

Existing Uses in the Lamoille Watershed – Basin 7

Date Published: January 10, 2022, reflecting the Basin 7 Tactical Plan adopted January 10, 2022, and all preceding Basin 7 plans.

The ANR may identify existing uses of waters during the tactical basin planning process or on a case-by-case basis during application reviews for State or federal permits. Consistent with the federal Clean Water Act, the VWQS stipulate that existing uses may be documented in any surface water location where that use has occurred since November 28, 1975. Pursuant to the definition of Class B(1) in Act 79, the ANR may identify an existing use as Class B(1) when that use is demonstrably and consistently attained.

The ANR stipulates that all lakes and ponds in the basin have existing uses of swimming, boating, and fishing. The ANR recognizes that fishing activities in streams and rivers are widespread and too numerous to thoroughly document for Basin 7. In the case of streams too small to support significant fishing activity, the ANR recognizes these as potential spawning and nursery areas, which contribute fish stocks downstream where fishing may occur. These small streams support the use of fishing and therefore, are protected at a level commensurate with downstream areas.

Existing uses in Basin 7 should be viewed as a partial accounting of known existing uses based upon limited information. The list does not change protection under the Clean Water Act or VWQS for unlisted waters. The existing uses in Basin 7 of swimming, boating, fishing, and public water source are listed in the tables below based on uses. The public is encouraged to recommend waters for existing uses of swimming, boating, fishing, public water source, and ecological significance given that they provide evidence of such use. For existing uses of waters, the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses shall be maintained and protected regardless of the water’s classification (DEC, 2017). **Contact your basin planner to recommend waters for existing uses.**

List of Tables

Table 1. Swimming (Contact Recreation).....	2
Table 2. Recreational Boating	3
Table 3. Recreational Fishing	6
Table 4. Water Source	8

Swimming

There are a number of popular swimming holes both on the Lamoille River mainstem and on its tributaries. The locations described below are also generally some of the most scenic and aesthetically pleasing spots on the river. All sites listed on Table F1 are rated significant for swimming (DEC, 1992). Sites listed here are accessed through publicly owned lands such as streamcrossing right-of-ways. Many locations that are privately owned with private access are not included in Table 1. Landowner permission should be sought before using these privately owned resources.

Table 1. Swimming (Contact Recreation) as an existing Use of Specific Waters within the Lamoille River Watershed.

Swimming Site Name	Town	Location
Lamoille River, Dogs Head Falls- lower pool	Johnson	Patch Road
Picnic Ledges	Wolcott	Route 15 east of village
Lamoille River, Wolcott Village	Wolcott	Route 15 in village
Terrill Gorge-Kenfield Brook	Morristown	Duhamel Road – VT Fish and Wildlife parking lot
Elmore Branch	Wolcott	East Elmore Road
Sheep’s Hole- Foot Brook	Johnson	Foot Brook Road
The Ledges- Foot Brook	Johnson	Cherry Hill Road
Power House Bridge Falls-Gihon River	Johnson	School Street
Rogers Bridge-Seymour River	Cambridge	Lower Valley Road
Brewster River Gorge Swimming Hole	Jeffersonville	Route 108 turn on road south and west of Grist Mill
Codding Hollow Covered Bridge- North Branch	Waterville	Codding Hollow Road
Calavale Brook Cascades	Eden	Route 118

Recreational Boating

A number of locations are good whitewater boating stretches in the basin; some highly rated by the Vermont Paddlers Association. The Lamoille main stem is used extensively for flat water canoeing and kayaking by the several local outfitter businesses as well as the general public. All sites listed on Table 2 are rated significant for boating (DEC, 1989) or were otherwise brought to VDEC’s attention. Many canoe access areas and dam portages have been established on the main stem. Anyone boating these reaches should carefully scout routes before launching. This basin plan makes no representations as to the suitability or safety of the listed reaches with respect to the individual skills of the reader of this plan or those of prospective boaters.

