



Barred Owl | Source: Tory Levite | TRORC Staff

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TRORC RECEIVES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM AWARDS

TRORC was recently awarded funding for two projects through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program.

1. TRORC will work with the White River Partnership (WRP), the White River Natural Resources Conservation District, and the Vermont River Conservancy in the Ayers Brook Watershed to conduct outreach to landowners to conserve river corridor areas, to plant riparian buffers, and to identify appropriate agricultural Best Management Practices on farms in the watershed. These projects will help improve the water quality in Ayers Brook, a brook whose watershed includes the Towns of Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield.
2. TRORC will also develop a Stormwater Management Plan for the developed village areas in the Town of Randolph. This project will help the Town of Randolph identify projects to mitigate stormwater runoff and increase flood resiliency. These projects could save money by preventing infrastructure failure and could improve public safety.

The Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program goals in awarding these grants are to restore and protect rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands from stormwater runoff and nonpoint source runoff and erosion sources that contain nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen) and sediment pollution.

Several other organizations in our region will also continue their work to improve the water quality of our rivers and streams. The WRP and the Vermont River Conservancy will partner to protect nine acres of river corridor area on the White River in Stockbridge. In a separate project, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps will partner with the WRP to plant 1,000 trees along the White River. Thank you to everyone for their continued support to restore and improve our region's waters!

For more information, contact Michael Storace at mstorace@trorc.org.

2017-2018 BETTER ROADS GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is pleased to announce the 20th year of funding to support projects on municipal roads. The Vermont Better Roads Program goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, are distributed as grants to municipalities to address town erosion problems.

TRORC is assisting towns in applications, as well as conducting planning grant culvert and road erosion inventories. Culvert and road inventories lead to the identification of key projects, which may be eligible for funding in the next round of grants.

Applications are due by Friday, March 17, 2017 and can be downloaded from: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>.

For more information or to discuss application assistance, contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.

TRORC REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

TRORC is in the process of revising selected chapters of the Regional Plan. Over the next two months our Board of Directors will review revisions to the Energy, Working Landscape, Plan Implementation, Definitions, and History and Development chapters. The TRORC Board will also be reviewing the new Fostering Healthy Communities chapter. Once fully reviewed, TRORC will schedule three hearings for public input in April and May.

Prior to our official hearings, TRORC is holding two working sessions as well. Regional Plan working sessions are an early-stage opportunity for communities and citizens to discuss topics related to the sections of the Regional Plan currently under revision. Tuesday, February 7th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the TRORC Offices in Woodstock (128 King Farm Rd.); and Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Fairlee Town Hall in Fairlee. Details about the working sessions are available on our event calendar at trorc.org.

For more information, contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org.

TRORC had helped Stockbridge identify and prioritize projects as part of a Better Roads Planning Grant to inventory culverts. TRORC then assisted Stockbridge in applying for a Better Roads Construction Grant that funded two major culvert upgrades that were damaged during Tropical Storm Irene at the intersection of River Road and Abbott Road.



Before Upgrade

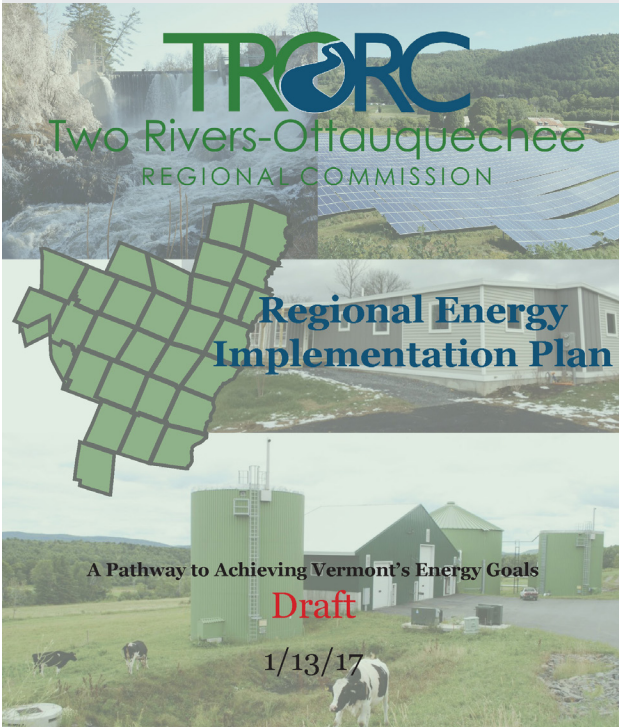


After Upgrade

- *Upsized: 30" (w) x 55' (l) culvert to a 5' (w) x 71' (l) 10 gauge squashed culvert*
- *Upsized: 15" (w) x 40' (l) to an 18" (l) x 40' (w) culvert*

Cost: \$9,500

Replacing under-sized culverts with larger culverts is a way to improve flood resilience.



Energy Implementation Plan Cover

ENERGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN LATEST DRAFT

The fourth version of the Regional Energy Implementation Plan has been released and is available at trorc.org along with all appendices. This Plan represents an effort to improve regional energy planning and to meet standards developed for "Enhanced Energy Planning" by the Department of Public Service under Act 174. The Energy Implementation Plan will be adopted by reference as part of the Regional Plan in June 2017.

Once adopted, TRORC will submit the Energy Implementation Plan to the Department of Public Service for a "Determination of Energy Compliance." This determination will allow TRORC to review municipal Enhanced Energy Plans (if requested) and make the same determination for municipalities. With a Determination of Energy Compliance, local and regional plans will be given greater weight during Section 248 proceedings of the Public Service Board.

For more information, contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org.

ROCHESTER PARK HOUSE RECEIVES REHABILITATION FUNDING

Rochester Park House, located in the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee (TRO) Region, was awarded \$300,000 by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLB) through its 2016 Affordable Housing Program. The funds will be used to rehabilitate an existing occupied property to modernize and preserve 14 senior rental apartments for very low-income, low-income, and market-rate households. This project is the only community-based residence within a 30-mile radius that supports a shared housing concept designed to enable elderly residents to socialize.

The Park House provides housekeeping and daily meals to all residents, who benefit from self-sufficiency training and transportation services, in addition to medication oversight. In addition to this funding, the Park House will receive state tax credits and local community grants to continue providing these life-saving services to their residents. Congratulations Park House!

To read more details about this and other FHLB projects, go to: <http://www.fhlbboston.com/communitydevelopment>.



Park House, Rochester

February 2017 News & Notes

Non-profit Highlight!



SASH (Support And Services at Home), a volunteer run organization, is part of the Blueprint for Health, Vermont's statewide health care reform initiative that coordinates the resources

of social service agencies, community health providers and nonprofit housing organizations to support Vermonters who choose to live independently at home. SASH primarily serves seniors and individuals with special needs who receive Medicare support. Some of their services include health and wellness assessments, health coaching, money savings, and self-management of medications. Each participant is provided with a Wellness Nurse who provide home check-ins and health coaching.

SASH participation is voluntary and free of charge. People who feel they, or someone they know, would benefit from SASH can contact their local SASH Office. Contact numbers for your closet SASH office can be found at sashvt.org.



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