



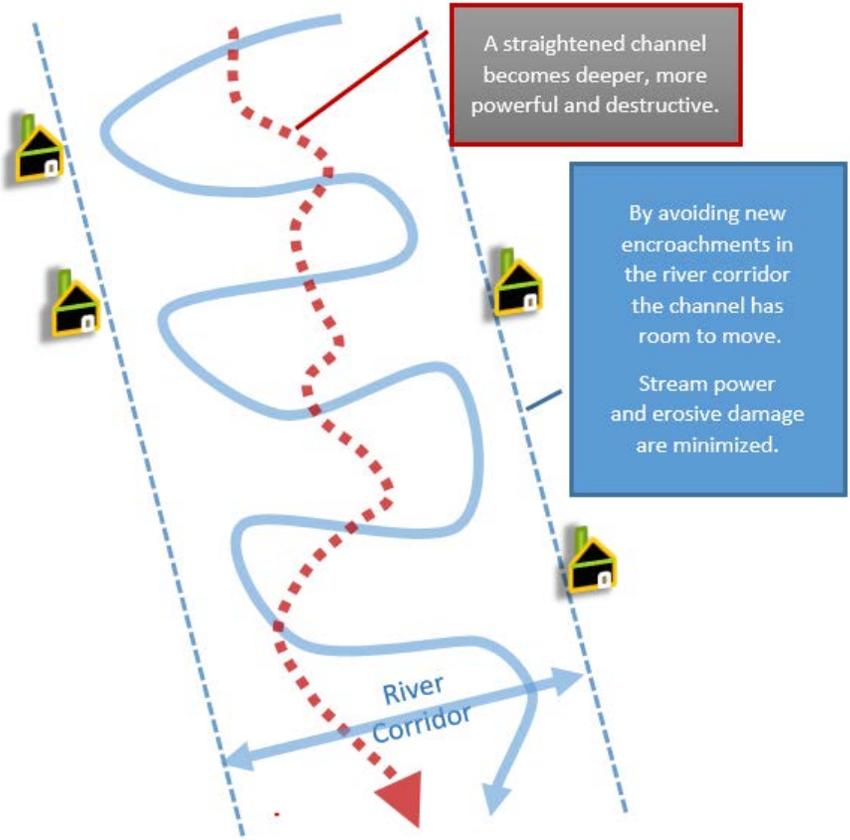
Find this online: [tinyurl.com/whycorridor](http://tinyurl.com/whycorridor)

It is primarily the *power of moving water* that damages roads, culverts, bridges, homes and critical services in Vermont.

To reduce damage from floods we need to **protect the space for rivers** to slow down and reduce the depth of the flow and its costly erosive power.

Historically, many Vermont rivers were straightened and deepened making them very powerful and erosive. If given room, a river will establish and maintain a least-erosive slope. When it is not too deeply cut down the river can spill out and flood (as it should) so the water doesn't all rush downhill at the same time destroying culverts, roads and vulnerable settlements.

*River corridors include the minimum space needed to establish the least-erosive slope of the channel, as well as room for a functional vegetated buffer with a margin of safety for nearby structures.*

