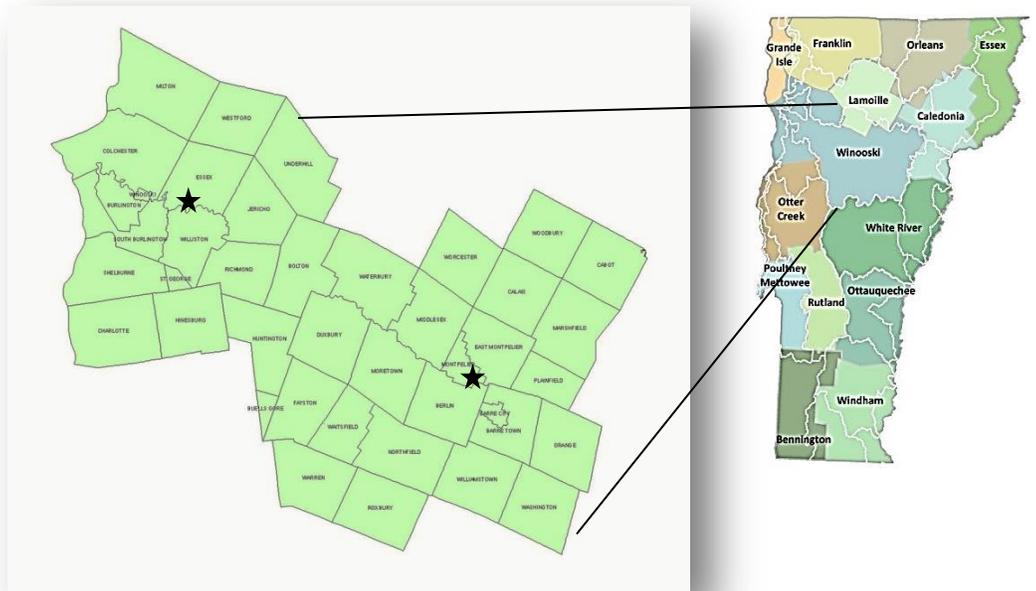


The **Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)** is one of 14 Conservation Districts established in the 1940s throughout Vermont.

**WNRCD** undertakes a leadership role in conservation, development and wise use of the natural resources in the state of Vermont, by catalyzing joint efforts of organizations, government agencies, schools, and private sector groups.



The WNRCD encompasses 44 towns and cities covering all of Chittenden and Washington Counties, and 3 towns in Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The District encompasses more than 5 different drainage basins with 198+ miles of river systems, including; The Winooski River Watershed, The LaPlatte River Watershed, and parts of the Lake Champlain, Lamoille and White River Watersheds. The WNRCD partners with many organizations and groups, mobilizing community support and involvement to protect all natural resources within the District and beyond.



WNRCD's mission is to ensure the wise use, protection, and enhancement of Vermont's natural resources through the use of local initiatives, education, and partnerships; to foster public awareness and appreciation for the value and need for natural resource conservation; and to advance the understanding that we are all stewards of the living earth. WNRCD focuses its work in four core areas: agriculture, forestry, watershed stewardship, and urban conservation. The WNRCD is governed by a 5 member Board of Supervisors composed of local landowners.

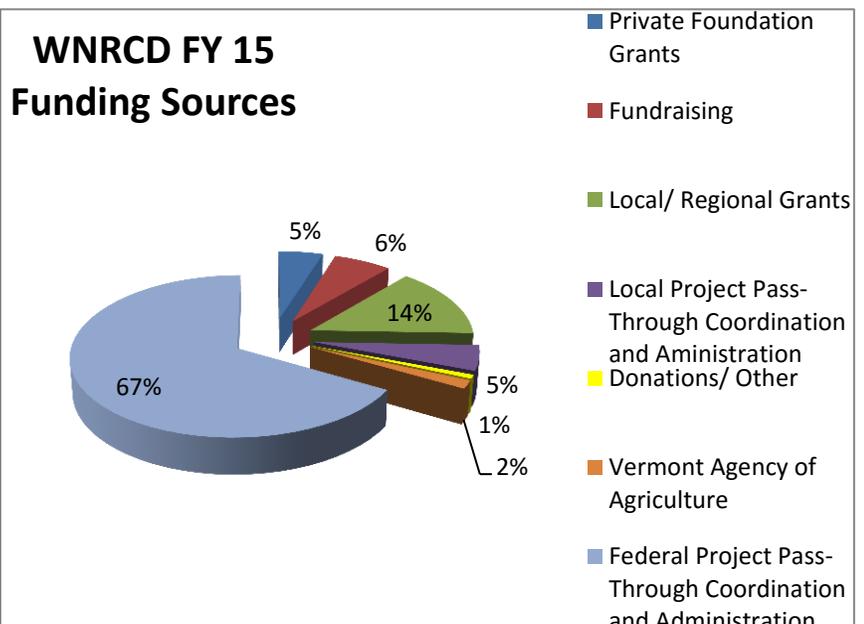
### Revenue Sources for Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District: Fiscal Year 2015

