

Sustainable Woodstock Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



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Gathering Together

Dear Friend,

This past year has been full of gatherings. You have joined us for summer picnics at our community gardens, a sustainable holiday crafting party in December, and lots of film screenings about important environmental issues. You have also joined us for events that are as much about fun as they are about learning and giving back, like our annual Window Dressers build. **You, our community, are what make these events special.**

We're looking ahead to an exciting year of important work—working with partners to strengthen the Woodstock Aqueduct against future flooding, install three new EV fast chargers, and implement an innovative natural bank restoration project on Barnard Brook. We also have some brand new work with residents of Riverside Mobile Home Park, which I hope you read more about on pages 3 and 4 of this report.

We look forward to another year of working for and with our community.
Thank you for being with us every step of the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenevra Wetmore".

Jenevra Wetmore, Executive Director

Impact

Food Security

We run two community gardens at Billings Farm and King Farm in partnership with Billings Farm and the Vermont Land Trust. These gardens serve ~30 families and organizations, and have dedicated growing space to produce vegetables for the Woodstock Community Food Shelf. In 2025, **we grew 400 pounds of produce to donate** to the Woodstock Community Food Shelf.

Our Grow Your Own Garden project annually distributes seeds and seedlings to low-income families free of charge—**feeding over 1,000 people to date.**



Volunteers sort seed potatoes to be given away as part of our Grow Your Own Garden program



Participants pose with the fruits of their labor at one of two canning workshops

Community

The biggest predictor of hope is social connectedness, and we are so lucky to have connected with so many of you this year. In 2025, our public events, celebrations, and workshops saw **335 attendees!** A few of our favorite events were:

- Two home-canning workshops hosted at the Kitchen at Mission Farm. Participants were guided through the canning process and each took home a jar of freshly-canned organic tomatoes. We donated the remaining ~30 jars to Willing Hands!
- Our holiday Sustainable Crafting & Community Gathering at Taftsville Mennonite Chapel, which included activities such as wreath/door swag making, upcycled decoration creation, and beeswax wrapper crafting.
- A backyard composting demo with live worms.

Window Dressers

Over 100 volunteers came together to build 235 Window Dressers interior window inserts for 27 low-income families!

These inserts:

- Reduce cold drafts, making a home more comfortable.
- Save energy & decrease carbon emissions.
- Lower heating costs. 10 inserts will save 105 gallons of heating fuel per year which, at around \$5.50/gallon, amounts to more than **\$550 in fuel savings per year for the average family!**

The Window Dressers community build offers volunteers a chance to meet new people, learn new skills, and help out the community. We invite you to join us!



A volunteer models a step of the assembly process

By the Numbers

287 people



growing their own produce this year thanks to our Grow Your Own Garden Program

1,444 attendees



of Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts' Climate Change & Sustainability Film Series this year

8,000 gallons of heating fuel



saved this winter by residents who have participated in our four annual Window Dressers builds

780 columns



about climate and sustainability written for the VT Standard over 15+ years

4 pollinator gardens



created in partnership with Wilde Bee Farm

3 Electric Vehicle fast chargers



to be installed at the Bridgewater Mill in Woodstock this fall, thanks to a \$100,000 grant



Geoff Martin and family plant a backyard home pollinator garden

Planting for Pollinators

This spring, Sustainable Woodstock partnered with Stephanie Reger of Wilde Bee Farm on the "Ways to Rewild" project. Together, we planted a series of pollinator gardens around Woodstock. The goal of this project is to show the different ways to rewild spaces, from smaller more traditional pollinator gardens, to larger wild-looking spaces.



A group of students from the Woodstock Middle School plant a native pollinator strip at East End Park

“

There was a hummingbird that came by every day this summer. It was so great!

-recipient of a pollinator garden

”

Program Spotlight

Riverside Mobile Home Park

Riverside Mobile Home Park sits on a bend in the Ottauquechee River just upstream from Woodstock Union High School & Middle School. The park flooded in 2011 during Tropical Storm Irene, and again in the summer of 2023.

In Vermont, about one-third of mobile home communities are at least partially in federal floodplains. This is true of Riverside as well; **a large portion of Riverside is in a FEMA flood hazard zone**, which means that residents are at risk of being flooded in the future. That said, many Woodstock families call Riverside home—there are 39 houses located in the park.



Post-Irene damage



An aerial view of Riverside, taken by the Civil Air Patrol

Our work at Riverside

Riverside is a stark example of environmental injustice in our community. Many community members who live at the park are low-income and are some of the most at risk of dangerous flooding, which is now worse and less predictable due to climate change.

This past year, Sustainable Woodstock joined forces with Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission (TRORC), the HUB, Regional Care Coordinator Carla Kamel, and the Department of Conservation's Watershed Planner for our region. We hosted a meeting with residents this summer to hear concerns and share ways we could help.

Looking Ahead

Sustainable Woodstock is working with residents to prepare for future floods at Riverside Mobile Home Park. **We have started the Riverside Emergency Preparedness Alliance**—a group of residents and local partners creating a safety plan. With help from the Department of Health, we aim to have the plan finished by spring.

