

**TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST INC.**

**ILP Study 30  
Recreation Facility Inventory, Use and  
Needs Assessment**

***Study Report***

**In support of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing of:**

Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1892-026)  
Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1855-045)  
Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1904-073)

***Prepared for***

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.  
4 Park Street, Suite 402  
Concord, NH 03301

***Prepared by***

Louis Berger  
117 Kendrick Street; Suite 400  
Needham, MA 02494

and

Normandeau Associates, Inc.  
25 Nashua Road  
Bedford, NH 03110

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (TransCanada) has prepared this Recreation Facility Inventory, Use and Needs Assessment Study (ILP Study 30) Report to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approved Study Plan as part of relicensing the Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1892), Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1855), and Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1904). TransCanada is in the process of preparing draft license applications for these projects, and this study provides information to better understand how the public currently uses the public recreation resources at the three projects.

Data collection for this study covered a 1-year period from March 2014 to February 2015. TransCanada developed the Study Plan in consultation with stakeholders including representatives from state and federal resource agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and recreation planning professionals. The study area included lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon FERC project boundaries including the riverine reaches downstream of the dams.

Data collection methods for the study included a literature review of existing recreation maps, site inventory assessments (40 sites within or adjacent to Project boundaries, 8 downstream) (15 campsites within Project boundaries, 3 downstream) of the public recreation areas, public recreation area interviews (577 interviews), spot counts (2,702 counts), traffic counts (4,195 days with data), and mail surveys of residents living in the counties adjacent to the projects (2,400 surveys mailed and 263 returned completed).

General findings include:

- The region is rich with water-based recreation opportunities, and the Connecticut River is a significant feature in Vermont and New Hampshire.
- The overwhelming majority of visitors to the recreation facilities originate their trips from the towns immediately adjacent to the Projects.
- TransCanada's three reservoirs provide water-based recreation opportunities while neighboring partners provide the majority of land-based opportunities. TransCanada owns very little of the lands surrounding the reservoirs, and its largest holdings are around the powerhouses themselves.
- More than 617,000 recreation days (each visit by a person for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period) were recorded at the recreation study area sites during the study period. TransCanada sites contributed 245,687 (nearly 40 percent) of those recreation days.
- The top six activities reported during interviews at study area sites were: fishing from shore; canoeing/kayaking – flat water; fishing from boat or ice

fishing; picnicking/family gathering; walking/hiking; and swimming/sunbathing from shore.

- Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail users have access to 18 campsites within the study area. There are 15 campsites within the three FERC project boundaries and an additional two downstream of Wilder dam in the riverine reach above the Bellows Falls FERC project boundary and one downstream of Bellows Falls dam in the riverine reach above the Vernon FERC project boundary. These sites were in good condition and well used during the summer months.
- In general, public site users indicated satisfaction with the type and number of recreation facilities throughout the study area; however, these users continued to make recommendations such as a need for more boat ramps and launches, river access for shoreline fishing, park amenities (picnic tables and benches), and walking trails. New motor boat launch facilities were recommended particularly below Wilder dam and Bellows Falls dam to address the large distances between launches and the demand for fishing in these areas. Additional primitive camping locations downstream of Wilder dam were also recommended.
- Interview respondents identified roadways, noise, and traffic; trash and debris; and development as the top detractors from the scenery. Trees (foliage), wildlife, and seclusion were the top scenic attributes. Other attributes, such as old bridges and historic landmarks and views of the mountains and river, made particular sites extremely scenic. As for personal safety at study area sites, only 1 to 2 percent of visitors responded that they felt unsafe; mainly, these visitors felt unsafe due to vandalism, scarce police patrol, broken glass, and dock stability problems.
- Respondents provided mixed opinions about what types of water levels (e.g., steady, rising, lowering) they preferred based on their activities. Anglers preferred water levels that were stable or higher citing better fishing conditions. Motor boaters mostly preferred deep enough water depths in the impoundments and riverine reaches so they can get into more places to fish and ensure they can remove their boat from the water afterward.
- Kayak/canoe enthusiasts were generally aware of the flow levels by checking the USGS gages before their trips and did not have any issue with the levels. Visitors on multiday canoe trips voiced a preference for slightly higher flow to assist in their trip without having the river too high.
- Completed regional surveys suggest the reasons regional residents who do not currently recreate at the study sites are because they are either not interested in the opportunities provided, are not able to participate in such activities, or are seeking similar opportunities at other locations.



The Wilder study area findings include:

- The five TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites at Wilder are Hartford (Wilder) Picnic Area at Kilowatt Park (North), Wilder dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South), Fish Ladder and Angler Parking, Lebanon (Wilder dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails, and Wilder Dam Portage and Downstream Natural Area. Collectively, these five sites provided 117,576 recreation days during the study period; Kilowatt Park accounted for nearly a quarter of this usage.
- The top activities at TransCanada's recreation sites at the Wilder study area were canoeing/kayaking – flat water and fishing from shore.
- At the most visited Wilder facilities, TransCanada's Kilowatt Park (North and South) (managed by the Town of Hartford), more than 83 percent of interview respondents reported being moderately satisfied or higher with the condition of the facilities. Although improvements to the recreation area boat launches at Kilowatt Park South were recommended, citing the ramp is too flat, and bumpy and not sufficient to launch a large motorboat, site condition and visible impact scores were 'Excellent' for both North and South parks.
- The other Wilder recreation sites received much lighter use levels and corresponding number of interviews. Respondents at the Wilder Dam Portage and Picnic Area and the Lebanon (Wilder dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails were extremely satisfied but the Site Condition Score at the Wilder Dam Portage Trail lost points for roads and parking which can become congested during periods when TransCanada clears the reservoir of floating woody debris and temporarily stores it in the vicinity. The Visible Impact Score for the same area was recorded as 'Excellent'. The Wilder Dam Fish Ladder and Angler Parking recreation site received very light use throughout the study period, which may have been partially related to the fact that during this period, the gate to the fish ladder was closed, and received 'Excellent' scores for both Visible Impact and Site Conditions as part of the Inventory Assessment.
- Beyond the TransCanada sites at Wilder, additional public recreation access in the vicinity is provided at several parks, boat launches, and access points; downstream public access study area sites; and Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail sites that include campsites and cabins. Wilder study area public boat launch facilities were below capacity for most of the year.

The Bellows Falls study area and findings include:

- The five TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites at Bellows Falls are: Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail take-out, Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center, and Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In. Collectively, these five sites provided 97,550 recreation days during the

study period; Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area accounted for 17 percent of this usage.

- The top activities at TransCanada's recreation sites at the Bellows Falls study area were fishing from shore, picnicking/family gathering, canoeing/kayaking - flat water boating, fishing from a boat, and ice fishing.
- Bellows Falls public boat launch facilities—Ashley Ferry Boat Launch, Charlestown Boat Launch, and Pine Street Boat Launch—are well below capacity most of the year. Although Herrick's Cove Boat Launch fills to near capacity during summer weekends, it has additional parking available on grassy fields.
- At Hoyts Landing, which VDFW owns and manages, heavy use from other recreational visitors compromises the overall number of potential vehicles with trailers.
- Although public boat launch facilities within two of the five sites were well below capacity for most of the year, survey respondents felt that the recreational sites were generally not very well maintained and suggested improving road conditions, maintaining trash facilities, and repairing the boat launch at Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In, Charlestown Boat Launch, and Pine Street Boat Launch.
- At the Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area picnicking, grilling, and both motorized and non-motorized boating are popular. The majority of the respondents at this location said they were moderately satisfied or higher with the number and type of recreation facilities but suggested adding a new dock, more grills, and a beach or river access near the site. Some respondents however complained about the condition of the boat launch. Overall, Site Condition and Visible Impact Scores from the Inventory Assessment (Appendix A) were 'Good' for both conditions with only the condition of the boat ramp keeping the scores from reaching 'Excellent'.
- At Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area the most common recreation activities include birding, picnicking, walking/hiking, boating, and shoreline and offshore-boating fishing. An overwhelming majority of visitors reported 'moderately satisfied' (97 percent) with the condition of the site; however there were a notable number of interviews that mentioned a need for trash clean up and stronger police presence to dissuade male pick up behavior. Because the site is so large and draws a wide range of users, most were satisfied with the types of opportunities available at the site. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions an 'Excellent' score.
- The Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-out is used primarily as the portage take-out for paddlers and for boat launching. Two-thirds of survey respondents scored the condition of the facilities here as 'moderately satisfied' or higher. Better maintenance of the boat ramp and approach road

was the number one cited drawback. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions an 'Excellent' score.

- Beyond the TransCanada sites at Bellows Falls, additional public recreation access in the vicinity is provided at several parks, boat launches, and access points; downstream public access study area sites; and Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail sites that include campsites and cabins.
- Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center, which is primarily an educational center and nature museum run by the Nature Museum of Grafton, Vermont, under an agreement with TransCanada, received "Excellent" scores for both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions.
- At the Bellows Falls Dam Portage Trail Put-In, common recreation activities include bank fishing, swimming, walking/hiking, and car-top boat launching. The site also provides an informal walking trail leading to the Bellows Falls. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions a 'Fair' score, losing points for the condition of site amenities or lack thereof, along with the presence of dumping, visible nearby traffic, compacted soils, and presence of fire pits.

The Vernon study area findings include:

- The four TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites at Vernon include: Vernon Canoe Portage, Vernon Glen, Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch (including the Vernon Fish Ladder), and Vernon Neck Open Space. Collectively, these four sites provided 30,561 recreation days during the study period; Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch accounted for just under 38 percent of this usage.
- The top activities at TransCanada's recreation sites were fishing from shore, fishing from a boat, ice fishing, and canoeing/kayaking - flat water boating.
- TransCanada owns and manages the Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch site (which includes the Vernon Fish Ladder) as a formal Project recreation facility where activities include swimming from shore, sunbathing along the sandy beach, fishing from shore, picnicking, and boat launching. While 73 percent of respondents at this site were 'moderately satisfied' with the conditions only 62 percent reported they were 'moderately satisfied' or higher with the types of recreation facilities provided. Respondents indicated a need for repairing the boat launch, improving road conditions, adding trash facilities, cleaning up broken glass around the site, maintaining cleaner bathroom, and providing better hours for fish ladder viewing. Respondents asked for more boat ramps closer to town (Brattleboro) and better swimming areas. The Site Condition Score was 'Excellent', but the Visible Condition Score was 'Good,' losing points for the presence of human waste, compacted soils, dumping, and damage to surrounding vegetation.

- The other TransCanada recreation sites, Vernon Portage and Vernon Glen, had no users during the study period. Visible Impact Scores from the Inventory Assessment were 'Excellent' as was the Site Condition Score at Vernon Portage; however the Site Condition Score at Vernon Glen was only 'Good,' losing points for the condition of existing signage. Downriver boaters portaging Vernon dam can stop at Vernon Glen to rest and use the picnic tables although the site has no access to the Connecticut River. Most visits here are very brief because the Governor Hunt Recreation Area is less than a quarter mile down the hill and provides a wide expansive beach, shade trees, and riverside setting immediately downstream of the powerhouse.
- Beyond TransCanada's facilities, public recreation access is provided at numerous boat launches and trail access points, including Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail sites with campsites and canoe rest areas.
- Vernon study area public boat launch facilities are well below capacity for most of the year. Some other Vernon study area boat launches including Putney Boat Landing, Prospect Street Boat Launch, and Governor Hunt Recreation Area Boat Launch fill to near capacity during summer weekends; however, when Putney Boat Landing is at full capacity, visitors use the nearby Dummerston Landing Boat Launch. Similarly, when the Governor Hunt Recreation Area Boat Launch designated parking area reaches capacity, visitors park along the beach.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATV	All-terrain vehicle
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
ILP	Integrated Licensing Process
NHFGD	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
PAD	Pre-Application Document
RM	river mile
RV	Recreational vehicle
TRAFx	TRAFx Research Ltd.
TransCanada	TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.
VANR	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
VDFW	Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
VDFPR	Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

## DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

**Wilder Study Area** - includes lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream (i.e., in the riverine section) of the FERC project boundary.

**Wilder riverine section** – section of the Wilder Project Study Area downstream from the powerhouse/dam to the upper extent of the Bellows Falls FERC project boundary.

**Bellows Falls Study Area** – includes lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream (i.e., in the riverine section) of the FERC project boundary.

**Bellows Falls riverine section** – section of the Bellows Falls study area downstream of the powerhouse to the upper extent of the Vernon FERC project boundary.

**Vernon Study Area** – includes lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream (i.e., in the riverine section) of the FERC project boundary.

**Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail** – a series of primitive campsites and access points from the river's headwaters south to Long Island Sound.

**TransCanada FERC Project recreation site** – FERC licensed recreation sites owned and managed by TransCanada.

**Recreation day** – As defined by FERC, each visit by a person to a development (the portion of a project which includes an impoundment, or a generating station and its specifically-related waterways) for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period. In this study the term is used for visits to all study sites, not only those identified as TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (TransCanada) is making application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for relicensing the Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1892), Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1855), and Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1904). The process selected by TransCanada for applying for new licenses is the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). As part of this licensing process, TransCanada solicited input from stakeholders, including governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, to identify potential project-related issues that should be addressed during the licensing process. TransCanada prepared draft Pre-Application Documents (PADs) (TransCanada, 2012a–c) that listed issues identified to date, and filed them with FERC on October 31, 2012.

TransCanada developed ILP Study Plan No. 30 – Recreation Facility Inventory and Use & Needs Assessment to conduct a one-year study to obtain information to characterize existing recreation resources and use at the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Projects. By letter dated September 13, 2013, FERC issued its Study Plan Determination approving the Recreation Study Plan with minor modifications incorporated into the study as follows:

- Onsite survey sampling events were extended to one-half hour after sunset.
- Question 36 of the Onsite Intercept Survey Form was revised to change the lower age limit of participants from 18 to 16 years.
- Survey questions on the mailed and onsite questionnaires were revised to be consistent in their use of scales for all Likert-type questions, with higher ratings corresponding to higher levels of satisfaction.
- Facility inventory forms were revised to include the number and type of informal as well as formal campsites.
- Spot count forms were revised to document the number of cars double-parked and/or not parked in designated spots due to parking overflows.
- The site condition evaluation form was revised to include a “not applicable” column, and scales for the Likert-type questions in the interviews and mailed surveys were modified so higher ratings corresponded to higher levels of satisfaction.

This assessment provides the basis for reporting on recreational resources under Exhibit E (18 C.F.R §4.51(f)) of the license applications that will be filed for the projects, and lays the foundation for the development of a Recreation Management Plan. This recreation assessment report is based on data collected from March 1, 2014, to April 18, 2015.

## 1.1 Project Description

The Wilder Project's dam and powerhouse are located on the Connecticut River at river mile (RM) 217.4 approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the White River and 7 miles downstream of the Ompompanoosuc River in the Town of Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont, and in the City of Lebanon, Grafton County, New Hampshire. The impoundment extends upstream about 45 miles to a point several miles downstream of both the Wells River and Ammonoosuc River confluences located in the villages of Wells River, Vermont, and Woodsville, New Hampshire. U.S. Route 5 and Interstate 91 run along the Vermont side of the river, while New Hampshire State Route 10 runs along the New Hampshire side. A railroad is located along the Vermont bank. The Wilder Project lies within 12 communities: Lebanon, Hanover, Lyme, Orford, Piermont, and Haverhill in New Hampshire, within Grafton County; and Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, Bradford, and Newbury in Vermont within Orange and Windsor Counties.

The Bellows Falls Project dam, canal, and powerhouse are located on the Connecticut River at RM 173.7, about 1 mile upstream of Saxtons River and 3 miles downstream of the Williams River at the upper end of a sharp bend in the Connecticut River at Bellows Falls, Vermont, in the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, and in the Town of Walpole, New Hampshire. The impoundment extends upstream about 26 miles to Chase Island at Windsor Vermont, about 1 mile below the Windsor Bridge. Interstate 91 and U.S. Route 5 run along the Vermont side of the valley, while N.H. Routes 12 and 12A run along the New Hampshire side. The tracks of the Boston and Maine Railroad run along the New Hampshire side, and the tracks of the Green Mountain Railroad Corporation run along the Vermont side before branching away from the river at the Williams River. The Bellows Falls Project lies within eight communities: Walpole, Charlestown, Claremont, and Cornish in New Hampshire (Cheshire and Sullivan counties); and Rockingham, Springfield, Weathersfield, and Windsor (Windham and Windsor counties) in Vermont.

The Vernon Project's dam and powerhouse are located on the Connecticut River at RM 141.9, about 2 miles upstream of the Ashuelot River and 7.4 miles downstream of the West River, in the Town of Vernon, Vermont, and the Town of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. The impoundment extends about 26 miles upstream terminating at the Walpole Bridge (Route 123) at Westminster Station, Vermont, about 6 miles downstream of the Bellows Falls Project. The downstream project boundary is the downstream side of Vernon dam because the upstream boundary of the Turners Falls Project (FERC No. 1889) impoundment at normal elevation abuts the downstream face of the Vernon dam. Interstate 91, U.S. Route 5, and Vermont Route 142 run in a north-south direction along the Vermont side of the river, and New Hampshire Routes 119 and 63 run along the New Hampshire side. The Boston and Maine Railroad runs along the New Hampshire side, crossing into Vermont at Brattleboro. The Central Vermont Railroad runs along the Vermont side. The now closed 540-megawatt Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (Vermont Yankee) is also located on the Vermont shore just upstream from Vernon dam. The Vernon Project lies within nine communities: Hinsdale, Chesterfield, Westmoreland, and

Walpole (Cheshire County) in New Hampshire; and Vernon, Brattleboro, Dummerston, Putney, and Westminster (Windham County) in Vermont.

## **1.2 Study Development and Consultation**

Public comments during scoping meetings and input from FERC, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR), National Park Service, recreational user groups, the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, Appalachian Mountain Club, and Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission indicate a strong public interest in recreation access and opportunities, along with a belief that there may be undocumented or underrepresented user groups and recreation opportunities available in the project areas. This study addressed recreation resource opportunities, uses, and needs within the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon project boundaries, as well as uses occurring downstream of the projects in the riverine reaches between impoundments.

## **1.3 Purpose and Study Area**

As defined in the FERC-approved Revised Study Plan, the purpose of the recreation use and needs study was to provide baseline recreation information relevant to the three projects and to define potential project-related operational and environmental effects. The topic areas of the study included an inventory of existing recreational facilities, assessment of existing recreational use, and assessment of future recreational demand. Following are the key objectives related to each topic area.

The goals of this study were to:

- Obtain information about the condition of existing recreation facilities and access sites at the projects and along project-affected reaches of the Connecticut River.
- Obtain information about existing recreation use and opportunities, access, and present and future use estimates for sites within and in riverine sections between the projects.
- Conduct an assessment of the need to enhance recreation opportunities and access at the projects.
- Present the recreation use and opportunities at the projects within the larger context of opportunities within the region.
- Photograph views from public recreation facilities to document existing aesthetic conditions.
- Lay the foundation for preparation of a Recreation Management Plan for the projects that will be included in the license applications.

Key objectives associated with the various components of this study are summarized as follows:

### **Recreation Facility Inventory**

The study area for the recreation facility inventory included land and river access sites within, adjacent to and downstream of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon FERC project boundaries.

1. Identify existing information on recreation resources adjacent to and within the projects, and update existing data through site assessment and consultation with public and private recreation providers.
2. Provide a general characterization of the whitewater-oriented recreational opportunities within the region.
3. Provide an inventory of informal and formal public and private waterfront recreational sites/facilities within and adjacent to each project boundary including within the Bellows Falls bypassed reach and riverine reaches downstream of the Wilder and Bellows Falls Projects.
4. Create detailed Geographic Information System-based map layers showing recreation sites/facilities, and populate a database including information identified in objectives above.
5. Prepare a recreation sites/facilities inventory summarizing the information collected and categorize by recreation type or interest; distinguish whether or not facilities are project facilities and if not identify the site manager, to the extent practical.
6. Photo-document representative views of each inventoried recreational site to capture current aesthetic resources.

### **Recreation Use and Needs Assessment**

The study area for the recreation use and needs assessment included land and river access sites within, adjacent to and downstream of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon FERC project boundaries.

1. Collect data on visitation levels, activities, and trip frequencies related to recreational use (including active and passive recreation types) and user preferences and perceptions (e.g., adequacy of facilities, crowding) at existing formal and informal sites.
2. Collect information (e.g., activity type and resource needs, visitation levels and trip frequency, and obstacles to recreation at all study sites) regarding recreational use and user preferences of uncommon and potential user groups.
3. Characterize existing and potential recreational uses at the projects by season and activity.



4. Characterize current user preferences and any identified needs.
5. Summarize parking lot utilization, and identify sites that receive heavy use. If TransCanada FERC Project recreation areas are recorded at maximum capacity or are likely to be so within the term of a new license, examine opportunities for TransCanada to repair or upgrade those sites.
6. Summarize current recreation use from information collected.

### **Future Recreational Use Assessment**

The study area for the future recreational use assessment is focused on current TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites.

1. Collect information regarding local and regional population trends and trends in recreation activities throughout the Upper Connecticut River Valley in Vermont and New Hampshire.
2. Document current trends in recreation and use available in accepted literature to make future use estimates.
3. Estimate future use levels (by activity) at each project.
4. Identify whether changes in TransCanada's recreation facilities will be needed and where those facilities would be beneficial.

### **Study Area**

Recreation sites within the study area, which includes lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream of the FERC project boundaries include boat launches, fishing areas, picnic areas, canoe portages, boat-in campsites, and hand-launch sites. Figures 1.3-1 through 1.3-3 show the TransCanada and non-project sites including the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail campsites.

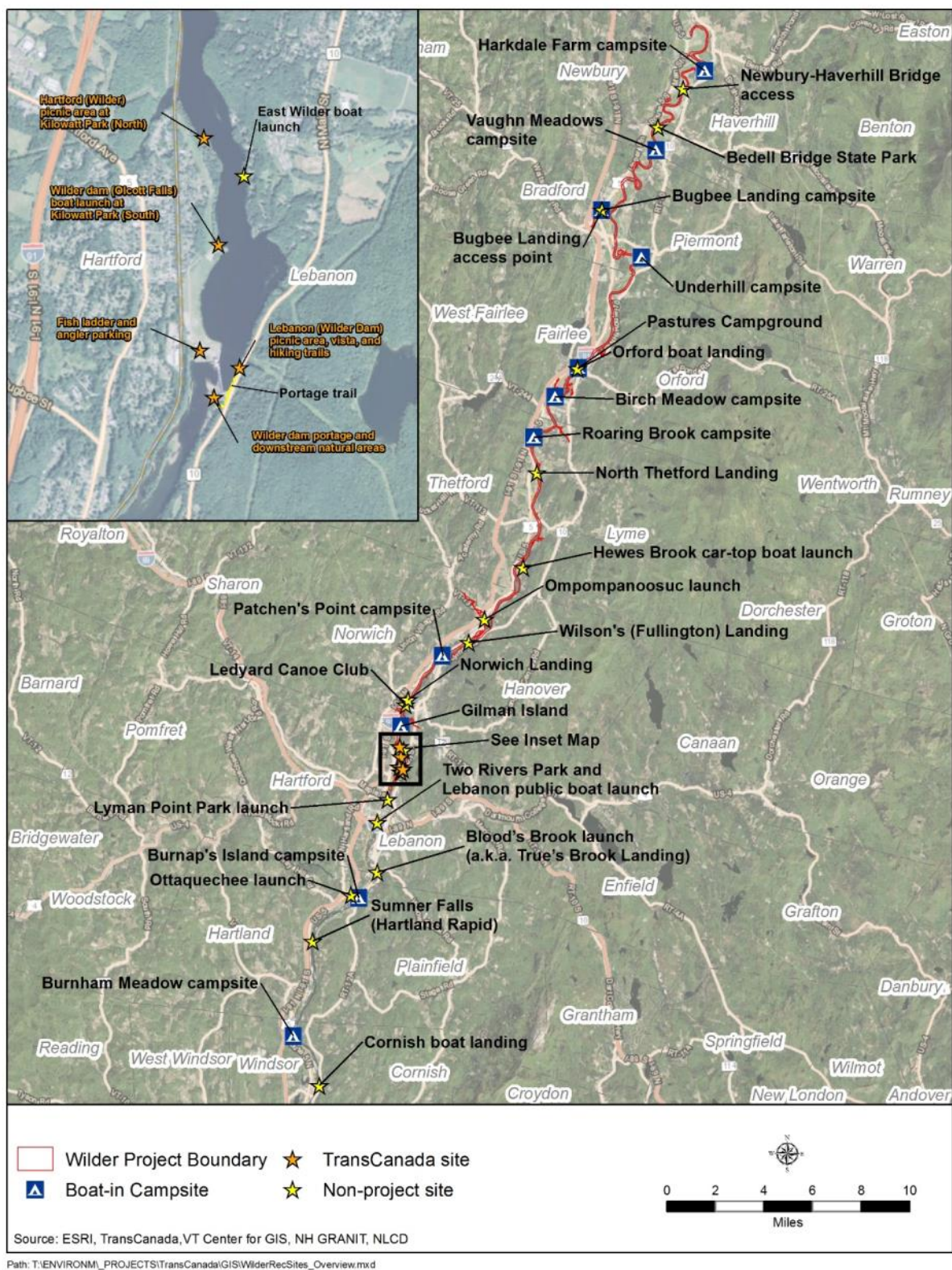


Figure 1.3-1. Wilder study area recreation sites.



