

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee



You matter to your local rivers!



PHOTO TAKEN BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

We had a busy 2024, and we're excited to *flow* through our highlights with you in this year's newsletter. This year we celebrated 10 years of Wild & Scenic designation! Since achieving that designation, UMATR has provided over \$400,000 in grants and financial assistance to enhance our Wild & Scenic rivers' waters and communities. This year was again full of community connection and appreciation for our rivers. Read on as we walk through our 2024 Event & Grant highlights, take a look back at our 10 Year Celebration Paddles, and provide a glimpse of what we have in store for 2025. As always, thank you for a fantastic year!

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Check out our website and social media



www.umatrvt.org
[@umatrvt](https://www.instagram.com/umatrvt)



2024 UMATR Newsletter – 2024 Event Highlights

We had a full and fun 2024 with **22** UMATR events held throughout the entire year! To celebrate 10 years, we hosted almost twice as many events, including paddling all 46.1 miles of our designated rivers in June. We are overjoyed that over 450 people join us at events this year, including 100+ during our Celebration Paddles! We learned about river habitats on snowy walks in the woods with our County Foresters, cleaned up our beloved swimming holes, went tubing on the Trout River, practiced our paddling skills or learned to paddle for the first time during our annual Paddle Picnic, Paddle-Pedal, Paddle Lessons, Nature Paddle, and of course, our 10 Year Celebration Paddles. We ended our 2024 events by enjoying Wild and Scenic films at Jay Peak with tasty curry from Miso Hungry, and a wonderful raffle of community donated items. Thank you for joining us and we hope to see you at our events next year!

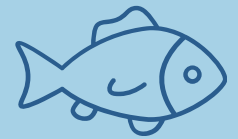
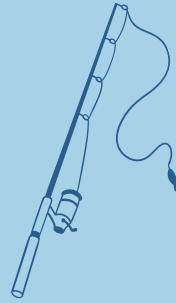


Stay up to date with all UMATR events:

- Sign up for our mailing list
- Check out the "EVENTS" page on our website umatrvt.org/events
- Follow us on social media: [@umatrvt](https://twitter.com/umatrvt)
- See page 7 of this newsletter for a full list of our 2025 Events.

River Community Grants

Our 2024 River Community Grants funded **six** projects within our UMATR region, resulting in **\$21,034** being spent on projects that protect and enhance the enjoyment and quality of the upper Missisquoi and Trout rivers. The Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District hosted their annual Enosburg Fishing Festival, a wildlife tracking day with Montgomery Elementary School, and started a wildlife habitat assessment pilot program. Lowell Graded School hosted a Burgess Branch / East River Study with Lowell Middle School. Richford Conservation Commission purchased new water quality testing equipment for the Richford Jr. Sr. High School science classes. NCSU Encore After School and Summer Program took teens on a river paddle trip. These projects, along with others, are what make our community truly exceptional to be a part of!



Municipal Grants

Our 2024 Municipal Grants funded **four** projects within **four** municipalities in our UMATR region, totaling to **\$38,916** spent on roadway and infrastructure improvements that benefit our rivers directly and their communities. These grant funds helped replace three old culverts and added stone-lined ditches to several road sides. These projects result in less sediment and runoff from entering the Missisquoi and Trout rivers. Thank you to participating towns for their time and dedication into making our watershed a better place. Cheers to 2025 projects!

