



Weekly News Roundup July 30, 2021

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Upcoming Events

Online Municipal Planning Grant Webinar

Wednesday, August 18th from 2 to 3 PM

Vermont's communities face tough challenges and unprecedented funding opportunities because of the pandemic. The State's flexible [Municipal Planning Grants](#) are ready to support projects for long-term recovery. Now is a great time to begin thinking about projects, small or large. For more than 30 years, Municipal Planning Grants have helped [communities of all sizes](#) develop and implement town plan recommendations -- jumpstarting initiatives like zoning updates to welcome new homes, plans for a state designated area, or economic recovery strategies. Communities that invest in planning build momentum for action, setting the table to make smart investments and make the most of funding opportunities.

Join ACCD to learn more about the program, how to write a competitive application, and get tips on navigating the online system. Register [here](#).

Managing EAB Infested Ash: A One-Day Workshop for Municipal Staff and Arborists

This workshop is a single day event offered at two locations:

- September 8th, 8am – 3pm. Essex, VT. Register [here](#).
- September 9th, 8am – 3pm. Montpelier, VT. Register [here](#)

Who Should Attend? The event is free but requires registration. Municipal staff, parks employees, and others actively managing trees will be given priority; remaining space will be allocated to other municipal land managers or decision makers interested in learning more about the costs and effects of emerald ash borer on publicly managed ash trees.

Objectives: The workshop will include a morning indoor discussion about ash tree identification, signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer, and the current status of EAB in Vermont. Outdoors, the group will:

- learn how to assess and plan for removal ash trees that are visibly infested or suspected to be infested with EAB, including establishment of escape routes and communication channels;
- review safety standards, best practices, and considerations for both ground crews and chainsaw operators; and
- assess individual trees on site and discuss best removal methods, including felling from the ground, hiring a climbing crew, or utilizing a bucket truck or crane for tree removal.

Please reach out to joanne.garton@vermont.gov with any questions about this opportunity.

Save the Date—Using the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT) to Strengthen Hazard Mitigation Planning-September 15 at 5pm

Join CVRPC to learn about the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT), and how it can be incorporated into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans! At this workshop, we will:

1. Provide background on the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT) and how it can be

used.

2. Share methods to incorporate transportation resiliency into LHMPs to strengthen mitigation strategies and long-term planning.

Please consider attending if you are involved in planning efforts at the local level, and would like more information on how to incorporate transportation resiliency into local plans.

When: Wednesday, September 15 at 5pm

Meeting access information:

- Physical location: Central VT Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin (Facial coverings are required for in-person participation)

- Remote participation via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89570356591?pwd=T3FQbHBQakl5UGR0VHJEZnZwZXZhdz09>

- Dial in: 929 436 2866; Access code 895 7035 6591; Passcode: 996065

Please reach out to vinson@cvregion.com with any questions.

Community News



Cross Vermont Trail Association Announces Trail Bridge Installation

Cross Vermont Trail recently announced completion of the first stage of the new trail bridge being constructed over the Winooski River in East Montpelier. This bridge is a vital link in the 90-mile trail between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River. Read the press release [here>>](#). Additional photos and details of this exciting project can also be found on CVTA's

[website.](#)

CVRPC Planning Technician Opening

CVRPC seeks to hire a Planning Technician to assist our team through the end of September 2021. Major areas of work include inventories, transportation counts, and data analysis. More details available [here>>](#).

Make Your Property Storm Smart: Free Assessments

Summer rain storms may be great for our gardens, but all that water can create challenges for streams and lakes in the Winooski Watershed. That's why the Friends of the Mad River, Friends of the Winooski River and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District teamed up to offer free stormwater assessments to help you identify opportunities to be a better watershed steward. Storm Smart is a free program where water quality professionals help you find ways to slow down, spread out, and sink in rainfall on your property.



When you sign up for a site assessment, one of the Winooski Watershed Partners will reach out to you to schedule a 1-2 hour-long visit. During the visit they will trace the path water takes through your property and provide individualized recommendations for Green Stormwater Infrastructure solutions. These recommendations can include everything from adding a rain barrel next to your porch, to installing water bars on a gravel driveway or changing your lawn maintenance routine to make it more stream-friendly.

Make a difference in your community by joining 50 of your Winooski Watershed neighbors who have already participated in the program. Sign up for a FREE on-site assessment at:

<https://forms.gle/7FmL8jatbit6buA17>

For more info visit: winooskinrcd.org -- winooskiriver.org -- or -- friendsofthemadriver.org

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00A00605) to NEIWPC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Zoning Survey

Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) has developed a survey about local housing and zoning policies in Vermont. It is hoped this survey will help highlight how zoning decisions impact the supply of affordable homes and be a valuable resource for local housing and planning commission

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

Plainfield Gully Stormwater Implementation Engineering Services

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to conduct engineering bid services and construction oversight for stormwater mitigation at a gully located at The Health Center in Plainfield, Vermont. Proposals will be due August 20, 2021. Find the full RFP [here](#).



VT Outdoor Recreation Grants Available

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative has grant funds available for recreation projects. Eligible projects will:

- Grow outdoor recreation-related businesses.
- Increase participation in outdoor recreation activities among all demographics.
- Strengthen the quality and extent of outdoor recreation resources.
- Increase stewardship of outdoor recreation resources and environmental quality.
- Promote and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

Recognizing the wonderful variety and complexity of Vermont's existing outdoor recreation infrastructure, assets, and use, outdoor recreation is defined by VOREC and the community grant program as leisure, sport and therapeutic recreation activities pursued outdoors, mainly in a natural setting. Outdoor Recreation encompasses a wide scope of potential activities.

Letters of interest due August 27, 2021. For a list of eligible projects, information on applying and more details about the grant please go [here](#).

American Rescue Plan Funding Opportunities

Last week, [EDA announced six programs](#) to equitably invest \$3 billion allocated under President Biden's American Rescue Plan. ([Click here to read the press release](#))

The programs aim to assist communities in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.

The six programs are:

- [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) (\$1 billion)
- [Good Jobs Challenge](#) (\$500 million)
- [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) (\$500 million)
- [Indigenous Communities](#) (\$100 million)
- [Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation](#) (\$750 million)
- [Statewide Planning, Research and Networks](#) (\$90 million)

The application process is now open. Deadlines vary based on program. For more information, [visit www.eda.gov/ARPA](http://www.eda.gov/ARPA) for the latest news on EDA's implementation plans.

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that in addition to a physical location of Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce @ 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin; CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our website for details)

AUGUST

- August 2 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting
 - August 10 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group
 - August 10 - Board of Commissioners Meeting will not be held in August
 - August 11 5 pm Emergency Management Directors Round Table
 - August 12 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee
 - August 25 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group
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