



May 22, 2024

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Comments and Recommendations from River Park West Lebanon, Friends of River Park, and Lyme Properties RE: Great River Hydro, LLC Application Ready for Environmental Analysis for the Wilder Dam Project No. 1892-030

Dear Acting-Secretary Reese:

The following comments and recommendations are on behalf of River Park West Lebanon ("River Park"), Friends of River Park ("Friends"), and Lyme Properties ("Lyme") in response to the Amended Final License Application for the Wilder Dam Project No. 1892-030.

River Park is a 38-acre mixed-use development located approximately 0.4 miles downstream of the Wilder Hydroelectric Dam in West Lebanon, NH. The River Park project site includes approximately ½-a-mile of Connecticut River frontage, which has been incorporated into a publicly accessible 6-acre waterfront park protected by deeded conservation restrictions in 2018 to achieve the community goals of "Mixed-Use, Smart Growth, and Public Access to the Connecticut River" as reflected in the *Neighborhood Planning Process* conducted by the project's developer Lyme Properties ("Lyme") in 2007-2009.

XYZ Dairy, LLC ("XYZ") is the legal owner of record of the River Park project. Lyme serves as the Development Agent for River Park.

In 2020, ownership of the 6-acre waterfront parcel (Lebanon ID: 44-3) was transferred to Friends of River Park, a New Hampshire not-for-profit organization that is responsible for the future of public access to the trails and waterfront at River Park.

River Park, Friends, and Lyme work together to ensure improvements are made at the River Park site and have taken an active role in participating in long-standing efforts to achieve broader recreational connectivity and equitable access goals along the portion of the Connecticut River in West Lebanon affected by the Wilder Dam structure, up-stream impoundment, and down-stream water flow fluctuations.

Friends maintains 2 miles of on-site trails and the 6-acre waterfront parcel, and facilitates community events encouraging access to, and enjoyment of, the River. For example, in 2023 Friends partnered with the Lebanon Opera House to host a "Hootenanny" alongside the Connecticut River below the dam, a professionally produced and well-attended example of how the riverside can be better utilized for community events accessible to all.



River Park is directly affected by the operations of the Wilder Hydroelectric Dam, with notable erosion of the property having occurred from the operations of the Dam. Numerous other stakeholders have opined during the study period(s) and this comment period on the issues of erosion, ecological impacts, fisheries, water quality, etc. We agree with and support those concerns and considerations, but focus our efforts on the transformative recreational opportunities that could be achieved during this relicensing.

FERC is required under NEPA and ECPA to give “equal consideration” development and non-development values:

“[T]he Commission, in addition to the power and development purposes for which licenses are issued, shall give equal consideration to the purposes of energy conservation, the protection, mitigation of damage to, and enhancement of, fish and wildlife (including related spawning grounds and habitat), the protection of recreational opportunities, and the preservation of other aspects of environmental quality.” 16 U.S.C. §797.

As submitted, the Application by Great River Hydro, LLC does not include sufficient recreational improvements. There is minimal improvement upon existing facilities, and this relicensing is a generational opportunity for improvements that the region cannot afford to miss. The creation of a mitigation fund akin to other relicensing efforts on the Connecticut River– to be funded by an appropriate percentage of revenue generated by the Dam operations commensurate to other Hydroelectric projects on the Connecticut– has been recommended by numerous interveners.

River Park is a keystone parcel for broader recreational connectivity along the River, and we are uniquely positioned to work collaboratively with Great River Hydro and other stakeholders to achieve a collaborative vision for recreational improvements. River Park and the West Lebanon Greenway can be part of **a shovel-ready part of the solution** for Great River Hydro to achieve impactful recreational improvements, and respectfully submit the following for consideration.

In 2021, Friends successfully applied to the National Park Service’s **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program** (“RTCA”) and has been working with a broad coalition of local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders toward the broader vision of the “West Lebanon Greenway” to:

- Connect the Mascoma River Greenway to Boston Lot Recreation Area via a trail that runs through downtown West Lebanon, River Park, and to the Wilder Dam.
- Provide bike and pedestrian infrastructure running in parallel to Route 10, which is also part of the *Connecticut River Scenic Byway*.
- Draw pedestrian activity into downtown West Lebanon along Main Street, which otherwise won’t meet Lebanon’s *Complete Streets* policy for bike/ped infrastructure.



- A critical gap in the [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 1,100 mile Inter-state Trail Network](#)
- Connect existing and proposed trail networks, and work towards future linkages with White River Junction, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, and Hanover.

The RTCA program recently completed a preliminary series of Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage for the expanding Greenway efforts, with involvement by the Lebanon Planning Department, Lebanon Recreation, Arts, and Parks, and Lebanon Historical Society. These signs will eventually take the place of the temporary signs facilitated by a 2022 grant from the Rails to Trails Conservancy, which were erected during a community Green-Up Day in West Lebanon's Bridge Street Park and at River Park in the autumn of 2022.

