

## Guide to Landowner Stewardship Assistance Resources

Program Name Organization Contact	Type	Assistance description	Assistance Type	Eligibility/Availability	Landscape Type	Resource Type
<b>Accepted Agricultural Practice (AAP) Assistance</b>  Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <a href="http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_re_sources_services.shtml">www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_re_sources_services.shtml</a> Susan Alexander 802.828.4493 x 113 <a href="mailto:susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net">susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net</a>	State	Offers farmers free technical assistance to help meet base-level farm management (AAP) regulations. Addresses manure and nutrient management, runoff potential, floodway determinations, streambank stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, and soil erosion potential. Works with farmers to develop farm-specific strategies, and provides referrals to cost-share programs if appropriate.	Technical assistance	All farm operators regardless of farm size, from 100 cow dairy farm to 5 acre vegetable farms to a hobby farm with 4 horses in the back yard. The same standard applies to all and all are required to follow AAPs.	Agriculture Riparian	Water quality Soil conservation
<b>Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/Index_2008.html">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/Index_2008.html</a> Ellen Sivret 802-828-4493 x101 <a href="mailto:Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov">Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov</a> Bruce Chapell 802-828-4493 x 104 <a href="mailto:Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov">Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov</a> Danny Peet 802-865-7895 x 202 <a href="mailto:Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov">Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Provides cost-share to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations. Can also assist production diversification, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.	Financial Technical assistance	People who are engaged in agricultural production on eligible land, see <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/Index_2008.html">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/Index_2008.html</a> or contact program official for extensive land eligibility details. 2008 priorities include irrigation, soil quality, and energy conservation practices (primarily tillage reduction).	Agriculture	Water quality Wildlife Soil conservation
<b>Backyard Conservation</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Contact your local field office for more information. <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt</a>	Federal	Conservation practices from agriculture adapted for the backyard setting to help improve the environment and help wildlife. Topics include: Backyard Ponds and Wetlands; Composting; Mulching; Nutrient and Pest Management; Terracing; Tree Planting; Water Conservation; Wildlife Habitat.	Publication	Available free online at <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/">www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/</a> or free in print by calling 1-888-LANDCARE, emailing <a href="mailto:landcare@usda.gov">landcare@usda.gov</a> , or at <a href="http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/">landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>	Residential	Wildlife Water quality Soil conservation
<b>Best Management Practices</b>  Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets <a href="http://www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/BMPApplication.pdf">www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/BMPApplication.pdf</a> Jeff Cook 802-828-3474 <a href="mailto:Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us">Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us</a>	State	Provides financial assistance on NRCS approved best management practices for production areas; up to 85% cost-share available to the farm when coupled with Federal NRCS programs.	Financial Technical assistance	Must have nutrient management plan or equivalent and seek federal assistance funds as well.	Agricultural Production areas	Water quality

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 c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
 PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
[fwr@sover.net](mailto:fwr@sover.net) 802-655-4878  
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<b>Better Backroads</b>  Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development Council <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&amp;d/bbcoverpage.html">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&amp;d/bbcoverpage.html</a> <a href="http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/broads.htm">www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/broads.htm</a> Linda Boudette 802-793-7816 <a href="mailto:backroadstech@yahoo.com">backroadstech@yahoo.com</a>	Federal State	Provides financial and technical assistance to effectively maintain backroads to reduce erosion and prevent road gravel and sediment washing downhill and impacting waterways. 75% cost-share grants for projects, \$7000 maximum, technical assistance is free. Grants are available for road erosion inventory and planning (Category A) or construction of erosion control projects (Category B). Driveway maintenance guide for homeowners on website.	Financial Technical assistance	Any lake, watershed, or homeowners association or Vermont municipality can apply for grants or receive on-site technical assistance.	Roadways Driveways	Water quality
<b>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</b>  Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets <a href="http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/CREPwebsite/Home/Home.htm">www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/CREPwebsite/Home/Home.htm</a> Ellen Sivret 802-828-4493 x101 <a href="mailto:Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov">Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov</a> Bruce Chapell 802-828-4493 x 104 <a href="mailto:Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov">Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov</a> Danny Peet 802-865-7895 x 202 <a href="mailto:Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov">Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal State	Voluntary land retirement program that helps eligible owners of agricultural land to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands. Enrolled land is taken out of production for the 15 or 30 year contract period and typically planted to a filter strip and/or a riparian buffer. Cost-share/contract payments.	Financial Technical assistance	Landowners must have owned or operated their land for 12 months prior to enrollment and must have a water quality concern that can be ameliorated through changes in agricultural activities. The main resource concern is a prominent stream or river adjoining your fields with issues such as concentrated nutrient and pollutant runoff, and significant sediment losses due to overland flow. CREP does not cover small channels on cropland caused by rains and erosion, wetlands, man-made ponds, and entire fields.	Agriculture	Soil conservation Water quality
<b>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</b>  Farm Service Agency <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/</a> Lawrence Parker (802) 865-7895 <a href="mailto:Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov">Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Provides assistance to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forests and wetlands resources. Encourages conversion of highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Provides annual rental payments for the term of the multi-year contract and cost sharing to establish vegetative cover and other practices.	Financial Technical assistance	Similar to CREP program. Contact program official for extensive requirements.	Agriculture	Soil conservation Water quality Wildlife
<b>Conservation Security Program (CSP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/</a> Heather Wetzstein 802-951-6796 x223 <a href="mailto:heather.wetzstein@vt.usda.gov">heather.wetzstein@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Provides contract payments to reward producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management and help producers maintain those practices.	Financial Technical assistance	Yet to be determined for 2009 – see program contact. Agricultural landowners must complete self-assessment workbook to determine eligibility, available at <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/CSP_2008/2008_CSP.html">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/CSP_2008/2008_CSP.html</a> or from local NRCS contact	Agriculture	Water quality Soil Conservation Wildlife

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<b>Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)</b>  Natural Resources Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CTA/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CTA/</a> Contact your local field office for more information. <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt</a>	Federal	Helps plan and implement natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues. Provides guidance to cost-share programs.	Technical assistance	All landowners	All Agriculture	Water quality Soil conservation Wildlife
<b>Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/</a> Ellen Sivret 802-828-4493 x101 <a href="mailto:Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov">Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov</a> Bruce Chapell 802-828-4493 x 104 <a href="mailto:Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov">Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov</a> Danny Peet 802-865-7895 x 202 <a href="mailto:Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov">Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural or forest land. Generally, up to 75% of the cost-share for installing certain conservation practices. Up to 90% cost-share for eligible limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers.	Financial Technical assistance	People who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production including forestry on eligible land, or owners of such land, see <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/</a> or contact program official for extensive land eligibility details.	Agriculture Grassland Forestland	Water quality Soil conservation Wildlife
<b>Farm Agronomic Practices Program (FAP)</b>  Agency of Agriculture <a href="http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-fap.htm">www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-fap.htm</a> Matt Kittredge 802-828-6908 <a href="mailto:matt.kittredge@state.vt.us">matt.kittredge@state.vt.us</a>	State	Provides financial assistance for the implementation of soil-based practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion. Eligible practices include cover cropping, strip cropping, conservation crop rotation, and cross-slope tillage. These practices are often needed when implementing a nutrient management plan (NMP) and payments for each range from \$10-\$50 per acre. \$3 per acre is also available for NMP updates where a farm is no longer eligible for the NMPIG program.	Financial	Practices eligible for assistance include: Nutrient Management Plan Maintenance/ Update (at \$3 per acre); Cover Cropping (at \$30 per acre); Strip Cropping (at \$50 per acre); Conservation Crop Rotation (at \$25 per acre); Cross-Slope Tillage (at \$10 per acre); Conservation Tillage (at \$10 per acre); Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing (at \$8 per test).	Agriculture	Soil Conservation Water Quality
<b>Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/FRPP/index.html">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/FRPP/index.html</a> Vicky Drew 802-951-6796 x242 <a href="mailto:vicky.drew@vt.usda.gov">vicky.drew@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture by providing matching funds to purchase development rights (easement acquisition). Provides up to 50% of the fair market easement value.	Easement	Private farmland must: be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program; have a conservation plan for highly erodible land; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to relevant markets; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.	Agriculture	Agriculture

