



## Note From District Manager



This summer marks the end of my second year as District Manager. When I accepted the position I did so with the understanding that, in addition to being responsible for developing and funding new projects, I would be taking over existing projects and helping them along to their conclusion. This work has, at times, been slow going. It is always difficult to begin in the middle of a project using the file systems and progress of others. This slow progress has been at times a source of frustration. That being said, I am very happy to report that we are finally beginning to tie up the loose ends of some of these projects. This summer, we will close out three long-standing projects. The first project is the removal of Hands Mill Dam. While the dam was removed in the late Summer of 2024, we have spent the last two years working on ecological restoration and historical documentation of the site. On June 23, we installed a sign adjacent to what remains of the dam, which details the history of the dam. With this, I am happy to say that we have officially completed our work at Hands Mill Dam!

The two other projects that we will close out this summer are our Storm Smart project funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and our short course series on stormwater management in collaboration with the Yestermorrow Design/Build School, also funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. You will read more about our activities with Yestermorrow below. Storm Smart is a program that offers free home assessments and recommendations on best management practices for residential stormwater management.

While we will be closing out our Storm Smart project, we continue to offer free assessments for homeowners, lakeshore property owners, and streamside property owners under a new funding agreement (if you would like an assessment for your property, please reach out: <https://www.winooskinrcd.org/storm-smart>)

In addition to the close out of these old projects, we are also preparing and waiting for the next steps of two projects that we believe will go to construction this summer, improvements to Enos, Red Pine, and Partridge Hill Roads in Hinesburg, VT and the replacement of a culvert on Woodchuck Hollow Road in Washington, VT. It had been our hope at the District that both of these projects would already have broken ground. And while we are still waiting to break ground, we are making progress toward that goal. For all of these projects, new or old, it has been slow, patient work that has kept them moving forward, and it will be slow, patient work that will see them completed!

I wish you all an excellent summer!



Hands Mill Dam  
interpretive sign in  
Washington, Vermont.  
From left to right: Jeff  
Cueto (WNRCD Associate  
Supervisor), Dan  
Koenemann (WNRCD  
District Manager), Mike  
Tagliavia (VT House Rep.  
Orange-1), Delaney Hindel  
(WNRCD Intern)  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



## Unifying Stormwater Program

The WNRCD is offering free technical assessments all summer for residents with lakeshore or streamside property, or anyone interested in managing stormwater on their property. Each assessment includes a detailed follow-up technical report tailored specifically to your property. Stream Wise Assessments are designed to help streamside property owners protect and enhance vegetated buffers, improve flood resiliency, and support water quality and wildlife habitat. Lake Wise Assessments provide guidance for shoreland property owners to make their land as lake-friendly as possible. Storm Smart Assessments offer technical support for managing stormwater at homes using green infrastructure like rain gardens, rain barrels, and water bars. These practices slow, spread, and soak in rainfall, keeping rivers clean and replenishing groundwater.

This summer, the WNRCD will offer all three assessments through the Unifying Stormwater Initiative, funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The initiative provides a consistent, watershed-wide approach to stormwater management. During a visit, WNRCD staff will walk your property with you, trace the path water takes, and provide tailored recommendations for Green Stormwater Infrastructure. Any landowner within the Winooski River service area is eligible for a Storm Smart assessment. Landowners may also be eligible for financial support for approved best management practices to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

Protect your property and local waterways! Sign up for a free assessment by contacting  
**[Lucas@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:Lucas@winooskinrcd.org)**.



Dan Koenemann works with a landowner during a property consultation to discuss invasive species management in Charlotte, Vermont.  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



## Successful Rain Garden Plantings

Our spring planting season was a great success, and we'd like to highlight two rain gardens installed in Milton and Colchester through the Rethink Runoff program. As a refresher, Rethink Runoff is an ongoing public awareness and outreach initiative focused on reducing polluted stormwater runoff throughout the Greater Burlington area.

The first planting took place on June 7 at Bombardier Park in Milton. The site first was identified by the Milton Parks and Recreation Department as an area that experienced seasonal ponding after big rain events. Standing water in locations like this can contribute to soil erosion and carry untreated stormwater into nearby waterways. Rain gardens are shallow, landscaped, bulb-shaped depressions designed to capture runoff from rooftops, driveways, and other impervious surfaces. Filled with native plants, they slow down runoff, filter pollutants, and allow water to soak naturally into the ground. Fortunately, the Milton site consisted of sandy soil, making the digging portion of the day much easier than expected. With the help of several local Milton volunteers, the group dug the garden, laid out the plants, and completed the installation in just a few hours. Both the Milton and Colchester rain gardens were planted with native species sourced locally from Full Circle Gardens in Essex, Vermont, including:

Foam Flower

Jacob's Ladder

Monkey Flower

Marsh Marigold

Swamp Milkweed

Lobelia

Black-eyed Susan

Fox Sedge

Goat's Beard

## Successful Rain Garden Plantings (Continued)

Just a few weeks later, Lucas brought his tools and expertise to the Burnham Memorial Library in Colchester, where he partnered with the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program to install a second rain garden. Together with Karen Burke of the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program and 12 dedicated volunteers, the group planted 120 native plants in front of the library. Like the Milton project, this rain garden addresses a drainage issue, but with a slightly different focus. This garden captures runoff flowing directly from the library's rooftop, helping to slow, spread, and soak water into the landscape before it reaches storm drains on VT Route 2. Without treatment, stormwater runoff (also known as nonpoint source pollution) can carry excess phosphorus, nitrogen, oil, sediment, and other pollutants across roads, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces before entering catch basins and eventually rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. Rain gardens are a simple yet very effective way to reduce these impacts while also creating attractive habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Both installations were giant successes and excellent examples of what local community members can accomplish together! It's been exciting to spend the season working alongside community partners to install these gardens and help raise awareness about stormwater runoff. Look for new Rethink Runoff signs at both rain gardens later this summer. The signs include a QR code where visitors can scan and learn more about how rain gardens work and how they can install one on their own property.

