

Dear Richmond Selectboard,

The Nature Conservancy Vermont fully supports the Richmond Land Trust's acquisition and protection of 11.2 acres of Silver Maple Ostrich Fern Floodplain Forest on the Winooski River, just upstream of our 25-acre Rivershore Preserve. Located within the TNC Resilient and Connected Network, the *Richmond Riparian Corridor* parcel is a strategic addition to the Winooski River protected lands in Richmond.

The Nature Conservancy Vermont is supporting the Richmond Land Trust's acquisition with \$7,500 for the protection of this natural community and the associated ecological benefits of water quality, flood storage, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity protection.

Silver Maple Ostrich Fern Floodplain Forests used to be common along the banks of Vermont rivers. Conversion to agriculture has caused significant declines in this natural community statewide. Increased river temperatures, lack of woody debris in our rivers, and the associated impacts to fish and other river biota, all result from their loss.

Richmond Land Trust's acquisition of 11-acres of Silver Maple Ostrich Fern Floodplain Forests will benefit Vermont's water quality, biodiversity, and river health. For the intrepid, walking amongst these towering trees and the chest high Ostrich Fern fronds, witnessing floodwaters changing and surging through these forests, and floating down the river under their shade is a small part of the community benefits of their protection. The Nature Conservancy hopes our contribution will be matching the Town of Richmond's support for this important conservation project.

Sincerely,



Lydia M. Parker  
Land Protection Manager, TNC Vermont