

Draft

Renewing Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund



- **Established by voters 2005**
- **Last Renewed by voters 2023 (Yes – 560; No – 201)**
- **Has brought in over \$2.0 Million in outside support**

An 18-year successful track record at protecting water and air quality, biodiversity, working farms and forests, outdoor recreation, historic resources and education.

- **Enables the Town to move quickly to capture prime, time-sensitive funding opportunities.**
- **Brings in major support from outside funding sources (State, Federal, foundations)**

Information Sheet

GOTO Town Website: Conservation Commission

Conservation Reserve Fund Project List

	Project	Project Leader	Description	CRF \$	Add'l \$ Generated
2009	Bombardier Meadow	Rich. Land Trust	10-acre hayfield on Cochran Rd., with wooded banks on the Huntington and Winooski River	\$51,500	\$77,000
	Large Habitat Block Study	Rich. Cons. Commission	Mapped large blocks of uplands wildlife habitat and connectivity among them	\$2,400	-
2010	Town Center Portico Renovation	Town of Rich.	Roof and other structural repairs	\$35,265	\$65,035
	Richmond Hill Cemetery	Town of Rich.	10-foot deadend path to historic cemetery	\$2,500	-
2012	Andrews Farmland	Vt. Land Trust	187 acres of prime agricultural soils along the Winooski River	\$10,000	\$197,500
2013	Science-to-Action Project	Rich. Planning and Conservation Commissions	Identify public conservation priorities, and inventory/confirm key habitat locations to improve planning & zoning processes	\$3,195	\$88,525
2014	Historic window restoration Willis Hill	Cong. Church	Protect 100-year-old stained glass windows	\$6,564	\$12,423
	Willis Hill	Rich. Land Trust	20 acres on Rt. 2 backing up to 2 schools	\$64,000	\$122,500
2017	Gillett Pond Dam	Rich. Land Trust	Replace aging dam to save Pond	\$150,000	\$650,000
2018	Andrews Community Forest	Vermont Land Trust	428 acres of rich wildlife habitat and educational resources, within one of Vermont's key forest blocks	\$75,000	\$735,000
	Huntington Gorge	Rich. Land Trust, Vermont River Conservancy	3.7 acres, dramatic 40-foot rocky gorge, popular swimming holes, site of early 20 th -cent. hydroelectric station	\$10,000	\$55,000
	Johnnie Brook Bridge	Rich. Trails Committee	Repair of a key link for hikers and bikers using the Cross Vt. Trail	\$1,000	\$400
	Lake Iroquois Plant Survey	Lake Iroquois Association	Invasive plant inventory	\$2,000	-
2019	Richmond Master Naturalist Program	UVM Extension	Support citizen-scientist training to inventory and monitor health of important habitat and other resources	\$4,000	-
2019	Volunteers Green Rip-Rap	Town of Rich.	Protect band shell, fields from bank erosion	\$20,000	\$117,200
	Andrews Forest Trails	Town of Rich.	Improve trail system, protect sensitive habitat	\$3,500	\$1,500
	Andrews Forest Mgt Plan	Town of Rich.	SE Group visioning, resident surveying, drafting	\$4,500	\$19,000
2020	Huntington Gorge River Steward	Rich. Land Trust, Vt. River Conservancy	Fund part-time steward to educate Gorge visitors on safety, stewardship and site history	\$1,500	\$5,000
2020	Volunteers Green Tree Planting	Town of Rich.	Mitigate beaver damage to riverbank trees	\$200	-
	Stage Rd. Town Forest	Rich. Land Trust	Conserve rich forest adjacent to Bolton town forest	\$2,680	-
	Johnnie Brook Bridge	Town of Rich.	Repair flood-damage on Cross Vt. Trail	\$8,400	-
	Emerald Ash Borer Control	Town of Rich.	Phase 1 of project to manage impending ash tree losses	\$20,000	\$15,000
	Andrews Forest Trails and Benches	Eagle Scouts	Build benches; expand trails below power lines	\$500	-
	Volunteers Green Tree Plantings	Town of Rich.	Widen tread buffer between river and fields	\$670	-
	Community Garden	Town of Rich.	Establish garden on donated land	\$2,000	-
	Overlookers Permitting	Town of Rich.	Delineate wetlands for state permit	\$2,500	-
	Becken Preserve Engineering Survey	Rich. Land Trust	Assess erosion threat to Cochran Rd. and costs for improving parking facilities	\$2,500	-
	Lake Iroquois Plant Survey	L.I. Association	Invasive plant inventory	\$1,000	\$2,200
	Riverside Trail Work	Town of Rich.	Replace falling bridges on hiking/biking trail	\$9,500	-
	Emerald Ash Borer Control	Town of Rich.	Mill and process for firewood downed ash trees	\$5,000	-
2021	Bombardier Engineering Study	Rich. Land Trust	Improve off-road parking and river access	\$625	-
Becken Preserve Riverside Bench	Rich. Land Trust	Co-fund Gary Beckwith's bench installation project	\$300	\$250	
Andrews Forest Trail Review	Town of Rich.	Check in summer for rare plants along proposed trails	\$3,500	-	
2022	Gillett Pond	Rich. Land Trust	Supplemental grant for dam replacement, parking area, long-term stewardship	\$50,000	-
2023	Amphibian Crossing Signs	Town of Rich.	Protect annual wetland migrations	\$150	-
	Trails and Wildlife Talk	Town of Rich.	Habitats & trails talk by Sue Morse	\$250	-
	Trails repair	Town of Rich.	Replace infrastructure on Rivershore Trail	\$1,684	-
	Conservation-Recreation Panel	Town of Rich.	Guest speakers	\$1,000	-
	TOTALS			\$688,833	\$2,163,633

