

A Closer Look at a Prolific Planting Season

Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) is dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Winooski watershed. FWR works with landowners to improve streamside (riparian) buffers that reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. We detailed why riparian restoration projects are critical in Vermont [here](#).

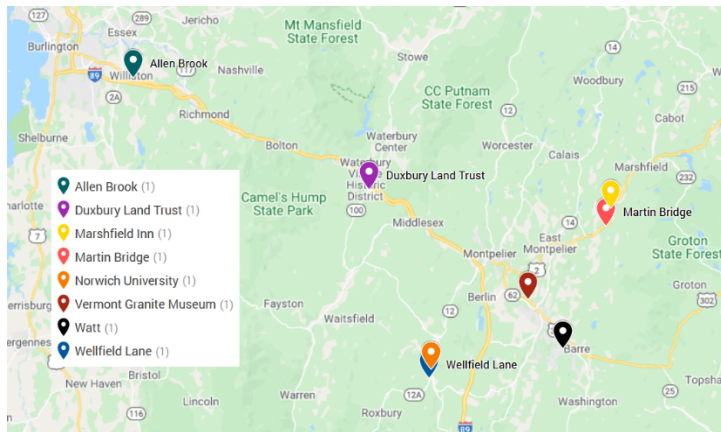


Over the years, FWR has organized several dozen riparian restoration projects and planted over 25,000 trees and shrubs! These projects help us achieve the goal of a clean, healthy, and resilient Winooski watershed.

In most years, FWR plants between 1,500 and 3,000 trees and shrubs. In the spring of 2013, we planted a whopping total of 3,800 trees and shrubs! Planting in large numbers helps to quickly restore riparian buffers so they can once again provide crucial habitat and water quality benefits.

An impressive total of 19 species of trees and shrubs were planted in April and May of 2013. A variety of maples, dogwoods, willows, poplars, and pines were selected (full list below). All species were native riparian plants that could more easily and rapidly establish and succeed in the buffer. Planting several different species increases the resilience of the buffer. If a pest or disease impacts one of the species, the other species will be able to continue to survive and maintain the benefits of a vegetated buffer.

In over 40 hours across 9 field days, planting projects were undertaken at 8 different sites across the Winooski watershed! Over 230 hard-working volunteers and crew members from 19 groups (full list below) planted trees and shrubs along the Allen Brook (Williston), Stevens Branch (Barre), Dog River (Northfield and Berlin), and Winooski River (Marshfield).



Volunteers are critical to the completion and success of FWR's restoration projects. FWR is happy to be able to share the special experience of planting trees and shrubs for the benefit of future generations with a dedicated volunteer base. As the saying goes, the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second best time is now. We are lucky to have our volunteers join us in these efforts!

FWR aims to engage people who live, work, and play in our watershed to learn about the challenges to the river, and help us work to solve some of those challenges, and celebrate the

progress that we make. FWR hopes to create a community of stewards working to improve watershed health by reducing pollution, improving habitat, and increasing river stability, while also encouraging sustainable enjoyment of the river. If you are interested in getting involved, please consider [signing up for our email newsletters](#), [volunteering](#), or [donating](#) so FWR can keep making these projects happen!



Special thanks to all of the volunteer groups and staff that came out to plant with FWR during the 2013 spring season: BellCate School, Cabot Creamery, Duxbury Land Trust, Essex High School, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Green Mountain Valley School, Intervale Conservation Nursery, Northfield Conservation Commission, Northfield Middle and High School, Norwich University, Spaulding High School, Star Program, Twinfield School, U-32 Middle and High School, University of Vermont Greenhouse, Vermont Granite Museum, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Websterville Baptist, and Williston Central School!

Species planted: red osier dogwood, silky dogwood, cottonwood, shrub willow, black willow, alder, hackberry, northern white cedar, green ash, elm, box elder, sugar maple, red maple, common poplar, white birch, grey birch, white ash, white pine, and balsam poplar.