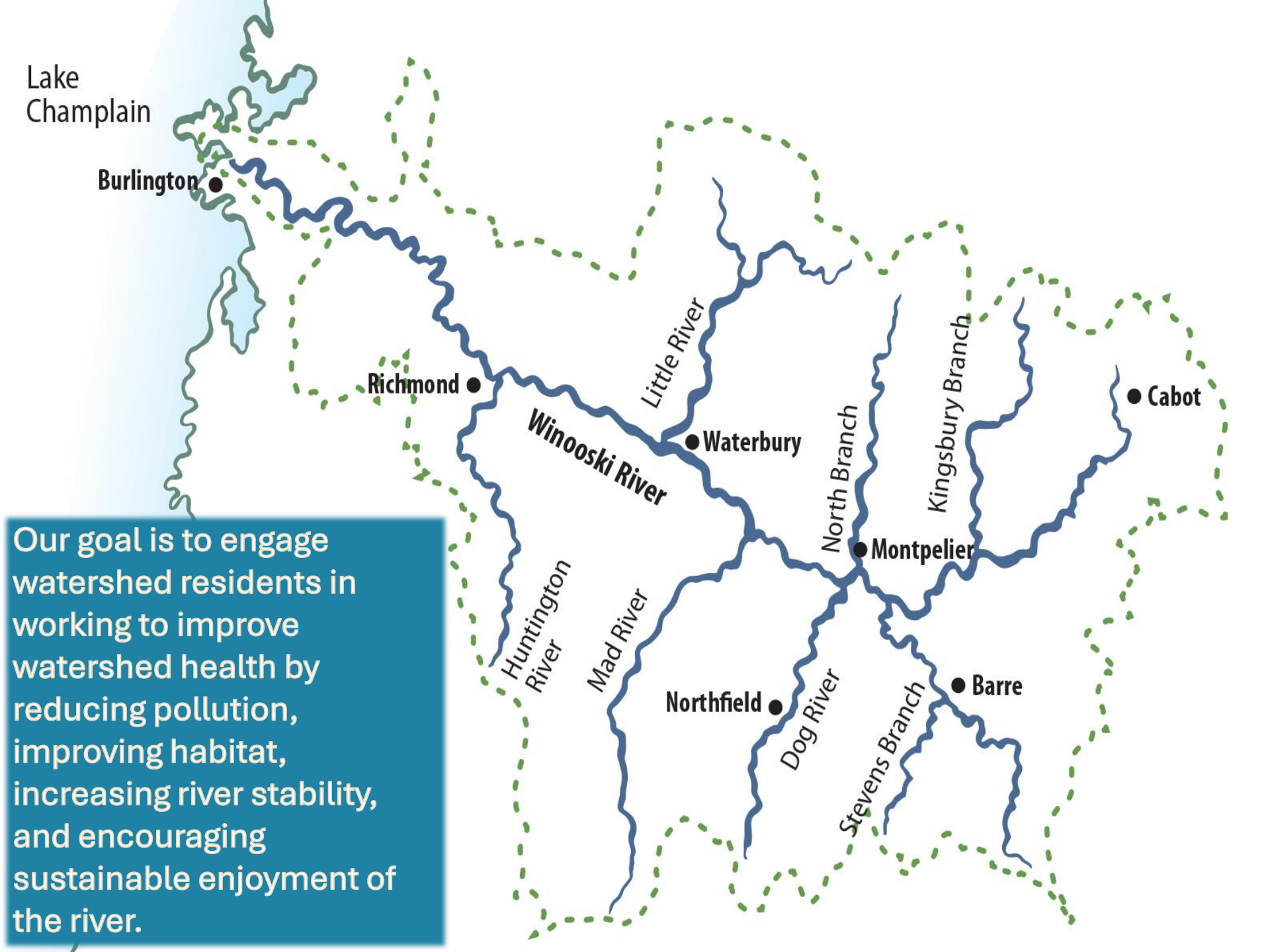
FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

Friends of the Winooski River
work together for a clean,
healthy, and resilient watershed.