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	TOTALS			\$575,962	\$2,199,523

CRF-Funded Projects

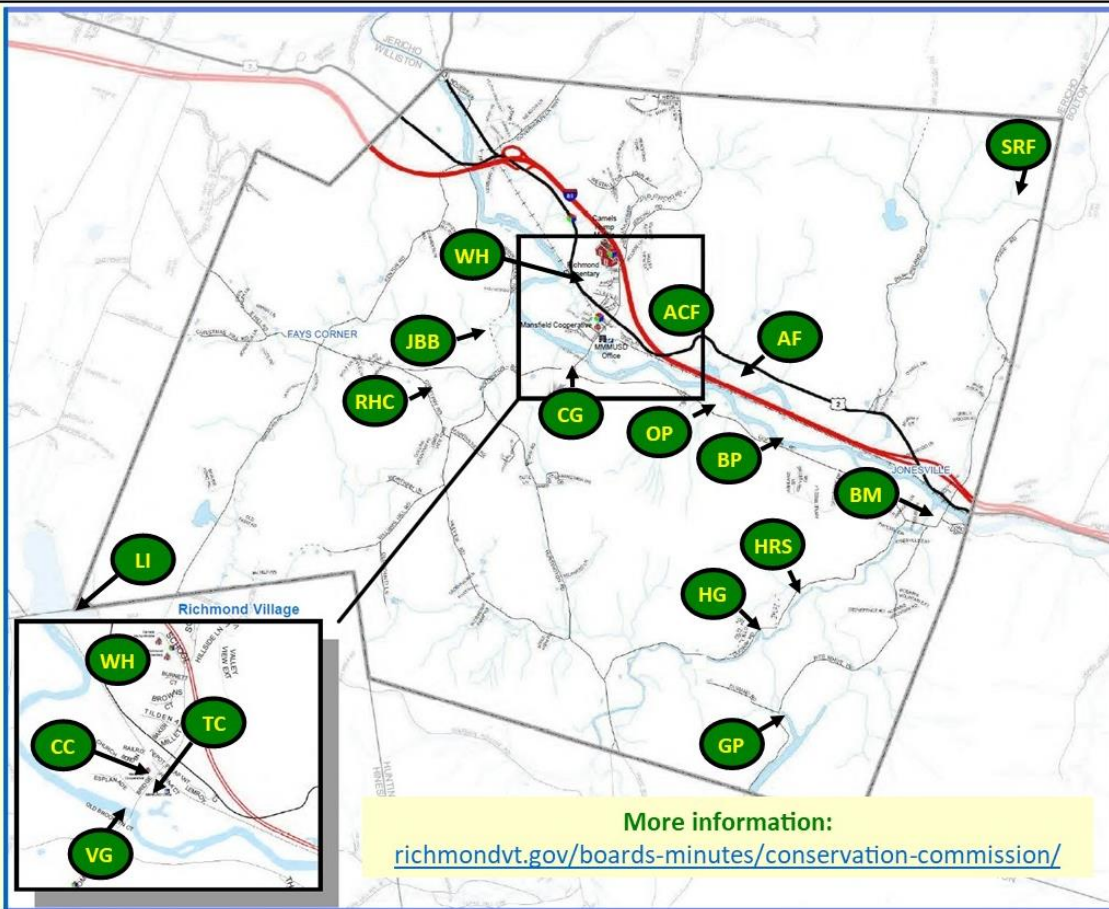
Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund

Supported Conservation Projects, 2005-2022

- ACF: Andrews Community Forest
- AF: Andrews Farmland
- BM: Bombardier Meadow
- BP: Beeken Preserve
- CC: Congregational Church Window Restoration
- CG: Community Garden
- GP: Gillett Pond Dam Restoration
- HG: Huntington Gorge
- HRS: River Steward Program
- JBB: Johnnie Brook Bridge
- LI: Lake Iroquois Invasive Plant Surveys
- OP: Overrockers Park Wetland Delineation
- RHC: Richmond Hill Cemetery
- SRF: Stage Road Community Forest
- TC: Town Center Portico Restoration
- VG: Volunteers Green Riprap, Tree Plantings & Habitat Restoration
- WH: Willis Hill

