

Conservation Projects

Types of Conservation Projects

- ◆ Riparian Buffer Plantings
- ◆ Rain Garden Installation and Assessment
- ◆ Trout Pond Ecology Assessments
- ◆ Landscaping with Native Species
- ◆ Flora and Fauna Inventorying
- ◆ Wildlife Habitat Planning & Enhancement



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Lamoille County Conservation District is one of fourteen in Vermont. Conservation Districts exist as a partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), through the Soil and Water Conservation Act. LCCD assists farmers, landowners, homeowners, and communities to identify natural resource concerns of a targeted area, set priorities, and help to develop a plan to address the concerns identified.

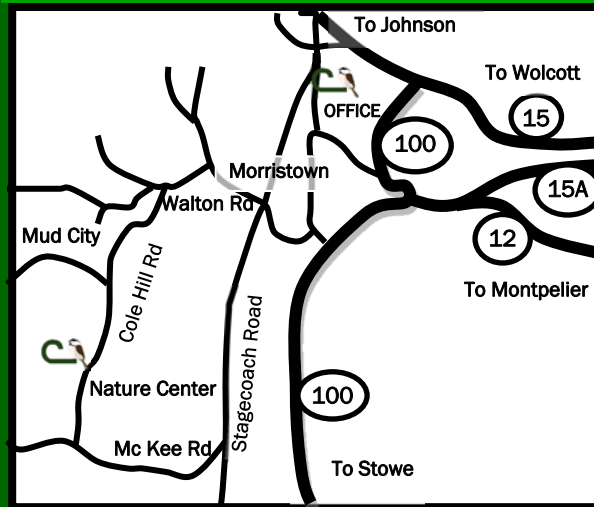


**“He Who Plants a Tree,
Plants a Hope”**

~Lucy Larcom



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Trees for Streams



**Lamoille County
Conservation District**

**Office: 109 Professional Drive
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Trees for Streams



Lamoille County Conservation District

Protecting & Restoring Waterways

Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD) works with individuals and/or groups of individuals to identify natural resource concerns of a targeted area, set priorities, and develop a plan to address the concerns identified. Trees for Streams is a signature LCCD program established in 1999, to provide private landowners with a simple cost-share program to address erosion and flooding, among other water quality concerns.



Improving Water Quality

The primary goal for *Trees for Streams* is to improve and protect water quality through a variety of measures. These include:

- ◆ Minimizing bank erosion by holding soil in place.
- ◆ Trapping, storing and filtering nutrients from runoff and overland flow especially during high flow events.
- ◆ Regulating water temperatures by shading surface waters.

The first step to determine a Trees for Streams (TFS) site is for LCCD to complete an assessment of the existing land use, water body, soils, and vegetation. Sites that can provide a 35' buffer width from the top of the bank, are relatively large >0.5 acres, and that are relatively stable are a priority. Smaller sites may be suitable depending on the natural resource concern.

Connecting Fragmented Habitats

A secondary goal for *Trees for Streams* is to protect and restore natural wildlife habitats both in the water and on the land.



Benefits of Riparian Forest Connections

- ◆ Connecting fragmented riparian forests to create a continuous linear wildlife corridor for migration.
- ◆ Connecting streams and rivers to isolated wetlands and other important natural communities to improve genetic exchange and diversity.
- ◆ Connecting higher level headwater riparian areas to lower level valley bottom and main stem riparian areas and reduce phosphorus inputs to the stream system.

Lamoille County Conservation District provides a preliminary consultation, and with the landowners commitment, labor, and 80% of material fees through the Trees for Streams cost-share program. Landowners provide 20% of materials fees and agrees to maintain the site for ten years. Financial support is available through various grants, and partnership agreements secured by LCCD.

Planting Native Trees & Shrubs

LCCD chooses native trees and shrubs appropriate to the site and develops a planting plan. When suitable, LCCD coordinates and leads a service learning program for volunteers, students, or other organizations to plant the vegetation. A typical planting plan is shown below.



Other Programs & Opportunities

Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Serves as a bridge for private landowners to conserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife habitat on their property.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Natural Resource Conservation Service. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist agricultural producers install or implement structural and management practices. Program opportunities vary annually.