

Tree Planting History

2012-2025



Connecticut River
Conservancy

104,908 TREES
planted since 2012

Riverbanks with native trees and shrubs are one of the most effective restoration strategies we can implement in the Connecticut River watershed. This natural vegetation helps improve water quality, stabilize riverbanks, store carbon, and provide better fish & wildlife habitat for our rivers. Buffer planting also helps to control erosion and slow the flow of water during flood events. CRC and partners plant native trees and shrubs along the banks of the Connecticut River and its tributaries every spring and fall in order to filter polluted runoff and provide a buffer zone between our streams and land use.

2025



In 2025, CRC and partners continued to restore floodplain forests and forested riparian buffers by planting 7,722 native trees and shrubs on 16.3 acres in 11 towns in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. These projects raised CRC's total number of trees and shrubs planted since 2011 to 104,908 stems. To mark this important milestone, we planted the 100,000th tree at the former site of the Blake Higgins Dam in Westminster, Vermont. Towns in Vermont included Westminster, Plymouth, Bridgewater, Woodstock, Norwich, and Newbury. Towns in New Hampshire included Acworth, Orford, and North Stratford. Towns in Massachusetts included Holyoke and Amherst. We are already looking forward to the field season in 2026 and beyond!



In 2025, we also expanded our quantitative monitoring to 24 sites, including 9 new sites, planted during 2017-2024. Both growth and survival were good or better at 13 sites. However, we did observe high mortality due to voles and bindweed at 2 sites and due to drought at another 1.5 sites. Based on the 2024 monitoring, we replanted two sites this past fall and removed bindweed at a third site this past summer. We plan to conduct additional monitoring and maintenance in 2026. We also continued to explore alternative strategies for improving the success of our floodplain restoration work, including the addition of forest soils to our plantings and the response of planted trees to the invasive Japanese knotweed.



2024



CRC's riparian buffer planting projects in 2024 resulted in 7,331 native trees and shrubs planted in 14 towns over 13.8 acres in VT, NH, and CT, bringing CRC's total trees planted since 2011 to 97,186. Towns in VT include: Lyndon, Plymouth, Norwich, Westminster, Wilmington, Woodstock, and Canaan. Towns in NH include: Lyme, North Haverhill, North Stratford, Walpole, Actworth, and Orford. Towns in CT include: Hadlyme.

2024 also included CRC's first comprehensive and quantitative monitoring of 20 sites planted during 2017-2024 showing good growth and survival at 13 sites, severe flood damage at 1 site, high mortality due to voles and bindweed at 2 sites, severe deer browsing limiting growth at 1 site, and unknown problems at 3 sites (drought, etc.). We are planning additional monitoring and maintenance in 2025. [The 2024 restoration details can be found here.](#)

2023

CRC's riparian buffer planting projects in 2023 resulted in nearly 10,500 native trees and shrubs being planted, restoring roughly 26 acres of riparian land along 8,712 feet of shoreline in Chesterfield and Northampton, MA; Hanover, Lyme, and Pittsburg, NH; and Windham, Reading, Plymouth, Woodstock, Hartland, Norwich, Thetford, and Lyndon, VT. [The 2023 restoration project details can be found here.](#)



2022

In 2022, CRC had 11 tree planting projects in addition to 1 floodplain forest restoration. We planted a total of 9,600 trees along rivers in 10 towns including Bath, Colebrook, Lisbon and Lyme, NH; Lyndon, Norwich, Townsend, West Windsor, and Windham, VT; as well as Hartford, CT. These reforestation initiatives occurred over 21 acres and will improve water quality and wildlife habitat along more than 8,100 feet of stream.

2021

In 2021, CRC and our project partners planted 16,400 native trees and shrubs at 12 different sites in Vermont and New Hampshire. This includes two sites on the Green River, as well as sites in Woodstock, Norwich, Strafford, Barnet, Bradford, Newbury, Guilford, West Fairlee, and Lyndon, VT and Lisbon, Piermont, and Walpole, NH.



