



Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Winooski NRCD
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Guardians of Vermont's Natural Resources

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD), one of 14 conservation districts in Vermont, has a proud and long legacy leading conservation efforts within the state, stretching back to the ecological disaster of the 1930s.

Encompassing all of Chittenden and Washington County and the towns of Orange, Williamstown and Washington. The WNRCD is directed by a community-elected Board of Supervisors who provide general oversight and direction, and hire experienced staff members to carry out programs and administrative daily activities. The mission of the WNRCD is threefold:

- 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 protection.
- To advance the understanding that we are all stewards of the living earth.

The WNRCD targets conservation work "watershed-wide," enabling a collective management approach that more effectively mitigates the overall impact on the bodies of water within the district, including the Winooski River and Lake Champlain.

WNRCD's work is strengthened by multiple partnerships with concerned citizens, federal, state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations and watershed groups who share conservation and education goals.

In its broadest sense, the District's work can be summed up by the following tasks. WNRCD:

- Works with local landowners and a cadre of agencies and organizations to set local priorities and identify natural resource concerns.
- Develops action plans and implements projects to solve identified issues.
- Continuously assesses the needs of its communities through public and partner involvement.
- Provides the public with practical natural resource information and technical resources.
- Educates the public on cleaner, healthier, and more productive ways to manage lands.

“Together we
can make a
difference.”



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The WNRCD focuses on projects within four core areas:

- **Agricultural Assistance:** WNRCD is strongly committed to providing agriculture producers with the technical, financial, and educational resources they need to be exceptional stewards of a healthy, working landscape.
- **Forestland Enhancement:** WNRCD is a strong advocate of sustainable forestry practices that protect watershed health and boost harvest productivity, and work to ensure that Vermont’s forested land resources retain their economic, social, and ecological benefits.
- **Urban Conservation:** WNRCD works closely with municipalities, partner groups, and home/business owners to promote appropriate stormwater management practices, providing technical, financial and educational resources to anyone interested in implementing Green Stormwater Infrastructure.
- **Watershed Stewardship:** WNRCD seeks to improve, protect, and restore Vermont’s network of rivers and streams so that everyone may enjoy the myriad of benefits that these water resources provide.

To date, WNRCD is responsible for restoring hundreds of acres of riparian buffer habitat, has replaced dozens of culverts and opened up several dozen more miles of habitat for trout passage; has protected several streams from sediment through our Skidder Bridge rental program, improved soil health and protected water quality through the aerator rental program, treated thousands of square feet of impervious surface through the installation of rain barrels, permeable pavement, and rain gardens, collected water quality data from several dozen stream sites, and engaged the public through outreach efforts, instilling a personal connection with the natural world.

With the ever changing landscape and discoveries of pressing natural resources concerns, the Districts programs are always growing and evolving. While programmatic focuses and mission remains the same, new initiatives are forming to address issues such as climate change, flood resilience, the impact of sodium chloride on streams, and the threat of new invasive species. Yesterday and today, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District provides access to conservation education, assistance, and technical expertise to the citizens who live within our district and beyond.

The WNRCD strives to meet the needs of the communities it serves with limited resources; relying on grants, donations, and fundraisers to carry out valuable conservation work.

Please consider supporting the WNRCD to protect, restore and enhance our natural resources.

