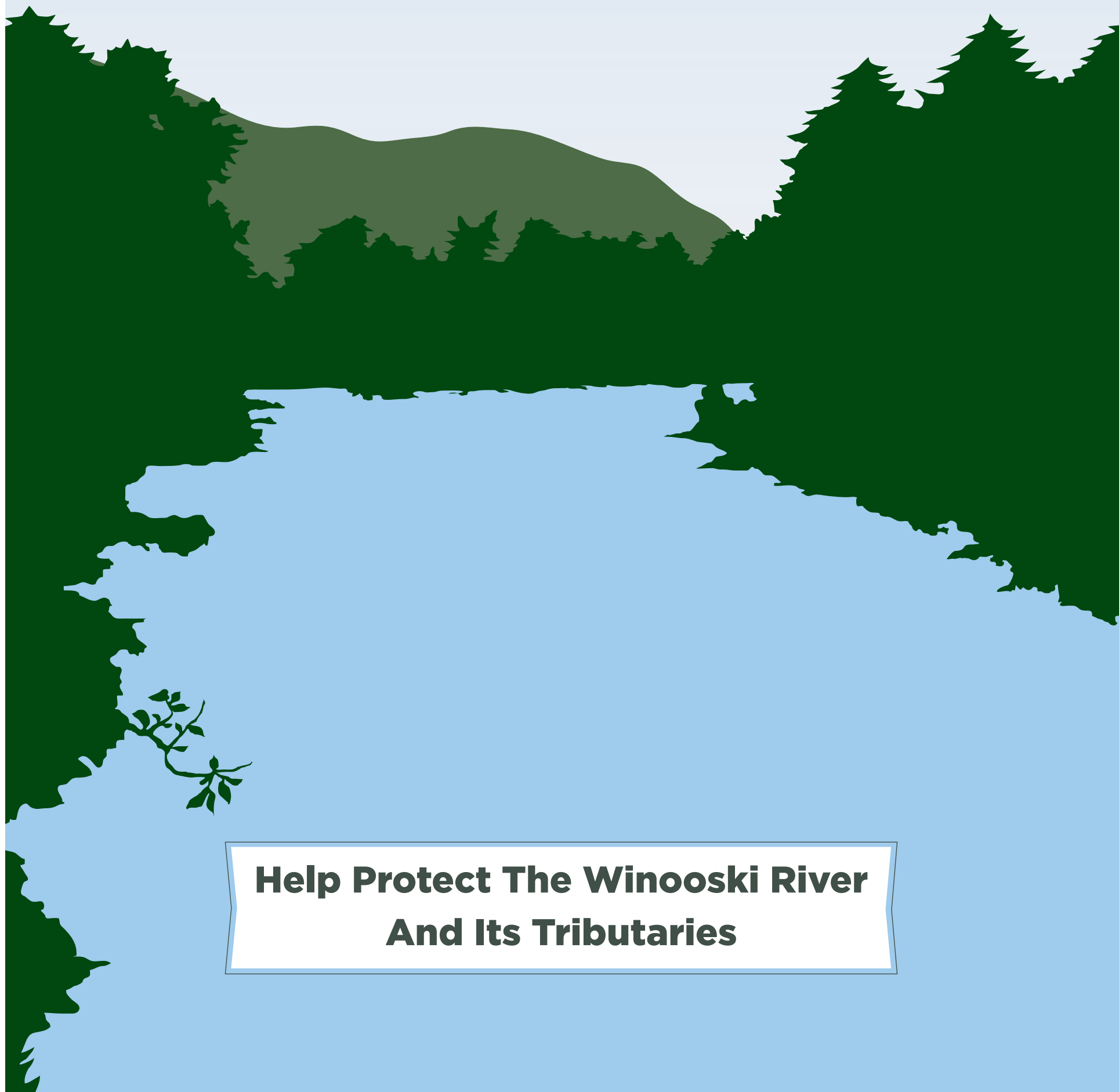


WINOOSKI WATERSHED

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE GUIDE



**Help Protect The Winooski River
And Its Tributaries**

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Wise on Weeds! (WOW!)

