

FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

2014

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Riparian Protection: We work with landowners to improve streamside buffers which help to reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. In 2014, we planted 1800 trees and shrubs on four properties throughout the watershed. We have also initiated a stewardship program for newly planted sites.



Our hard working Cabot School students

Stormwater Management:

Stormwater runoff is one of the major causes of pollution, flooding and erosion in our watershed. It is a problem that we address in many ways including construction of mitigation facilities; working with towns to reduce runoff from dirt roads; and educational programs for homeowners. A few examples from our work:

- Completed design for two stormwater mitigation facilities
- Initiated runoff reduction projects at schools in Bolton and Cabot
- Held a workshop on how to reduce runoff from private roads and driveways



Norwich University students surveying as part of a stormwater reduction effort

Fish Passage & Habitat: Many culverts in Vermont are barriers to fish passage, causing fragmented habitat and isolated populations. We constructed two retrofits in 2014.



Before and after: If you were a fish, which would you prefer?

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 affect aquatic habitat and safe recreational use of our streams.

We are in the midst of a 2-year assessment of the stormwater systems in Stevens Branch (Barre Town, Barre City, Williamstown & Berlin). The goal is to identify & eliminate non-stormwater pollution from reaching waterways.

Education and Outreach: We integrate education into many of our volunteer opportunities, particularly those with students. We hosted workshops, gave talks & published articles in local newsletters on several topics including what individuals can do to protect and restore the river.

River Clean up: In 2014, we got back in the river clean up business! Over 65 volunteers removed an estimated 120 tires and over 2 tons of trash & metal from the river and its tributaries.



Bringing in the trash in Montpelier!

2015 Projects & Goals

- Continue work with landowners on riparian protection and restoration
- Expand stormwater education programs including residential onsite assessments
- Use water quality monitoring programs to identify & eliminate pollutant sources
- Complete additional fish passage projects
- Design and install additional stormwater control projects
- Improve river access and lead group paddling trips

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