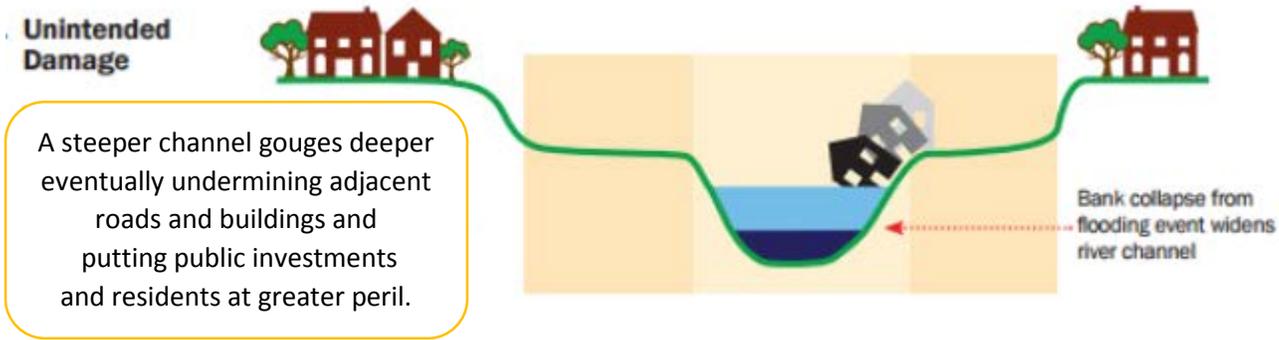


## Why Protect the River Corridor?

1. The costs of damaging erosion may be avoided or controlled. The Town does not want to put people or public funds in harm's way.
2. Protecting river corridors to reduce damage is a goal for communities, regions, and state agencies in Vermont.
3. Communities protecting river corridors and reducing damage are rewarded in [Vermont's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund \(ERAF\)](#). ERAF provides additional funds after disasters to communities that are taking specific steps to reduce disaster losses. Over seventy Vermont communities already protect river corridors and/or floodplains from new encroachments.

4. Model bylaws are available. Contact your [regional floodplain manager](#)
5. River Corridor maps are online at [tinyurl.com/floodreadyatlas](http://tinyurl.com/floodreadyatlas) In the coming year the maps will be updated with available field-based data. This data is already used for project review. The corridors of small streams with watersheds less than two square miles are considered protected with a fifty-foot setback from the top of bank.

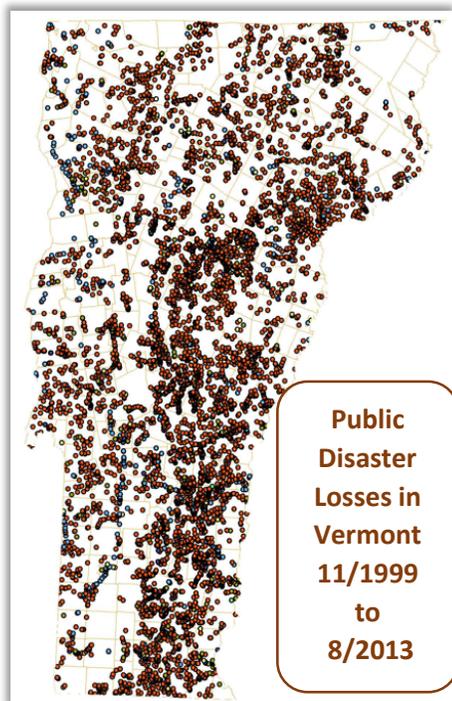
**The River Corridor protects you**



*What if my town allows someone to build in a hazardous place and what if that also causes damage to other people and the town road?*

*What is my community's situation and what have we done already?* Get a [Community Summary Report](#) here.

1. Align with other communities and state permits  
Proposed utilities, state structures and projects reviewed under Act 250 are required to have *no adverse impact* on river corridors and floodplain functions.
2. The state's rules allow for infill and redevelopment of new structures where they are behind or no closer than existing encroachments and there is no additional loss to channel equilibrium. Contact your [regional floodplain manager](#) for more information.



### Steps for Municipalities to Receive Additional Emergency Relief Funds through ERAF

Municipalities normally receive 82.5% with 75% Federal and 7.5% State contributions

| Level   | Town Receives | State Contribution | Requirements   |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| LEVEL 1 | 87.5%         | 12.5%              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – participate in NFIP</li> <li>2. Vermont Road and Bridge Standards – adopt 2013 standards</li> <li>3. Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) – update annually before May 1</li> <li>4. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – adopt or have a draft submitted to FEMA</li> </ol> |
| LEVEL 2 | 92.5%         | 17.5%              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. River Corridor Protection Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt no new development in a River Corridor - OR -</li> <li>Participate in the NFIP Community Rating System and adopt no new development in Special Flood Hazard Areas</li> </ul> </li> </ol>                                       |

Flood Ready Vermont [www.floodready.vt.gov](http://www.floodready.vt.gov)

[Reading Rivers](#), VNRC 2013

[Living in Harmony with Streams: A Citizen's Handbook to How Streams Work](#) Friends of the Winooski

[River Corridor and Floodplain Protection](#)

[Rivers and Roads, Online Training](#)

*Increasing damage from high flows is not natural; it is a consequence of how development has squeezed the space needed by rivers and streams.*