-  Municipal

Better Backroads

Friends of the Winooski River

Lake Champlain Sea Grant

Land Trusts

Rain Garden Project

River Management Program

- Vermont Low Impact Development Guide
- VT DEC Winooski River Watershed Coordinator

-  Stream / River

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River Management Program

Trout Unlimited

Vermont River Conservancy

VT DEC Winooski River Watershed Coordinator

-  Residential / Urban

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Wise on Weeds! (WOW!)

-  Wetland

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Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

APRIL, 2011

The goal of the Winooski River Landowner Assistance Guide is to assist Winooski watershed landowners in identifying resources that will help them protect the natural features of their properties. There is a wide range of local, state and federal resources available to help landowners. This guide profiles approximately 40 of those resources. However, this is not a comprehensive list and landowners are encouraged to look beyond this reference for additional organizations that may be useful to them. This guide was created as part of the Winooski Headwaters Community Project. The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) and the Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) facilitated its creation. FWR and WNRCD want to keep this resource as up to date as possible. Please contact these organizations with feedback, corrections and additions.

If you would like to support efforts to protect the Winooski watershed, please support either FWR or WNRCD. Check their websites for how to donate.



Winooski Headwaters Community Project

The Winooski Headwaters Community Project is a locally-led effort to restore and protect the upper portion of the Winooski watershed. Its work is directed by the Conservation Commissions of Cabot, Marshfield, and Plainfield. The Friends of the Winooski River and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District provide facilitation and staff support. Other partners include local and state government, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens. The partners have emphasized education, cooperation, and community involvement in all their projects.



Friends of the Winooski River

Friends of the Winooski River is a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Winooski River and its tributaries. The organization works on a wide variety of projects including riparian and habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, improving river access and general public education. The Friends works with landowners to help preserve and restore the river corridor running through their property. For more information call 802-882-8276 or email: info@winooskiriver.org or visit www.winooskiriver.org



Winooski Natural Resources
Conservation District

Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) is a nonprofit organization which services the Winooski River Watershed, Browns River, and portions of Lake Champlain's sub-watersheds. The mission is to ensure the wise use, protection, and enhancement of natural resources in the watershed. To accomplish this, WNRCD works with local, state, and federal partners to complete high priority conservation projects and deliver quality educational programming. To learn more about their current projects and programs, contact 802 865-7895 x 104 or 802-828-4493 x 113 or visit: www.vacd.org/winooski.

STEPS TO USING THE GUIDE

1. Find your resource type by icon:



Agriculture/Pasture/Grassland



Forest



Municipal



Stream / River



Residential/Urban



Riparian/Shore



Wetland

2. Check for the types of assistance available:

Easement, Education, Financial, Habitat Restoration, Labor, Publication, Tax Reduction, Technical

3. Contact the resources that best fit your situation.

MUNICIPALITIES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THEIR CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS,
MAY ALSO BE A RESOURCE FOR LANDOWNERS

LISTINGS A-Z

Accepted Agricultural Practice (AAP)

Technical



DESCRIPTION

Offers farmers free technical assistance to help meet base-level farm management (AAP) regulations. Addresses manure and nutrient management, runoff potential, floodway determinations, stream bank stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, and soil erosion potential. Works with farmers to develop farm-specific strategies, and provides referrals to cost-share programs if appropriate.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml
802-828-4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All farm operators regardless of farm size, from 100 cow dairy farm to five acre vegetable farms to a hobby farm with 4 horses in the back yard. The same standard applies to all and all are required to follow AAPs.

Access to floodplain

Between 2002 and 2009, studies of more than 1300 stream miles revealed that nearly three-quarters of Vermont streams had lost connection with their historic floodplains during the typical annual flood.

