



## White River Partnership 2025 Annual Report

The White River Partnership (WRP) is a membership-based, nonprofit organization formed in 1996 by a group of local people who shared an interest in keeping the White River healthy.

Here are some highlights from our work in 2025:

- WRP staff and 25 volunteers completed the 8th year of our White River Water Trail Stewardship Program, **monitoring river access sites every month during the summer** to remove trash and to report hazardous conditions. We also started and ended the season with river cleanup events – in sum, 100 volunteers **removed 4,000 pounds of trash** from the river.
- WRP staff and 15 trained volunteers **completed the 25th year of our Swim Smart monitoring program**, gathering and analyzing water samples from 16 swimming holes in 12 towns every two weeks from June through August. We shared results via signs at Water Trail sites, email, our website, and our Facebook/Instagram pages.
- The WRP worked with willing landowners, partners, and a youth work crew to **plant 3,725 native trees and shrubs along the White River and its tributaries** at 5 sites in Barnard, Granville, Hancock, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.
- The WRP worked with a willing landowner, partners, and local contractors to **remove the Farnham Brothers Dam** on the First Branch in Tunbridge to improve water quality and reconnect 15 miles of fish and wildlife habitat.
- WRP staff **assessed 125 stream-crossing culverts in the First and Second Branch valleys** to identify opportunities to improve flood resilience and aquatic organism passage.
- The WRP worked with towns, community members, and contractors to **improve recreational access to the river** by constructing trails, stone steps, and a kiosk at the White River Access in Sharon as well as stone steps and a kiosk at Avery's Rocks Access in Royalton.
- The WRP engaged 1,500 students and teachers from 24 schools in **hands-on education programs that raise awareness about watershed health**, including Freshwater Snorkeling with the Green Mountain National Forest, Trout in the Classroom with the Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, crayfish and waterbugs sampling & identification, and more!

For more information: <http://www.whiteriverpartnership.org> or visit us on Facebook & Instagram