

# Vermont Wetlands Program



Figure 1: A Silver Maple-Sensitive Fern Floodplain Forest wetland in Burlington

## Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory (VSWI) Map Updates in the Winooski Basin

1. The intent of the VSWI map is to provide the general location of many protected wetlands for planning purposes. Any property with mapped wetland has wetland and the map can be used as a planning tool. The exact boundaries of wetlands need to be determined in the field, during the growing season, with a wetland delineation. The map excludes infrastructure from wetland polygons in general. The Wetlands Program does not regulate non-wetland areas, such as roads, as wetland.
2. Some wetland types are more challenging to map and may be underrepresented in the map. The challenging wetland types to map include forested wetlands, riverine or riparian wetlands, and wetlands occurring within agricultural land use.
3. The update for this project used photographic interpretation and on-screen digitizing to identify wetlands. 862 field review points tested the presence of wetland on the map and the classification of the mapped wetlands following the National Wetlands Inventory map standard.
4. This mapping update will not make more wetlands regulated under the Vermont Wetland Rules. Rather, the mapping allows the State and the public to better identify which wetlands are already protected.
5. The map includes a total of 42,525 acres of wetland within the Winooski River Basin, which is a 145% increase in wetland from the previous map. Much of the previous map was created in the 1980s when wetlands were harder to detect in available imagery.

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6. Over 5,000 acres of old wetland map areas were removed in the update. The new aerial images and technology allowed for refinement of wetland boundaries.

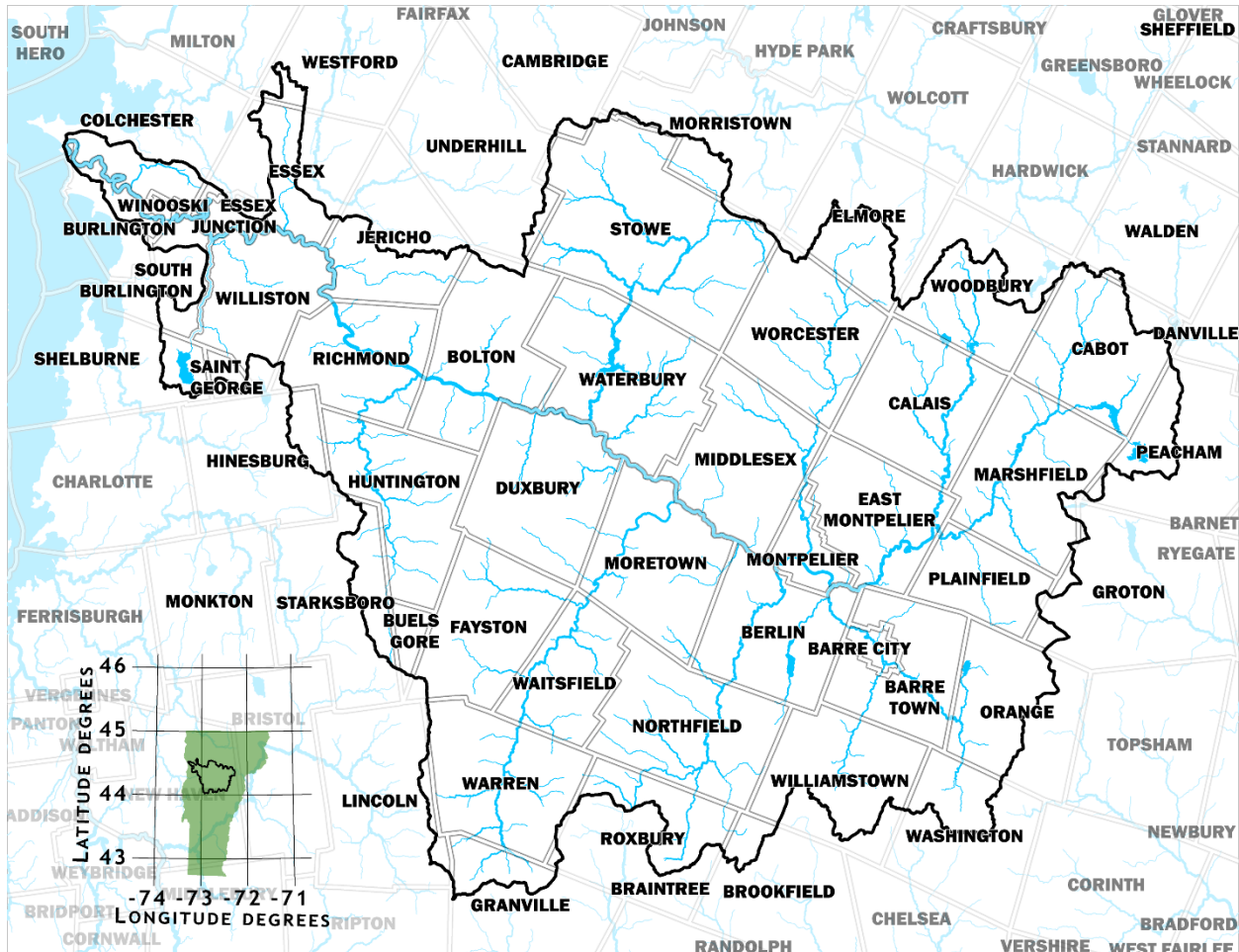


Figure 2: A map of the towns within the Winooski Basin's boundary.

**To receive this information in an alternative format or for other accessibility requests, please contact:**

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