

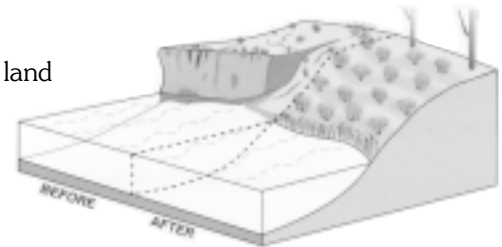
Sources of Assistance

for the Connecticut River Watershed

Because riparian buffers benefit rivers, their inhabitants, and their neighbors in so many ways, many experts and programs are ready to help a landowner who wants to add or improve a riparian buffer. In some cases, grants from several programs can be combined.

FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR

- ❖ planting trees, shrubs, and grasses
- ❖ controlling invasive plants
- ❖ purchasing development rights, conservation easements, and land
- ❖ restoring an eroded streambank
- ❖ fencing livestock out of waterways & constructing a livestock watering facility
- ❖ preparing a habitat improvement plan
- ❖ retiring marginal agricultural land and dedicating it to a buffer
- ❖ establishing public riverfront parks; signage, fencing, demonstration plantings



Bank Shaping and Planting

Programs providing funds for conservation practices in riparian buffers:

Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program Supports habitat restoration on private lands. Provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore riparian areas, streams, degraded wetlands, native grasslands, and other habitats to conditions as close to natural as feasible. Works through 10 year cooperative agreements. *Contact US Fish & Wildlife Service* (contact information below).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Cost-share payments may be made through 5-10 year contracts to implement eligible structural or vegetative practices of a conservation plan, such as riparian buffers, animal waste management facilities, filter strips, tree planting, and permanent wildlife habitat. Incentive payments are offered for practices such as nutrient management, pest management, and grazing land management. *Contact USDA NRCS* (contact information below).

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) Helps private landowners restore riparian buffers, wetlands, grasslands, early successional habitat, and aquatic habitat. Priority projects provide important habitat for endangered, threatened or rare species; restore regionally degraded habitats; represent large blocks of contiguous or unusual habitat, or support the overall biodiversity of the region. Pays up to 75% of project costs. *Contact USDA NRCS*.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Helps landowners restore and protect wetlands on their property. Landowners can receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural land, through conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or through restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner

receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land and 100% of the restoration costs for restoring the wetlands. The 30-year easement payment is 75% of this amount. The voluntary agreements are for a minimum 10-year duration and provide for 75% of the cost of restoring the wetlands. Both establish wetland protection and restoration as the primary land use for the duration of the easement or agreement. *Contact USDA NRCS.*

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Aims to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as riparian buffers, tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, or filter strips. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract, with cost sharing to establish the vegetative cover. Minimum 100' buffer. Cropland and marginal pasture that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer are eligible. *Additional state enhancement funds may also be available. Contact USDA NRCS.*

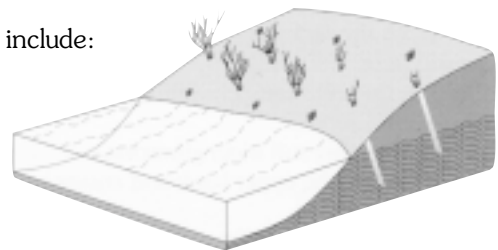
Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge's Challenge Cost Share Program Funds habitat restoration and management projects which directly benefit the species, natural communities, and/or Special Focus Areas (identified in the 1995 Conte Refuge Final Environmental Impact Statement and in the "Resources" section of the Conte Refuge web page: www.fws.gov/r5soc) *Contact the Conte Refuge.*

Transportation Enhancement Program Provides funding for scenic highway projects and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff. *Contact NH Dept. of Transportation, 1 Hazen Dr., Concord NH 03302; 603/271-3734 or VT Agency of Transportation, 133 State St., Montpelier VT 05633; 802/828-3885.*

Coastal America Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Voluntary public-private partnership in which corporations join forces with federal and state agencies to restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats. Program established in 2000. *Contact William Hubbard, US Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Rd, Concord MA 01742; 978/318-8238*

Private organizations making financial assistance available may include:

- ❖ Connecticut River Joint Commissions' Partnership Program (603/826-4800; www.crjc.org)
- ❖ Trout Unlimited
- ❖ land trusts (in conjunction with land protection)
- ❖ garden clubs
- ❖ private foundations
- ❖ business groups (community service clubs, chambers of commerce)



Live Stakes

Sources of funds for land conservation of riparian buffers:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous CRP provides annual rental payments under 10-15 yr contracts. The states of VT and NH are now developing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs to supplement this federal funding. *Contact USDA NRCS.*

