



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Vermont River Conservancy. Since 1996, we have been working diligently to protect public access, wildlife habitat, clean waters, and scenic natural beauty by conserving land along rivers, lakes and wetlands of Vermont. With you as a partner, we can continue this work and do even more.



Cordially,
Steve Libby

Steve Libby, Executive Director

OUR PURSUITS



A SWIMMING HOLE IN EVERY TOWN

Places to cool off, slow down, relax, and have fun, swimming holes are a vital component of Vermont communities. Unfortunately, swimming holes are becoming increasingly off limits to the public. Our vision is of a permanently protected swimming hole in every town. By proactively protecting public access to these treasured places, we can guarantee Vermont residents will always have special places close by to enjoy.



PADDLING TRAILS AND FISHING ACCESSES

Vermont's seventeen major watersheds provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for paddlers and anglers. The Vermont River Conservancy is facilitating a strategic approach to ensuring adequate public access to the rivers of Vermont. Working with local partners, we are protecting and improving access points and primitive campsites, and coordinating collaborative arrangements for long-term stewardship.



FLOOD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Conserved floodplains provide room for rivers to meander naturally and release energy during intense flood events. VRC is partnering with local watershed groups, the state of Vermont, FEMA, and local landowners to conserve lands that provide these vital ecological services. By purchasing conservation easements within river meander corridors, we are ensuring our rivers will always have places to flood, thereby helping communities mitigate future storm impacts.



WILDLIFE CORRIDORS & WATER QUALITY

River corridors provide vital habitat for much of Vermont's wildlife and serve as routes for daily activities and seasonal migration. Intact streamside vegetation greatly improves water quality by reducing water temperatures, filtering out sediment, and providing food for aquatic life. The Vermont River Conservancy is actively working with federal, state, and local conservation partners to protect priority wildlife habitats and to ensure high water quality for generations to come.

THE VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY

29 Main St. Montpelier, VT 05602 • 802-229-0820 • vrc@vermontriverconservancy.org



FEATURED CONSERVATION PROJECTS



ENOSBURG FALLS RIVER ACCESS PARK:

A traditional fishing area, a popular picnic spot, and an access point for the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, this property was posted and closed to public access in 2011. With strong support from the local community, VRC worked to conserve this parcel and transfer it to the village, ensuring it will permanently remain open for all.



NULHEGAN RIVER CORRIDOR:

Vermont's most wild river, the Nulhegan is an important wildlife corridor. The VRC has completed a number of conservation projects along its lower reach, ensuring the river will remain unconstrained by permanent structural modifications and open for use by anglers and paddlers.



TERRILL GORGE:

VRC was able to protect access to the gorge and conserve undeveloped riparian lands and scenic woodland views along and above Kenfield Brook, one of the Vermont's most beautiful natural swimming areas.



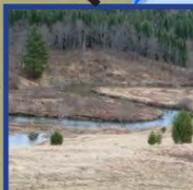
NORTH BRANCH OF THE WINOOSKI:

Despite its proximity to Montpelier, the North Branch remains largely undeveloped and serves as important wildlife habitat. The VRC has completed several projects here, safeguarding important riparian lands and permanently protecting recreational opportunities along this scenic corridor.



LYMAN FALLS:

Adjacent to the old Lyman Falls dam, the property provides access to some of the finest trout fishing in New England and hosts several outstanding primitive canoe campsites.



HAMBLETON RIVER CORRIDOR:

Located along the Winooski River in the town of Marshfield, this open meadowland is now protected from future development, ensuring the river will always have a place to migrate and move.



MORETOWN RIVER ACCESS:

For years, paddlers ending a Mad River trip scrambled up steep banks to an unofficial takeout. Now, thanks to support of a local landowner and the Town of Moretown, a permanent river access is open to the public.



WHITE RIVER FLOOD RESILIENCE:

The White River experienced significant damage from Tropical Storm Irene. VRC is actively working with municipal, state, and federal partners to experiment with new approaches that convert flood-threatened private property to public open space.



CLARENDON GORGE:

The Lower Clarendon Gorge property includes an exceptional swimming area and a dramatic series of mesmerizing waterfalls. The property also protects an important and uncommon "temperate calcareous cliffside" natural community.



CONNECTICUT RIVER PADDLERS' TRAIL:

Since 2009, the VRC has facilitated a collaborative effort to develop and steward a growing series of over 70 access points and 35 primitive campsites spanning from the river's headwaters south to the Massachusetts border.



ROBERTS RIVER CORRIDOR:

Upstream of the village of Saxtons River, this property experienced extreme flooding during Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Permanently protected to allow for the river to flood and move, it is now an important river property that helps protect downstream infrastructure from flooding and associated potential damage.

LEGEND:

-  VRC Conservation Project
-  Regional Water Trail
-  River Corridor Conservation Focus Area
-  Flood Resiliency Initiative

GET INVOLVED!



VOLUNTEER. Volunteers, including individuals, civic groups, youth groups, and businesses, provide valuable help by participating in river clean-ups and site maintenance work projects. Other volunteers adopt river access sites and complete annual stewardship and monitoring tasks.



DONATE. As a nonprofit organization, we rely on financial support from individuals and businesses to keep the organization going, to purchase easements, and to conduct land and river stewardship. All donors share with us the satisfaction of playing a part in the protection of wonderful places in Vermont.



ENDOW A LEGACY. We are humbled by the opportunity to carry out projects in honor of loved ones. We work with families to establish **legacy funds** to be used in specific pursuits that best capture a family's spirit of dedication to the care of Vermont's waterways.

Call us at 229-0820 to learn about volunteer opportunities, donating land, including VRC in your estate planning, or establishing a legacy fund.



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STEVE LIBBY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Involved with the VRC since 1997, Steve believes that rivers create a common landscape language for the people of Vermont and deserve our highest regard and protection. Steve also teaches land conservation at the University of Vermont.



LYDIA MENENDEZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Before landing at VRC, Lydia earned a Masters from the Ecological Planning Master's Program at the University of Vermont, directing the Land Stewardship Program. She chairs the Middlesex Town Forest Stewardship Committee, and is committed to conserving Vermont's land and water resources.



NOAH POLLOCK

PADDLER TRAILS COORDINATOR

An avid paddler and river enthusiast, Noah assists with VRC's conservation and river access projects, particularly the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail. Raised in upstate NY, Noah is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Vermont.



STEPHAN SYZ

FOUNDER AND VOLUNTEER

Raised in a family that fought the filling of Connecticut tidal marshes for the interstate, Stephan went on to serve as an environmental planner for the City of Philadelphia and watershed planner for the State of Vermont. Founder of both the VRC and the Montpelier Conservation Commission, he is a passionate and dedicated conservationist.