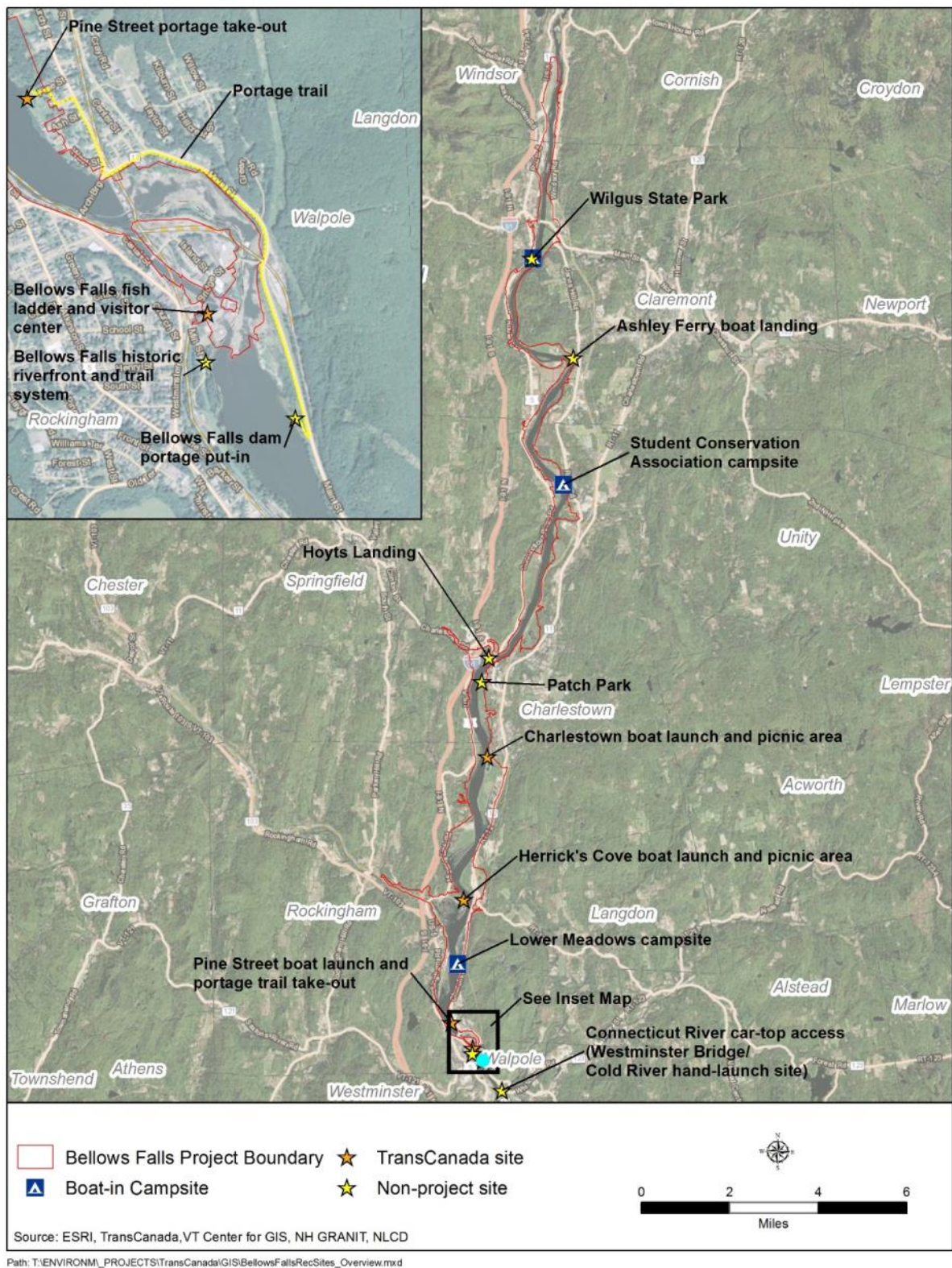


Figure 1.3-2. Bellows Falls study area recreation sites.



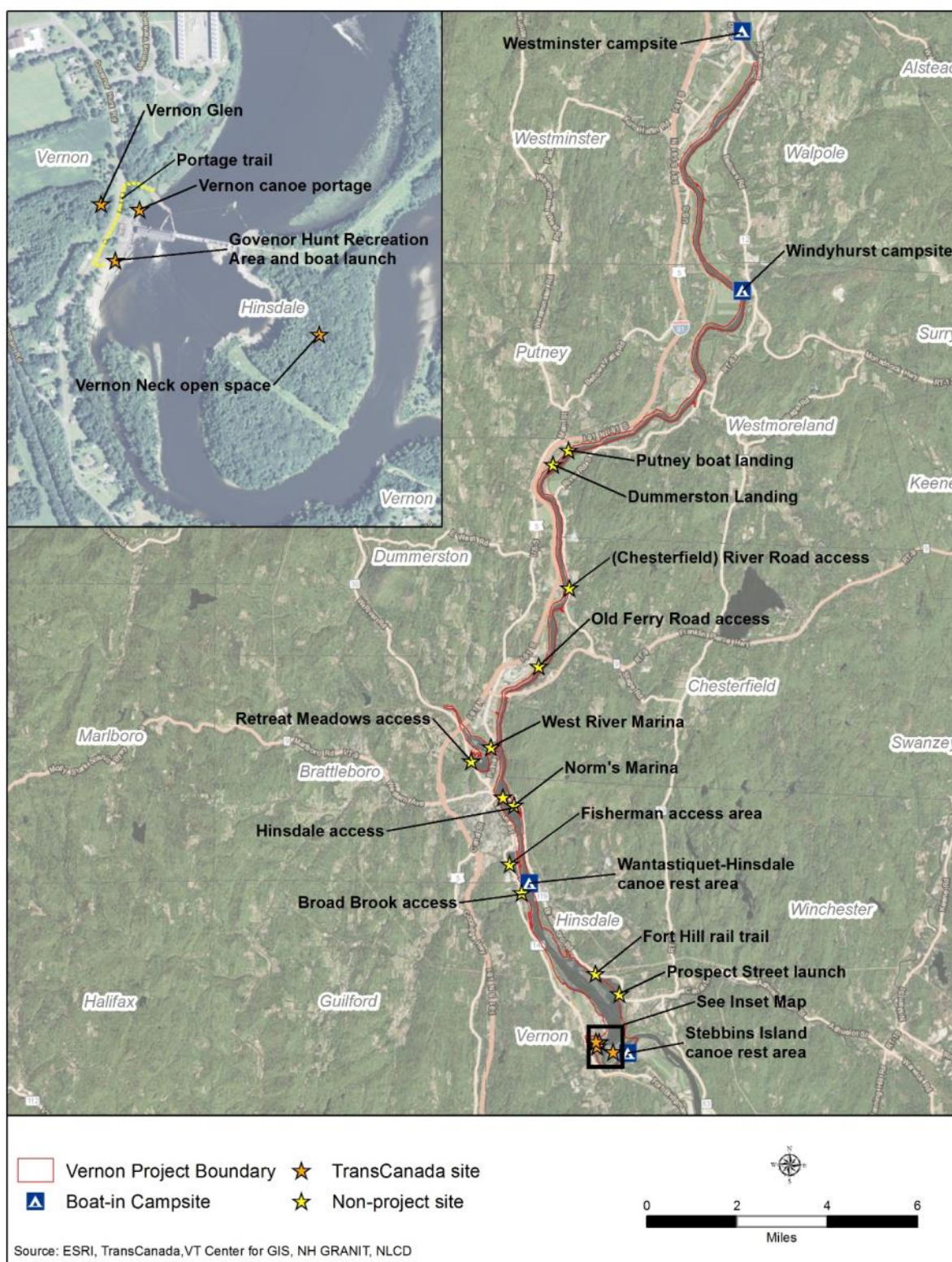


Figure 1.3-3. Vernon study area recreation sites.

The study area extends from the upstream end of the Wilder impoundment to the downstream limit of the Vernon FERC Project Boundary and includes lands and public river access points within, adjacent to and downstream (except for Vernon) of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Project boundaries. Table 1.3-1 summarizes all sites that make up the study area. Specifically, the study area included the project impoundments and existing formal and informal public recreation areas, including TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites, state and municipal lands and access sites, and commercial recreation sites (marinas) located adjacent to the projects that provide water-and land-based recreation opportunities for the general public.

Table 1.3-1. Publicly accessible study area sites included in the Recreation Facility Inventory, Use and Needs Assessment.

<b>Wilder Study Area</b>	<b>Bellows Falls Study Area</b>	<b>Vernon Study Area</b>
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge Access	Wilgus State Park	Putney Boat Landing
Bedell Bridge State Park	Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	Dummerston Landing
Bugbee Landing Access Point	Hoyts Landing	(Chesterfield) River Road Access
Orford Boat Landing	Patch Park	Old Ferry Road Access
North Thetford Landing	Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	Retreat Meadows Boat Launch
Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch	Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	West River Marina
Ompompanoosuc Launch	Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-Out <sup>a</sup>	Norm's Marina
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	Bellow Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center <sup>a</sup>	Hinsdale Access
Norwich Landing	Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	Fisherman Access Area
Ledyard Canoe Club	Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront and Trail System	Broad Brook Access
East Wilder Boat Launch		Fort Hill Rail Trail
Hartford (Wilder) Picnic Area at Kilowatt Park (North) <sup>A</sup>		Prospect Street Launch
Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South) <sup>A</sup>		Vernon Canoe Portage <sup>a</sup>
Fish Ladder and Angler Parking <sup>a</sup>		Vernon Glen <sup>a</sup>
Lebanon (Wilder Dam) Picnic Area Vista <sup>a</sup> and Hiking Trails		Governor Hunt Recreation Area including fish ladder) and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>

Wilder Study Area	Bellows Falls Study Area	Vernon Study Area
Wilder Dam Portage and Downstream Natural Areas <sup>a</sup>		Vernon Neck Open Space <sup>a</sup>
<b>Downstream Access Sites</b>		
Lyman Point Park Launch	Connecticut River Car-Top Access (Westminster Bridge/Cold River Hand-Launch Site)	
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch		
Blood's Brook Launch (A.K.A. True's Brook Landing)		
Ottaquechee Boat Launch		
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)		
Cornish Boat Landing		
<b>Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail Campsites inside Project Boundary</b>		
Harkdale Farm Campsite	Wilgus State Park	Windyhurst Campsite
Vaughn Meadows Campsite	Student Conservation Association Campsite	Wantastiquet-Hinsdale Canoe Rest Area
Bugbee Landing Campsite (Adjacent to Access Point)	Lower Meadows Campsite	Stebbins Island Canoe Rest Area <sup>a</sup>
Underhill Campsite		
Pastures Campground		
Birch Meadow Campsite		
Roaring Brook Campsite		
Pachen's Point Campsite		
Gilman Island – Incl. Titcomb Cabin		
<b>Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail Campsites downstream of Project Boundary</b>		
Burnaps Island Campsite	Westminster Campsite	
Burnham Meadow Campsite		

<sup>a</sup> Current TransCanada FERC Project recreation site.

## 2.0 METHODS

This section describes the methods used for site identification, data collection, and data analysis during the 2014-2015 study period. Research was conducted and recreational facility data was collected to assess both regional and project study area recreational opportunities. Data collection methods included a recreation facility inventory, interviews at access sites, spot counts at access sites, mail surveys, and traffic counters (Table 2-1). The following sections describe each data collection method and when it was used.

Table 2-1. Data collection methods.

Method	Targeted User or Type of Site	Where and When Used
Literature review	1. Regional recreation sites 2. Future use assessment	1. Regional recreation sites within 50–60 miles of the FERC Project Boundaries 2. Estimating future use levels
Site inventory visits	All study sites	Inventory of site attributes (May–October 2014)
Onsite intercept surveys	Users at all study sites	All study sites to the extent that users were available to interview during visits (March 2014–February 2015)
Spot counts	Users at all study sites	All study sites to the extent that users were present during visits (March 2014–February 2015)
Property owner mail surveys	Property owners living in counties adjacent to the FERC Project Boundaries	Regional residents/property owners (December–January 2015)
Traffic counters	Study sites conducive to use of traffic counters	April 28, 2014–April 18, 2015

### 2.1 Recreation Facility Inventory

Recreation facility inventory and site condition assessment forms were used at each publicly accessible site within the study area to document existing facilities and resources (see Table 1.3-1).

Amenities at each site, such as number and type of boat ramps, presence and type of restrooms, types of activities supported, parking spaces, and parking surface, were recorded along with digital photos and Global Positioning System points. The inventory identified and characterized public facilities and resources, including any barrier-free (e.g., wheelchair access) sites/facilities, and the conditions of those facilities. River access sites were visually assessed and photographed to record any opportunities or challenges for hand-launched boats (e.g., canvas canoe).

[Appendix A](#) presents the inventory site use condition assessment form used to systematically characterize the physical conditions of the sites, visual evidence of use and possible related damage, and the findings. Survey staff recorded data following the prompts provided on the forms to reduce subjectivity and maintain consistency across all access points.

The inventory included an assessment of the feasibility of incorporating shorter and safer portages (i.e., for Bellows Falls, a path that reduces boater proximity and time near NH State Route 12, and for Wilder and Vernon, potentially shorter routes). Staff evaluated potential options by reviewing land ownership information surrounding the dams (and the Bellows Falls bypassed reach) and investigated shoreline slope conditions (e.g., steepness, length) for alternative take-out and put-in options at each dam on both sides of the river that could serve as alternatives to current routes.

The City of Lebanon, New Hampshire, indicated that it has plans to develop River and Westboro parks along the Connecticut River. These parks do not currently exist; however, once constructed, they could provide recreation opportunities adjacent to the river.

The results of the inventory provide baseline information about existing recreation facilities and resources at the projects and along project-affected riverine reaches. The inventory information is used in conjunction with information obtained through the visitor intercept survey (see below).

## **2.2 Recreation Use and Needs Assessment**

Public access to areas within, adjacent to, or downstream of the FERC Project Boundaries is provided through: 1) public access sites (e.g., boat ramps and parks); or 2) commercial facilities (e.g., marinas). Visitation estimates to these sites were based on a combination of data sources. Traffic count data was collected at 18 sites which when combined with average group size information from the intercept surveys yields a total visitation estimate. A combination of site observations (number of vehicles) and intercept surveys (average group size) information was used at the remainder of the study area sites that did not have traffic counters installed.

In addition, because people utilize the sites for a fraction of the day, a “turnover ratio” was applied to estimate use for the entire day. Turnover ratios are common in recreation use studies and can either be an industry accepted standard or generated from direct observations of parking area turn over throughout a day. For the purposes of this study, observations of parking areas and intercept survey results of length of trip were used to conclude that a turnover ratio of 2.5 was appropriate. For comparison, Lancaster (1990) recommends a turnover ratio of 3 for beach access planning purposes.

Use estimates from sites that have onsite staff and visitation records were collected directly from site staff. Wilgus State Park managers track visitation to the park



while visitation to the Bellows Falls Visitor Center and fish ladder were obtained from the Nature Museum at Grafton; operators of the visitor center.

Use estimates were created for peak and off season periods. Consistent with the RSP, the peak season was defined as May 1 to October 15 and the off season as October 16 to April 30. Visitation estimates for the off season were based on traffic counts at some sites, interview data (group size information), and spot counts for those locations that are open year-round. The sections below describe the methods used in the use and needs assessment.

### **2.2.1 Onsite Intercept Surveys**

Onsite intercept surveys (interviews) were conducted at all study sites (where visitors were encountered on the days of the visits and agreed to be interviewed) between March 2014 through February 2015 to assess the existing recreation use and perceived recreation needs of a variety of user types. [Appendix B](#) presents a copy of the onsite intercept survey form and a summary of results; results are also summarized and discussed in Section 4 of this report. Sites were sampled using a stratified random sampling scheme to randomize month, time of day, and location. A sampling day either began one-half hour after sunrise or ended one-half hour before sunset, focusing on either the morning (AM) or afternoon (PM) period. Fourteen weekdays and 6 weekend days were randomly selected for interviews and spot counts (discussed below) each month during the peak season of May 1 to October 15, and one weekend per month in March, April, November and December 2014 and January and February 2015.

Survey staff conducted 577 interviews with visitors at the study sites listed in Table 1.3-1 between April 26, 2014, and February 22, 2015.

### **2.2.2 Spot Counts**

Sampling methods for spot counts were the same as those outlined in Section 2.2.1. Survey staff conducted a total of 2,702 spot counts between March 23, 2014, and February 22, 2015. Information recorded during spot counts included the date and time, the amount of parking lot/boat ramp/trailer parking capacity in use, the number and type of activity being engaged in, and state license plate data. [Appendix C](#) includes a copy of the spot count data form and summary data for each parameter recorded. Results are also summarized and discussed in Section 4 of this report.

### **2.2.3 Traffic Counts**

Passive magnetic sensor traffic counters produced by TRAFx Research Ltd. (TRAFx) were installed at 18 study area recreation sites in April 2014, when the snow and ice receded enough to allow installation of the devices. Ideally every study site in Table 1.3-1 would have had a traffic counter; however, not all sites were suitable for using this type of traffic counter because site layout must be compatible with the counter's technology. The RSP included this possibility which was confirmed once field verification occurred. The TRAFx counter registers unique counts by

detecting changes in the local magnetic field. The magnetic field sensor on the counter is triggered when a vehicle (or other large metal object) moves through the detection field at a relatively constant speed, thereby registering a count. Ideal locations are along stretches of road where vehicles are moving at a relatively constant speed, so the counter can record the vehicle passing, reset (to let the vehicle clear the counting space), and be ready to count the next vehicle. For example, if a vehicle stops near a counter (e.g., waiting to pull out of a parking area), the counter would detect the vehicle's presence, and the counter would continue to count the vehicle multiple times, resulting in an overestimate of vehicle use. Additionally, the site layout should have a single entry and exit route so that the count of vehicles can be divided by two (entry and exit). These types of counters are considered conventional in-situ technology within the vehicle count industry. The process of using traffic counts to generate use estimates is further discussed in Section 4.1.1, *Public Recreation Site Use*.

Sites with multiple entry and exit roads negate the convenience of deploying traffic counters and require additional survey techniques. Use estimates for sites that did not use traffic counters were developed using a combination of data sources: spot counts, interviews, and the application of a site turnover rate (which is discussed in more detail in Section 4.1). Section 5.1 and Table 5.1-1 include detail on average group size from spot counts used in the traffic counter conversion to create use estimates for the sites with traffic counters.

Table 2.2-1 shows the total number of days with traffic count data and Table 2.2-2 shows the number of vehicles counted for each location by month. The TrafX software can organize the data by day, week, and month, and compute averages such as average daily traffic - the total traffic recorded divided by the number of days of data. Because the counters were installed in late April of 2014 and removed in late April 2015 a complete month of April was not recorded. As such, table 2.2-2 shows the estimate for April 2015 based on the average daily traffic for the days data was recorded in April and applied to the entire month (multiplied by 30 days).

Table 2.2-1. Study sites with traffic counters and total number of days deployed.

Project	Study Site	Days with Data
Wilder Project	Bedell Bridge State Park	254
	Orford Boat Landing	250
	Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	250
	Kilowatt Park North	254
	Kilowatt Park South	250
	Lebanon Launch	231
	Wilder Dam Portage Put-In	230
Downstream of Wilder Project boundary	Blood's (True's) Brook Access	220
	Ottaquechee Boat Launch	231

Project	Study Site	Days with Data
	Sumner Falls	184
Bellows Falls Project	Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	247
	Hoyts Landing	199 <sup>a</sup>
	Charlestown Lower Landing	208
	Herrick's Cove	238
	Bellows Falls Portage Put-In	247
Downstream of Bellows Falls Project boundary	Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	208
Vernon Project	Dummerston Landing	247
	Governor Hunt Recreation Area	247

<sup>a</sup> The Hoyts Landing counter was discovered missing in March 2015 at the first post-winter revisit; therefore, data was collected only through November 23, 2014. This is the only site that had an issue related to unplanned gaps in traffic count data.

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Table 2.2-2. Number of vehicles counted by traffic counters by month.

Site <sup>a</sup>	Installed	2014								2015				End of Reporting	ADT	Total Vehicles	Days with Data
		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr				
Bedell Bridge State Park	4/21/2014	828	921	881	843	819	691	358	63	62	6	24	185 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	21.6	5,496	254
Orford Boat Landing	4/25/2014	437	733	827	989	607	453	201	137	151	114	73	109 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	18.9	4,722	250
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	4/25/2014	1,392	1,437	1,749	1,854	1,190	640	429	239	205	143	265	501 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	38.2	9,543	250
Kilowatt Park North	4/21/2014	2,038	2,220	1,990	1,842	1,396	1,030	773	465	373	596	778	964 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	53.2	13,501	254
Kilowatt Park South	4/21/2014	4,944	2,835	2,198	3,034	3,000	2,718	4	7	11	9	4	7 <sup>b</sup>	4/13/2015	75.1	18,764	250
Lebanon launch	5/14/2014	522 <sup>b</sup>	433	367	336	280	258	150	63	31	23	19	266 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	8.5	1,960	231
Wilder dam portage put-in	5/14/2014	636 <sup>b</sup>	597	660	573	672	723	594	588	560	528	582	70 <sup>b</sup>	4/16/2015	26.4	6,077	230
Blood's (True's) Brook access	5/25/2014	233 <sup>b</sup>	296	378	277	346	197	138	19	3	2	4	48 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	7.5	1,660	220
Ottaquechee boat launch	5/14/2014	210 <sup>b</sup>	343	320	195	132	98	27	6	0	0	0	25 <sup>b</sup>	4/17/2015	4.9	1,121	231
Sumner Falls	4/22/2014	1,631	1,475	1,124	924	758	607	closed for winter						10/23/2014	35.4	6,519	184
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	4/28/2014	2,593	2,749	2,828	2,358	1,952	1,607	1,259	1,019	966	999	1,118	1675 <sup>b</sup>	4/18/2015	78.7	19,448	247
Hoyts Landing	5/7/2014	5,971 <sup>b</sup>	6,599	6,982	6,150	4,659	3,880	2,734	traffic counter missing					11/22/2014	155.8	31,004	199
Charlestown Lower Landing	4/28/2014	1,890	2,221	2,462	2,013	1,873	1,483	1,090	closed for winter					11/22/2014	62.7	13,032	208
Herrick's Cove	5/7/2014	3,016 <sup>b</sup>	3,486	3,014	2,930	2,471	2,051	1,215	900	880	671	1,186	1,983 <sup>b</sup>	4/18/2015	79.0	18,804	238
Bellows Falls portage put-in	4/28/2014	1,558	1,699	1,508	1,490	1,221	877	497	342	398	154	398	1,445 <sup>b</sup>	4/18/2015	41.1	10,142	247
Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	4/28/2014	1,258	1,375	1,300	1,082	1,051	665	443	closed for winter					11/22/2014	34.5	7,174	208
Dummerston Landing	4/28/2014	391	381	358	338	483	475	267	139	86	5	6	345 <sup>b</sup>	4/18/2015	11.9	2,929	247
Governor Hunt Recreation Area	4/28/2014	1,298	2,329	1,967	1,592	1,042	657	367	224	103	25	321	573 <sup>b</sup>	4/18/2015	40.2	9,925	247

ADT – average daily traffic

<sup>a</sup> Divide by two applied.

<sup>b</sup> Based on that months ADT.

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## 2.2.4 Regional Resident Mail Survey

To capture information from a regional perspective about the amount of use, activity types, perceptions of the type, location and potential needs of public recreation areas around the three projects, and other competing water-based and land-based recreation areas, a representative sample of residents of Caledonia, Orange, Windsor, and Windham counties in Vermont and Grafton, Sullivan, and Cheshire counties in New Hampshire were mailed a survey. Questionnaires were mailed in December 2014 to capture the most current recreation season from Labor Day 2013 to Labor Day 2014.

The recreational survey distribution rate was based on weighted populations of the various jurisdictions and was developed from 2014 population estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau (the most recent estimates available at the time of the mailing). Sampling size was designed to achieve results at the 95 percent confidence level with a 5 percent confidence interval based on the total population of the seven counties. Based on these criteria and an estimated response rate of 35 percent, it was determined that 2,400 surveys would need to be distributed. Survey recipients were randomly selected from county residents over the age of 16. Table 2.2-3 shows the county populations, the percent of the total population living in each county, and the number of surveys sent. After 10 days, a follow-up postcard was mailed to encourage residents to respond to the survey. Table 2.2-4 provides survey response rate data.

Table 2.2-3. Regional mail survey target population.

County	Population <sup>a</sup>	Percent	Number of Surveys Mailed
Caledonia <sup>b</sup>	31,157	8	203
Orange <sup>b</sup>	28,915	8	188
Windsor <sup>b</sup>	43,857	12	285
Windham <sup>b</sup>	56,067	15	364
Grafton <sup>c</sup>	89,629	24	583
Sullivan <sup>c</sup>	42,984	12	279
Cheshire <sup>c</sup>	76,610	21	498
Total	369,219	100	2,400

<sup>a</sup> 2014 U.S. Census estimates (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

<sup>b</sup> Vermont.

<sup>c</sup> New Hampshire.

Table 2.2-4. Regional mail survey response.

Number Mailed	Number Returned Undeliverable	Number Returned Complete	Total Potential Returns (subtracting undeliverables)	Response Rate of Number Mailed	Response Rate of Number Delivered
2,400	299	263	2,101	10.9	12.5

Based on the number of potential returned surveys (sample population) and the actual number of returned surveys (sample size), the 95 percent confidence level resulted in a confidence interval, or margin of error, of  $\pm 5.65$ , slightly higher than the goal. This means that from a statistical perspective, TransCanada can be 95 percent certain that the survey results are within 5.65 percent of the result that could be expected if TransCanada had asked the question of the entire relevant population. For example, if 50 percent of survey respondents answer “yes” to a survey question, it can be expected that between 44.35 percent and 55.65 percent of the entire relevant population to have answered “yes.” For the purposes of this study, a response rate of 12.5 percent is sufficient to understand regional participation rates in recreation and the perceptions related to recreation access, water levels, and other survey questions. [Appendix D](#) includes the questionnaire form and summary data for each question.

