

# Volunteer Stewardship in Riparian Areas

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# Winooski NRC D

Winooski NRC D promotes the wise **use**, sustainable **development**, and **conservation** of our District's natural resources. We connect residents and communities with the necessary education and technical assistance to implement on-the-ground projects for water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

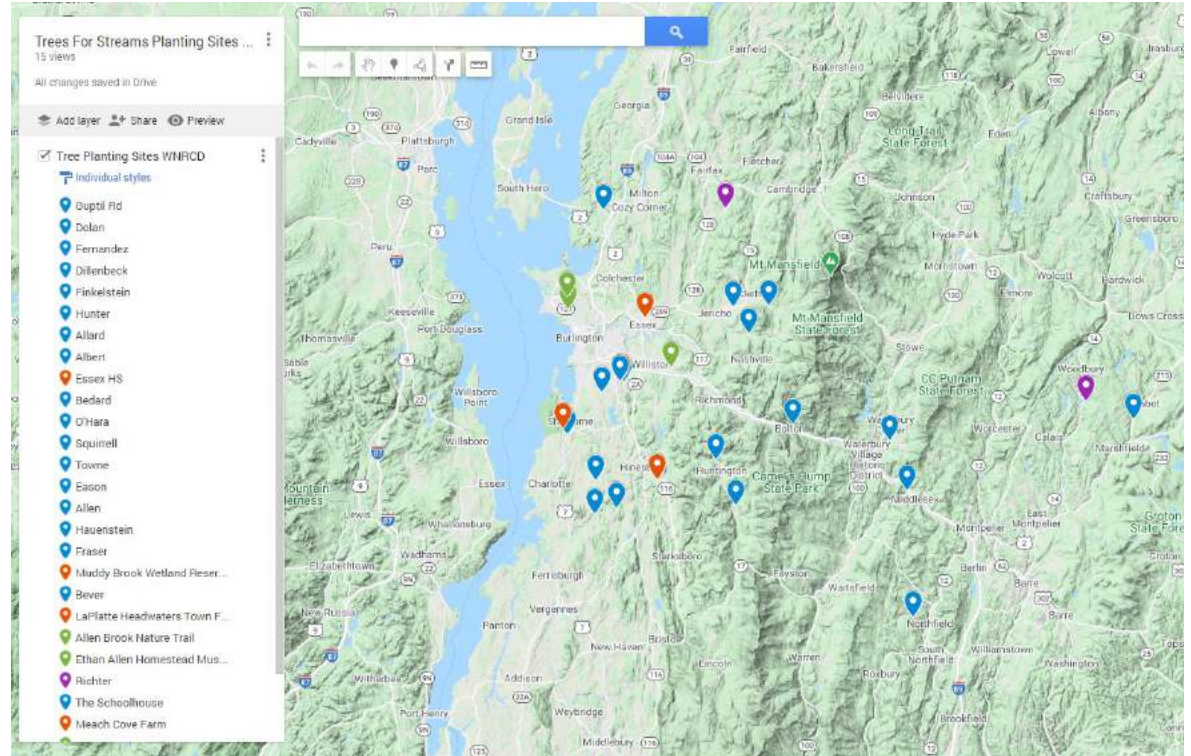


## Vermont Association of Conservation Districts



# Planning

- Map of Available Sites
- Targeted Recruitment
- Waivers
- Training Materials
- Follow - Up & Communication



# Who Can Volunteer?

1. Single-day large group volunteer event
2. Ongoing single-person or family stewardship agreement



# Division of Labor for Groups

Remove  
bindweed

Weeding  
around base  
(1 sq. foot)

Site Cleanup  
(trash sweep)

Survival  
Inventory



Allen Brook, Williston - Volunteers from Williston Master Naturalists, Conservation Commission & Sustainable Williston, 2019

# Training



## Trees for Streams Stewardship Checklist

Site Name: Williston Central School

### What to Bring

- Work/garden gloves
- Long pants and long sleeved shirts
- Sturdy work boots
- Plastic garbage bags
- Planting plan maps
- Plenty of water to drink

### 1. Homework

- Before you go, study the site [map](#)
- Study the tree species in the planting plan
- Know how to identify poison parsnip and poison ivy. These harmful plants are present at some of our sites. If you encounter them, please proceed with caution. Know how to be "tick smart" and check for ticks when you get home.

### 2. Get to Know the Trees at Your Site

This site was originally planted in spring 2018 in partnership with the Town of Williston. Some species were planted with protective tubes to prevent damage from beavers and field mice. Others were planted without tubes. Learn how to identify these trees using clues from their bark, leaves and branching pattern.

Black willow	90	Tubes
Boxelder	90	Tubes
Silver maple	90	Tubes
Shrub willow	100	NO tubes
Speckled alder	100	NO tubes
Silky dogwood	90	NO tubes
<b>Total</b>	<b>560</b>	

### 3. Tree Inventory

If working as a team it can be helpful to assign two people to complete a tree inventory while others work on site maintenance. People completing the inventory should count every tree that they notice that seems to have been planted by WNRCD. You'll probably miss a few here and there, so it's OK if your total #'s don't align perfectly with the planting plan. The most important thing is to identify trends, so do your best!

