

Mountain Views

SUMMER 2025



STCWE
LAND TRUST

There's nothing quite like summer in Vermont.

Long, warm days stretch out before us. The weekend calendar is filled with camping trips. The first green tomatoes have appeared on the vine. We can enjoy a quick hike or mountain bike ride after work. It's the season of vibrancy that gives the Green Mountain state its nickname.

Stowe's recent 2050 Survey affirmed what we hear every day: this community values its scenic beauty, open landscapes, and access to trails, parks, and outdoor recreation. These are the things that draw us here—and keep us here. Residents also voiced strong support for both land protection and housing affordability. At Stowe Land Trust, we share that vision.

The town of Stowe is engaged in important discussions around our future. Many are asking: How do we preserve the very qualities that make Stowe unique, while simultaneously addressing the challenge of housing affordability?

I believe our community can do both. This is not an 'either/or' question. It's a 'both/and' conversation. We don't have to choose between protecting our environment and ensuring that future generations can call this valley home. It is entirely possible—and necessary—to do both.

Fifteen years after settling here, my love and pride for this community are stronger than ever. From the farmers' market to the Fourth of July parade, this valley remains a place where land and community come together. By working together, we can continue to protect the lands and waters we love while welcoming visitors, housing residents, and maintaining the quality of life of our mountain town.



See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Rogers
Executive Director



STOWE LAND TRUST

connect
to something
more

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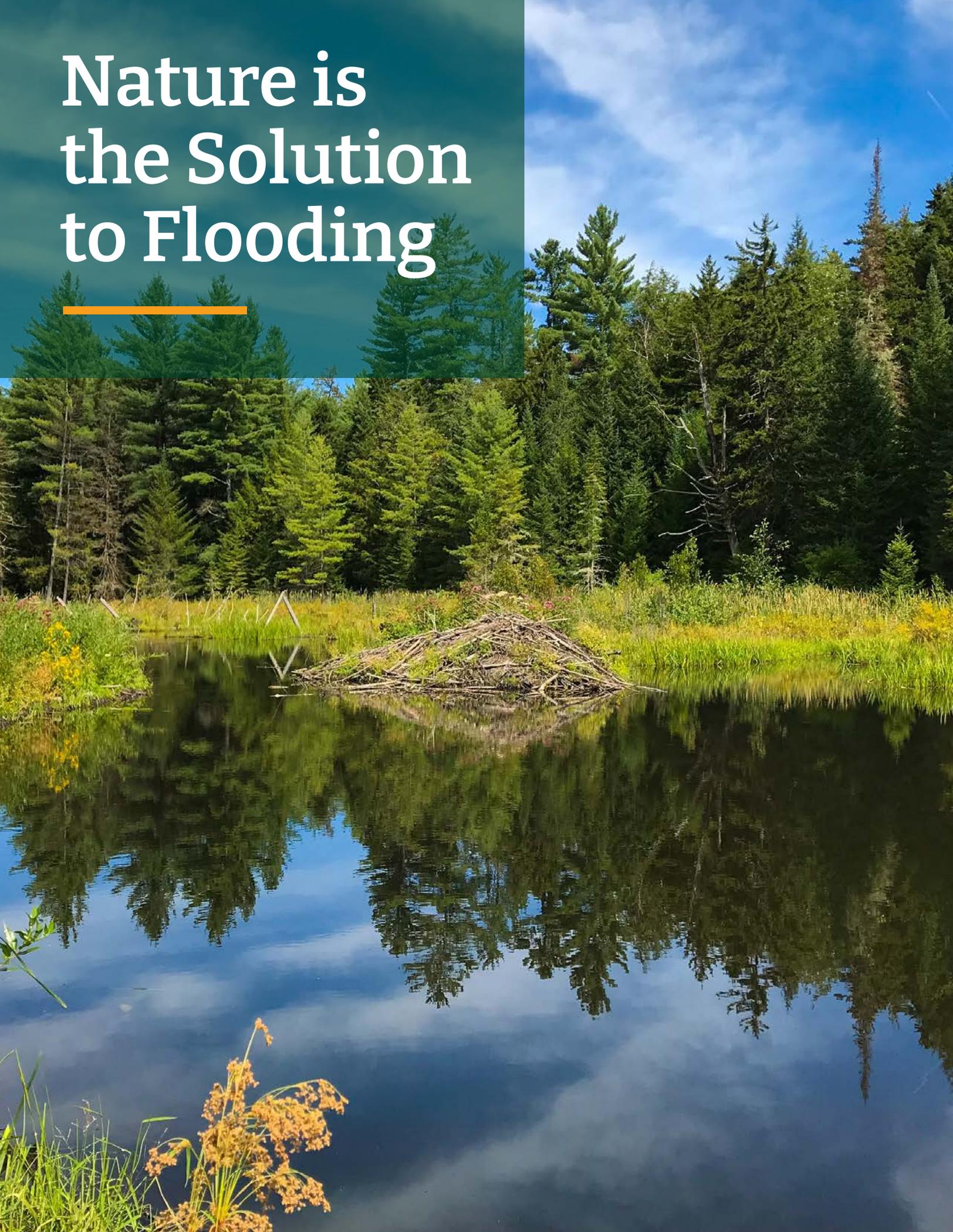
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Nature is the Solution to Flooding



Is there anything better than the cool, clear waters of a mountain lake? Or dipping into Foster's on a hot summer day? Whether fishing, camping, paddling, tubing, or simply cooling off, we flock to Vermont's rivers, lakes, and ponds during the warmer months.

Last summer—and the summer before—many of our beloved swimming holes were closed or unsafe due to extensive flooding. Vermonters have never taken clean water for granted, and while we continue working to reduce runoff pollution, we're also expanding efforts to address the growing impact of climate change on our rivers.

