# RIDGE TO RIVER - RESILIENCE & CLEAN WATER FOR THE MAD RIVER VALLEY



#### Corrie Miller

Executive Director, Friends of the Mad River Representing Ridge to River Taskforce



**Photo: Peregrine Productions** 



#### Threats to our Quality of Life





Photos, clockwise: Ember Photo, Jen Ryan Peterson, Kim Greenwood

### Threats to our Quality of Life



Increasingly regular events... and, just regular rain



Photos, clockwise: Corrie Miller, **Peregrine Productions** 



# Ridge to River 2015



2015 Leahy Environmental Summit







# WHY IT MATTERS





If we *slow down* rainwater and snowmelt and help it *sink into the ground* ...

- → we are less vulnerable in larger rain events
- → we reduce infrastructure maintenance costs
- → we benefit from cleaner swimming holes & ground water

Multiple Benefits!





### **Ridge to River Taskforce**

#### **Official Town Representatives:**

**Duxbury:** Mari Pratt (SB)

Alan Quackenbush (PC)

<u>Fayston</u>: Jared Cadwell (SB)

Carol Chamberlin (PC)

Moretown: John Hoogenboom (SB)

**Dara Torre (former PC)** 

Waitsfield: Sal Spinosa (SB)

**Brian Voigt (PC)** 

Warren: Bob Ackland (SB)

Mike Bridgewater (PC)

A Mad River Valley Coalition for Clean Water and Resilience

#### **Businesses & Community Participants:**

Richard Czaplinski, Friends of the Mad River

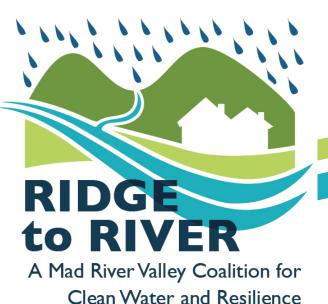
**Brad Long, Waitsfield** 

Kinny Perot, Friends of the Mad River

Margo Wade & Joel Rhodes, Sugarbush Resort

Eric Brattstrom, Warren

Dotty Kyle, Warren



## **Taskforce Support**

#### **Leadership:**

Friends of the Mad River

#### **Organizational Partners:**

Central Vermont Regional Planning
Commission
Mad River Valley Planning District

#### **Consultants and Researchers:**

Community Workshop LLC

Stone Environmental

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Watershed Consulting Associates LLC

# WHAT **WE KNOW**

# **People Care**



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A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION Ridge to Ri-

Corrie Miller, Executive Director, Friends of the Mad River

From: Andres Torizzo, Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC

**Date:** January 4, 2017





#### Ridge to River Initiative Community Baseline Survey

VALLEY RESIDENTS CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER

We asked people how much they care about clean water and how much stormwater and their personal actions matter.



100%

Of survey respondents care about clean water in the Mad River Valley



97%

Say that managing stormwater is important in protecting our quality of life



96%





#### **437 Miles of Roads**



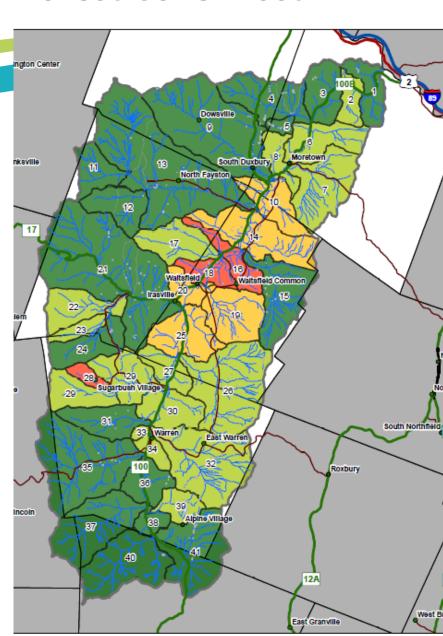


33% are **private** roads and driveways

#### **500 Acres of Forest Cover Lost**



- 500 acres of forest cover converted in 10 years
- Forest cover correlates to damage downhill (>65% threshold)
- Thought to be caused by minor land disturbances





#### **New Development**

Most MRV development falls under state and local stormwater runoff permitting thresholds.

**State:** Most MRV development is 1 and 2-family structures

→ Often **does not** trigger state stormwater permitting thresholds

**Local:** Local municipal regulations address temporary construction site erosion controls

→ Limited in mitigating the impacts of new impervious surface over the long-term





# The Moral of the Story

Small & dispersed problems across the watershed can add up to a lot of damage.

