

Summary of changes in the 2024 listing cycle

Introduction

Every two years the state of Vermont updates their priority list of lakes and rivers which are impaired due to pollutants or altered due to flow modification or invasive species. The list is categorized into Parts A, B, and D (impairments), E and F (alterations)¹.

Part A

Part A identifies impaired surface waters that are scheduled for total maximum daily load (TMDL) development. Part A of the List is prepared in accordance with current EPA guidance and federal regulations 40CFR 130.7 (“Total maximum daily loads (TMDL) and individual water quality-based effluent limitations”). A TMDL is required for these waters to establish the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into the water after the application of required pollution controls and to ensure the VTWQS are attained and maintained. In addition to identifying the waterbody, Part A identifies the pollutant(s) causing the impairment, the priority ranking for TMDL development, which water use(s) are impaired, and a brief description of the specific water quality problem if known.

Part B

All waters listed in Part B are assessed as impaired and do not require development of a TMDL as described in 40 CFR 130.7. Impaired waters that do not need a TMDL are those where other pollution control requirements (such as best management practices) required by local, state, or federal authority are expected to address all water-pollutant combinations and the Water Quality Standards are expected to be attained in a reasonable period. DEC will provide information to show that (1) there are legal requirements in place (e.g., regulations or permits implementing regulations) that apply to the source(s) causing the water quality impairment and (2) that such legally required pollution control practices are specifically applicable to the impairment in question and are sufficient to cause the water to meet water quality standards within a reasonable time. Additional discussion of the Part B requirements is given in the EPA Integrated Report guidance document (USEPA 2005).

Part D

All waters identified on Part D are assessed as impaired and have completed and approved TMDLs. If future assessments show the impairment has been eliminated, the waters will be removed from the Part D List. A comprehensive list of completed TMDLs is maintained on the Watershed Management Division’s website.

Part E

Waters appearing in Part E are assessed as “altered.” They represent situations to be given priority for management where aquatic habitat and/or other designated uses have been altered to the extent that one or more designated uses are not supported due to the presence of aquatic invasive species. Waters will be removed from the Part E List when the population of the aquatic invasive species declines or is eliminated, and the water is assessed as in “full support” of the designated uses.

Part F

Waters appearing in this part of the Vermont Priority Waters List are assessed as “altered.” They represent priority management situations where aquatic habitat and/or other designated uses have been altered by flow regulation to the extent that one or more designated uses are not supported. Alterations arise from flow fluctuation, obstructions, or other manipulations of water levels that originate from hydroelectric facilities, dam operations, or water withdrawals for industrial or municipal water supply or snowmaking purposes. Waters will be removed from the Part F List as corrective actions are implemented.

This document will summarize changes made to the 2022 priority list of waters² whereby creating the 2024 list. Changes to each part of the list will be broken down for Impairments and Alterations by:

1. Newly listed waters
2. De-listed waters
3. Changes to known pollutants and sources

¹ https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/mapp/docs/WSMD_AssessmentAndListingMethodology.pdf

² <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/assessment>

UPDATES TO THE 2024 PRIORITY LIST OF WATERS

△ Rivers ○ Lakes

Part A Part D Part B Part F

New (■ = newly listed waterbody)
 Delisting (■ = waterbody no longer impaired or altered)
 New pollutant (■ = pollutant added to currently impaired waterbody)