The letter submitted by City of Lebanon City Manager Shaun Mulholland on April 4, 2024 providing comments and recommendations from the City of Lebanon did not provide a complete overview of the recreational opportunities that have been considered by the broader coalition of actors in West Lebanon. That letter makes cursory mention of the West Lebanon Greenway efforts underway, but entirely omitted the opportunities presented by River Park as a source of public access, trail connectivity, equitable access (public transit, parking, ABA accessible trails).

We continue to believe that River Park can play an important private sector role in the broader goals of West Lebanon revitalization, and are optimistic that Great River Hydro will see a similar opportunity to be a proactive and impactful corporate citizen in West Lebanon.

Building upon the many ideas already submitted, we offer the following suggestions and opportunities. We have also attached to these comments an overview of our efforts underway.

1. Contribute toward public access at River Park

We offer the fully-approved and engineered solutions at River Park as a means of providing public access, trails, and car-top boat launch to the River. The topography at River Park is perhaps more forgiving for public canoe/kayak access than the current portage trail at the Wilder Dam. This access will be served by River Park Drive, accessed via N.H. Route 10. In 2023, the Lebanon City Council voted unanimously to conditionally accept River Park Drive as a public way upon completion.

This access will be served by a 4-line Advance Transit hub, relocating the existing bus transfer station from downtown West Lebanon to River Park where there is ample room for bus stacking and park-and-ride opportunities. Advance Transit offers fare-free bus service in the Upper Valley, and this hub will connect the major population centers and employers in the region (Hanover, White River Junction, Lebanon, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center) to River Park. This was memorialized in the August 17, 2021 Memo of Understanding between Advance Transit and River Park.



This would provide equitable access to the river to underserved communities– addressing the socioeconomic disparity of river and recreation access in the Upper Valley– by providing more readily available access to the Connecticut River downstream of the Wilder Dam.

2. Provide trail easement(s) over Great River Hydro, LLC parcels to facilitate trail connectivity

The portage area requires improvement, as others have documented. But there is an additional opportunity to expand that pedestrian access point and achieve greater trail connectivity.

We propose that Great River Hydro grant a Trail Easement to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (“UVTA”) to connect the Portage Area (and parking/trail access across Route 10) to existing and proposed trails to the South. Lyme and River Park have already set this effort in motion on the abutting parcel directly to the South of the GRH property.

From 2012 to 2024, XYZ Dairy, LLC owned 215-217 North Main Street (Lebanon Parcel 21-1), the direct abutting property of the Great River Hydro LLC property (Lebanon Parcel 21-4) that includes the New Hampshire side of the Wilder Dam. That parcel includes the trail and portage around the Dam, and fronts on Route 10 opposite the parking area and access point to Boston Lot Recreation Area currently provided by Great River Hydro.

XYZ recorded an easement running North-South across parcel 21-1 terminating at the boundary of parcel 21-4. This easement was granted to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance for the purpose of establishing one piece of the larger puzzle of connectivity, and providing a case study of how a public trail can respectfully cross existing residential lots utilizing the topography to naturally screen existing/future homes from the trail.

This UVTA easement could be carried from the boundary of 21-1/21-4 and extended northerly to meet the existing trail at the Portage, allowing the well-utilized Boston Lot trails to connect to existing and proposed trails to the South.

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance is a trusted third-party partner, and capable of holding these easements and facilitating the eventual execution of the trail. By way of full disclosure, Chet Clem of Lyme Properties currently serves as a Board Member of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, with a specific focus on envisioning mutually beneficial trail solutions such as this. The UVTA is an implementation and management partner for Great River Hydro

Of note, there are two privately owned parcels to the South of 21-1 between the existing trails on the Friends of River Park Parcel 44-3. The Easement extension over those parcels can be addressed in the future should this easement be granted by GRH.

3. Participate in the broader West Lebanon Greenway connectivity and expansion efforts

There are dozens of studies conducted in recent decades that highlight the opportunity for greater trail connectivity in West Lebanon, continuing the success of the Northern Rail Trail and Mascoma



River Greenway and expanding that well-used corridor northward through downtown West Lebanon, Westboro Railyard, and River Park to the Wilder Dam and Boston Lot Recreation Area.

A growing coalition of supporting organizations continue to call for expanded and improved trails. Each piece of the larger puzzle for Greenway connectivity has its own challenges, which will be addressed over time.

The relicensing of Wilder Dam provides the opportunity for Great River Hydro to participate in this broader vision, both as a participating property owner (see Item 2) and a source of long-term and sustainable funding for the expansion and maintenance of this corridor.

Members of the Coalition also provide subject matter expertise and execution experience, which can alleviate Great River Hydro of the day-to-day responsibility for these public facilities. The Connecticut River Conservancy, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, and National Park Service RTCA are just three of the organizations looking to help achieve these goals should land-control be secured and funding sources identified.

