

# FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

# 2013

**Riparian Protection:** We work with landowners to improve streamside buffers that reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. We planted 3800 trees and shrubs along the Allen Brook (Williston); Stevens Branch (Barre); Dog River (Northfield and Berlin); and Winooski River (Marshfield).



Green Mountain Coffee Roaster volunteers along the Dog River

**Stormwater Management:** We worked on a variety of stormwater projects, including construction of a bioretention facility along the Dog River and design of another in Plainfield, installation of a rain garden at the Hunger Mountain Coop, painted rain barrels, a build your own rain barrel workshop in Barre, and residential site assessments.

We partnered with the Regional Planning Commission to complete a study of water quality impacts from dirt roads in the Headwaters towns (Cabot, Marshfield and Plainfield).



Rain barrels painted by Northfield High School students

**Water Quality Monitoring:** The Friends facilitated three volunteer water quality monitoring programs: the Headwaters (Plainfield, Marshfield and Cabot); the Four Rivers area (Winooski & Dog Rivers, Stevens & North Branches); and on several urban streams in the lower Winooski as part of the Chittenden County Stream Team.

We completed a comprehensive assessment of the stormwater systems in Plainfield, Marshfield and Cabot with the goal of identifying and correcting non-stormwater pollution from reaching waterways

**Education and Outreach:** In addition to several river flume demos, we gave talks at schools and community forums throughout the watershed on river processes, flood resiliency and stormwater management. We helped the Calais Lakes & Streams Committee produce a newsletter on controlling road and driveway runoff.

We engaged several hundred students and community members in volunteer projects.



Flume demo at the Intervale

**Fish Passage & Habitat:** Many culverts in Vermont are barriers to fish passage, causing fragmented habitat and isolated populations. We completed engineering designs for four projects in the watershed. Construction is planned for 2014.

**River Access:** We brought together paddling enthusiasts and area land managers to identify priority access projects along the Winooski River. We worked with local volunteers to construct a new access at the Martin Bridge Park in Marshfield.



Christening the canoe takeout at the Plainfield Coop (constructed in late 2012)

## 2014 Projects & Goals

- Continue work with landowners on riparian protection and restoration
- Expand stormwater education programs including residential onsite assessments
- Focus water quality monitoring programs on identifying pollutant sources
- Complete fish passage projects on Crossett Brook and Beaver Meadow Brook
- Implement additional stormwater control projects
- Improve river access and lead group paddling trips

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