We recommend using tally marks to count as you go. Tally the # of trees that are alive and seem healthy in one column. Tally the # of trees that are damaged or dead in another column. Write any notes about damage in the third column. This could include chewing at the base of the tree (probably from field mice), chewing on the top of the tree (may be deer), beaver damage, excessive vines or other causes of damage.

Species Name	# alive	# damaged or dead	Notes on tree damage observed
Black willow			
Boxelder			
Silver maple			
Shrub willow			
Speckled alder			
Silky dogwood			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

### 4. Site Maintenance

- Pull weeds in a 1 foot circle around the base of the tree. Additionally, remove any vines climbing up tree stems.
- Remove any trash that you notice on site.
- Remove tree tubes *only if tree diameter is as thick as a baseball bat, or if plastic tube is starting to peel away from the tree.* Tree tubes can be disposed of in the trash.

### 5. Wrapping Up

- Please take a few photographs of the site and send them to [kristen@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:kristen@winooskinrcd.org). These photos help us track our progress and can help convince organizations to fund our future tree planting projects!
- Please scan or photograph this reporting sheet and send to [kristen@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:kristen@winooskinrcd.org)
- Thank you for your hard work. Our streams thank you!

# Hazard Warnings



**BE TICK SMART**

The best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to prevent tick bites. In Vermont, tickborne illnesses are most often transmitted between early spring and late fall since ticks are most active during warm months.

Take action to decrease your risk of infection. Wear a repellent containing up to 30% DEET, check your body daily for ticks, and limit your exposure to ticks and tick habitats.

Be Tick Smart flyers in Arabic | Burmese | Chinese | English | French | Korean | Nepali | Somali | Spanish

**PROTECT**

- Avoid areas where ticks live.
- Use EPA-registered tick repellents.
- Cover up to keep ticks off your body.

**CHECK**

- Don't let ticks hitchhike inside.
- Check your whole body for ticks.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/tickborne-diseases/prevent-tick-bites-tickborne-diseases>

## WILD PARSNIP

*Pastinaca sativa*



**Caution: Do not touch this plant!**

### What is wild parsnip?

Wild parsnip is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that has become naturalized in North America. It is well suited for colonizing disturbed areas but can also be found in open fields and lawns. Wild parsnip sap can cause painful, localized burning and blistering of the skin.



### Identification

Wild parsnip can grow up to 5' tall and has hollow, grooved stems that are hairless. Leaves resemble large celery leaves. They are yellow-green, coarsely toothed and compound, with 3-5 leaflets. Small, yellow flowers are clustered together in a flat-topped array approximately 3-8" across. Flowering usually occurs during the second year of growth, starting in May or June and lasting for 1-2 months. Seeds are flat, brown, and slightly winged to facilitate wind dispersal in the fall.



### Where is it located?

Wild parsnip can be found growing in a broad range of habitats, especially along roadsides, in fields and in pastures. It is common in the United States and Canada and is widespread in New York. The map on the right reflects only what has been positively identified and reported. It significantly under represents the presence of wild parsnip in the state. DEC encourages the public to report sightings of this invasive plant to iMapInvasives (see below).