This is not to suggest that GRH be solely responsible for these efforts, but rather that the Wilder Dam properties be opened to this access and the proposed Mitigation Fund be one source of funding.

4. Work with River Park and other regional stakeholders to investigate opportunities for local utilization of hydropower generated by the Wilder Dam

This is a complex issue worthy of greater analysis and consideration, and impacts the operating scheme of the Wilder Dam and its role in the broader New England ISO.

The energy produced by the Dam is presently transmitted in overhead lines into the larger grid, and serves as a critical source of power for peaking events and cold-starting the New England grid in cases of brownout/blackout.

However, the very nature of electrical transmission includes a loss factor that grows exponentially with time and distance. "The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that annual electricity transmission and distribution (T&D) losses averaged about 5% of the electricity transmitted and distributed in the United States in 2018 through 2022."

<https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=105&t=3>

Utilizing the power generated by the Wilder Dam more locally could reduce this loss factor. River Park is one large user that could benefit from local renewable energy. The City of Lebanon, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and Dartmouth College all have well-documented goals for increasing renewable energy usage. The establishment of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire— of which Lebanon was a founding member— is a critical step towards achieving more local control over power generation.



Lyme Properties has a long track record as a green developer seeking creative energy solutions to achieve sustainability goals. For example, utilizing excess steam from an adjacent power plant in Cambridge, Mass. to handle HVAC requirements for 500 Kendall Street, the first privately financed LEED Platinum building in America. <https://lymeproperties.com/genzyme>

5. Re-envision the role of the Wilder Dam in the sustainability, economic resiliency, and competitive advantage of the Upper Valley

An Upper Valley that is served by alternative transportation (trails, public transit), renewably powered by the river, and that better balances stakeholder costs and benefits is a stronger region for the future. The adage "do not lose sight of the forest for the trees" can be adapted in this case to "do not lose sight of the economy for the erosion."

This is not to say that the ecological impacts of the man-made impoundments and dam operations are not important. But too often what is lost in addressing thousands of small impacts is the opportunity to better-balance the overall costs and benefits to the region.

It would be a mistake to lose sight of the larger role that this Dam can play in the Upper Valley. Renewable power is critical to the future of the region and nation, and serves an increasingly important role in the electrification of our infrastructure, transportation, and built environment.

The Wilder Dam is a good dam, it plays a critical role in power generation and flood control. As is always the case, there are costs and benefits. The relicensing process seeks to balance the environmental and ecological impacts upstream and downstream, often getting into specific and obscure impacts that are scientifically important but invisible and unappreciated by the average citizen in the Upper Valley.

The Connecticut River is a stunning resource, appreciated by many as it runs from the headwaters on the Canadian border to the Atlantic Ocean. But it is not a natural-flowing river, nor is there any reasonable expectation that it will be returned to such in the future. The human impact and man-made impoundments have been a part of the river for hundreds of years. Let us not lose sight of the opportunity for tangible improvements that can benefit the majority of inhabitants in the Connecticut River valley.

FERC should seek to maximize the efficiency and production of the Wilder Dam alongside the mitigation efforts and recreational improvements. Creative solutions in this vein can be found across the country, including the Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers in Maine where we have personal experience in transformative outcomes achieved during the FERC relicensing process.

We support the relicensing of the Wilder Dam, and hope that significant improvements can be achieved during this process that will create positive impacts throughout the next 30-50 years of operations.



Sincerely,

David Clem
Manager
XYZ Dairy, LLC

Angela McCanna
Board Member
Friends of River Park

Chet Clem
President
Lyme Properties

About River Park West Lebanon:

River Park is a master-planned mixed-use campus alongside the Connecticut River in West Lebanon, NH. Envisioned with unprecedented community involvement and support from 2007-2009, the project achieved 74% support from West Lebanon voters in 2010, and was approved by the City in 2011 and the State of New Hampshire in 2015. With over 1 million square feet of approved development, River Park is positioned to bring new jobs and housing to the area and serve as an economic catalyst and source of additional tax revenue for the revitalization of West Lebanon.

www.riverparkwestlebanon.com

About Friends of River Park:

Friends of River Park is a New Hampshire not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2015 to support the public access and recreation goals of River Park West Lebanon. In 2015, Friends facilitated a Landscape Design Competition to envision the future of the property, and its larger role in the economic, environmental, and recreational revitalization of West Lebanon. In 2020, Friends took ownership of the 6-acre waterfront parcel at River Park along the Connecticut River, and serves as stewards of that parcel. In addition, Friends works closely with other non-profit organizations on broader recreational efforts in the area.

www.friendsofriverpark.org

About Lyme Properties:

Lyme Properties is a West Lebanon, NH-based Real Estate Development company that focuses on the master planning, permitting, and execution of transformative real estate projects, grounded in a philosophy of community-conscious development. At the forefront of the revitalization of Cambridge's Kendall Square into the epicenter of life science research, Lyme has developed over 4 million sq. ft. of research laboratories, including the first-ever privately financed LEED Platinum laboratory building at 500 Kendall Street. Lyme received the 2006 EPA's Phoenix Award for the best brownfield redevelopment in the United States.

www.lymeproperties.com

WHAT'S UP IN WEST LEB, NH?