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<b>Farm*A*Syst</b>  Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <a href="http://www.vacd.org/winooski_ag_re_sources_services.shtml">www.vacd.org/winooski_ag_re_sources_services.shtml</a> Susan Alexander 802.828.4493 x 113 <a href="mailto:susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net">susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net</a>	State	Offers free and confidential drinking water protection program for farms and their neighbors, includes voluntary assessments to determine how current operations may pose risks to on-farm drinking water. Free water testing for farm wells and, if needed, assistance determining causes of contamination and best solutions. Any suggested actions are linked with technical resources for design and implementation and financial resources for cost-share opportunities.	Technical assistance Education	All farms	Agriculture	Water quality
<b>Forest Bird Initiative</b>  Audubon Vermont <a href="http://www.audubon.org/chapter/vt/vt/conservationNews.html">www.audubon.org/chapter/vt/vt/conservationNews.html</a> Jim Shallow 802-434-3068 <a href="mailto:vermont@audubon.org">vermont@audubon.org</a>	Non profit	Promote the conservation of breeding habitat for neotropical migratory birds that breed in forest habitats by conducting individual landowner habitat assessments in selected areas of Vermont, community outreach and educational programs. Provides a property specific report and maps to landowner and management recommendations.	Technical assistance	Participants must have primarily forested land in areas identified as priority forest bird habitat. Contact Audubon Vermont to determine locations. Programs are free in most cases.	Forestland	Birds
<b>Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)</b>  USDA-Forest Service <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml">www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml</a> Contact Local County Forester <a href="http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm">www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm</a>	Federal	Assists landowners in sustainable forest management, including cost-shares for developing Forest Stewardship (management) Plans (required for the Forest Stewardship Program), reforestation, forest stand improvement, watershed protection, wildlife habitat improvement activities.	Financial Technical assistance Education	Minimum of 10 contiguous acres of non-industrial forestland, maximum of 1,000 acres of forestland; must promise to maintain cost-shared practices 10 years after practice completion.	Woodlands	Wildlife Water quality Forest products
<b>Forest Stewardship Program</b>  Vermont Division of Forestry <a href="http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_steward.cfm">www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_steward.cfm</a> Contact Local County Forester <a href="http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm">www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm</a>	State	Voluntary, long-range conservation planning assistance tailored to landowner goals and the capacity of the land. County forester provides free site visit and help developing a Stewardship Plan. Plan costs can be cost-shared thru EQIP and Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Programs.	Technical assistance	Landowners interested in keeping their forest land healthy and productive. Forestland can be any non-industrial forest privately owned by an individual, association, corporation, Indian tribe or other private entity.	Woodlands	Wildlife Forest products
<b>Friends of the Winooski River</b>  <a href="http://www.winooskiriver.org/">www.winooskiriver.org/</a> Ann Smith 866-683-7197 Tollfree <a href="mailto:fwr@sover.net">fwr@sover.net</a>	Non profit	Technical assistance, volunteer labor and guide to locating resources for project design and implementation relating to protection of the Winooski River and tributaries; potentially financial assistance.	Labor Technical Education Financial assistance	All landowners.	Riparian Wetlands Instream	Water quality Habitat

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<b>Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/</a> Kathryn Hakey 802-951-6796 x248 <a href="mailto:kathryn.hakey@vt.usda.gov">kathryn.hakey@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Helps landowners restore, enhance, and protect grassland, including pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands, from conversion to cropland and other uses; provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs/forbs under threat of conversion. Cost share, easement, and rental payments available.	Financial Technical assistance Easements	Privately owned land; eligible agricultural land currently used for hay or pasture or other grassland or shrubland. See <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/</a> or contact program official for extensive land eligibility details.	Grassland Pastureland Shrubland Agriculture	Wildlife
<b>Lake Champlain Sea Grant</b>  University of Vermont Extension <a href="http://www.uvm.edu/~seagrnt/extension/default.html">www.uvm.edu/~seagrnt/extension/default.html</a> Emma Melvin (802) 859-3086 ext 305 <a href="mailto:emelvin@uvm.edu">emelvin@uvm.edu</a>	Public Institution	Water Quality Coordinator provides assistance to towns and other groups to improve water quality practices in urban, suburban, and rural settings, including practices on private lands and technical workshops on topics linking landuse, water quality, and Low Impact Development. Water Quality Educator provides assistance to municipalities, schools, watershed associations, businesses, and other institutions through technical workshops, consultations, demonstrations, presentations, and written literature to improve watershed planning practices in developed and developing areas.	Technical assistance Education	Serves town and planning entities, garden clubs, volunteer municipal boards and commissions, and watershed organizations.	Residential Commercial Public	Water quality
<b>Land Treatment Planning (LTP)</b>  Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <a href="http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_landtreatment.shtml">www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_landtreatment.shtml</a> Jason Fleury 802-828-4493 x111 <a href="mailto:jason.fleury@vt.nacdnet.net">jason.fleury@vt.nacdnet.net</a>	State	Free development of a Land Treatment Plan (LTP) assessing a farm's soil and water resources and current land management practices. It compiles the core data needed to develop a USDA NRCS 590 Standard Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) -required for many farms- and provides recommendations for continued resource stewardship and for compliance with State and Federal regulations. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier. NMP(s) are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.	Technical assistance LTP (NMP) development	All farmers, regardless of farm size. NMP(s) are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier.	Agriculture Riparian	Water Quality Soil conservation
<b>Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)</b>  Agency of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Department <a href="http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/lip_intro.cfm">www.vtfishandwildlife.com/lip_intro.cfm</a> Jane Lazorchak 802-479-4405 <a href="mailto:jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us">jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us</a>	Federal State	Protects and restores habitats on private lands to benefit rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals and significant natural communities. Provides free technical assistance to landowners with such species or communities and provides funding for restoration and conservation easements for qualified land.	Technical Financial assistance Easements	Lands must provide habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species and significant natural communities. Easements require a 25% cost match.	Any	Rare species Significant natural communities

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<b>Landowner Information Series</b>  Vermont Land Trust <a href="http://www.vlt.org/landowner_information.html">www.vlt.org/landowner_information.html</a> (802) 223-5234	Non profit	Publication series on topics relating to land conservation, easements, and riparian conservation.	Education Publication	All Vermonters. Available at <a href="http://www.vlt.org/landowner_information.html">www.vlt.org/landowner_information.html</a>	Agriculture Forestland Riparian	Agriculture Forest products Water quality
<b>Northern Woodlands</b>  <a href="http://www.northernwoodlands.org/">www.northernwoodlands.org/</a> Anne Margolis 802-439-6292 <a href="mailto:anne@northernwoodlands.org">anne@northernwoodlands.org</a>	Non profit	<i>Northern Woodlands Magazine</i> <i>The Outside Story</i> (Book) -forestry subjects, natural history, and ecology of New Hampshire and Vermont. <i>The Place You Call Home</i> –“owner’s manual” for landowners providing information on taking care of their land and getting the most out of it.	Publication Education	All Vermonters. Subscription to Northern Woodlands magazine, \$21.50/yr for 4 issues.	Woodlands	Wildlife Forest products
<b>Nutrient Management Plan Incentive Grants Program (NMPIG)</b>  Agency of Agriculture <a href="http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/agnutrient.htm">www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/agnutrient.htm</a> Jeff Cook (802) 828-3474 <a href="mailto:Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us">Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us</a>	State	Provides payment for developing a nutrient management plan (NMP) and three additional years of updating the plan. The initial payment to develop the NMP is \$9 per acre plus the cost of soil and waste testing at \$15 and \$35 each, respectively. \$2,000 per year (a flat payment) is available for an additional two years. The third and final update payment is limited to \$1,000. In total, \$5,000 is available for the three years of updates. The maximum payment for NMP development and 3 years of updates is \$14,000.	Financial Technical assistance	Land must be actively farmed. Plans must meet state requirements for nutrient management, as explained in detail in the General Permit for Medium Farm Operations, before receiving payment.	Agriculture	Water Quality Soil Conservation
<b>Partners for Fish and Wildlife</b>  US Fish and Wildlife <a href="http://www.fws.gov/partners/">www.fws.gov/partners/</a> Chris Smith 802-872-0629 x20 <a href="mailto:chris_e_smith@fws.gov">chris_e_smith@fws.gov</a>	Federal	Program seeks to achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species, including migratory birds; threatened and endangered species; inter-jurisdictional fish; certain marine mammals; and species of international concern. Program provides assistance to landowners to restore wildlife habitat and fish passage, often in drained wetlands and degraded stream banks, also assists with invasive species control.	Financial Technical assistance	Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible; most applicants are agricultural producers.	Riparian In-stream Wetlands Grassland Agriculture	Wildlife Water quality
<b>Rain Garden Project</b>  Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <a href="http://vacd.org/winooski/winooski_raingarden.shtml">vacd.org/winooski/winooski_raingarden.shtml</a> Abbey Willard (802) 828-4493x110 <a href="mailto:abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net">abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net</a>	Non profit	Technical assistance and information on designing and installing rain gardens to manage storm runoff and improve water quality.	Technical assistance Publication	All Vermonters. See webpage for information, manuals, etc.	Residential	Water quality

