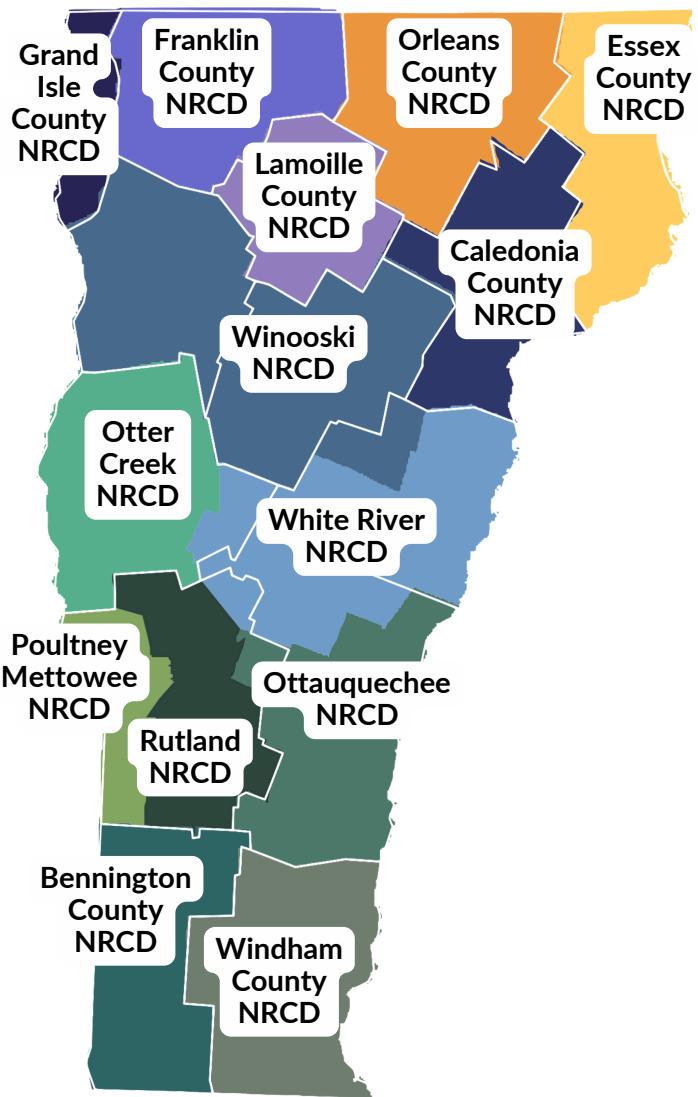




Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

Our Land. Our Water. Our Future.

Please support Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDs) with a **budget of \$948,200** in FY27 to fund Vermont's local governmental conservation delivery system.



What Conservation Districts Are

Natural Resources Conservation Districts are county-level units of government charged with enhancing and protecting the state's natural resources (10 V.S.A. Chapter 31).

What Conservation Districts Do

Conservation Districts address some of the most pressing issues facing the state including:

- **Flood mitigation** – Districts restore flood plains, conserve wetlands, plant riparian buffers, remove dams, upgrade culverts and work to reduce water flows from headwaters.
- **Drought mitigation** – Districts work with farms to implement practices to reduce the short- and long-term impacts of drought, work Districts have been ramping up over the past five years.
- **Clean water** – Districts work with farms, forest businesses, private landowners, and municipalities to install infrastructure and implement land management practices that protect Vermont's lakes and streams
- **Farm viability and food security** – Districts help farmers access state and federal assistance, and identify and implement on-the-ground practices to help ensure the long-term viability of the farm.

For every \$1 Districts receive in direct operational funding, they bring in \$9 for implementing conservation work. Districts are also able, by working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to secure federal funds focused on addressing conservation needs in each District. For the 2026 federal fiscal year, Districts brought in **\$4.4M in federal funds that went directly to farmers and other landowners** for work on conservation needs identified by local residents through a public process.

Districts need \$948,200 to support this work. Unlike other states, Districts in Vermont do not have a dedicated source of revenue identified in statute, such as a percentage of a statewide tax or county tax revenue.

These funds support the on-the-ground technical assistance NRCDs provide directly to Vermonters and municipalities so we can all better protect our natural resources and adapt to a changing climate.

This is also the funding that pays for the work necessary to secure the grants to upgrade culverts, remove dams, restore wetlands and ensure Vermont has viable farms with healthy, resilient soils.



Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts connect people, organizations, and resources to steward our land and water for the future.



Winooski NRCD worked for years to remove the Hands Mill Dam in Washington which was classified as a Significant Hazard potential dam.



Windham County NRCD works with the Connecticut River Conservancy and volunteers to remove invasive water chestnuts from the Connecticut River.



Orleans County NRCD planted over 300 trees in North Troy. These trees will grow to reduce erosion, create wildlife habitat, filter clean water, and protect aquatic ecosystems.



In Fall 2024, Franklin County NRCD hosted four educational workshops for maple producers in Franklin County and across Vermont.



Otter Creek NRCD hosted a program on Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) services for farmers in Orwell. A drone demonstration was led by VACD's sUAS team.



Essex County NRCD led a stormwater runoff treatment project in Concord that will prevent an estimated annual flow of 1,500 pounds of pollutants into the Moose River.