River Park West Lebanon

- "Mixed-Use, Smart Growth, Public Access to the Connecticut River"
- 1M sq. ft. of LifeSci Research, Manufacturing, Retail, and Housing.
- A Walkable, Green Campus with 6-acre waterfront park, and 2-miles of trails.
- New tax base to fund Greenway.
- Pursuing powering entire campus from local renewable energy.

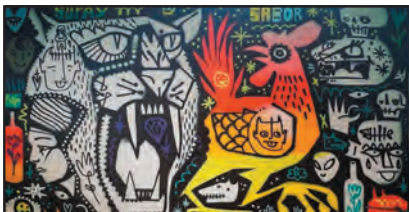
Special Thanks To:



Wilder Hydroelectric Dam

- Undergoing FERC relicensing, provides opportunity for environmental, economic, and recreational revitalization.
- New "run of river" operating scheme will reduce erosion + provide continuous power generation.
- Great River Hydro working with Rep. Kuster as part of 21st Century Dams Act.
- Opportunity for local, renewable power and public recreation improvements?

Priority Of:



Art Activation of Public Space

- Utilizing art from local and visiting muralists to help draw attention to opportunities for public space.
- Temporary interpretive signage being erected along West Leb Greenway route to show future plans, and highlight history of the area.



Advance Transit Station

- Robust, fare-free public transportation provider in Upper Valley region.
- Signed MOU to re-locate 4-line multi-modal station at River Park, creating rural Transit Oriented Development.
- Park + Ride opportunity for Dartmouth College and DH Hospital.



Westboro Rail Yard Re-Use

- City + State struck a deal last week to enable a plan 20 years in the making!
- Enable public park and trails in mostly defunct riverfront rail yard.
- Co-exist with remaining industries, and continue spur-line service to local companies and White River Junction, VT.



West Lebanon Greenway

- A coalition of NPOs and businesses working together, vision of trails as economic development engines
- Alternative transportation and public recreation opportunity, in parallel with CT River Scenic Byway
- 3-mile extension of Northern Rail Trail running all the way to Concord
- Providing equitable access to the outdoors in revitalizing downtown.

Follow: [@westlebnh](https://twitter.com/westlebnh)





River Park West Lebanon

A Trail + Transit Oriented Development
www.riverparkwestlebanon.com



- Developed with proactive community engagement using Lyme's *Neighborhood Planning Process*; 75% of West Leb voters voted yes on referendum to rezone for denser uses.
- 1 Million S.F. fully-approved mixed-use development, 7 minutes from Dartmouth College.
- Life Science Research + Manufacturing, Retail, + Housing within a walkable, green campus.
- Incorporating an *Advance Transit* multi-modal transportation center, prioritizing the region's fare-free public transportation system.



A Green Vision For West Leb

A Waterfront Campus, A Riverside Trail, A Green Future.
www.riverparkwestlebanon.com/vision



- How private investment, community development, public recreation, and downtown revitalization fit together to reinvent a former railroad town.
- Using Smart Growth as a catalyst for improvements to the public realm.
- Aligning local efforts with once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for federal funding.

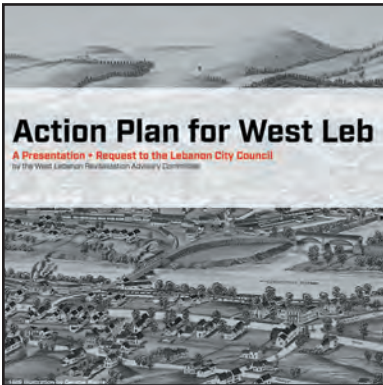


West Lebanon Greenway

Connecting the Community to the River
www.westleb.org/greenway



- Assembling a coalition of local, regional, state, and federal organizations and local businesses to achieve long-standing public recreation and transportation priorities.
- Extending the Northern Rail Trail through historic downtown and new developments, and reconnecting to the confluence of the Connecticut, White, and Mascoma Rivers.
- Providing pedestrian and bicycle transportation infrastructure, ensuring equitable public access to outdoor recreation, and encouraging trail-oriented economic development.



Action Plan For West Leb

A 10-Part Plan to Revitalize Downtown
www.riverparkwestlebanon.com/vision



- A presentation from the *West Lebanon Revitalization Advisory Committee* (WLRAC), the *Action Plan For West Leb* incorporates decades of previous studies to establish an actionable plan to make immediate, visual improvements in West Leb, and prioritize investment in the execution of long-standing plans.



