



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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## NRPC Receives Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and Pollution Prevention

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the NRPC accepted an award from Governor Douglas for "Environmental Excellence in Earth Stewardship and Resource Protection." Franklin County Development Industrial Corporation nominated NRPC in recognition of our role in stormwater management and project implementation in the Stevens and Rugg Watersheds.

In addition to the NRPC, several other organizations were recognized. The Friends of Northern Lake Champlain accepted an award for education and outreach in reducing non-point source pollution and the Franklin Watershed Committee accepted an award for reducing phosphorus in Lake Carmi.



Caption: Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation accepting the award.



## Community Response Training for Hazardous Materials

Local Emergency Planning Committee #4, serving Franklin County, has received \$9,000 from the State Emergency Response Commission for HazMat planning activities. In past years, the majority of Vermont communities have been mainly concerned with hazardous materials spills and releases that resulted from accidents. State and local officials continue to place emphasis on hazards identification, planning, training, and exercising. With assistance from NRPC the award will be used to conduct two hazardous materials exercises within the County. This award is a continuation of previous years efforts to improve the readiness of our communities in planning for and responding to a hazardous materials incident. For more information about the program, contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or at [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).



## Fairfield Center School to Install Generator

Each year, Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) awards grants for communities and other organizations that operate emergency shelters to help fund the installation of new generators, including wiring. Communities which have an updated and adopted Emergency Operations Plans and are NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant were given priority in the review process. The Town of Fairfield has been awarded a generator grant for the Fairfield Center School. The Town has been actively engaged in emergency preparedness, planning and response activities; this generator will improve Fairfield's ability to serve its citizens in a disaster. For more information on VEM's generator grant program, contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or at [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).

## New Energy Efficient Streetlights in Swanton Village

The Village of Swanton has received a grant from the Vermont Department of Public Service to replace 95 existing streetlights with high-efficiency LED bulbs. The NRPC provided assistance writing the grant application. The \$45,289 grant will be combined with an additional \$16,212 in rebates by Efficiency Vermont, and the installation of the lights will be completed by the Village Light Department. The new lights will be installed on the main streets of the Village, including in and around the Swanton Village Green.

The new lights will use Light Emitting Diodes, commonly referred to as LEDs. This is the same technology that can now be found in high-efficiency traffic signals and Christmas tree lights. The new lights are expected to save more than 26,500 kWh in electricity each year which will save the Village approximately \$3,320. Using the grant funds and Efficiency Vermont rebates, the Village will see the project pay for itself in less than 4 years. In addition to saving money, the LEDs have a longer lifespan and require less maintenance than traditional low pressure sodium or metal halide streetlights. LEDs also reduce light pollution and produce a more natural color which can improve night visibility. The 95 lights are scheduled to be installed in Fall 2010.

Interested in reducing the cost of streetlighting in your community? The NRPC is available to help analyze village streetlighting and develop a plan to improve lighting and reduce costs. Please call Bethany Remmers at 524-5958 or email [bethany@nrpcvt.com](mailto:bethany@nrpcvt.com) for more information.

## 2011 Transportation Enhancements Grant

The Enhancements Program is an innovative program for non-traditional transportation-related projects managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. This program can be a funding source for activities such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation, and more. Its goal is to aid in the creation of a multi-modal and environmentally sustainable transportation system that encourages non-motorized use and enhances Vermont's historic landscapes and human scale of development. All local authorities, not-for-profit organizations and federal/state agencies are eligible to apply. Application materials are available on-line at: <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>.

NRPC staff is available with grant writing assistance or review on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Bethany Remmers for more info at 524-5958 or [bethany@nrpcvt.com](mailto:bethany@nrpcvt.com).

### 2011 Program Schedule

April, 2010	Program Announcement
June 4, 2010	Letters of Intent (LOI) due With copy to your Regional Planning Commission.
Tuesday, June 22 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Or Wednesday June 23 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Mandatory TE Trainings via VT Interactive Television (Sponsor must attend one of these trainings to be eligible.)
August 20, 2010	Applications due
TBA December 2010	TEGC review meeting
TBA January 2011	Awards announcement



## Summer Retreat for Development Review Volunteers Save the Date - June 18-19, 2010 Held at Ohana Camp on Lake Fairlee in Thetford, Vermont

Inspired by LUI's June 2009 Planning Commissioners' Retreat, this event will focus on legal and technical training for volunteer, local land use decision-makers. Space will be limited to 40 attendees. This is an opportunity to reward individuals who have provided outstanding public service to their communities! Please contact Peg Elmer ([pelmer@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:pelmer@vermontlaw.edu) or 802-831-1405) if you have individuals or spaces you would like to sponsor or if you would like to attend!

*"... Just wanted to say a collective thank you for pulling together a fantastic retreat. A great venue that bestowed inspiration made better by a great blend of people, a perfect mix and duration of information, hearty food & beverage." - Rick Hopkins, East Montpelier, 2009 Planning Commission Attendee*

2009's Summer Retreat for Planning Commissioners rewarded outstanding individuals for dedication and service to Vermont towns. The event provided training and networking opportunities for volunteers. 2010 workshops for local volunteers doing development review will include a range of topics such as Coping with Contentious Hearings, Implementing Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and the Developer's Perspective. The keynote speakers will include Vermont Law School Professors John Echeverria, Marc Mihaly and Sean Nolon. The list of 2010 Workshops will be provided soon. For more information go to [www.vermontlaw.edu/landuse](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/landuse).