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<b>River Management Program</b>  Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division <a href="http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers.htm">www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers.htm</a> Michael Kline 802-241-3774 <a href="mailto:mike.kline@state.vt.us">mike.kline@state.vt.us</a>	State	The River Management Program seeks to resolve conflicts between human investment and river dynamics while maintaining the ecological functions and economic values of Vermont's river systems. Program objectives include: fluvial erosion hazard mitigation, sediment and nutrient load reduction, and aquatic and riparian habitat protection and restoration. They support and implement channel assessment and management practices that recognize a stream's natural stable tendencies. They also provide regulatory review and technical assistance for protection, management, and restoration projects that affect streams and rivers.	Technical Financial assistance	Landowners with property abutting or including a river or stream.	Riparian Rivers Agriculture	Water quality Flood control
<b>Shoreline Stabilization Handbook</b>  Northwest Regional Planning Commission/UVM Sea Grant <a href="http://www.nrpcvt.com/nrpcvt/shoreline.html">www.nrpcvt.com/nrpcvt/shoreline.html</a> 802-524-5958 <a href="mailto:nrpc@nrpcvt.com">nrpc@nrpcvt.com</a>	Public Institution	Provides information about Lake Champlain and shoreline erosion, including causes of erosion, specific shoreline stabilization options, how to plan stabilization activities and obtain required permits, and a list of additional resources.	Publication	Available free online at <a href="http://www.nrpcvt.com/nrpcvt/shoreline.html">www.nrpcvt.com/nrpcvt/shoreline.html</a> or for a paper copy contact 802-524-5958 <a href="mailto:nrpc@nrpcvt.com">nrpc@nrpcvt.com</a>	Lake shore Riparian	Water quality Wildlife
<b>Small Scale/Small Field Conservation</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/</a>	Federal	Solve natural resource problems on small fields or a small scale using simple conservation practices and concepts. Topics include erosion prevention, grazing land and nutrient management, streambank stabilization, and the fundamentals of conservation planning	Publication	Available free online at <a href="http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SmallScale.html">www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SmallScale.html</a> or free in print by calling 1-888-LANDCARE, emailing <a href="mailto:landcare@usda.gov">landcare@usda.gov</a> , or at <a href="http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/">landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>	Agriculture Riparian Woodlands	Water quality Soil conservation Wildlife
<b>Trout Unlimited</b>  <a href="http://www.vermonttu.org/">www.vermonttu.org/</a> contact local chapter Barry Parker <a href="mailto:bep@gmavt.net">bep@gmavt.net</a>	Non profit	Members will work with landowners on restoration projects relating to rivers and water resources; contributions may include labor, funds and materials.	Labor Technical Financial assistance	All landowners.	Riparian Wetlands Instream	Water quality Habitat Wildlife
<b>Use Value Appraisal ("Current Use")</b>  Vermont Division of Forestry <a href="http://www.vtfdpr.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm">www.vtfdpr.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm</a> Contact Local County Forester <a href="http://www.vtfdpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm">www.vtfdpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm</a>	State	Enables landowners who practice long-term forest management to have their enrolled land appraised for property taxes based on its value for forestry, rather than its fair market value. Land must be actively managed, though new rules expand coverage of ecologically significant areas not subject to harvest or other management.	Tax reduction	Must develop and follow a management plan that includes some active management (eg. forest harvest) and have 25 or more acres of land.	Woodlands	Forest management plan Forest products Water quality Wildlife
<b>UVM-Extension</b>  <a href="http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmext/programs/default.php">www.uvm.edu/~uvmext/programs/default.php</a> 1-866-622-2990(toll free in VT)	Public Institution	Technical and education assistance, research and pilot projects for home/garden, agriculture, and forestry. Soil testing service. Promotes practices that are research-based and environmentally sound. Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership	Technical assistance Education	All Vermonters.	Residential Agriculture Forestland	Water Quality Soil Conservation Wildlife Energy Forest products

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[www.winooskiriver.org](http://www.winooskiriver.org)



## Guide to Landowner Stewardship Assistance Resources

Program Name Organization Contact	Type	Assistance description	Assistance Type	Eligibility/Availability	Landscape Type	Resource Type
<b>Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program (VABP)</b>  Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets <a href="http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/aq/AWQ.html">www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/aq/AWQ.html</a> Laura DiPietro 802-828-1289 <a href="mailto:laura.dipietro@state.vt.us">laura.dipietro@state.vt.us</a>	State	Provides incentive payments to plant a harvestable perennial filter strip adjacent to a stream. Pays \$90-150/acre per year plus establishment costs. 5 year minimum contract, some fertilizer restrictions apply. Unlike CREP, VABP provides for grassed buffers which are harvestable.	Financial	Willingness to commit to 5 year minimum contract, meet contract terms for planting a harvestable perennial filter strip adjacent to a stream, some fertilizer restrictions apply.	Agriculture	Water quality
<b>Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife</b>  <a href="http://www.vtcoverts.org/">www.vtcoverts.org/</a> Farley Anne Brown 802-388-3880 <a href="mailto:info@vtcoverts.org">info@vtcoverts.org</a>	Non profit	Produces and sponsors an intensive seminar on forest and wildlife management and shorter programs on specific forest and/or wildlife management topics. Provides information/ newsletters about pending legislation and topics of current interest relating to forest and wildlife management.	Education Publications	All Vermonters.	Woodlands	Wildlife Forest products
<b>Vermont Land Trust</b>  <a href="http://www.vlt.org/">www.vlt.org/</a> Shelly Weeks 802-223-5234 <a href="mailto:info@vlt.org">info@vlt.org</a>	Non profit	Provides technical assistance and education to landowners about land conservation. They conserve working farmland and forestland as well as sites of particular importance to communities (eg. town forests) by using conservation easements and other legal restrictions. Easements limit development and subdivision on a property but are designed to allow for agriculture or forestry and in some cases, recreation.	Education Financial Technical assistance	Contact VLT to learn if your property is eligible for conservation.	Agriculture Forestland Riparian	Agriculture Forest products Water quality Community lands
<b>Vermont River Conservancy</b>  <a href="http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org/">www.vermontriverconservancy.org/</a> Steve Libby 802-229-0820 <a href="mailto:vr@vermontriverconservancy.org">vr@vermontriverconservancy.org</a>	Non profit	Preserves undeveloped land along rivers, lakes, and wetlands to protect public access, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and ecological integrity. Primarily devoted to riparian easement acquisition including agricultural lands; also provides conservation planning and site management assistance.	Easements Technical assistance	Landowners with property adjacent to or including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, including agricultural lands.	Riparian Wetlands Agriculture	Water quality Wildlife Recreation
<b>Watershed Coordinators</b>  Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation <a href="http://www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_winooskibasin.htm">www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_winooskibasin.htm</a> Ryan McCall (above Bolton) 802-241-1006 <a href="mailto:ryan.mccall@state.vt.us">ryan.mccall@state.vt.us</a> Karen Bates (below Bolton) 802-879-2339 <a href="mailto:karen.bates@state.vt.us">karen.bates@state.vt.us</a>	State	Technical assistance for water quality related project design/development, implementation assistance, can help develop partnerships, locate funding sources.	Technical assistance	All landowners.	Riparian Agriculture	Water quality

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## Guide to Landowner Stewardship Assistance Resources