BUT...

Small & dispersed changes can add up to a lot of good.

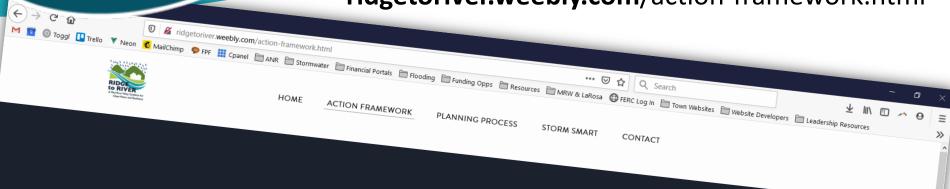


Photo: Joshua Schwartz



# **Action Framework**

ridgetoriver.weebly.com/action-framework.html





# **Action Framework**

Our Storm Smart Action Framework consists of a connected set of programs designed to strategically achieve our goals by engaging the

Scroll down to scan the stakeholders and areas of the Valley where we plan to take action. Under each, you'll find target actions, incentives and needs for each area, and specific programs designed to meet those needs. Click through to learn about each program, and about integrated action campaigns

Storm Smart Valley & Watershed





- → Mad River Glen Parking
- → Warren School
- → Fayston School
- → Harwood Union
- → Fuller Hill Rd





# **Stormwater Master Plans & Fixes**

- → Mad River Glen Parking
- → Warren School
- → Fayston School
- → Harwood Union
- → Fuller Hill Rd







- → Warren School
- → Harwood Union
- → Mad River Glen Parking
- → Fayston School
- → Fuller Hill Rd





#### **Town-Wide & Mount Ellen Stormwater Master Plans**

#### Grant partners:

- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
- Watershed Consulting Associates
- Friends of the Mad River & Ridge to River

#### Stakeholders:

- Road foreman
- Selectboard member
- Planning commission member
- Zoning Administrator
- Town administrator



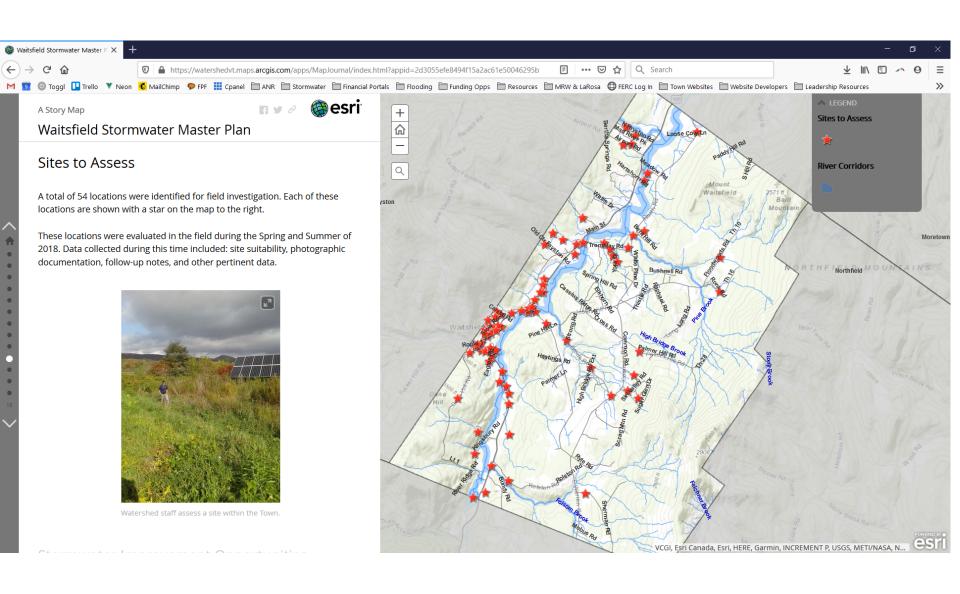


#### **Town-Wide & Mount Ellen Stormwater Master Plans**

- → Top 20 prioritized sites / Town
- → 5 30% Engineering Plans / Town
- $\rightarrow$  3 30% plans at Mount Ellen

