

Intervale Conservation Nursery



The ICN's Conservation Nursery provides thousands of trees and shrubs each year for plantings along rivers and streams in the Lake Champlain Basin. The plants are grown from seeds and cuttings collected in Vermont's watersheds. This ensures that the plants are genetically adapted for Vermont's soils and climate.



The ICN works with many local teachers to integrate watershed stewardship into their standards based curricula. Through these projects, the ICN helps to protect natural resources and foster good stewardship ethics in Vermont's youth. These students are planting a native maple tree along the Lamoille River as part of their 8th grade science class.

The Intervale Conservation Nursery (ICN) was started in 2001 to help agencies, watershed groups, landowners, and volunteers protect riparian (streamside) areas in Vermont. The ICN accomplishes this by growing native trees and shrubs for conserving and restoring Vermont's watersheds, while providing educational opportunities for school groups and the public.

The word riparian comes from the Latin word "ripa", which means bank. The riparian zone is the area of land found along rivers and streams.

This area is home to the greatest biodiversity of any type of habitat in the state. Such healthy riparian forests provide many benefits for Vermont's human and natural communities:

- Erosion control
- Flood reduction
- Nutrient and pollutant filtration
- Habitat for diverse wildlife
- Cooler and cleaner water for fish
- Aesthetics
- Enhanced property values
- Opportunities for public involvement and education

To learn more about the ICN and the Intervale's riparian zone, take a walk on the interpretive trail along the Winooski River, or contact the Intervale's Riparian Conservation Coordinator at (802) 660-0440.



Riparian forests, like this one in Burlington's Intervale, help to stabilize streambanks, promote water quality, and provide important habitat and migration corridors for wildlife.



Healthy forests, such as the one pictured here, provide buffers between human activity and Vermont's rivers and streams. These riparian buffers prevent erosion, protect water quality, reduce damage from flooding, and promote high quality fish and wildlife habitat.



Unforested riparian areas result in instability and erosion along many of Vermont's rivers and streams. This slumping streambank along the upper Winooski River could be helped with a riparian buffer of trees and shrubs.

(Photographs courtesy of the Intervale Foundation.)

The Intervale Foundation
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