

Dear Landowner,

The Berlin Conservation Commission and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission have funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to develop nonregulatory, water quality restoration projects in the Town of Berlin. The goal of this work is to identify, design and implement projects that will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering local waterways (and ultimately Lake Champlain). Our work is focused on identifying riparian buffer planting and culvert replacement opportunities. This initiative builds on previous studies and the work of the Conservation Commission and local watershed organizations. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC of Colchester, Vermont has been retained as the project engineer responsible for site assessments and project designs.

I am writing today to request permission for staff from Fitzgerald Environmental Associates to access your property to complete a field assessment to determine whether your property is suitable for hosting a riparian buffer planting. Riparian buffer plantings can help stabilize riverbanks, provide wildlife habitat and reduce phosphorous runoff into adjacent waterways. Field assessments are planned for Spring 2025 and a list of priority projects will be identified by July 2025.

Key program details for you to be aware of:

- Participation: Your participation in this program is voluntary.
- Cost: There is no cost-share requirement. This work will be 100% funded with money from the State's Clean Water Fund.
- Project implementation: You will have the opportunity to review the preliminary designs developed through this effort before committing to move forward with project implementation. No work will be performed without your consent.
- Project eligibility: Participating in this initial phase does not guarantee your project will be eligible for implementation. Fitzgerald Environmental Associates staff will assess your property to evaluate the following potential project:
 - **Insert project description** (e.g. *Address: Plant 50-foot riparian tree buffer in field along the west bank of the Dog River.*)

If you are interested in participating in this program, please return the Landowner Interest & Site Access Agreement Letter to the Berlin Conservation Commission or e-mail Berlin.vt.cc@gmail.com by **21 March 2025**. An online version of the Landowner Interest & Site Access Agreement Letter is also available at <https://forms.office.com/r/m2ceFFLRS7>.

Landowner Interest & Site Access Agreement Letter

Date: _____

To: Berlin Conservation Commission

From: Name(s): _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Is your property currently being used for agricultural purposes?
Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Has your property been used for agricultural purposes in the last 3 - 5 years?
Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Would you like to learn more about riparian buffer planting opportunities specifically for active or recently abandoned farmland?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If you answered NO to questions 1 and 2, and you are interested in exploring water quality restoration opportunities on your property, please complete the following section granting Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC access to your property.

I / we, (print name(s)) _____, owner(s) of **insert address of project site**, agree to allow Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC access to this property for the purposes of water quality restoration project scoping. I acknowledge the following projects are being investigated and require one or more site visits by the engineer in the spring of 2025.

Insert project description (e.g. Address: Plant 50-foot riparian tree buffer in field along the west bank of the Dog River.)

Signature(s): _____