

2021 was a year of tremendous growth for MyRWA and our projects. All of these programs and this great progress would not be possible without YOU! Thank you for your continued support of our organization. Here are some of our highlights from the past year:

PEOPLE

We added four new staff and two new board members in 2021, expanding our capacity for new projects and partnerships.

New Board Members



Julie Ing Stern



Erga Pierrette



MyRWA Staff



Rendering courtesy of MassDOT

GREENWAYS

2021 brought the commitment of Governor Baker to building a new pedestrian/bike bridge across the Mystic.

A critical missing link in MyRWA's Greenways vision, this bridge will provide access to riverfront destinations, create a regional connection from north shore communities to Boston, and increased accessibility to the MBTA Orange Line.

Despite many swings of extreme weather this summer, we were able to host 32 stewardship volunteer events to help protect and restore the Mystic.



2,477
Baskets of Water Chestnut

120
Lawn bags of Bittersweet

396
Bags of Trash

1,358
Volunteer Hours



One of our favorite volunteer programs, monitoring the river herring migration often leads to great wildlife sightings, like this one of a Bald Eagle at the Mystic Lakes Dam.

STEWARDSHIP

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

We are committed to building climate resilience to protect the people and places in the watershed. A highlight of 2021 was our Wicked Hot Mystic campaign with the Museum of Science to identify watershed communities most at risk to extreme heat.

Through this campaign, 80 volunteer scientists went out during a heatwave in August to document air temperature and air quality data throughout the watershed. Results coming soon!



PC: Karen Ruiz Moreno

PC: Joseph Barr



EDUCATION

MyRWA's Watershed Educator, Marian Miller, conducted 52 virtual or in-person programs to link real on-the-ground science and our local restoration projects with what the students are learning in school, engaging:

1,203

Students

102

Teachers

10

Communities

WATER QUALITY

A historic moment, July 2021 marked the first time the Mystic River, Charles River, and Neponset River Watershed Associations reported their Water Quality Grades together. MyRWA is honored to have led the way for this grading system and to be aligned with CRWA, NepRWA, and the U.S. EPA in the movement for clean water in our Boston area rivers.

See more encouraging stories from the watershed via our interactive presentation at: <https://bit.ly/MyRWA2021> or visit www.MysticRiver.org

