

FWR 2011 Accomplishments



Fixing the non-fish friendly culvert (left), required creating a downstream natural rock weir (center) that resulted in a 'back watered' culvert (right). Doing this did not appreciably reduce flow capacity. This project, completed on Great Brook in Plainfield in 2010, held up through the May 2011 flood and Tropical Storm Irene.

Restoration & Protection: We continued with our strong riparian restoration program, restoring buffers on six different properties in five towns. Over 2000 trees and shrubs were planted along about a mile of stream bank. Several of these projects including Allen Brook (Williston), the Granite Museum on the Stevens Branch (Barre) and Alder Brook (Essex) are multi-year projects.

Many culverts in Vermont present a significant barrier to fish passage causing fragmented habitat and isolated populations. In 2011, we evaluated a number of sites for improvement.

We installed four rain gardens in an Essex neighborhood that drains to Alder Brook.

The Friends continued to work with landowners to educate them and connect them with resources to improve streamside land practices.

We expanded our river clean up efforts to include new sites in the Stevens Branch as well as in the Lower Winooski.

Monitoring and Assessment: The Friends conducted follow up storm water outfall monitoring on about ten outfalls in Barre and Montpelier. The results indicate that corrections to problems we helped identify in previous years are working. However, some problems remain and we will work

with the Public Works Departments on these.

The Friends coordinated the Headwaters volunteer water quality monitoring project for the fifth year. We also coordinated community monitors on the Winooski River, North and Stevens Branches and Dog River (new in 2011) for the third year.

Education and Outreach: We published the *Landowner Assistance Guide* (downloadable from our website), which provides an inventory of technical and financial resources to help landowners better manage their streamside property. We also produced *Got Healthy Water?*; that addresses the importance and health of the Winooski headwaters.

We, along with the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District, are the outreach coordinators for the Chittenden County Stream Team (CCST), whose goal is to engage residents in water resource protection activities.

We produced a paddling and natural history guide to the mainstem of the Winooski. Visit our website for details.

Organizational Capacity: We continued to expand our partnership base.

We started a Dog River based partner group in late 2011. We also increased our presence in the lower Winooski, particularly Williston (Allen Brook) and Essex (Alder Brook).

2012 Projects & Goals

- Complete several riparian restoration projects throughout the watershed
- Conduct neighborhood storm water workshops in several towns
- Expand water quality monitoring programs
- Work with the Granite Museum to control invasive species and improve the riparian zone
- Complete additional fish passage improvement projects including removal of the Marshfield Village Dam
- Continue to work with landowners on improving land stewardship
- Pilot a 'Town Water Resource Action Plan'; a tool that integrates a broad spectrum of water resource information on a municipal level
- Expand our partnerships with municipalities including co-authoring of grants and project management
- Complete a mapping component for the website
- Complete a river access analysis and begin pursuing access improvements
- Complete a strategic planning process

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