## Existing Use Tables

During the 2018 Winooski basin planning process, the Agency collected sufficient information to document and determine the presence of existing uses for swimming (contact recreation), fishing and boating on flowing waters. All surface waters used as public drinking water sources were also identified. The Agency presumes that all lakes and ponds in the basin have existing uses of fishing, contact recreation and boating. This simplified assumption is being used because of the well-known and extensive use of these types of waters for these activities based upon their intrinsic qualities and, to avoid the production and presentation of exhaustive lists of all of these waterbodies across the Winooski basin. Likewise, the Agency recognizes that fishing activities in streams and rivers are widespread throughout the state and can be too numerous to document. Also recognized is that streams too small to support significant angling activity provide spawning and nursery areas, which contribute to fish stocks downstream where larger streams and rivers support a higher level of fishing activity. As such, these small tributaries are considered supporting the use of fishing and are protected at a level commensurate with downstream areas. This presumption may be rebutted on a case-by-case basis during the Agency’s consideration of a permit application, which might be deemed to affect these types of uses.

The following tables are not intended to represent an exhaustive list of all existing uses, but merely an identification of well-known existing uses. Additional existing uses of contact recreation, boating and fishing on/in flowing waters may be identified during the Agency’s consideration of a permit application or in the future during subsequent basin planning efforts.

Table 1. Determination of existing uses of flowing waters for boating in Basin 8.