Program Name Organization Contact	Type	Assistance description	Assistance Type	Eligibility/Availability	Landscape Type	Resource Type
<b>Wetland Protection and Restoration Program</b>  Department of Fish and Wildlife <a href="http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wprp_home.cfm">www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wprp_home.cfm</a> April Moulaert 802-241-1054 <a href="mailto:april.moulaert@state.vt.us">april.moulaert@state.vt.us</a>	State	Provides assistance to restore and protect degraded or threatened wetlands, with the primary goal of protecting the water quality of Lake Champlain. Program can purchase wetland property or easements, provide funded restoration designs and implementation, and help leverage other funding. Ideal sites are ditched or drained wetlands as well as intact wetlands. Often partners with WRP projects and others.	Financial Technical assistance Easements	Any landowner in Vermont in the Champlain Basin.	Wetlands	Water quality Wildlife
<b>Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/</a> Kip Potter 802-951-6796 x238 <a href="mailto:kip.potter@vt.usda.gov">kip.potter@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Purpose is to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands; enrolled lands are mostly high-risk agricultural lands located in flood prone areas. Offers an opportunity to establish long-term land and wildlife conservation through easements and cost-shared restoration.	Financial Technical assistance Easements	Land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife habitat. Includes farmed and grazed wetlands, degraded forested wetlands, riparian lands and land adjacent to wetlands.	Wetlands Agriculture Pastureland	Water quality Wildlife
<b>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)</b>  Natural Resource Conservation Service <a href="http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/">www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/</a> Contact local NRCS office or Ellen Sivret 802-828-4493 x101 <a href="mailto:Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov">Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov</a> Bruce Chapell 802-828-4493 x 104 <a href="mailto:Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov">Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov</a> Danny Peet 802-865-7895 x 202 <a href="mailto:Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov">Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov</a>	Federal	Provides financial and technical assistance on practices used to restore and/or manage upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat. Cost-share amount depends on practices to be implemented. Up to 10 yr contracts. Examples include: early successional management; mast tree and apple tree release; fish passage; riparian forest buffers; invasive plant management; fencing to protect sensitive areas.	Financial Technical assistance	Privately owned non-industrial lands including agricultural and forestland. If land is already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Emergency Watershed Protection Program land is not eligible.	Riparian Aquatic Wetlands Woodlands Grasslands Old Fields	Wildlife
<b>Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands</b>  Department of Fish and Wildlife Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (802) 241-3700	State	<i>A Landowner's Guide: Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands</i> by Ronald J. Regan and Ginger Anderson, publication coordinators. Each creature receives an entire chapter that focuses on its natural history, habitat requirements and management practices or projects.	Publication	Booklet available free through VT Fish & Wildlife Department, Waterbury, (802) 241-3700	Woodlands	Wildlife
<b>Winooski Crop Management Services</b>  Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <a href="http://www.yacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml">www.yacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml</a> Abbey Willard 802-828-4493 x110 <a href="mailto:abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net">abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net</a>	State	Offers a self-sustaining crop management service employing a certified crop consultant. Services include field scouting; soil, nitrate, and manure testing; nutrient recommendations; and record-keeping. The program's goal is to provide a holistic approach to on-farm nutrient management while reflecting positive improvements in water quality.	Technical assistance	All farms.	Agriculture	Water quality Soil conservation

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## Guide to Landowner Stewardship Assistance Resources

Program Name Organization Contact	Type	Assistance description	Assistance Type	Eligibility/Availability	Landscape Type	Resource Type
<b>Wise on Weeds! (WOW!)</b>  The Nature Conservancy <a href="http://www.nature.org/vermont/weeds">www.nature.org/vermont/weeds</a> Sharon Plumb 802-229-4425 x120 <a href="mailto:splumb@tnc.org">splumb@tnc.org</a>	Non profit	Prevents the spread of invasive nonnative land plants through public outreach and assistance to landowners and businesses; including site visits, advice on control methods and funding sources for landowners, and installing demonstration projects at public buildings and businesses.	Education Technical assistance	All Vermonters. Programs are free many ways to get involved.	Residential Forestland Agriculture Shrubland Riparian	Invasive nonnative plants

# ***Accepted Agricultural Practice Assistance***

**Agency/Organization:** Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

**Program:** Accepted Agricultural Practice (AAP) Assistance

**Address:** Berlin Office  
617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

Williston Office  
1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35  
Williston, VT 05495

**Name/Phone:** Susan Alexander/ 802-828-4493 x 113

**Email:** [susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net)

**Website:** [www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski\\_ag\\_resources\\_services.shtml](http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Program offers farmers free technical assistance to help meet base-level farm management (AAP) regulations. Addresses manure and nutrient management, runoff potential, floodway determinations, streambank stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, and soil erosion potential. Program staff work with farmers to develop farm-specific strategies, and provide referrals to cost-share programs if appropriate.

**Assistance Type:** Technical

**Financial Assistance:** None, Free service

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture, Riparian

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Soil conservation

**Criteria:** All farm operators are eligible regardless of farm size, from a 100 cow dairy farm to 5 acre vegetable farms to a hobby farm with 4 horses in the back yard. The same standard applies to all and all are required to follow AAPs.

# ***Agricultural Management Assistance***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Program:** Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

**Contact Name/ Phone:** For the Upper Winooski Watershed (Washington county and the Orange county towns of Washington, Williamstown and Orange) contact: Ellen Sivret/ 802-828-4493 x101 or Bruce Chapell/802-828-4493 x 104. For the Lower Winooski Watershed (Chittenden County) contact: Danny Peet/ 802-865-7895 x 202

**Email:** Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov, Ellen.Sivret@ vt. usda.gov, Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov

**Address:** Upper watershed: 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602

Lower watershed: 1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35 Williston, VT 05495

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/ programs/AMA/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

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Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Cost-share available for maintaining practices agreed to in an AMA contract developed by NRCS and the landowner through a conservation plan for the land in question. Contracts are for three to ten years. Incentive payments are permitted under AMA.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water Quality, Soil conservation, Wildlife

**Criteria:** To offer a conservation easement, the landowner must have owned the land for at least 12 months prior to enrolling it in the program, unless the land was inherited, the landowner exercised the landowner's right of redemption after foreclosure, or the landowner can prove the land was not obtained for the purpose of enrolling it in the program. To participate in a restoration cost-share agreement, the landowner must show evidence of ownership. To be eligible for WRP, land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits. This includes: wetlands farmed under natural conditions; farmed wetlands; prior converted cropland; farmed wetland pasture; farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding; range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored; riparian

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# ***Agricultural Management Assistance***

areas which link protected wetlands; lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and/or previously restored wetlands.

# ***Better Backroads***

**Organization:** Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development Council

**Program:** Better Backroads

**Name/Phone:** Linda Boudette/ 802-793-7816  
Jarrod Becker/ 802-828-4583

**Email:** [backroadstech@yahoo.com](mailto:backroadstech@yahoo.com)  
[rcdbizmanager@yahoo.com](mailto:rcdbizmanager@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&d/bbcoverpage.html](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&d/bbcoverpage.html)  
[www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/bbroads.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/bbroads.htm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Better Backroads provides financial and technical assistance primarily to towns and lake/watershed/homeowner groups to effectively maintain backroads to reduce erosion and prevent road gravel and sediment washing downhill and impacting waterways. Cost-share grants of up to 75% are available for projects, with a \$7000 maximum, technical assistance is free. Grants are available for road erosion inventory and planning (Category A) or construction of erosion control projects (Category B). Please visit the web site for more information on grants and application deadlines. Individual homeowners may also benefit from a driveway maintenance guide available at [http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/docs/lpseries/lp\\_lpseries5.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/docs/lpseries/lp_lpseries5.pdf).

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** 75% cost-share is available for projects, technical assistance is free.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Roadways, Driveways

**Resource Type:** Water quality

**Criteria:** Any lake, watershed, or homeowners association or Vermont municipality can apply for grants or receive on-site technical assistance. The driveway maintenance guide for homeowners is available at the website indicated in program description above.

# ***Best Management Practices***

**Agency/Organization:** Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
**Program:** **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**  
**Address:** 116 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602  
**Name/Phone:** Jeff Cook/ 802-828-3474  
**Email:** Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us  
**Website:** [www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/BMPApplication.pdf](http://www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/BMPApplication.pdf)

## **Program Description:**

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This program provides state financial assistance to Vermont farmers in support of their voluntary construction of on-farm improvements designed to abate non-point source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the state of Vermont, consistent with goals of the federal Water Pollution Control Act and with state water quality standards.

**Assistance Type:** Financial; Technical

**Financial Assistance:** This program can be coupled with Federal NRCS programs to increase the maximum cost-share available to the farm from 80% (state only) to 85% (50% federal, 35% state). An applicant for a state grant shall pay at least 15% of the total eligible project cost. The dollar amount of a state grant shall be equal to the total eligible project cost, less 15% of the total as paid by the applicant, and less the amount of any federal assistance awarded, except that a state grant shall not exceed 80% of the total eligible project cost.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture, Production Areas

**Resource Type:** Water Quality

**Criteria:** BMPs shall be eligible for cost sharing provided that they meet one of the following:

(a) are components of the following BMP Systems contained in the NRCS's National Handbook of Conservation Practices that are eligible for cost share funding including, but not limited to: permanent vegetative cover; animal waste management; strip cropping; terraces; diversions; pasture and hayland management; waterways; cropland protection; conservation tillage; stream protection; permanent vegetative cover on critical areas; sediment retention, erosion or water control structures; tree planting; nutrient management; or conservation cropping; or



# ***Best Management Practices***

(b) are the FSA Agricultural Conservation Program-eligible practices that are defined in the FSA's handbook "1-ACP (Rev. 3) Amend. 3" or as subsequently amended; or

(c) infrastructure that is designed and certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Vermont to be equivalent to the performance standards of those practices contained in subsections (a) or (b); or

(d) are integrated crop management systems designed to achieve the source reduction of nonpoint source agricultural wastes that are developed by certified crop advisors or other agricultural professionals such as, but not limited to, the University Extension Specialists; and

(e) are consistent with a "nutrient management plan" prepared by the Vermont field office of the NRCS, or with an animal waste management plan based on standards equivalent to those of the NRCS.

# ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

**Program:** Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

**Contact Name/ Phone:** For the Upper Winooski Watershed (Washington county and the Orange county towns of Washington, Williamstown and Orange) contact: Ellen Sivret/ 802-828-4493 x101 or Bruce Chapell/802-828-4493 x 104. For the Lower Winooski Watershed (Chittenden County) contact: Danny Peet/ 802-865-7895 x 202

**Email:** Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov, Ellen.Sivret@ vt. usda.gov, Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov

**Address:** Upper watershed: 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602

Lower watershed: 1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35 Williston, VT 05495

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **Program Description:**

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CREP aims to improve water quality in streams and lakes by helping agricultural landowners voluntarily establish vegetative buffers which filter runoff by trapping sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides. Landowners are compensated for the loss of productive agricultural land through upfront incentive payments and annual rental payments based on the total acreage dedicated to forested buffers or vegetated filter strips. Buffers must be maintained for the contract length (15 or 30 years).

**Assistance Type:** Financial; Technical

**Financial Assistance:** There are three payment types:

Practice Costs: The cost of installing the practice (riparian buffer, fencing etc) will be covered between 90% and 100% depending on the combination of programs used.

Upfront Practices: The participant will receive an upfront Federal payment and a separate State payment. The Federal Payment is a USDA Commodity Credit Corporation payment of \$100 /acre. The State payment varies based on the cropping history for the past 6 years. A contract can be 15 or 30 years, however, the Federal CRP contract that must be signed has a maximum length of 15 years. The additional 15 years is an option with the VAAFM which provides \$10/acre more than the 15 year contract in the upfront incentive payment.

Annual Rental Payments: Annual rental payments are paid each year by the USDA after October 1. The annual payment includes a rental rate for the land taken out of production as well as a maintenance payment for upkeep of the practices. Rental rates are based on the soil type at the county level as a reflection of the land productivity. The maintenance rate depends on the practice installed.

# ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program***

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type: Agriculture**

**Resource Type: Soil Conservation, Water Quality**

### **Criteria:**

Landowners must have owned or operated their land for 12 months prior to enrollment and must have a water quality concern that can be ameliorated through changes in agricultural activities. The main resource concern is a prominent stream or river adjoining your fields with issues such as concentrated nutrient and pollutant runoff, and significant sediment losses due to overland flow. CREP does not cover small channels on cropland caused by rains and erosion, wetlands, man-made ponds, and entire fields. Pasture, hay land, or cropland adjacent to streams that lack adequate buffers to protect water quality are eligible. To ensure that the acreage under enrollment is not substantially reduced by streambank erosion over a 15 or 30 year contract, streambanks must be stable to be considered eligible unless the landowner can offer a considerably wider buffer to capture the gains and losses caused by erosion.

# ***Conservation Reserve Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Farm Service Agency

**Program:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

**Address:** 356 Mountain View Drive Suite 104  
Colchester, VT 05446

**Name/Phone:** Lawrence Parker/ (802) 865-7895

**Email:** [Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov)

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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CRP provides assistance to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forests and wetlands resources. It encourages conversion of highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to perennial vegetative cover and provides annual rental payments for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is available for establishment of vegetative cover, fencing, livestock crossings, etc. Additional state funding and extended contracts are available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** There are three payment types:

Practice Costs: The cost of installing the practice (riparian buffer, vegetative cover) will be covered between 90% and 100% depending on the combination of programs used.

Upfront Practices: The Federal Payment occurs upfront is a USDA Commodity Credit Corporation payment of \$10 /acre/year for 10 years. The Federal CRP contract that must be signed has a maximum length of 15 years. Additional contract duration and payments can be obtained through a 15 year extension of the contract under CREP, which provides \$10/acre more than the 15 year contract in the upfront incentive payment.

Annual Rental Payments: Annual rental payments are paid each year by the USDA after October 1. The annual payment includes a rental rate for the land taken out of production as well as a maintenance payment for upkeep of the practices. Rental rates are based on the soil type at the county level as a reflection of the land productivity. The maintenance rate depends on the practice installed.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Soil Conservation, Wildlife habitat

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www.winooskiriver.org

# ***Conservation Reserve Program***

**Criteria:** Landowners must have owned or operated their land for 12 months prior to enrollment and must have a water quality concern that can be ameliorated through changes in agricultural activities. The main resource concern is a prominent stream or river adjoining your fields with issues such as concentrated nutrient and pollutant runoff, and significant sediment losses due to overland flow. CRP does not cover small channels on cropland caused by rains and erosion, wetlands, man-made ponds, and entire fields. Pasture, hay land, or cropland adjacent to streams that lack adequate buffers to protect water quality are eligible. To ensure that the acreage under enrollment is not substantially reduced by streambank erosion over a 15 or 30 year contract, streambanks must be stable to be considered eligible unless the landowner can offer a considerably wider buffer to capture the gains and losses caused by erosion.

# ***Conservation Security Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Program:** Conservation Security Program (CSP)

**Address:** 356 Mountain View Dr., Suite 105  
Colchester, VT 05446

**Name/Phone:** Heather Wetzstein/ 802-951-6796 x223

**Email:** [heather.wetzstein@vt.usda.gov](mailto:heather.wetzstein@vt.usda.gov)

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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CSP is a voluntary conservation program that has a unique role among USDA programs; it provides contract payments to reward producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management and help producers maintain those practices.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Yet to be determined for 2009, see program contact for latest information.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality  
Soil Conservation  
Wildlife

**Criteria:** Yet to be determined for 2009, see program contact for latest information.

# ***Conservation Technical Assistance***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Program:** Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

**Address:** 617 Comstock Road  
Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602

**Name/Phone:** Contact your local field office for more information.  
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt>  
Washington Co.: (802) 828-4493, (802) 828-6080  
Addison Co.: (802) 388-6748  
Chittenden Co.: (802) 865-7895

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CTA/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CTA/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Helps plan and implement natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues. Provides guidance to cost-share programs.

**Assistance Type:** Technical

**Financial Assistance:** None, Free service, and reference to cost share programs if applicable.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** All types, Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Soil conservation, Wildlife

**Criteria:** Available to all landowners



# ***Environmental Quality Incentive Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Program:** Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

**Contact Name/ Phone:** For the Upper Winooski Watershed (Washington county and the Orange county towns of Washington, Williamstown and Orange) contact: Ellen Sivret/ 802-828-4493 x101 or Bruce Chapell/802-828-4493 x 104. For the Lower Winooski Watershed (Chittenden County) contact: Danny Peet/ 802-865-7895 x 202

**Email:** Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov, Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov, Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov

**Address:** Upper watershed: 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602

Lower watershed: 1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35 Williston, VT 05495

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/)

## **Program Description:**

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The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and non-industrial private forestland owners that promotes agricultural production, forestry, and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural or forest land. Forest practices that may be covered include Forest Stewardship/Management Plan development, forest trail and landing improvements, pest management—invasive plant control, and various wildlife habitat improvement practices.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** All conservation practices can be cost shared up to 75%, higher rates may be available if the practice will be implemented as a component of a planned Resource Management System (RMS). Up to 90% cost-share for eligible limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers. Limited Resource Farmers and New and Beginning Farmers with approved 2005 EQIP contracts, will receive 25% above the base practice cost share rates listed in the '2007 EQIP Eligible Conservation Practice List', and 90% cost share for practices implemented as a component of a planned treatment at the RMS level. EQIP offers contracts for practice implementation ranging from 1 year to a maximum of 10 years in length. The minimum contract length is 1 year after certified completion of the final cost-shared practice. These contracts provide incentive payments and cost share payments for implementing eligible conservation practices.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture, Forestland

**Resource Type:** Water Quality

Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership  
c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
fwr@sover.net 802-655-4878  
[www.winodskiriver.org](http://www.winodskiriver.org)

# ***Environmental Quality Incentive Program***

**Criteria:** Applicants must be engaged in livestock or agricultural production including forestry on eligible land, or be owners of such land; contact program official for extensive land eligibility details. Applications and funds are divided into three categories:

- The first funding category is for applications addressing water quality problems associated with animal wastes and/or silage leachate. These applications contain requests for conservation practices associated with the construction, storage, transfer, handling, or application of animal wastes/wastewater and silage leachate.
- The second funding category will include all other applications that address nutrient, pathogens, and/or sediment loading issues.
- The third funding category is for applications whose purpose is specifically for completing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), and/or for implementing a CNMP. This funding pool provides the applicant the option to implement their CNMP progressively through separate contracts, rather than agreeing to implement their CNMP all in one contract. Agricultural Waste Storage Facilities are not acceptable practices in this funding pool. Applicants who wish to install an agricultural waste storage facility must apply through the first funding category, water quality problems associated with animal waste and/or silage leachate.