Table 2. Recreational Boating as an Existing Use of Specific Waters within the Lamoille Watershed.

Location	Documentation	Rating	Characteristics that support that use	Put in	Take out
Lamoille River- Greensboro Bend to Hardwick (7-8 miles)	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Important	Class I-II can be run in wet summers and fall	Upstream of Greensboro Bend with portage in East Hardwick	Upstream of Hardwick Village
Lamoille River- Wolcott Ledges (1.4 miles)	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Highly Important	Class III can be run in wet summers and fall	Behind the Pottersville Dam powerhouse	Downstream of Wolcott Village
Lamoille River (34 miles) Morristown to Fairfax	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Important	Class II, whitewater and general touring	Duhamel Road, Morristown below Cady Falls	Upstream of Fairfax Falls (many portages)
Lamoille River (4.6 miles) Fairfax to Georgia	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Highly Important	Class II-III, one of the few big water rapids in state	Road southwest of Fairfax Village	Route 104A Georgia
North Branch (9 miles)	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Highly Important	Class II-IV, excellent to outstanding scenery and pristine	Bog Road Bridge, Belvidere	Church Street covered bridge, Waterville
Gihon River (1.5 miles)	<i>Vermont’s White Water Rivers</i>	Highly Important	Serious Class IV-V used by expert paddlers	Whitcomb Island Road, Johnson	Pearl Street, Johnson

Location	Documentation	Rating	Characteristics that support that use	Put in	Take out
Wild Branch (7 miles)	<i>Vermont's White Water Rivers</i>	Important	Fast, twisty, Class II	North Wolcott Road upstream of Wolcott-Craftsbury line at town bridge right-of-way	Route 15 at state bridge
Waterman Brook	<i>Let it Rain</i>	Important	Class IV-V used by expert paddlers	Waterman Road covered bridge, Johnson	River Road East, Town bridge Johnson
Kenfield Brook	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Class IV - outstanding scenery and rapids	Mud City Loop at Town Bridge, Morristown	Duhamel Road, Morristown
Lamoille River – Milton Falls	Vermont Paddlers Club	Highly Important	Class V, outstanding rapids, used by expert paddlers, is runnable at several river levels	Ritchie Avenue, Milton	Milton Falls Park, Milton
Calavale Brook	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Class IV-V outstanding scenery and rapids	Upper end of Newton Valley Road, Eden	Route 118 at State bridge, Belvidere
Basin Brook	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Class IV-V used by expert paddlers	Upper end of Basin Road, Belvidere	Route 109, Belvidere
Foote Brook	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Class IV-V used by expert paddlers	Cemetery Road at Town bridge, Johnson	Route 15 at State bridge, Johnson

Location	Documentation	Rating	Characteristics that support that use	Put in	Take out
Green River	American Whitewater Association	Highly Important	Class IV-V, outstanding scenery, and rapids, used by expert paddlers, only river in State with potential to support recreational dam releases on a steep creek	Garfield Road below Town Culvert, Hyde Park	Route 15 at State Bridge, Wolcott
Browns River - Westford to Lamoille Mainstem	Vermont Paddlers Club	Highly Important	Class II-III section for beginner and intermediate boaters	Route 128 in Westford Village	Lamoille River at any takeout
Browns River Gorge	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Class III-IV section	Old Pump Road in Jericho Village	Old Mill Park in Jericho
Ithiel Falls - Lamoille River	Vermont Paddlers Club	Important	Hydraulic feature used for playboating; one of only two known to exist on the river; only one useable at anything but high water	Hogback Road Access in Johnson	Willow Crossing Access in Johnson

Recreational Fishing

Table 3 shows those areas in the Lamoille River Basin with recreational fishing as an existing use. The public can access detailed information about fishing access sites that includes images, boat size, water body size, ramp type, fish species, recommended season and more at:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/FishingAccessAreas.aspx?accessarea=5>.