| **Waterbody** | **Town(s)** | **Basis for determining the presence of an existing use** | **Rating of water (class)** [[1]](#footnote-1) | **Public access: Put in** [[2]](#footnote-2) | **Public access: Take out** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Winooski River: Down town Marshfield | Marshfield | Regularly paddled by Vermont Paddlers Club members(VPC)[[3]](#footnote-3) | II/III | Below Mollys Falls Power House, Cabot Road, Marshfield | Old School House Commons, Marshfield |
| Winooski River: Marshfield to Winooski #8 Dam | Marshfield, Plainfield, East Montpelier,  | WWRV[[4]](#footnote-4) and FWR[[5]](#footnote-5) | I-III | Old School House Commons, Marshfield | Dam Road – adjacent to Winooski #8 Dam |
| Nasmith Brook | Marshfield | VPC use  | III – V | Holt Road | Twinfield High school  |
| Great Brook | Plainfield | VPC use | I-II | Maxifield Road | Recreation Field Road off Mill St.  |
| Winooski River – Kingsbury branch  | E. Montpelier | VRC[[6]](#footnote-6) conservation easement for boating access | I | Off Coburn Road, approx. ¾ mile, past the bridge on right.  | Winooski main stem take outs |
| Stevens Branch | Williamstown, Barre Town, Barre & Berlin | FWR & VPC use | I-IV | Brockway Hill Road, Williamstown | Confluence with Winooski, Montpelier |
| Jail Branch | Barre Town | VPC | III-V | Washington Road at base of Reservoir, Barre Town | Ayers Street, Barre City |
| North Branch Winooski River | Elmore, Worcester, Middlesex, Montpelier | Let it rain, VPC, FWR | I-V | Route 12 in Elmore | Confluence with Winooski, Montpelier |
| Hancock Brook | Worcester | VPC and VRC | IV-V | Hampshire Hill Road Worcester | Route 12 Worcester |
| Minister Brook | Worcester | VPC | III-IV | Minister Brook Road, Worcester | Route 12 in Worcester |
| Martins Brook | Middlesex | VPC | III-IV | Macey Road, Middlesex | Shady Rill Park, Middlesex |
| Winooski River: Montpelier to Middlesex Dam | Montpelier, Middlesex | FWR  | I/II | Montpelier High School: Put in is `100 yards below the Bailey Ave. bridge. Path is off the bike path. | Just above Middlesex Dam: The take out is on the left just beyond the Rte. 100B bridge. |
| Dog River | Roxbury, Northfield, Berlin, Montpelier | VPC, WWRV, FWR | I-II | Rabbit Hollow Road, Northfield | Confluence with Winooski River, Montpelier under I-89 bridge |
| Stony Brook | Northfield | VPC | III-IV | Chamberlin Road, Northfield | Confluence with Dog River, Northfield |
| Cox Brook/Devils Washbowl | Moretown, Berlin & Northfield | VPC | III-V | Devils Washbowl Road, Moretown | Confluence with Dog River, Northfield |
| Winooski River: below Middlesex Dam to Waterbury | Middlesex, Waterbury | FWR  | I/II | south side of river at Middlesex Dam Powerhouse off Rte. 100B  | Waterbury Recreation Fields: Take out is on the right, near the mouth of Thatcher Brook.  |
| Mad River- Austin Brook confluence park to confluence with Winooski River  | Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Duxbury, Moretown | WWRV, VPC, FWR | I-V | Picnic area at confluence of Austin Brook and Winooski – Route 100, Warren | Route 2, west of bridge over Winooski River (west of the state highway garage) with parking  |
| Mill Brook | Fayston | VPC | III-IV | German Flats Road, Fayston | Route 17, Fayston |
| Little River | Stowe, Waterbury | WWRV, VPC | I-III | Tansy Hill Road, Stowe | Confluence with Winooski River |
| Sterling Brook | Stowe | VPC | III-IV | Sterling Valley Road, Stowe (Stowe Land Trust) | Cole Hill Road, Stowe |
| Ranch Brook | Stowe | VPC | III-IV | Ranch Valley, Stowe | Route 108, Stowe |
| Notch Brook/West Branch Little River | Stowe | VPC | III-IV | Bingham Falls, Stowe | Route 108, Stowe |
| Gold Brook | Stowe | VPC | III-IV | Covered Bridge Road, Stowe | Route 100, Stowe |
| Winooski River: Bolton to Richmond | Bolton, Richmond | FWR | I/II | Bolton Dam Take Out is located on the left side of the river. Also Bolton Canoe Access on Duxbury Rd (state land) | Volunteer Green Richmond: under the Bridge St. bridge  |
| Ridley Brook | Duxbury | VPC, Let it Rain | IV-V | Upper Monroe Trail parking area, Duxbury | River Road, Duxbury |
| Joiner Brook | Bolton | VPC, Let it Rain | IV-V | Bolton Valley Access Rd | Route 2, Bolton |
| Winooski River: Richmond to Essex | Richmond, Jericho, Essex | FWR | I | Volunteer Green Richmond | GMP Access off IBM access rd. |
| Huntington River – 10 miles from Hanksville to just before Huntington Gorge and below lower Huntington gorge to Winooski | Huntington, Starksboro, Richmond | WWRV | II-IV | North of Carse Road bridge, Huntington | Dugway Road, Richmond |
| Brush Brook | Huntington | VPC, Let it Rain | IV-V | Camel’s Hump State Forest | Camel’s Hump Road, Huntington |
| Winooski River: Essex to Winooski | Essex, Williston, Winooski,  | FWR | I | Below Essex Dam: off 2A below power generating station. Park at Overlook Park, | Winooski Gorge Dam: After passing through Lime Kiln Gorge, the river turns right. Take out is on the left before river narrows into the gorge. |
| Mill Brook | Jericho | VPC, Let it Rain | II-IV | Fitzsimonds Road, Jericho | Route 117, Jericho |
| Winooski River: Winooski to Colchester | Colchester, Burlington, Winooski | FWR | I/II | Millyard Canoe Access in Winooski off Canal St. | VFWD Colchester Point access area off Windermere Road. .  |

Table 2. Determination of existing uses of flowing waters for fishing in Basin 8.

