

Stephanie Long Member Spotlight



Stephanie Long (she/her) is serving with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) in Richmond as their Planning and Assessment Assistant. Originally from Traverse City, Michigan, she moved east to transfer to Smith College to pursue a degree in environmental science and policy with a concentration in conservation ecology. Throughout her studies, Stephanie worked as a lab monitor in the spatial analysis lab as well as in an ecophysiology lab focusing on plant competition experiments. She also completed a research project centered around the decline in Eastern Hemlock population due to the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid with the use of drones! Her service in VLT surrounds the implementation of their new restoration program. This program is focused on the improvement of river corridors and water quality around the state. This means Stephanie often finds herself in the field flagging buffers along rivers and streams that run through conserved properties or coordinating tree plantings in recently retired agricultural land within riparian buffer zones to comply with easement restrictions. This past winter, she spent time creating maps for prospective restoration projects with ArcGIS. Since starting tele-service, Stephanie's service has shifted slightly. She expertly crafted a homemade desk out of cardboard boxes and continues to assist projects through the conservation process. She spends much more time talking with landowners and assisting them with necessary paperwork, as well as assuring them that their projects are still progressing despite such uncertain times. As most organizations are, VLT is also making the shift to offering more virtual and online content to communities, and Stephanie is an essential role in navigating that shift!

"Serving with the Vermont Land Trust through the ECO program has been an amazing experience. I have learned so much about land conservation and stewardship while helping provide capacity for my host site to continue carrying out impactful conservation initiatives. I've gotten the opportunity to improve skills I gained in college and use those skills in a real-world context, and through my time with VLT I feel more ready to jump into a career in conservation after my service term ends."