

Conservation Projects

Types of Conservation Projects we Facilitate

- ◆ Riparian and Lake Shore Buffer Plantings
- ◆ Agricultural Conservation Assistance
- ◆ Road Erosion & Stormwater assessments and project development

For more information please contact:



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Or visit our website!
vacd.org/conservation-districts/orleans-county

Orleans County NRCD is a not-for-profit organization mandated by Vermont State Statute. Our funding for **community conservation projects** is from grants, partners, and foundations. We strive to protect natural resources by seeking solutions to local environmental concerns and providing resources to address them. Our current focus is to support Orleans County communities and landowners in their efforts to improve water quality.



"She Who Plants a Tree, Plants a Hope"

~Lucy Larcom



Other Programs & Opportunities

🔗 **Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** — A bridge for private landowners to conserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife habitat on their property. Different strategies are used to create riparian and in-stream habitats, restore wetlands, and manage invasive species.

🔗 **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency** — Provides technical & financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, & other natural resource concerns in an environmentally beneficial & 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.

For more information, please inquire with Orleans County NRCD.

Trees for Streams



**Orleans County
Natural Resources
Conservation District**

Promoting sound conservation practices since 1946

Trees for Streams

Protecting & Restoring Habitats

Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) works with landowners, farmers and organizations to identify natural resource concerns of a targeted area, set priorities, and develop a plan to address them.

Why protect & restore natural areas?

The landscape across the country continues to change as rural areas grow and developed areas expand. Laws and ordinances can help protect air and water quality but often individuals have an economic or personal reason to protect their natural resources. Individuals can do much more to enhance the quality of their communities by protecting the natural assets. Homeowners can enhance both the environmental health and the economic value of their property and public areas with restoration.



What can I do?

Work with us! Orleans County NRCD's mission is to provide assistance in protecting and enhancing natural resources by helping landowners:

- ✦ Assess existing land, water and vegetation to determine viability for a planting project
- ✦ Prioritize natural resource concerns to address
- ✦ Advise in accessing funding
- ✦ Access technical information and assistance



Improving Water Quality

The primary goal for *Trees for Streams* is to improve and protect water quality by establishing woody vegetation to provide benefits such as:

- ✦ 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.



Connecting Fragmented Habitats

Secondary goals for *Trees for Streams* is to protect and restore aquatic and terrestrial natural wildlife habitats. These include

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



How Trees for Streams Works

The Process:

- 1) Orleans County NRCD staff meet with landowners to look at the potential area for suitability and to discuss options.
- 2) If the project is selected, Orleans County NRCD staff further conducts an on-site assessment and develops a planting plan that is reviewed and revised by the landowner.
- 3) Landowners sign an agreement stating: (1) They will maintain the site over the next 10 years, (2) The Orleans County NRCD staff may visit periodically to assess tree health, and (3) The landowner will provide their designated cost share contribution.
- 4) Native trees and shrubs are planted according to the approved planting plan in late April, early May.

How much does it cost:

Landowners cost share is 20% of all project costs. Cost share can be paid in labor and/or locally sourced trees and shrubs. Financial support from the Conservation District Trees for Streams grant, will provide the remaining 80% of the projects total cost of materials and labor. For a typical 1 acre project with an estimated total budget of \$2,000, the Landowner would contribute \$400.

Planting Project Details:

Eligible riparian and shoreline restoration areas should be an average of 35 ft in width, can be on public or private property, and may be planted up to 350–400 stems per acre.