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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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- 1 Connecticut River Conservancy completes southeast
- 2 Vermont stormwater enhancement project

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- 4 TEXT BODY:

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- 5 The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) recently
- 6 announce the successful completion of project development
- 7 work on three proposed stormwater projects in southeastern
- 8 Vermont, made possible through funding from the Vermont Clean
- 9 Water Initiative Program administered by Watersheds United
- 10 Vermont.

11 According to CRC, this project sought to develop
12 potential stormwater projects in Windham County with the goal
13 of minimizing anthropogenic (caused by humans) nutrient and
14 organic pollution, protecting and restoring riparian habitats, and
15 minimizing flood and fluvial erosion hazards.

16 The project began in May 2025 and concluded in June
17 2026, completing a feasibility study and conceptual drawings for
18 a proposed stormwater best management practice in Brattleboro,
19 Rockingham, and Westminster.

20 The Vermont Department of Conservation (VT DEC) has
21 completed stormwater master plans (SWMP) for each town,
22 which identified a list of dozens of potential projects from which
23 to choose. CRC considered at least four potential projects for
24 each town from their respective SWMPs.

25 CRC then worked with municipal staff, the Windham
26 Regional Commission, the VT DEC, and private landowners to
27 narrow the list down to the one proposed project in each town
28 that was specifically developed.

29 Pollution load reduction calculations from the proposals
30 estimate that implementing these three proposed stormwater
31 projects could prevent 28.75 kg of phosphorous, 19.5 kg of
32 nitrogen, and 9.05 tons/18,100 pounds of sediment annually
33 from polluting local surface waters, including the Connecticut
34 River and, by extension, Long Island Sound.

35 “This project represents a significant step forward for
36 each of these towns to develop stormwater management and
37 treatment practices for the benefit of clean water, healthy
38 habitats, and resilient communities,” Charles Soucy, CRC
39 Stormwater Project Manager, said in a news release. “None of
40 this work would be possible without the funding from [various
41 organizations] that put that money into the hands of clean water
42 practitioners to do good work in our local communities.”

43 CRC received a VT DEC Enhancement Project
44 Development Grant of \$45,100, to scope at least 4 potential

45 projects and develop a specific, conceptual project proposal for
46 each of the towns of Brattleboro, Rockingham, and Westminster.

47 The results of this development work are proposals for a
48 constructed gravel wetland at the northwest stormwater outfall
49 into Kettle Pond in Brattleboro, a stormwater gully stabilization
50 and filter strip planting project off Lovell Drive in Rockingham,
51 and a bioinfiltration practice (rain garden) at the Westminster
52 West School in Westminster.

53 CRC will work with the specific landowners for each
54 project to further refine the proposal designs, secure landowner
55 support for future project phases, and seek funding for further
56 design stage and eventual implementation.

57 "Project development work like this is how we move
58 from a concept listed in a stormwater plan to the reality for
59 stormwater treatment on the ground," said CRC Watershed
60 Planner Marie Caduto. "Partner organizations like CRC bridge the
61 gap by taking the concept directly with landowners to get buy-in
62 to do the implementation. That leads to cleaner water for
63 everyone."

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