

FWR 2008 Highlights



Paddlers
entering
Lake
Champlain

Restoration & Protection: In the Headwaters, we and our partners planted nearly 5000 feet of native trees and shrubs along the river. Several hundred feet of fascines to stabilize the banks were also installed.

The Friends have helped facilitate permanent or long term protection of riparian areas. In the Headwaters, one large parcel is protected under a permanent easement and in the North Branch another property will be protected under a long term contract. Discussions have been initiated with other landowners.

In urban areas, the Friends supported the installation of rain gardens to reduce and cleanse storm water runoff.

We have initiated culvert retrofit projects that will improve fish passage. At least one, culvert project will be completed in 2009.

Planning and Monitoring: The Kingsbury Branch Corridor Plan was completed in August. We have begun to implement the plan. Geomorphic assessment work was completed in the North Branch and a significant portion of the Stevens Branch. The corridor plans will be complete in early 2009.

The Friends coordinated the Headwaters volunteer water quality

monitors for the 2nd year. We also initiated monitoring on the Winooski, North and Stevens Branches that complement the efforts of U32, Montpelier and Spaulding High Schools.

The Friends conducted storm water outfall monitoring and traced pollution sources in Montpelier, Berlin and Northfield, working with Public Works Departments to address issues.

Education and Outreach: 2008 was the inaugural year for the Winooski River Sojourn, a six day paddling trip. The goal of the Sojourn is to inspire individual connections to the River and among the communities and users of the resource. Join us in 2009!

The Friends participated in a number of events to educate the public about the watershed including the Garlic Festival in Montpelier, the Cabot Apple Pie Festival and a North Branch program in Worcester.

Organizational Capacity: The Friends' believe strongly in working in partnerships. The Friends facilitate three partnerships: the Winooski Headwaters Community Project, the Mid-Winooski Partnership and the Lower Winooski Partnership. Many of our 2008 projects were completed with one or more of our partners.

Plans for 2009

- Utilize corridor plans from the North, Kingsbury and Stevens Branch as well as the upper mainstem to identify and implement protection and restoration strategies and projects.
- Riparian and stream bank restoration projects.
- Culvert retrofit projects to improve fish passage and stream stability.
- Expand the partnerships to include more towns, nonprofits, civic groups, schools and businesses to work together to protect and restore the local rivers and stream.
- Continue to work in urban centers to reduced polluted runoff.
- Volunteer water quality monitoring programs.
- Develop watershed education programs and materials that focus on land use and everyday human activities that impact river systems.
- Expand the Winooski River Sojourn.



Everyone can help
plant trees!