# ***Farm Agronomic Practices Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Agency of Agriculture

**Program:** Farm Agronomic Practices Program (FAP)

**Address:** 116 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602

**Name/Phone:** Matt Kittredge/ 802-828-6908

**Email:** [matt.kittredge@state.vt.us](mailto:matt.kittredge@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-fap.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-fap.htm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Program provides financial assistance for the implementation of soil-based practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion. Eligible practices include cover cropping, strip cropping, conservation crop rotation, and cross-slope tillage. These practices are often needed when implementing a nutrient management plan (NMP) and payments for each range from \$10-\$50 per acre. \$3 per acre is also available for NMP updates where a farm is no longer eligible for the NMPIG program.

**Assistance Type:** Financial

**Financial Assistance:** Nutrient Management Plan Maintenance/ Update (at \$3 per acre); Cover Cropping (at \$30 per acre); Strip Cropping (at \$50 per acre); Conservation Crop Rotation (at \$25 per acre); Cross-Slope Tillage (at \$10 per acre); Conservation Tillage (at \$10 per acre); Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing (at \$8 per test).

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Soil Conservation, Water Quality

**Criteria:** Priority is given to those farms seeking financial assistance for NMP Maintenance/Update and/or Cover Cropping. Practices eligible for assistance include: Nutrient Management Plan Maintenance/ Update; Cover Cropping; Strip Cropping; Conservation Crop Rotation; Cross-Slope Tillage; Conservation Tillage; Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing. Any land under contract to receive payment for the previously mentioned practices, or otherwise currently within a contract lifespan for one of these practices, from any other state or federal program is ineligible to receive FAP Program payments for the same conservation practice.

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c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
fwr@sover.net 802-655-4878  
www.winooskiriver.org

# ***Farm\*A\*Syst***

**Agency/Organization:** Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

**Program:** Farm\*A\*Syst

**Address:** Berlin Office  
617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

Williston Office  
1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35  
Williston, VT 05495

**Name/Phone:** Susan Alexander/ 802-828-4493 x 113

**Email:** [susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:susan.alexander@vt.nacdnet.net)

**Website:** [www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski\\_ag\\_resources\\_services.shtml](http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Farm\*A\*Syst is a cost effective drinking water protection program for farms that aims to promote safe drinking water. It offers free and confidential drinking water testing on farms and includes voluntary assessments to determine how current operations may pose risks to on-farm and neighboring drinking water/ wells. Free water testing of farm wells covers nitrates, pesticides, and bacteria. If problems are found assistance is provided to determine causes of contamination and workable solutions. Any suggested actions are linked with technical resources for design and implementation and financial resources for cost-share opportunities.

**Assistance Type:** Technical; Education

**Financial Assistance:** None directly, but any suggested actions are linked with financial resources for cost-share opportunities.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality

**Criteria:** All farms are eligible for free Farm\*A\*Syst assistance.

# ***Forest Land Enhancement Program***

**Agency/Organization:** USDA-Forest Service

**Program:** Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)

**Address:** Contact your Local County Forester, see website  
[www.vtfpr.org/resource/for\\_forres\\_countfor.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm)

**Name/Phone/Email:**

**Ray Toolan** Lamoille County/ (802) 888-5733/ [raymond.toolan@state.vt.us](mailto:raymond.toolan@state.vt.us)

**Mike Snyder** Chittenden County/ (802) 879-5694/ [michael.snyder@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.snyder@state.vt.us)

**Matt Langlais** Caledonia & Essex Counties/ (802) 751-0111/ [matt.langlais@state.vt.us](mailto:matt.langlais@state.vt.us)

**Russ Barrett** Washington County/ (802) 476-0172/ [russ.barrett@state.vt.us](mailto:russ.barrett@state.vt.us)

**Chris Olson** Addison County/ (802) 388-4969/ [chris.olson@state.vt.us](mailto:chris.olson@state.vt.us)

**David Paganelli** Orange County/ (802) 476-0173/ [david.paganelli@state.vt.us](mailto:david.paganelli@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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FLEP assists landowners in sustainable forest management, including cost-shares for developing Forest Stewardship (management) Plans (required for the Forest Stewardship Program), reforestation, forest stand improvement, watershed protection, wildlife habitat improvement activities. FLEP provides incentives to landowners who have Vermont Forest Stewardship Plans to help them manage their forests for a combination of personal and public values.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical, Education

**Financial Assistance:** FLEP provides cost-shares for developing Forest Stewardship (management) Plans (required for the Forest Stewardship Program), reforestation, forest stand improvement, watershed protection, wildlife habitat improvement activities.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Woodlands

**Resource Type:** Wildlife, Water quality, Forest products

**Criteria:** Minimum of 10 contiguous acres of land at least 7.5 acres of which must be non-industrial forestland, maximum of 1,000 acres of forestland; must promise

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c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
[fwr@sover.net](mailto:fwr@sover.net) 802-655-4878  
[www.winooskiriver.org](http://www.winooskiriver.org)

# ***Forest Land Enhancement Program***

to maintain cost-shared practices 10 years after practice completion.

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fwr@sover.net 802-655-4878  
[www.winooskiriver.org](http://www.winooskiriver.org)

# ***Friends of the Winooski River***

**Agency/Organization:** Friends of the Winooski River

**Address:** PO Box 777  
Montpelier, VT 05601

**Name/Phone:** Ann Smith/ Toll-free 866-683-7197

**Email:** [fwr@sover.net](mailto:fwr@sover.net)

**Website:** [www.winooskiriver.org/](http://www.winooskiriver.org/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The organization is a volunteer group dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Winooski River and its tributaries. They provide technical assistance, volunteer labor and guidance to locating resources for design and implementation of projects relating to the Winooski River and tributaries. May provide financial assistance.

**Assistance Type:** Labor, Technical, Education, Financial

**Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance availability is variable and project specific.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Riparian, Wetlands, Instream

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Wildlife Habitat

**Criteria:** Available to all landowners.



# ***Land Treatment Planning Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

**Program:** Land Treatment Planning (LTP)

**Address:** Berlin Office  
617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

**Name/Phone:** Jason Fleury/ 802-828-4493 x111

**Email:** [jason.fleury@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:jason.fleury@vt.nacdnet.net)

**Website:** [www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski\\_landtreatment.shtml](http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_landtreatment.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Program provides free development of a Land Treatment Plan (LTP) assessing a farm's soil and water resources and current land management practices. The LTP compiles the core data needed to develop a USDA NRCS 590 Standard Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) (required for many farms) and provides recommendations for continued resource stewardship and for compliance with State and Federal regulations. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier. NMP(s) are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

**Assistance Type:** Technical assistance, LTP (NMP) development

**Financial Assistance:** None, free service

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture, Riparian

**Resource Type:** Water Quality, Soil conservation

**Criteria:** All farmers, regardless of farm size, are eligible. NMP(s) are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. The LTP itself is not a requirement, but will make doing an NMP easier.

# ***Nutrient Management Plan Incentive Grants Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Agency of Agriculture

**Program:** Nutrient Management Plan Incentive Grants Program (NMPIG)

**Address:** 116 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602

**Name/Phone:** Jeff Cook/ (802) 828-3474

**Email:** Jeff.Cook@state.vt.us

**Website:** [www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-nutrient.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/ag-nutrient.htm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Program provides payment for developing a nutrient management plan (NMP) and three additional years of updating the plan. Nutrient management is a component of integrated crop management, an important tool used to protect water quality and improve the financial viability of agriculture. NMPs are required of: Large Farm Operations; Medium Farm Operations; and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. The Land Treatment Planning (LTP) program can assist in developing an NMP and is a free service of your Conservation District.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** The initial payment to develop the NMP is \$9 per acre plus the cost of soil and waste testing at \$15 and \$35 each, respectively. \$2,000 per year (a flat payment) is available for an additional two years. The third and final update payment is limited to \$1,000. In total, \$5,000 is available for the three years of updates. The maximum payment for NMP development and 3 years of updates is \$14,000.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water Quality, Soil Conservation

**Criteria:** NMPs are required of: Large Farm Operations (LFOs-greater than 700 mature dairy cows); Medium Farm Operations (MFOs-200-699 mature dairy cows); and farms receiving assistance through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Lands must be actively farmed. Plans must meet state requirements for nutrient management, as explained in detail in the General Permit for Medium Farm Operations, before receiving payment.

