



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund

May 26, 2016

Tracie Sales, Rivers Coordinator
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: Designation of the Warner River to the State Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Ms. Sales,

I am writing in support of the Warner River becoming a "designated river" per RSA 483. This section flows from the confluence of the West Branch Warner River and Hoyt Brook in Bradford downstream to its confluence with the Contoocook River. This water body provides habitat for a variety of species and its tributaries are home to native brook trout. The river corridor is home to a number of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. Significant areas of high quality habitat can also be found along the Warner River, as defined in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan.

In addition to natural habitat, the Warner River provided residents of the communities of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton recreational opportunities and has been a focal point within these communities for centuries. There are a number of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places including three covered bridges. There is still historical evidence of once thriving mill communities in the river and on its banks.

The establishment of a Local River Management Advisory Committee would be hugely beneficial to the preservation of the Warner River's many valuable resources and services. Induction of the Warner River into the New Hampshire RMPP would also elevate the awareness of the river and would create an inter-municipal forum where local residents, business owners, and stakeholders can discuss and address river-related issues, balancing the needs of many who enjoy the countless uses of the Warner River.

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is pleased to support the designation of the Warner River into this important program.

Sincerely,

Julia Dunderf
Executive Director