

Identification of Existing Uses

Consistent with the federal Clean Water Act and the Vermont Water Quality Standards the Agency 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. An existing use is any designated use that has actually occurred on or after November 28, 1975, in or on waters, whether or not the use is included in the standard for classification of the waters, and whether or not the use is presently occurring. Once identified, the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected regardless of the water’s classification. The public is encouraged to recommend waters for existing uses for swimming, boating, fishing, drinking water, and ecological significance given that they provide evidence of such use.

The Agency stipulates to these broader existing uses:

- all lakes and ponds in the basin have existing uses of swimming, boating and fishing,
- fishing in streams and rivers is widespread and too numerous to document individually,
- small streams provide spawning and nursery areas, which contribute to fish stocks downstream.

Existing uses identified for the Basin in the following tables should be viewed as only a partial accounting of known existing uses based upon limited information. The list does not change protection under the Clean Water Act or Vermont Water Quality Standards for waters not listed.

Swimming

Much of the swimming in the basin takes places on the many lakes and ponds which have a presumed existing use of contact recreation.

Waterbody	Site	Location of Use	Lat.	Long.	Town	Ownership
<i>Deerfield River Watershed</i>						
Green River	Crib Dam	Timber Crib Dam below covered bridge	42.77547	-72.66765	Guilford	private
Green River	Green River Meadows	Conserved land	42.76564	-72.66232	Guilford	private
East Branch North River	Halifax Gorge		42.7463	-72.7436	Halifax	private

Connecticut River Watershed						
Whetstone Brook	Living Memorial Park/ Farmer's Market	Below LMP tennis BB court and behind Farmer's Market site	42.84885	-72.58683	Brattleboro	Town of Brattleboro
Broad Brook	Fort Dummer State Park	Small parking area and trail used to access a swimming hole on Broad Brook	42.813618	-72.563209	Guilford	DFPR

Recreational Boating

It is the Agency's long-standing stipulation that all lakes and ponds in the basin have existing uses of boating and so only boating locations on rivers are listed below. Several locations are good whitewater or flatwater boating stretches in the basin; some highly rated by the Vermont Paddlers Association, listed in the AMC or Vermont White Water Rivers.

Waterbody	Reach	Public Access / Put In	Lat.	Long.	Take Out	Lat.	Long.
Deerfield River Watershed							
Deerfield River	Searsburg Dam to Harriman Reservoir Class III, 4.5 miles	Below Searsburg Dam	42.90132	-72.95037	Woods Rd., Wilmington	42.865095	-72.903134
Deerfield River	Somerset Rd. bridge to Searsburg Reservoir, Class II, 5.0 miles	Somerset Rd. bridge & Castle Brook Rd.	42.950574	-72.98661	Searsburg Reservoir	42.902203	-72.950286
East Branch Deerfield River	Somerset Reservoir to Searsburg Reservoir Class I-II, 6 miles	Below Somerset Dam	42.972011	-72.949259	Searsburg Reservoir	42.902203	-72.950286
West Branch Deerfield River	Heartwellville to Readsboro Village Class V, 3.0 miles to confluence/ 5.4 miles to Tunnel St.	Howe Pond Rd. end, Readsboro	42.802883	-72.974512	Tunnel St., Readsboro	42.745236	-72.926469
North Branch Deerfield River	West Dover to Harriman Reservoir, Class I-II, 7.0 miles	Rte. 100 ROW	42.922603	-72.843376	Rte. 100	42.868486	-72.904125
Green River	Stage Rd. to West Leyden, MA , Class II - III, 6.8 miles	Green River crib dam, Stage Rd.	42.775614	-72.667072	W. Leyden Rd., West Leyden, MA	42.698389	-72.665122
North River	Halifax Gorge: Route 112 to Route 112 Class IV(V) 3 mi	Rte. 112, 3/4 mi. north of Stowe Mountain Rd.	42.7463	-72.7436	Jacksonville Rd., Colrain, MA	42.719467	-72.708068

Connecticut River Watershed							
Connecticut River	Old Ferry Rd. to Vernon Dam Class I -II, 8 mi.	Old Ferry Road	42.89323	-72.53608	Vernon Dam Portage	42.78935	-72.52602
Connecticut River	Vernon Dam to Turners Falls Class I -II, 21.5 mi.	Gov. Hunt Recreation Area	42.770916	-72.515304	Pauchaug Brook Access, MA F&W	42.715516	-72.452586

Public Water Supply Sources

Several surface waters in the Basin serve as public drinking water supplies and are managed and protected for this use.

Waterbody	Location	Use
Deerfield River Watershed		
Haystack Pond	Haystack Pond and all waters within its watershed in the Town of Wilmington	Village of Wilmington water supply
Howe Pond and Howe Pond Brook	Howe Pond and all waters within its watershed. Howe Pond Brook and all waters within its watershed above the water intake, which is located approx. 1.1 miles downstream from Howe Pond. Both pond and brook are located in the Town of Readsboro.	Village of Readsboro water supply
Connecticut River Watershed		
Pleasant Valley Reservoir	Pleasant Valley Reservoir and all waters in its watershed in the Town of Brattleboro, including Langlie, Kelly, and Stickney Brooks.	Village of Brattleboro water supply