Lyme Properties

"It's Easy Being Green"

www.lymeproperties.com • chet@lymeproperties.com • 603-676-7106



- Lyme Properties is a family-owned West Leb, NH-based real estate development company that sometimes thinks like a creative agency.
- At the forefront of transforming Kendall Square in East Cambridge, MA into the epicenter of Life Science Research, we're building a suburban model for future-facing smart growth.
- Our work is informed by urban planning, architecture + design, sociology + storytelling, environmentalism + economics, history + humor, and people who make fancy spreadsheets.



DRAFT

Hydro-powering the Future of West Leb?

How the Relicensing of the Wilder Hydroelectric Dam Can Facilitate a Renewably-Powered Future, Facilitate Public Recreation & Transportation Improvements, and Spark Economic Growth and Downtown Revitalization

Lyme Properties • January 27, 2022

Create 3-miles of Publicly Accessible Riverside Recreation

Spark the Revitalization of Downtown West Lebanon

Power 1+ Million Sq. Ft. of Green, Mixed-Use Development

Facilitate Public Transportation & Transit Oriented Development

Source Local, Renewable Energy for Lebanon Community Power

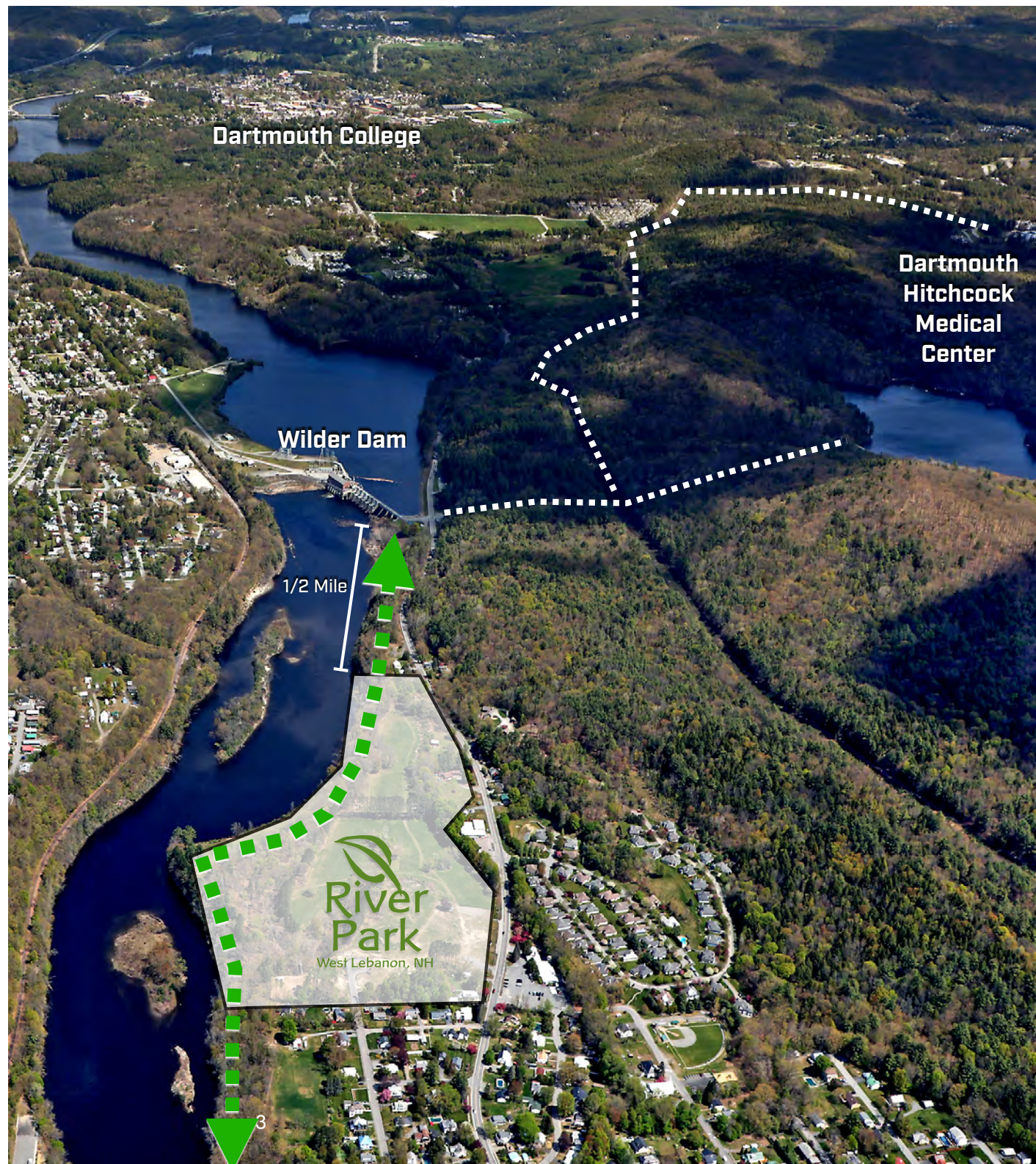
Precedent-setting Model for Environmentally Conscious Growth