### 2.2.5 Commercial Visitation Estimates

The Wilder and Bellows Falls projects do not have commercial public marinas for access and boat services while the Vernon Project has a single commercial marina, Norm’s Marina that provides water access and storage for boats. As a commercial facility, this marina is different from other public access points in that it provides additional services, including docks, dry boat storage, fuel, and supplies. Survey staff conducted interviews and spot counts at the marina to capture the amount of use, the services offered, and the number of amenities. The nearby West River Marina is primarily a restaurant business with about two dozen boat docks provided for its clientele. The site provides a free hand-launch site that shares the same parking lot. Visitation estimates for these marinas were derived from spot counts.

## 2.3 Future Estimated Use

Future recreation demand was evaluated only for TransCanada’s FERC Project recreation sites by estimating future demand for recreation activities for the approximate expected term of the new licenses. For the purpose of this assessment, a 40-year license term was used. These estimates were developed by first evaluating population growth rates for the counties surrounding the projects and comparing them to the population growth estimates in the various future condition scenarios in the Bowker (Bowker et al., 2012) activity model. The scenario that exhibited the most similar population growth pattern (low population growth) was selected. Current recreation use levels were multiplied by Bowker’s growth index (Bowker et al., 2012) for each activity to estimate a project area-specific activity use level into the future. Estimates were then compared with the



Vermont and New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (New Hampshire Office of Energy Planning, 2012; Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 2013) to ensure consistency and appropriateness in the expected trends in participation rates and total number of estimated recreation days predicted for the Connecticut River region in New Hampshire and Vermont. Estimates were projected to year 2060.

Future use estimates were developed starting at the baseline of the existing public use estimates detailed in Section 4.1. The current public use estimate for each activity was multiplied by the percentage of respondents' primary activities to create activity day estimates. To complete the future activity use estimates, population estimates were projected to 2060 to compare with the Bowker (Bowker et al., 2012) growth model scenarios. Population projections were not available between 2040 and 2060 for Vermont, and not available between 2050 and 2060 for New Hampshire. To estimate the population for these years, the growth rate for each county was calculated by using the exponential growth and decay equation:  $P(t) = P_0 e^{rt}$ . Section 7.0 of this report provides future use estimates using this methodology.

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### 3.0 SUMMARY OF RECREATION RESOURCES

This section describes each recreational site and presents photographs, location, ownership, and information about facilities, operations, site conditions, and accessibility. Recreation sites are listed in upstream to downstream order.

#### 3.1 Wilder Study Area

##### 3.1.1 Newbury-Haverhill Bridge Access

This site is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Newbury Crossing Road in Newbury, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VDFW) owns and operates this site and provides boat and shoreline access to the Connecticut River and parking for vehicles with or without trailers. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 110 feet by 75 feet that provides parking for about 10 vehicles (Figure 3.1-1). This site has a single-lane, concrete boat launch (12 feet wide) (Figure 3.1-1) and an informal user trail along the south shoreline that provides river access. Signs present at this site consist of a sign board with various different signs ("VDFW Fishing Access Area Rules" sign, "Sport Fish Restoration" sign, "Game Warden Patrols this Area" sign, "Warning Non-Native Species" sign, "Warning: Stop Rock Snot" sign, "Clean Boat Clean Waters" sign, and a "Headway Speed" sign). A "Clean Boat Clean Waters" sign is also posted next to the boat launch. This site is most commonly used for launching motorboats. Figure 3.1-2 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-1. Newbury-Haverhill Bridge access parking area and boat launch.

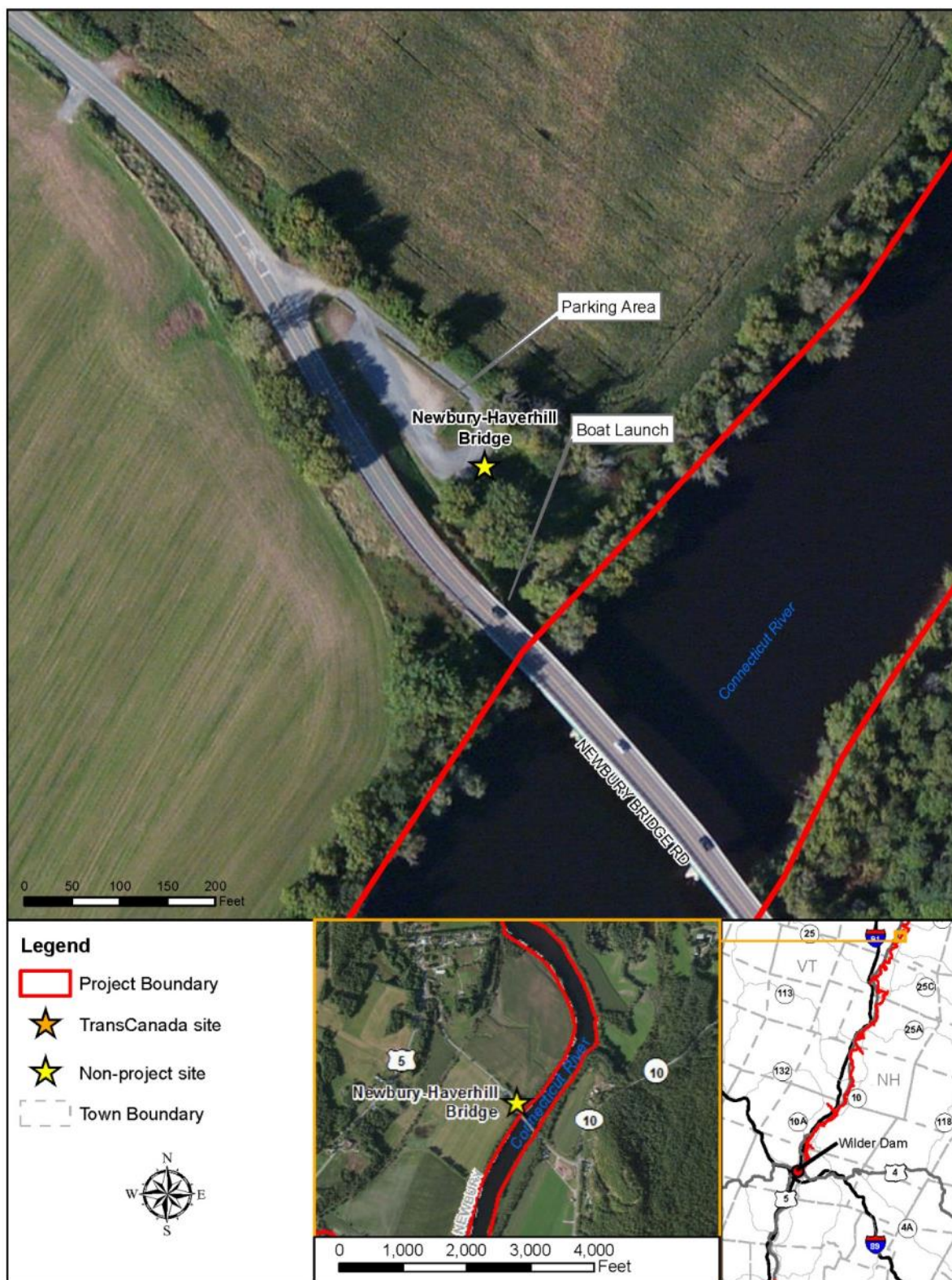


Figure 3.1-2. Map of Newbury-Haverhill Bridge access.



### 3.1.2 Bedell Bridge State Park

New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation owns and manages this state historic site located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Meadow Road (off Route 10) in Haverhill, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. This site has a gravel roadway with a parking area for vehicles (10 spaces) and trailered vehicles (6 spaces), and additional parking is available along pull-offs on the roadway (Figure 3.1-3). For boat access to this site, a one-lane paved boat launch is available along with a loop around roadway for easy trailer access (Figure 3.1-3). This site has a walking trail that leads through a wetland/marsh area and also offers a large grassy area for picnicking with two picnic tables. A signboard at the trailhead entrance (Figure 3.1-4) and a signboard at the boat launch show recreational information, and historic Bedell Bridge signs are located throughout the site to inform visitors about the history of the park. The most common recreation activities at this site are boat launching and walking. Figure 3.1-5 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-3. Bedell Bridge State Park picnic area and boat launch.



Figure 3.1-4. Bedell Bridge State Park trail access.

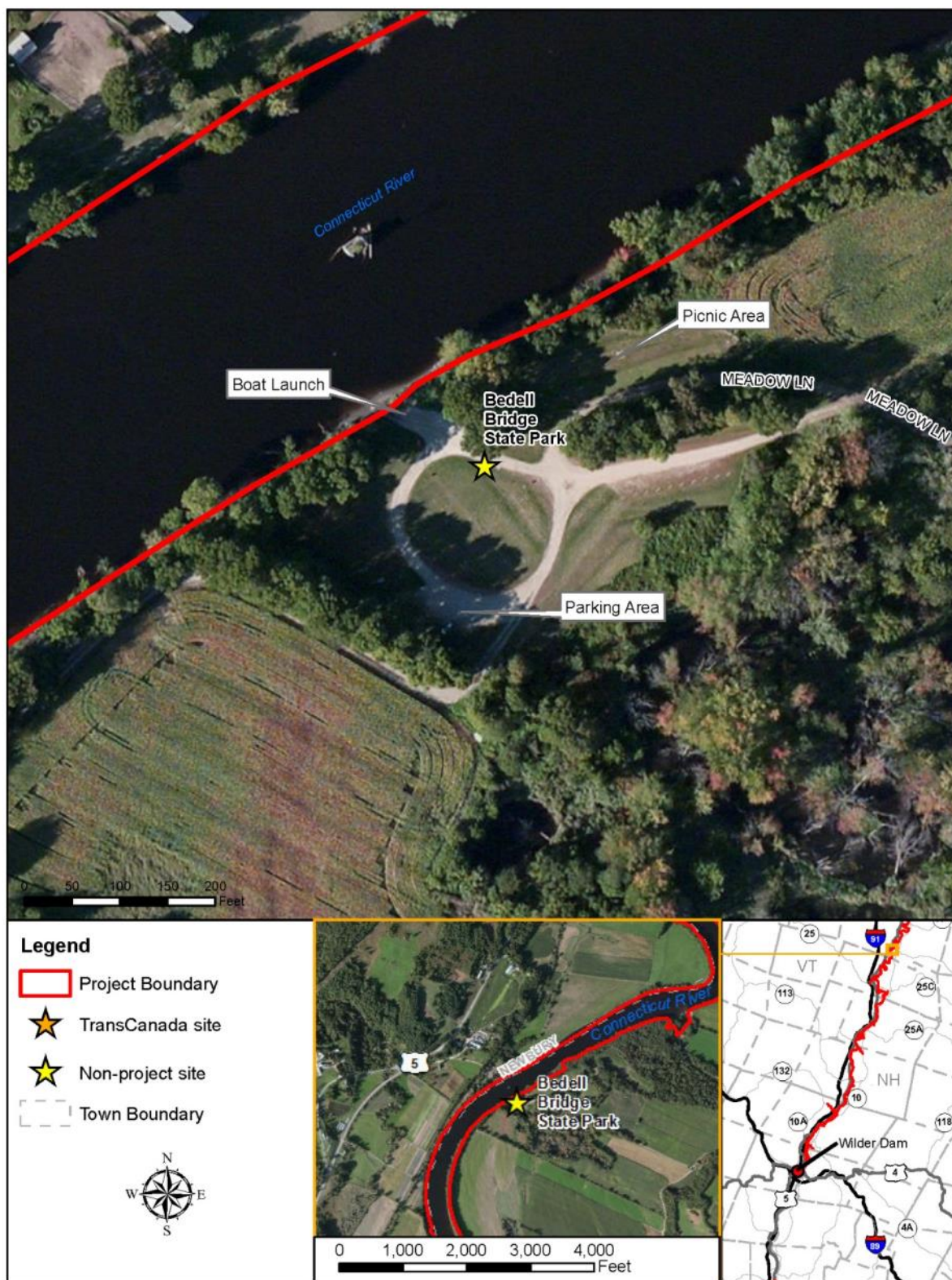


Figure 3.1-5. Map of Bedell Bridge State Park.



### 3.1.3 Bugbee Landing Access Point

This site is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Memorial Field Road in Bradford, Vermont, on the Bugbee River (a tributary of the Connecticut River). VDFW owns and manages this site, which has a gravel circular roadway where vehicles can park along the sides of the road or on the grass field surrounding it. A paved road leads to a concrete boat launch into the Bugbee River. The cement pad has two wooden platforms leading to a 16-foot by 10-foot dock. This site has a bench overlooking the river and a posted ("Camping Permission of Bradford Elementary School Only" sign) camping area for primitive camping. Signs at this site consist of a "VDFW Bugbee Landing Access Area" sign (Figure 3.1-6), "Clean Boats Clean Waters" sign, and a sign board that has a VDFW access area regulations sign, "Aquatic Invasive Species" sign, "Carry in Carry out" sign, "Warning Water Level Changes" sign, and a "Sports Fish Restoration" sign. Figure 3.1-7 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-6. Bugbee Landing.

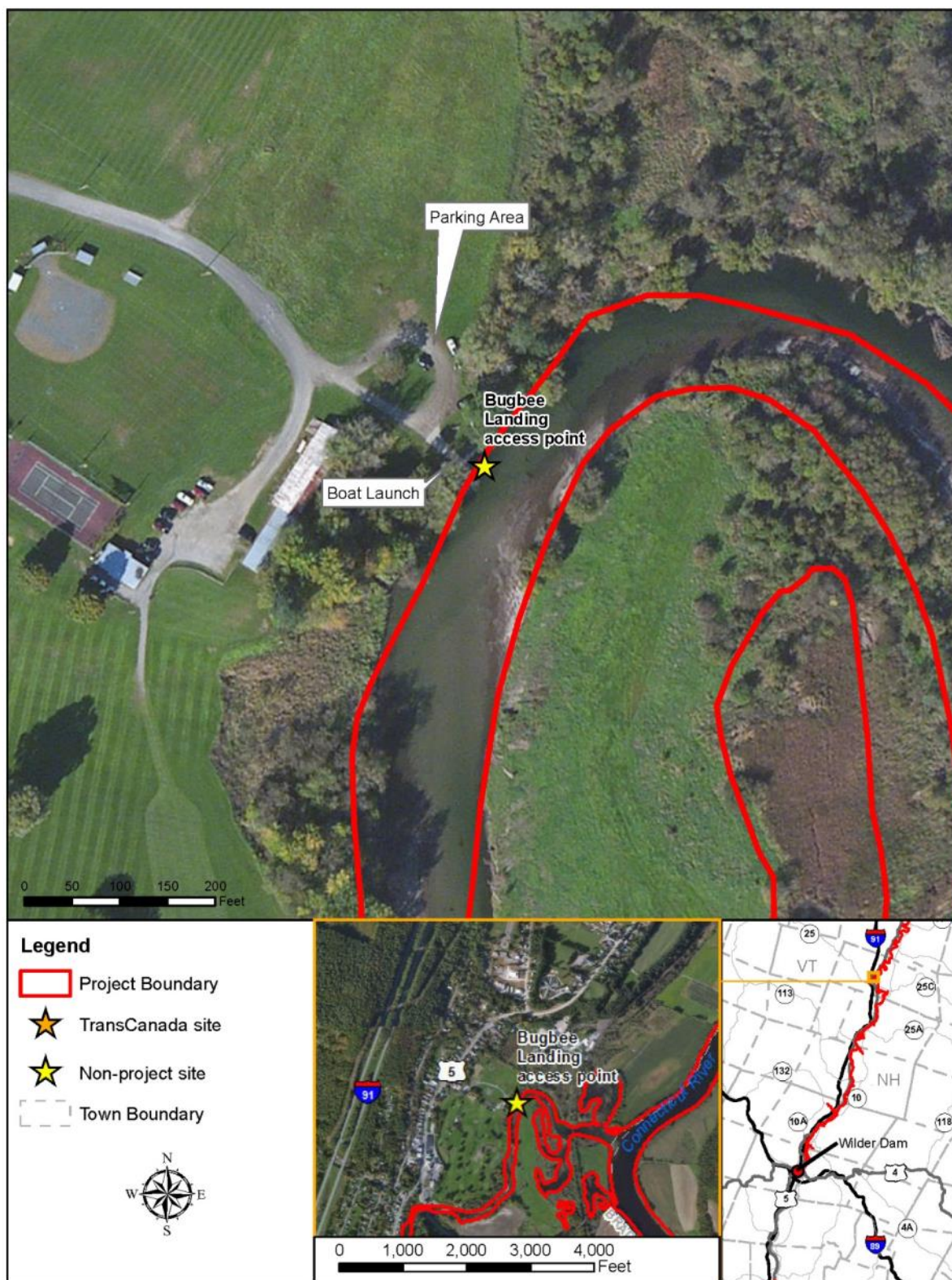


Figure 3.1-7. Map of Bugbee Landing.



### 3.1.4 Orford Boat Landing

This site is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Boat Landing Road in Orford, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. NHFGD owns and manages it. This site has a crushed stone parking area with 10 designated trailer parking only spaces, 10 car-top vehicles only spaces, two vehicle spaces, and two handicap vehicle spaces by the boat launch (Figure 3.1-8). Wooden posts are located along the roadway, separating the road from the grass. The 12-foot-wide, concrete boat launch (Figure 3.1-9) has a designated roadway for backing in trailers. Signs at this site consist of a wooden "NHFGD Connecticut River" sign, three "Trailer Only" signs, three "Car-Top Only" signs, two "No Parking" signs, two "Handicap Parking" signs, and a sign board that has a "Clean Boat Clean Waters" sign, "Warning: Stop Rock Snot" sign, fish guidelines sign, "No Littering" sign, "Sports Fish & Wildlife Restoration" sign, "Carry-in Carry-out Facility" sign, boating access rules sign, and a "Take Responsibility for Your Lakes and Wildlife" sign. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-10 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-8. Orford boat landing.



Figure 3.1-9. Orford boat landing access road.

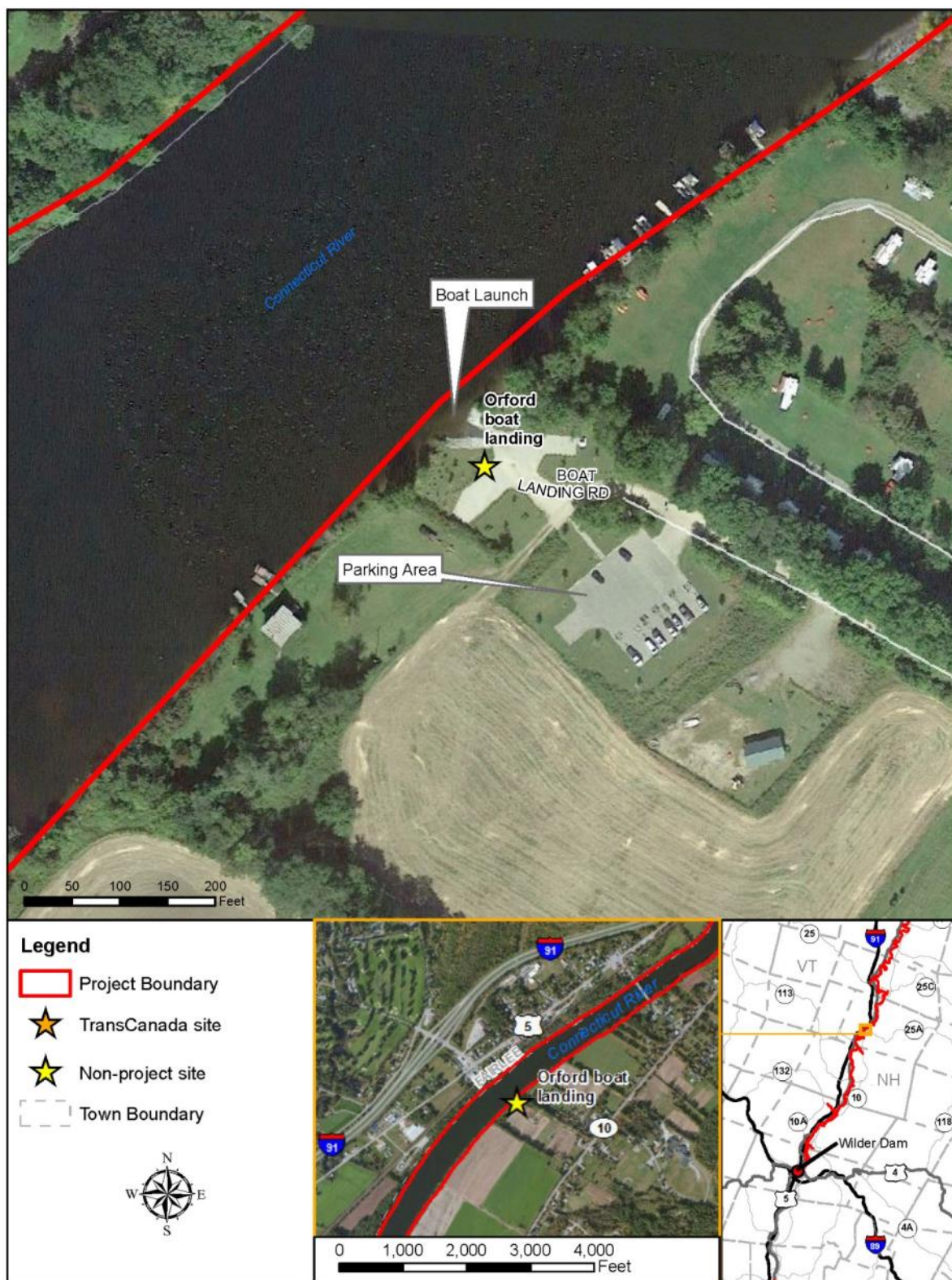


Figure 3.1-10. Map of Orford boat landing.



### 3.1.5 North Thetford Landing

This site, located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Bridge Road in East Thetford, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River, is owned and managed by VDFW. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 300 feet by 50 feet (Figure 3-1.11). A one-lane, cement boat launch is located at the southern end of the parking area. Along the shoreline is a wooden deck on a cement pad overlooking the river used for bank angling and wildlife viewing. This site has a "VDFW North Thetford Access Area" sign, a "Clean Boat Clean Water" sign, and a sign board that consists of a VDFW access area regulation sign, "Game Warden Patrols this Area" sign, personal floatation device sign, "Felt-Soled Boots Restricted" sign, and a "Sports Fish & Wildlife Restoration" sign. Figure 3.1-12 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-11. North Thetford Landing.



Figure 3.1-12. Map of North Thetford Landing.



### 3.1.6 Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch

This site, which is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on River Road in Lyme, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River, is owned and managed by the Town of Lyme. This site has a gravel/loam looped parking area with space for about five vehicles (Figure 3.1-13). A grass path from the parking area leads to the Hewes Brook/Connecticut River confluence. This site has a hand-launch area into Hewes Brook and access spots available for shoreline angling. Signs at this site consist of a "Warning: Stop Rock Snot" sign, a regulations sign (no trailers), a "Warning Harmful Non-Native Species" sign, a "Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail" sign, and a large entrance sign that reads: "Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch" by the Lyme Conservation Commission. The most common recreational activity at this site is canoe/kayak launching. Figure 3.1-14 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-13. Hewes Brook car-top boat launch.

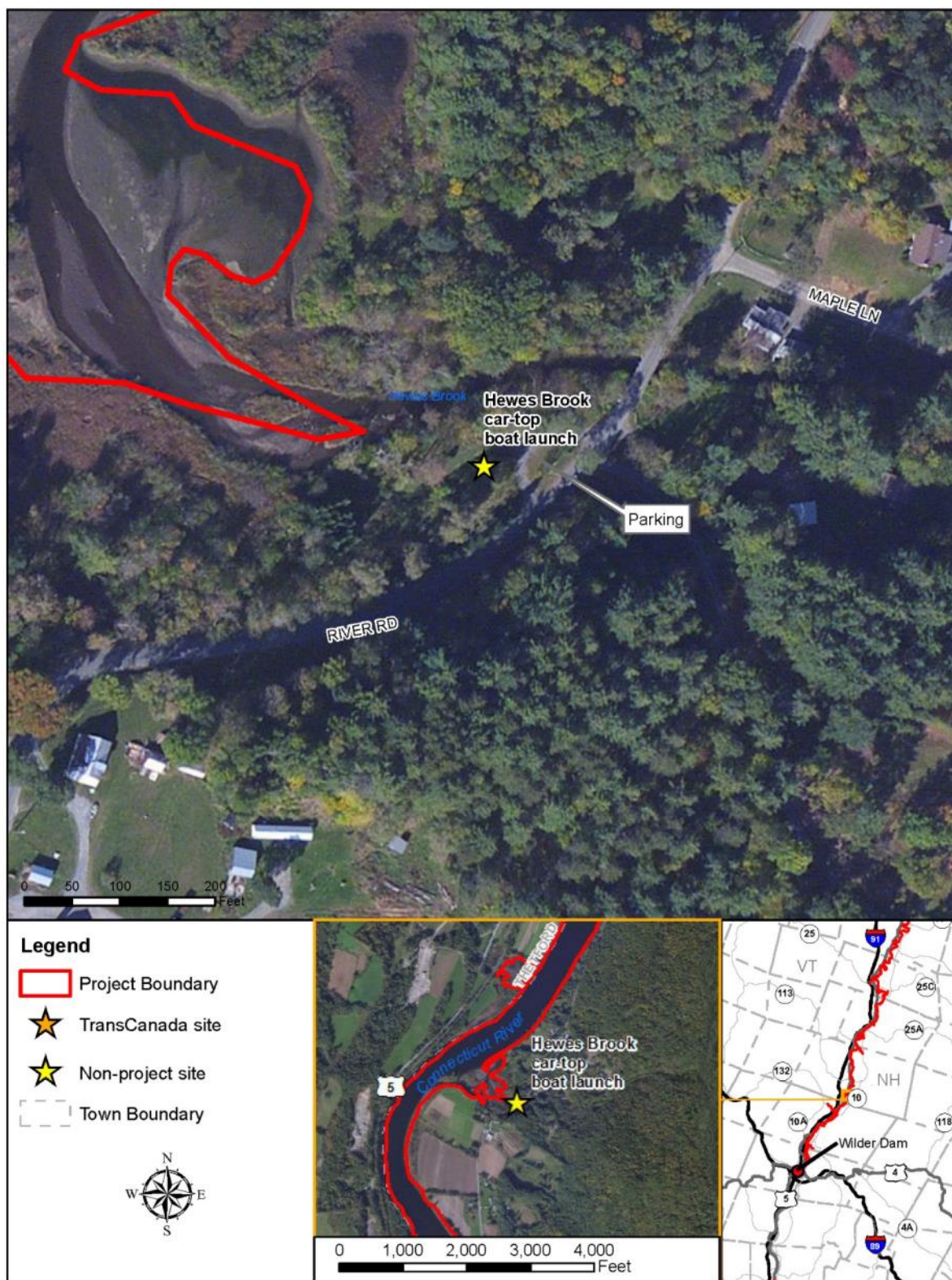


Figure 3.1-14. Map of Hewes Brook car top boat launch.