Table 3. Recreational Fishing as an Existing Use of Specific Waters within the Lamoille Watershed.

Site Name/Waterbody		Location	Documentation
Fisher Bridge Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Route 15, Wolcott	VFWD access
Wolcott Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Route 15, Wolcott	VFWD access
Rotary Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Route 15, Morrisville	VFWD access
Town Ball Field		Off Route 15, Wolcott	VFWD access
Elmore Pond Road Bridge	Lamoille River	Elmore Pond Road, Wolcott	VFWD access
Cady Falls Bridge	Kenfield Brook and Lamoille River	Cady Falls Road, Hyde Park	VFWD access
Hog Back Road	Lamoille River	Hog Back Road, Johnson	VFWD access
Horse Pond Fishing Access	Horse Pond	Route 16, Greensboro	VFWD access
Flagg Pond Fishing Access	Flagg Pond	Flagg Pond Road, Wheelock	VFWD access
Wolcott Pond Fishing Access	Wolcott Pond	Wolcott Pond Road, Wolcott	VFWD access
East Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA)	Carter Brook	Off of Route 15, Wolcott	VFWD WMA
Hardwick Lake Fishing Access	Hardwick Lake	Route 14	VFWD access
Wild Branch WMA	Wild Branch	Off of East Hill Road, Eden	VFWD WMA
Lake Eden Fishing Access	Lake Eden	Route 100, Eden	VFWD access
Green River Reservoir State Park	Green River Reservoir and Zack Woods Pond	Hyde Park and Eden	VFPR State Park

Site Name/Waterbody		Location	Documentation
Vaughn M. Douglass Access and Elmore State Park	Lake Elmore	Off of Route 12, Elmore	VFWD access, VFPR State Park
Mount Mansfield State Forest, Johnson Town Forest	French Hill Brook	Reservoir Road, Johnson	VFPR State Forest, Town Forest
Dorothy Smith Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Off of Route 108 and Route 109, Cambridge	VFWD access
Babcock Nature Preserve	Ritterbush Pond	Off of Route 100, Eden	Johnson State College
Eden Forest	Wild Brook, Stony Brook	Off of Route 100, Eden	VFWD Forest Legacy Program
Sears Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Off of Route 2, Milton	VFWD Access
Lamoille River Fishing Access	Lamoille River	Off of Route 2, Milton	VFWD Access
Sand Bar Refuge Fishing Access and WMA	Lake Champlain	Off of Route 2, Milton	VFWD Access and WMA
VFWD owned riparian lands along Lamoille River in Sheffield, Hardwick, Wolcott, Morristown, Hyde Park, and Johnson and along Porter Brook (direct Lamoille River drainage) in Greensboro and Hardwick, Alder Brook in Hardwick, Greensboro Brook in Greensboro and Hardwick, Porter Brook in Hardwick, and Kenfield Brook in Morristown	Lamoille River, Porter Brook, Alder Brook, Greensboro Brook, Porter Brook, Kenfield Brook	ANR Natural Resources Atlas under Fish & Wildlife > Managed Lands > Riparian Lands	VFWD access

Public Water Source

Table 4 lists water sources as an existing use within the Lamoille River watershed.

Table 4. Water Source as an Existing Use within the Lamoille River Watershed.

Water Body	Location	Documentation
Silver Lake	Georgia and Fairfax	Silver Lake is the drinking water supply for St. Albans
Unnamed Tributary to the Brewster River	Cambridge	This impoundment is a drinking water supply for Smugglers Notch Resort
Caspian Lake	Greensboro	This lake is an emergency drinking water supply for the Town of Greensboro
Arrowhead Mountain Lake	Georgia and Milton	This lake is used by Georgia Dairy Industrial Park and is a non-community privately owned water system
French Hill Brook	Johnson	This stream had been the drinking water supply for the Town of Johnson until the Town developed an aquifer