



Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership (CVCP)
Who are we? Where we work? How do we work together?

CVCP Overview:

The CVCP formed in 2019 as a group of municipalities committed to work together on conservation and stewardship issues at a regional scale. The partnership acknowledged that there are many others at the local, regional, state, and federal level that can assist the group in its work, and made it a priority to engage with others in a strategic way. The group represents a collaboration of partners (municipal and non-municipal) that seek to share information and advance common goals for land conservation and stewardship.

In our region, there is a landscape that provides connected open space for wildlife and humans. We understand that natural resources are not confined to political boundaries, and require landscape-scale management to address the threats and challenges of increasing landscape fragmentation, environmental degradation, climate change and other pressing issues.

The partnership formed to increase the amount of connected conserved land, improve water quality in streams and rivers, protect agricultural land, and prevent the fragmentation of wildlife habitat and riparian corridors. Partnering municipalities agreed to use various tools to accomplish these projects within their own borders, including: purchase of land and rights in land, upland habitat restoration, wetland and stream restoration, community outreach, land use planning, and the sharing of experience.

There are currently no financial obligations for partners to participate in the partnership, though each municipality is required to appoint a representative to attend regular monthly meetings.

CVCP Members (as of September 2021):

The backbone of this partnership are those municipal partners that originally signed the accord in 2019. Other partners have come on to assist the partnership on various projects and initiatives. The partnership is open to including additional partners in the future as regional needs change.

<p>Municipal Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Burlington ● Williston ● Shelburne ● Hinesburg ● St. George 	<p>Other Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Burlington NRCC ● Shelburne NRCC ● Hinesburg Conservation Comm. ● South Burlington Land Trust ● Hinesburg Land Trust ● CCRPC ● VT Department of Fish & Wildlife ● Audubon VT ● WVPD ● Vermont Land Trust ● UVM NR206 Class
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Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Focus Area:

Overview –

This partnership is interested in conservation projects in all of our partnering communities, however, the partnership decided to focus efforts in an area that includes a swath of connected landscape from South Burlington’s “Great Swamp”, to Shelburne Pond, across connected habitats in St. George, into northern Hinesburg, across Muddy Brook into southwestern Williston, and even into western Richmond. This area was defined by characteristics associated with Vermont Conservation Design, and includes forest block and riparian connectivity. This work is constantly evolving, and the partnership acknowledges the focus area may change or grow over time.

Natural Resource Values -

This focus area includes ecological priorities at several scales. The overall forest pattern of connected forests and wetlands is critically important in this heavily populated and developed area of Vermont. The selected regions are focused on Highest Priority areas designated by Vermont Conservation Design for Interior Forest, Connectivity Blocks and Physical Landscape Diversity. These remaining forests are connected by a network of streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands also considered Highest Priority within Vermont Conservation Design as well as a diversity of rare threatened and endangered species and other elements. From an ecological perspective, conservation success in this region is critically important for maintaining connections between larger forests to the east down into the Champlain Valley. See <https://anr.vermont.gov/maps/biofinder> for more information on Vermont Conservation Design.

Priority Conservation Projects:

The partnership has prioritized three types of conservation projects to support throughout the focus area that promote land and water connectivity in the region. These include those focused on land and water protection, land and water stewardship and/or management, and landowner education and/or outreach. Below are some examples of project types in each category.

Land & Water Protection:	Stewardship/Management:	Education/Outreach:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase connected conserved land and water habitats● Protect agricultural land● Prevent habitat fragmentation● Purchase land/rights in land● Land use planning tools● Sharing knowledge/experience● Work with regional partners to identify and conserve priority parcels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Restore wildlife habitat● Remove invasive plants● Plant native plants● Improve water quality through wetland and riparian restoration● Manage and maintain public trails● Sharing knowledge/experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Act as a “networking hub” for regional community events, trainings, etc.● Educate ourselves and the public on land and riparian conservation and stewardship● Provide opportunities for community involvement● Sharing knowledge/experience● Landowner engagement workshops to discuss conservation strategies