### 3.1.7 Ompompanoosuc Launch

VDFW owns and operates this site, located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Old Bridge Road in Norwich, Vermont, on the Ompompanoosuc River. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 85 feet by 70 feet with a 12-foot-wide gravel boat launch (Figure 3.1-15). This site has a "VDFW Ompompanoosuc River Access Area" sign and a sign board that consists of a VDFW regulations sign, "Clean Boats Clean Waters" sign, "Carry-in Carry-out" sign, "Felt-Soled Waders Prohibited" sign, fishing regulations sign, "Harmful Aquatic Species" sign, "Headway Speed Only" sign, "Wildlife Restoration" sign, personal flotation device sign, and "Connecticut River Birding Trail" sign. The most common recreational activity at this site is canoe/kayaking. Figure 3.1-16 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-15. Ompompanoosuc launch.



Figure 3.1-16. Map of Ompompanoosuc launch.



### 3.1.8 Wilson's (Fullington) Landing

The Town of Hanover in concert with the Lions Club owns and manages this site, which is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on Fullington Boat Access Road in Hanover, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 170 feet by 70 feet and a gravel boat launch measuring 20 feet wide. A large L-shaped dock extends outward 80 feet and in parallel for 118 feet (Figure 3.1-17). Another smaller 25-foot by 20-foot dock is placed by the boat launch as a courtesy dock. There is a protected land sign on the roadway entrance with a walking trail leading south. Other signs at this site consist of a "No Camping" sign, "Boat Launch" sign, "Wilson's Landing" sign, "Bird Nesting Area" sign, and a "Clean Boats Clean Waters" sign. This site is most commonly used by scull boaters in the morning and evenings and day-use swimmers, anglers, and people who are launching boats. A port-a-potty is available in the parking area. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-18 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-17. Wilson's (Fullington) Landing.



Figure 3.1-18. Map of Wilson's (Fullington) Landing.



### 3.1.9 Norwich Landing

The Town of Norwich owns and manages this site, located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on River Road in Norwich, Vermont. It has a gravel parking area measuring about 85 feet by 35 feet. A crushed stone trail from the parking lot leads to a paved one-lane boat launch (Figure 3.1-19). This site has a small wooden platform off the parking area that is used for bank fishing and hand-launching boats. This site currently has no signs. Figure 3.1-20 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-19. Norwich Landing boat launch.



Figure 3.1-20. Map of Norwich Landing boat launch.



### 3.1.10 Ledyard Canoe Club

This site is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary in Hanover, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. Ledyard Canoe Club is a canoe/kayak hand-launch area that offers a stairway down the riverbank to the water (Figure 3.1-21), a dock, two picnic tables, trash barrels, and a grill. This is a public access site owned by Dartmouth College and managed from a club house by Dartmouth College students during day-light hours (weather permitted) throughout the peak recreation season. Parking for the Ledyard Canoe Club is located on Ledyard Canoe Club Road. Paved parking extends over 600-ft from the entrance forming a large loop, upper and lower parking area. Hand-launching is available whether the club is open or closed; however, canoe/kayak rentals are only permitted during the club's open hours in the daytime. Signs at this site consist of rules and regulations signs, "No Swimming" signs, a "PFD" sign, and a rental rates sign. This site is most popular during peak recreation season to college students and boaters (canoe/kayak/scull). Ledyard Canoe Club operates and rents a cabin known as Titcomb Cabin located on Gilman Island, which is downstream of this site and located in the Wilder Project. Figure 3.1-22 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-21. Ledyard Canoe Club.

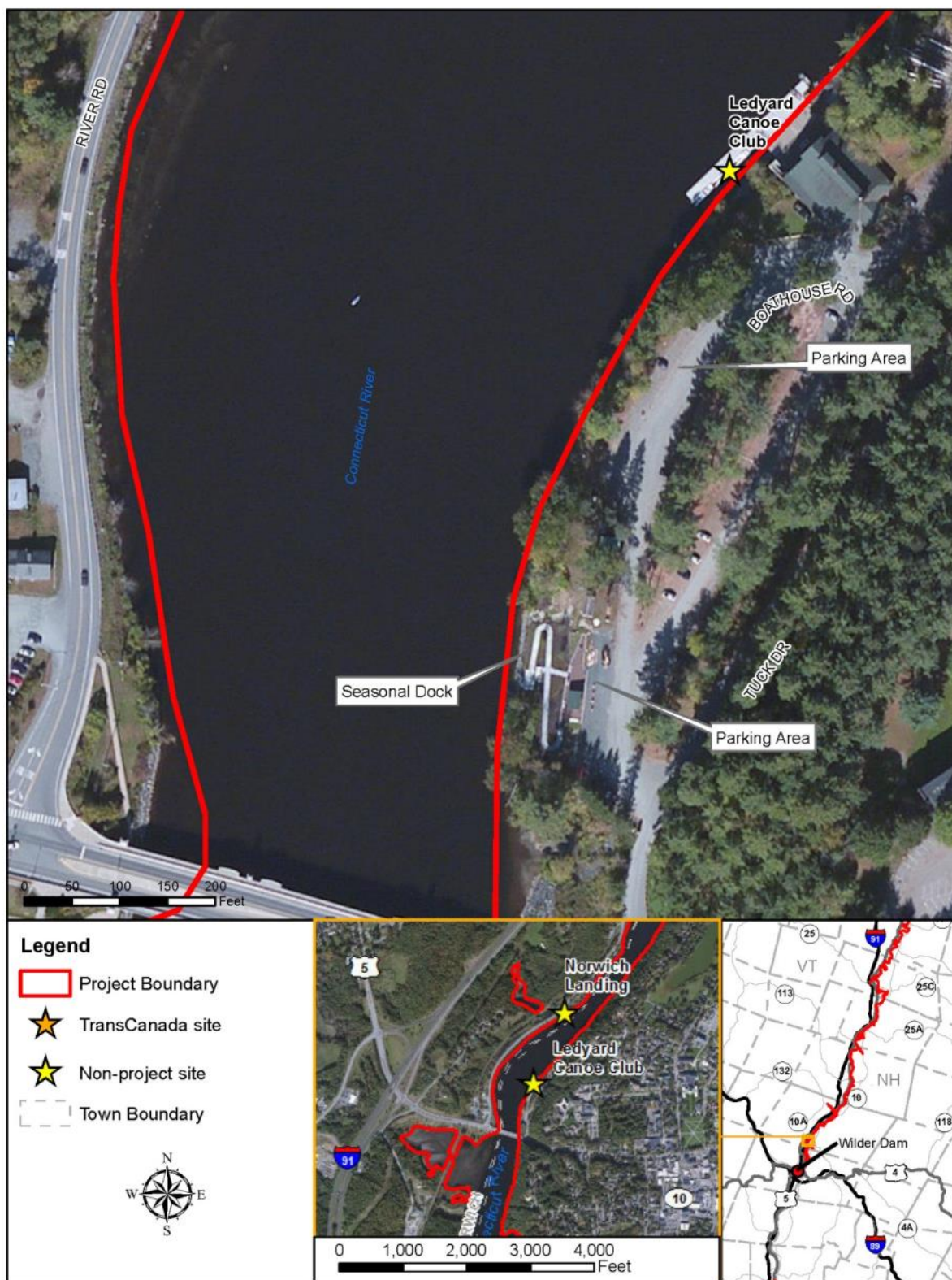


Figure 3.1-22. Map of Ledyard Canoe Club.



### 3.1.11 East Wilder Boat Launch

This site is located on land adjacent to and within the Wilder Project Boundary on East Wilder Road in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. It is owned and managed by the City of Lebanon. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 100 feet by 50 feet (Figure 3.1-23). From the parking area, the road provides a trailer back-up area that leads to a gravel boat launch measuring 30 feet wide (Figure 3.1-24). A small grassy area along the shoreline is used for bank fishing and sunbathing. A wooden sign board in the parking area reads "East Wilder Boat Launch" and has a map of the Connecticut River, a "Warning Non-Native Species" sign, and a public health advisory sign. The most common recreation activities at this site are boat launching, hand-launching, and bank fishing. Figure 3.1-25 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-23. East Wilder boat launch parking area.



Figure 3.1-24. East Wilder boat launch.

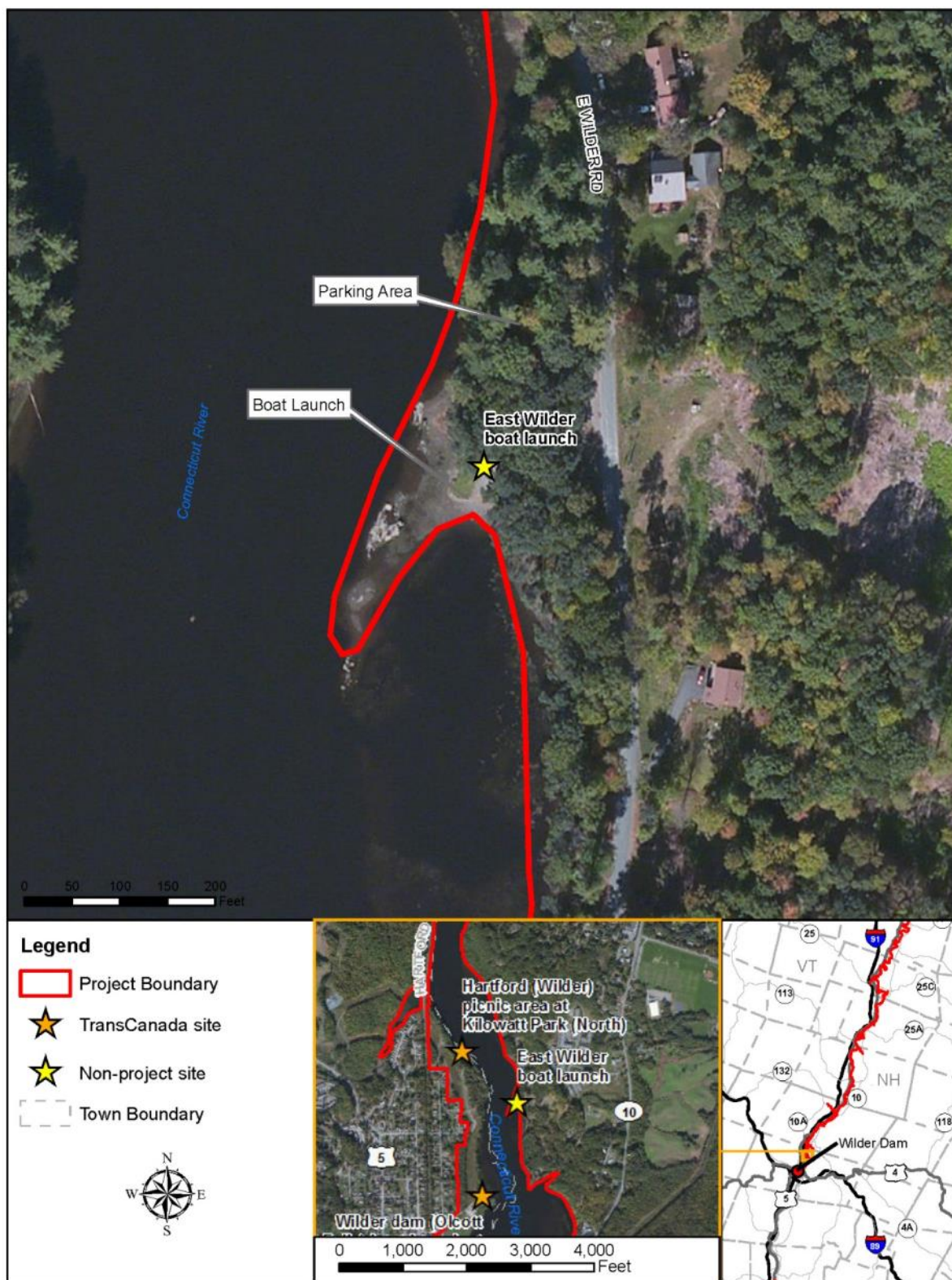


Figure 3.1-25. Map of East Wilder boat launch.



### 3.1.12 Hartford (Wilder) Picnic Area at Kilowatt Park (North)

This site is located on land within the Wilder Project Boundary on Gillette Street in Hartford, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages the formal Project Recreation facility through a cooperative use agreement with the Town of Hartford. The facility has a paved parking area for about 10 vehicles and 2 grass parking areas for additional vehicle parking (Figure 3.1-26). Walking trails are located throughout the site, starting from the southern end where a trail connects to Kilowatt Park South and a spur that heads to the northern end of the park, where the trail ends at a railroad track with potential to meet the Hazen Trail, which is part of the Town of Hartford, Vermont trail system. A picnic area consisting of seven picnic tables, three grills, and three benches are distributed throughout the park (Figure 3.1-27) and a port-a-potty is available in the parking lot. An open area for wildlife or scenic viewing and a hand-launch area for car-top boat launching are located along the shoreline. Signs at this site include a “Kilowatt Park South River Trail” sign, a FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, directional trail signs, “No Smoking” sign, dog walking regulations sign, and a “No Parking” sign. This park is popular for dog walking, and a dog waste disposal station is available. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-28 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-26. Kilowatt Park North parking areas.



Figure 3.1-27. Kilowatt Park North picnic area.

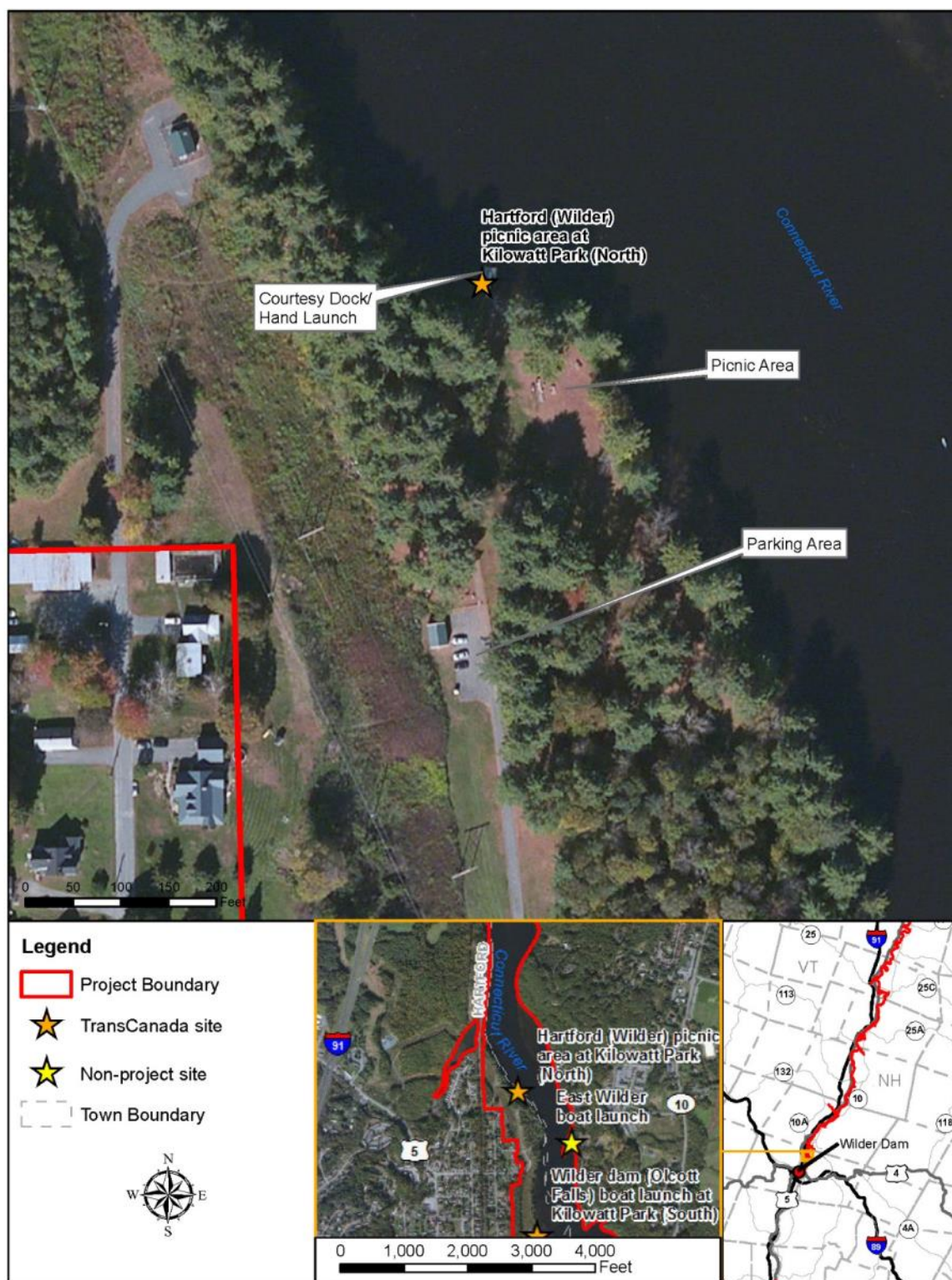


Figure 3.1-28. Map of Kilowatt Park North picnic area.



### 3.1.13 Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South)

This site is located on land within the Wilder Project Boundary directly above Wilder dam on Wilder Dam Road in Hartford, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages the formal Project Recreation facility through a cooperative use agreement with the Town of Hartford. It has three gravel parking areas (Figure 3.1-29) that can hold approximately 30 vehicles. This gated recreation area has a one-lane, concrete boat launch and an L-shaped dock (Figure 3.1-30) at the northern end of the site and a grass athletic field with bleacher seating at the southern end. A trail leading north from the boat launch area connects this site with Kilowatt Park North. The grass athletic field extends into a large field with dog waste disposal stations, a picnic table, and access areas to the Connecticut River. Another picnic area adjacent to the boat launch has two benches and two picnic tables. Other amenities at this site include a port-a-potty and a shed for storing field equipment. At the entrance to this site, there is a "Kilowatt Park South" sign and a directional sign to Kilowatt Park North. Other signs at this site include a "Danger: Approaching a Dam" sign, dog walking regulations signs, "No Smoking in Park" sign, "Field Use by Permit Only" sign, FERC Part 8 recreation area rules signs, and a "Trail to Kilowatt Park North" sign. The most common recreation activities at this site are walking/hiking, boat launching, and using the athletic field. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-31 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-29. Kilowatt Park South parking area and boat launch.



Figure 3.1-30. Kilowatt Park South trailhead to Kilowatt Park North.



Figure 3.1-31. Map of Kilowatt Park South.



### 3.1.14 Wilder Dam Portage and Picnic Area

This site provides portage access around the east side of Wilder dam. TransCanada owns and manages this formal Project Recreational facility on land within the Wilder Project Boundary. At the portage take-out, a wooden stairway leads up the riverbank and four portage signs direct paddlers to the parking area and down the stone stairway to the put-in area downstream of Wilder dam. During the study period, the gravel parking area was limited to about five vehicles due to a brush pile occupying the remaining area. Through the year compostable debris cleaned from the Wilder dam trash racks is temporarily stored here, so the total number of parking spaces varies with debris load (Figure 3.1-32). From the parking area, a stone stairway leads down the bank to the Connecticut River. Six TransCanada water level warning signs are distributed around the site and the downstream shoreline. One large TransCanada warning sign (water level/dam) is located at the site along the shoreline facing the river for boaters to view. Upstream of Wilder dam, two large, clearly visible signs face the river (“Portage” sign and “Danger Dam” sign) and another portage trail sign next to them shows the take-out area (Figure 3.1-33). This site is mostly used by car-top access boaters and shoreline fisherman. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-34 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-32. Wilder dam portage put-in parking area. Figure 3.1-33. Wilder dam portage trail.

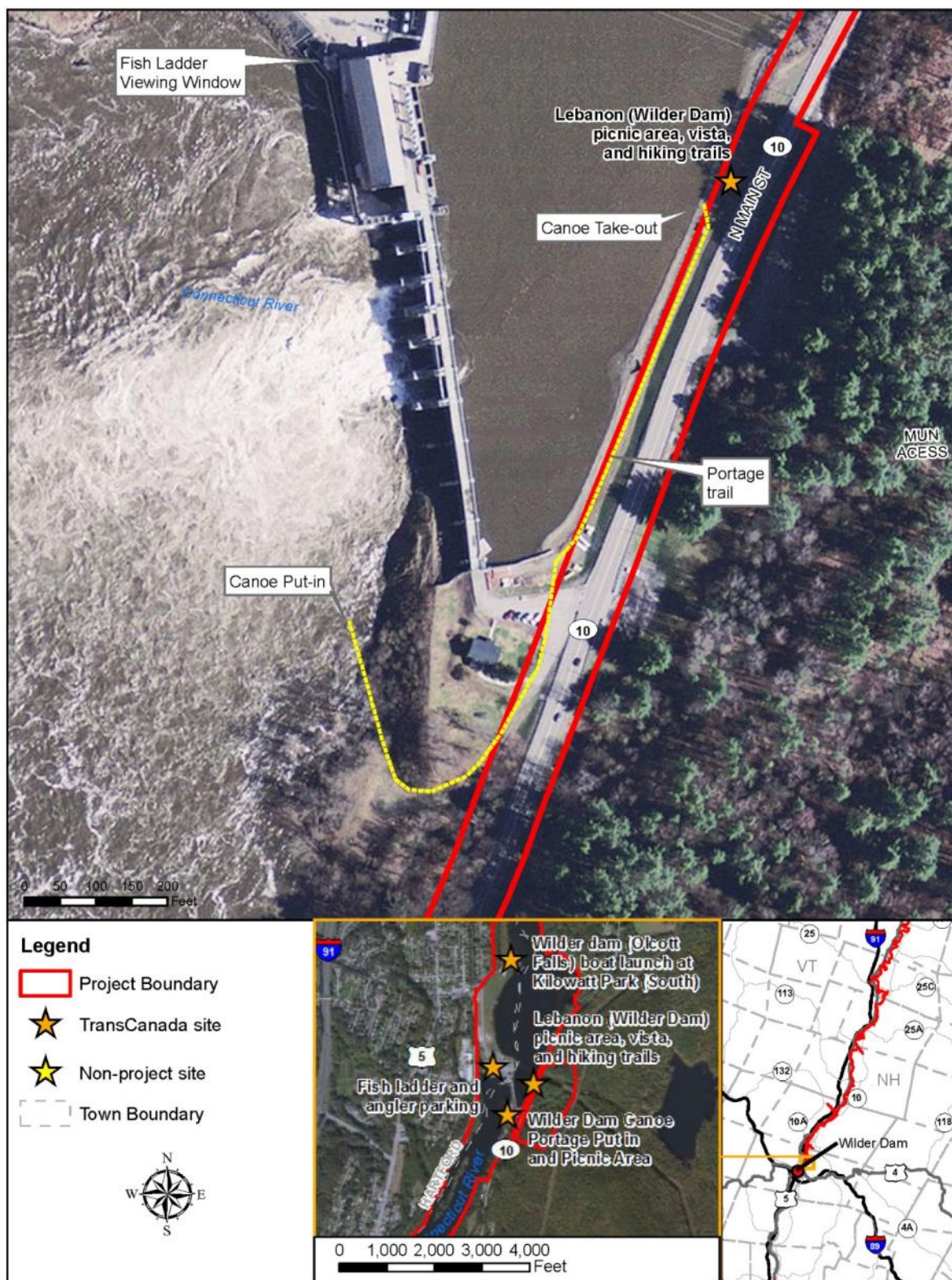


Figure 3.1-34. Map of Wilder dam portage put-in and picnic area.



### 3.1.15 Lebanon (Wilder Dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails

This site is located on land within the Wilder Project Boundary in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, directly adjacent to Wilder dam on the east side of the Connecticut River. The site is owned and managed by TransCanada as a formal Wilder Project Recreation facility. Entrance to the site is on Route 10 across from TransCanada's Connecticut River Office. There are two gravel parking lots about 250 feet by 50 feet and 150 feet by 55 feet both connected by a walking trail (Figures 3.1-35 and 3.1-36). The main parking area has two picnic tables, a "TransCanada Picnic Area" sign at the entrance to the parking lot, a FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, a "Lebanon Picnic Area" sign, and a "Boston Lot" sign showing trail information and a map. The secondary parking lot has one picnic table and a maintained grassy area for picnicking. One main, gated trail leads east from the main parking area with a directional sign stating: "Boston Lot Lake 0.3 Mile" (located outside the Wilder Project boundary). Multiple other smaller trails lead in various directions from both parking areas up the hill east from the impoundment. Figure 3.1-34 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-35. Lebanon (Wilder dam) picnic area vista.



Figure 3.1-36. Lebanon picnic area hiking trailhead.

### 3.1.16 Wilder Dam Fish Ladder and Angler Parking

This site is located on land within the Wilder Project Boundary in Hartford, Vermont, directly adjacent to and below Wilder dam on the west side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages the site as a Wilder Project Recreation facility. It has a large gravel parking area of about 330 feet by 85 feet, a picnic table and a gazebo (Figure 3.1-37). Three TransCanada water level warning signs are posted along the parking area and one large warning sign (water level/dam) is located along the riverbank facing the water in view of boaters. Shoreline fisherman access this site extensively in the spring; it is open seasonally for day-use recreation and fish ladder viewing. The TransCanada powerhouse building has a gated stairway at the east end, leading to the fish ladder viewing window. Figure 3.1-38 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-37. Wilder dam fish ladder parking area.