Since Hurricane Irene in 2011, Vermont has faced 20 federally declared climate disasters, with historic flooding hitting hard the past two summers. Human activity has played a role—not only by contributing to a warming planet, but also by straightening rivers, clearing forests, and overlooking the vital role of wetlands.

Land protection and stewardship play a critical role in building resilience to climate-related flooding. Consider the difference between a drop of water that runs off a paved lot into a swollen river versus one that soaks into the fertile soil of a healthy forest. Now multiply that by two inches of rain in an hour, as we saw last summer.

Over time, we've turned our rivers from garden hoses into fire hoses and they are aimed at our communities.



Water quality at popular swimming holes is impacted more by flooding and extreme weather events today than by pollution.

How does conservation impact flooding?

Cady Hill Forest, DuMont Meadow, Moscow Recreation Field, Valcour Bog, and the Little River Corridor are among the properties stewarded by Stowe Land Trust that directly impact our water quality and flood resilience. By protecting these and other important parcels of land, we are able to slow the movement of water across land by:

- ▶ Returning rivers to their natural, meandering floodplains
- ▶ Restoring wetlands, the sponges of our landscape
- ▶ Leaving natural debris in rivers to slow down floodwaters
- ▶ Preventing development in river corridors

The great news is, we have mounting evidence from across the state that this approach works! As we adapt to our new climate reality, we can take steps to turn our rivers from our greatest adversaries to our greatest allies.



Few people loved Vermont more than Dad. It felt right to support the Land Trust in his name.

—Ray



RAY AND SENGD AO BERGMANN: Nature is a Gift that Keeps on Giving

Visitors to Vermont for almost 30 years, the Bergmanns support land conservation so that future generations can continue to enjoy open spaces, clean air, and recreational opportunities in the Stowe area.

Last summer, Ray Bergmann and his wife, Sengdao, brought their great-nephews to Stowe for the 4th of July. They took the boys on walking excursions along the Stowe Rec Path, swam in the Little River, marveled at the Green Mountains, and watched the parade proceed through the village. “They had the time of their lives,” said Ray. “They didn’t want to go home at all.”

Ray has been coming to Vermont since the 1960s and started visiting Stowe in 2013. While staying at the von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort that year, he and Sengdao took long walks throughout Trapp’s extensive trail system. They learned that part of the famous property is conserved and decided to make a donation to Stowe Land Trust on behalf of Ray’s father, who had recently passed away.

Since that first donation, Ray and Sengdao have remained connected to Stowe Land Trust. They were among the donors who contributed to the Adams Camp Connector, making one of their largest personal gifts to the project.

Ray and Sengdao love to swim and hike. They join nature walks with Stowe Land Trust while in town, most recently learning how to use their phones to identify

plants and birds. They also like to try new restaurants and enjoy the area’s farm-to-table food options. But more than any one thing, it’s a feeling that keeps them coming back year after year—something they hope to pass along to their nephews.

“We don’t even have to get into Vermont before we start to notice that we genuinely feel better,” said Ray. “The air quality is better, we feel less tired, we can do more. It’s not our imagination and it’s not just because we’re on vacation—there is something special about Vermont. We hope that when our nephews grow up, they will continue to enjoy these same open spaces.”

What inspired you to join
Stowe Land Trust?

We’d love to hear your story!

Email alex@stowelandtrust.org

Welcoming Winged Visitors:

SIMPLE TIPS TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS

From native wildflowers to bee-friendly garden habits, small actions can make a big difference for butterflies and bees in your backyard.

Bumblebees need more than blooms—leave patches of bare ground or brush for nesting, and avoid mowing too often.



Red Admirals thrive in gardens with a variety of blooms. Mixing native and ornamental flowers offers vital food throughout the season.

Choose pesticide-free, nectar-rich flowers to support butterflies like the American Lady.



Monarchs love native plants like goldenrod—planting late-season bloomers helps fuel their long migration south.

Stowe 2050: Building a Vision for the Future

The Stowe community is currently engaged in an important town planning process that will inform a collective vision for our shared future. Several key insights have emerged from this process:

- ▶ You unambiguously support land conservation. An overwhelming majority of the nearly 600 people who responded to the Stowe 2050 Survey identified scenic beauty, landscapes, trails, parks, and outdoor recreation as what sets this area apart.
- ▶ Outdoor recreation is the main reason you come to Stowe. 85% of respondents say that outdoor recreation (trails, hiking, skiing, and cycling) is the number one reason for coming to Stowe.
- ▶ You value both land protection and housing affordability. 83% percent of survey respondents agree that Stowe should conserve more land to protect rural areas and natural spaces. 83% agree that Stowe needs more housing options to support a vibrant community.

We hear you.

Stowe Land Trust is collaborating with the Town to explore 'both/and' solutions to achieve the dual goals of housing and land conservation.

Interested in learning more?

Visit stowevt.gov

STOWE LAND TRUST

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Party in the Meadow: An Evening with Stowe Land Trust SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 5:00 P.M. TILL SUNSET

Get ready, Stowe...this is your invitation to kick back, celebrate, and connect with friends, neighbors, and the land we all love!

Join us at the beautiful von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort meadow for live music, dancing, food trucks, local beer, and fun for all ages—including face painting and crafts for kids. Enjoy slices from Woodbelly Pizza, cool off with Sisters of Anarchy ice cream, and soak in the summer vibes with a backdrop of scenic views and good company.

Whether you're a longtime member or new to Stowe Land Trust, this is a night to celebrate community and the joy of being together outdoors.

RSVP at stowelandtrust.org



Join friends and neighbors for a fun-filled party in the meadow! Let's celebrate our shared love of the land, listen to music, and enjoy local food and community.