



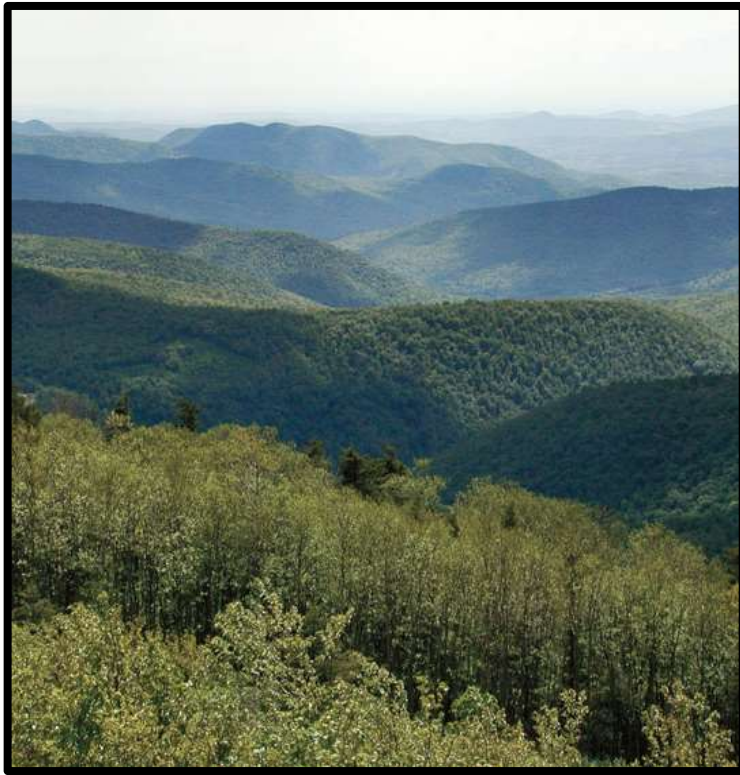
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife: H.606

February 10, 2022



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Statutory Purpose



Equinox Highlands in Bennington County
Among 450,000 acres conserved since 1987.

“the dual goals of creating affordable housing for Vermonters, and **conserving and protecting Vermont’s agricultural land, forestland, historic properties, important natural areas, and recreational lands of primary importance to the economic vitality and quality of life of the State.**”

10 V.S.A.15 §302



10 V.S.A.15 §302

Eligible Uses:

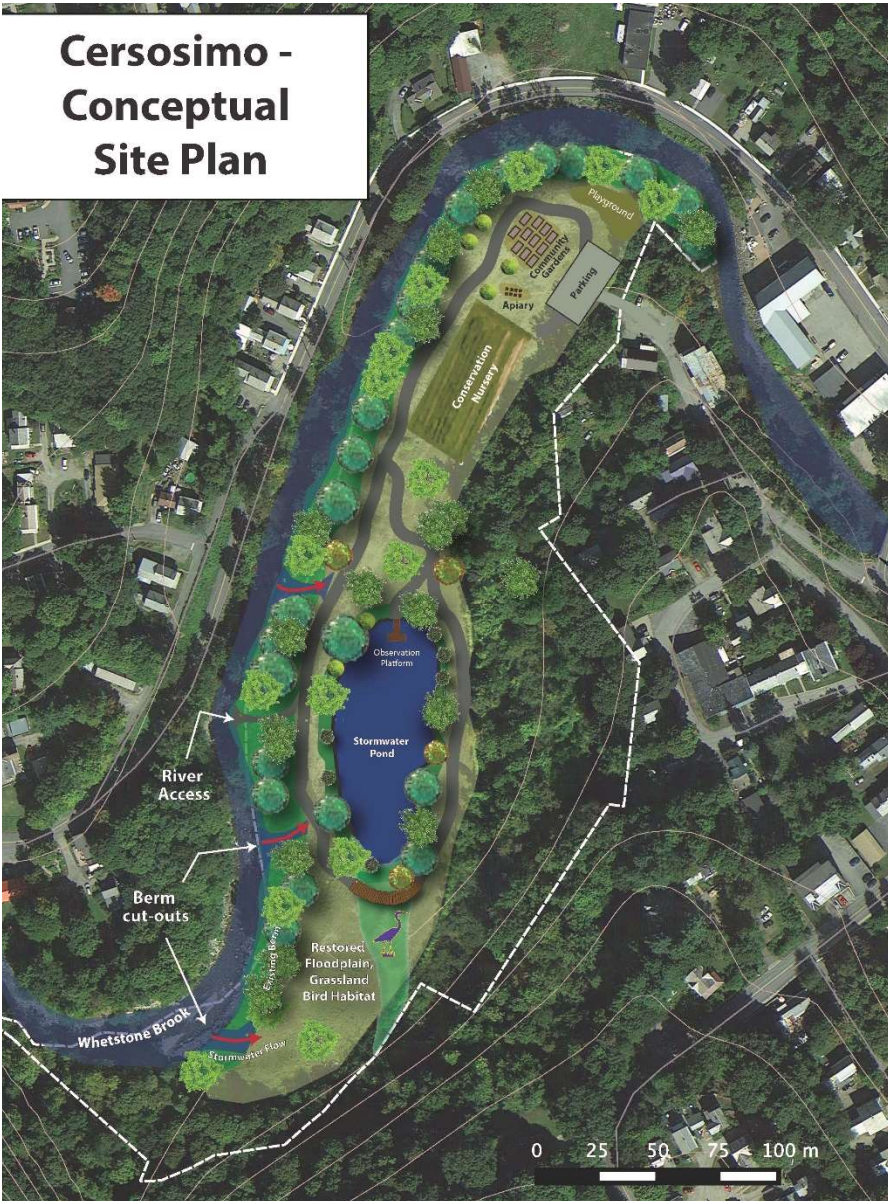
- (C) the protection of important wildlife habitat and important natural areas;
- (E) the protection of areas suited for outdoor public recreational activity;
- (F) the protection of lands for multiple conservation purposes, including the protection of surface waters and associated natural resources;