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c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
fwr@sover.net 802-655-4878  
www.winooskiriver.org

# ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife***

**Agency/Organization:** US Fish and Wildlife

**Program:** **Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

**Address:** 11 Lincoln Street, Door 7  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

**Name/Phone:** Chris Smith/ 802-872-0629 x20

**Email:** [chris\\_e\\_smith@fws.gov](mailto:chris_e_smith@fws.gov)

**Website:** [www.fws.gov/partners/](http://www.fws.gov/partners/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Program seeks to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species, including migratory birds; threatened and endangered species; inter-jurisdictional fish; certain marine mammals; and species of international concern. Partners program provides assistance to landowners to restore wildlife habitat and fish passage, often in drained wetlands and degraded stream banks, also assists with invasive species control.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Consultations are free and projects are completed at little or no cost to landowners.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Riparian, In-stream, Wetlands, Grassland, Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Wildlife, Water quality

**Criteria:** Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible; however, most applicants are agricultural producers. Funding priorities for proposed projects include: improving habitat for Federal Trust Species, complementing activities on National Wildlife Refuge System lands, contributing to the resolution of problems on refuges that are caused by off-refuge practices, addressing species and habitat priorities that have been identified through Service planning teams (with our partners) or in collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies, reducing habitat fragmentation or serving as buffers for other important Federal or state conservation lands, promoting self-sustaining systems that are not dependent on artificial structures.

# ***Rain Garden Project***

**Agency/Organization:** Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

**Program:** Rain Garden Project

**Address:** Berlin Office  
617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

Williston Office  
1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35  
Williston, VT 05495

**Name/Phone:** Abbey Willard/ 802-828-4493 x110

**Email:** [abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net)

**Website:** [vacd.org/winooski/winooski\\_raingarden.shtml](http://vacd.org/winooski/winooski_raingarden.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The Rain Garden Project provides technical assistance and information on designing and installing rain gardens to manage residential stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Program staff may also provide connections to coordinate volunteer labor.

**Assistance Type:** Technical, Publication

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Residential

**Resource Type:** Water quality

**Criteria:** Available to all Vermonters. See webpage for publications, information, manuals, and designs.

# ***River Management Program***

**Agency/Organization:** VT Department of Environmental Conservation

**Program:** River Management Program

**Address:** 103 South Main Street, Building 10 North  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

**Name/Phone:** Michael Kline/ 802-241-3774

**Email:** [mike.kline@state.vt.us](mailto:mike.kline@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers.htm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The River Management Program seeks to resolve conflicts between human investment and river dynamics while maintaining the ecological functions and economic values of Vermont's river systems. Program objectives include: fluvial erosion hazard mitigation, sediment and nutrient load reduction, and aquatic and riparian habitat protection and restoration. They support and implement channel assessment and management practices that recognize a stream's natural stable tendencies. They also provide regulatory review and technical assistance for protection, management, and restoration projects that affect streams and rivers.

**Assistance Type:** Technical, Financial

**Financial Assistance:** Can provide funding for river corridor easements and reference to financial assistance programs relating to riparian and water quality issues.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Riparian, Rivers, Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Flood control

**Criteria:** Available to landowners with property abutting, including or impacting a river or stream.

# ***Use Value Appraisal Program*** ***“Current Use”***

**Agency/Organization:** Vermont Division of Forestry

**Program:** Use Value Appraisal (“Current Use”) Program

**Address:** Contact your Local County Forester, see website  
[www.vtfpr.org/resource/for\\_forres\\_countfor.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm)

**Name/Phone/Email:**

**Ray Toolan** Lamoille County/ (802) 888-5733/ [raymond.toolan@state.vt.us](mailto:raymond.toolan@state.vt.us)

**Mike Snyder** Chittenden County/ (802) 879-5694/ [michael.snyder@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.snyder@state.vt.us)

**Matt Langlais** Caledonia & Essex Counties/ (802) 751-0111/ [matt.langlais@state.vt.us](mailto:matt.langlais@state.vt.us)

**Russ Barrett** Washington County/ (802) 476-0172/ [russ.barrett@state.vt.us](mailto:russ.barrett@state.vt.us)

**Chris Olson** Addison County/ (802) 388-4969/ [chris.olson@state.vt.us](mailto:chris.olson@state.vt.us)

**David Paganelli** Orange County/ (802) 476-0173/ [david.paganelli@state.vt.us](mailto:david.paganelli@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.vtfpr.org/resource/for\\_forres\\_useapp.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The program enables landowners who practice long-term forest management to reduce their property taxes by getting their enrolled land appraised based on its value for forestry, rather than its fair market value. Land must be actively managed, usually requiring some degree of periodic harvest or management, though new rules expand coverage of ecologically significant areas not subject to harvest or other management. Young woodlands that don't support a viable harvest can also be enrolled, but may require other active management (eg. timber stand improvement).

**Assistance Type:** Tax reduction, Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Financial benefit is in the form of reduced property taxes on enrolled land, which is appraised at forestry value rather than fair market value. Technical assistance on forest management planning and management activities is freely available from County Foresters who administer the program.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Woodlands

**Resource Type:** Forest management plan, Forest products, Water quality, Wildlife

# ***Use Value Appraisal Program***

## ***“Current Use”***

**Criteria:** Landowners must develop and follow a management plan that includes some active management (eg. forest harvest) on enrolled lands. Forest land to be enrolled must total at least 25 acres. New rules expand coverage of ecologically significant areas not subject to harvest or other management. Young woodlands that don't support a viable harvest can also be enrolled, but may require other active management (eg. timber stand improvement).



# ***Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
**Program:** Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program  
**Address:** 116 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602  
**Name/ Phone:** Laura DiPietro / 802-828-1289  
**Email:** laura.dipietro@state.vt.us  
**Website:** [www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/VABP.pdf](http://www.vermontagriculture.com/documents/VABP.pdf)

## **Program Description:**

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The program promotes water quality by providing incentive payments to plant a 25 foot wide *harvestable* (unlike CREP) perennial filter strip on annual cropland adjacent to a stream. Pays \$90-150/acre per year plus \$123/acre establishment costs. Five-year minimum contract required. No manure allowed on buffer, but fertilizer can be used with soil test and nutrient recommendation. Harvest between June 1st and September 1st only. Most buffers are 25 feet wide unless a water quality concern deems the need for a larger buffer. The participant can leave this program at any time to enroll the same land in another certified buffer program that the land is deemed eligible for, such as CREP.

**Assistance Type:** Financial; Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Receive \$123/ acre to plant a harvestable perennial filter strip 25 feet wide on annual cropland adjacent to a stream, plus receive \$90 to \$150/ acre every year to maintain the filter strip.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water Quality

**Criteria:** Willingness to commit to a 5 year minimum contract and meet contract terms as described above.

# ***Vermont Land Trust***

**Organization:** Vermont Land Trust

**Address:** 8 Bailey Avenue  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**Name/Phone:** Shelly Weeks/ 802-223-5234

**Email:** [info@vlt.org](mailto:info@vlt.org)

**Website:** [www.vlt.org/](http://www.vlt.org/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The Vermont Land Trust provides technical assistance and education to landowners about land conservation. They conserve working farmland and forestland as well as sites of particular importance to communities (eg. town forests) by using conservation easements and other legal restrictions. Easements limit development and subdivision on a property but are designed to allow for agriculture or forestry and in some cases, recreation.

**Assistance Type:** Technical, Financial, Education

**Financial Assistance:** Conservation easements can be donated or sold; donation can yield tax benefits. Land covered by easements may still be eligible for other cost share or tax incentives programs (eg. "Current Use").

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture, Forestland, Riparian

**Resource Type:** Agriculture, Forest products, Water quality, Community lands

**Criteria:** Contact VLT to learn if your property is eligible for conservation.

# ***Vermont River Conservancy***

**Organization:** Vermont River Conservancy

**Address:** 29 Main Street, Suite 11  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**Name/Phone:** Steve Libby/ 802-229-0820

**Email:** [verc@vermontriverconservancy.org](mailto:verc@vermontriverconservancy.org)

**Website:** [www.vermontriverconservancy.org/](http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org/)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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VRC preserves undeveloped land along rivers, lakes, and wetlands to protect public access, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and ecological integrity. VRC primarily works to acquire riparian (riverside) conservation easements including on agricultural lands. VRC also provides conservation planning and site management assistance. Easements generally transfer vegetation management, river channel management rights, and development rights to VRC.

