

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCD)

Examples of Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts' (NRCDs) role in flood recovery following the July floods.

Vermont's NRCDs played a role in statewide flood recovery efforts by conducting outreach, helping assess local damage, and providing information to businesses, landowners and municipalities regarding flood resources and funding opportunities for flood repairs and recovery work. All 14 NRCDs fielded flood related inquiries from constituents and helped those constituents navigate the assistance and resources available to them. **This is a natural component of our structural model to respond to local natural resources needs and to relay the voices and needs of our communities to the State of Vermont and the federal government.**

Statewide, NRCDs helped affected communities and landowners access emergency response and short-term recovery assistance programs. NRCDs also provided technical assistance work for holders of grant agreements for clean water projects (getting extensions, etc. on projects that were severely impacted by the floods). Here are just a few examples of NRCDs work following the July floods:

Caledonia County NRCD

The Town of Hardwick was the most flood impacted town of Caledonia county, and the Caledonia NRCD worked with the town manager and an engineering firm **to repair damages to a significant stormwater system that we helped install in the Fall of 2022.** We also worked with the town manager to disseminate information and conduct outreach regarding debris clean up in the river corridor through downtown. Caledonia NRCD also provided assistance to the town of Stannard on a **culvert replacement project and to inventory road erosion.**

Windham County NRCD

Windham County NRCD conducted site visits to past locations of our **"Trees For Streams" tree planting program to determine flood impact on those properties, report the damage, and direct the landowners to assistance.** We are also working with landowners in Jamaica to plan a long-term property protection strategy which will turn into a larger river corridor protection project.

Windham County NRCD also shared email updates to all constituents regarding where to get support, worked with the USDA's Farm Service Agency and NRCS to connect affected farmers to the correct pathway for assistance, and kept in regular communication with our partners Great River Hydro and the Army Corps of Engineers about drawdown times **to help landowners understand the flood response protocol from dams** and identify safe recreation areas.

Franklin County NRCD

Franklin County NRCD spearheaded the creation of a comprehensive **Flood Program and Resource overview guide** for all NRCDs to use and distribute to constituents. We also called all farms along rivers where flooding had occurred to offer **free soil sampling assistance.**

Franklin County NRCD also revisited past "Trees for Streams" tree planting projects to assess damage and connect property owners with flood resources, traveled around the District to document flood levels immediately after the flood receded, and called a meeting of local watershed groups to develop a future-looking strategy for responding to future natural disasters in the Franklin County area.

Essex County NRCD

Essex County NRCD disseminated information about how businesses can get assistance for flood damage, and helped Northeastern Vermont Development Association assess flood damage in Essex county by reporting what damage we had seen or heard about through our constituents. Essex County NRCD also responded to resident inquiries about grants available for flood repairs and helped constituents navigate those grant opportunities.

White River NRCD

The White River NRCD called all 23 towns in our district to ensure that every town had information on **free drinking water and soil test kits**, as well as information on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. We also called all registered farms to ask if they had flood damage and to refer them to the USDA's Farm Service Agency to file for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program if eligible.