USDA Farmland Protection Program Provides funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in agricultural uses. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value. To be eligible the land must contain prime, unique or other productive soil; be privately owned; and be large enough to sustain agricultural production. *Contact USDA NRCS.*

Forest Legacy Program Provides up to 75% of the purchase price for development rights to forest lands from willing sellers. Streamside land is among the program priorities. Eligible lands are those threatened by conversion to non-forest use and which can provide for the continuation of traditional forest uses, such as forest management and outdoor recreation, be conducive to being managed in an effective and economical manner, and within an identified Forest Legacy Area. These rights are then held by the state in perpetu-

ity, while the landowner retains all other rights, including the right to harvest timber. *Contact NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development, 172 Pembroke Road, PO Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302; 603/271-2411 or VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, & Recreation, 103 South Main St., 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671; 802/241-3670.*

Land & Water Conservation Fund Created 35 years ago to protect “irreplaceable lands of natural beauty and unique recreational value” for future generations. *Contact NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development or VT Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation.*

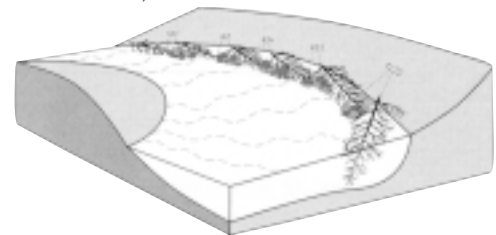
NH Water Supply Protection Program Provides state funds to purchase land or conservation easements most critical to public water supplies. Lands must be located within the source water protection areas for existing or planned public drinking water sources. State grants must be matched 75% from local sources, which can include donated land or easements which also lie within the source water protection area. *Contact NH Dept. of Environmental Services.*

NH Land & Community Heritage Investment Program Provides funds for purchase of land or conservation easements on shore lands, scenic lands, farmland, recreational land, forestland, fish and wildlife habitat, public water supply lands, ecologically significant lands, and wetlands. Also provides funds for stewardship of an existing protected property. Program provides 50% of the project value; half of match must be cash, other can be value of donated land, easements, or services. First applications accepted April 2001. *Contact Citizens for Land & Community Heritage, PO Box 1566, Concord NH 03302; 603/230-9729.*

VT Housing & Conservation Board An independent, state-supported funding agency providing grants, loans and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state agencies for the conservation of important agricultural land, recreational land, and natural areas and development of perpetually affordable housing in Vermont. *Contact VHCB, 149 State St., Montpelier VT 05602; 802/828-3250; www.vhcb.org*

Sources of labor:

- ❖ Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, PO Box 482, Waterbury VT 05676; 802/241-3699; www.anr.state.vt.us/fpr/vycc/index.htm
- ❖ New Hampshire's AmeriCorps State Watershed Corps, NH DES, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302; 603-271-2457
- ❖ Student Conservation Association, PO Box 550, Charlestown NH 03603; 603/543-1700; www.sca_inc.org/index.htm
- ❖ Town conservation commissions
- ❖ Garden clubs
- ❖ Scout groups



Tree Retretments

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & ADVICE

Call these experts for information: the contacts below will put you in touch with soil scientists, fisheries and wildlife biologists, engineers, geologists, economists, agronomists, and other specialists. They can provide soil maps and interpretations, manuals, booklets, and fact sheets. They lead seminars, field trips, and establish buffer demonstration sites. Some may be able to visit your property and advise on the best course of action. Many services are free, and others are available at reduced cost.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

NH county offices: www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

Coos Co.: 4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster NH 03584-3616; 603/788-4651

Grafton Co.: Swiftwater Road RR 2, Box 148-B, Woodsville NH 03785-0229; 603/747-2001

Sullivan Co.: 24 Main Street, Newport NH 03773-1500; 603/863-4297

Cheshire Co.: Rt. 12 South, Walpole Industrial Park, R1, Box 315, Walpole NH 03608-9744; 603/756-2988

VT county offices: www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov

Essex & Caledonia Co.: Federal Bldg, Rm. 216, 26 Main St., St. Johnsbury VT 05819 802/748-3885

Orange & Windsor Co.: Gilman Office Ctr., Bldg. #12, Suite 3, White River Jct. VT 05001; 802/295-1504

Windham County: 28 Vernon St., #2 Brattleboro VT 05302-8605; 802/254-5323

USDA Cooperative Extension Service

NH county offices: <http://ceinfo.unh.edu>

Coos Co.: 629A Main St., Lancaster NH 03584-9612; 603/788-4961

Grafton Co.: County Court House, RR1, Box 65F, N. Haverhill NH 03774-9708; 603/747-6944

