



Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Funding Request: \$250

Here is a sample of the activities the District was involved in during 2025:

Annual Plant Sale – RNRCD held its annual plant sale in May. RNRCD’s 2026 Plant Sale Catalogue will be available in January. Visit rnr.cd.org for more information.

Local Work Group – RNRCD collaborated with Poultney Mettowee NRCDC to lead local work group meetings in order to assist USDA in setting local priorities for cost share programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This effort resulted in 41 preapproved practices, which will provide a total of \$626,132 to local farmers and land managers for their implementation.

LakeWise – RNRCD staff visited pond- and lake-front properties at the request of landowners to review best practices and offer technical assistance for the improvement of local water quality.

Natural Resources Outreach and Technical Assistance – RNRCD staff met with land managers and town officials to discuss natural resource, stormwater, and flood resilience concerns. These meetings connected individuals with resources and/or grant funding to improve conditions.

Agricultural Outreach and Technical Assistance – RNRCD hired a new staff member to support Poultney Mettowee NRCDC’s Agricultural Team who work with farmers and landowners to find solutions to water quality issues, assist with nutrient management planning and oversee shared equipment used by farmers to implement environmentally friendly field practices.

Portable Skidder Bridges – The District has a portable skidder bridge available for rent to loggers and foresters. Skidder bridges reduce stream disturbance, minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Watershed Planning and Project Implementation within the Otter Creek Watershed - Last year, with funding through the State’s Clean Water Initiative Program, Lake Champlain Basin Program, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, among other services, the District:

- Completed a preliminary design for a Floodplain Restoration project in the Otter Creek watershed along the Sargent Brook and Cold River in the town of Shrewsbury as identified in the 2013 Cold River Watershed River Corridor Plan. The design was completed by Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC.
- Completed work with the engineering consultants of Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). This project has provided West Rutland Town with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Clarendon River watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- Finalized a final design of the Mountain School Road Dam Removal and Culvert Replacement project in Shrewsbury in partnership with Vermont Natural Resources Council and Trout Unlimited. This project will remove an aquatic organism passage barrier, replace a failing culvert, restore part of the Cold River, and increase local road flood resilience.
- Developed a preliminary design for the replacement of a culvert on Russellville Road in Shrewsbury. This project will remove an aquatic organism passage barrier, replace a failing culvert, restore stream geomorphology, and increase local road flood resilience.
- Provided technical assistance and support accessing grant funding to many farmers, landowners, and Conservation Commissions throughout Rutland County.
- Worked to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation throughout the District.
- The District will continue to work with Towns, the City of Rutland, and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in River Corridor Plans, Stormwater Master Plans or other assessment/plans.

For further information or to be added to our mailing list or list of volunteers, please contact Katie Stiles at rutlandnrcd@gmail.com.