

March 2012 NEWSLETTER



## ***Vermont River Conservancy***

Conserving shorelands and access since 1995

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Dear Friends,

2011 was a very difficult year for residents affected by powerful storms and flooding. The Vermont River Conservancy is working with local watershed groups, residents, towns, and the State to make 2012 a year filled with informed river management and conservation. We are engaged in more conservation projects than ever before to improve Vermont's flood resiliency. At the same time we are protecting public access to our most cherished river lands. Thank you for supporting this important work.

Sincerely,

Steve Libby, Executive Director

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### **Recently Conserved!**

Four newly conserved river lands are now included on our [Completed Projects](#) map. These four properties were identified by State River Management Program scientists as important river corridor lands for permanent conservation. They were all protected to allow the rivers to meander, to have permanent access to their floodplains, to restore vegetation along the banks to slow flood waters and erosion, and to enhance river corridor habitat. Funding from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources River Management Program made these projects possible. This work is an example of how the State is working to create a strong, beautiful and flood resilient Vermont.

[Mad River Corridor Easement](#) - Waitsfield

[Jordan & Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity River Corridor Easement](#), LaPlatte River - Charlotte

[Fat Rooster Farm River Corridor Easement](#), Second Branch of the White River - Royalton

[Haines River Corridor Easement](#), North Branch of the Winooski River - Worcester



## Help us conserve river access in Enosburg Falls

A great opportunity has arisen to enhance Enosburg Falls as a *Healthy, Vibrant Missisquoi River Community*. Nine acres of river front land is available to create a permanently conserved river access park just south of the *Enosburg Falls Bridge of Flowers and Light*. With your support a currently "posted" property can be transformed into a five-acre public park with 1,500+ feet of public-access river frontage.

Amongst many benefits, this project will:

- Offer two affordable housing building sites for Habitat for Humanity.
- Protect fishing access to long-time small mouth bass and Trophy Trout waters.
- Restore permanent access to a Northern Forest Canoe Trail portage for paddlers, thus increasing river tourism and associated community benefits.
- Create a permanent public park.



Of the \$189,000 necessary to complete the project and protect this land, **\$59,910** remains to be raised by April 30, 2012.

Several large donations and many smaller ones will make this project a success.

Please [donate today](#) to help make this project a success. A *Healthy and Vibrant Missisquoi River Community* depends on protecting the special places that we know and love, and keeping them public treasures forever. Your support is urgently needed to reach our goal by April 30th, 2012. **Every gift is important.**

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### **Land conserved in Canaan, VT, protecting access to the Connecticut River**

Thanks to support from the Tillotson Foundation, Davis Foundation, Plum Creek, the Upper Connecticut Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, and individual donors, the VRC has purchased a parcel in [Canaan, Vermont](#), which serves as an important boat launch in the area. For years, anglers and paddlers have been parking illegally on this privately owned land, causing tensions and disputes between recreationalists and the landowner. The Vermont River Conservancy is now developing a plan for municipal ownership and future site improvements including: parking for paddlers and snowmobile users, an official boat launch, a kiosk that contains a map and site etiquette expectations, and a riparian buffer planted with native species to improve wildlife habitat and water quality.



### **VRC secures funding for the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail**

With 2012 funding secured from the [Tillotson Foundation](#) and [Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund](#), the Vermont River Conservancy will continue developing the [Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail](#). With these funds we are protecting and improving boat launch areas, primitive campsites, and fishing holes along the Upper Connecticut River, and developing a volunteer campsite stewardship program. The VRC continues to facilitate a collaborative approach to managing the paddlers' trail, which is a

shared effort bringing together over 19 partner organizations.

### **New Campsites and Access Points Established Along the Connecticut River**

Paddlers heading down the beautiful and wild Upper Connecticut River have [four new riverbank campsites and one new drift boat access](#) to enjoy, thanks to efforts spearheaded by the Vermont River Conservancy and several other organizations working to collaboratively develop the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail.



### **Another Paddlers' Trail Campsite on the Upper Connecticut River**

Located in Brunswick on the Upper Connecticut River, the [Maine Central Railroad Trestle Campsite](#) is now permanently protected for public access from the Connecticut River. The easement on this parcel was donated to VRC by Mary and Bruce Sloat. Located along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, this campsite, improved with a picnic table and outhouse, looks out on a beautiful granite bridge abutment situated in the middle of the river channel. This campsite is located about seven miles south of the DeBanville Landing in Bloomfield.



### **It's not too late!**

Thank you all who supported VRC in our [2011 Appeal](#). If you haven't donated yet, it's not too late to support this critical work. If you are a new donor, your donation will be matched 100%, and if you have donated before, any amount above your previous donation will be matched, or your entire donation will be matched you if double your previous contribution. Take advantage of this amazing offer before March 15th, 2012! [Donate Today](#)

[Contact us](#) to find out your most recent contribution amount.

## **River Links**

Do you know any teens who want to learn to fly fish on **Vermont's rivers this summer?** Check out the [Vermont TU Trout Camp](#). Twelve campers ages 13-16 will enjoy 5 days and 4 nights (June 24 – 28) learning about rivers and fly fishing. Share the joy of loving rivers with your young friends.

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## **Vermont River Conservancy has joined the digital age!**

Check out our new [video](#)! Many thanks to Dorothy Tod and Noah Pollock for their videography skills, and to Willem Lang for narrating.

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

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Vermont River Conservancy is a 501(c)(3); all donations are tax deductible.

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