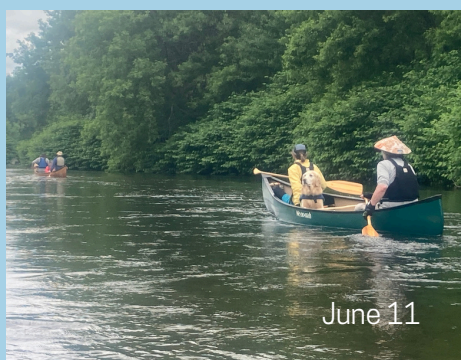
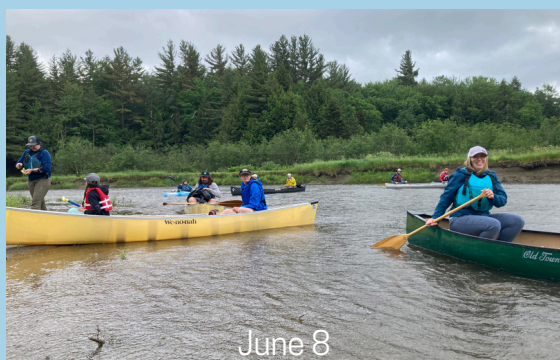
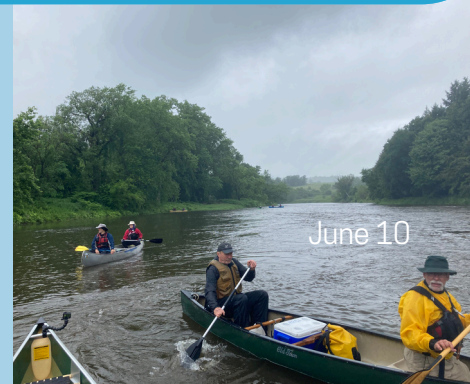
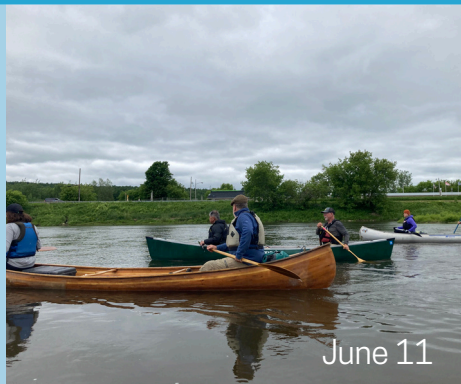
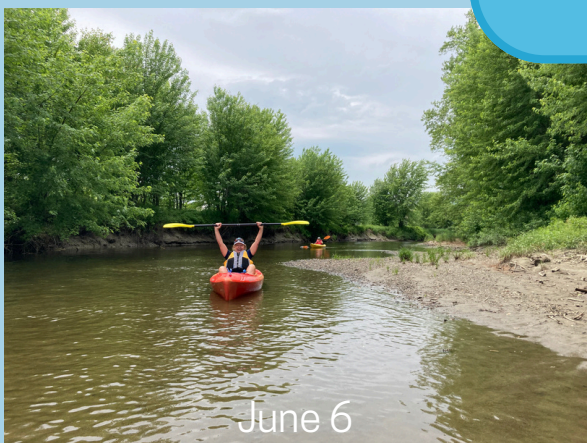


UMATR is extremely pleased to have partnered with our fantastic local communities and municipalities to provide **\$59,950** total funds in 2024! Read more about our grant programs on our website at www.umatrvt.org/grants

2024 UMATR Newsletter – A Ten Year Celebration Paddle



In 2024 we celebrated a major milestone: reaching **10 years of Wild and Scenic Designation!** Although our journey started well over 10 years ago, it was in 2014 that we were officially designated as Wild and Scenic. We commemorated this milestone by floating all 46.1 miles of our designated rivers. This has perhaps become a tradition to do every five years; we loved getting out on our rivers to celebrate. Throughout our journey, we had the opportunity to pause and appreciate the beauty of the rivers while paddling together, sharing stories, and learning from each other as we soaked in the breathtaking scenery. This weeklong event created unforgettable experiences and we want to thank everyone who was able to join us and share in this moment in UMATR history! A documentary highlighting this journey will premiere next year - keep a look out!