| **Surface Water** | **Location of Use** | **Town** | **Documentation**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Winooski River | Mainstem Winooski in Marshfield downstream to the Bolton Dam in Duxbury.  | Marshfield to Duxbury | Stocked by VFWD |
| Winooski River | Duxbury and Waterbury, from the top of the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury upstream to the Route 2 Bridge (east side of Waterbury Village | Duxbury/Waterbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Winooski River | Ridley Brook mouth upstream to the top of the Bolton Dam in Duxbury and Waterbury. | Bolton/Duxbury/Waterbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Winooski River | From Preston Brook mouth upstream (approximately 4.4 miles) to the Ridley Brook mouth | Bolton/Duxbury/Waterbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Winooski River | From the Winooski One Hydro Dam west of Main Street (US 7) in Winooski and Burlington upstream to Preston Brook, Bolton | Bolton/Duxbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Winooski River | From the Winooski One Hydro Dam west of Main Street (US 7) in Winooski and Burlington and extending downstream to the downstream side of the first railroad bridge. | Winooski, Burlington | Special fishing regulations |
| Winooski River | Lake Champlain upstream to the first railroad bridge (approximately 9 mile) in Winooski and Burlington. | Winooski, Colchester, Burlington | Special fishing regulations  |
| Jail Branch | Upstream and downstream of East Barre Dam. | Washington, East Barre | VFWD document good wild trout populations present. Access at VDEC dam in E. Barre, off Washington St. |
| North Branch | WorcesterRt 12 brdg north of Russ Pond Bk to Rt 12 brdg north of Hancock Bk | Worcester | Stocked by VFWD |
| North Branch | Below Rt. 12 bridge south of Washington/Lamoille county line to access across from Moose Hollow road | Middlesex | Stocked by VFWD |
| Dog River | Downstream edge of the Junction Road Bridge in Berlin/Montpelier upstream to the top of Northfield Falls Dam in Northfield. | All applicable towns | Special fishing regulations |
| Chase Brook | From its confluence with the Dog River upstream approximately 1/2 mile to the top of the natural falls in Berlin - – closed to fishing second Saturday in April – May 31st | Berlin | Special fishing regulations |
| Mad River | Below Warren Village | Applicable towns | Stocking by VFWD |
| Little River | From the confluence with Winooski River upstream to the top of the Waterbury Dam | Waterbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Ridley Brook | Winooski River upstream approx. 1700 ft to first falls | Duxbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Ridley Brook | First falls to headwaters | Duxbury | Special fishing regulations |
| Ridley Brook | End of Camels Hump Road to River Road | Duxbury | Stocking by VFWD |
| Pinneo Brook | Winooski River upstream approx. 100 ft to railroad crossing | Bolton | Special fishing regulations |
| Pinneo Brook | Railroad crossing to headwaters | Bolton | Special fishing regulations |
| Joiner Brook | Winooski River upstream approx. 1900 feet to first falls | Bolton | Special fishing regulations |
| Joiner Brook | First falls to headwater | Bolton | Special fishing regulations |
| Preston Brook | Winooski River upstream approx. 2600 feet to first falls | Bolton | Special fishing regulations |
| Huntington River | Entire river | Huntington, Richmond | Stocking by VFWD |

Table 3. Determination of existing uses of flowing waters for swimming in Basin 8.

