

# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## FRIENDS OF THE WINOOSKI RIVER

### RESTORATION PROJECTS

#### 2 dam removals completed ✓

We removed two dams - Jockey Hollow and Brooklyn Street - along the Stevens Branch in Barre this summer, with a third planned for 2026! Removing this series of three defunct dams will open four miles of high-quality stream habitat for wild trout. These large, engineered projects also reduce flood risk to homes, businesses, and roads. We are managing 10 additional projects in design phase.



Brooklyn Street Dam Removal



Jockey Hollow Dam



Before



After

#### Parking lot redesign ✓

We completed the redesign and construction of the parking lot at Baker Pond Fishing Access area to improve water quality and reduce runoff.

#### Strategic Wood Addition ✓

We completed the design and installation of a strategic woody addition on Long Meadow Brook. Wood in streams can provide floodplain reconnection, cooler water temperatures, channel stability, and excellent fish habitat.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

### 5,300 trees and shrubs planted ✓

This year we planted 3,000 stems of native trees and shrubs and 2,300 live stakes along riparian buffers across our watershed. This amounts to a total of 8.3 acres planted with the help of volunteers from UVM Rubenstein School, Mad/Dog Trout Unlimited, Barre River Access Task Force, SunCommon, Audubon Vermont, and Twinfield Union School.

In partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Audubon Vermont, and UVM, we are working to enhance bird habitat through our riparian planting projects through species selection and specific planting methods like clusters.



VHCB AmeriCorps



Invasive Dames Rocket

### 60+ volunteers in Memorial Park ✓

Thanks to funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, we were able to focus restoration efforts in Winooski's Memorial Park this year. Two large groups of volunteers helped us mitigate invasive species:

- \* VHCB AmeriCorps members and staff joined forces with us for their Spring Service Day in May.
- \* Project Harmony students on an exchange program from the Pacific Islands teamed up with us to pull weeds and clear brush.



Live willow staking after Jockey Hollow dam removal

## VOLUNTEER POWER

### 481 samples collected across 28 sites ✓

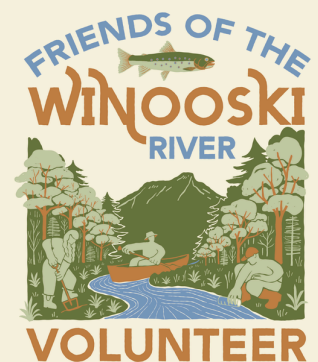
We continue to manage one of the largest volunteer water quality monitoring programs in the state, keeping track of stream conditions at 28 sites across the Headwaters, Montpelier, Berlin, Barre, Waterbury and Middlesex. We appreciate the time and effort of our dedicated volunteers: we couldn't do this without them!



Sampling demo

### Strengthening our volunteer program ✓

This year we debuted our new volunteer logo designed by TenderWarriorCo, which will be printed on apparel and ready for the 2026 field season! We also created volunteer training slide decks and are continuing to refine our onboarding process to be more efficient and inviting. Visit [winooskiriver.org/get-involved](http://winooskiriver.org/get-involved) for volunteer opportunities.



Elm Street Cleanup Site

### 50+ volunteers for Montpelier River Cleanup ✓

We've been pulling trash out of the rivers in and around Montpelier for over 25 years! This year, despite a city-wide power outage and a rainy forecast, we welcomed over 50 hardworking volunteers to remove tires, appliances, toys, shopping carts, furniture, silverware - you name it!



## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Developed the Barre River Access Master Plan



The project team can't wait to release this exciting plan to enhance access to rivers in the City of Barre. We will continue to support the Barre River Access Task Force to bring these plans into a reality and support projects and outreach that cultivate positive relationships between residents and their rivers.



Photo Credit: James Rea

### Partnered in Creating the Winooski Flood Resilience Collaborative

We are bringing river expertise and a watershed focus to this important initiative to help our communities work together to become more resilient in our changing climate.

**The following businesses supported our team this year through in-kind or monetary donations - *we can't thank them enough!***

