



## **Vermont River Conservancy**

Conserving shorelands and access since 1995

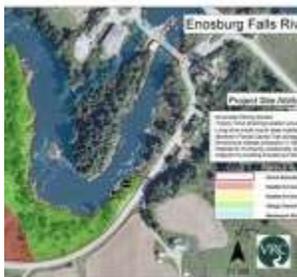
Dear Friends,

The warmth of summer is here, and swimming and boating has begun in earnest. As Vermonters seek spots to cool-off and enjoy our rivers and waters, public access to these special spots comes to the forefront of our minds. How many swimming holes do you enjoy by the grace of welcoming landowners? Please thank them by treating these spots (and neighbors) with respect. How many paddling put-ins or fishing holes are you no longer able to get to? [Let us know](#) where public access is needed in your neck of the woods, and we will continue to work on protecting the lands and waters you love to enjoy. [Visit our website](#) to find where we have already protected the places you love or may wish to discover on the next hot day!

Enjoy the rivers,

Steve Libby, Executive Director

### **Almost conserved! Enosburg Falls River Access Park**



As of May 31, 2012, we have raised **93%** of the \$189,250 necessary for [protecting public access to the Missisquoi River in Enosburg Falls](#). **With your help we can raise the remaining \$12,979 by July 10, 2012.** Several large donations and many small donations will get us to our goal.

Please [donate today](#) to help make this project a success.

### **Projects in Progress: 52 acres on the Saxtons River**

The Vermont River Conservancy is working with Camilla and James Roberts in Rockingham to conserve over 50 acres of land along the Saxtons River and Bull Creek. Heavily impacted from TS Irene, conserving this parcel will help ensure it remains active floodplain for the future. Allowing the river to meander and floodwaters to slow over their fields and through their forests helps protect the Village of Saxtons River downstream, and reduces future flood impacts to built infrastructure. Funding from the [VT Department of Environmental Conservation Ecosystem Restoration Program](#) is making this river corridor easement possible.

### **Thank you for making the VRC Auction a success!**

The Vermont River Conservancy extends a huge **THANK YOU** to all the [sponsoring businesses](#) who helped support the auction, [businesses that donated items and experiences](#) to our auction, our amazing volunteers (Stephan, Linn, Andrea & Penny) who put it all together, and to our bidders who generously helped us raise over \$6,000 to support our ongoing work protecting shore lands and access to rivers throughout Vermont. **THANK YOU ALL**, we couldn't have done it without you!

### **First National Blueway Designated on the Connecticut River!**

VRC's collaborative partnership with the [Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail](#) has been recognized by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar: On May 24th he signed a [Secretarial Order establishing a National Blueways System](#) and announced that the 410-mile-long Connecticut River and its 7.2 million-acre watershed will be the first National Blueway.



"The Connecticut River Watershed is a model for how communities can integrate their land and water stewardship efforts with an emphasis on 'source-to-sea' watershed conservation," Salazar said. "I am pleased to recognize the Connecticut River and its watershed with the first National Blueway designation as we seek to fulfill President

Obama's vision for healthy and accessible rivers that are the lifeblood of our communities and power our economies."

VRC is happy to be a working partner in the development of public access to the Connecticut River, and fulfilling the President's vision to establish a [National Water Trails system](#).

---

### **Mark your Calendar: Swimming Hole book signing July 3rd**

Join us in welcoming VRC Advisor David Hajdasz at [Bear Pond Books](#) in Montpelier on Tuesday July 3rd at 7pm. He'll be signing his book [Take the Plunge: An explorer's guide to swimming holes in Vermont](#) and answering questions about VT swimming holes! Proceeds from all book sales will directly benefit the Vermont River Conservancy's mission to protect public access to VT swimming holes.

---

### **2012 Legislative Updates from the State House**

Tropical Storm Irene was a call to action to improve Vermont's flood resiliency, and river corridor protection is a major tool in attaining this goal. Allowing rivers to meander freely and access their floodplains where ever possible is essential, and carefully managing infrastructure development in flood hazard areas is critical for minimizing future damage. Many hard-working people helped get [S. 202](#) passed in the 2012 Legislative session - and real work towards state-wide flood resiliency will now continue under this act.

---

### **Help support river planning with planned giving**

VRC's [planned giving program](#) was established to ensure the long-term care and management of lands conserved by the Vermont River Conservancy. For many people, planned giving offers the opportunity to make a more substantial gift than would be possible during one's lifetime.

Two individuals have contacted us in 2012 to let us know they have chosen one of VRC's planned giving options. Can you join them? To learn more contact [Steve Libby, VRC Executive Director](#) at (802) 229-0820 or [Ramsey Luhr](#), VRC Finance Committee co-chair at (802) 229-2838.

---

### **Living in Harmony with Streams: handbook now available!**

Have you ever wanted to know more about rivers and streams in Vermont (and in general)? The Friends of the Winooski, and the

White River and Winooski NRCs teamed up to create this handbook with answers to your questions, and more! [Living in Harmony with Streams: A Citizen's Handbook to How Streams Work](#) Please [contact us](#) if you'd like a paper copy.

---

### **River Links**

Join the [Friends of the Winooski](#) on their annual [Sojourn](#), a guided paddle trip from Marshfield to Lake Champlain: June 19 - 24, 2012. Sign up for one day or all to explore the river, meet new friends, and improve your paddling skills, all while supporting this great organization.

Please [sign this petition](#) to maintain the USGS stream gages in the Lake Champlain basin.

Celebrate [National Trails Day at Branbury State Park](#) on Saturday, June 2nd!

---

### **Get the latest news from Vermont River Conservancy!**

Now you can now find out about our conservation projects without delay. [Friend us](#) or [Like us](#) on Facebook, and [follow us](#) on Twitter.

---