



Lake Shoreland Project Funding Opportunities

Water quality improvement projects can be identified via various channels and programs, such as the Lake Watershed Action Plans (LWAPs). For example, LWAPs generate ranked lists of restoration opportunities during field assessments. *To learn more about the process of identifying, designing, funding, managing, and implementing lake shoreland restoration projects, please go to our [Lake Shoreland Restoration Projects Sequencing](#) handout (linked here).* If water quality advocates or property owners are interested in pursuing the development and implementation of projects, there are grants available through a variety of funding sources (summarized below). *Property owners should work with the Orleans County NRCD and/or their local lake association to apply for funding.*

Water Quality Enhancement Block Grant

The Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant Program (EDIBG) is intended to support the development, design, and implementation of water quality enhancement projects. This grant program prioritizes **low* phosphorus reduction projects that have co-benefits** like community engagement and wildlife habitat enhancements. Funding is provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (VTDEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) and managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC) and Watershed United Vermont (WUV).

**In lakes and ponds, high levels of phosphorus can contribute to excessive algae growth and eutrophication, which results in oxygen depletion and harms aquatic life due to decaying matter. In Vermont, lakes and ponds with total phosphorus concentrations below 18ug/l are generally considered very good.*

Clean Water Service Provider Funding

Vermont's Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76) provides funding to Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) for "boots on the ground" project delivery for **non-regulatory clean water projects. This funding mechanism is appropriate for small-scale, phosphorus reduction projects** identified on lakeshores. The CWSP program is focused on accomplishing the goals of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) policy of the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watersheds. Appropriate projects may include stormwater management practices and restoration projects such as floodplain reconnections, wetlands restoration, shoreland restoration, and buffer plantings. CWSP will fund all project phases from scoping and development to design and implementation. Note: *Municipal Road General Permit (MGRP) road projects would not be eligible for this program.*

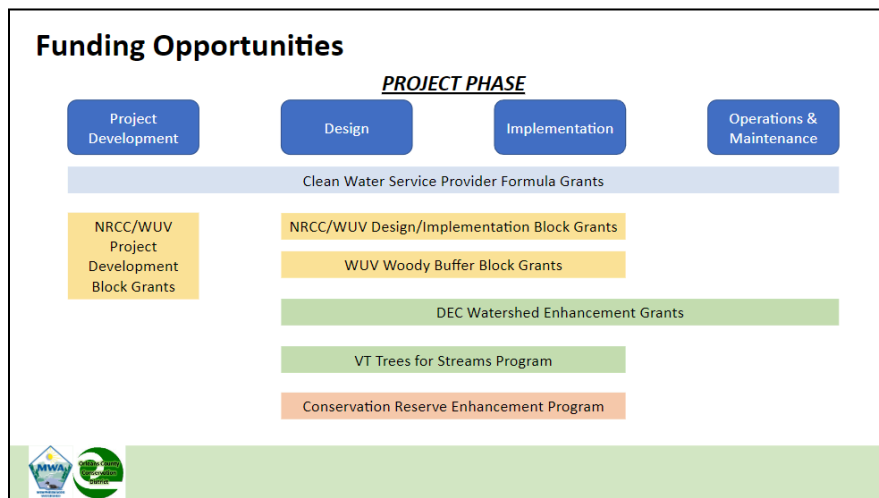
NRCD Trees For Streams Program

Trees for Streams (TFS) supports projects that establish and steward forested riparian buffers. Conservation Districts access grant funding and provide technical assistance for landowners who want to stabilize riverbanks, filter nutrients from runoff, and increase the connectivity of wildlife habitat with riparian buffers. This service includes site assessment, project planning, and planting trees to establish the buffer. To inquire or participate in TFS, reach out to OCNRCD staff or [click here for information on our website](#).



Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) administers a variety of grant programs in the greater Lake Champlain Basin. Their [Grants and Requests for Proposals](#) pages on their website outlines these programs. **Please note: The LCBP program only applies to towns and water bodies in the Lake Champlain Watershed so for Orleans County, this is confined to Caspian Lake, for example.** Under this program, there are three main tracks: 1) Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Planning and Implementation Projects grants; 2) Stream Wise for outreach and education around stream riparian buffers; and 3) Education and Outreach grants, which could be used for spreading the word regarding the results of the LWAP, as well as conducting outreach to engage property owners for additional design and implementation projects.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Watershed Grant Program

Since its creation in 1998, the [VT F&W Vermont Watershed Grant Program](#) has supported efforts to improve surface water quality in keeping with its stated habitat improvement objectives. The program provides grants to towns, organizations, and community groups for specific watershed projects. Any projects within an LWAP, with the possible exception of MRGP road-related projects, would be eligible for this funding source, as the goal is habitat creation and not specifically phosphorus reduction.

USDA National Resource Conservation Service

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has cost share programs for a variety of available conservation practices. Landowners do need to register with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) first to access financial assistance. The Orleans County Conservation District works closely with NRCS and FSA to support landowners in accessing USDA programs.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is one program under USDA FSA that encourages land stewards to retire environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to establish riparian buffers.