

For Immediate Release

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**Contact: District Manager Corrina Parnapy or Stormwater Specialist Holly Kreiner
Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)**

(802) 288-8155 Ext 104

holly@winooskinrcd.org or corrina@winooskinrcd.org

WNRCD seeking participants for 2017 Trees for Stream Initiative

Williston VT- The Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District (WNRCD) is currently seeking landowners within the District who live along rivers or streams and are interested in installing riparian buffers on their property during the 2017 growing season.

Riparian buffers are the grasses, shrubs, and/or trees that grow along streams. In natural conditions these plants colonize streambanks, controlling erosion and helping to filter and clean stormwater runoff before it enters our waterways. Without this protection, streambanks become unstable, erode, and become a greater source of non-point source pollution.

According to the Lake Champlain Basin Program's most recent *State of the Lake* report, the erosion of streambanks accounts for roughly 20% of VT's total phosphorus load into the Lake. Stream bank erosion is of particular concern in the Winooski watershed where so many live and work adjacent to our rivers.

If you own property along a stream or river and would be interested in having a riparian buffer planted on your property, contact WNRCD's Stormwater Specialist, Holly Kreiner at holly@winooskinrcd.org to set up a site visit. Landowners who participate in the program will be required to contribute a small portion of the planting cost and commit to a long-term stewardship of the buffers once planted.

For more information on participating in our Trees for Streams initiative or for more information on conservation programs and resources provided visit www.winooskinrcd.org. The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is one of 14 conservation districts throughout Vermont. It encompasses all of Chittenden and Washington County as well as parts of Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The district relies on grants and individual donations to complete its conservation work. The WNRCD focuses its resources on completing conservation projects within the areas of agricultural assistance, forestland enhancement, urban conservation and watershed stewardship.