

OTTER NEWS

January 2023

Concord River, Jan '23

Photo credit: Roger Beatty

News, events, and updates you Otter know from [OARS](#).



OARS 3 RIVERS

A strong, effective, and sustainable organization

Fond Farewells



Board, staff, volunteers, and special guests Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Kate Hogan celebrated retiring Board members and staff in September and wished them well on their future adventures! Senate and House Commendations were presented to all three.

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service

Julia Khorana
Director of Finance &
Development
(2005 to 2022)

Dick Lawrence
Board of Directors
(founding member to 2022)

Lisa Vernegaard
Board of Directors
(2013 to 2022)

Welcome Aboard

OARS is growing! We are delighted to welcome Heather Conkerton and Sarah Kwan to OARS.



Heather Conkerton
Ecological Restoration Coordinator

When Heather is not putting her skills and passion to work for the environment through OARS, she is either volunteering in the marine mammal department for the New England Aquarium or sharing her love of West Coast Swing with her students. [See Heather's full bio.](#)



Sarah Kwan
Director of Development & Community Engagement

Sarah is a lifelong environmental steward and lover of the outdoors and can regularly be seen hiking the SuAsCo trails or swimming in the local ponds and lakes (during the warmer months) with her family. [See Sarah's full bio.](#)

HEALTHY RIVERS

supporting wildlife and our communities

Gold is the New Green

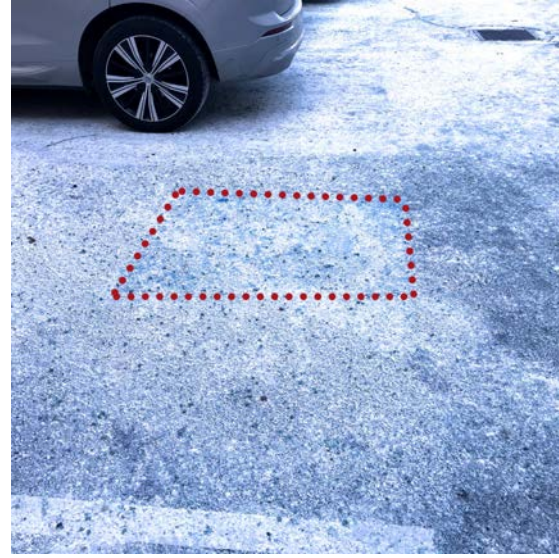
Water advocacy paid off! The summer of 2022 was one of the hottest and driest on record from Boston to western Massachusetts causing the SuAsCo watershed to have **critical drought status** conditions declared from June 1 to October 7. Yet, a long-standing loophole in regulations allowed many large suppliers and users to avoid conserving water, draining essential water from our beloved rivers and streams when they needed it most. **We're pleased to announce that MassDEP has revised the [Water Management Act Regulations](#)** to close this loophole, allowing water conservation conditions to be set for 63 public water suppliers and 87 golf courses during droughts. **Thank you to those who submitted comments supporting this important change!**

Quit Being so Salty

While salting roads makes winter travel in New England safer and easier, too much salt in rivers and streams is toxic to freshwater life. Road salt in runoff also enters the groundwater that feeds public and private wells. OARS is monitoring salt in our streams

and the first year of results indicate there's a problem.

[Read the study.](#)



Salted parking lot, Concord, MA, Jan 2023

Note the obscured accessibility symbol (outlined) due to heavy salt loading.

Photo credit: Alison Field-Juma

CARING COMMUNITY

that appreciates and protects our rivers through OARS



Thank you to all who contributed in 2022!

Supporters like you ensure that the **vital work** to protect, improve, and preserve the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers and their tributaries and watersheds through OARS can continue each year.

[Give Today](#)

[Join or Renew](#)

[Volunteer](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Concord Conservatory presents
Music & Water, Concert and
Lecture**

**March 3, 7:30 pm, West Concord Union
Church**

Guest speaker Alison Field-Juma, Executive
Director of OARS
[Event Details](#)



OARS: For the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers | 23 Bradford Street, Concord, MA 01742

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