

Reviving the Council

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

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

C4RWC has identified a number of efforts to engage local residents around the watershed. Ultimately the goal will be to regularly engage in river friendly projects, education and outreach.

C4R

Care 4 Rivers

*With its top-heavy physique, energetic flight, and piercing rattle, the **Belted Kingfisher** seems to have an air of self-importance as it patrols up and down rivers and shorelines. It nests in burrows along earthen banks and feeds almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish and crayfish with its heavy, straight bill. These ragged-crested birds are a powdery blue-gray; males have one blue band across the white breast, while females have a blue and a chestnut band.*

The 4 Rivers

Ware – flows southwest from the west slope of Mt Wachusett, then through Barre & Ware to meet the 2 other tributaries in Three Rivers.

Quaboag – flows from Spencer, through the Brookfields and Warren to meet the Ware in the Three Rivers section of Palmer.

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

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

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A River's Voice



**Ware, Quaboag,
Swift, Chicopee**

www.chicopeewatershed.org

4 Rivers – 1 river system...



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Join the Effort!

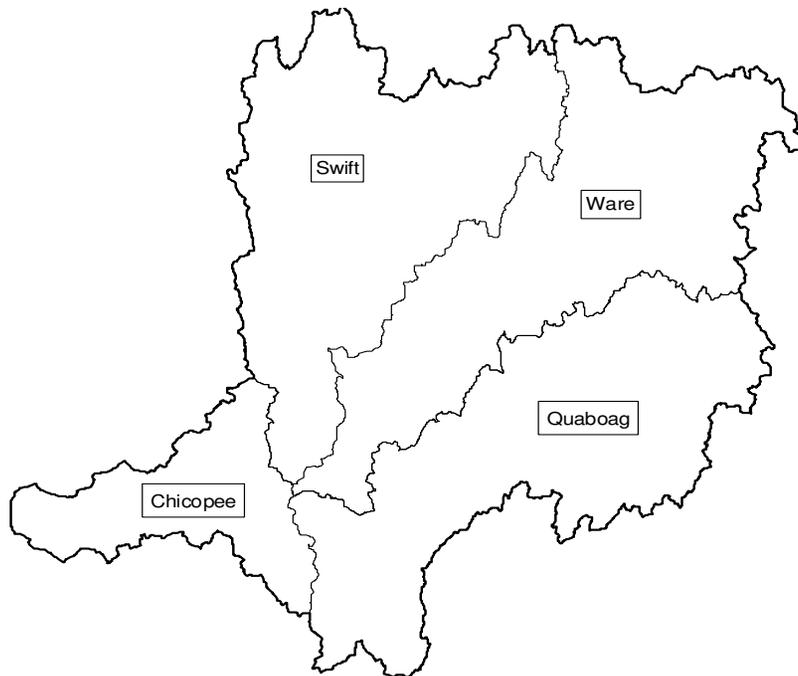
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C4R first projects will be:

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

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 is working to improve river access and create Blue Trails on all the main rivers in the watershed and form trail teams to care for them.

www.chicopeewatershed.org



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 will also perform additional ecological health monitoring such as benthic life surveys. As volunteers can perform monitoring, we will 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. We will also clean up invasive plant areas through partnerships.

Organizing: Ultimately C4RWC will need a strong organization to sustain the long term effort to provide stewardship for the rivers of the Chicopee 4-Rivers region. C4R will seek the best means and partnerships to maintain this.

Education: As we reach out, C4R will offer educational resources to communities and schools to help build river awareness.