In Context

Lyme's Background + Involvement

- Lyme Properties built the first privately financed Platinum-LEED building in the U.S., the **Genzyme Center** in Kendall Square.
 - Using steam from neighboring cogeneration plant for HVAC.
- Lyme's **Kendall Square** development won the *EPA Phoenix Award* for Brownfield Remediation.
- Thesis on FERC Relicensing as an opportunity for **ecological, recreational, and economic improvements** for the river and adjacent towns.
- In 2004, interned on the **Penobscot River Restoration Project**, a coalition approach that was transformative.
 - *Small World*: Utility was represented by Scott Hall, now the **CEO of Great River Hydro**.
- Lyme has been at forefront of **West Lebanon Revitalization** and **West Lebanon Greenway** efforts, and assembled the **Action Plan For West Leb** out of Committee efforts in 2021.
- We're building a growing coalition to achieve long-standing **recreational goals, economic development, and community improvements** in West Leb.





1 Million
Sq. Ft.

75% of
Vote

2 Miles
of Trails

6-Acre
Park

More
Housing



#1 REGIONAL EMPLOYER



WILDER DAM



VT POWER PURCHASE DEAL SIGNED IN 2021

EXISTING TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITY



POP: 13,623



POP: 8,508

**COMMUNITY POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT
(IN PROGRESS)**



Dartmouth

#2 REGIONAL EMPLOYER

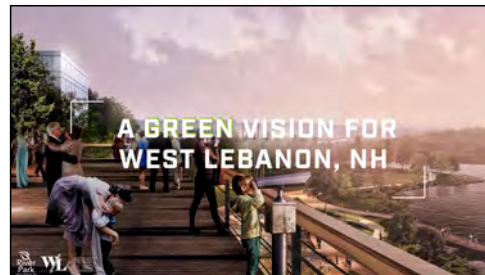
Additional Info:

www.riverparkwestlebanon.com/vision

www.westleb.org/actionplan

www.westleb.org/greenway

chet@lymeproperties.com



Connecting the Dots

Relevant News



Penobscot River Restoration Project Achieves Significant Environmental & Economic Benefits Through Collaborative Approach To Dam Removal & Retrofitting

1999 - 2016



Environmentalists and Dam Operators, at War for Years, Start Making Peace

October 13, 2020



GMP Announces Agreement with Great River Hydro to Purchase Clean, Cost-Effective, Local and Reliable Power

March 4, 2021



Climate Change, River Conservation, Hydropower and Public Safety: An Infrastructure Proposal for the Biden Administration and Congress

April 23, 2021



Kuster, Young, Feinstein Introduce Bipartisan Legislation To Address Climate Change, Restore Rivers, Improve Public Safety, and Modernize Hydropower

July 9, 2021



Wilder FERC Process

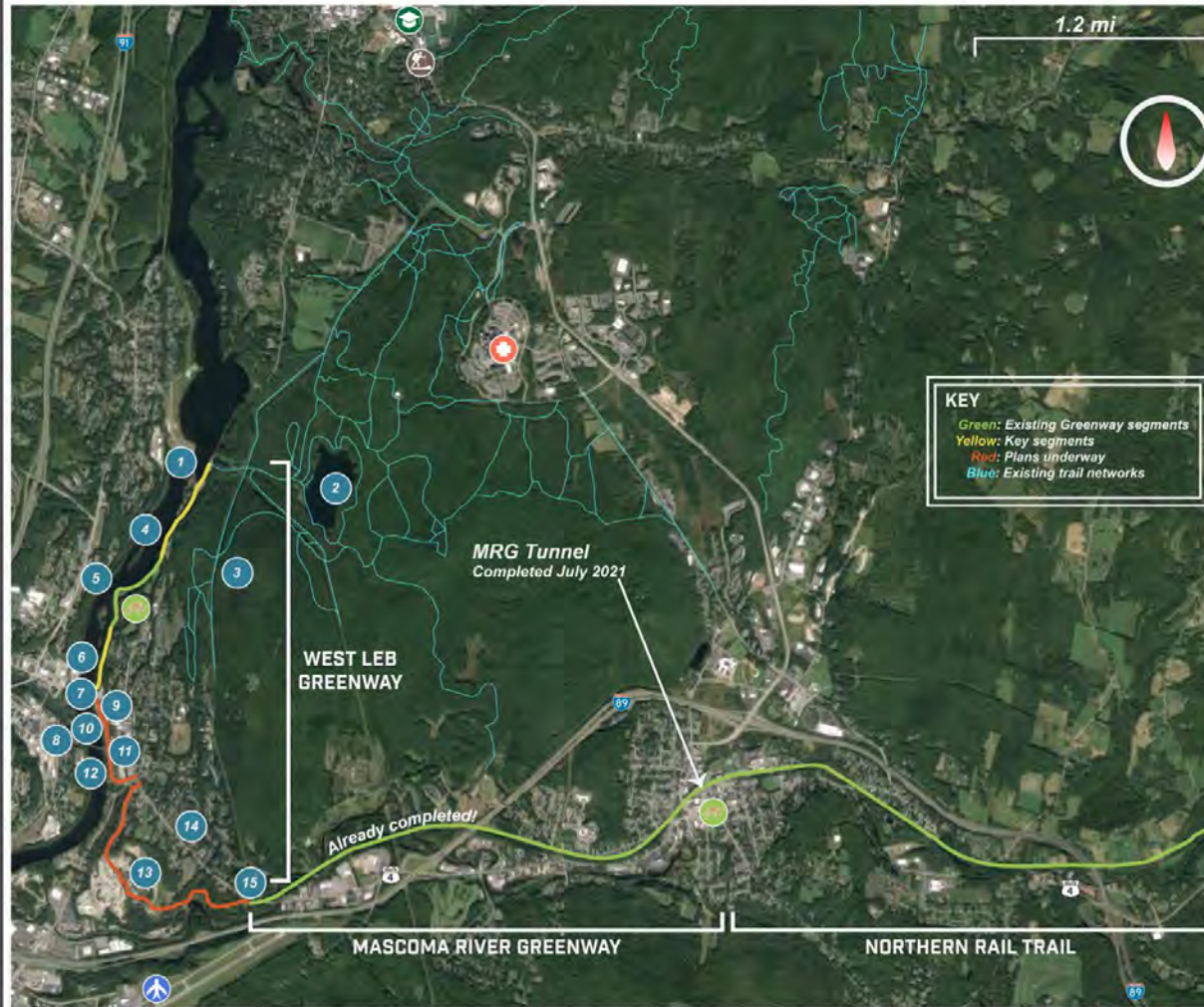
- We have been following since we started this project in 2007, knowing the relicensing timing and opportunities presented by the process.
- The comment period on the final FERC relicensing has been pushed back, but is expected to proceed in early 2022.
- To date, have not seen any Recreational Improvements proposed for the Wilder Dam, apart from continuation of what is already in place.
- Believe the Greenway provides a significant recreational opportunity that the Dam Owner can help facilitate.
- Broader effort could bring increased benefits to multiple stakeholders



