given additional resources for its preservation.

From top left to bottom right: Annual Wildwater Races in Huntington; Mottled leaves of the American trout-lily resemble the markings on trout; Fall colors in Chester; Fresh snow on the Middle Branch; Spotted salamander in the upland floodplain; Red fox on the forest's edge; Stone staircase along trail constructed to base of Glendale Falls in Middlefield.

Thanks to the designation, the River remains free-flowing and is protected from potentially harmful projects, such as dams. The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee was formed locally to manage the River and maintain the health of the entire watershed for nearby and downstream communities.



WWW.WILDSCENICWESTFIELDRIVER.ORG

the WESTFIELD RIVER

**A LOCAL GEM AND
A NATIONAL TREASURE**

The Westfield River is a rare find. Pristine and picturesque, the River is home to abundant wildlife and is a haven for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

JUST HOW RARE! Sections of the Westfield River have been named a National Wild & Scenic River – an honor bestowed on less than 1% of all the rivers in the country. To make this list, a river has to be "outstandingly remarkable" – just like ours.

Winding down from the Berkshire Hills in Western Massachusetts, the River weaves through historic villages, fertile farm fields, stunning wilderness, and impressive waterfalls and gorges.

The River runs through both public and private land. In public areas, visitors are welcome to swim, canoe, kayak, fish and explore the watershed. Both visitors and landowners are asked to help preserve and protect our local gem.



THE WILD & SCENIC Westfield River Committee

We are local community members and river stewards working to keep our river clean and sparkling. As caretakers for the river and its fish and wildlife, we promote respectful enjoyment of this watershed. We partner with our municipal officials, conservation organizations and federal and state agencies to benefit the watershed and local communities.

What We Do

We educate the public, towns and others about the watershed and its resources.

We lead volunteer cleanup and monitoring projects.

We help protect and restore historic sites.

We research stream and wildlife health to target stewardship activities along the river.

We provide technical assistance and grants to the watershed communities for river protection.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Committee is to preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities and outstanding natural resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities.

WILD & SCENIC WESTFIELD RIVER

**DISCOVER OUR
NATIONAL TREASURE**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Becket • Chester • Chesterfield
Cummington • Huntington • Middlefield • Savoy
Washington • Windsor • Worthington

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Westfield River Watershed Association
The Trustees of Reservations
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
National Park Service



**WILD & SCENIC
WESTFIELD RIVER
COMMITTEE**

PO Box 393, Huntington, MA 01050
www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org



**WILD & SCENIC
WESTFIELD RIVER
COMMITTEE**

What You Can Do

ENJOY THE WATERSHED while you help protect it. Here are numerous ways to get your hands dirty, your feet wet and your heart full.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- **Become a Stream Team Volunteer** and survey your section of the river each year
- **Learn about the river** through our riverside educational programs
- **Join us for workdays**, including river cleanups and trail maintenance
- **Attend meetings** to keep up-to-date, or talk to your town's representative about issues such as riverside erosion, ways to improve wildlife habitat, or other concerns
- **Support our programs** for schools and young people
- **Enjoy** fishing, walking, picnicking, biking, photographing or dipping your toes in the water

NEED ANOTHER REASON TO VISIT? HERE ARE

10

THE WESTFIELD RIVER HAS

1. **ONE OF THE BEST** cold water fisheries in the Commonwealth
2. **ONE OF THE FINEST** whitewater canoeing and kayaking areas in the Northeastern U.S.
3. **THE GRAND AND HISTORIC** Keystone Arch Bridges, circa 1840s
4. **GLENDALE FALLS**, one of the highest waterfalls in the Commonwealth
5. **HISTORIC RIVERSIDE** villages and remains of colonial-era bridges
6. **UNIQUE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES**, such as the Windsor Jams and the Chester-field Gorge
7. **SCENIC PICNIC LOCATIONS** and places to wade into the river along the East Branch Trail
8. **ONE OF THE LARGEST** roadless wilderness areas remaining in Massachusetts
9. **CRITICAL HABITAT** for fish, waterfowl, turtles, dragonflies, black bear, otter, and other creatures, including many rare species
10. **CLEAN, HIGH QUALITY WATER** for wildlife and a source of public drinking water

TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT US AT:
volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org or 413.579.3015