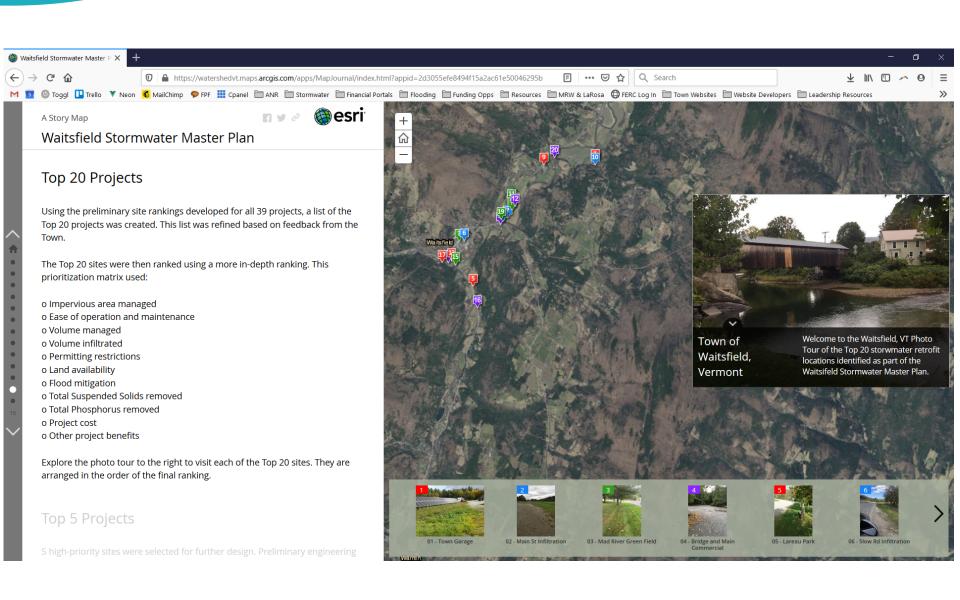


## 54 Waitsfield Sites



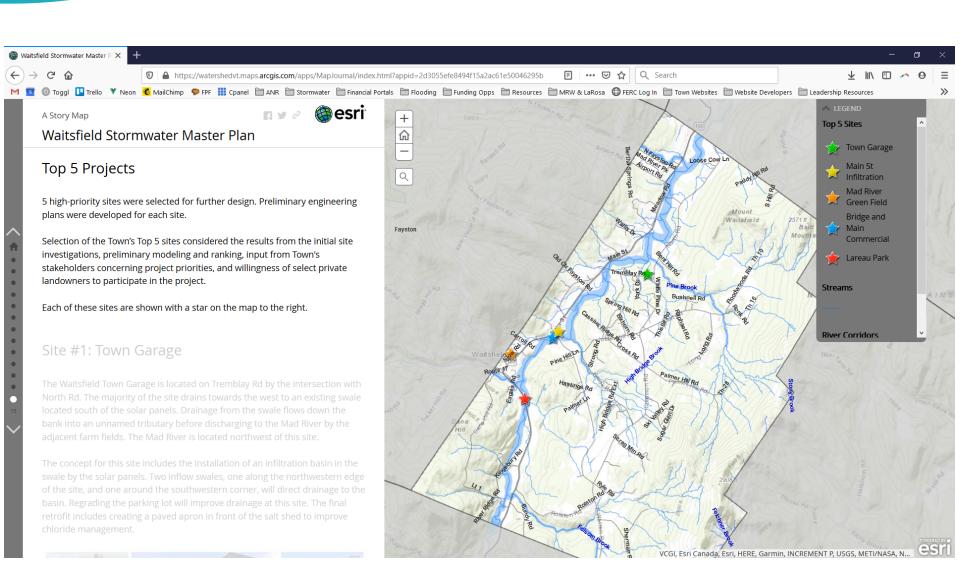


# **Top 20 Opportunities**



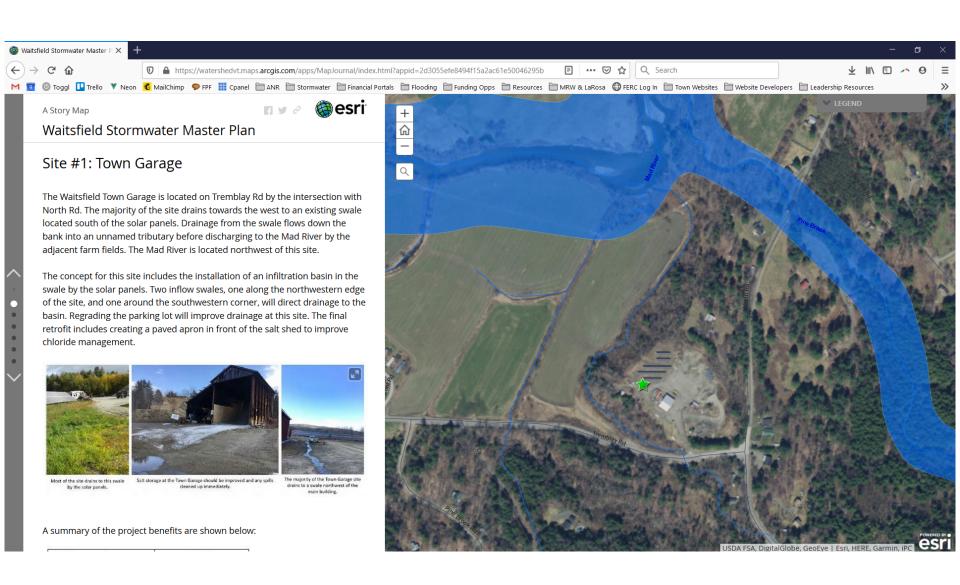


# **Top 5 Projects**



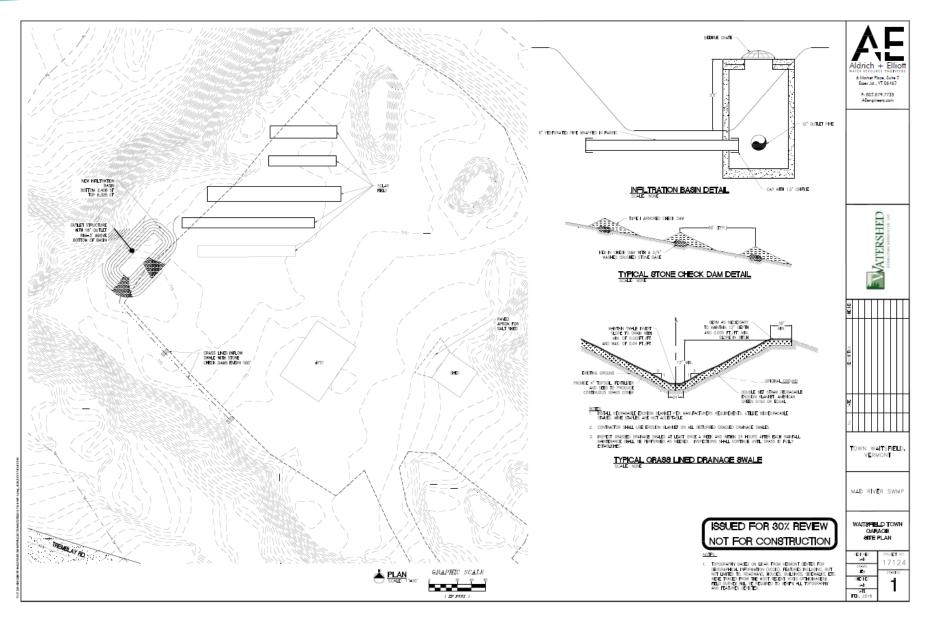


# 5 - 30% Designs





# 30% Design







Road Roundtables –
Opportunities for road
crews to gather and share
challenges, tips,
techniques, and solutions.

→ 7 Roundtables (so far) organized by R2R Selectboard representatives

Next one in December!

WHAT WE CAN DO



#### Road Roundtables

Increase communication & foster shared understanding

Now we're seeing Selectboard members come out and see what the problems are and we've never seen that before...They can help give us the tools that we need...

-Ray Weston, Warren Foreman

"We're not competitors, we're all a part of taking care of this Valley. You [other crews] need something, we'll help."

-Rodney Jones, Waitsfield Foreman

"There's been a lot of learning 'up the ladder' to the Selectboards and we've developed a lot more trust in the road crews from these meetings."

-Bob Ackland, R2R Rep, Warren Selectboard



Engaging homeowners and property managers in **small** changes on their properties, that collectively make a **big** difference.