A stream's lack of access to its floodplain creates an unstable condition where the stream has lost its "release valve" or ability to dissipate energy out of the stream channel and onto the surrounding flat landscape.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides cost-share to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations. Can also assist production diversification, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA

Washington County & Three Towns in Orange County
802-828-4493 x101

For Chittenden County
802-865-7895 x 202

For Lamoille County
802-888-4935 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

People who are engaged in agricultural production on eligible land, see www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA or contact program official for extensive land eligibility details.

Backyard Conservation

Habitat Restoration / Publication



DESCRIPTION

Conservation practices from agriculture adapted for the backyard setting to help improve the environment and help wildlife. Topics include: Backyard Ponds and Wetlands; Composting; Mulching; Nutrient and Pest Management; Terracing; Tree Planting; Water Conservation; Wildlife Habitat.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Available free online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/ or free in print by calling 1-888-LANDCARE, emailing landcare@usda.gov, or at landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Best Management Practices

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides financial assistance on NRCS approved best management practices for production areas. Provides cost-share assistance as funds are available when coupled with Federal NRCS programs. Also see Farm Agronomic Practices for additional assistance.

CONTACT

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/BMPApplication.pdf
802-828-3474

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Must have nutrient management plan or equivalent and seek federal assistance funds as well.





Photo by Charles Fish

Better Backroads

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides financial and technical assistance to effectively maintain back roads to reduce erosion and prevent road gravel and sediment washing downhill and impacting waterways. 75% cost-share grants for projects, \$7000 maximum, technical assistance is free. Grants are available for road erosion inventory and planning (Category A) or construction of erosion control projects (Category B). Driveway maintenance guide for homeowners on website.

CONTACT

Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development Council
www.nvtrcd.org/better-backroads.html
802-828-4595
backroadstech@yahoo.com

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Any lake, watershed, or homeowners association or Vermont municipality can apply for grants or receive on-site technical assistance.

Conservation Commissions

Education



DESCRIPTION

Conservation Commissions are charged with cataloging the natural resources of their municipalities and advising other commissions such as planning and zoning as to impacts on the natural environment. In some communities they have funds and volunteer resources to help with restoration and protection projects.

CONTACT

Not all towns have Conservation Commissions. To see if your town has one call the Town Clerk's office or visit your town's website to obtain contact information for your community's Conservation Commission.

<http://www.vlct.org/vermontlocalgovernment/vermontlocalgovernmentassociationdirectory/>

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Landowners

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Voluntary land retirement program that helps eligible owners of agricultural land to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands. Enrolled land is taken out of production for the 15 or 30-year contract period and typically planted to a filter strip and/or a riparian buffer. Cost-share/contract payments.

CONTACT

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/CREPwebsite/Home/Home.htm
USDA Farm Service Agency
802-865-7895 x 102 for Washington, Chittenden counties & Three Towns In Orange County

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Landowners must have owned or operated their land for 12 months prior to enrollment and must have a water quality concern that can be ameliorated through changes in agricultural activities. The main resource concern is a prominent stream or river adjoining fields with issues such as concentrated nutrient and pollutant runoff, and significant sediment losses due to over-land flow. CREP does not cover small channels on cropland caused by rain and erosion, wetlands, man-made ponds, and entire fields.

Vegetation in the Winooski Watershed

There is a wide variety of natural communities in the Winooski Watershed. Elevation, soils, topography and geology are all factors in determining which species are dominant in a given area. The trees and shrubs along the river help protect the land from erosion. Especially important during floods, these plant species hold on to the soil, helping to prevent the banks from washing away. Bank and riparian vegetation also provides habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, shades and cools the streams and filters pollutants that are running overland.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides assistance to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forests and wetlands resources. Encourages conversion of highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Provides annual rental payments for the term of the multi-year contract and cost sharing to establish vegetative cover and other practices.

CONTACT

Farm Service Agency
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/
USDA Farm Service Agency
802-865-7895 x 102 for Washington, Chittenden, & Three Towns in Orange County

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Similar to CREP program.
Contact program official for extensive requirements.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides contract payments to reward producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management and help producers maintain those practices.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/
802-951-6796 x 223

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Speak to NRCS contacts to obtain information.



Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Helps plan and implement natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues. Provides guidance to cost-share programs.

CONTACT

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CTA/
Contact your local field office for more information.

Washington County & Three Towns in Orange County
802-828-4493 x 101

For Chittenden County
802-865-7895 x 202

For Lamoille County
802-888-4935 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

When it's available, all landowners are eligible for technical assistance.

Flood Waters

During storm events, low-lying structures may be damaged by rising flood waters. However, most flood damage in Vermont is caused by erosion, which undermines structures.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural or forest land. Incentive payments provided for eligible conservation practices. Increased incentive payments available for eligible limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers. The focus of this program is to address existing resource concerns.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/

For Washington County and 3 Towns in Orange County
802-828-4493 x101

For Chittenden County
802-865-7895 x 202

For Lamoille County
802-888-4935 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

People who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production including forestry on eligible land, or owners of such land.



Photo by Charles Flsh

Farm Agronomic Practices Program (FAP)

Financial



DESCRIPTION

Provides financial assistance for the implementation of soil-based practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion. Eligible practices include cover cropping, strip cropping, conservation crop rotation, and cross-slope tillage. These practices are often needed when implementing a nutrient management plan (NMP).

CONTACT

Agency of Agriculture
<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/awq/FAP.html>
802-828-2431

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Practices eligible for assistance include: Nutrient Management Plan Maintenance/ Update; Cover Cropping ; Strip Cropping; Conservation Crop Rotation; Cross-Slope Tillage; Conservation Tillage; Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing.

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)

Easement



DESCRIPTION

Helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture by providing matching funds to purchase development rights (easement acquisition). Provides up to 50% of the fair market easement value.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/FRPP/Index.html
802-951-6796 x 223

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Private farmland must: be part of a pending offer from a state, tribe, or local farmland protection program; have a conservation plan for highly erodible land; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to relevant markets; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

Farm*A*Syst

Education / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Offers free and confidential drinking water protection program for farms and their neighbors. Includes voluntary assessments to determine how current operations may pose risks to on-farm drinking water. Free water testing for farm wells and, if needed, assistance determining causes of contamination and best solutions. Any suggested actions are linked with technical resources for design and implementation and financial resources for cost-share opportunities.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml
802.828.4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All farms.

Farm Service Agency

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Equitably serves all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.

CONTACT

www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/
USDA Farm Service Agency
802-865-7895 x 102

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners.

Forest Bird Initiative

Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Promotes the conservation of breeding habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds that breed in forest habitats by conducting individual landowner habitat assessments in selected areas of Vermont, community outreach and educational programs. Provides property specific reports and maps with recommendations to landowners.

CONTACT

Audubon Vermont
<http://vt.audubon.org/conservationNews.html>
802-434-3068
vermont@audubon.org

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Participants must have primarily forested land in areas identified as priority forest bird habitat. Contact Audubon Vermont to determine locations. Programs are free in most cases.

Forest Stewardship Program

Technical



DESCRIPTION

Voluntary, long-range conservation planning assistance tailored to landowner goals and the capacity of the land. County forester provides free site visit and help developing a Stewardship Plan. Plan costs can be cost-shared thru EQIP and Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Programs.

CONTACT

Vermont Division of Forestry
www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_steward.cfm
Contact Local County Forester
www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Landowners interested in keeping their forest land healthy and productive. Forestland can be any non-industrial forest privately owned by an individual, association, corporation, tribe or other private entity.

Friends of the Mad River

Education / Habitat Restoration / Labor / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Technical assistance, volunteer labor and guidance to locating resources for project design and implementation relating to protection of the Mad River.

CONTACT

friends@madriver.com
<http://www.friendsofthemadriver.org>

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners.

Friends of the Winooski River

Education / Habitat Restoration / Labor / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Technical assistance, volunteer labor and guidance to locating resources for project design and implementation relating to protection of the Winooski River and tributaries; potentially financial assistance.

