

Monitoring the White River

A Brief Sketch

What is it?

Monitoring the White River (MWR) is a new initiative, begun in May 2010, to foster place-based education and service learning in nine towns within the White River watershed (Barnard, Bethel, Chelsea, Hartford, Randolph, Royalton, Sharon, Tunbridge, and Washington). These watershed towns were chosen because they are within the service area of our funder, the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Our aim during this first year is to develop the capacity to deliver watershed education to K-12 teachers and students while laying the foundation for a comprehensive, ongoing program.

Components of MWR Pilot Program

- ◆ **Teachers' Forum** (June 12th, 2010, 10 am to 3 pm, VINS Nature Center, Quechee, VT): A gathering of teachers interested in networking and professional development.
- ◆ **Evaluation Framework:** A system to guide program design and implementation.
- ◆ **Teacher Workshops** (summer-fall 2010): Two-day training events, each focused on a MWR project (see below).
- ◆ **2010-2011 MWR Projects:**
 - ☆ Rusty Crayfish (tracking the spread of an aquatic invasive species)
 - ☆ Benthic Macroinvertebrates (gauging water quality and river health using biological indicators)
 - ☆ Riparian Trees (monitoring the health of trees planted along streambanks)
- ◆ **WRP Lending Library:** Equipment and publications that are available, free of charge, to participating teachers
- ◆ **Watershed Education Specialist:** To support classroom teaching and river fieldwork.

Who are the sponsors?

MWR is a collaboration of the following organizations:

- ∞ *The White River Partnership* (WRP), a nonprofit grassroots organization that brings together people and communities to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed.
- ∞ *Verdana Ventures LLC*, a consulting company that creates sustainable development strategies and educational opportunities for a new generation.
- ∞ *The Vermont Institute of Natural Science* (VINS), a nonprofit organization that motivates individuals and communities to care for the environment through education, research, and avian wildlife rehabilitation.
- ∞ *PEER Associates*, an evaluation company specializing in place-based education.

How can you learn more?

Please contact us!

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