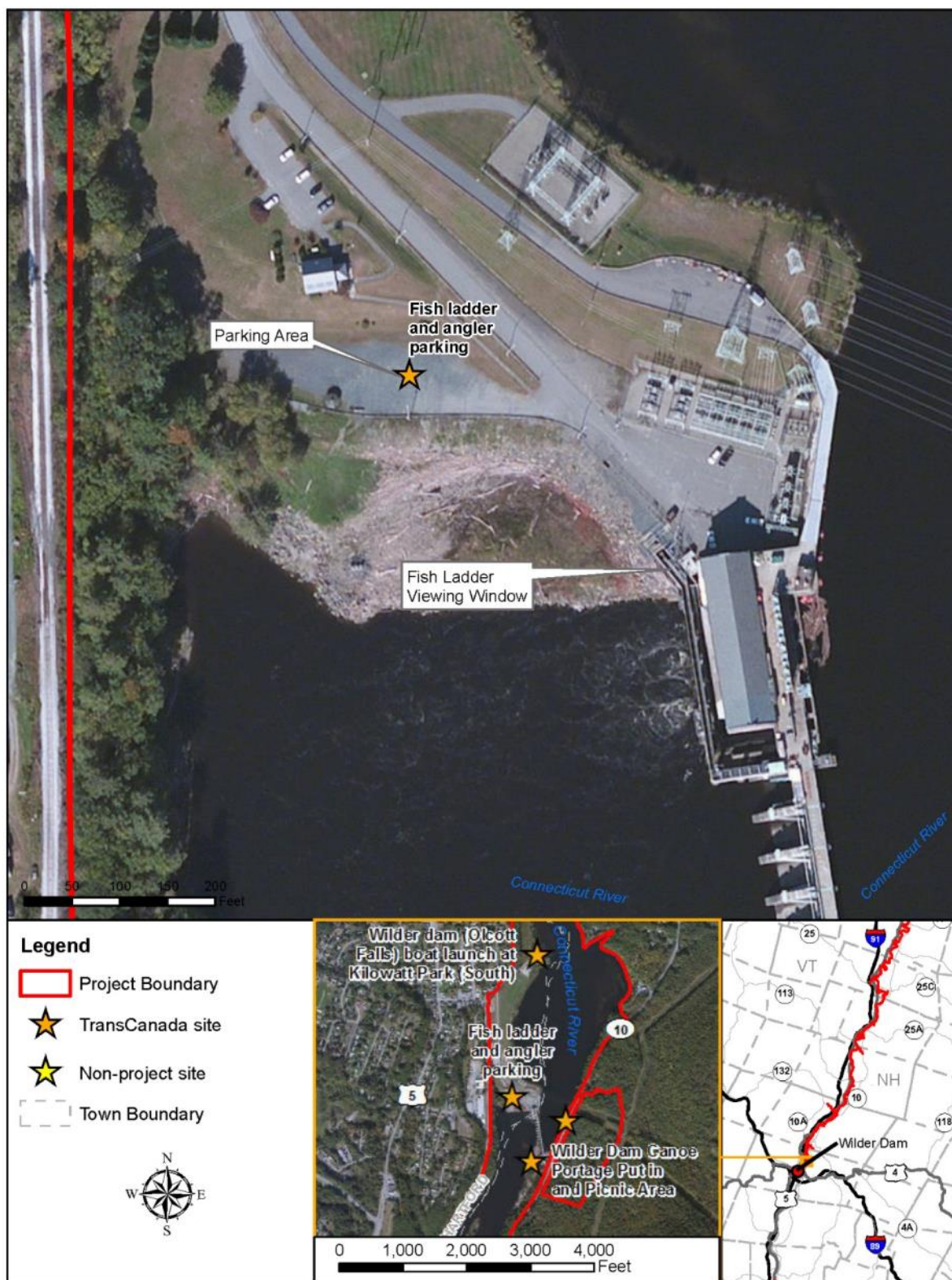


Figure 3.1-38. Map of Wilder dam fish ladder parking area.

### 3.1.17 Lyman Point Park

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project, on Maple Street (Route 4) in White River Junction, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River at the White River and Connecticut River confluence. The Town of Hartford owns and manages this site. It has two parking areas, both of which are shared parking lots for this site and the surrounding businesses. A large grassy field on the western side of the park has a playground (Figure 3.1-39), five benches, two picnic tables, an outhouse, a dog waste disposal barrel, and an outdoor stage for concerts and events (Figure 3.1-40). The eastern side of the park has a picnic area with two Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible picnic tables and two access points to the White River/Connecticut River confluence that can be used for hand-launching boats, shoreline angling, and shoreline swimming. A path connects both sides of the park, and the Town of Hartford conducts weekly maintenance to keep the park in good condition. Both ends of Lyman Point Park have signs stating the rules of the park and posting no smoking. Figure 3.1-41 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.1-39. Lyman Point Park.



Figure 3.1-40. Lyman Point Park playground: Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day.



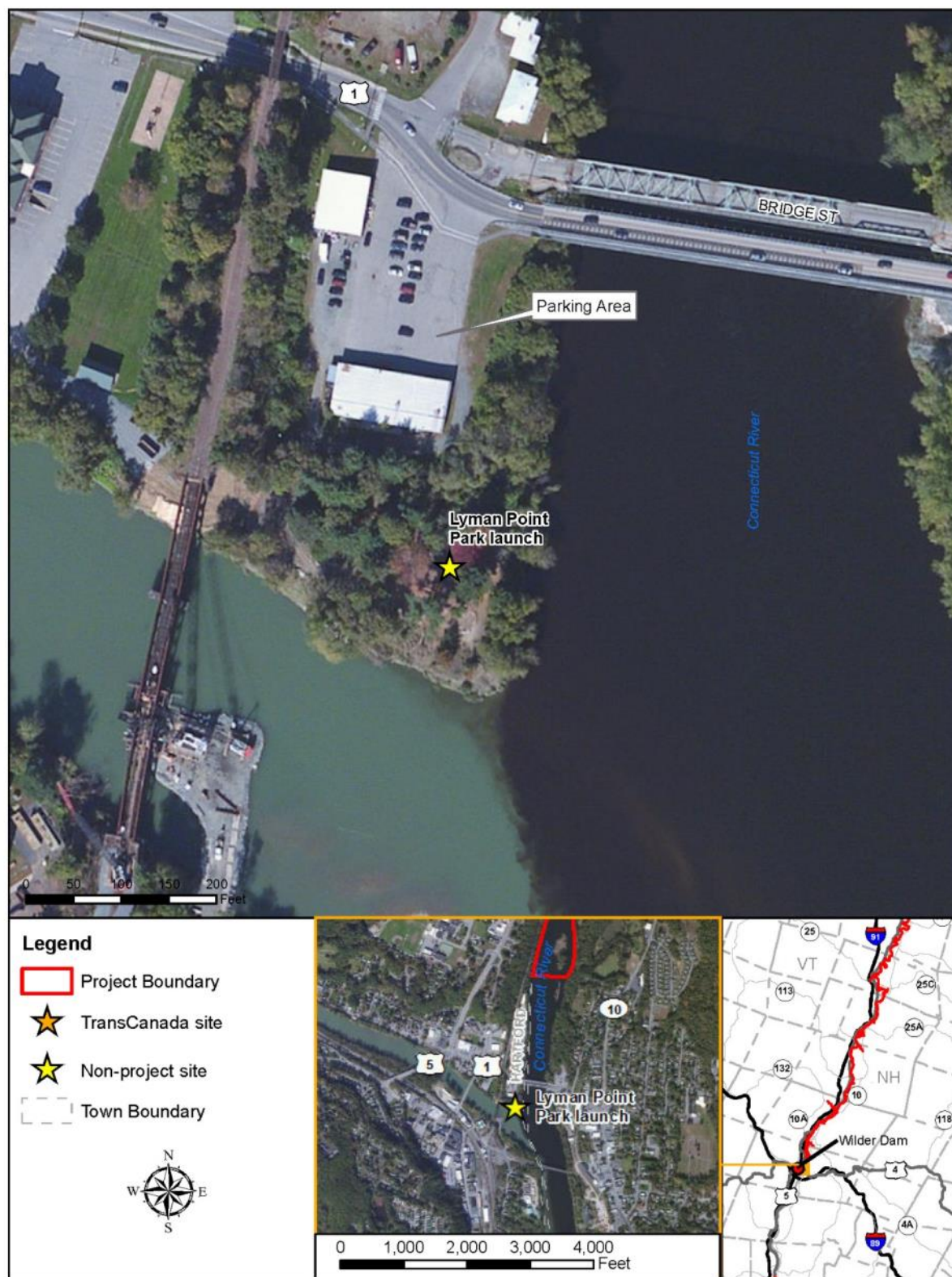


Figure 3.1-41. Map of Lyman Point Park.

### 3.1.18 Two Rivers Park (Lebanon Public Boat Launch)

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project, on Waste Treatment Road in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River at the Mascoma River and Connecticut River confluence. The City of Lebanon owns and manages the site, which has a dirt (off-road) entrance roadway leading to a dirt/stone boat launch (Figure 3.1-42). This site has no amenities and TransCanada's "Warning - Changing Water Level" signs are the only ones at the site. A large gravel parking area is located before the roadway entrance and other parking is available at any open area off the road. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-43 provides a map of the site downstream of the project boundary.



Figure 3.1-42. Two Rivers Park (Lebanon public boat launch).



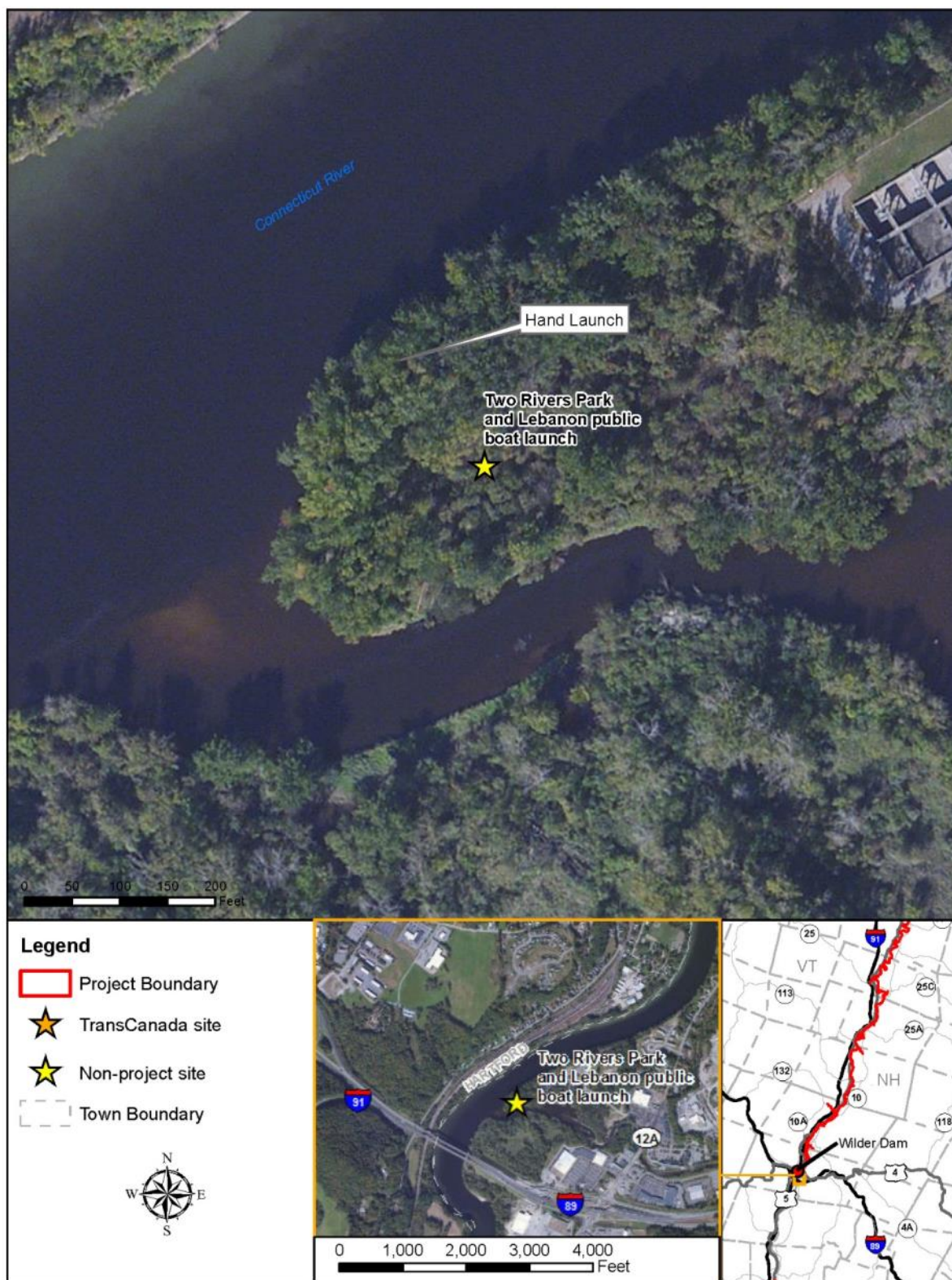


Figure 3.1-43. Map of Two Rivers Park.



### 3.1.19 Blood's Brook (a.k.a. True's Landing) (Lebanon Launch)

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project, on N.H. Route 12 in Lebanon, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. NHFGD owns and manages the site. A newly constructed wooden entrance sign that reads: "Lebanon Public Launch" is clearly visible from N.H. Route 12. The dirt road at the site forms a loop, and the parking available along the side of the road accommodates about five vehicles. A path with a fairly steep dirt bank is used as a hand-launch site (Figure 3.1-44). Signs at this site include TransCanada's "Warning - Changing Water Level" sign, "Stop Rock Snot" sign, "Carry-in Carry-out" sign, and "Consuming Fish Hazard" sign. This site is located at the confluence of the Connecticut River and True's Brook, making it a popular site for shoreline angling. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-45 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.1-44. Blood's Brook (a.k.a. True's Landing) hand-launch area.



Figure 3.1-45. Map of Blood's Brook hand-launch area.



### 3.1.20 Ottaquechee Boat Launch

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project, on Mill Street in North Hartland, Vermont, on the Ottaquechee River. The Town of Hartland owns and manages the site, which has a one-lane dirt/gravel roadway entrance and a small parking area that accommodates two vehicles with trailers. Additional parking with maximum vehicle capacity of approximately five vehicles is available along the shoreline. This site has a gravel/stone area for boat launching and hand-launching. From the boat launch, the Ottaquechee River flows under a railroad bridge and into the Connecticut River. A path leads from the parking area to the bridge, which is used for shoreline fishing and swimming (Figure 3.1-46); the swimming area has a rope swing. Signs at this site consist of an “Ottaquechee River” sign, “No Dumping” sign, and a water level/dam warning sign. This site is located directly below and adjacent to the Ottaquechee hydroelectric project (FERC exempt project #2787) on the Ottaquechee River. Common recreation activities at this site are swimming, fishing, boat launching, and hand-launching. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.1-47 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.1-46. Ottaquechee River boat launching area.

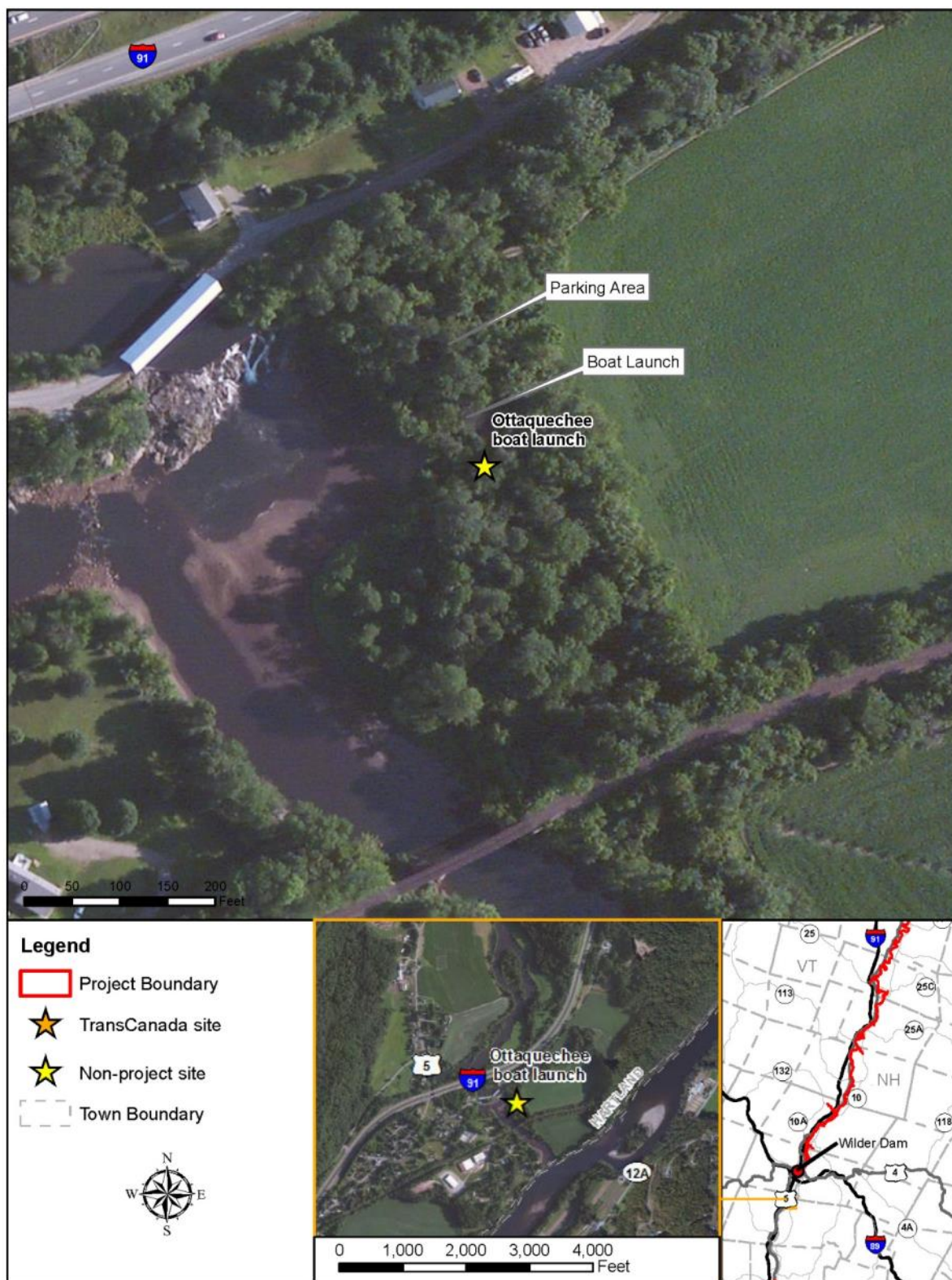


Figure 3.1-47. Map of Ottaquechee River boat launching area.



### 3.1.21 Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project, on U.S. Route 5 in Hartland, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. The Town of Hartland owns and manages this site, which has a gravel/loam, gated roadway, one parking area measuring about 90 feet by 75 feet, and additional parking at pull-offs along the roadway (Figure 3.1-48). The lower end of this site is a 125-foot by 60-foot sand/loam/silt area that is used as a boat launch (car-top/motorboat) and a turnaround for vehicles with trailers (Figure 3.1-49). This site has two access points to the Connecticut River (above and below the rapids) and provides a large area of shoreline access for walking and hiking, bank fishing, and swimming and sunbathing. The two picnic areas have a total of four picnic tables, one grill, and two trash and recycling barrels; one port-a-potty is located in the parking lot. Signs at this site consist of "No Camping" signs, "No Fires" sign, recreation hours sign, one-lane road sign, a "No Dumping" sign and TransCanada managed signs including small and large "Warning - Changing Water Level" signs, and two portage signs. This site is used as a portage for paddlers to get around the falls/rapids (Figure 3.1-50). The most common recreation activities at the site include bank fishing, car-top boat launching, white-water kayaking, and walking and hiking. Outfitters and kayak clubs (The Great River Outfitters, North Star Canoe rental, and Dartmouth Outing Club) commonly use this site, and during peak seasons, visitors use this site multiple times a day to drop off kayaks, canoes, tubes, and rafts. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data during the open season of May to October 2014. Figure 3.1-51 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.1-48. Sumner Falls parking area.





Figure 3.1-49. Sumner Falls beach and portage put-in.



Figure 3.1-50. Sumner Falls portage take-out area and trail.



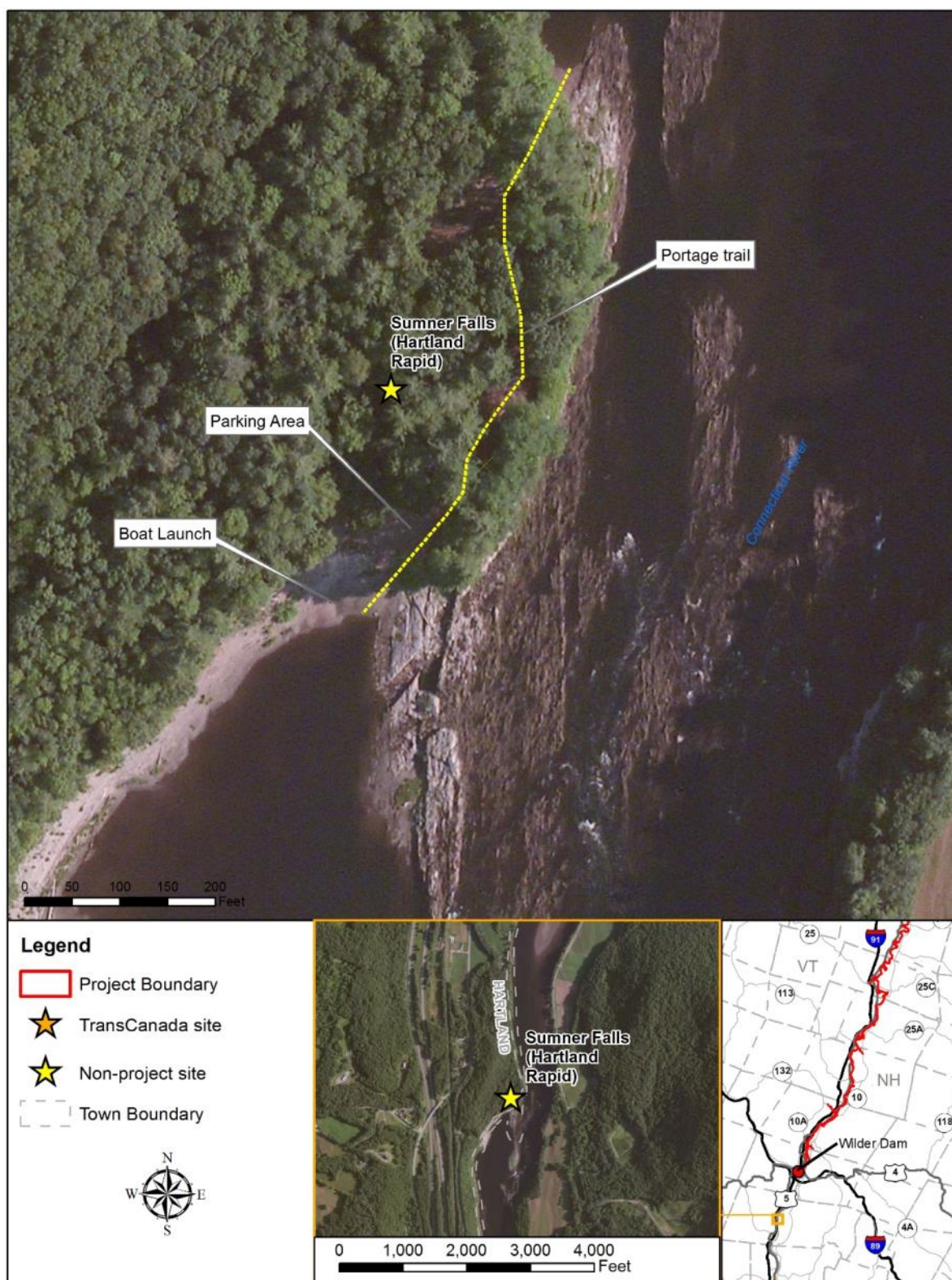


Figure 3.1-51. Map of Sumner Falls recreation area.

### **3.1.22 Cornish Boat Landing**

This site is located on lands outside and downstream of the Wilder Project on Route 12A in Cornish, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. NHFGD owns and operates the site. A large newly constructed wooden sign at the entrance to the site reads: “Cornish Boat Launch” and is clearly visible from Route 12A. This site has a gravel parking area measuring about 235 feet by 40 feet and additional parking is available at pull-offs along Route 12A. This site has an ungraded gravel/dirt boat launch/hand-launch. A grass area along the shoreline parallel to the boat launch is used for picnicking and angling (Figure 3.1-52). Signs at this site consist of an erosion control sign, TransCanada’s “Warning - Changing Water Level” signs, “No Littering” sign, and a “Carry-in Carry-out” sign. The most common recreational activities at this site are canoe and kayak launching and using the boat take-out. Canoe/kayak events take place at this site, and tourists frequently visit to view the scenic Cornish Covered Bridge (located just downstream) with Mt. Ascutney in the background. Figure 3.1-53 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.1-52. Cornish boat launch and parking area.





Figure 3.1-53. Map of Cornish boat launch.