TRAIL ROUTE SECTIONS

- 1 **Wilder Hydro. Dam**
 - The Wilder Dam is currently undergoing FERC re-licensing, which will have ecological impacts and public recreational opportunities.
- 2 **Boston Lot Lake & Conservation Area**
 - Over 7 miles of trails connecting to DHMC, lake trails, and points north.
- 3 **Dartmouth's Landmark Parcel**
 - Existing trail network maintained by Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association. (UV MBA)
- 4 **Wilder Dam to River Park**
 - There are three privately-owned parcels representing 450' of river frontage that will require trail easements.
- 5 **Friends of River Park**
 - 6 Acre riverfront parcel with 1/2 mile of trails owned by non-profit Friends of River Park.
 - Trails improved in 2021 with UVTA Summer Trail camps.
- 6 **Greenway Street & Lincoln Avenue**
 - 1912 plans show a 30-foot wide "Greenway Street" and "Lincoln Avenue," allowing for a contiguous corridor running from the southern boundary of River Park to Bridge Street (Route 4).
- 7 **Lyman Bridge & Connections to WRJ**
 - There exists a pedestrian underpass under Lyman bridge for the Greenway. Lyman bridge provides connections to White River Junction.
- 8 **Bridge Street Park**
 - The waterfront park is owned by the City of Lebanon and will be part of trail and park network.
- 9 **Westboro Yard Pathway**
 - The 2004 Westboro Riverfront Park Design Study identified the City of Lebanon's existing sewer line easement to create a path along the riverfront.
- 10 **Rail Bridge Underpass**
 - There currently exists an unimproved (but visibly utilized) trail passing beneath the New England Central Railroad Bridge; being analyzed by the City.
- 11 **Westboro Yards Waterfront Park**
 - In 2018 the City of Lebanon proposed a 99-year lease of a portion of the Westboro Yards from the NH DOT, calling for the demolition of the dilapidated structures and allowing for recreational improvements along the waterfront.
- 12 **MRG Extension Options**
 - A 2017 Thayer study identified three options: Via the proposed Iron Horse Development, South Main Street, or a Rail-With-Trail option continuing down the Claremont Concord Railroad corridor.
- 13 **Seminary Hill Shortcut: The Sidewalk**
 - The contiguous sidewalk running from the current terminus of the MRG to downtown West Lebanon can serve as an interim option.
- 14 **Current Terminus of the MRG**
 - The Mascoma River Greenway is a 4 mile pathway starting from the terminus of the Northern Rail Trail at Spencer Street in downtown Lebanon, NH to West Lebanon's Rt. 12-A and Seminary Hill.

WEST LEBANON GREENWAY



LEARN MORE:

INTERACTIVE MAP



Explore online with our interactive story-map.

WWW.WESTLEB.ORG/GREENWAY

TAKE ACTION:

WESTBORO PETITION



We Want Our Waterfront.

