

For Immediate Release
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Indian Brook Gets a Helping Hand

Essex Junction, VT - As September was drawing to a close, the Essex community joined together along Indian Brook to participate in Vermont's River Cleanup Month, in partnership with the Chittenden County Stream Team and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District.

A natural resource class from the Center for Technology, Essex were joined by community members Sarah Weiss and Daniel Stein on September 28th to clean up Indian Brook in front of Essex High School. The students "dove" right into their work, getting completely soaked and muddy in an effort to remove large items from the stream bed. In addition to over a dozen bags of trash, the group pulled out truck tires, yoga balls, traffic cones, and even a couple of bicycles!

As the team walked the stream's banks to find debris, we discussed the importance of taking care of the watersheds that we live and work in. Large corridors of forested land along streams help filter out pollutants, reduce bank erosion, and minimize infrastructure damage during floods; which is why it is so important to protect the integrity of these fragile habitats.

After carrying out a riparian buffer planting project here in the spring, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District recognized the need for a stream cleanup and work was handed off to the Chittenden County Stream Team to coordinate the effort. An enormous thanks to American Rivers for sending CCST clean-up materials, the Essex Department of Public Works for generously picking up and disposing of the trash, educator Brian Japp for partnering to coordinate this effort, and to the Vermont legislature for recognizing the importance of stream clean-ups by declaring September as Vermont's River Cleanup month!

The Chittenden County Stream Team is managed by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and run by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. For more information about programs the Chittenden County Stream Team or Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District offer, please email Holly at holly@winooskinrcd.org, or visit ccstreamteam.org or winooskinrcd.org.