| **Waterbody** | **Town** | **Aesthetic values and use by public confirmed** | **Public Access**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mad River – Big Eddy Covered Bridge | Waitsfield | 2023 Waitsfield Town Plan Section 7.I; [1995 Lake Champlain Basin Program study](https://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/7.The-Best-River-Ever-%E2%80%93-A-conservation-plan-to-protect-and-restore-Vermonts-beautiful-Mad-River-Watershed.pdf)  | Municipally-owned Lovett Park serves as a public river/swimming access point, and public parking spots along adjacent municipally-owned Bridge Street. |
| Winooski River Main Stem – Hidden Dam | East Montpelier | Deep pools above barely submerged remains of dam | VTrans owned land, Rt. 2 provides parking area. Also trail from high school and CrossVermont trail goes by |
| Nasmith Brook – Paradise swimming hole | Plainfield | VSH[[7]](#footnote-7)  | Pull off on Nasmith Brook Road. Access from road and bridge ROW  |
| North Branch at Nature Center | Montpelier | Sandy beach at walking bridge with deep pool | City land. Parking at city park and nature center.  |
| Martins Brook - Shady Rill Park | Middlesex | Swimming hole, bedrock controlled grade to create deep swimming holes | Town land with parking. Opposite of Wrightsville parking lots,  |
| Hancock Brook – Upper Pots | Worcester | VSH  | VRC conservation easement. Parking .4 miles from the beginning of Hancock Brook Road |
| Dog River – Jacuzzi swimming hole | West Berlin | VRC | Owned by Town of Berlin. Parking at Fire Department before bridge over Route 12. Trail to swimming hole with wooden steps. Mowed lawn and picnic table above river. |
| Mad River-River side park | Warren | Friends of Mad River[[8]](#footnote-8) | Public land. Parking lot opposite the Sugarbush Access Road, |
| Mad River-Picnic Area Cascades |  | VSH, Friends of Mad River | Public land and parking |
| Stetson Brook Cascades (Stetson Brook) |  | VSH, Friends of Mad River | Public land and parking |
| Mad River-Warren Falls | Warren | VSH, Friends of Mad River | Federal Land. Parking along the right side of Route 100 in front of Forest Service access gate.   |
| Mad River-Lareau’s Swimming Hole | Waitsfield | VSH, Friends of Mad River | Public land. Parking lot and sand beach off Route 100 |
| Mad River-Moretown Gorge | Moretown | VSH  | Parking lot north of 100B bridge over the Mad River. Take trail to sandy beach below gorge |
| West Branch - Bingham Falls | Stowe | VSH  | State land. Access from a dirt pull off  the Mountain Road or through the Stowe Land Trust owned Mill Trail  |
| Moss Glen Brook - Moss Glen Falls | Stowe | VSH  |  State Land with parking lot |
| Gold Brook under bridge before Gold Brook Circle | Stowe | VSH | Road and Bridge ROW. Parking pull offs on road  |
| Ridley Brook | Duxbury | VLT easement includes swimming | Duxbury Land Trust property. Parking on Camels Hump Road opposite Marshall Road |
| Huntington River -Horsebend swimming hole | Huntington | VSH | Audubon Center land. Parking at trail.  |
| Huntington River -Audubon River Trail Swimming (Audubon Hemlock) | Huntington | VSH | Audubon Center land. Parking at center, accessible by trail.  |
| Huntington River - Lower Audubon Swimming hole (River loop trail swimming hole) | Huntington | VSH | Audubon Center Land. Parking at center, accessible by trail.  |
| Lower Huntington River Gorge (Huntington Gorge Cascade Chain) | Richmond | Richmond Land Trust (RLT) website and VSH study | 16 acres of shoreland owned by Richmond Land Trust. Pull offs on Dugway Road |

Table 4. Determinations of existing uses of waters for public surface water supplies in Basin 8

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Surface Water** | **Town** | **Water Supply** | **Use Status** |
| Thatcher Brook and tributaries | Waterbury | Village of Waterbury | Active |
| Unnamed tributary to the West Branch | Stowe | Village of Stowe | Emergency use only |
| Thurman Dix, Lower Reservoir and tributaries | Barre & Orange | City of Barre | Active |
| Standard & consolidated quarries | Barre | Websterville | Active |
| Berlin Pond | Berlin, Northfield, Williamstown | City of Montpelier | Active |

1. Class rating pertains to the difficulty of whitewater passage. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The list of put in and take out points for boats allow for the use of the entire Winooski river between dams for flat water boating. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Pers. Communication, Vermont Paddler’s Club Secretary, Ryan McCall, 5/18/11 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Jenkins J. and Zika P 1992. *The Whitewater Rivers of Vermont: The Biology, Geography and Recreational Use.* Agency of Natural Resources, Waterbury, VT., [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Friends of the Winooski River, *A Paddling and Natural History Guide to One of Vermont’s Great Rivers* www.winooskiriver.org [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Vermont River Conservancy [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Jerry Jenkins, *Vermont Swimming Hole Study* Agency of Natural Resources, Waterbury, VT [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Pers. correspondence with Caitrin Noel, Director, Friends of the Mad River 6/30/11 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)