In fiscal year 2015 (July 2014-June 30, 2015), the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) received \$8,870 in base funding from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture through allocations and reimbursements. The WNRCD managed an additional \$501,945.40 in funding from public and private sources to implement vital conservation programs throughout the District.

**FOR EVERY \$1 OF BASE FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE WNRCD LEVERAGED AN ADDITIONAL \$56**

WNRCD raises funds throughout the year to support ongoing conservation programs, public education and targeted workshops to communities. The largest fundraising activity each year is our Annual Tree & Plant Sale, which provides important unallocated funds for on-going projects and staff time to apply for grant funding in addition to the base funding received from the State through the Agency of Agriculture and to the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC).

The majority of project pass-through funds are allocated to projects that WNRCD helps to identify and coordinate. District staff works throughout the year to actively search and apply for available grants to fund specific projects that fulfil WNRCD conservation goals.



The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District strives to meet the needs of the communities it serves with limited resources. The District's work is strengthened by the multiple partnerships developed with a wide range of organizations. WNRCD partners with federal, state and local agencies and with non-profit organizations and watershed groups to meet shared conservation and education goals. Because most of our programs are funded by one-time grants, programs are targeted and rely on public demand, community involvement, urgency, and especially, funding availability.



### WNRCD Areas of Focus

**Agriculture:** We are committed to providing agricultural producers with the technical, financial, and educational resources they need to be exceptional stewards of the Vermont landscape. In FY 15 the WNRCD constructed 15 compost bins for horse farmers, conservation tillage practices were implemented on 15+ acres, educated farmers on Best Management Practices and the new Clean Water Regulations proposed RAP's and conducted soil and manure sampling on 6 farms to assist those farmers with their Nutrient Management Plan.

**Forestry:** We are a strong advocate of sustainable forestry practices and work to ensure that Vermont's forest land resources retain their economic, social, and ecological benefits. In FY 15 the WNRCD educated foresters on Best Management Practices and loaned out 3 skidder bridges.

**Urban Conservation:** We work hand in hand with local partners to promote appropriate stormwater management practices, providing technical, financial and educational resources. In FY 15 the WNRCD inventoried 64 plots of urban trees, implemented stormwater projects at both the Colchester School and Rumney Memorial School, conducted stormwater outreach to students and residents and managed the Chittenden County Stream Team (CCST), catalyzing stream cleanups, restoration projects and water quality monitoring.

**Watershed Stewardship:** We constantly seek to improve and protect Vermont's network of rivers and streams so that everyone may enjoy the myriad benefits that these water resources provide. In FY 15 the WNRCD planted 2,500+ trees across 6.35 acres along sensitive riparian areas, and in partnership with other organizations, replaced three failing culverts to allow for adequate aquatic organism passage.

### FY 15 Project Highlights

Reconnected 3 miles of important native brook trout habitat waters within Crossett Brook. If the culvert had not been replaced, significant down-stream scour could have occurred. It was expected that the culvert would washout again causing an estimated 700 cubic yards of material to be washed into the stream.



Installed fifteen compost bins capable of storing a total of 2,656 cubic feet of manure and bedding material! When horse manure is not managed properly it can leach nutrients and pathogens to surface and groundwater.



Installed over 5,189 linear feet of river shoreline with native vegetation. The planted riparian will help improve water quality and protect surface waters by reducing the impacts of stressors on streams including channel erosion, invasive species, land erosion, nutrient and sediment loading. The sites that have been planted will also be more resilient to future flooding when mature.