

FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Riparian Protection: We work with landowners to improve streamside buffers that help reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. In 2015, we planted 2,400 trees and shrubs on five properties (almost 7 acres) throughout the watershed. We created stewardship plans for seven sites and performed maintenance such as managing invasive plants on three sites.



Crossett Brook students planted a buffer along the stream on school property.

Stormwater Management:

Stormwater runoff is one of the major causes of pollution, flooding, and erosion in our watershed. We address this issue by constructing mitigation facilities, working with towns to reduce runoff from dirt roads, & through programs for homeowners. In 2015 we:

- Constructed a bioretention facility in Williston, which will keep 200 pounds of sediment and 1 pound of phosphorus out of Lake Champlain
- Completed a stormwater master plan for the Cabot School
- Designed three mitigation projects for a neighborhood in Barre



New bioretention facility in Williston

Fish Habitat: Many culverts are barriers to fish passage, causing fragmented habitat and isolated populations. We replaced a failing culvert on Crossett Brook, opening up three miles of fish habitat and improving flood resilience.



Water Quality Monitoring: Our volunteers sampled the water quality at 44 sites throughout the watershed on the mainstem and tributaries. We monitored phosphorus, chloride, turbidity, nitrogen, and E. coli – pollutants that threaten aquatic habitat and safe recreational use of our streams.

We finished up a 2-year assessment of the stormwater systems in Stevens Branch (Barre Town, Barre City, Williamstown & Berlin). Through the project, we identified several opportunities to eliminate pollution reaching waterways through the stormwater system.

Floodplain Restoration: In Northfield, we completed a floodplain restoration study for the Dog River. This study will be used to improve floodplain function on a set of properties that were purchased post-TS Irene. The restored floodplain will reduce future flooding and improve water quality.

River Clean up: For the 15th plus year, volunteers removed tires, trash and debris from the river and its tributaries. Montpelier High School students turned the river junk into art.



Onion River Race and Ramble: Over 90 paddlers came together to celebrate the Winooski River. See you on the water next June!



Friends of the Winooski River
PO Box 777
Montpelier VT 05601
802-882-8276
info@winooskiriver.org
www.winooskiriver.org