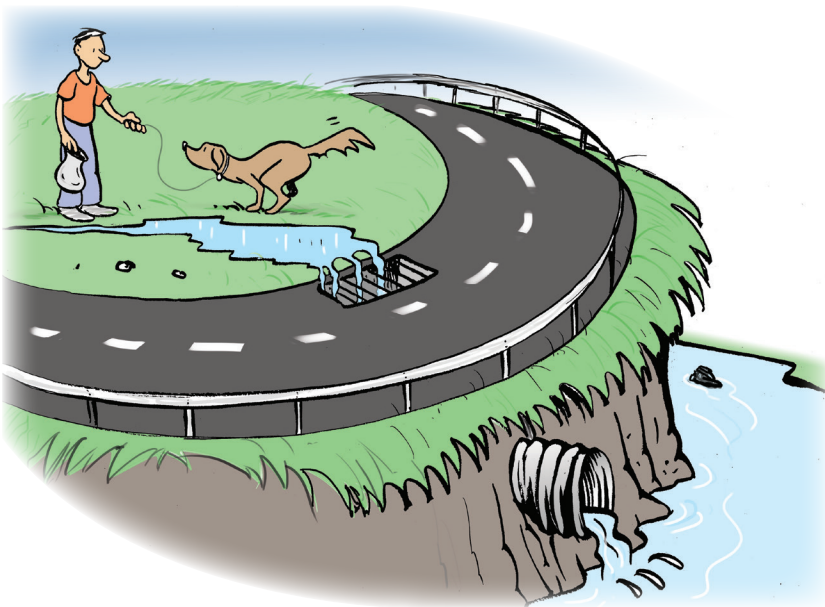


If you have stormwater flowing onto your property from roads or neighboring properties, work with the City or your neighbors to manage it.

Even though it is not 'your' stormwater, the best solution may be to use a collaborative approach to take care of it on your property. Every step you take will get us closer to a resilient Montpelier.

Resilience: the ability to absorb the rain that falls on Montpelier and minimize damage to the built or natural environment.



These tips provided by the Friends of the Winooski River, a volunteer group dedicated to the health and restoration of the Winooski River, its tributaries and watershed. We can help you take these first steps or connect with funding for larger solutions.

To learn more visit winooskiriver.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Slow the Rain is supported by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program



How to increase resilience for a healthy Winooski River

When rain falls and snow melts, Vermont's fields and forests soak the water in like sponges. But in Montpelier our rooftops, roads, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots send this water racing toward storm drains and directly into our streams and rivers.

This stormwater impacts our health, safety, and recreation.

- Its unchecked speed and volume cause localized flooding, cloud our rivers with silt, and erode stream channels.
- It also carries pollutants—especially phosphorus from our soils, grass clippings and leaf piles and *E.coli* bacteria from pet waste. The Friends of the Winooski data consistently show increased levels of *E.coli* in the river after it rains—in concentrations that are unsafe for swimming.

There is no denying it: Montpelier is adding phosphorous and *E.coli* to the Winooski River and contributing to the algae blooms in Lake Champlain.

Fortunately, there are steps we can each take to slow down runoff and temper its impact.



Slow the Rain is a new campaign led by the Friends of the Winooski. By acting now, you will keep your soil and nutrients close to home, make Montpelier more resilient, and do your part to keep the Winooski River and its branches clean and healthy.

Slow It Down

What You Can Do	Why
Direct downspouts so the water pouring off your roof does not flow on to paved surfaces	Storing this water in rain barrels, diverting it to rain gardens, or spreading it out across the lawn gives the runoff time to soak into the ground
Build rain gardens or swales	Letting the stormwater settle reduces silt and filters pollutants
Improve drainage to prevent erosion around driveways and walkways	Reduces silt and pollutants and saves on maintenance costs
If there are any impervious areas (such as patios or walkways) around your property that you do not need or no longer utilize, remove and revegetate them	Provides more area to soak up rain and absorb nutrients
Plant any bare areas around your property to reduce erosion	Reduces silt and pollutants and saves on maintenance costs
Plant trees and shrubs to create natural buffers along streams and wetlands, and prevent erosion	Trees and shrubs act as filters, capturing silt and pollutants before they get to the river. Using native plants improves habitat for Vermont wildlife and birds
Reduce area of mowed lawns and allow native plants to flourish	Mowed lawns, especially when dry or steep, will not retain runoff as well as native plantings

Clean It Up

What You Can Do	Why
Scoop up pet poop (even in your yard) and bag it in the trash	Keeps <i>E. coli</i> and other bacteria and nutrients out of the river
Minimize use of lawn fertilizers	Any fertilizers that wash off our lawns go directly to the Winooski and Lake Champlain, where high nutrient levels are already hurting our water quality
Maintain lawn height at 3-4", reduce mowed area, and plant trees and shrubs	Longer grass holds more nutrients in place, instead of having them wash into the river. Not mowing or replacing grass with shrubs traps even more nutrients on site
Collect yard waste for compost	Creating a pile of branches, leaves, and other yard waste on site allows for the slow decomposition and ground absorption of the naturally occurring nutrients
Keep yard waste from clogging storm drains	Leaves, twigs, and small branches do not always fit through storm grates. If water can't flow as intended it will keep moving downhill. As it picks up speed and volume, erosion is more likely
Sweep up sand, salt, grass clippings, and soil from paved driveways, instead of washing it into storm drains	Whatever flows into Montpelier's storm drains goes directly into the Winooski or a tributary. These pollutants affect water clarity and stream habitat