

WNRCD April 2025 Newsletter

Note from district manager



Warm greetings to Winooski NRCD residents and beyond! As we slowly come to the close of what has been the first "real" Vermont winter in a few years, we have been welcomed by an interesting spring to say the least. Yet, in the midst of uncertain futures for the current paradigms of both Federal funding and Federal conservation efforts, I remain optimistic and recall the founding histories of the Conservation Districts. Born out of the Dust Bowl and in the wake of New Deal legislation, the Conservation Districts always had a unique flavor. Unlike sweeping, centrally-managed Federal programs like

Social Security, the Conservation Districts were established to be intentionally decentralized and intentionally local. Instead of being written into Federal law, the Districts were written into the laws of each of the States. Instead of being managed by a Federal agency in Washington DC, each District was to be managed by a Board of locally elected citizens living in the service area of the District. Instead of being compulsory and regulatory in nature, the Districts were established to help landowners voluntarily manage and use their land in ways that would preserve that land for their descendants. Therefore, in this time of crisis for centralized institutions, I propose that we all embrace the local, intentional, and personally-responsible conservation paradigm that we see in our local Conservation Districts. Let us take responsibility for our own little bit of the world, however small, and use it in a way that leaves it better for our children.

In this newsletter you will find updates on some District activities for the coming summer, the start of field season, tree plantings, natural resource surveys, and the beginning of our farmer forum series. And yet there is so much more we will be up to this summer, water sampling, managing runoff in the Burlington Metro Area, private road improvements in Hinesburg, preparing for culvert replacements in Washington, preparing for dam removals in Williamstown, assembling a watershed action plan for Sabin Pond in Woodbury/Calais, making strategic wood additions in the North branch of the Winooski, taking countless soil and manure samples, and of course writing our next five-year strategic plan to plot out the course of the District for the foreseeable future. It will be a busy summer!

In closing, I would ask that, if you are inspired by the good things that the District is doing, that you consider supporting us in some way. We can accept tax-deductible [donations](#), and our annual [tree sale](#) is still accepting orders through May 3rd. You can also [sign up](#) to receive a stormwater property assessment or [volunteer](#) for District projects. You can attend our [Board Meetings](#) or tell your friends about the District and all the good work we are doing. Again, I thank you all for your interest in and support of the District, in whatever form that might take. A happy spring and summer to you all!



Get Your Trees, Shrubs & Berries for Spring!

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District's 42nd Annual Tree Sale is almost over. There are just two weeks left to order! This year's theme is "Fruit and Nut Trees and Shrubs," offering everything from highbush blueberries to white spruce. It's the perfect opportunity to enhance your yard with varieties that will thrive in Vermont's climate.

Order Deadline: May 3, 2025

Pick-up Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 9 am to noon

Pick-up Locations:

- 617 Comstock Rd, Berlin, VT
- 170 Boyer Circle, Williston, VT

Be sure to check out our brochure for more details on the benefits of each plant. You can place your order online at <https://winooskinrcd.org/treesale/>.

Proceeds from the sale support WNRCD's conservation efforts to protect and restore natural resources across our district. Don't miss out—order today and help support local conservation while adding beauty to your landscape!

Sign up for Storm Smart Today!



The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) is offering FREE Storm Smart visits to residents within our District! Learn more about how you can slow down, spread out, and sink in rainfall at home. Join dozens of neighbors who have already taken part by signing up for a FREE on-site assessment. Trained staff from the WNRCD will visit your home and help you trace the path water takes through your property. After the visit they will provide you with individualized recommendations to create Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) solutions.

Click here to sign up: [Storm Smart Sign Up](#)

You're Invited: Help The District Plan Agricultural Events



The District is looking to work with producers and landowners in Chittenden and Washington counties to provide education, programming, and technical assistance that meets the needs and wants of local communities.

Come and join other farmers in Northfield and Charlotte to help us shape future events. If you're a dairy farmer looking for workshops about manure injection, a vegetable farmer hoping for practical cover cropping advice, or a maple producer who wants to know more about river bank stabilization, we want to hear your input!

Join us for meetings to connect with your neighbors, meet the District staff, and help us be more helpful to you.

To learn more, email our Agricultural Specialists Phoebe@winooskinrcd.org or kara@winooskinrcd.org

Tree Planting This Week!



Last call to sign up for our Earth Day tree planting this Friday and coming Monday! This initiative helps landowners plant trees along waterways to improve water quality by trapping sediment and excess nutrients before they reach rivers and streams. These tree buffers also help reduce flooding, prevent erosion, cool down streams, and provide important habitat for wildlife.

This year, we'll be planting trees at **The Farm Upstream in Jericho** for a two-day Earth Day planting event on **April 18th and 21st**. We need your help to make this project a success! Volunteers are encouraged to wear waterproof shoes, long sleeves, work/garden gloves, and long pants for the planting event.

Interested in joining us? Please fill out the volunteer form here: [Volunteer Sign Up](#) and help us make a positive impact on our local waterways!

Winooski NRCD promotes the wise use, development, and conservation of our District's natural resources. We serve all of Chittenden and Washington Counties as well as the towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown. We connect district residents with the necessary education and technical assistance to implement on-the-ground projects for water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

Want to give back to the land that gives us so much? Donate to Winooski NRCD and support local conservation. Big or small, your gift goes a long way. [Donation Link](#)