We have also applied for a \$210,000 Disaster Recovery Planning Grant. This funding would support an engineering study to identify projects that could make the park safer. The study will look at options like restoring the floodplain, which creates space for floodwater. It will also identify possible sites in Woodstock where some mobile homes could be relocated if needed.



2023 flood cleanup

Sustainable Woodstock & Riverside Mobile Home Park

2011

A timeline

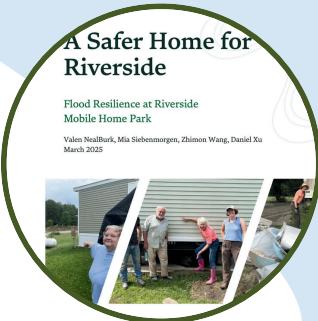


Tropical Storm Irene hits Vermont. Sustainable Woodstock manages the Woodstock Area Flood Relief Fund, raising \$425,000 and providing significant flood recovery help.

2023



2024-2025



Sustainable Woodstock works with Dartmouth students to gather information and resources. We convene a local working group including VT State Housing Authority, which owns the park, to discuss next steps and share knowledge.

The Ottauquechee River floods under 12 mobile homes. Sustainable Woodstock raises \$75,000 to make repairs to homes' foundations, mobile home skirting, and insulation.

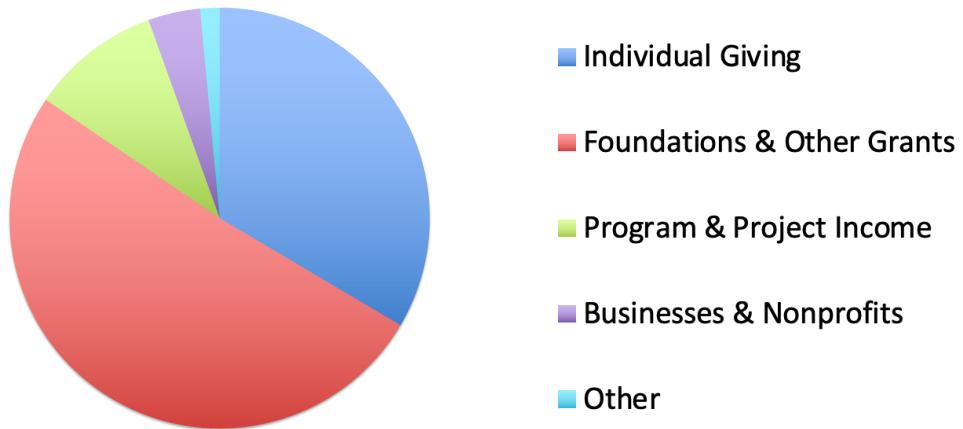
2025



Sustainable Woodstock and partners host a meeting at Riverside to discuss flooding with residents. Two action items come out of this meeting: 1) Sustainable Woodstock will convene a group of residents to write an emergency flood plan for the park, 2) Sustainable Woodstock will apply for grant funding to research ways to make the park safer.

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Sources of Annual Income Fiscal Year 2025 income: \$201,184



Sustainable Woodstock wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the following:

FOUNDATIONS

Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Boston Foundation
Canaday Family Charitable Trust
Claremont Savings Bank Foundation
Hastings Family Foundation
Hypertherm Hope Foundation

Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Jain Family Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Kentfields Foundation
Laurance & Mary Rockefeller Fund

Mascoma Bank Foundation
McCollom Family Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Rauch Foundation
Rimb Group
Vermont Community Foundation

Dartmouth College
Billings Farm & Museum
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
North Universalist Chapel Society
Norman Williams Public Library

Pentangle Arts
Quechee Garden Club
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission
Taftsville Mennonite Chapel
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Vermont Land Trust
Vital Communities
Watersheds United Vermont
Woodstock Area Rotary
Woodstock Community Trust
Woodstock Area Jewish Community

ORGANIZATIONS

Chippers, Inc.
Ellaway Property Services
Janice Graham & Co, P.C.
Mascoma Bank

Mark D. Knott, DDS
Moore's Orchard-Sherburne Farm
Unicorn

West Lebanon Feed & Supply
Woodstock Inn & Resort
Woodstock Insurance
Yankee Bookshop

BUSINESSES

GOVERNMENTAL

VT Agency of Natural Resources
VT Department of Health

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Amy Boesky & Jacques Perold
Andrew Heyward & Priscilla
Painton
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Terrie & Mark Curran
The Benvenuti Family
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Timothy Stout
Todd Kortekamp & Beth Hunt
Tom Beck
William & Susan Heston

**If you have donated recently and do not see your name here, or if your name is spelled incorrectly, we
sincerely apologize. Please email us and we will include a correction in our newsletter:
director@sustainablewoodstock.org.*



Sustainable Woodstock
PO Box 611
Woodstock, VT 05091

Mission: We exist to lead our communities through the climate emergency, empowering Woodstock and the rest of the Upper Valley to meet climate commitments and live sustainably through advocacy, education and collaboration.

www.sustainablewoodstock.org



The temporary water line running over the Elm Street Bridge will be replaced with a new, flood-ready water main, thanks to an \$868,858 grant written by Woodstock's Shared Energy Coordinator (SEC). Sustainable Woodstock helped create the SEC role in 2020, and our Executive Director sits on the steering committee that guides their work.