



April 1, 2024

Town of Bristol
PO Box 249 1 South Street
Bristol, VT, 05443

Hello Town Clerk,

We're proud to help conserve your river through an easement, and grateful for your stewardship of your local river. As part of our commitment to long-term protections, we get out on the ground each year to check in on the land, health of the river, and note any changes over time. As part of this annual easement monitoring, we invite you to be part of this annual check-in.

As a first step, we have enclosed our report from last year's easement monitoring on your land. Please take a moment to review our observations. We are sharing these reports in an effort to increase transparency in our monitoring process and with the hopes that it will offer you the tools and information you need to be a great steward of your riverland. Do you have any observations we might have missed? Is there anything that's a surprise? We welcome your insights, too. Please reach out with any questions you may have about this process, your individual report, or to discuss stewardship and restoration potential on your property.

Next, we will reach out during our regular field season of May 1st to October 1st to schedule our annual monitoring of your easement. We welcome your company during this visit and invite you to stay involved!

Finally, **thank you!** Your conservation efforts are a key part of our mission to protect and restore rivers for people and wildlife. Protected land like yours helps create abundant wildlife habitat, vibrant wetlands, cool waters, and healthier floodplains.

There are many ways to stay connected with this critical work and our rivers community. We invite you to sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, donate, join us for a volunteer day, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Visit our website, call, or email to learn more. We look forward to keeping in touch.

Thank you!

Vermont River Conservancy Stewardship Team

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Amanda Garland
Stewardship Coordinator
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2023 Monitoring Site Visit Report Bristol Flats River Corridor - Public Access Easement (Saunders)

Property Interest / Completed Date: Conservation Easement / 10/10/2013
Easement Category: VHCB co-held, ANR DEC 3rd Party Beneficiary
Conserved Acres: 40.1
River: New Haven River
Address / County: 44.112470, -73.096536
 1160 VT-116, Bristol, VT / Addison
Monitoring Staff & Method: Addie Hedges /
Visit Date & Hours: 11/15/2023 / 0.3
Visit Summary:

Property Contacts:

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
 58 East State Street
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 mmartin@vhcb.org

Town of Bristol
 PO Box 249
 1 South St.
 Bristol, VT 05443
 (802) 453-2410 x5
 town@bristolvt.org

State of VT, DEC

802-490-6112
 david.pasco@vermont.gov

Kristen Underwood
 2812 South 116 Road
 Bristol, VT 05443
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 southmountain@gmavt.net

Carolyn Dash

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Rights and Approvals

Monitoring Report Data

Landowner / Site Steward Contact

Left Voice Message (Date below, and details if response received) Sent Email (Date below, and details if response received)

Called and spoke (Date & details below) Sent letter in the mail (Date sent & details below)

Unable to reach because contact info is not in service / not accurate (details below on efforts to find new contact info)

Unable to reach because contact is not responsive (list efforts to reach contact/landowner)

Contact details

Emailed with Kristen Underwood and landowners 11/8

Check riparian buffer is minimum 50' unmowed/unmanaged

Are there any signs of buffer infringement or expansion? How many tiers of vegetation exist in the buffer? i.e. (1) herbaceous vegetation (grasses, wildflowers, ferns, mosses, etc) (2) woody understory (shrubs, saplings, etc) (3) canopy (mature trees).

1, 2, and 3 dispersed throughout

Check in-stream river and bank conditions

Are there any stream or channel changes present? How is the channel and/or floodplain evolving? Signs of unstable banks- erosion, incision, channelization, or undercutting? Should stabilization, planting, or restoration efforts be considered?

Looks good

Check easement boundary conditions

Use navigation to check corners and identify pins (flag them when found and note any obstructions- covered by soil, leaves, fallen tree). Remark boundary blazes (if present). Install boundary signs when sure of boundary location.

N/A

Are there access, trail, or infrastructure improvements needed?

Is there damaged or deteriorating infrastructure? (signage, bridges, stairs, etc) Signs of soil compaction or erosion along trail/access points? Evidence of unauthorized "social" trails?

One mowed trail in photos

Is there evidence of unauthorized use or access?

Litter, trash, or dumping found on site? Unauthorized cutting or clearing? Evidence of motorized vehicles or long term encampments? Evidence of any new development on site or near property boundaries?

No

Identify any non-native invasive species that are present on site.

Note location, species, size, and density (single, scattered, dominant, monoculture) of infestation.

Knotweed

Note any stand out wildlife or plant observations.

Uncommon, RTE, or SGCN species. Significant natural communities. Wildlife track or sign.

No Response

Stewardship actions

Note any follow up recommendations. Site improvements, management requirements, landowner issues or communication, easement violations, etc.

Strategy for knotweed management

Issues**Photos**

11/15/2023; 44.11071, -73.09464;



11/15/2023; 44.11071, -73.09464;



11/15/2023; 44.11085, -73.09466; Small trail down to river



11/15/2023; 44.11124, -73.09459; Knotweed?



11/15/2023; 44.11152, -73.09495; Wide buffer



11/15/2023; 44.11188, -73.09493;



11/15/2023; 44.11278, -73.095;



11/15/2023; 44.11188, -73.09493;



11/15/2023; 44.1116, -73.09497; From here south is more over story



11/15/2023; 44.11261, -73.09519; Northern edge of easement vegetation



11/15/2023; 44.11122, -73.09457; A lot of knotweed from about here north



11/15/2023; 44.1105, -73.09473; Sumac and knotweed



11/15/2023; 44.11007, -73.09469;



11/15/2023; 44.11007, -73.09469;



11/15/2023; 44.11004, -73.09563; Someone is mowing a path here 11/15/2023; 44.10985, -73.09574; More knotweed



Monitoring Visit Map



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community | Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

- Record Boundary
- Site Visit Areas
- Site Visit Lines
- Site Visit Points

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Monitor: Addie Hedges

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor: Erin De Vries, River Stewardship Manager