

Organization Name: Friends of the Winooski River

Address: PO Box 777 Montpelier VT 05601

Telephone: 802-882-8276

What type of services do you provide: The Friends is a mostly volunteer organization that is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Winooski River watershed. We undertake a range of activities that include riparian restoration and streambank stabilization, pollution abatement projects, water quality monitoring and stream assessment projects and education and outreach. In all endeavors we are committed to working with local organizations, schools and towns to achieve community supported goals. The bulk of the Friends work has been in the upper Winooski watershed (above Montpelier) on the mainstem as well as the major tributaries of the North Branch, Stevens Branch, Dog River and Kingsbury Branch. We also have several major projects in other areas of the watershed including Duxbury, Essex, and Williston.

How do your services directly impact the citizen of Marshfield:

This is a difficult question to answer since we do not provide specific services to individuals or groups. Our services may ultimately impact all residents of the Winooski watershed.

Marshfield along with Plainfield and Cabot is part of the Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership (WHCP). Representatives from the Conservation Commissions of the three towns work with the Friends to develop and execute projects throughout the Winooski Headwaters area.

Specific projects in the past several of years that directly impacted Marshfield include riparian restoration along the Winooski River; water quality monitoring; stream geomorphic assessment; and completion of fish passage improvements. Specific projects include:

- Worked with the town for several years to improve the riparian areas along the Winooski River at Martin Bridge. We have planted over 2500 trees and shrubs that will help stabilize the banks, decrease erosion and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- Completed other riparian restoration project in town including at the Twinfield School and the Marshfield Inn
- Retrofit of a culvert on Beaver Meadow Brook to improve fish passage
- An assessment of dirt road erosion problems and unstable stream (culverts) crossings
- An assessment of the stormwater drainage system to identify and correct potential pollution problems
- Work with Twinfield School on educational opportunities related to water quality and ecology

How many Marshfield residents were served: As noted above, we do not provide services to specific individuals. Our services may ultimately impact all residents of the Winooski watershed. We interact with individuals by engaging them in volunteer projects. On an annual basis, we engage between 300-400 volunteers.

How do you calculate or justify the amount of money that you are requesting from us. We looked at the relative size of towns in the upper Winooski watershed based on both square miles in the watershed and population. We use these two characteristics to come up with a figure. This number was adjusted up or down to reflect past services to the town and the strength of our current relationship.

Last year's appropriation request: \$300

Last year's grant \$300

Current year request: \$300

FOR FY15

INCOME SOURCES	% OF INCOME	TOTAL INCOME
Federal	0.217	\$56,851
State	0.595	\$156,332
Local Towns==Budget Appropriations	0.008	\$2150
Local Towns—projects (contract)	0.015	\$3942
Membership/Business donations	0.047	\$12,394
Program Fees	0.016	\$4082
Private & Corporate Foundations	0.099	\$26,013
Miscellaneous	0.003	\$767
Total	1.000	\$262,531.00

EXPENDITURES	%	BUDGET \$	Actual %	ACTUAL \$
Personnel	0.193	\$45,000	0.168	\$41,428
Consultants/Contract Labor	0.685	\$160,000	0.723	\$178,369
Insurance/rent/utilities	0.019	\$4500	0.018	\$4375
Fundraising costs	0.017	\$4000	0.017	\$4176
Supplies/Equip	0.017	\$4000	0.016	\$3916
Plants and Materials	0.058	\$13500	0.052	\$12,868
Miscellaneous	0.004	\$1000	0.000	\$94
Travel	0.006	\$1500	0.006	\$1503
Total	1.000	\$233,500.00	1.000	\$246,729.00

FRIENDS OF THE Winooski

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Riparian Protection: We work with landowners to improve streamside buffers that help reduce erosion and improve water quality and habitat. In 2016, we planted 2,250 trees and shrubs on five properties (~6.5 acres) throughout the watershed. We also did site maintenance such as removing competing vegetation including knotweed from around newly planted trees on 8 acres at 5 restoration sites. Site maintenance improves growth and survivorship, accelerating buffer function.



Students from Twinfield School planting a red osier dogwood along the Winooski River

Stormwater Management:

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of pollution, flooding, and erosion in our watershed. We address this issue by constructing mitigation facilities, working with towns to reduce runoff from dirt roads, & through programs for homeowners. In 2016 we:

- Constructed two stormwater mitigation swales at the Cabot School which will keep 1015 pounds of sediment and 2.1 pounds of phosphorus out of Lake Champlain.
- Completed stormwater master plans for the Huntington town garage & the Smilie School in Bolton.
- Worked with the City of Barre, Town of Huntington and the Smilie School to pursue funding to construct stormwater practices in 2017.



One of the swales at the Cabot School

Floodplain Restoration: In Northfield, we completed the final design for a floodplain restoration along the Dog River on properties that were purchased post-TS Irene. Working in partnership with the Town, we anticipate completing the restoration in 2017. The restored floodplain will reduce flooding and improve water quality as well as provide passive recreation space.



Restoration area and rendering of park.

Water Quality Monitoring:

Volunteers sampled for *E. coli*, total phosphorus, turbidity, nitrogen, and chloride at 36 sites in the watershed the summer of 2016. These pollutants threaten aquatic ecosystems and safe recreational use of our waterways.

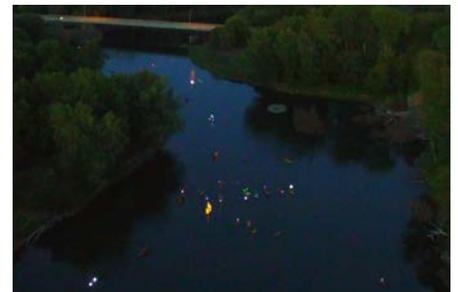
The Friends assessed discharge from 91 stormdrain outfalls in Montpelier to detect and reduce pollutants reaching streams via the stormwater system.

Stream Table: The Friends bought a stream table in 2016! The table is a fantastic education tool for students, municipal officials and the general public. In 2017, we will train teachers to use the table with their students. We will also develop a lending protocol so other organizations can take advantage of it.



Stream table in action in Northfield!

Enjoying the River: In addition to the Onion River Race and Ramble in June, we held a River of Light Paddle on the harvest moon in September.



Lights on the river! VTDrone.com / Steve Mermelstein

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