Our goal is to engage watershed residents in working to improve watershed health by reducing pollution, improving habitat, increasing river stability, and encouraging sustainable enjoyment of the river.

Priority Challenges

Phosphorus

Nutrient that helps plants grow, including algae

Main sources are fertilizer (manure, composted plant material, and other) and historically-fertilized soils

Sediment

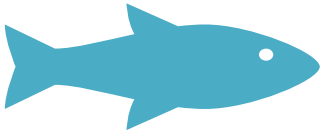
Transports phosphorus

Clogs infrastructure

Worsens erosion (more phosphorus & sediment!)

Smothers streambeds, bad for food chain

Priority Challenges



Connectivity

Rivers disconnected from floodplains by development

Fish populations disconnected by barriers like dams and poorly-designed culverts

Chloride

Increasing amounts of chloride used in snow and ice management, seeing rising levels in waters

Solutions

Ecological restoration

- Open up floodplains, reconnect to rivers
- Remove or enlarge barriers (dams, culverts)
- Plant trees and shrubs in buffer areas

Stormwater management

- Retrofit existing development to manage more rain or make it cleaner before it hits the river
- Design new development to higher standards
- Reduce pollutants in runoff

Partners

Federal government: US Fish & Wildlife Service, FEMA, EPA, Natural Resource Conservation Districts

State government: Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Environmental Conservation, Public Safety, Transportation

Local government: Municipalities and RPCs

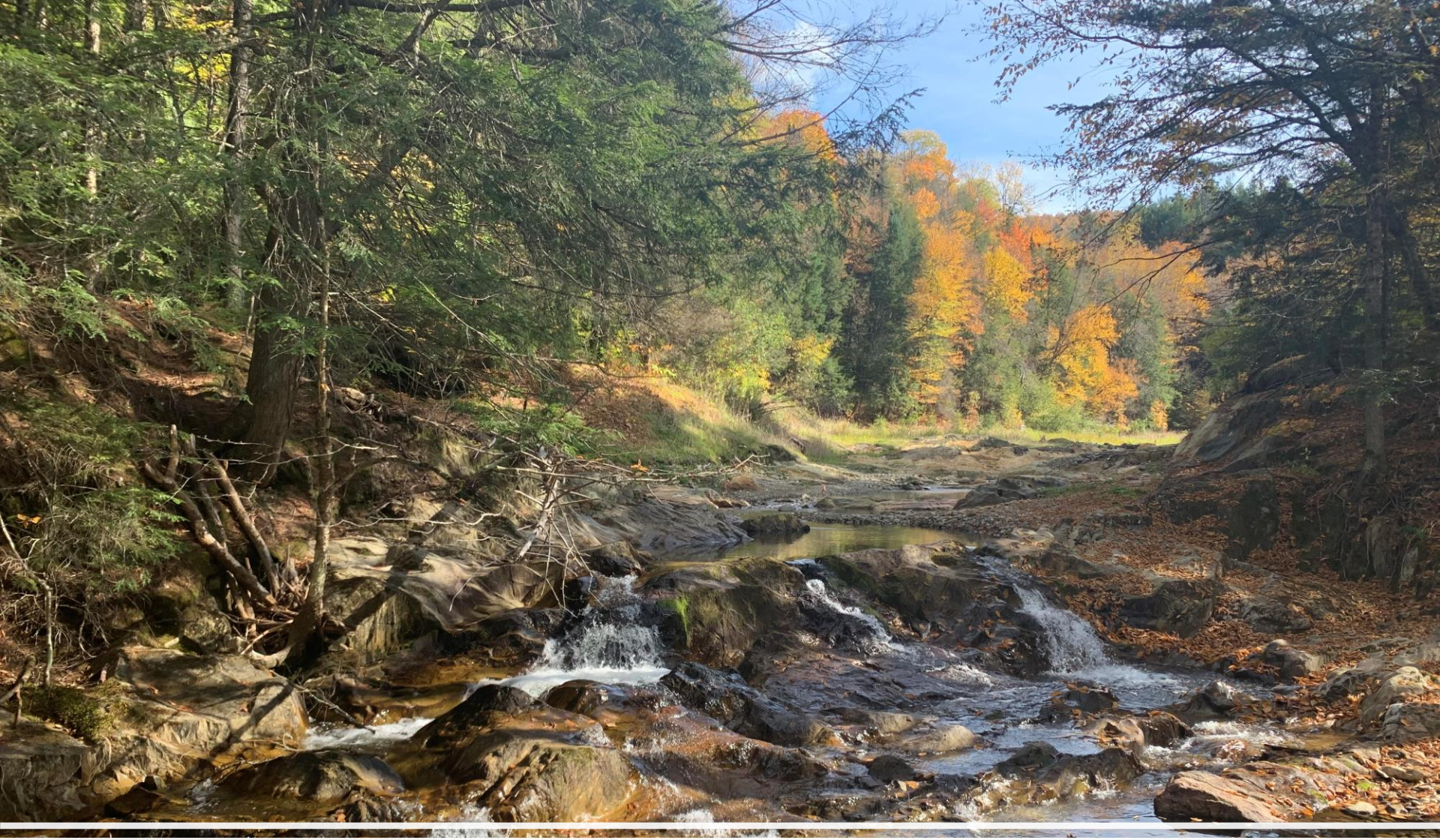
Non-profits: The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, local watershed groups