CONTACT

www.winooskiriver.org/
802-882-8276
info@winooskiriver.org

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All landowners.



Photo by Charles Flsh

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Easements / Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Helps landowners restore, enhance, and protect grassland, including pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands, from conversion to cropland and other uses; provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs/forbs under threat of conversion. Cost share, easement, and rental payments available.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/
802-951-6796 x 248

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Privately owned land; eligible agricultural land currently used for hay or pasture or other grassland or shrubland. Contact program official for extensive land eligibility details or visit the website listed above.

How Precipitation Causes Soil Erosion

Many land uses expose soil to precipitation. The erosion that occurs increases the amount of sediment delivered to a stream. This changes the pattern of water and disrupts the stream's natural equilibrium.

If a disturbance, whether natural or man-made, is large enough, there can be impacts on the watershed that go beyond the initially affected area. It may take years, decades, or even centuries for a stream to reach a new equilibrium.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant

Education / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Water Quality Coordinator provides assistance to towns and other groups to improve water quality practices in urban, suburban, and rural settings, including practices on private lands and technical workshops on topics linking landuse, water quality, and Low Impact Development. Water Quality Educator provides assistance to municipalities, schools, watershed associations, businesses, and other institutions through technical workshops, consultations, demonstrations, presentations, and written literature to improve watershed planning practices in developed and developing areas.

CONTACT

University of Vermont Extension
www.uvm.edu/~seagrants/extension/default.html
802-859-3086 x 305

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Serves town and planning entities, garden clubs, volunteer municipal boards and commissions, and watershed organizations.

Land Treatment Planning (LTP)

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Free development of a Land Treatment Plan (LTP) assessing a farm's soil and water resources and current land management practices. A LTP compiles the core data needed to develop a USDA NRCS 590 Standard Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) -required for many farms- and provides recommendations for continued resource stewardship and for compliance with State and Federal regulations. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_landtreatment.shtml
802-828-4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All farmers, regardless of farm size. NMPs are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier.



Land Trusts

Education / Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Various land trusts provide technical assistance and education to landowners about land conservation. Each one conserves working farmland and forestland as well as sites of particular importance to communities (e.g. town forests) by using conservation easements and other legal restrictions. Easements limit development and subdivision of a property but are designed to allow for agriculture or forestry and, in some cases, recreation.

CONTACT

Many towns have land trusts. To locate a local land trust do a search for town name plus land trust. Alternatively contact the Vermont Land Trust that works with landowners across the state.
<http://www.vlt.org>

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Local land trusts can inform landowners of eligibility requirements.



Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Easements / Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Protects and restores habitats on private lands to benefit rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals and significant natural communities. Provides free technical assistance to landowners with such species or communities and provides funding for restoration and conservation easements for qualified land.

CONTACT

Agency of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Department
www.vtfishandwildlife.com/lip_intro.cfm
802-479-4405

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Lands must provide habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species and significant natural communities. Easements require a 25% cost match.

Landowner Information Series

Education / Publication



DESCRIPTION

Publication series on topics relating to land conservation, easements, and riparian conservation.

CONTACT

Vermont Land Trust
<http://www.vlt.org/land-protection/conservation-options>
802-223-5234

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Education / Publication



DESCRIPTION

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals for productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

CONTACT

www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov
For Washington County & Three Towns in Orange County
802-828-4493 x 101

For Chittenden County
802-865-7895 x 202

For Lamoille County
802-888-4935 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All landowners.

Northern Woodlands

Education / Publication



DESCRIPTION

Northern Woodlands Magazine The Outside Story (Book) -forestry subjects, natural history, and ecology of New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Place You Call Home –“owner’s manual” for landowners providing information on taking care of their land and getting the most out of it.

CONTACT

www.northernwoodlands.org/
802-439-6292

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters. Subscription to Northern Woodlands magazine, \$21.50/yr for four issues.

Nutrient Management Plan Incentive Grants Program (NMPIG)

Financial / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides payment for developing a nutrient management plan (NMP) and three additional years of updating the plan.

