



CELEBRATE 50 YEARS of Clean Water Progress!

SAVE THE DATE

Afternoon of Thursday, September 29

Simard-Payne Park, on the banks of the Androscoggin River, Lewiston, ME

50 years ago, the Androscoggin River was a stark example of the need for change: heavily polluted, unsafe for recreation, and deadly to fish and wildlife. Today, it is a model for the progress we can make and will continue to make in restoring and protecting our waters thanks to all those who have helped implement the Clean Water Act, which turns 50 this October!

Please join us for a celebration of the Act and Maine's success in transforming our rivers, lakes, and beaches. From Maine's own Senator Edmund Muskie's role in the development and passage of the Clean Water Act, to the many dedicated citizens, advocates, and professionals protecting our water today. Maine's waters are part of our identity; they are where we go for family gatherings, recreation, and relaxation, and key to our status as a destination and continuing economic development.

The event will include remarks from leaders in water quality protection, recognition of Maine's Clean Water Champions, and a celebration with food and drinks.

If you are interested in helping plan the event, please contact **Zach Henderson, (207) 650-2576**. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact **Bruce Berger, (207) 623-9511**, Maine Water Utilities Association and Maine Water Environment Association.

For more information, visit <https://www.nrcm.org/programs/waters/cwa50/>.

EVENT PARTNERS



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A STORY OF REVITALIZATION

To understand just how necessary the Clean Water Act was, and how transformative it has been, you need only look at a project called DOCUMERICA, which ran from 1971 through 1977. For this project, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hired freelance photographers to capture images relating to environmental problems, including the plight of the Androscoggin River as an example. In June 1973 these images of the Androscoggin demonstrated the urgent need for action to protect our natural resources.



As EPA was photographing scenes of pollution, Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine was working to reshape the laws that governed how to deal with industrial and municipal waste discharges. He would become the leading figure in the development of the Clean Water Act, which revolutionized environmental protection laws in the United States.

It would take years of hard work by many, but the restoration of the Androscoggin and many other waters in Maine is an unmitigated success. Today, our waters are a hub of recreation and a symbol of the beauty of the State of Maine, and communities are turning back to the water for economic development. Protecting our water resources and the environment we treasure is an ongoing challenge, but we have come so far together.



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