

White River Partnership 2023 Annual Report



WRP MISSION: Bringing people together to improve the long-term health of the White River watershed

WRP VISION: A White River watershed in which our collective actions protect and improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood resilience, and recreational river access

In 2023, we collected data to identify watershed issues and to evaluate project impacts:

- Collected 525 water samples to determine if the White River is safe for swimming
- Monitored the health of 2,275 trees planted along the river to evaluate restoration success
- **2023 flood response:** Monitored WRP restoration projects to evaluate flooding impacts



Gathering water samples



Flooding had no impact on new culverts

Delivered outreach and education programs to raise awareness about watershed issues:

- Engaged 1,400 students in hands-on education programs at the river, including sampling crayfish & waterbugs, raising Trout in the Classroom*, Freshwater Snorkeling**, and more
- **2023 flood response:** Shared flood recovery lessons-learned with media & partners



Collecting waterbugs to gauge water quality



Snorkeling to observe native fish

Worked with partners to implement on-the-ground projects to protect and improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood resilience, and recreational river access:

- Planted 4,140 native trees along the river at 4 sites in Bethel, Randolph, and Stockbridge
- Built stone steps to the river in Sharon
- Developing 1 culvert replacement, 2 dam removal, and 4 floodplain restoration projects
- **2023 flood response:** Conducted site visits with 25 landowners to gauge flood damages



Planting trees along the river



Gathering dam removal field data

Coordinated hands-on volunteer activities to promote local watershed stewardship:

- Engaged 50 volunteers in the Swim Smart Monitoring Program and White River Water Trail Stewardship Program
- Partnered with 20 youth work crew members to plant trees and control invasive plants
- **2023 flood response:** Worked with 125 volunteers to remove flood debris from river access trails and to collect over 5,000 pounds of trash from the river



Removing flood debris from river access trails



Removing trash from the river

THANK YOU to our 2023 Supporters & Partners: WRP Members, Donors & Volunteers + Canonica Landworks, Couch Family Fdn, CT River Conservancy, DRC Consulting, **Green Mountain National Forest, Herald of Randolph, Hermit Woods Trailbuilders, High Meadows Fund, Hurricane Flats Farm, Intervale Conservation Nursery, Janice Graham & Co, Lamson Howell Fdn, National Fish & Wildlife Fdn, National Forest Fdn, Newcomb Studios, NH Charitable Fdn, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, participating landowners, schools & towns, PUR Projet, Regeneration Corps, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, Ripple Natural Resources, Rob Fish L3C, Sign Design, TR Fellows Engineering, *Trout Unlimited-Greater Upper Valley Chapter & VT Council, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RC, Upper White River CWMA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Valley News, VHB, *VINS, VT Agency of Natural Resources, VT Community Fdn, VT Emergency Management, VT Land Trust, VT Law School, VT NRCC, VT Public, VT River Conservancy, VT Youth Conservation Corps, Watersheds United VT, White River NRCD, White River Open/The Woodstock Inn & Resort, Wolff Archaeological Services

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.whiteriverpartnership.org