CONTACT

Agency of Agriculture
<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/awq/NMPIG.html>
802-828-3474

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Land must be actively farmed. Plans must meet state requirements for nutrient management, as explained in detail in the General Permit for Medium Farm Operations, before receiving payment.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Program seeks to achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species, including migratory birds; threatened and endangered species; inter-jurisdictional fish; certain marine mammals; and species of international concern. Program provides assistance to landowners to restore wildlife habitat and fish passage, often in drained wetlands and degraded stream banks. Also assists with invasive species control.

CONTACT

US Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/partners/
802-872-0629 x 20

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible; most applicants are agricultural producers.

Rain Garden Project

Publication / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Technical assistance and information on designing and installing rain gardens to manage storm runoff and improve water quality.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
vacd.org/winooski/winooski_raingarden.shtml
802-828-4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters. See webpage for information, manuals, etc.

River Management Program

Development / Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

The River Management Program seeks to resolve conflicts between human investment and river dynamics while maintaining the ecological functions and economic values of Vermont's river systems. Program objectives include: fluvial erosion hazard mitigation, sediment and nutrient load reduction, and aquatic and riparian habitat protection and restoration. The program supports and implements channel assessment and management practices that recognize a stream's natural stable tendencies. It also provides regulatory review and technical assistance for protection, management, and restoration projects that affect streams and rivers. The River Management Program will work with municipalities to develop and implement fluvial erosion hazard zones to project infrastructure and human life.

CONTACT

Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers/htm/rv_restoration.htm
802-241-3774

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Landowners with property adjacent to a river or stream.



Shoreline Stabilization Handbook

Publication



DESCRIPTION

Provides information about Lake Champlain and shoreline erosion, including causes of erosion, specific shoreline stabilization options, how to plan stabilization activities and obtain required permits, and a list of additional resources.

CONTACT

Northwest Regional Planning Commission/UVM Sea Grant
<http://www.nrpcvt.com/Reports/ShorelineHandbook.pdf>
802-524-5958
nrpc@nrpcvt.com

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Available free online. See website address above.

Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is unfiltered water that reaches streams and other water bodies by flowing across surfaces that cannot absorb water such as driveways, roads, sidewalks and roofs. It's best to capture the water for onsite infiltration via rain gardens, vegetative swales, rain barrels etc.

Small Scale/Small Field Conservation

Publication



DESCRIPTION

Solves natural resource problems on small fields or a small scale using simple conservation practices and concepts. Topics include erosion prevention, grazing land and nutrient management, streambank stabilization, and the fundamentals of conservation planning.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service: www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/
or find it for free here: <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
1-888-LANDCARE

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Available free online at the website above or by calling the number above.

Trout Unlimited

Financial / Habitat Restoration / Labor / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Members will work with landowners on restoration projects relating to rivers and water resources; contributions may include labor, funds and materials.

CONTACT

www.vermonttu.org/

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All landowners.

Use Value Appraisal ("Current Use")

Tax reduction



DESCRIPTION

Enables landowners who practice long-term forest management to have enrolled land appraised for property taxes based on its value for forestry, rather than its fair market value. Land must be actively managed, though new rules expand coverage of ecologically significant areas not subject to harvest or other management.

CONTACT

Vermont Division of Forestry
www.vtfor.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm
Contact Local County Forester
www.vtfor.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Landowners with at least 25 acres must develop and follow a management plan that includes some active management (e.g. forest habitat).

UVM-Extension

Technical



DESCRIPTION

Technical and education assistance, research and pilot projects for home/garden, agriculture, and forestry. Soil testing service. Promotes practices that are research-based and environmentally sound.

CONTACT

www.uvm.edu/~uvmext/programs/default.php
866-622-2990 (toll free in VT)

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonterers.

Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program (VABP)

Financial



DESCRIPTION

The program promotes water quality by providing incentive payments to plant a 25 foot wide harvestable (unlike CREP) perennial filter strip on annual cropland adjacent to a stream. Pays \$90-150/acre per year plus \$123/acre establishment costs. Five-year minimum contract required. No manure allowed on buffer, but fertilizer can be used with soil test and nutrient recommendation. Harvest between June 1st and September first only. Most buffers are 25 feet wide unless a water quality concern deems the need for a larger buffer. The participant can leave this program at any time to enroll the same land in another certified buffer program that the land is deemed eligible for, such as CREP.

CONTACT

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/awq/AWQ.html
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-vabp.htm>
802-828-1289

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Willingness to commit to five-year minimum contract and meet contract terms for planting a harvestable perennial filter strip adjacent to a stream. Some fertilizer restrictions apply.





Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife

Education / Publication



DESCRIPTION

Produces and sponsors an intensive seminar on forest and wildlife management and shorter programs on specific forest and/or wildlife management topics. Provides information/ newsletters about pending legislation and topics of current interest relating to forest and wildlife management.

CONTACT

www.vtcoverts.org/
802-388-3880
info@vtcoverts.org

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters.

Vermont Low Impact Development Guide

Publication



DESCRIPTION

Provides guidance for residential and small commercial sites regarding low impact development (LID), best management practices (BMPs) for structures, and managing stormwater runoff at its source. These practices infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff to minimize environmental impact and pollution. The practices in this guide are intended to be applied to residential and small commercial sites. Because LID BMPs use a variety of techniques for controlling runoff, designs can be customized to site needs and constraints.

CONTACT

VT DEC - Water Quality Division
Green Infrastructure Coordinator
103 South Main Street, Building 10 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408
802-241-3777
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/planning/htm/pl_green_infrastructure.htm

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

The LID Guide is for residential and small site development and appropriate for use by homeowners, small scale contractors/builders and municipalities seeking information on low impact development best practices.

Vermont River Conservancy

Easement / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Preserves undeveloped land along rivers, lakes, and wetlands to protect public access, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and ecological integrity. Primarily devoted to riparian easement acquisition including agricultural lands; also provides conservation planning and site management assistance.

CONTACT

www.vermontriverconservancy.org/
802-229-0820
vrc@vermontriverconservancy.org

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Landowners with property adjacent to or including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, including agricultural lands.

VT DEC Winooski River Watershed Coordinator

Technical



DESCRIPTION

Technical assistance for water quality related project design/development, implementation assistance. Can help develop partnerships, locate funding sources.

CONTACT

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_winooskibasin.htm
802-879-2339

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All landowners.



Photo by Andrew Nemethy

Wildlife in the Winooski Watershed

In the water or on the surrounding land, the Winooski River provides rich habitats for many wildlife species. Near the river itself, birds often seen include great blue herons, ring-billed and herring gulls, and goldfinches. Sandpipers probe the shallow waters for food and bank and barn swallows catch insects. Kingfishers may also frequently be seen diving into the river after fish. American osprey nest in the snags of large mature trees and may be seen plunging feet first for fish. Floodplains and wetlands abound with waterfowl. Canada geese, mallards, pintails, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, hooded mergansers, ring-billed gulls and buffleheads use the wetlands during migrations, and some species make the wetlands their year-round home.

Mammals, amphibians and reptiles also call the Winooski watershed home. Deer are found throughout the watershed. Moose have been sighted in several tributaries and the bobcat, which avoids people, inhabits the upland areas. If you paddle down the river, you will probably spot frogs, snakes, turtles and toads. Species such as muskrats, beavers, water shrews and otters, all of whom depend on the river for their food, are also frequently seen. Raccoons, foxes, skunks, fishers and coyotes use the river as a source of water. Along with the mammals already mentioned, there are field mice, gray squirrels, chipmunks, mink and weasels.

Many of the streams within the Winooski River watershed contain habitat that supports naturally reproducing, i.e. wild, trout populations. The cool, shaded mountain streams provide homes for wild brook trout, Vermont's only native stream trout.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Easements / Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Protects, restores, and enhances wetlands; enrolled lands are mostly high-risk agricultural lands located in flood prone areas. Offers an opportunity to establish long-term land and wildlife conservation through easements and cost-shared restoration.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/
 802-951-6796 x 238

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife habitat. Includes farmed and grazed wetlands, degraded forested wetlands, riparian lands and land adjacent to wetlands.



Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Financial / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Provides financial and technical assistance on practices used to restore and/or manage upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat. Cost-share amount depends on practices to be implemented. Up to ten-year contracts. Examples include: early successional management; mast tree and apple tree release; fish passage; riparian forest buffers; invasive plant management; fencing to protect sensitive areas.

CONTACT

Natural Resource Conservation Service, www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/

For Washington County & Three Towns in Orange County
802-828-4493 x 101

For Chittenden County, 802-865-7895 x 202

For Lamoille County, 802-888-4935 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Privately owned, non-industrial lands, including agricultural and forestland, that are not already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands

Publication



DESCRIPTION

A Landowner's Guide: Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands by Ronald J. Regan and Ginger Anderson, publication coordinators. Each creature receives an entire chapter that focuses on its natural history, habitat requirements and management practices or projects.

CONTACT

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, 802-241-3700

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

Booklet available free through VT Fish & Wildlife
Department, Waterbury, 802-241-3700.

Winooski Crop Management Services

Technical



DESCRIPTION

Offers a self-sustaining crop management service employing a certified crop consultant. Services include field scouting; soil, nitrate, and manure testing; nutrient recommendations; and record-keeping. The program's goal is to provide a holistic approach to on-farm nutrient management while reflecting positive improvements in water quality.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml
802-828-4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All farms.



Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Education / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) services the Winooski River Watershed, Browns River, and portions of Lake Champlain's sub-watersheds. The mission is to ensure the wise use, protection, and enhancement of natural resources in the watershed. To accomplish this, WNRCD works with local, state, and federal partners to complete high priority conservation projects and deliver quality educational programming.

CONTACT

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml
802-828-4493 x 113

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters. Programs are free. Many ways to get involved.

Wise on Weeds! (WOW!)

Education / Habitat Restoration / Technical



DESCRIPTION

Prevents the spread of invasive nonnative land plants through public outreach and assistance to landowners and businesses; includes site visits, advice on control methods and funding sources for landowners, and installing demonstration projects at public buildings and businesses.

CONTACT

The Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org/vermont/weeds
802-229-4425 x 120

ELIGIBILITY/ AVAILABILITY

All Vermonters. Programs are free. Many ways to get involved.

River is the largest tributary watershed to Lake Champlain. The river and tributaries from the headwaters to Montpelier are mostly narrow and steep with heavily timbered valleys. Below Montpelier, the river has a relatively consistent gradient with fertile open land well suited for cultivation except for a few steep gorges.

Little River, North Branch and Kingsbury Branch enter from the north and the Huntington River, Mad River, Dog River and Stevens Branch enter from the south.

Little River begins in Morristown, flows through Stowe and enters the Winooski River in Waterbury.

North Branch begins in Elmore and flows through Worcester, Middlesex, and East Montpelier and enters the Winooski River in Montpelier.

Kingsbury Branch begins in Woodbury, flows through Calais, and enters the Winooski River in East Montpelier.

Huntington River begins in Fayston, flows through Buel's Gore, Starksboro, Huntington, and enters the Winooski River in Richmond.

Mad River begins in Granville, flows through Warren and Waitsfield and enters the Winooski River in Moretown.

Dog River begins in Roxbury, flows through Northfield, and enters the Winooski River in Berlin.

Stevens Branch begins in Williamstown, flows through Barre, and enters the Winooski River in Berlin. The Jail Branch begins in the town of Washington, flows through the town of Orange and enters the Stevens Branch in Barre.

Lower Winooski tributaries tend to be smaller and include such streams as Mill Brook in Jericho; Muddy Brook which flows from Shelburne Pond to enter the Winooski River in Williston; Allen Brook which flows through Williston; and Alder Brook which flows from Westford through Essex to the Winooski River.