



Friends of the Winooski River

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The Friends of the Winooski River asks you to support our mission and programs through membership. The Friends' mission is to safeguard and enhance the natural resources of the Winooski River watershed in order to create a healthy balance with its human communities. We pursue this mission through restoration projects, monitoring, partnerships, education and outreach. **Membership support is critical to our mission.** With member support, we achieved the following and more in 2016:

- Planted 2250 trees and shrubs on five properties throughout the watershed;
- Constructed two stormwater runoff reduction practices at the Cabot School;
- Completed a floodplain restoration design in Northfield on the Dog River;
- Created stormwater master plans for the Huntington town garage; the Smilie School in Bolton, and for a neighborhood in Barre;
- Continued work in Montpelier and Barre to identify and reduce pollution entering the streams via the stormwater collection system; and
- Worked with volunteers to collect water quality data at 36 sites throughout the watershed.

In 2017, we look forward to working on a number of challenges such as:

- Working with landowners on riparian protection and restoration projects;
- Constructing stormwater management practices in several towns;
- Working with municipalities and private landowners to develop stormwater master plans and designs;
- Restore floodplain function along the Dog River in Northfield that will protect water quality as well as public and private infrastructure; and
- Conducting education and outreach programs throughout the watershed.

You can donate at our website www.winooskiriver.org or mail a check to Friends of the Winooski River PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601. If you would like to learn more about the Friends, we would love to talk to you.

Thank you for supporting our efforts!

Colin McCaffrey
President

Ann Smith
Executive Director

FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Riparian Protection: We work with landowners to improve streamside buffers that help reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. In 2016, we planted 2,250 trees and shrubs on five properties (~6.5 acres) throughout the watershed. We also did site maintenance such as removing competing vegetation including knotweed from around newly planted trees on 8 acres at 5 restoration sites. Site maintenance improves growth and survivorship, accelerating buffer function.



Students from Twinfield School planting a red osier dogwood along the Winooski River

Stormwater Management:

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of pollution, flooding, and erosion in our watershed. We address this issue by constructing mitigation facilities, working with towns to reduce runoff from dirt roads, & through programs for homeowners. In 2016 we:

- Constructed two stormwater mitigation swales at the Cabot School which will keep 1015 pounds of sediment and 2.1 pounds of phosphorus out of Lake Champlain.
- Completed stormwater master plans for the Huntington town garage & the Smilie School in Bolton.
- Worked with the City of Barre, Town of Huntington and the Smilie School to pursue funding to construct stormwater practices in 2017.



One of the swales at the Cabot School

Floodplain Restoration: In Northfield, we completed the final design for a floodplain restoration along the Dog River on properties that were purchased post-TS Irene. Working in partnership with the Town, we anticipate completing the restoration in 2017. The restored floodplain will reduce flooding and improve water quality as well as provide passive recreation space.



Restoration area and rendering of park.

Water Quality Monitoring:

Volunteers sampled for *E. coli*, total phosphorus, turbidity, nitrogen, and chloride at 36 sites in the watershed the summer of 2016. These pollutants threaten aquatic ecosystems and safe recreational use of our waterways.

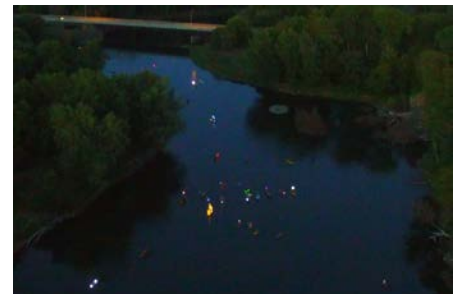
The Friends assessed discharge from 91 stormdrain outfalls in Montpelier to detect and reduce pollutants reaching streams via the stormwater system.

Stream Table: The Friends bought a stream table in 2016! The table is a fantastic education tool for students, municipal officials and the general public. In 2017, we will train teachers to use the table with their students. We will also develop a lending protocol so other organizations can take advantage of it.



Stream table in action in Northfield!

Enjoying the River: In addition to the Onion River Race and Ramble in June, we held a River of Light Paddle on the harvest moon in September.



Lights on the river! VTDrone.com / Steve Mermelstein

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