

The Great Richmond Root Out!

2011 Fall Volunteer Opportunities

Roll up your sleeves and join us in restoring a special place right in your own backyard, the beautiful and rare Winooski Floodplain Forest.

Join us for Phase 2 of our Invasive Plant Control Project. We are stepping up our approach to invasive control and need your help.

We will be applying an herbicide approved by the state for use in and around wetlands. You'll work with professionals who'll train you in invasive plant control and ensure a rewarding and successful work session.

Projects are weather permitting.

Please pre-register at richmondrootout@hotmail.com or 434-7775.

Day	Date	Time	Activity/Meet-Up Location
			Unless otherwise specified meet at Cochran's Ski Area, lower parking lot, 910 Cochran Road. Also, please pre-register at richmondrootout@hotmail.com or 434-7775. Once the group is gathered we then move to the project location. Your promptness is especially appreciated.
Monday	Sept 26th	5-7pm	Barberry and Honeysuckle Control *Meet at the Richmond Round Church, Bridge Street
Sunday	Oct 9th	1-4pm	Barberry and Honeysuckle Control *Meet at the Richmond Round Church, Bridge Street

Please wear gloves, closed-toed shoes and long sleeved shirt and pants. Tools will be provided.

Want more info? contact Cathy Aikman at richmondrootout@hotmail.com or 434-7775. You'll find the Great Richmond Root-Out is at www.richmondlandtrust.org and on Facebook.



This project is funded in part by grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Environmental Protection Agency and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

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Richmond Floodplain Forest Restoration Project

Richmond's Winooski River floodplain forest is the **largest** silver maple-ostrich fern floodplain forest remaining on the upper Winooski River. It is home to a mix of trees, ferns, wildflowers and wildlife that has all but disappeared from Vermont. Now this special landscape and popular recreation area is being invaded. Highly aggressive, alien plants are pushing out native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. They're also weakening the riverbank, undercutting its ability to absorb floodwaters and filter out pollutants. Luckily, the infestations are still small enough to root out. With your help we can protect a rarity we can't afford to lose.

Project Area

Our focus is a four-mile stretch of the Winooski River between the Jonesville and Bridge Street bridges in Richmond that includes properties owned by the Town of Richmond, and nature preserves owned by the Richmond Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. We also provide workshops, help and support to property owners and organizations both inside and outside of this project area as needed.

What is invading the Richmond Floodplain Forest?

Though more than 100 acres of this exceptional floodplain forest are protected from human development, it is currently under assault from invasive exotic plants including garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and honeysuckles.

How you can help

Every year volunteers from throughout our area donate hundreds of hours pulling and cutting invasive plants. Tremendous progress has been made, but there are still areas where these plants remain a threat. Typical control sessions last 90 minutes and are scheduled throughout the spring and early summer growing seasons and then again in the late summer. To help, simply check the schedule at www.richmondlandtrust.org, pick a convenient time and show up with gloves, close-toed shoes, water and rain gear. Tools will be provided.

You can also help by learning how to identify the invasive species that could well be threatening the ecological integrity of your property and surrounding land. Japanese knotweed, barberry, buckthorn and certain species of honeysuckle and bittersweet have all but replaced native plants in parts of Vermont, with far-reaching effects on water quality and wildlife habitat. Some of these plants are commonly sold at garden centers and nurseries throughout the state. By learning how to spot and control these plants you will be doing yourself, your land and future generations a great favor. More information on identifying invasives and alternatives to planting them is available at The Nature Conservancy's "Wise on Weeds" website, www.nature.org/vermont/weeds.

For more information email richmondrootout@hotmail.com or call Cathy Aikman, 434-7775.

Project Partners

Richmond Land Trust
Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Trails Committee
VT Dept of Environmental Conservation
Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District

The Nature Conservancy
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
VT Fish and Wildlife Dept.



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