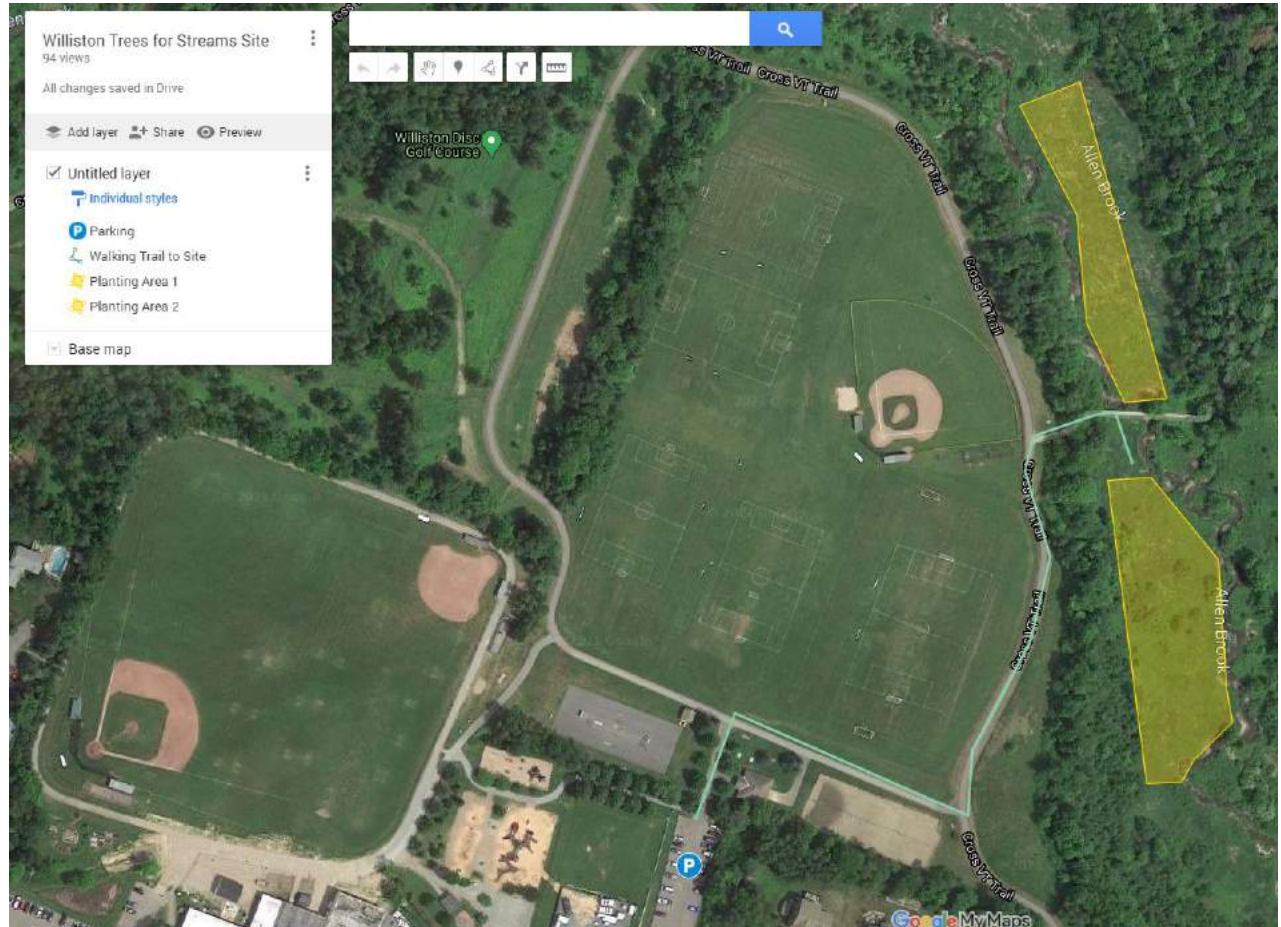


[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/wildparsnipfact.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/wildparsnipfact.pdf)

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/identifying-poison-ivy>

# Site Map

- Clearly show where to park
- Outline access to the site (walking trail)
- Define planted area
- Mark any hazards or private property lines
- Creating on Google MyMaps allows volunteers to see the site map on their phone in the field





# Waiver



Volunteer Activity: Tree Steward at Macree Farm Park

Date: Full Year of 2021

Participant Name:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the program, related events and activities, I, the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate and agree that:

1. I am donating my time and services without any compensation and shall at no time be considered an employee or independent contractor of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) for this event. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program may be significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death.
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releasor or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation.
3. I willingly agree to comply with terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any Unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately.
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless WNRCD and its officers, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsors, advertisers, partners and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event (RELEASEES) from any and all claims, demands, losses and liability arising out of or related to any injury, disability or death I may suffer, or loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of the releasor or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by the law.
5. Any dispute between WNRCD and me will be governed by the substantive laws of Vermont. Any action or proceeding arising hereunder shall be brought in the courts of the State of Vermont.



## PHOTO RELEASE (please check one box)

I grant WNRCD, its representatives and employees the right to take photographs at this volunteer event of me and any minor participants for which I am the parent or guardian. I authorize WNRCD, its assigns and transferees to use such photographs, with or without names, for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising and web content and to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I do not grant WNRCD, its representatives and employees the right to take photographs at this volunteer event of me and any minor participants for which I am the parent or guardian.

I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature Date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Name Emergency Contact Phone

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANT OF MINOR AGE (UNDER 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION): This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to their release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liability incidents to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by the law.


X \_\_\_\_\_  
Names & Ages of all participating minors

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian Signature Date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Name Emergency Contact Phone

# Tracking Hours

Questions Responses



## Tree Stewardship Volunteer Log

Please complete this form after every visit to your riparian tree stewardship site.

Your Name \*

Short answer text

Which site did you visit? \*

- Ethan Allen Homestead (Burlington)
- Macrare Farm Park (Colchester)
- Williston Central School
- Essex High School
- LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (Hinesburg)

How many hours did you spend at your site? Round up to the nearest half-hour. \*

Short answer text

What tasks did you complete? Check all that apply. \*

- Weed around trees
- Remove trash
- Count trees for survival (remember to email your report to [kristen@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:kristen@winooskinrcd.org))
- Collect photos of the site (please email to [kristen@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:kristen@winooskinrcd.org))
- Other...

# Building Investment

- Offer t-shirts or stickers as thank - you
- Join newsletter
- Learn about other volunteer opportunities
- Share experience with friends & neighbors



# Riparian Stewardship Volunteer Program

## Benefits

- People can sign up any time of year
- Volunteers can create their own schedule
- Able to keep more "eyes" on the trees you've planted



## Limitations

- Volunteers may not be tree ID experts - will give you ballpark data, but may not be accurate enough for certain reporting requirements
- We've limited this program to plantings on public land

# Questions

put a  ree on it.  
*winooskinrcd.org*

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