## 3.2 Bellows Falls Study Area

### 3.2.1 Ashley Ferry Boat Landing

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project Boundary on Ferry Landing Road in Claremont, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. Ferry Landing Road is located off Route 12A and a large “Ashley Ferry Boat Launch” sign is posted and clearly visible for visitors to find the site’s dirt/gravel road entrance. NHFGD owns and operates the site. The dirt/gravel parking area measures about 190 feet by 45 feet and additional parking is available at pull-offs along the main roadway/entrance road. Two access points from the entrance roadway to the Connecticut River can be used for shoreline angling and hand-launching boats. A two-lane, paved boat launch (20 feet wide) with a loop-around road provides easy trailer access to the launch site (Figure 3.2-1). In the winter, a snowmobile trail leads through the site. Signage at this site consists of two boat regulations signs, a “Carry-in Carry-out” sign, and a “No Litter” sign. The most common recreation activities are boat launching, shoreline angling, and drive-troughs (people who did not get out to access the river but used the site to park and eat lunch/view the river). Figure 3.2-2 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-1. Ashley Ferry boat landing parking area.

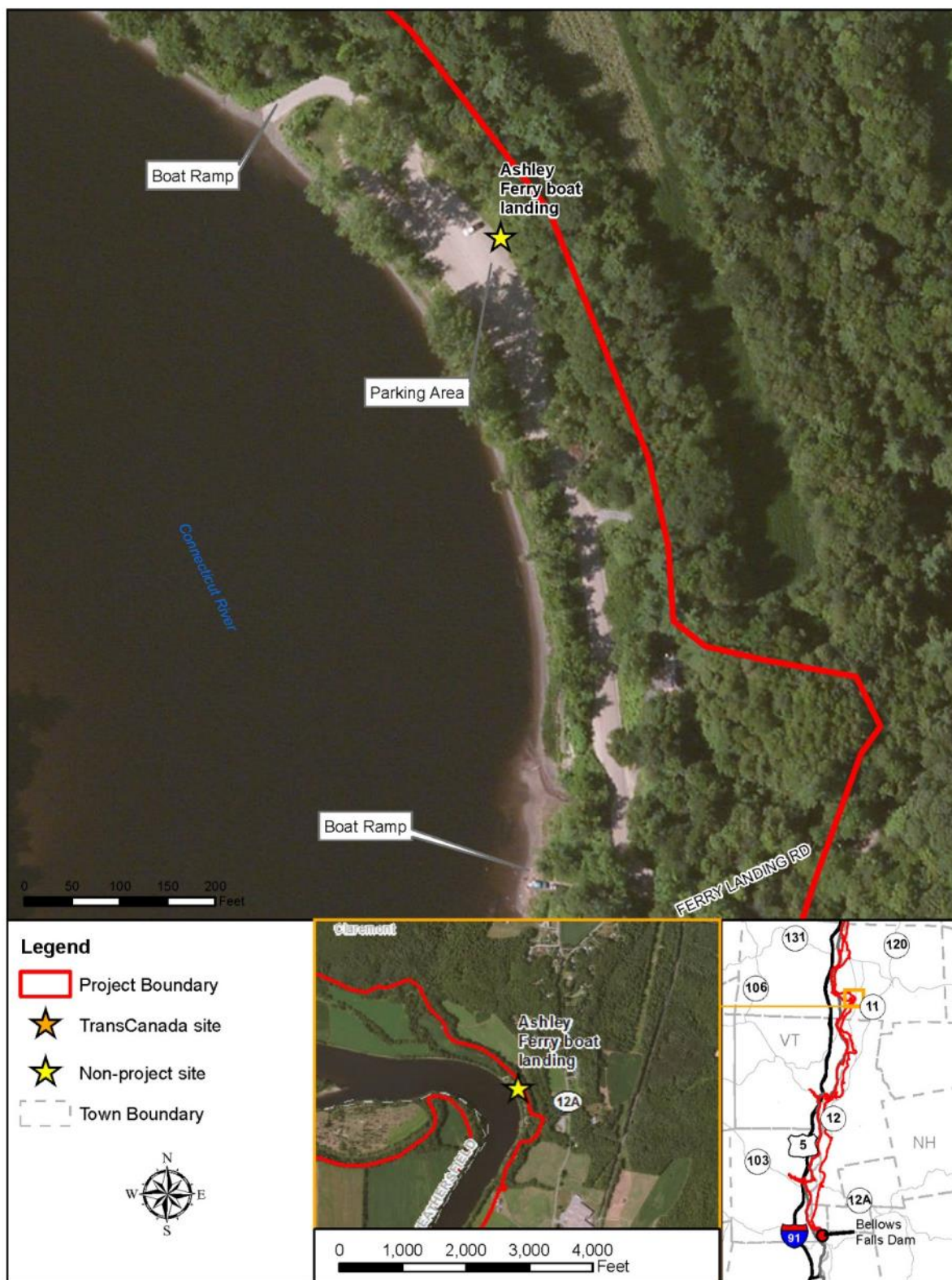


Figure 3.2-2. Map of Ashley Ferry boat landing.

### **3.2.2 Hoyts Landing**

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project Boundary on U.S. Route 5 in Springfield, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. VDFW owns and manages the site, which has a paved roadway entrance with three parking areas. Two parking areas are paved. The first parking area has 10 long (40-foot) parking spaces and 5 regular length (20-foot) parking spaces; the second paved parking area has 7 regular length parking spaces (3 handicapped reserved), and 6 trailered-vehicle-only parking spaces (3 handicapped accessible) (Figure 3.2-3). A large dirt parking area that measures about 200 feet by 100 feet is also available. This site has two boat launches (two-lane and one-lane) and a 50-foot-long dock. A deck along the river bank is used for picnicking and fishing and swimming access spots are available along the open grassy shoreline. This site is located at the confluence of the Black River and the Connecticut River, and a pond that forms off the Black River to the west side of this site is accessible through a large path (vehicle access) and is used for ice fishing (Figure 3.2-4). This site has one port-a-potty. A sign board with recreational information and fishing line waste container are available. Motorboat fishing tournaments are held at this site, and recreation activities, such as boat launching, fishing, and picnicking, are very popular. Figure 3.2-5 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-3. Hoyts Landing parking area and boat launch.



Figure 3.2-4. Hoyts Landing ice fishing vehicle access.





Figure 3.2-5. Map of Hoyts Landing.



### 3.2.3 Patch Park

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project Boundary on Douglas Street in Charlestown, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. The New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation owns and manages this site, which has a gated entrance (seasonal—closed in the winter) and a gravel road with three parking areas. The entrance to the Connecticut River is accessible by using a small path and hand-launching is possible. A trail along the shoreline is available for hiking and fishing opportunities. This site has a playground, four playing fields (baseball/soccer), and a gazebo (Figure 3.2-6). The parking lot for the playground and gazebo measures about 80 feet by 50 feet, the parking lot for the playing fields measures about 80 feet by 40 feet with additional parking along the main roadway, and the parking area for access to the Connecticut River is a large area of dirt/grass that can hold about 10+ vehicles. Amenities at this site consist of eight trash receptacles, five picnic tables, three benches, and two port-a-potties. The most common recreation activities at this site are associated with the playing fields and playground. Figure 3.2-7 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-6. Patch Park.

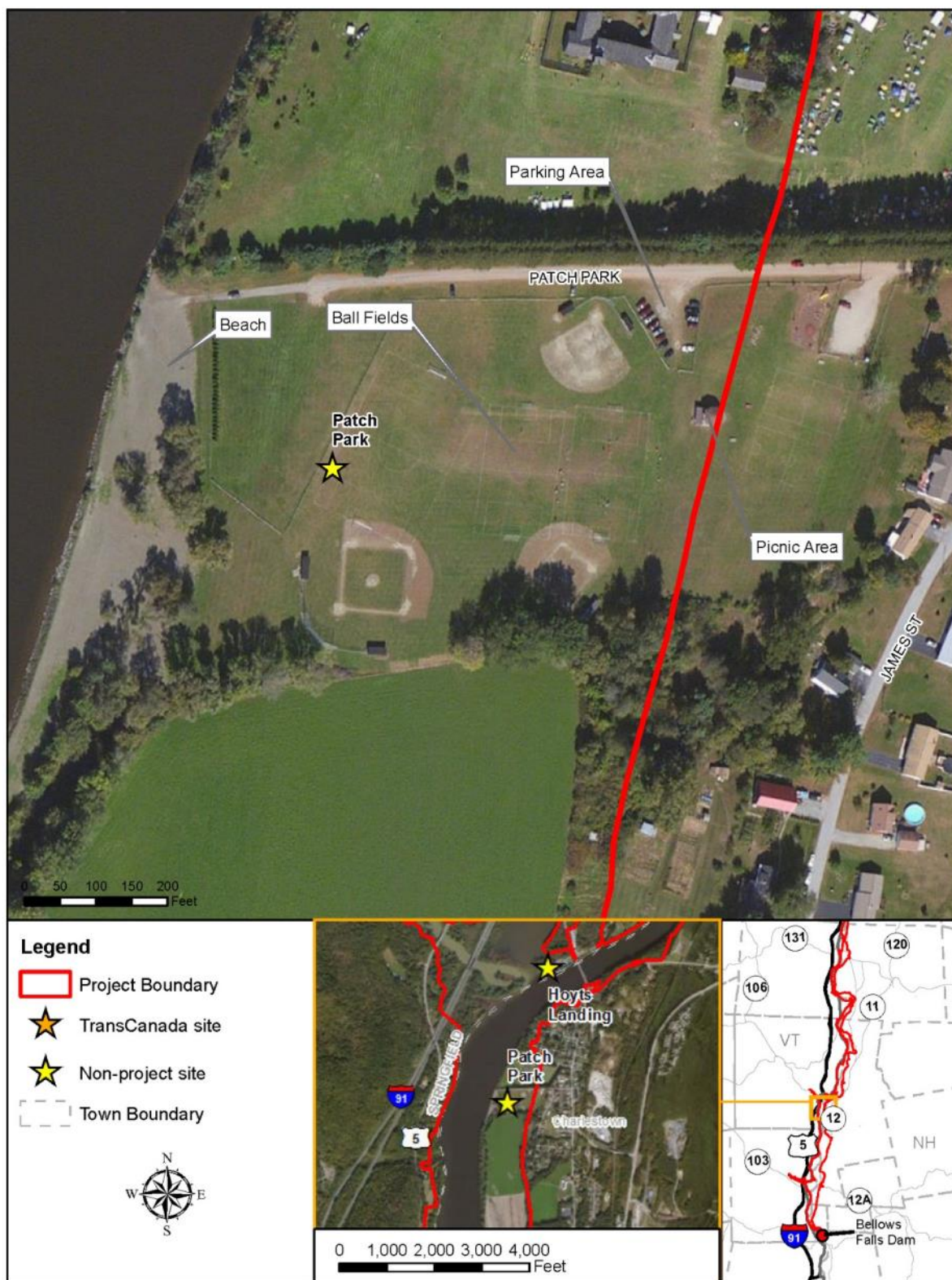


Figure 3.2-7. Map of Patch Park.



### 3.2.4 Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area

This site is located on lands within the Bellows Falls Project Boundary upstream of Bellows Falls dam on Lower Landing Road in Charlestown, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages this formal Bellows Falls Project recreation facility. This site has gravel/grass parking areas for vehicles with or without trailers (~15+ vehicles) and a paved road leading to a concrete boat launch with a small dock. This site has a TransCanada Charlestown picnic area and boat launch, FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, two “Stop the Spread of Aquatic Species” signs, a “No Littering” sign, a rock snot warning sign, and three “Voltage Danger around the Power Lines” signs. Three port-a-potties, two picnic tables, and two grills are located in the parking area. A gated entrance at the northern end of the site leads to a maintained grass picnicking area that offers another four picnic tables and three grills. A maintained grass walking trail at the southern end of the site follows the river’s edge. This site is popular with walkers and dog walkers, fisherman, visitors who are picnicking and grilling, car-top boaters, and boaters launching motorboats. Figure 3.2-8 shows the FERC Part 8 sign, boat ramp, and courtesy pier. Figure 3.2-9 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-8. Charlestown picnic area and boat launch.

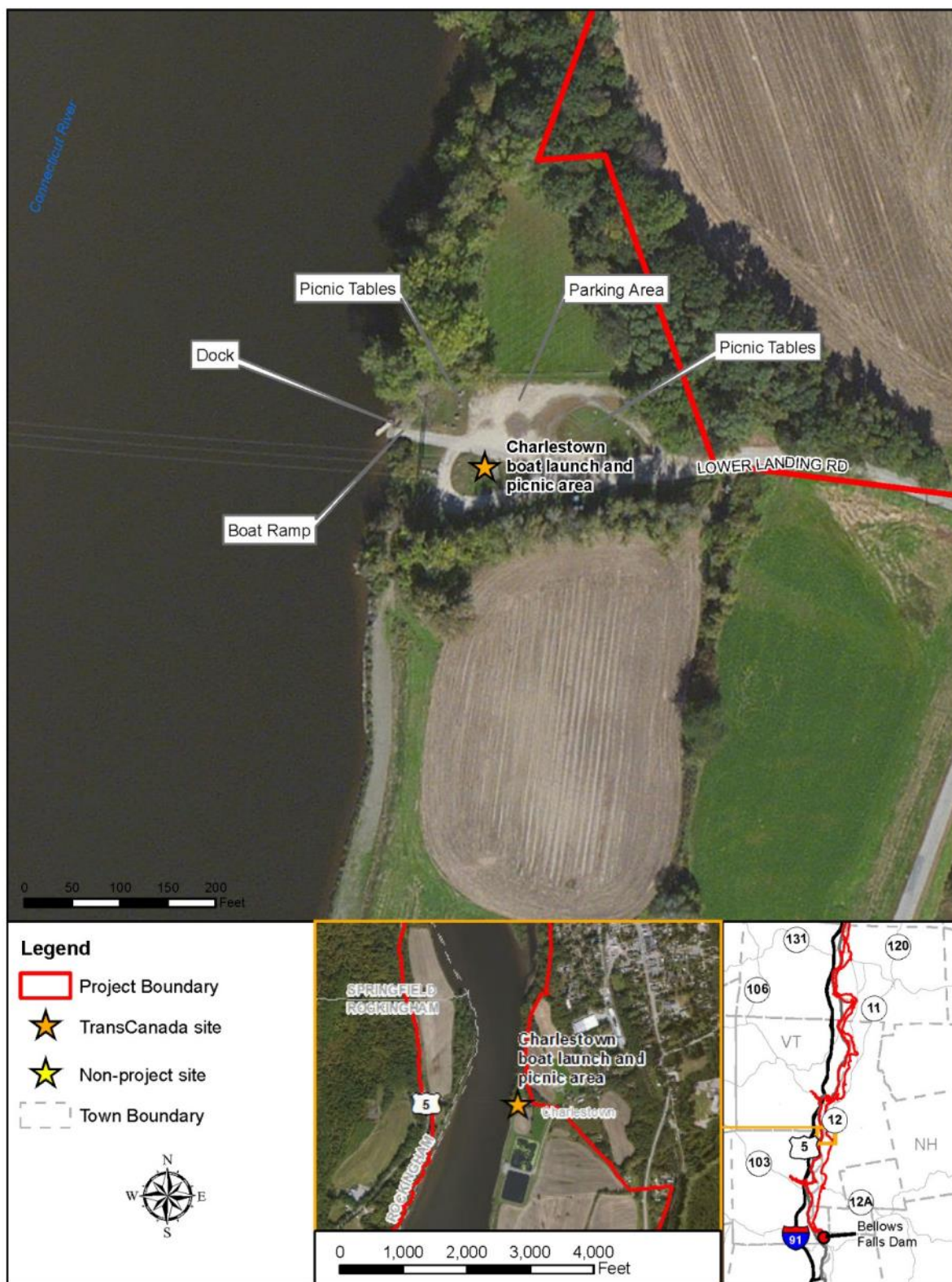


Figure 3.2-9. Map of Charlestown picnic area and boat launch.



### 3.2.5 Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area

This site is located on lands within the Bellows Falls Project Boundary upstream of Bellows Falls dam on Herrick's Cove Road in Bellows Falls, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages this day-use Bellows Falls Project recreation facility. This site is gated at the roadway entrance and at the access to the large picnic area and park. The roadway is gravel and leads to a boat launch, picnic area, and parking areas for both trailer and vehicle parking. Visitors can also use the picnic/trailway park where they can park on grass fields or next to a picnicking spot. The boat launch parking area accommodates around 20+ vehicles and offers a two-lane, concrete boat launch with two docks, two picnic areas (six picnic tables and six grills), three port-a-potties, fishing line disposal container, and walking trails that lead north along the river (Figure 3.2-10). In the park area (capacity for 100+ vehicles), trailway systems traverse the park, leading to picnic areas (20 picnic tables and 18 grills), two port-a-potties, and access spots to the main river and the marshlands at the confluence of the Williams River and Connecticut River. A Herrick's Cove welcome sign, three recreation hours signs, and a neighborhood watch sign are located at the entrance to the site. Other signs at the site are a "Day-Time Use Only" sign, "Dispose of Your Trash" sign, a FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, three "Important Bird Area" signs, a speed limit sign, a "No Swimming in Dock area" sign, two "Clean Boat Clean Water" signs, and a TransCanada sign board with other various signs (i.e., bird species list, stop rock snot, and "Warning - Changing Water Level" sign). The most common recreation activities at Herrick's Cove are birding, picnicking, walking/hiking, boating (car-top launching motorboat launching), and shoreline and offshore boating fishing. This site is also popular for big parties recreating because of the large amount of space this site offers and for hosting large events, such as TransCanada's Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival (Figure 3.2-11). A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.2-12 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-10. Herrick's Cove boat launch.



Figure 3.2-11. Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival.

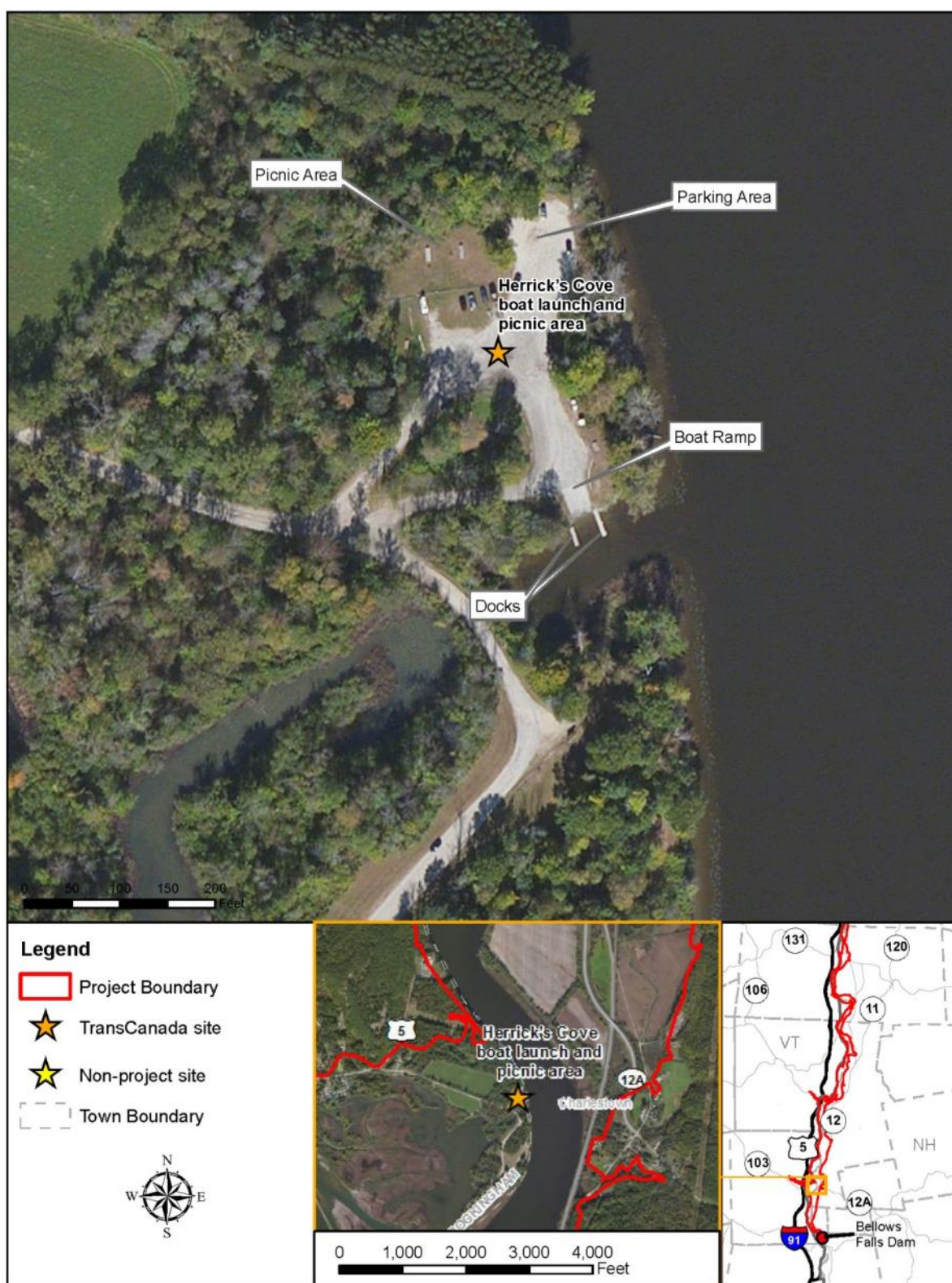


Figure 3.2-12. Map of Herrick's Cove boat launch.



### 3.2.6 Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-out

This site is located on lands within the Bellows Falls Project Boundary just upstream of Bellows Falls dam on Pine Street in North Walpole, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages this site, which has a gravel roadway and parking available on a grass field for vehicles with or without trailers at the southern end of the site. The parking area can easily accommodate 30+ vehicles, but the potential for blocking other vehicles is high if not done correctly. The gravel boat launch has a small dock and a grassy picnicking area with one picnic table and two benches (Figure 3.2-13). Signs at this site consist of a FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, two portage signs located on a brick building facing the river, a “Stop Invasive Aquatic Species” sign, an old river map sign, and two signs with recreation hours. This site is used as the portage take-out for paddlers. The portage is greater than a mile long with seven directional portage signs leading paddlers to the put-in site below Bellows Falls dam. The most common recreation activity at this site is boat launching. Figure 3.2-14 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-13. Pine Street boat launch and portage take-out.





Figure 3.2-14. Map of Pine Street boat launch and portage take-out.

### 3.2.7 Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitors Center

Bellows Falls fish ladder and visitor center is located on lands within the Bellows Falls Project Boundary on Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. The Nature Museum at Grafton manages the Visitor Center and fish ladder viewing window access through an agreement with TransCanada. The visitor center has interpretive displays related to the history of the historic mill, hydroelectric power, the fish ladder and aquatic ecology. In addition the Nature Museum provides staff for hands-on environmental programs most weekends during the summer. The visitor center is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and programs are free. Figure 3.2-15 shows the outside of the visitor center and Figure 3.2-17 in Section 3.2.8 below provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-15. Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center



### 3.2.8 Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System

Bellows Falls historic riverfront park and trail system is located on lands owned by the Bellows Falls Historical Society and lies adjacent but outside the project boundary, downstream of the powerhouse on Mill Street in the Village of Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham, Vermont. A newly constructed signboard and stairway leading down the bank to the Connecticut River gives visitors access for car-top boat launching. This site has a gravel walking trail (Figure 3.2-16) and a scenic viewing platform with two benches overlooking a pond. Bank fishing and walking/hiking are the most common recreation activities at this site. Figure 3.2-17 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-16. Bellows Falls historic riverfront park and trail system.



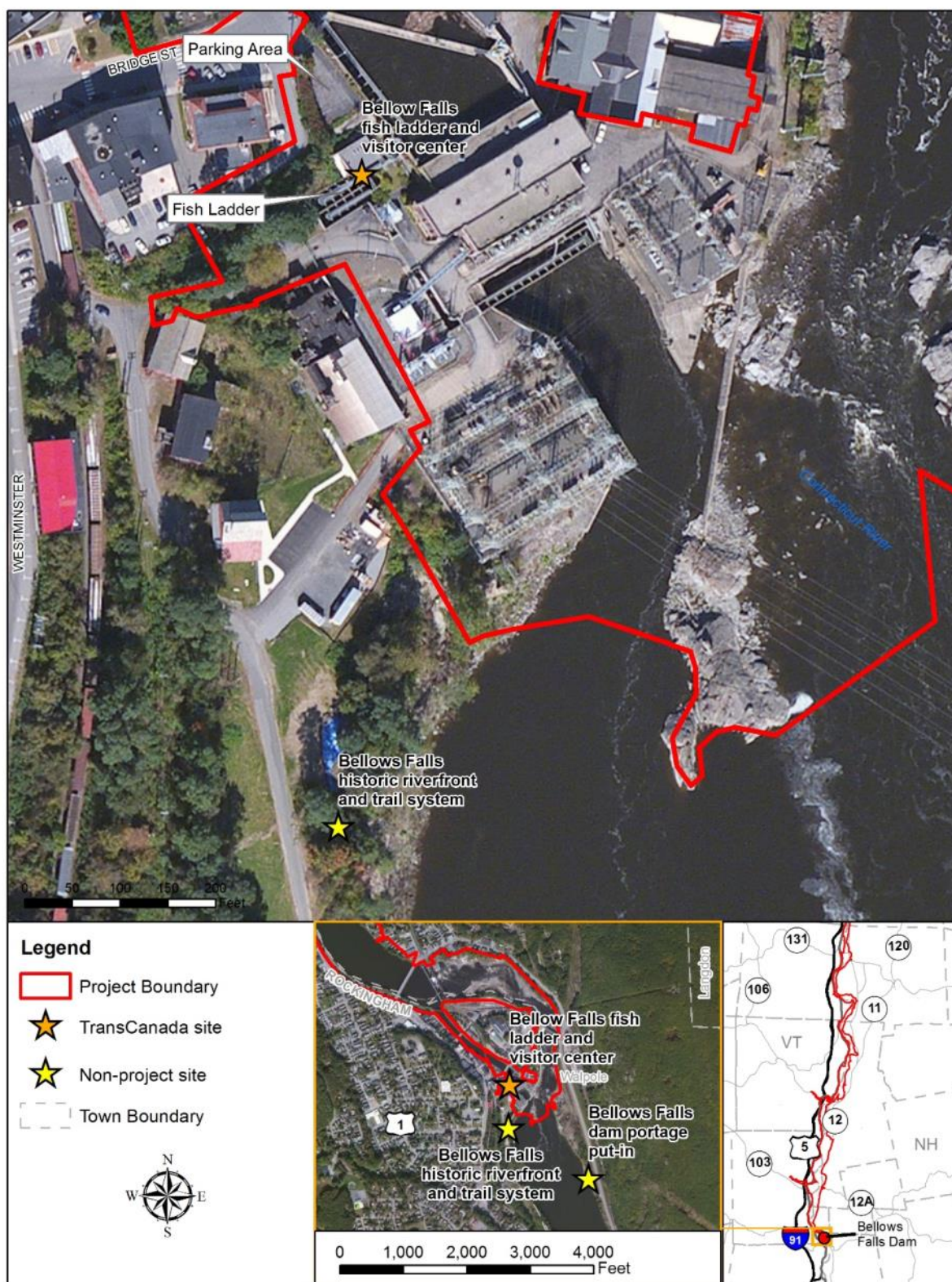


Figure 3.2-17. Map of Bellows Falls fish ladder, visitor center, historic riverfront park and trail system.