# Safe Routes to School Program Enosburg Falls

As warmer weather and sunnier days become more common in the area, the Safe Routes to School Program in Enosburg Falls has been encouraging more students to ride their bicycles and walk. There are many benefits for choosing these modes of transportation. The Safe Routes Program focuses on the school commute as an opportunity for children to improve their physical fitness, reduce environmental impact from vehicular emissions, connect with their community and decrease traffic during busy hours of the day.



A storywalk has been posted on the Brownway River Trail to draw more children and parents to enjoy the trail. The elementary school students will receive information and tips for staying safe while walking and biking during their physical education class at the end of May. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be learning about energy at the end of this school year. A lesson will be about the energy expended on their commute to school. The class will also calculate their carbon dioxide emissions and the amount that it can be reduced if they ride the school bus, walk or bike rather than use a private family vehicle.

There are many reasons to walk and bike to school however there are many barriers to doing so as well. The Safe Routes Program will help to identify some of those challenges that students and parents face so that better opportunities to walk or bike can be created. These include ensuring that the travel routes to school are structurally safe as well as socially safe. This requires participation from the whole community. It can be as simple as obeying the speed limits especially when schools are in session or as involved as the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes.

The ultimate goal of Safe Routes is to improve the health of children and the quality of life in a community. The Program will continue next school year in the fall and hopes to create good habits that students will carry throughout their lives. For more information on beginning a Safe Routes to School Program in your community contact Cristina Mastrangelo at 524-5958 or [cmatrangelo@nrpcvt.com](mailto:cmatrangelo@nrpcvt.com).



## CERT Program Activities

The mission of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) program is to work in partnership with the state and local public safety agencies and the community to produce a pool of citizens trained in disaster preparedness and response to provide leadership and coordination during an emergency and for immediate assistance to victims. CERT members also assist with non-emergency projects to provide information and a safe environment for the communities within the State of Vermont.

The Franklin and Grand Isle County CERTs have been very active this year. Both teams were activated to assist the VT Department of Health in conducting the H1N1 school vaccination clinics held earlier this year. The FC-CERT was activated in to assist with the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans and the Boy Scouts of America flotilla event at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The FC-CERT continues to support St. Albans City Fire Department with traffic control during structure fire calls. Training for the coming months include Command Post Operations, land navigation and radio operations (TBA).



Caption: Boy Scouts of America at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Photo courtesy of Kris Jarrett.

The Grand Isle CERT conducted a new member training in May. The Team will be on scene for the Big Shebang event on June 12<sup>th</sup> in North Hero and assisting event organizers during the South Hero TryAthalon on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The team will be providing trailer set up support to the Chittenden County CERT on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Knight Point State Park in North Hero.

If you would like more information on the region's CERT programs, please contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or at [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).

### NRPC Staff

Executive Director  
Catherine Dimitruk

Assistant Director  
Shaun Coleman

Office Administrator  
Amy Adams

Transportation/GIS Planner  
Bethany Remmers

Land Use Planner  
Greta Brunswick

Land Use Planner  
Deb Perry

Regional Planner  
Cristina Mastrangelo

GIS Technician  
Emily Hubbard

## Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Barbara Baker
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt One Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Nancy Hunt Dennis DeBevec
Berkshire:	Claude Charron One Vacant Seat
Enosburg Falls:	Richard Roberge Michael Manahan
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	William Kittell Marilyn Savoy
Fletcher:	Bruce Douglas One Vacant Seat
Franklin:	Doug Clark Dan Larivee
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinas David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Pete Paquette One Vacant Seat
Isle La Motte:	Sylvia Jensen Robin Gutierrez
Montgomery:	Barry Kade Darlene Marrier
North Hero:	John Lambert One Vacant Seat
Richford:	Melissa Wells Connie Burns
St Albans City:	David Peirce Lazarus Scangas
St Albans Town:	John Gray Paul Larner
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan One Vacant Seat
South Hero:	Michael Guernsey Bob Buermann
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

## NRPC JUNE CALENDAR

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00pm, Energy Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm, Brownfields Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Site, Swanton



## Paddle with the Rail Trail Council on June 12<sup>th</sup>

To celebrate National Trails Day 2010, the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council invites paddlers to experience the natural history and beauty of the Lamoille River on an informal guided canoe/kayak outing led by experienced Council member volunteer Dave Stanley. On Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Dave will lead participants in a paddle down the Lamoille River from Jeffersonville to Fairfax Falls. Meet at 9 am behind Jana's Cupboard Restaurant on Route 15 in Jeffersonville. Paddling time is approximately 4 hours and recommended for intermediate paddlers. Participants will provide their own canoe/kayak/paddle/PFD and picnic lunch/refreshments. For more information and to RSVP, contact Cynthia at 933-8851 or [cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net).

## Announcing the 2010 Rail Trail Photo Contest

Don't forget to bring your camera with you when you go out on the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail this summer. The Council would love to see the Trail and its surroundings through your eyes! Photos taken on, of, or from the MVRT are eligible and must be submitted by Friday, October 29, 2010. See our website [www.mvrailtrail.com](http://www.mvrailtrail.com) for contest guidelines and entry form, or contact Cynthia at 933-8851 or [cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net).



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