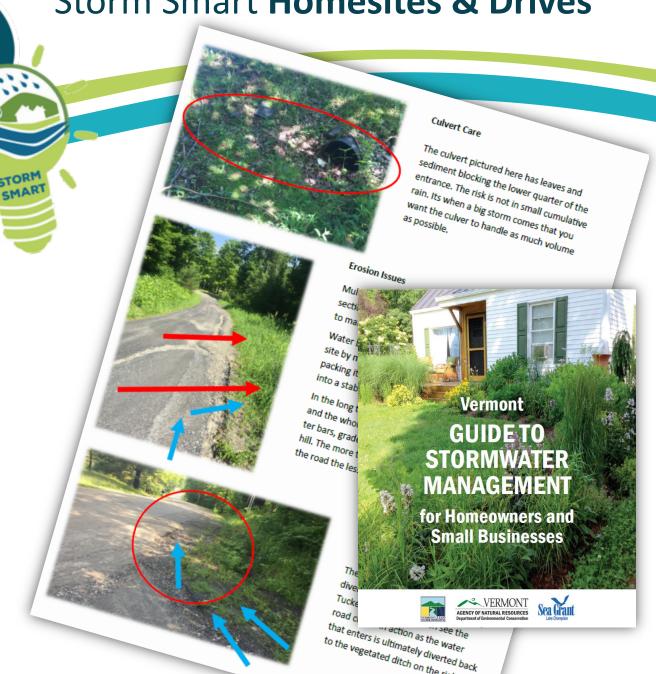


Home Visit"Assessment"

WHAT WE CAN DO

Individualized GSI/BMP "Prescriptions"

Support for simple actions





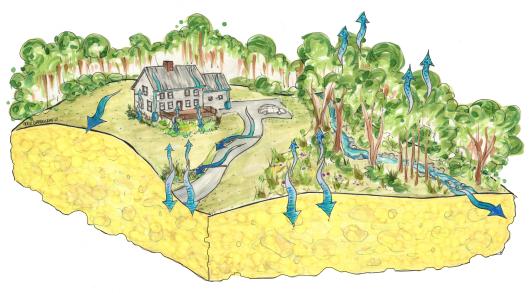


→ Add small fixes like planting trees, digging a waterbar, letting grass grow longer..













WHAT WE CAN DO

- 17 Homeowners have implemented GSI/BMP "Prescriptions"
- Lots of outreach to community



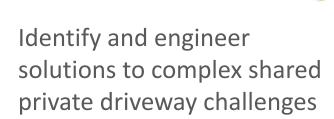


"What a great program – we got the expert advice we were looking for along with follow-up visits for feedback and to help us implement solutions!

This is a win/win for the river and anyone with a driveway."

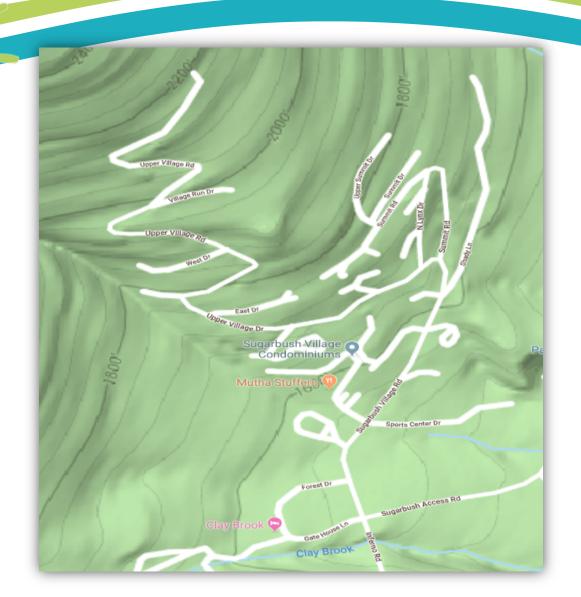
-Waitsfield resident





WHAT WE

- → Engineering plans at 6 private driveway networks
- → Working with landowners at top 3 sites





# To Date...

Dollars Brought to the Mad River Valley since 2015 = ~\$750,000



# To Do...



Photo: Joshua Schwartz



# **Questions? Comments?**

# Thank you!

#### **Corrie Miller**

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or

Ridge to River Taskforce Members www.ridgetoriver.org



# **GIS Story Maps**

- Duxbury <a href="http://arcg.is/XSDLW">http://arcg.is/XSDLW</a>
- Fayston <a href="https://arcg.is/5b0Le">https://arcg.is/5b0Le</a>
- Moretown <a href="https://arcg.is/i1XC5">https://arcg.is/i1XC5</a>
- Waitsfield <a href="https://arcg.is/04qbDD">https://arcg.is/04qbDD</a>
- Warren <a href="https://arcg.is/1Lbu9X">https://arcg.is/1Lbu9X</a>