Town-Wide Projects

- Large Habitat Block Survey
- Science-to-Action Project
- Master Naturalist Program
- Emerald Ash Borer Control



Recent Projects

- Conservation / Recreation Panel
- Sue Morse trails & wildlife talk
- Trails Repair
- Gillett Pond Supplement
- Amphibian Crossing

[GOTO Town Website: Conservation Commission](http://richmondvt.gov/boards-minutes/conservation-commission/)

The CRF Advances Town Plan Priorities

- **“Protect priority natural areas in order to maintain the health and function of those areas and their ecosystem services.”**
- **“Preserve healthy and resilient working lands, agricultural soils.”**
- **“Maintain Richmond’s rural character and scenic beauty.”**
- **“Utilize best management practices for Richmond-owned, publicly accessible natural and recreational areas.”**
- **“Utilize the conservation reserve fund to protect important natural resources and public access to them where appropriate”**

3.8X Return on Taxpayer Funding

To date:

- CRF grants: \$ 575, 903
- Additional \$ generated: \$2,199,533

Leverage: \$1 CRF brought in \$3.82

3.8X

Need Out There

- **Andrews Community Forest**
- **Winooski River**
- **Trail Repair – Flood damage**
- **Town Center Greenscaping**
- **VT's 30x30 Legislation**

A Popular Tool for Local Conservation

- **Consistent voter support since 2005**
- **Last year, over 60 residents chipped in for and signed a Times Ink! ad supporting CRF renewal**
- **More than 70% of voters supported renewal of the CRF and its funding method**



Our town's highly successful Conservation Reserve Fund is up for its annual renewal in this year's voting. To keep it working, it needs your "YES" vote on or before March 7.

Thanks to solid voter support for the Fund since 2005, Richmond has been able to:

- Protect important local forests, streams, wildlife habitat and farmland, including the Andrews and Stage Road Community Forests, Beeken Rivershore Preserve and Bombardier Meadow.
- Safeguard and improve popular recreational and educational sites, like those above plus Gillett Pond, Volunteers Green, Willis Hill, Huntington River Gorge, the Johnnie Brook Trail and others.
- Restore local historic landmarks, like the portico at the Richmond Town Center.

Plus, for every Fund dollar used the Town has generated \$3.67 more from other sources, helping produce over \$1.9 million in additional support. And all for just a penny on the tax rate.

Let's keep the Fund working for Richmond. Please join us in voting "YES" on Article 5 on this year's paper ballot. Request yours from the Town Clerk at lp@parent@richmondvt.gov or call 434-2221. You can also vote in person for the Fund and other articles at the Town Center on March 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

And thanks for supporting local conservation!

Paid for by:

Marcia Gardner	Jake and Marcia Levison
Cathy Aiken	Jon Sletbins
Ian Stokes	Jeremy & Sarah Hoffman
Cathleen Gent	Jon Kart
Fran Hurlton	Jonathan Smith
Doug Fletcher	Doug Racine
Kate Brewer	Ted Lyman
The Malone/Watson Family	Martha Nye
Kil Emery	Rick and Chichi Barrett
Paul Garrett	Rosalyn Elliott
Peter Swaine	Andy Solomon
Jeff Forward	Rebecca Slarks
Brad & Eileen Elliott	Kathleen and Richard Lewis
Beth Whiting	Bryce & Erin Gilmer
Bruce Hennessey	Jess Robinson
Bob Helser	Marcy Harding
Erik and Otte Filkorn	Dan Martin
Mike Lawler	Judy McVickar
Jan Sibai	Bill & Sue Minard
Lou & Kathy Borie	John Hamersbough
Eric Thomas	Holly Wilkinson
Fritz Martin	Ernie Bulford
Keith Kasper	John Hillebrand
Fran Pomerantz	Demaris Tisdale
Wright & Cindy Preston	Velma Plouffe
Cori Giroux	Fran and Dave Thomas
Andrea Asch	Judy Rosovsky
Amy and Andrew Powers	Kristen Mullins

Vote "YES" on Article 5 to renew the Conservation Reserve Fund

See what the Fund has accomplished so far:
tinyurl.com/2023-CRF

The Question on Australian Ballot

Funding mechanism remains the same

Article 13: Shall the Town of Richmond vote to approve funding the Conservation Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the municipal tax rate in the 2024-2025 fiscal year? (To be voted by Australian ballot)

**2022: Yes – 839 No – 245
2023: Yes – 560 No – 201**

Questions / Comments?

Judy Rosovsky, RCC Chair Judy.Rosovsky@vermont