**Assistance Type:** Easements, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Easements can be donated or sold; donation provides tax advantages while sale provides up front payment that includes compensation for lost crop production.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

---

**Landscape Type:** Riparian, Wetlands, Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Wildlife, Recreation

**Criteria:** Properties of interest for easements must be adjacent to or include rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Agricultural lands are eligible, though cropping may not be permitted on land covered by easements; easements transfer some vegetation management rights to VRC.

# ***Watershed Coordinators***

**Agency/Organization:** Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

**Program:** Watershed Coordinators

**Address:** 103 South Main Street, Building 10 North  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

**Name/Phone/Email:** Ryan McCall (above Bolton)  
802-241-1006  
[ryan.mccall@state.vt.us](mailto:ryan.mccall@state.vt.us)

Karen Bates (below Bolton)  
802-879-2339  
[karen.bates@state.vt.us](mailto:karen.bates@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl\\_winooskibasin.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_winooskibasin.htm)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Watershed Coordinators provide technical assistance for water quality related project design/development, as well as providing implementation assistance and helping develop partnerships and locate funding sources. Watershed Coordinators work with community members within the basin, initiating a comprehensive planning process that identifies and prioritizes state and local water quality issues and implements on-the-ground watershed protection and restoration projects. Some watershed protection and restoration measures include establishing riparian buffers, securing riparian easements, assisting towns with updates to town plans and zoning, streambank and gully stabilization, stormwater management, road erosion control projects, and agricultural best management practice implementation. The Watershed Coordinators collaborate with state, federal and municipal organizations, local conservation groups, businesses, and a variety of landowners and interested citizens to develop the Winooski Basin Plan designed to protect the values of high quality water resources, and restore the waters which do not meet the Vermont Water Quality Standards.

**Assistance Type:** Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Coordinators can locate funding sources and provide guidance to finding funding for projects.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Riparian, Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality

**Criteria:** Available to all landowners.  
Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership  
c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
fwr@sover.net 802-655-4878  
[www.winooskiriver.org](http://www.winooskiriver.org)

# ***WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Program:** Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

**Contact Name/ Phone:** For the Upper Winooski Watershed (Washington county and the Orange county towns of Washington, Williamstown and Orange) contact: Ellen Sivret/ 802-828-4493 x101 or Bruce Chapell/802-828-4493 x 104. For the Lower Winooski Watershed (Chittenden County) contact: Danny Peet/ 802-865-7895 x 202

**Email:** Ellen.Sivret@vt.usda.gov, [Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Danny.Peet@vt.usda.gov), Bruce.Chapell@vt.usda.gov

**Address:** Upper watershed: 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602

Lower watershed: 1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35 Williston, VT 05495

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WHIP/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WHIP/)

## **Program Description:**

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WHIP is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore and/or manage upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property. Examples include: early successional management; mast tree and apple tree release; fish passage; riparian forest buffers; invasive plant management; fencing to protect sensitive areas. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners who are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs. Examples of habitats & wildlife targeted by NRCS include: grasslands for bobolinks, eastern meadowlark, upland sandpipers, butterflies, green snakes, etc.; old fields, shrub land and young forest habitats for golden-winged warblers, woodcock, grouse, bobcat, black bear, rat snakes, etc.; aquatic habitats for brook trout, native mussels, salamanders, mayflies, etc.; riparian and wetland habitats for wood turtles, mink, waterfowl, otters, bats, dragonflies, etc.; rare natural communities such as clayplain forest.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical

**Financial Assistance:** Provides both technical assistance and cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat under agreements that are up to 10 years in duration, depending upon the practices to be installed.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Riparian, Wetlands, Woodlands

**Resource Type:** Wildlife Habitat

Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership  
c/o Friends of the Winooski River  
PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601  
[fwr@sover.net](mailto:fwr@sover.net) 802-655-4878  
[www.winodskiriver.org](http://www.winodskiriver.org)

# ***WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM***

## **Criteria:**

Eligible lands under the program are: Private non-industrial lands including agricultural and forestland; Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or Tribal land; State and local government land on a limited basis; and Tribal land.

To be eligible, an entity must own or have control of the land to be enrolled in the program for the duration of the agreement period.

Land already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Water Bank Program, Grassland Reserve Program, or Emergency Watershed Protection Program floodplain easement component is not eligible.

# ***Winooski Crop Management Services***

**Agency/Organization:** Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

**Program:** Winooski Crop Management Services

**Address:** Berlin Office  
617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602-8498

Williston Office  
1193 South Brownell Road, Suite 35  
Williston, VT 05495

**Name/Phone:** Abbey Willard/ 802-828-4493 x110

**Email:** [abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:abbey.willard@vt.nacdnet.net)

**Website:** [www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski\\_ag\\_resources\\_services.shtml](http://www.vacd.org/winooski/winooski_ag_resources_services.shtml)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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Winooski Crop Management Services offers a self-sustaining crop management service employing a certified crop consultant. Services include field scouting; soil, nitrate, and manure testing; nutrient recommendations; and record-keeping. The program's goal is to provide a holistic approach to on-farm nutrient management while reflecting positive improvements in water quality.

**Assistance Type:** Technical

**Financial Assistance:** None

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Agriculture

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Soil conservation

**Criteria:** Available to all farms.

# ***Wetland Protection and Restoration Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation

**Program:** Wetland Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP)

**Address:** April Moulaert  
103 South Main Street, 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601

**Phone:** 802-241-1054

**Email:** [April.Moulaert@state.vt.us](mailto:April.Moulaert@state.vt.us)

**Website:** [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wprp\\_home.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wprp_home.cfm)

## **Program Description:**

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The goal of the Wetlands Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) is to help protect the water quality of Lake Champlain through the restoration and protection of wetlands. The program can purchase wetland property or easements, provide funded restoration designs and implementation, and help leverage other funding. Ideal sites are ditched or drained wetlands as well as intact wetlands. Often partners with WRP projects and others.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical, Easements

**Financial Assistance:** WPRP can provide:

- payment for the purchase of the wetland portion of a property
- payment for wetland easements
- payment for incorporating the wetland into an existing easement
- fully funded wetland design and implementation
- leverage of other funding sources.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Wetland

**Resource Type:** Water quality, Wildlife habitat

**Criteria:** The Department is actively seeking wetland restoration and protection opportunities. Ideal wetland restoration sites are those that historically functioned as wetlands but were converted to other uses through ditching and draining. The Department is also looking to protect intact wetlands that have a significant water quality protection function. Any landowner in the Champlain Basin of Vermont is eligible to apply.



# ***Wetland Reserve Program***

**Agency/Organization:** Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Program:** Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

**Address:** 617 Comstock Road  
Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602

**Name/ Phone:** Kip Potter / 802-951-6796 x238

**Email:** [kip.potter@vt.usda.gov](mailto:kip.potter@vt.usda.gov)

**Website:** [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/ programs/WRP/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WRP/)

## **Program Description:**

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The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering technical and financial support to help landowners protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland function and value possible, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. Enrolled lands are mostly high-risk agricultural lands located in flood prone areas. WRP offers an opportunity to establish long-term land and wildlife conservation through easements and cost-shared restoration practices.

**Assistance Type:** Financial, Technical, Easements

**Financial Assistance:** The program offers three enrollment options:

*Permanent Easement.* This is a conservation easement in perpetuity. Easement payments for this option equal the lowest of three amounts: the agricultural value of the land, an established payment cap, or an amount offered by the landowner. In addition to paying for the easement, USDA pays 100 percent of the costs of restoring the wetland.

*30-Year Easement.* Easement payments through this option are 75 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement. USDA also pays up to 75 percent of restoration costs.

For both permanent and 30-year easements, USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

*Restoration Cost-Share Agreement.* This is an agreement (generally for a minimum of 10 years) to re-establish degraded or lost wetland habitat. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the cost of the restoration activity. This enrollment option does not place an easement on the property. Other agencies, conservation districts, and private conservation organizations may provide additional incentive payments as a way to reduce the landowner's share of the costs.

# ***Wetland Reserve Program***

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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**Landscape Type:** Wetlands, Agriculture, Pastureland

**Resource Type:** Water Quality, Wildlife

**Criteria:** Land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife habitat. This includes: wetlands farmed under natural conditions; farmed wetlands; prior converted cropland; farmed wetland pasture; farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding; range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored; riparian areas which link protected wetlands; lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and/or previously restored wetlands.

To offer a conservation easement, the landowner must have owned the land for at least 7 years prior to enrolling it in the program, unless the land was inherited, the landowner exercised the landowner's right of redemption after foreclosure, or the landowner can prove the land was not obtained for the purpose of enrolling it in the program. Other exceptions may apply. To participate in a restoration cost-share agreement, the landowner must show evidence of ownership.