

Strengthening Our Shores

COMMUNITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES

LAKE CHAMPLAIN REGION

Project Description

Armed with the right information, we can make better decisions.

In 1998, the communities of northwestern Vermont were hard hit by an ice storm that damaged hundreds of trees. The loss of vegetation, particularly along the shore of Lake Champlain, accelerated erosion on many shoreline properties. In response to growing concern about the impacts of erosion and a desire to protect the ecological and recreational values of the lake, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission worked with a number of partners to produce the Shoreline Stabilization Handbook.

While erosion is a natural process, it can become problematic when it threatens homes and roads and negatively impacts water quality. Traditional shoreline stabilization methods, such as seawalls and stone walls, can exacerbate erosion and threaten the health of the shoreline ecosystem. The award-winning Shoreline Stabilization Handbook helps to explain the different causes of erosion, and offers lower impact shoreline management practices that make use of vegetation to more naturally stabilize shoreline areas.

Following the spring flooding of 2011, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission worked with other planning commissions in the state to provide hands-on workshops to help homeowners better manage shoreline property to reduce erosion and create a shoreline that is better able to withstand the impact of storms.

Lead Organization

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Partner Organization(s)

A&R, Lake Champlain Basin, UVM and more



Get in Touch

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