Water quality monitoring
Riparian restoration
River Cleanups
Stormwater mitigation
Habitat Improvement
Outreach and Education
Sustainable enjoyment of the river

Restoration

- Plant trees
- Remove dams
- Replace culverts
- Reconnect floodplains
- Improve stormwater management

Camp Wihakowi Dam
Before Removal



Camp Wihakowi Dam After Removal

Lockwood Brook in Fayston

Dog River Park in Northfield

- Tropical Storm Irene flooding
- FEMA buyout of 18 homes
- Floodplain restoration of about 5 acres
- Creation of public park
- Used as outdoor lab and classroom

HOGWARTS
CAPITALS
REVOLUTION

Pollinator Habitat
This area has been planted with pollinator-friendly flowers and is protected from pesticides to provide valuable habitat for bees and other pollinators.
To learn how you can help to bring back the pollinators, please visit www.xerces.org.
Bring Back the Pollinators

Benefits

- Floodplain reconnection
  - 8000 cu yds material removed, access restored
- Hazard mitigation
  - Numerous households removed from risk
  - Future flood damage costs avoided
- Habitat improved: birds, fish, wildlife, insects
- Recreation enhanced for community
- Outdoor laboratory for schools created

Dog River Park
July 10, 2023

Partners Engaged

- Hazard mitigation: FEMA & State
- Planning & Community Development: US, VT, regional, and local
- Fisheries biologists, state & federal
- Archeologists and architectural historian
- Landscape designers
- Geologists
- Engineers
- Teachers & students, K-12 and college
- Community volunteers