### 3.2.9 Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In

This site is located adjacent but outside of the project boundary, downstream of the powerhouse on N.H. Route 12 in North Walpole, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. It is owned by the Town of Walpole and consists of a sand/gravel parking area that accommodates about 10 vehicles; additional parking is available along the shoreline. From the parking area, a road leads north (upstream) to a beach area where visitors park, picnic, fish, and swim (Figure 3.2-18). This site has walking trails leading north to the Bellows Falls bypassed reach. Signs at this site consist of a portage sign at the N.H. Route 12 entrance, “No Littering” signs, and TransCanada’s “Warning - Changing Water Level” signs. A sandy shoreline facilitates hand-launching and off-road boat launching. Common recreation activities at this site are bank fishing, swimming, walking/hiking, and car-top boat launching. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.2-19 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.2-18. Bellows Falls portage put-in.



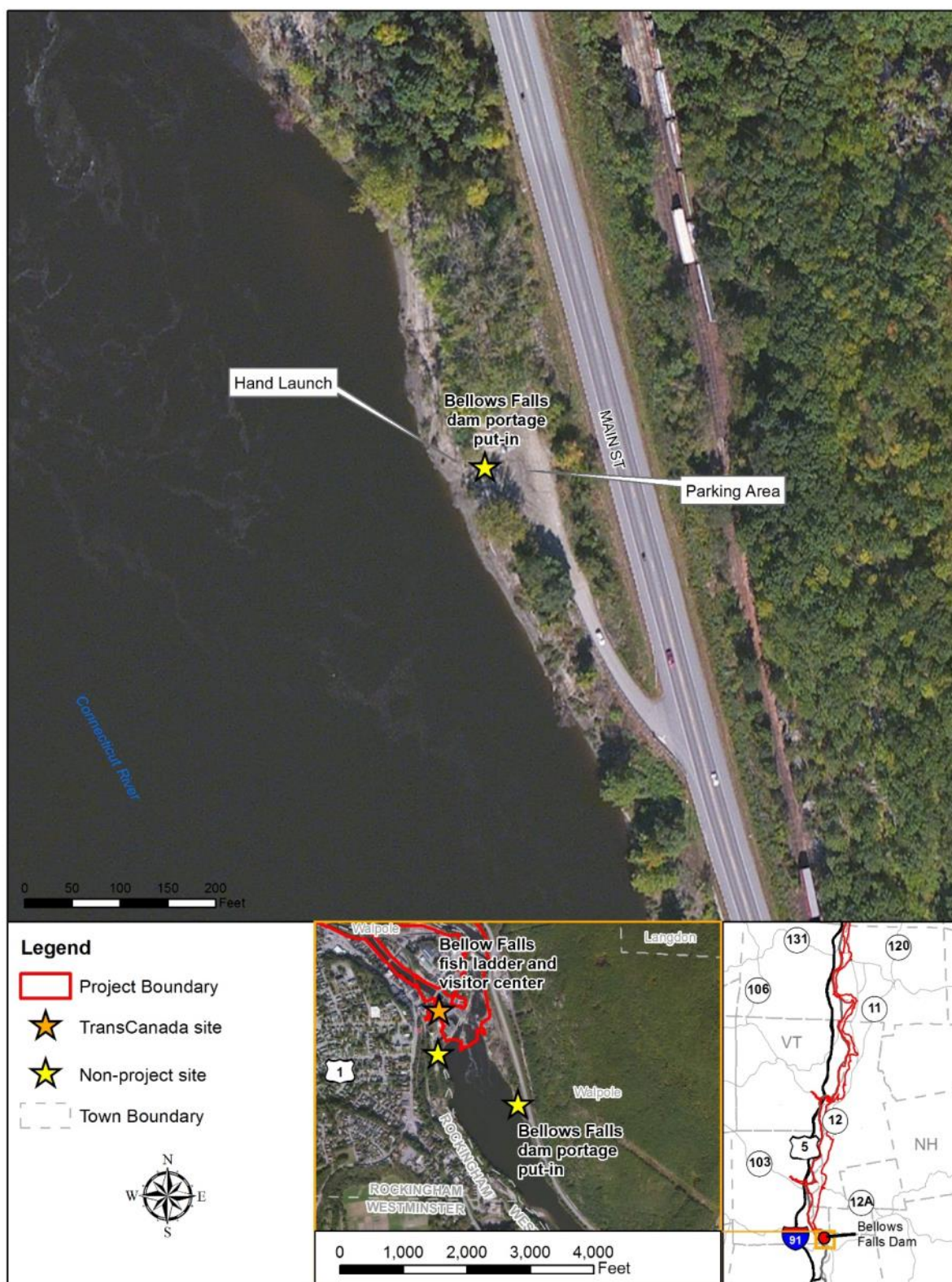


Figure 3.2-19. Map of Bellows Falls portage put-in.



### 3.2.10 Cold River Hand-Launch

This site is located outside the project boundary, downstream of the Bellows Falls Project on N.H. Route 12 in North Walpole, New Hampshire, at the confluence of the Cold River with the Connecticut River. New Hampshire Department of Transportation owns and manages this site, which has a one-lane dirt/gravel off-road vehicle roadway leading to a small parking area that holds about five vehicles. From the parking area, a path leads to a car-top boat launching location at the Cold River and another that leads to the Connecticut River. Bank fishing and car-top boat launching are the most common recreation activities at this site. Figure 3.2-20 is a photograph showing the Cold River hand-launch parking area. Figure 3.2-21 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.2-20. Cold River hand-launch site.

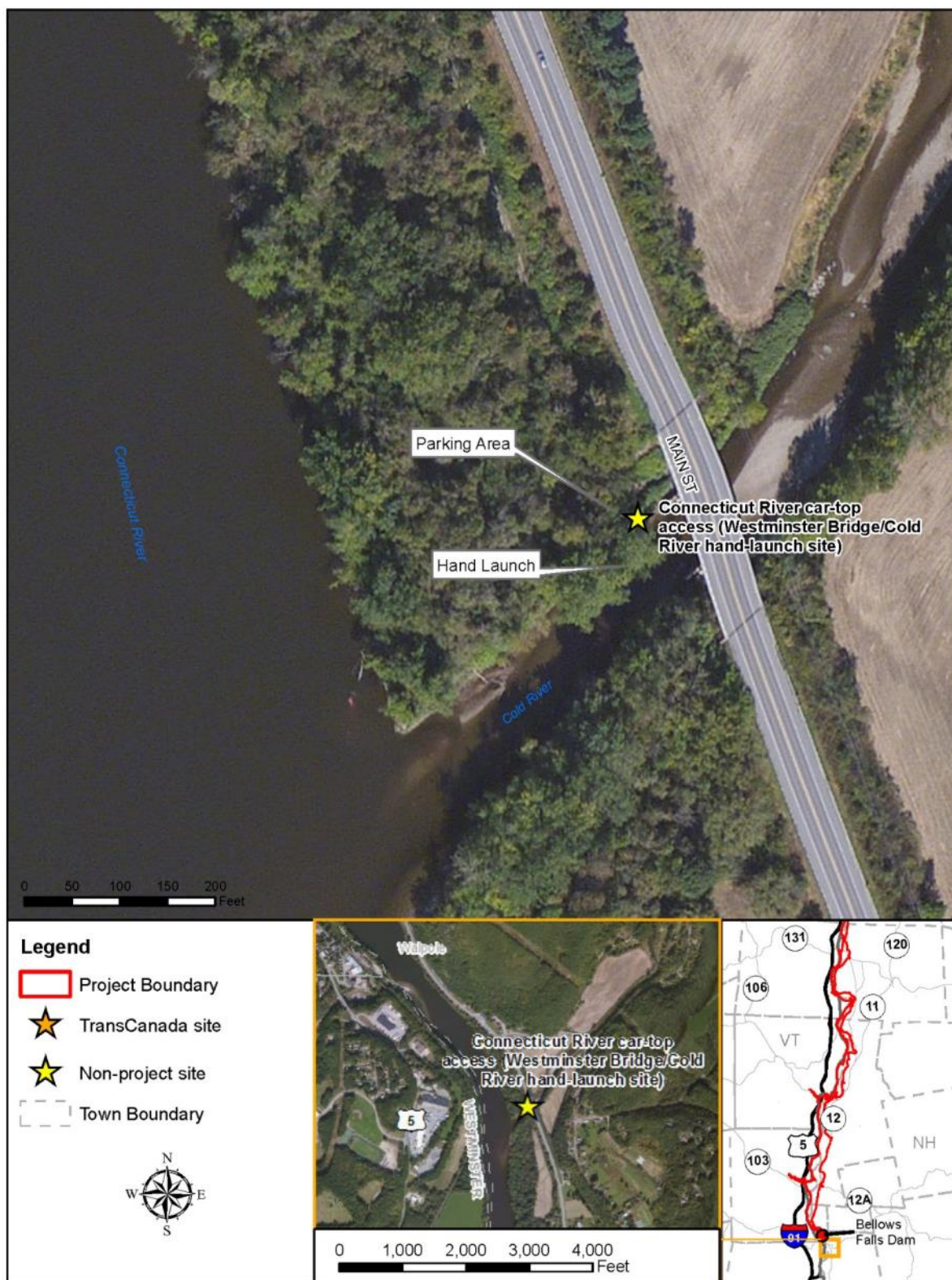


Figure 3.2-21. Map of Cold River hand-launch site.



### 3.2.11 New Hampshire Fish and Game Car-Top Access

This site is located outside the project boundary, downstream of the Bellows Falls Project on N.H. Route 12 in North Walpole, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. NHFGD owns and manages this site. A directional canoe access sign is located on N.H. Route 12 at the roadway entrance. This site has a gravel/dirt parking area measuring about 90 feet by 70 feet, along with a car-top access area and a trail that leads from the parking area down the riverbank to the sandy hand-launch area (Figure 3.2-22). Other trails lead downstream to a rope swing and continue south to Westmorland Bridge. This site is surrounded by farmland and forest, so people seeking wild edibles visit this site in the spring. Common recreation activities at this site are swimming and sunbathing, hand-launching boats, walking and hiking, and bank fishing. This site has signs throughout the area prohibiting the use of off-road vehicles to protect the shoreline forest floor. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.2-23 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.2-22. New Hampshire Fish and Game car-top access.





Figure 3.2-23. Map of New Hampshire Fish and Game car-top access.

### 3.3 Vernon Study Area

#### 3.3.1 Putney Boat Landing

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Putney Landing Road in Putney, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. VDFW owns and manages the site, which has a 200-foot by 35-foot gravel parking area accommodating 3 to 5 vehicles with boat trailers (Figure 3.3-1). A one-way road in and out leads to an 18-foot-wide paved boat launch. Two paths with stone steps lead down the bank to the river. Bank fishing, swimming from shore, canoe/kayaking, and boat launching are common recreation activities at this site. A “VDFW Putney Landing Access Area” sign is located at the entrance roadway, while a sign board consisting of an access area etiquette sign, personal floatation device sign, VDFW access area regulations sign, “Clean Boats Clean Waters” sign, and a “Sport Fish Restoration” sign is located in the parking area. Directly downstream of Putney boat launch is the Putney Rowing Club public dock (Figure 3.3-2). This site is most commonly used for sculling and members of the Putney Rowing Club, but public access is allowed and a port-a-potty is available. The rowing club dock is large, and fishing from the dock and hand-launching are common. Figure 3.3-3 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-1. Putney boat landing parking area.



Figure 3.3-2. Entrance to the Putney Rowing Club.



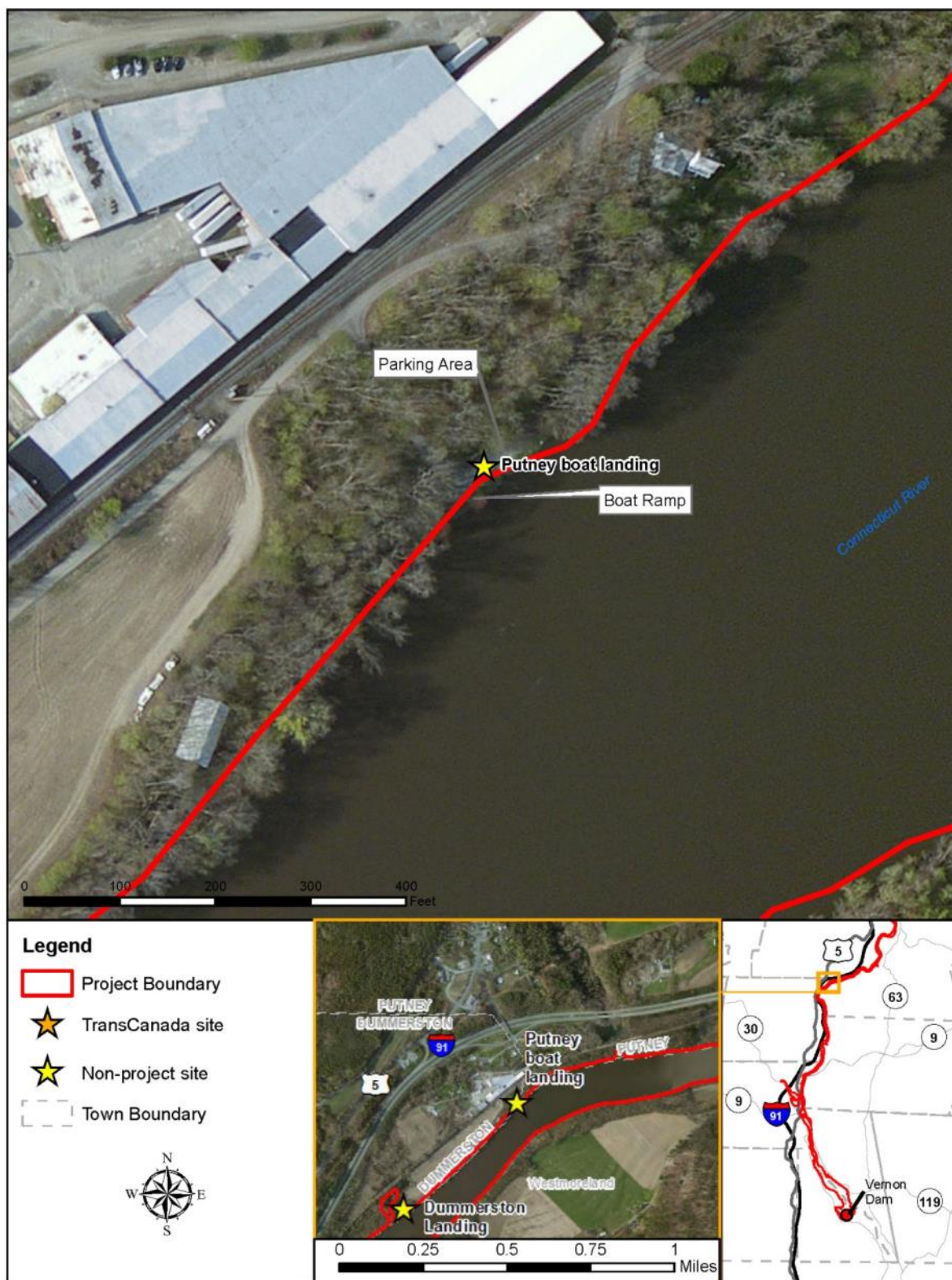


Figure 3.3-3. Map of Putney boat landing.



### 3.3.2 Dummerston Landing

This site is on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Putney Landing Road in Putney, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. VDFW owns and manages the site. It has a dirt roadway that leads into two dirt/gravel parking areas measuring about 55 feet by 90 feet and 75 feet by 55 feet. An 18-foot-wide, paved boat launch at the southern end of the site leads into a stream off the Connecticut River (Figure 3.3-4). Two paths with wooden stairways lead down the bank from the parking area to the Connecticut River. A rope swing is used by swimmers. Other recreation activities include bank fishing, sunbathing, and boat launching. This site has a "VDFW Dummerston Landing Access Area" sign and a sign board that consists of a VDFW access area regulations sign, personal floatation device sign, "Clean Boats Clean Waters" sign, "Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail" sign, "Please Keep Area Clean" sign, "Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration" sign, and a "Game Warden Patrol" sign. This site is located just downstream of Putney Boat Launch and is used mainly for boat launching when that site is full. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at this site to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.3-5 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-4. Dummerston Landing parking area and boat ramp.



Figure 3.3-5. Map of Dummerston Landing.



### 3.3.3 (Chesterfield) River Road Access

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on River Road in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. The Town of Chesterfield owns and manages this site, which has a 65-foot by 80-foot gravel parking area. This site also has a 13-foot-wide paved boat launch (Figure 3.3-6). Signs at this site consist of two “Stop Aquatic Plant Species” signs and a New Hampshire boating speed law sign. A grassy area along the shoreline accommodates additional parking and sunbathing/swimming access. This site is most commonly used for motorboat launching. Figure 3.3-7 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.3-6. (Chesterfield) River Road access.



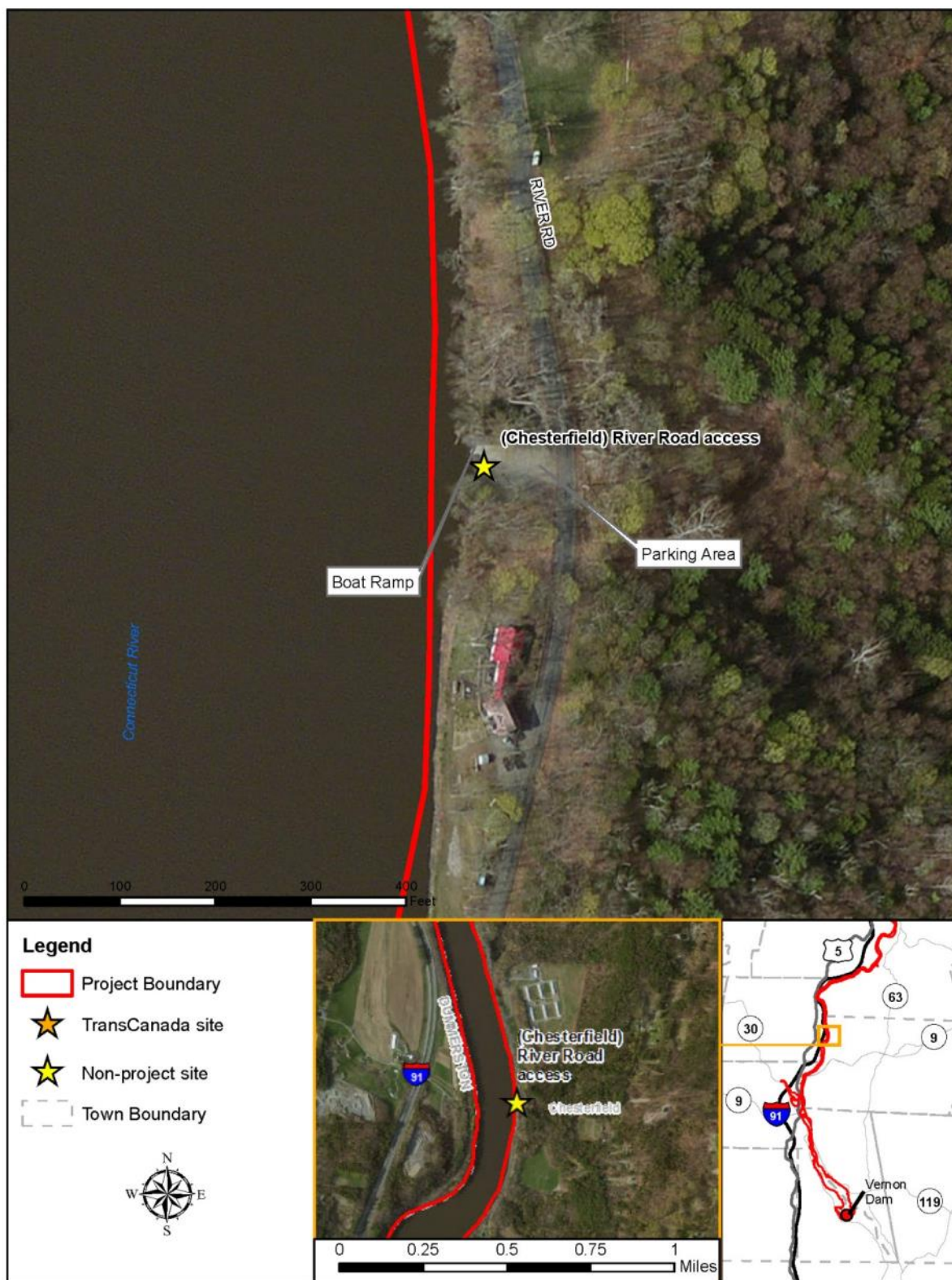


Figure 3.3-7. Map of River Road access.

### 3.3.4 Old Ferry Road Access

This site is on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. VDFW owns and manages this site, which has a circular roadway and two gravel parking areas that measure about 300 feet by 40 feet and 200 feet by 40 feet. A 20-foot-wide concrete boat launch (Figure 3.3-8) and a trail leading north along the upper bank of the river are also located at this site. Signage consists of a "VDFW Old Ferry Road Access Area" sign, "Stop Aquatic Species" sign, and a sign board that has a VDFW access area sign, "Game Warden Patrol" sign, "Clean Boats Clean Waters" sign, "Warning Non-Native Species Sign", personal flotation device sign, "Please Keep Area Clean" sign, "Carry-in Carry-out" sign, "Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration" sign, "Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail" sign, and a for your information sign. Figure 3.3-9 provides a map of the site (downstream of the project boundary).



Figure 3.3-8. Old Ferry Road boat launch.



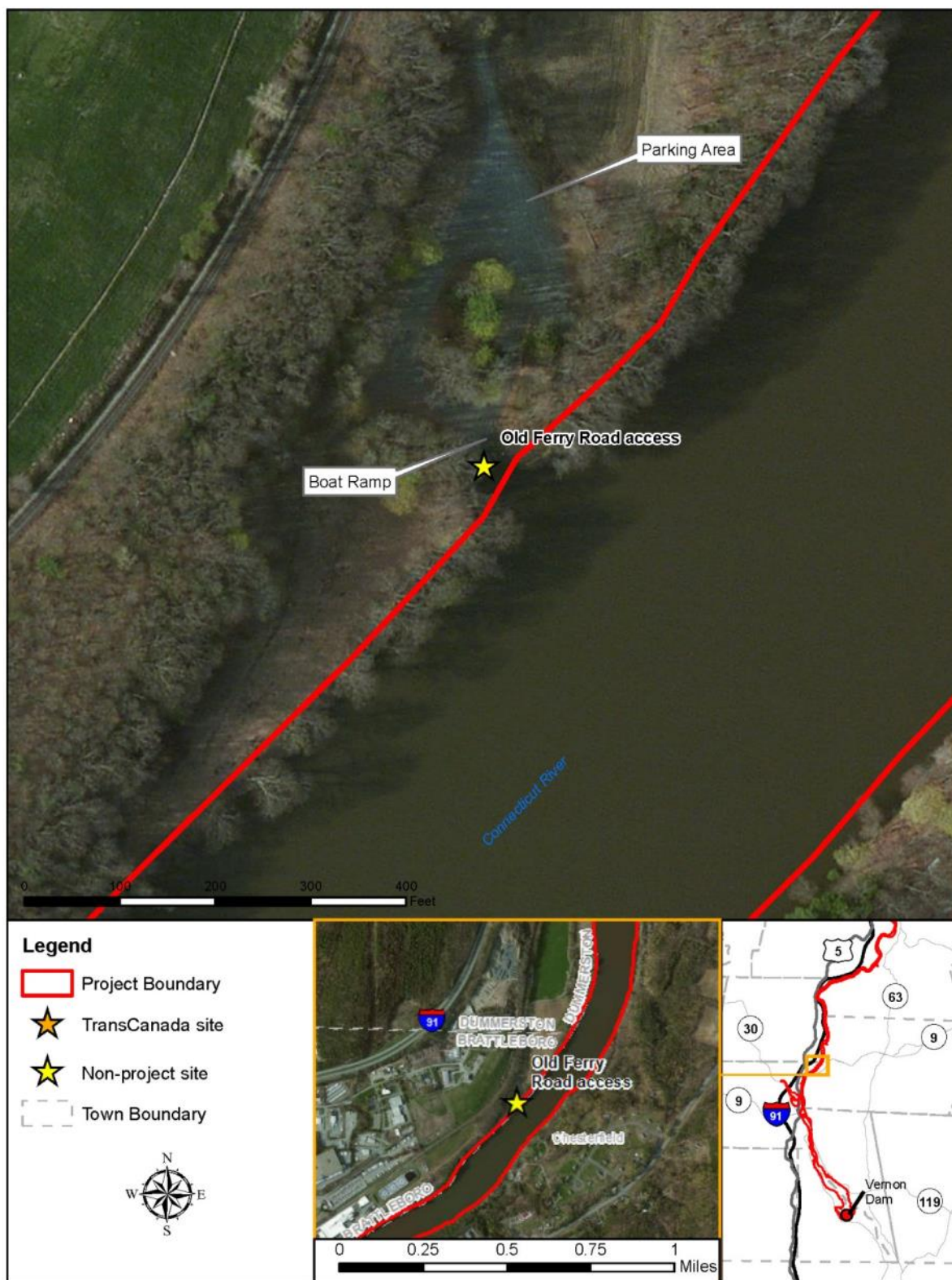


Figure 3.3-9. Map of Old Ferry Road boat launch.



