



*The future of majestic roadside tree canopy starts with young roadside tree plantings.*

## About this guide

This guide is the culmination of a collaborative approach to better understand and care for forests, individual trees, and other vegetation along Vermont backroads. Informed by 200 miles of rural roadside assessments and input from over 60 local volunteers and municipally focused professionals, this guide will give you the information you need to choose your community's priorities and plan of action for your backroads. Use this guide to plan for site-specific tree and forest management that increases roadside resilience in the face of frequent disturbances, such as road construction and vegetation clearing, and long-term constraints, such as budget limitations, changing regulations, and increasing forest pests

and disease. Topics are covered in one or two pages that can be easily printed or shared as individual stewardship actions or municipal goals.

This guide is broken into two sections:

### **The Elements of Vermont Backroads**

Certain physical elements along Vermont backroads govern what we see as road users and how we manage road maintenance, safe passage, and our rural landscape. Use this section of the guide to identify pieces of the landscape that require inventory, prescribed forest management techniques, or site-specific problems or opportunities addressed through targeted partnerships and technical assistance.

### **Process Recommendations for Backroads Stewardship**

So much of road maintenance is guided by the overarching processes that a town develops to meet its roadside maintenance goals within its budget. Use this section of the guide to recognize the broad policy and funding initiatives that towns can undertake to build long-term management strategies for rural road vegetation and right-of-way corridors.

---

For more information on the Resilient Right-of-Ways project or any topic in this guide, contact:

Joanne Garton, Technical Assistance Coordinator  
Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801  
[vtcommunityforestry.org/resilientROW](http://vtcommunityforestry.org/resilientROW)

Additionally, visit our website, [vtcommunityforestry.org](http://vtcommunityforestry.org), for resources about urban and community forestry in action.