Education & Outreach

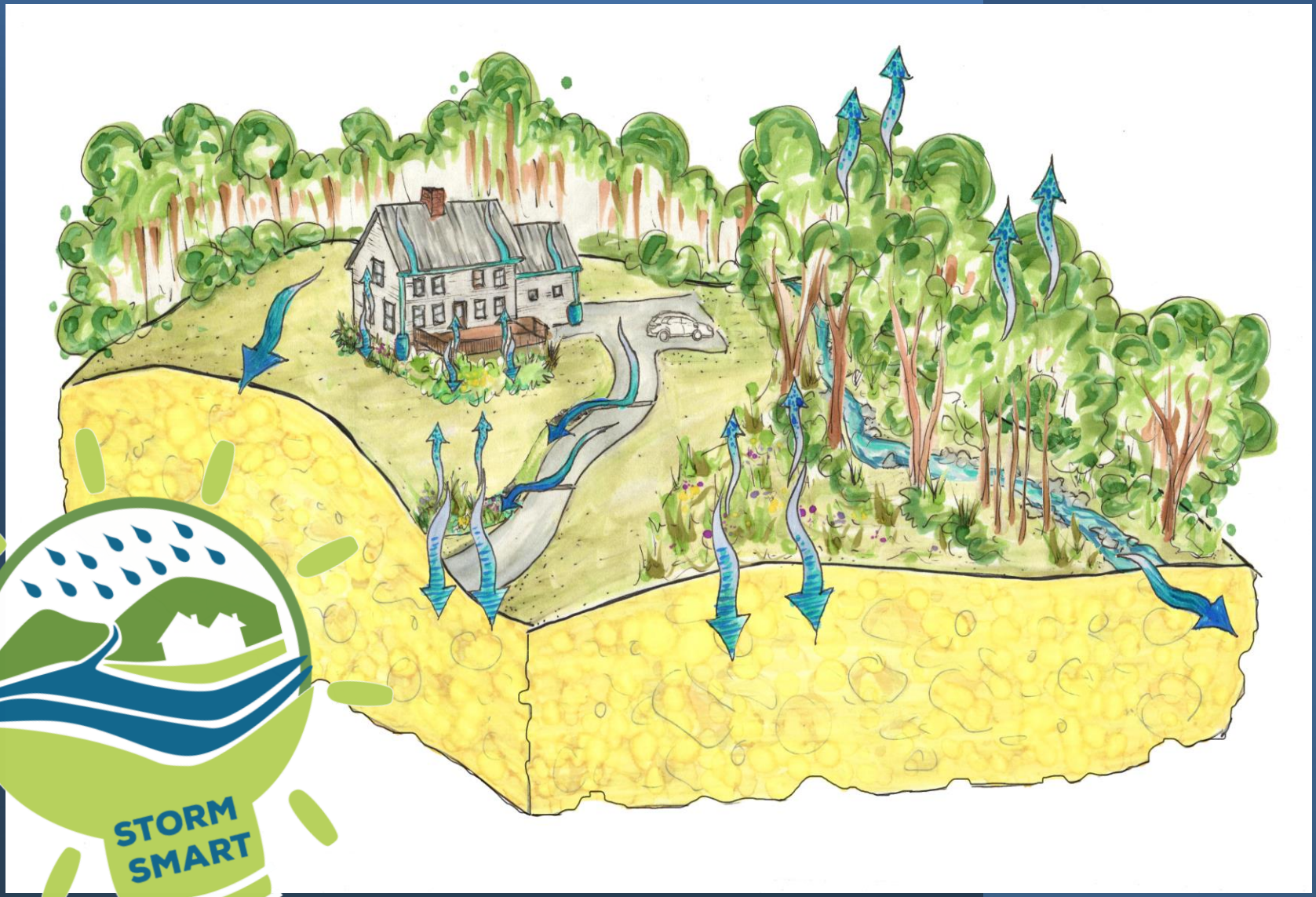
Provide resources for watershed residents to learn

Residential assessments: Storm Smart and Stream Wise

School programs

Volunteer water quality monitoring

Support for Municipalities


STORM
SMART

"The team from Stream Wise and the additional experts all seem excited about the project. We are as well."
Don - Moretown, VT
#StreamWiseStories

2024

Plantings: 1400 trees on 6 sites in Montpelier, Middlesex, Waterbury, Northfield, Marshfield, and East Montpelier

Dam Removal: 6 dams in Barre, Barre Town, Plainfield, Cabot, Calais

Culvert Replacement: 2 in Williamstown and Barre Town

Public River Access Plan in Barre (VOREC)

2024

- Floodplain Alternatives Analysis projects in Richmond and Plainfield
- Baker Pond Access Area Improvement in Brookfield
- Bull Run tributary stabilization
- Strategic Woody Addition in Cabot

Paddle with Us

People who enjoy the river will take care of the river

Onion River Ramble

June 9

River of Light

August 17