

Public Access and Recreation Opportunities

Creating opportunities for citizens to connect to waters and watersheds enhances their desire to protect water quality. While state regulations emphasize phosphorus levels and targets, the public relates better to beach closures, protecting their homes and communities from floods, and conserving fish and wildlife as recreational assets and resources.

The state must: Provide more opportunities for public access to Lake Champlain, particularly in southern Vermont, and also designate more river access opportunities.

Investment in new facilities, improvement of existing facilities, and addition of staff, for management and maintenance, are necessary.

The state must: Invest in natural infrastructure and riparian buffer acquisitions, accelerate dam removal, and substantially increase aquatic organism passage.

These vital components are needed to conserve and restore our fish and wildlife assets to include nongame and endangered species.



Lake Champlain Basin Program

Stormwater washes sediment and phosphorus off fields and roads into tributaries to Lake Champlain.

VTCAC Members

- Julie Moore, Chair, Middlesex, Water Resources Engineer
- Lori Fisher, Vice-Chair, Williston, Lake Champlain Committee
- Eric Clifford, Starksboro, Dairy Farmer
- James Ehlers, Colchester, Business Executive
- Robert Fischer, South Burlington Water Quality Superintendent
- Paul Hansen, Alburgh, Business Owner
- Rep. Bob Krebs, South Hero
- Sen. Ginny Lyons, Chittenden County
- Alex MacDonald, Lincoln, Builder
- Mark Naud, South Hero, Attorney
- Denise Smith, St. Albans, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain
- Rep. Kate Webb, Shelburne
- Sheri Young, Orwell, Septic Design & Environmental Consulting
- Vacant Senator

While far-reaching, Act 64 faces significant challenges. The 13 new positions envisioned at the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for Act 64 compliance, enforcement and outreach were offset by workforce reduction budget decisions by the administration and legislature. Inadequate staffing at ANR and lack of citizen representation on the Clean Water Fund Board hinder the ability to move funds quickly and effectively to implement priority water quality projects.

Photos courtesy of the Friends of Winooski River



This undersized and "perched" culvert blocked passage of aquatic organisms such as fish.

This cross-road culvert failed during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and was hastily replaced with an undersized culvert that also blocked aquatic organism passage to fish and other species. As the undersized culvert posed a risk for future catastrophic failure, Friends of the Winooski River, with partners including US Fish & Wildlife Service, led a project to design a safer road crossing also allowing for aquatic organism passage.



This open bottom culvert allows stream flow and aquatic organism passage (note people working by huge culvert).



The completed project with natural substrates.