Map ID	Assessment unit name	Part	New	Delisting	New pollutant
1	Lily Pond (Vernon)	D		■	
2	Howe Pond (Readsboro)	D			■
3	Stamford Pond (Stamford)	D			■
4	South Stream, mouth upstream to Coleville Road	F	■		
5	Searsburg Reservoir (Searsburg)	A	■		
6	Stickney Brook, confluence with Langie Brook upstream 1.1 miles	F	■		
7	Haystack Pond (Wilmington)	D			■
8	Cold Brook	F		■	
9	Little Pond (Woodford)	D			■
10	Grout Pond (Stratton)	D			■
11	Branch Pond (Sunderland)	D			■
12	Forester Pond (Jamaica)	D			■
13	Bourn Pond (Sunderland)	D			■
14	North Branch Ball Mountain Brook	B		■	
15	Commissary Brook Trib, Mouth to rm 0.2	A		■	
16	Big Mud Pond (Mt. Tabor)	D			■
17	Lake Morey (Fairlee)	A	■		
18	Holmes Creek, mouth upstream 2.7 mile	A	■		
19	Mud Hollow Brook, mouth upstream 3 miles	A	■		
20	Munroe Brook & North Trib	A	■		
21	Bartlett Brook	A	■		
22	Morehouse Brook	A	■		
23	Big Spruce Brook from its confluence with Little Spruce Brook downstream to its mouth	A	■		
24	Big Spruce Brook river mile 0.8 downstream to its confluence with Little Spruce Brook	A	■		
25	Bean Brook, from the Bald Hill Fish Culture Station water withdrawal downstream 1 mile	F	■		
26	Kelsey Brook, from the Bald Hill Fish Culture Station water withdrawal downstream to mouth	F	■		
27	Norton Pond (Norton)	F		■	
28	Little Averill Pond (Averill)	F		■	
29	Coaticook River Below Norton Pond Dam	F		■	
30	Averill Creek Downstream from Dam on Little Averill Lake	F		■	
31	Great Averill Pond (Norton)	F		■	
32	Averill Creek Downstream from Dam on Great Averill Lake	F		■	

Figure 1 Updates to the 2024 listing cycle.

Impairments (Parts A, B, and D)

Newly listed waters, (Map ID), part (A, B, or D), Assessment Unit ID, longitude and latitude

1. Lake Morey **(17), A, VT16-20L01_01, (-72.153, 43.923)**
 - a. Phosphorus concentrations consistently elevated above criteria (18 µg/l) due to internal loading from sediment impairs the use of waters for the enjoyment of aesthetic conditions.
2. Searsburg Reservoir (Searsburg) **(5), A, VT12-04L05, (-72.951, 42.904)**
 - a. The reservoir is extremely sensitive to acidification due to gran alkalinities below criteria (2.5 mg/l CaCO₃) because of acid deposition and impairs Aquatic habitat to support aquatic biota, wildlife, or plant life.
3. Big Spruce Brook from its confluence with Little Spruce Brook downstream to its confluence with West Branch Little River **(23), A, VT08-12.12, (-72.777, 44.526)**
 - a. Extensive iron seeps resulting in extensive iron bacteria mats and chloride, sediment, and erosion from Little Spruce Brook impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
4. Big Spruce Brook from river mile 0.8 (100m below Spruce Peak road) downstream to its confluence with Little Spruce Brook **(24), A, VT08-12.05, (-72.775, 44.531)**
 - a. Extensive iron seeps resulting in extensive iron bacteria mats impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
5. Mud Hollow Brook, mouth upstream 3 miles **(19), A, VT05-11.05, (-73.198, 44.342)**
 - a. Elevated phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations due to runoff from agricultural lands impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
6. Holmes Creek, mouth upstream 2.7 miles **(18), A, VT05-12.03, (-73.272, 44.326)**
 - a. Phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations and sedimentation due to riparian encroachment and runoff from agricultural lands impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
7. Munroe Brook, Mouth to rm 2.8 (Including North Trib.) **(20), A, VT05-11.01, (-73.213, 44.406)**
 - a. Chloride concentration is above chronic criteria based on continuous monitoring and impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
8. Bartlett Brook, Mouth to rm 0.7 **(21), A, VT05-11.02, (-73.211, 44.426)**
 - a. Chloride concentration is above chronic criteria based on continuous monitoring and impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
9. Morehouse Brook, Mouth to rm 0.6 **(22), A, VT08-02.06, (-73.197, 44.5)**
 - a. Chloride concentration is above chronic criteria based on continuous monitoring and impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.

