



Rivers 101

Rivers are the places where we work, rest, and play – the key to the health of our communities. But today, many of our waterways are threatened. Everyone has a favorite river, whether it's the one you grew up on or the one where you spent your summers, learned how to canoe or taught your children to fish. We each have a connection to rivers – be it a small, hometown stream, or a large, iconic river – and American Rivers works to protect rivers every day.

American Rivers is the leading national organization fighting to protect and restore the nation's rivers by undoing the damage of the past and creating a healthy future for our rivers and future generations. We preserve and promote rivers as valuable community assets that are vital to health, safety, and quality of life – particularly recreation. American Rivers has spearheaded national campaigns and on-the-ground work to help rivers and communities thrive.

How Rivers Touch Every American's Life

- Almost every American lives within 1 mile of a river or stream.
- The United States has more than 250,000 rivers, equaling 3.5 million miles of rivers.
- More than 65 percent of Americans get their drinking water from rivers.
- More people (30 million) go fishing each year than to go Disney World (16 million), the world's top vacation destination.
- Healthy rivers provide quality drinking water, reliable water supply, healthy wildlife habitats, and safe places for children to play.

How You Can Get Involved

- Visit our web site (www.AmericanRivers.org) and sign up for our e-activist network to get involved (www.AmericanRivers.org/Take-Action).
- Become a Fan of American Rivers on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/AmericanRivers) or follow us on Twitter (www.Twitter.com/AmericanRivers).
- Organize or volunteer at a local river cleanup through National River Cleanup® (www.AmericanRivers.org/Cleanup).

National River Cleanup was launched in 1991 to help keep our nation's rivers clean and trash-free. The program has grown every year and more than 1,045,000 volunteers have participated in thousands of cleanups across the country, covering more than 205,500 miles of waterways. These cleanups have removed more than 13 million pounds of litter and debris from America's rivers and streams. In 2011, we registered over 370 cleanups, making it the most successful year yet!