

BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (BCCD)

2019 REPORT

The mission of the BCCD is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our work in fiscal year 2019 included:

- Hiring a new district manager, Katy Crumley, after Shelly Stiles' retirement. Katy brings experience in wildlife and land management, as well as experience working on small organic farms. She is excited to continue the district's mission and add value to our communities.
- With help from the Bennington and N. Bennington public works and roads crews, completing the construction of a boardwalk for floater access in Greenberg Headwaters Park in Bennington. We also partnered with the Town of Bennington and Shelly Stiles (previous BCCD district manager) to research the possibility of connecting Headwaters Park with the old One World Conservation property.
- Partnering with the Town of Shaftsbury to complete under-road drainage and culvert replacement with ditching on Trumble Hill. Additional culverts and ditches in need of replacement were identified on Kelly Stand Rd. with the assistance of the road foreman. Cost estimates and scope of work were created for this project.
- Found funding for the Town of Rupert to install best management practices and protect water quality at its garage site.
- With the considerable help of an EcoAmericorps member, headquartered at BCCD, we implemented the work plan for the Batten Kill Watershed Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA). Projects included invasive species treatments on several public and privately owned parcels; workshops; newspaper articles; and much social media outreach.
- Providing agriculture technical assistance to farmers in Bennington County, to develop nutrient management plans, conduct soil and water samples and direct farmers to applicable resources.
- Completing a "Trees for Streams" planting at Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert, to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off into Mill Brook/White Creek. Planting occurred with the partnership of Merck Forest staff and Burr and Burton Academy students. An additional planting was completed on private property along the Battenkill, in conjunction with our CISMA partners. Future buffer plantings are scheduled for Spring 2020, in conjunction with CISMA and the Battenkill Watershed Alliance.

- Assisting with the development and review of the new 5-year Deerfield Basin 12 plan.
- Secured funding for stormwater system improvements at the Arlington school and library complex. Deliverables include four, 100% designs detailing these improvements.
- Aided Bennington College in the organization and hosting of an Emerald Ash Borer workshop.
- Working closely with USFS Green Mountain National Forest, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, our regional planning commission, many municipalities, and several local and regional non-profit organizations to further our congruent missions.

Respectfully submitted by
Katy Crumley, District Manager