2020



In 2020, CRC and partners planted 12,143 native trees and shrubs despite some restrictions on travel and volunteers due to COVID. In addition to helping reduce erosion, improve clean water, and increase fish and wildlife habitat, these tree plantings have helped local businesses during difficult times by injecting thousands of dollars into local communities. Spring efforts included plantings along 12,500 feet of riverfront land on 10 different rivers in Vermont and New Hampshire. Fall plantings restored 11.5 acres in Norwich, Newbury, Lyndonville and Guildhall, VT, and our largest project this fall at the Connecticut River Drivers Wildlife Management Area in Colebrook, NH (4.5 acres), where the plantings will expand the native floodplain forest. Additionally, more than 1,400 trees and shrubs were planted at a restoration project along the East Branch of the North River in Colrain, MA. This site also involved constructing wood buttresses along an eroding bank using more than 400 pieces of large wood.

2019

In 2019, CRC and partners planted 11,342 native trees and shrubs at eleven sites in MA/VT/NH. These 11 projects covered nearly 25 acres of land along 16,427 feet of shoreline along the Connecticut River and tributaries. These projects extended from the South River in Conway, MA 190 miles north to Perry Stream in Pittsburg, NH, where this northern-most planting incorporated elements of the boreal forest found in northern New England. 5 of the sites were for private landowners interested in protecting and improving fish & wildlife habitat and reducing soil erosion. 2 other sites were located along tributary streams where CRC had removed old, unused dams in 2018. 4 other projects were completed on properties owned by state and local governments or non-profit organizations.

2018



In 2018, CRC and a multitude of project partners planted 6,536 native trees and shrubs on 8,075 feet of riverfront at 15 sites in New Hampshire, and Vermont. The riverside plantings covered eight acres of land on numerous tributaries of the Connecticut River.

2017

In 2017, CRC, our partners, and volunteers planted a total of 7,315 native trees and shrubs along the Connecticut River and its tributaries – including the Black and Wells Rivers in Vermont, and the Ammonoosuc, Upper Ammonoosuc, and Israel Rivers, as well as Bissell Brook and Oliverian Stream in New Hampshire. These plantings – which provide important habitat for fish and wildlife, help reduce erosion, and improve water quality – covered nearly 13,400 feet of riverbank owned by 11 separate landowners.

2016

In 2016 CRC and our partners planted more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs along the Connecticut River, Ammonoosuc River, Wells River, Winhall River, Bissell Brook and Oliverian Brook.



2015

In 2015, 3,000 additional native trees and shrubs from local nurseries were planted on the banks of many tributary rivers & streams. Along the Chickley River in Massachusetts, which was devastated by Tropical Storm Irene, several hundred new trees will help protect the banks and property in future floods. Along six tributaries in Vermont and New Hampshire, over 2,000 plantings were done by volunteers from a wide variety of partner organizations: conservation commissions, schools, golf courses, government agencies and Trout Unlimited.



2014

In 2014, a total of 1,931 native trees and shrubs were planted. This includes 1,300 plants along the Ottauquechee River in Woodstock, VT to help restore the Billings Farm riverbank that was destroyed during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, as well as 331 plants along Mink Brook in Etna, NH and 300 plants in Piermont, NH and Groton, VT. In addition, we added vegetation by digging trenches atop the riverbanks, installing bundles of live willow and dogwood cuttings (called fascines), and backfilling the trenches so the cuttings can root, grow and create a thick wall of vegetation that will help stabilize these highly erodible areas.

2013

In 2013, we planted 3,025 native trees and shrubs in New Hampshire and Vermont with the help of our project partners. These plantings took place on the Passumpsic, Wells, Ottauquechee and Black rivers in Vermont, as well as on Eastman and Oliverian brooks and the main stem of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. Several of these locations (Wells, Ottauquechee and Eastman) also received 535 stems in 2012 through our work and the efforts of our project partners.

2012

In 2011, the Connecticut River watershed was impacted by three separate weather events: June tornadoes; Tropical Storm Irene and its associated flooding came in August; and an historic October snowstorm. Each of these weather events had one thing in common: significant tree loss across the Connecticut River watershed. To address the tree loss, in 2012 CRC partnered with New England Public Radio (WFCR & WNNZ) for a special campaign to help with replanting efforts throughout the watershed. Working together, CRC and NEPR mobilized organizations and volunteers to plant 2,644 trees throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

**For more information and how to
volunteer visit ctriver.org**

**For questions, contact us at info@ctriver.org
or call 413.772.2020**



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