Add your voice to the call for improvement in West Leb.

WWW.WESTLEB.ORG/PETITION

YOUR VOICES:

MRG SURVEY RESULTS



A 2020 Survey completed by the UVLSRPC measured the use of the completed MRG, showing strong community support for extending the greenway to West Leb.

WWW.WESTLEB.ORG/SURVEY

THE OPPORTUNITY:

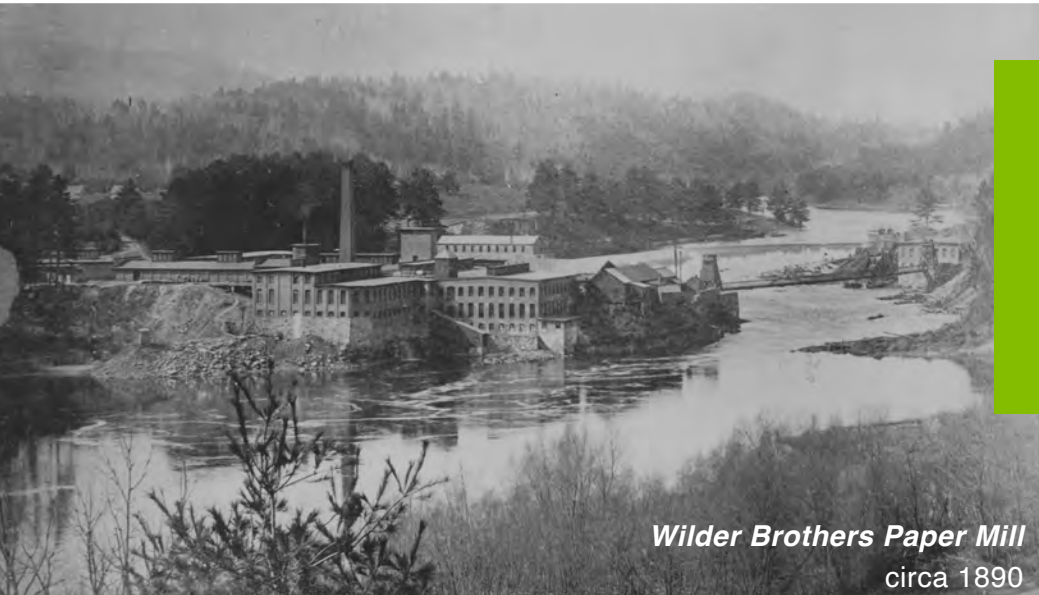
This project is an opportunity to execute upon years of planning and public opinion. The West Lebanon Greenway would bring recreation improvements and help economic development in West Leb.

PREPARED BY:

A GROWING COALITION OF PARTNERS:



WESTLEB.ORG/GREENWAY



Wilder Brothers Paper Mill
circa 1890



Wilder Hydroelectric Dam
View from River Park

A Return to Riverpower

The Wilder Dam could offer a renewable energy solution for existing and future demand.

“While New Hampshire is not rich in home-grown energy resources, our environmental beauty and clean natural environment is admired around the country. How can our future energy needs as a state be met in harmony with our attractive natural environment while addressing the climate crisis?”

NH has untapped energy resources for a sustainable future
www.seacostonline.com, 5/16/2021

*Rob Werner, NH State Director, League of Conservation Voters.
Peter Somssich. District 27 (Portsmouth), New Hampshire House*



A Hydropowered Upper Valley?



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Although not without ecological impacts, Wilder Dam is here to stay and ought to be better utilized.



LOCALIZED PRODUCTION

Reducing loss-factor during transmission and re-establishing river-power in Lebanon.



UTILIZING CORRIDORS

Existing and future transmission corridors can provide double benefits for trails and broadband.



A GREEN CAMPUS

River Park is seeking to become powered entirely by local hydropower from Wilder Dam



COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Consistent, green power is an opportunity to address operational and corporate responsibility goals.



ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

Regions that control their own energy use & demand will have a future strategic advantage.

Recreational Access

Improvements & Connections



TRAIL EASEMENT(S) TO FACILITATE CONNECTION FOR WEST LEBANON GREENWAY

A trail easement to the *Upper Valley Land Trust* to facilitate a connection between River Park trails and Wilder Dam, a missing link in the broader trail network.



IMPROVED PORTAGE AROUND DAM

As part of the **Connecticut River Paddlers Trail**, improvements to the portage trail to allow easier passage.



FUNDING OF RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN WEST LEBANON

As part of the **Connecticut River Paddlers Trail**, improvements to the portage trail to allow easier passage.



YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE OF ACCESS TO BOSTON LOT RECREATION AREA

As requested by the **Lebanon Recreation, Arts, & Parks Department**, improved maintenance and plowing of the Parking Area to allow year-round access to the popular recreation area.



Clean water. Healthy habitat. Thriving communities.
Connecticut River Conservancy



UPPER VALLEY TRAILS ALLIANCE