



## Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council

Our rivers grant us many benefits if only we use these resources in balance with their nature.

### The 4 Rivers:

**Ware** – flows southwest from the west slope of Mt Wachusett, through Barre & Ware to meet 2 other tributaries in 3 Rivers/Palmer.

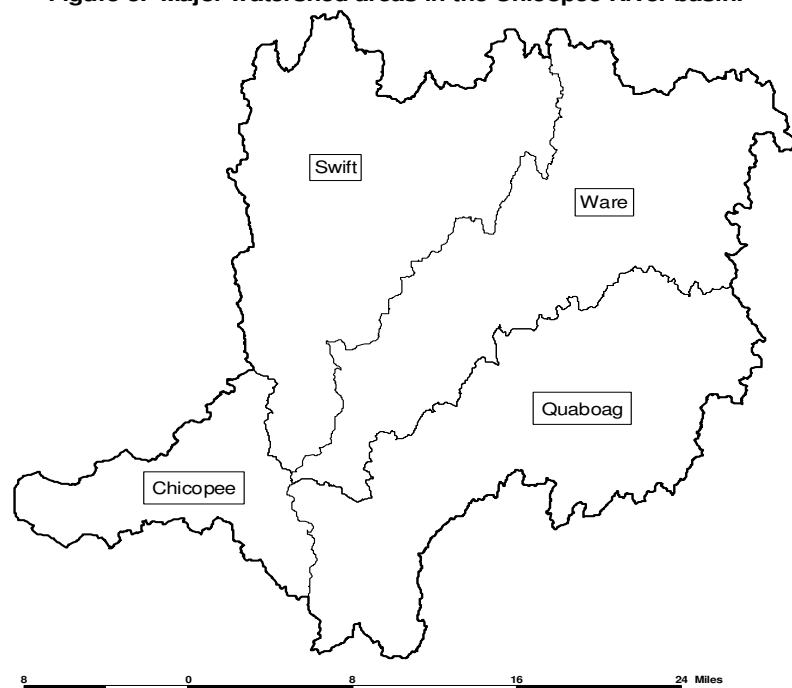
**Quaboag** – flows from Spencer, through the Brookfields to meet the Ware in 3 Rivers.

**Swift** – Impounded to form the Quabbin Reservoir, its lower section flows free to meet the Ware in 3 Rivers.

**Chicopee** – formed by the first 3 rivers, the Chicopee flows 17 miles west through Ludlow & Wilbraham, Springfield to enter the Connecticut River in the City of Chicopee.

### 4 Rivers = 1 River system...

Figure 5. Major watershed areas in the Chicopee River basin.

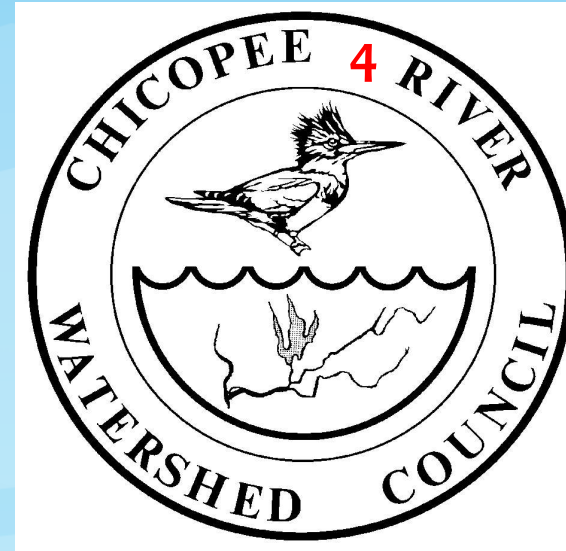


Want to help?

# C4RWC

Contact: [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com)

# A New Beginning



## Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council

Ware, Quaboag, Swift, Chicopee

[www.chicopeewatershed.org](http://www.chicopeewatershed.org)

# Reviving the Council

The Chicopee River Watershed is the largest in the state of Massachusetts and the entire Connecticut River watershed, yet it has no active council serving its resource protection and community needs.

In 2014, a small group began to explore the opportunity to revive the old council and begin activities.

2015 will mark the beginning of this new effort. C4RWC has identified a number of activities to engage local residents around the watershed. Ultimately the goal will also be to formally organize to regularly engage in river friendly projects, education and outreach.

# The Rivers Flow Not Past But Through Us...

John Muir



# Join the Effort!

[chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com)

The first projects will be:

1. Blue Trails
2. Monitoring
3. Clean ups
4. Organizing

**Monitoring:** C4RWC recognizes that monitoring water quality is important to inform the public on the health of the rivers in the basin. We plan to monitor bacteria in recreation areas, stream temperatures for aquatic life health, and general water chemistry changes. We hope to also perform additional ecological health monitoring such as benthic life surveys. Volunteers can perform monitoring, we could also partner with local schools and community groups.

**Clean ups:** These are the first phase of restoration. C4RWC will organize clean ups at boating access points and other locations as needed.

**Organizing:** Ultimately C4RWC will need a strong organization to sustain the effort to provide stewardship for the rivers of the Chicopee 4-Rivers region. Forming a non-profit is the best means of doing this.

**Blue Trails:** like hiking trails, Blue Trails offer people an opportunity to explore. A water trail offers paddlers healthy recreation and the chance to come to know a river. C4RWC would like to improve river access and create Blue Trails on all the main rivers in the watershed and form trail teams to care for them.



Figure 20. Cities and Towns in the Chicopee River Basin.