De-listed waters, (Map ID), part (A, B, or D), Assessment Unit ID, longitude and latitude

1. Commissary Brook Trib, Mouth to rm 0.2 **(15), A, VT13-10.01, (-72.443, 43.213)**
 - a. Retired, we determined the flow of water in the tributary is intermittent.
2. No. Branch, Ball Mtn Brook, Stratton Lake to Kidder Brook **(14), B, VT11-15.06, (-72.876, 43.112)**
 - a. Restoration activities at Stratton Mountain Resort have reduced manganese in discharges which have significantly reduced staining of stream substrate.
3. Lily Pond (Vernon) **(1), D, VT13-16L01, (-72.509, 42.737)**
 - a. Gran alkalinity has consistently been above criteria (2.5 mg/l CaCO₃).

Additions of new pollutants, (Map ID), part (A, B, or D), Assessment Unit ID, longitude and latitude

1. Bourn Pond (Sunderland) **(13), D, VT01-05L01, (-73.002, 43.106)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed aluminum always exceeds Acute criteria.
2. Branch Pond (Sunderland) **(11), D, VT01-05L01, (-73.002, 43.106)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al always exceeds Acute criteria.
3. Big Mud Pond (Mt. Tabor) **(16), D, VT03-18L03, (-72.931, 43.315)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al always exceeds Acute criteria.

4. Forester Pond (Jamaica) **(12), D, VT11-15L01, (-72.867, 43.082)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al always exceeds Acute criteria.
5. Howe Pond (Readsboro) **(2), D, VT12-02L02, (-72.984, 42.784)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al consistently exceeds Acute criteria.
6. Stamford Pond (Stamford) **(3), D, VT12-02L03, (-73.065, 42.822)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al consistently exceeds Acute criteria.
7. Grout Pond (Stratton) **(10), D, VT12-03L01, (-72.943, 43.043)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al consistently exceeds Acute criteria.
8. Little Pond (Woodford) **(9), D, VT12-04L04, (-73.065, 42.925)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al consistently exceeds Acute criteria.
9. Haystack Pond (Wilmington) **(7), D, VT12-05L01, (-72.917, 42.918)** – aluminum
 - a. Observed Al always exceeds Acute criteria.

Alterations (Part E and F)

Newly listed waters, (Map ID), part (E or F), Assessment Unit ID, longitude and latitude

1. Stickney Brook, confluence with Langlie Brook upstream 1.1 miles **(6), F, VT11-08.02, (-72.639, 42.909)**
 - a. Artificial flow condition, seasonally devoid of flow below diversion dam; dredging, impairs Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
2. Kelsey Brook, from the Bald Hill Fish Culture Station water withdrawal downstream to mouth **(26), F, VT15-08.04, (-71.949, 44.72)**
 - a. Insufficient conservation flow downstream of Bald Hill fish hatchery withdrawal Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
3. Bean Brook, from the Bald Hill Fish Culture Station water withdrawal downstream 1 mile **(25), F, VT15-08.03, (-71.949, 44.716)**
 - a. Insufficient conservation flow downstream of Bald Hill fish hatchery withdrawal Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.
4. South Stream, mouth upstream to Coleville Road **(4), F, VT01-03.10, (-73.176, 42.862)**
 - a. Insufficient conservation flow downstream of Bennington fish hatchery withdrawal Aquatic biota and wildlife that may utilize or are present in the waters.

De-listed waters, (Map ID), part (E or F), Assessment Unit ID, longitude and latitude

1. Cold Brook (0.58 Miles) **(8), F, VT12-05.07, (-72.885, 42.922)**
 - a. Passing conservation flow equal to FMF
2. Coaticook River Below Norton Pond Dam (3 Miles) **(29), F, VT17-03.01, (-71.832, 44.962)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.
3. Averill Creek Downstream from Dam on Great Averill Lake (5.4 Miles) **(32), F, VT17-03.02, (-71.743, 45.001)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.
4. Averill Creek Downstream from Dam on Little Averill Lake (1 Mile) **(30), F, VT17-03.03, (-71.699, 44.965)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.
5. Little Averill Pond (Averill) **(28), F, VT17-03L01, (-71.718, 44.955)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.
6. Great Averill Pond (Norton) **(31), F, VT17-03L02, (-71.703, 44.984)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.
7. Norton Pond (Norton) **(27), F, VT17-03L04, (-71.865, 44.935)**
 - a. Settlement Agreement Accepted by PUC, Coaticook and all other Parties.