2024 UMATR Newsletter – River Access Points

East Richford - 2023



Berkshire - 2024



Davis Park Richford - 2020



North Troy - 2022



Riverwalk Park Montgomery - 2018



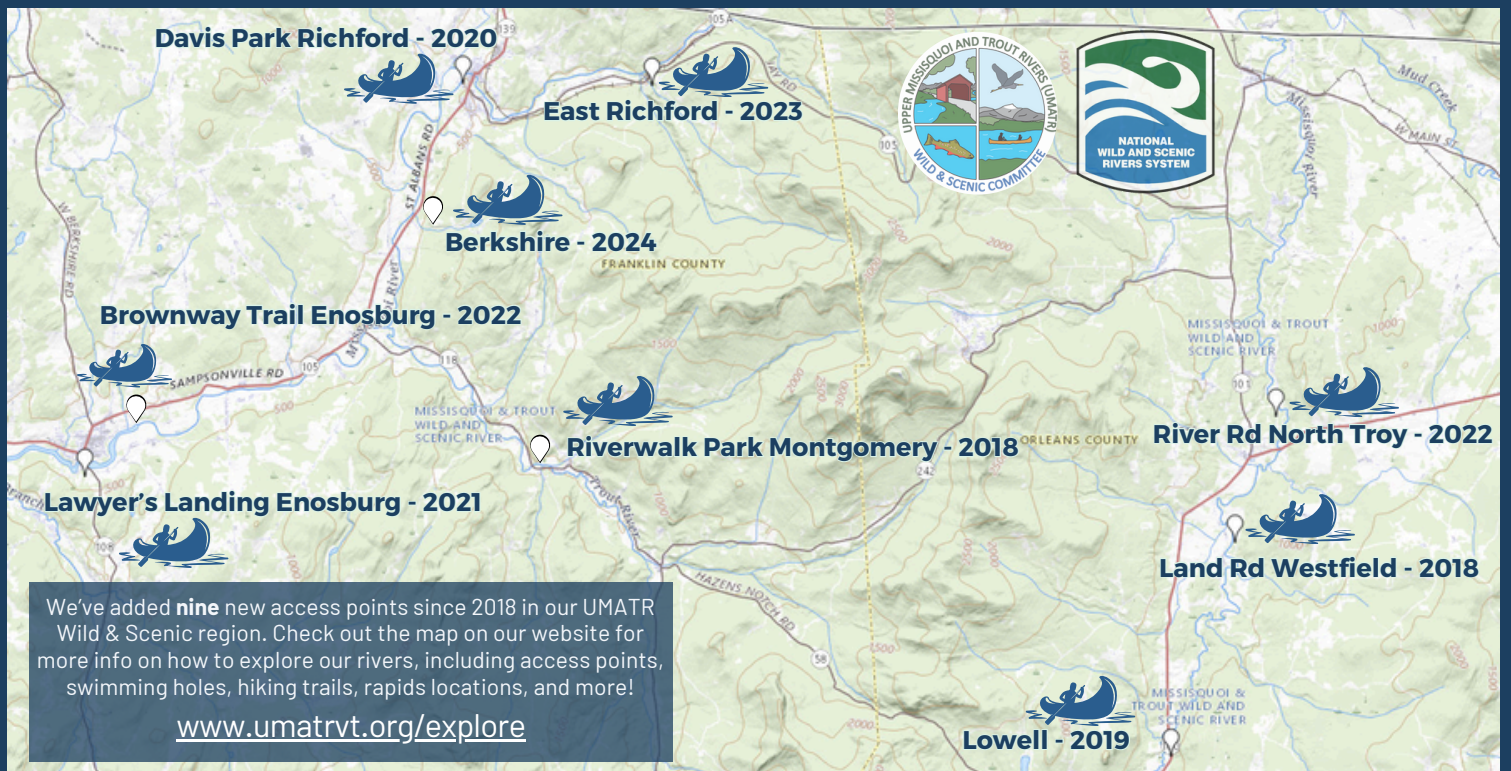
Berkshire - 2024



Westfield - 2018

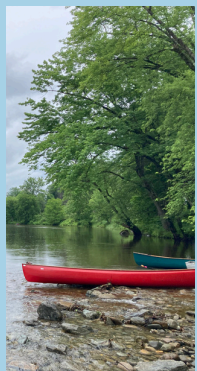


This summer, UMATR added another river access point on the Missisquoi in Berkshire off Horse Shoe Road by the bridge on the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. Increasing river access is extremely important to us; we want there to be as many opportunities as possible to enjoy our beautiful UMATR rivers! Each year, UMATR contracts with the stewardship crew of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail to install these access points, which can now be found in the towns of Enosburgh, Richford, Berkshire, Montgomery, North Troy, Westfield, and Lowell. Thank you to the wonderful crews that have helped install these points for all their hard work, expertise, and great attitudes! We hope you have had a chance to use these access points, and we encourage you to take advantage of them in 2025. Lookout for where we will put our next access point in 2025, and get out there!

