



What are conservation districts?

Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDs) are non-regulatory local organizations that work with private landowners, state and federal agencies, and other partner organizations to promote and implement conservation programs. In Franklin County we share an office with the USDA-NRCS.

Each local conservation district across the nation takes available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focuses them so that they meet the needs of the local working landscape.

Conservation districts are directed by a board of five locally-elected, volunteer supervisors. Usually they are current or retired farmers or foresters.

In Vermont, conservation districts are funded by grants, fundraisers, and private donations.

Who We Are

Lauren Weston, District Manager, began at the District in January 2021 and is stepping into the role previously held by Jeannie Bartlett. Lauren’s background is in water resource engineering, vegetable farming, climate justice organizing, and program management.

Brodie Haenke, Conservation Specialist is originally from St. Paul, MN and gained a passion for natural science, field work, and environmental stewardship while studying Geology at the University of Wisconsin.

*Katherine Helmer, ECO*AmeriCorps Conservation Technician*, is originally from Lunenburg, Massachusetts but moved to Burlington, Vermont to study at the University of Vermont.

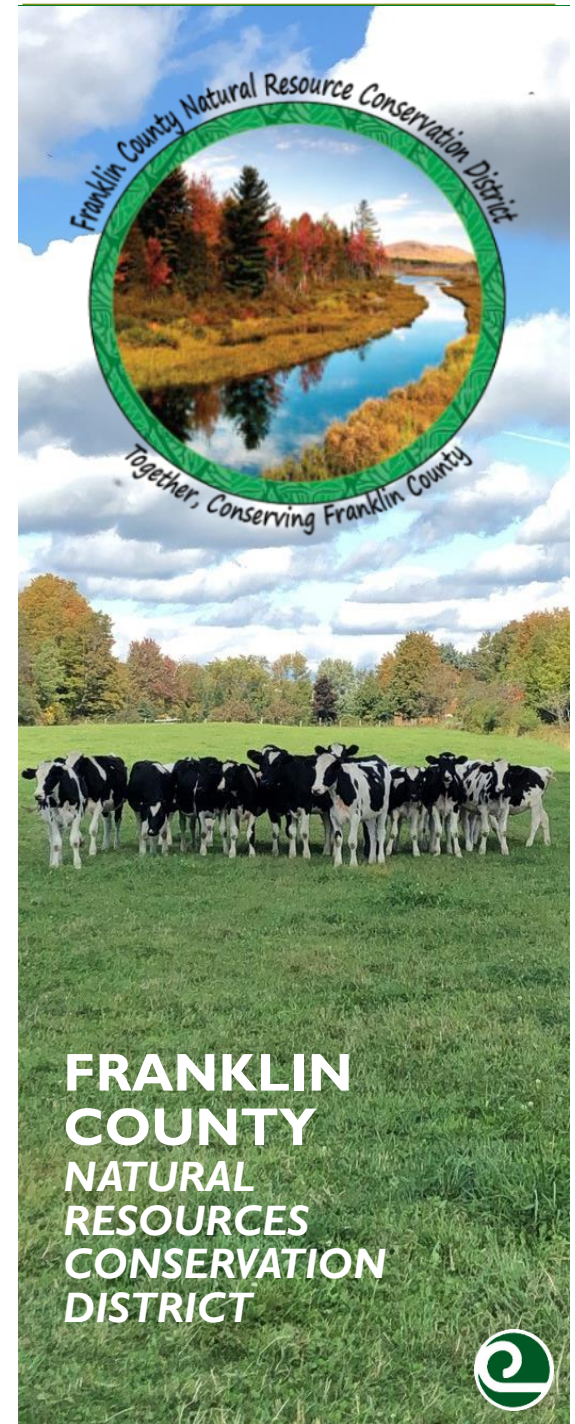
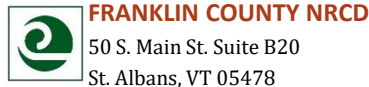
Our supervisors are majority long-time Franklin County farmers. Interested in joining our meetings? We would love your input.

Supervisors

Richard Noel, Chair
Phil Parent, Vice Chair
Eileen Trudell, Secretary
Molly Magnan, Supervisor

Contact Us

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Locally-led conservation

Our mission is to promote land use that supports human livelihoods and sustains ecological function in Franklin County, VT. We empower and convene landowners and land-users to prioritize and address natural resource concerns through USDA and locally-developed programs. We recognize water quality and the continuance of our land-based economy as key concerns for Franklin County today.

Agricultural Nutrient Management Planning Assistance

Soil sampling, class preparation, and personalized assistance throughout UVM Extension’s winter Nutrient Management Planning class for small livestock farms, all available at no cost to farmers. Participants end the class with a certified Nutrient Management Plan. We also provide support to farms in navigating water quality regulations and assistance programs.

Signs of Conservation

We designed roadside Signs of Conservation to increase public understanding of work being done to improve water quality and soil health. These signs are free in Franklin Co., and \$5 outside the county. Contact us for your own!



NRCS Funding Prioritization

Every summer the local district has the opportunity to revise the local ranking questions used to prioritize applications for financial assistance from the USDA-NRCS. What do you think are the most pressing natural resources concerns in Franklin County, and what practices will best address them?

Workshops & Events

The district holds workshops and events on a variety of topics, from wetlands regulations to how to plant a tree. Have a workshop you’d like us to host? Let us know!



Annual spring tree sale

Every spring the district holds a bare root tree sale, providing high-quality trees at great prices to landowners throughout the region. Orders accepted January through March. We also offer trout for pond-stocking and mushroom spawn.

Tree planting & Stream projects

The District offers technical assistance, project management, and access to funding for tree planting projects, stream restorations, dam removals, and other projects to improve water quality, habitat, farm productivity, flood resiliency, and other natural resources. We support tree planting projects along streams, and upland tree plantings on farmland as windbreaks, silvopasture, or other purposes.