If you're considering a rain garden or have questions about managing stormwater on your property, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is here to help. Through our stormwater, agriculture, and watershed programs, we provide technical assistance to landowners throughout our service area. Our staff works directly with residents to evaluate properties and recommend practical, site-specific solutions that improve water quality, reduce runoff, and restore more natural landscapes across the Winooski River watershed.

For more information, contact **Lucas Goldfluss** at **[Lucas@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:Lucas@winooskinrcd.org)**.



*Lucas Goldfluss works with volunteers from the UVM Master Gardener Program to install rain garden plants at Burnham Memorial Library in Colchester, Vermont. Credit: PLUCK Design*



Lucas Goldfluss helps excavate soil from the planting area to prepare the site for rain garden installation.

Credit: PLUCK Design



Close-up view of rain garden plants following installation.  
Credit: PLUCK Design



## Yestermorrow BMP Course

On May 12, Winooski NRCDC, in collaboration with the Yestermorrow Design/Build School, the Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Hilltop Construction, Stone Environmental, and SLR Consulting, hosted a short course to teach landscapers and natural resource professionals how to properly construct an infiltration basin. This short course was a part of a training series we have been offering free of charge to spread stormwater management best practices. If you remember, last summer, our short course covered the replacement of a small culvert.

The installation of the infiltration basin was a resounding success. We had students attend from as far away as Massachusetts. All participants left with knowledge and appreciation for the construction process, and Yestermorrow received a new stormwater management practice to accommodate their growing campus.

The funding for this training series was provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC).

# Yestermorrow BMP Course Photos



*Students level out the infiltration basin prior to rain garden plant installation.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



*Students stand in a circle to discuss questions and review plans prior to implementation.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



*Completed infiltration basin following installation.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



## Orange Farm Cleanup

On May 26th, the Winooski NRCD partnered with Ben & Jerry's to clean rock debris out of a farmer's field in Orange, VT. This project had been in the planning stages by the District for over a year, after the 2024 flood washed out the farmer's road and deposited debris across the field. Around 30 volunteers from Ben & Jerry's came out to help this project and move debris back to the side of the road.



*Volunteers work to remove rock debris from field.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



*Rock debris pile in field.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD

## Bobolink Farm Tour

The Winooski NRCD partnered with UVM Extension and Vermont Grass Farmers Association to host a farm tour at Bobolink Farm on May 21st. Bruce and Carol Howlett welcomed us on the farm and educated us about their pasture diversity, their sheep winterizing system, and a new covered barnyard supported by water quality grants.

*Participants gather at Bobolink Farm to participate in a guided farm tour.*  
Credit: Winooski NRCD



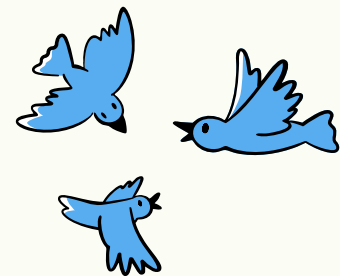
## Bird Walk at Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge

On June 11th the Winooski NRCD partnered with Audubon Vermont and Mass Audubon to do a bird walk through the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge. We observed woodland and grassland birds and learned about how good farming practices can promote healthy bird habitat.



Participants look into the trees to identify birds at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge.

Credit: Winooski NRCD



## Annual Dinner Announcement

Mark your calendars! We have scheduled our annual dinner for 2026. We will be gathering on Thursday, November 12, 2026 from 5-7 PM. This year we will be meeting at the Richmond Free Library (201 Bridge St, Richmond, VT 05477). As with last year, there will be food, casual socializing, a guest Speaker (TBD), a Winooski NRCD year in review, awards, and door prizes. Casual dress and atmosphere. Children and families welcome. Suggested donation of \$20 per person. To register, please visit our website:

<https://www.winooskinrcd.org/surveys>. We look forward to seeing you there!



# Rolling Grant Deadlines



## Farm Assistance Program: Rolling

Provides Vermont farms with grants to install soil conservation practices.

Learn more: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap>

## Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program: Rolling

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide.

Learn more: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf>

## Best Management Practices Program: Rolling

Technical and financial assistance to identify & assess farmstead water quality concerns, and to assist farmers with the implementation of structural improvements designed to abate agricultural waste discharges.

Learn more: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/bmp>

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): Rolling

Voluntary program designed to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers. State and Federal funds are used to compensate landowners for the loss of productive agricultural land through upfront incentive payments and annual rental payments.

Learn more: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/crep>

# Volunteer or Donate

Interested in volunteering or getting more involved in our conservation efforts? We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to [Lucas@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:Lucas@winooskinrcd.org) to learn about volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved.

Prefer to support our work with a donation instead? Click this link:

<https://www.winooskinrcd.org/annual-tree-sale-and-donations> to make a contribution in the amount of your choice. Your generosity helps fund our conservation efforts, including on-the-ground projects that protect and enhance our local natural resources.

Thank you for supporting our mission!

# District Mailing Address

The Winooski NRCDC has a new mailing address. Please send all future correspondence to: **PO Box 1114, Montpelier, VT 05601.**

Thank you!