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**NOTICE OF DECISION TO INITIATE RULEMAKING TO RECLASSIFY
ALDER BROOK, BLUE BANK BROOK, AND GOSHEN BROOK**

March 22, 2022

Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253, the Agency of Natural Resources received petitions to reclassify the following streams: Alder Brook and Blue Bank Brook in Ripton and Lincoln, Vermont; and Goshen Brook in Goshen, Hancock, and Ripton, Vermont. The petitions request the streams be reclassified from B(2) to A(1) for Aquatic Biota, Aquatic Habitat, and Aesthetics Designated Uses in the Vermont Water Quality Standards. The petitions are posted online at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/stream-reclassification>.

Two public meetings were held to receive oral statements on the petitions – the first on March 30, 2021 online via Microsoft Teams and the second on October 7, 2021 in Ripton, Vermont and online via Microsoft Teams – along with associated public comments periods. The first public comment period closed April 8, 2021. The second public comment period closed October 18, 2021, and a response to comments was developed. All comments received in their original form and the response to comments are posted online at <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/stream-reclassification>.

After reviewing physical, biological, and chemical data for the three streams, land use/land cover data for their watersheds, and public comments received, the Agency of Natural Resources Secretary has decided to initiate rulemaking pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Chapter 25 to reclassify Alder Brook, Blue Bank Brook, and Goshen Brook from B(2) to A(1) for the Designated Uses of Aquatic Biota and Wildlife, Aquatic Habitat, and Aesthetics. Rulemaking to reclassify these streams is accomplished through the Vermont Water Quality Standards. The Agency anticipates filing the proposed Vermont Water Quality Standards Rule this spring.