Allocation System:

- (1) the need to maintain balance between the dual goals in allocating resources;
- (2) the need for a timely response to unpredictable circumstances or special opportunities to serve the purposes of this chapter;
- (3) the level of funding or other participation by private or public sources in the activity being considered for funding by the Board;



Whetstone Brook Floodplain Restoration, Brattleboro



The Vermont River Conservancy is restoring floodplain along the Whetstone Brook adjacent to downtown Brattleboro, creating a park with community gardens and providing protection from flooding events to downstream properties. With VHCB funding and a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Program grant, they will remove contaminated fill from the 12-acre parcel and restore it as a floodplain.

Red Clover Commons 2, Brattleboro



Above: the 2d phase of housing completed on this site as replacement housing after Melrose Terrace flooded during Tropical Storm Irene (right).



Morgan Street Wetlands - Bennington



Huntington Community Forest





Conserved Farmland and Natural Areas in Addison County



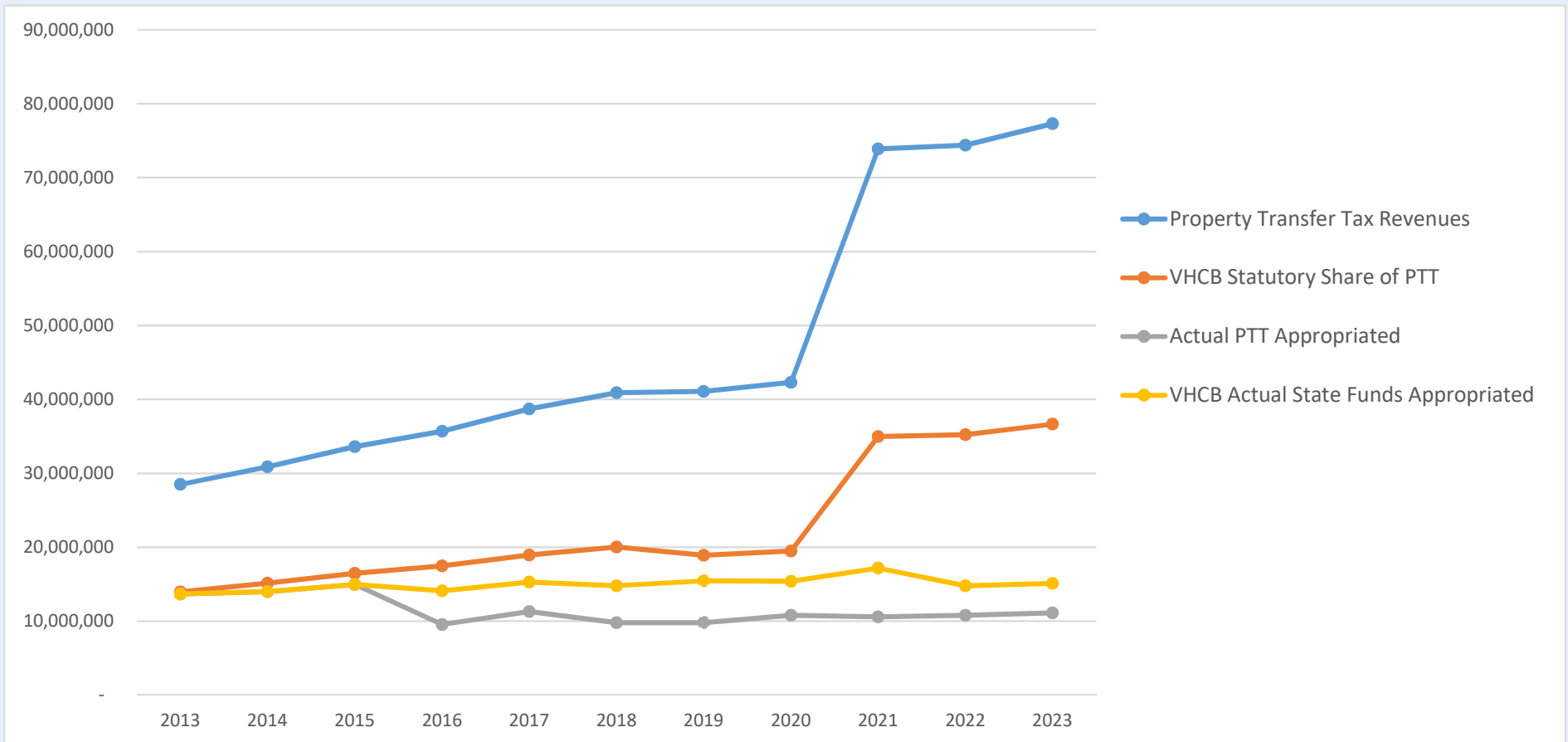


Farmland Conservation - Choiniere Family Farm, Highgate

Well-managed Vermont farms are the first line of defense for clean water and climate resilience. Over 20 years, the Choiniere Family Farm in Highgate has implemented numerous conservation practices, installing buffers along the river, cattle lanes and fencing, and keeping manure under cover using bedded pack barns. In 2021, they won the New England Aldo Leopold Conservation Award.

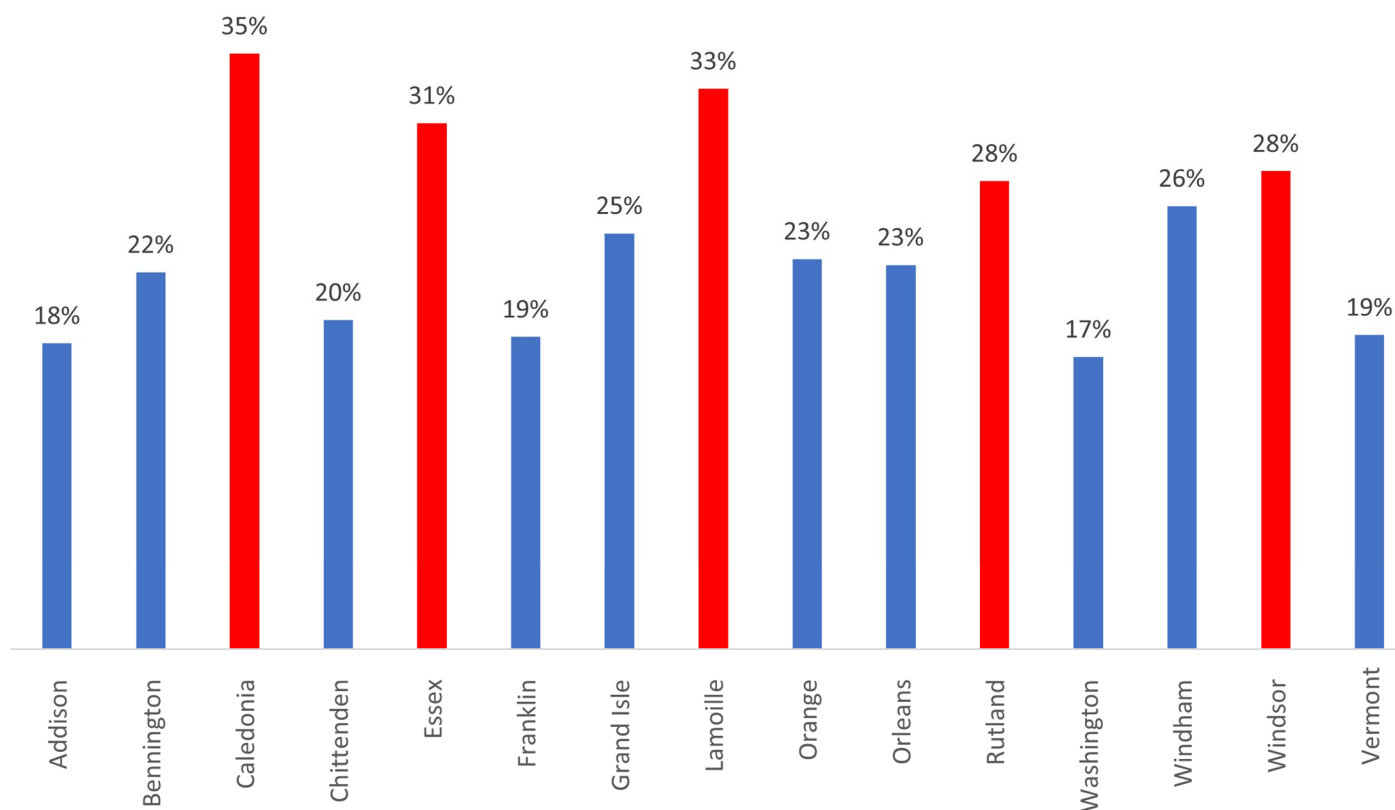
Appropriations to VHCB for Base Funding 2013 to 2023

Does not include One-time Appropriations of State and Federal Funds



Home Prices Up 19% Statewide Over Last two Years

Home price growth, 2019-2021



Source: Vermont Property Transfer Tax (PTT) records

Gus Seelig
Executive Director
Trey Martin
Planning Director