Sullivan Co: 24 Main St., Newport NH 03773; 603/863-9200

Cheshire Co.: 800 Park Ave., Keene NH 03431; 603/352-4550

VT regional offices: <http://ctr.uvm.edu/ext>

St. Johnsbury: 2176 Portland St., Suite 3, St. Johnsbury VT 05819-8802; 802/748-8177

White River Junction: 212 Holiday Rd., Suite 4, White River Jct. VT 05001-2037; 802/296-7630

Brattleboro: 157 Old Guilford Rd., Suite 4, Brattleboro VT 05301-3669; 802/257-7967

US Fish & Wildlife Service: <http://partners.fws.gov>

NH: 22 Bridge St., Unit #1, Concord NH 03301-4986; 603/225-1411

VT: 11 Lincoln St., Essex Jct. VT 05452; phone 802/879-1859

Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376; 413/863-0209;

<http://www.fws.gov/r5soc>

States of New Hampshire & Vermont

NH Dept. of Environmental Services, Shoreland Protection Coordinator, 6 Hazen Dr., Concord NH 03302; 603/271-3503; www.des.state.nh.us/cspa

NH Dept. of Fish & Game, 2 Hazen Dr., Concord NH 03302; 603/271-2501; www.wildlife.state.nh.us

VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division, 103 S. Main St. 10 North, Waterbury VT 05671-0408; 802/241-3770; www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/water1.htm

VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0501; 802/241-3700;

www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/index.htm; contact the following district offices:

from the MA line north to Lull's Brook basin: Springfield office (802/885-8855)

from the Ottaquechee River basin to the Waits River basin: Roxbury office (802/485-7566)

from the Wells River basin north: St. Johnsbury office (802/751-0100)

Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition (Judy Tumosa, Ex. Dir., 70 Mountain Rd., Bath NH 03740 603/747-3416; barnumtumosa@linwoodnet.com)

Connecticut River Watershed Council (David Deen, Upper River Steward, PO Box 206, Saxtons River VT 05154; 802/869-2792; crwc@sover.net)

The Nature Conservancy www.tnc.org

VT: 27 State St., Montpelier VT 05602; 802/229-4425

NH: 2 Beacon St., Suite 6, Concord NH 03301; 603/224-5853

Vermont River Conservancy, RR 5, Box 920, Montpelier VT 05602; 802/229-9282

New England Wildflower Society, 80 Hemenway Road, Framingham MA 01701-2699; 508/877-7630;

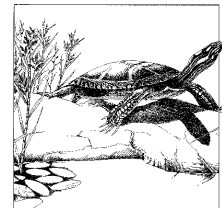
www.newfs.org

Private landscape architects and engineering firms

Town conservation commissions

CONNECTICUT RIVER EROSION & BUFFER INVENTORIES

The entire shoreline of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont has been surveyed for the presence and degree of erosion, largely with funding from the CRJC's Connecticut River Valley Partnership Program. Contact your county NRCS office for information about erosion in your area. The Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition embarked on a project to inventory riparian buffers in Fall, 2000.



Diagrams from *Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes and Practices*. The Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group. 1998. Wildlife illustration by David M. Carroll.

Fact sheets in the series *Riparian Buffers for the Connecticut River Watershed*

- No. 1 Introduction to Riparian Buffers
- No. 2 Backyard Buffers
- No. 3 Forestland Buffers
- No. 4 Buffers for Habitat
- No. 5 Buffers for Agricultural Land
- No. 6 Urban Buffers
- No. 7 Guidance for Communities
- No. 8 Planting Riparian Buffers (& plant list)
- No. 9 Field Assessment
- No. 10 Sources of Assistance

See also the companion series for land owners:

The Challenge of Erosion in the Connecticut River Valley, Connecticut River Joint Commissions, 1998.

Part of the *Living with the River* series. May be reprinted without permission.

Riparian Buffers for the Connecticut River Watershed was prepared by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions of NH & VT with support from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge Challenge Cost Share Program, PG&E National Energy Group, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, and EPA. Technical assistance was provided by UNH Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition, Upper Valley Land Trust, Environmental Protection Agency, Appalachian Mountain Club, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, US Fish & Wildlife Service, PG&E National Energy Group, CRJC river commissioners and local river subcommittee members. September 2000



PO Box 1182 • Charlestown NH 03603 • 603-826-4800 • WWW.CRJC.ORG