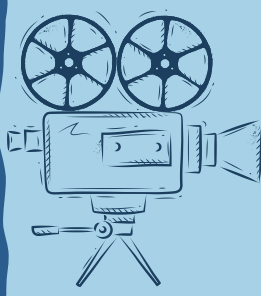


We've added **nine** new access points since 2018 in our UMATR Wild & Scenic region. Check out the map on our website for more info on how to explore our rivers, including access points, swimming holes, hiking trails, rapids locations, and more!
www.umatrvt.org/explore

OUR DOCUMENTARY: THE CELEBRATION



We made a documentary! Local filmmaker Duane Peterson III joined us during all seven days of our ten year celebration paddle to make a short film about this and all the successes of UMATR. We will host a screening of this film in the late spring of 2025 - keep your eyes peeled for further information on our website!



PARTNERSHIP WILD & SCENIC CONFERENCE



In October, UMATR hosted the biennial Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Gathering, at Jay Peak. At this gathering, representatives of the 18 Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers from up and down the East Coast come together with our National Park Service partners to share updates, information, and discuss our rivers. It is always a fantastic time, and this year we were even able to take over 40 visitors paddling on a section of the Missisquoi River! Visit rivers.gov for more information on Wild and Scenic Rivers



2024 UMATR Newsletter – 2025 Events

We love providing programs on and along our rivers, and this is an annual priority for us. See below for our 2025 offerings and reach out to sarah@umatrvt.org with questions! For more information or to register for our events go to our website at www.umatrvt.org/events

Online Seminar Series



Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20

Snowshoe Along the River



Feb 22, Mar 8

Salamander Night Patrol



March/April

Open House with MRBA



May 18th

Our Documentary Film Premiere



May 31st

Trout River Tubing**

Paddle Instruction Day**



June 24th

Guided Nature Paddle**

Missisquoi Paddle and Pedal with NFCT



June 28th

BBQ at Brault's Meat Market

date tbd

Annual Paddle & Picnic**

Swimming Hole Clean-Up



July 12th

2025 Wild and Scenic Film Festival

July 19th

August 3rd

**** These events have registration caps and do fill up quickly. Register ASAP or contact Sarah at sarah@umatrvt.org for more information on an individual event. ****



Did you know we also send out a Monthly Event Email for UMATR and our Wild & Scenic towns events at the beginning of each month? Sign up at www.umatrvt.org/join-our-mailing-list if you want to stay in tune with what's happening in our region and to get firsthand updates and registration links for each of our upcoming UMATR events.

WELCOME TO UMATR!

We are thrilled to welcome Ruby Bratcher to UMATR.

Ruby is serving with us as our Watershed Engagement Coordinator through ECO Americorps. Ruby is from Burlington, VT, and recently graduated from Southern New Hampshire University on campus with a B.S. in environmental science. Be sure to say hi to her if you see her around!

A new member has joined the UMATR committee!

Janet Lee is serving as our treasurer and is representing the town of Troy. We love Janet's enthusiasm for our community and are excited to have her! Come meet her at Brault's on July 19th!



Our Committee is made up of 2 representatives from each of our municipalities; we are seeking additional UMATR reps from Berkshire, Enosburg, Enosburg Falls, Montgomery, North Troy, Troy, and Westfield. Reach out to us if you're interested in learning more, and we hope you can join us during one of our UMATR Committee meetings!

Read more about our UMATR staff and Committee on our website: www.umatrvt.org/our-committee



TO:

You Matter to your local rivers!



Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee
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