### 3.3.5 West River Marina

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Spring Street Road in Brattleboro, Vermont, on the West River (tributary to the Connecticut River). This privately-owned and managed marina provides boat dock slips through private rental agreements for the season. Some slips are available for the adjacent Marina restaurant clientele to use. The public launch is along the north side of the restaurant parking area. This site has a large paved parking area and about five pull-off parking spots. This site also offers a hand-launch area with three seasonal docks for canoe and kayak launching (Figure 3.3-10). Along a gravel road upstream from the hand-launch area is a sign board used for posting recreational information and trailhead access (hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling). The trail, known as the West River Trail, is open to the public for walking, hiking, and biking. The most common recreation activities at this site are canoe and kayak launching and hiking and biking on the West River Trail. Figure 3.3-11 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-10. West River Marina.



Figure 3.3-11. Map of West River Marina.



### 3.3.6 Retreat Meadows Boat Launch

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Linden Street in Brattleboro, Vermont, on the West River. The Windham Foundation and Brattleboro Retreat own and manage the boat launch. This site has a paved/gravel parking area that accommodates approximately 10 vehicles. The retreat trail entrance is located at the southern end of the site. The trail follows along the shoreline of the West River and is popular for walking and hiking and bank fishing. A 25-foot-wide gravel boat launch area is used to hand-launch canoes and kayaks and to launch motorized boats (Figure 3.3-12). Two “Clean Boats Clean Waters” signs are posted along the shoreline. A sign board in the parking area has a retreat trail map, information sign, hunting regulations sign, and “Pets Must Be Leashed” sign. A drinking water supply sign and “Private Property Open for Hiking and Fishing Dawn to Dusk” sign are located at the retreat trail entrance. Ice fishing is popular at this site because of the shallow waters and easy access for installing ice houses (Figure 3.3-13). This site is most commonly used by car-top canoe/kayakers and retreat trail hikers. Figure 3.3-14 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-12. Retreat Meadows boat launch.



Figure 3.3-13. Retreat Meadows winter ice fishing houses.





Figure 3.3-14. Map of Retreat Meadows boat launch.

### 3.3.7 Hinsdale Access

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Route 119 (Brattleboro Road) in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. NHFGD owns and manages this site, which is located on an island in the Connecticut River. Two gravel/dirt parking areas are available measuring about 50 feet by 18 feet and 115 feet by 20 feet. A dirt road leading to the river with a turnaround area is used for car-top boat launching and additional parking (Figure 3.3-15). This site currently has no signs. Figure 3.3-16 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-15. Hinsdale access.



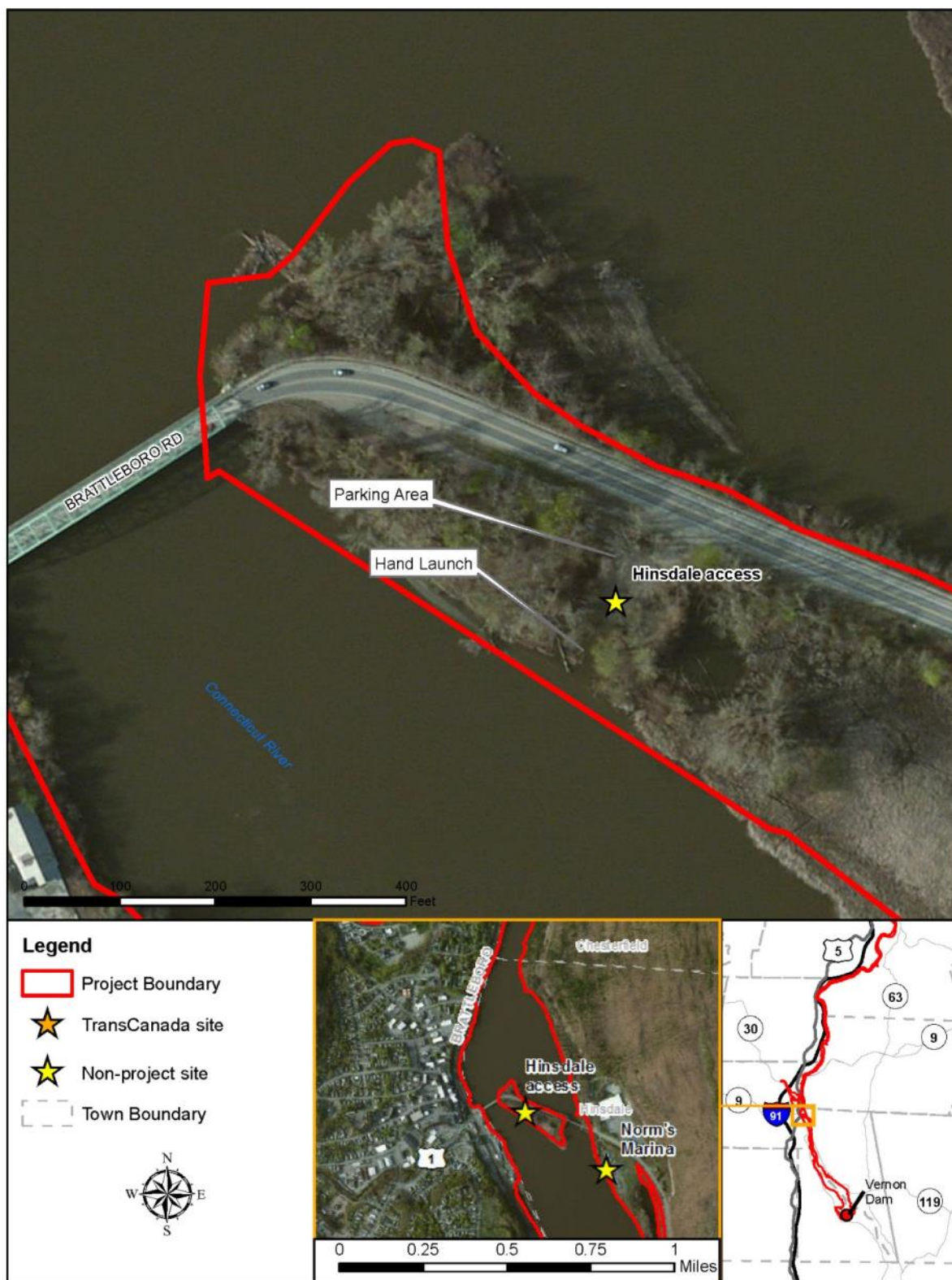


Figure 3.3-16. Map of Hinsdale Island access.



### 3.3.8 Norm's Marina

This site is located on lands within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Route 119 (Brattleboro Road) in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. This privately owned marina has a large paved/grass parking area measuring about 350 feet by 90 feet (Figure 3.3-17), along with a paved two-lane boat launch that has courtesy docks on both sides (Figure 3.3-18). Two sections of docks are available for boat slip rental during late spring, summer, and fall. This site also offers visitors a grassy shoreline picnic area and five picnic tables. A port-a-potty, dumpster, and canoe/kayak rack are also available at this site. For non-tenant's, launching costs are \$15.00 for boats and \$10.00 for canoe/kayak and jet skis. The site is open from dawn to dusk 7 days a week, and a gasoline station is open from 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Signs at this site consist of two "Norm's Marina" signs at the roadway entrance, a directional marina sign on the roadway entrance, a "Stop the Spread of Exotic Plants" sign, boat launching rules sign, "Headway Speed Only" sign, and a pay box with a schedule of fees. Figure 3.3-19 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-17. Norm's Marina parking area.



Figure 3.3-18. Norm's Marina boat launch.

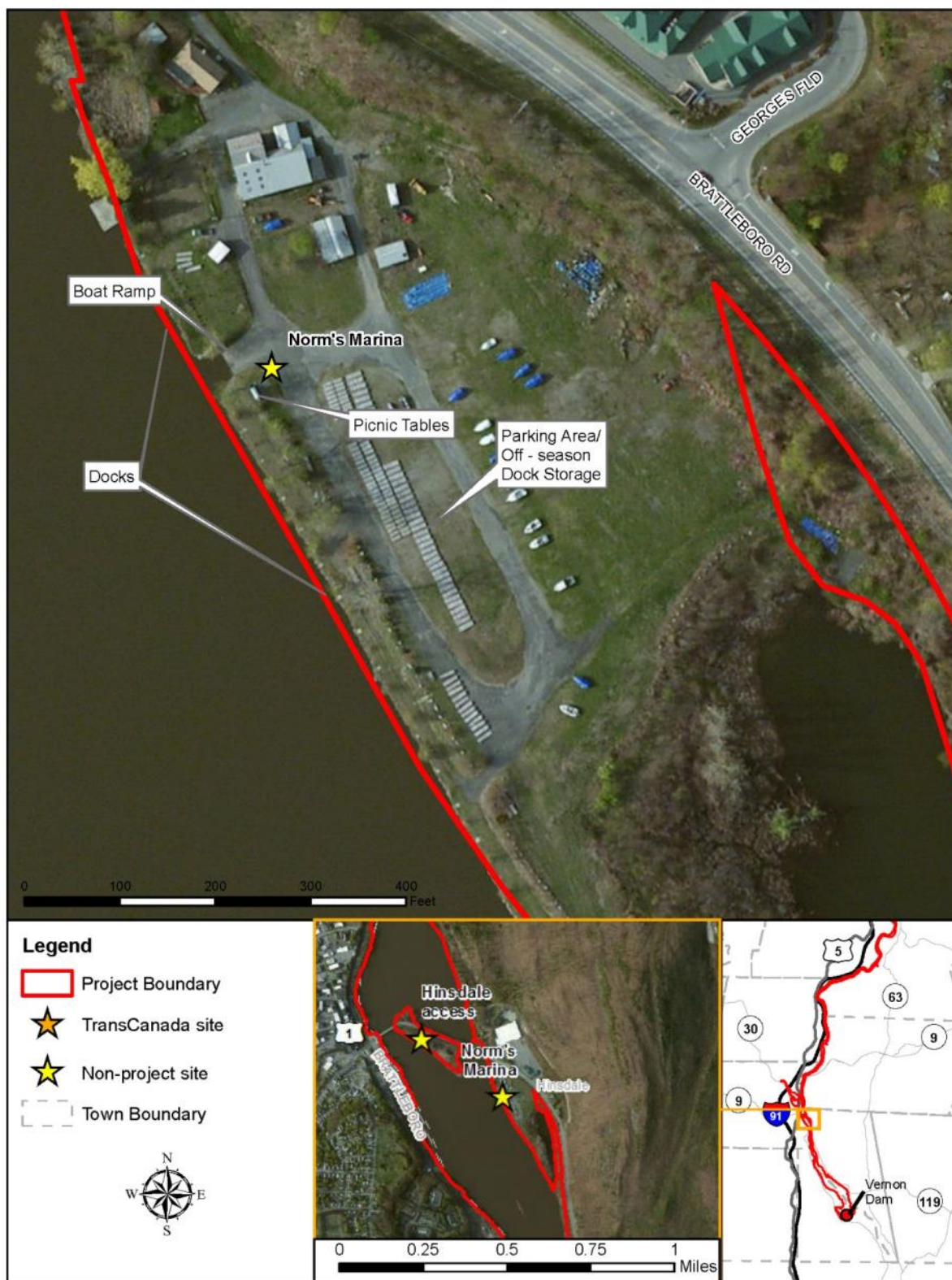


Figure 3.3-19. Map of Norm's Marina.

### 3.3.9 Fisherman Access Area

This site is located on lands adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary upstream of Vernon dam on Route 142 in Brattleboro, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. Cersosimo Lumber Company owns this site, which has a gravel and grassy parking area approximately 410 feet by 115 feet (Figure 3.3-20). The only sign at this site is a personal floatation for boaters sign. There are no amenities at this location. The most common recreation activities at this site are car-top boat launching, shoreline and ice fishing, and tailgate picnicking. Figure 3.3-21 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-20. Fisherman access area parking lot.





Figure 3.3-21. Map of fisherman access area.

### 3.3.10 Broad Brook Access

This site is located on lands adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Vermont Route 142 (Vernon Street) in Brattleboro, Vermont, on Broad Brook, on the west side of the Connecticut River. VDFW owns and manages this site, which has a small gravel parking area measuring about 33 feet by 22 feet. Concrete blocks block the gravel roadway that leads to the brook access to keep trailered boats from launching here (Figure 3.3-22). An open grassy hand-launch runs along the brook about 100+ feet from the parking area. This site has no signs. From this site, Broad Brook flows under a railroad bridge and enters the Connecticut River. Common recreation activities at this site are hand-launching and occasional overnight camping. Figure 3.3-23 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-22. Broad Brook access hand-launch area.





Figure 3.3-23. Map of Broad Brook access hand-launch area.



### 3.3.11 Fort Hill Rail Trail

This site is located on lands adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Route 119 (Brattleboro Road) in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation owns and manages this site which provides access to a 9-mile rail trail that runs parallel to the Connecticut River, and a short walking path along a power-line right-of-way that terminates on a small island. The site has a gravel parking area with approximately 10 parking spaces, and four trash barrels distributed through the site. A locked gate prohibits vehicular access to the walking path, which is popular for shoreline angling and birding (Figure 3.3-25). Vehicular access is also prohibited on the rail trail except for winter snowmobiling (Figure 3.3-24). From the parking area, the southerly route of the rail trail is a two-lane gravel roadway that connects to the Prospect Street boat launch about one mile away over a backwater. The Fort Hill Rail Trail is most commonly used for activities such as walking and hiking, wildlife viewing and birding, shoreline fishing, and driving for pleasure. Fort Hill Rail Trail has a sign board that consists of "Prevent Forest Fires," "Trail Information," "Prohibited Use of Dirt Bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATV)", "No Fires Permitted in this Area", and trail permitted uses signs. Signs along the rail trail include two no ATVs or dirt bike signs and two caution gate ahead signs. Ice fishing is popular at this site because of the shallow inlets from the Connecticut River. The rail trail becomes popular for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter as well (Figure 3.3-25). The most common recreation activities at this site are shoreline fishing, wildlife viewing, and walking and hiking. Figure 3.3-26 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-24. Fort Hill Rail Trail.



Figure 3.3-25. Path leading to river.



Figure 3.3-26. Map of Fort Hill Rail Trail.



### 3.3.12 Prospect Street Launch

This site is located on lands adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary on Prospect Street in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. The Town of Hinsdale owns and manages this site, which has two gravel parking areas measuring about 170 feet by 65 feet and 50 feet by 40 feet. Visitors can access the Fort Hill Rail Trail which connects with the Fort Hill rail trail access site to the north. This site has a paved boat launch area that measures about 35 feet wide (Figure 3.3-27). Access to the Connecticut River from this boat launch is through a bridge on the rail trail. Signs at this site consist of three “Stop the Spread of Exotic Plant Signs” and a sign board in the upper parking area that has a trail information sign, “Headway Speed Only” sign, and “Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail” sign. Two trash barrels are located by the boat launch. The most common recreation activities at this site include boat launching and rail trail uses, such as walking and hiking, wildlife viewing, and shoreline fishing. Figure 3.3-28 provides a map of the site.



Figure 3.3-27. Prospect Street parking area and boat launch.



Figure 3.3-28. Map of Prospect Street parking area and boat launch.



### 3.3.13 Vernon Portage

This site is located on lands within the Vernon Project Boundary directly above the Vernon Project on Governor Hunt Road in Vernon, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. TransCanada owns and manages this site, which has parking along the main road and a gated gravel roadway leading to the river (Figure 3.3-29). This site is used as a portage take-out area and has four directional portage signs leading paddlers around Vernon dam to the portage put-in area. Figure 3.3-30 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-29. Vernon portage.



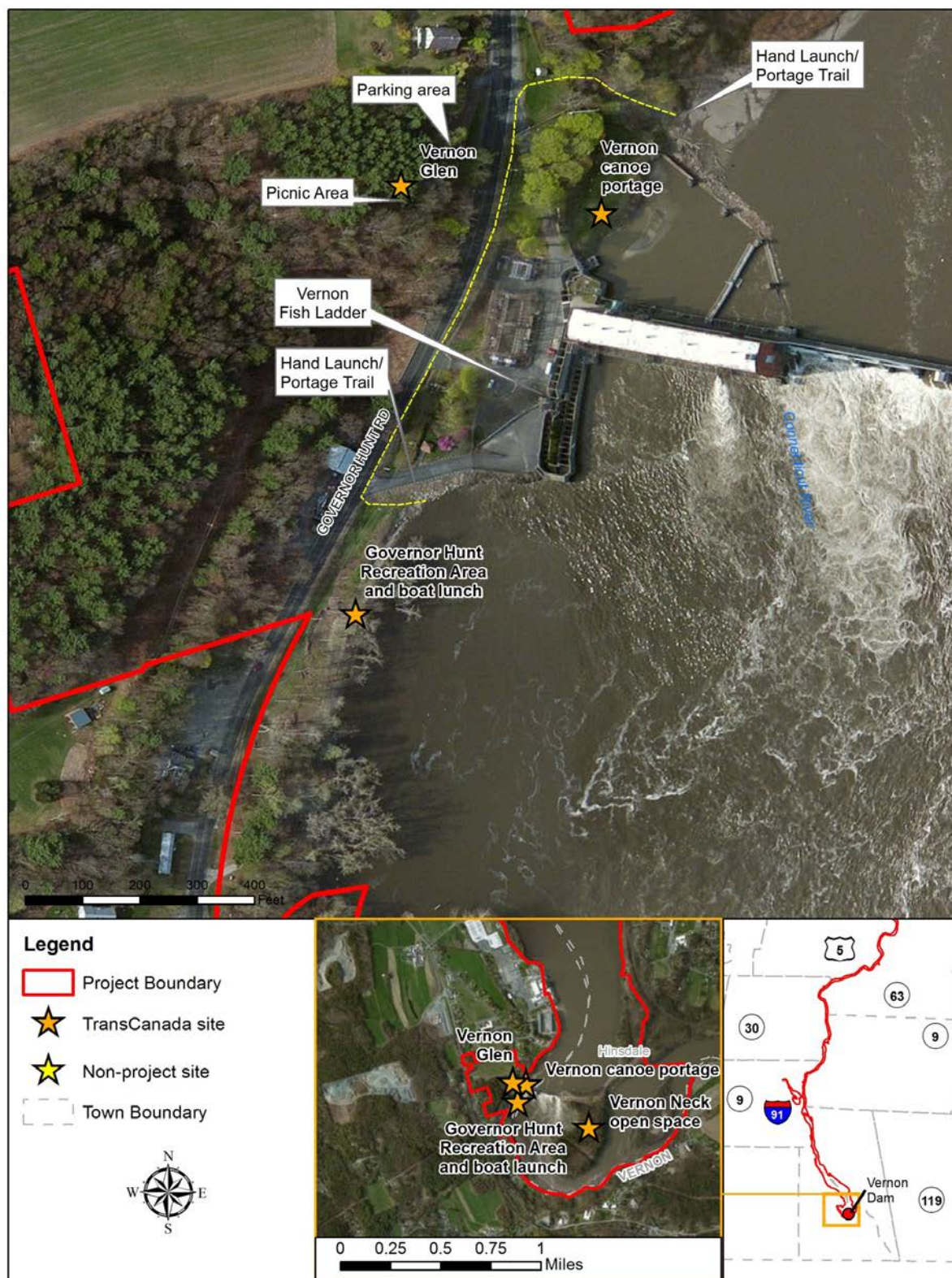


Figure 3.3-30. Map of Vernon portage, Vernon Glen, and Governor Hunt Recreation Area.

### 3.3.14 Vernon Glen

This site is located on lands within the Vernon Project Boundary directly across from the Vernon canoe portage take-out site on Governor Hunt Road in Vernon, Vermont. TransCanada owns and manages the site as a formal Project recreation facility, which has a paved parking area for approximately four vehicles. Additional parking is available, if needed, on the grassy area at the entrance of the site. This site has no access to the Connecticut River and is solely a picnic area consisting of five picnic tables, four grills, and one port-a-potty. Figure 3.3-30 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.

### 3.3.15 Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch

This site is located on lands within the Vernon Project Boundary directly below Vernon dam on Governor Hunt Road in Vernon, Vermont, on the west side of the Connecticut River. This site also includes the Vernon Fish Ladder public viewing area. TransCanada owns and manages the site as a formal Project recreation facility, which has a gravel roadway with parking available at the picnic area and beach area (Figure 3.3-31). The picnic area consists of five picnic tables, five grills, and three port-a-potties. The fish ladder has a separate entrance and asphalt parking area directly adjacent to the public viewing window. Signs at this site consist of a FERC Part 8 recreation area rules sign, an information map sign, two TransCanada “Warning - Changing Water Level”, and a large TransCanada’s “Warning - Changing Water Level” sign. The most common recreation activities at this site are swimming from shore and sunbathing along the sandy beach, fishing from shore, picnicking, car-top boat launching, and motorboat launching and visiting the fish viewing window when the fish ladder is operating. A vehicle traffic counter was placed at Governor Hunt Recreation Area to collect data from spring 2014 to winter 2015. Figure 3.3-30 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.3-31. Governor Hunt Recreation Area beach and picnic area.

### **3.4 Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail Campsites**

The Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail is a series of primitive campsites and access points from the river's headwaters south to Long Island Sound. The trail is managed by a group of partner organizations including TransCanada. Within the study area, there are 18 primitive campsites, 4 provided by TransCanada. Figure 3.4-1 shows an overview of the locations of these campsites relative to the study area.



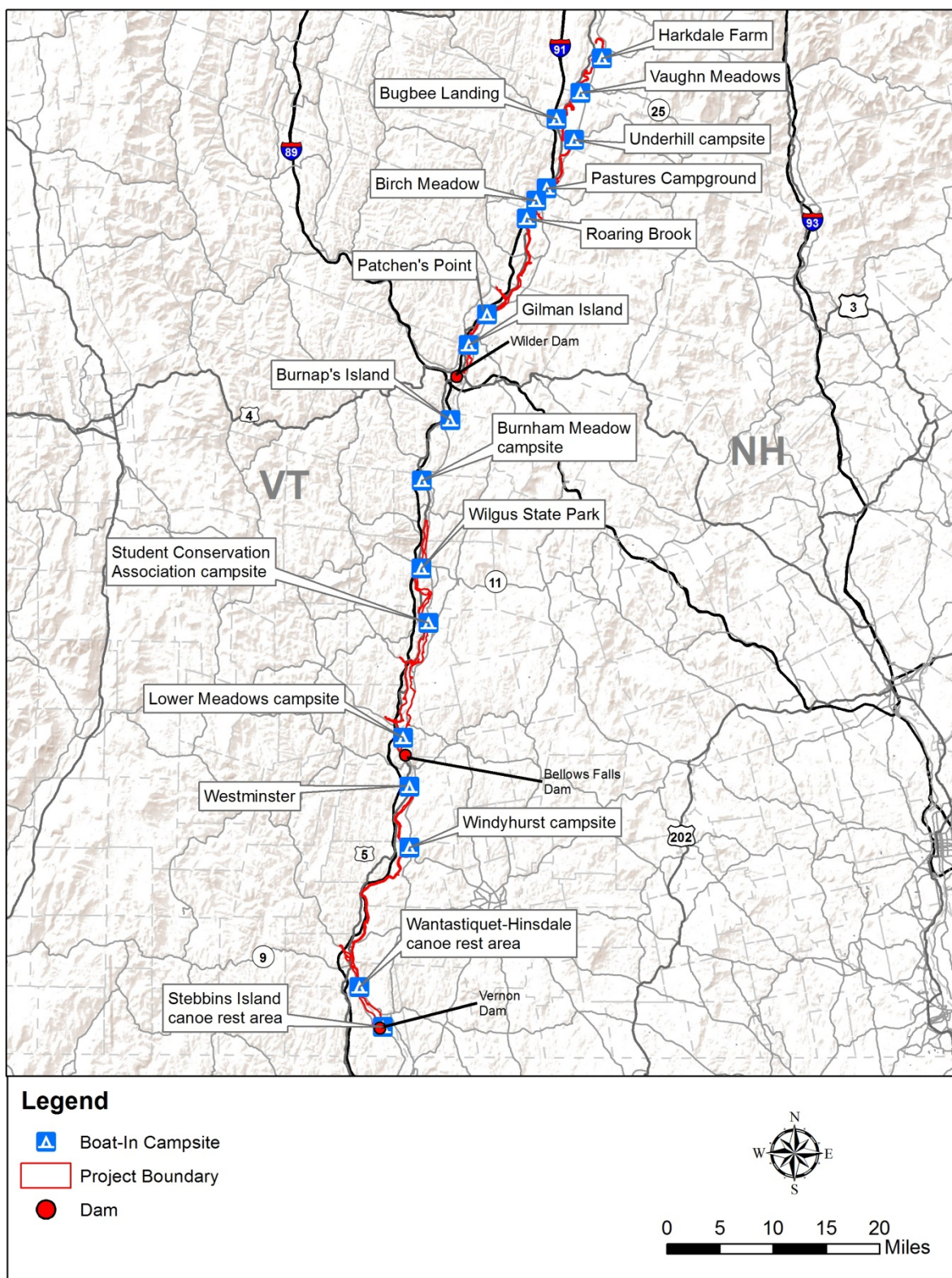


Figure 3.4-1. Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail camping sites.

### 3.4.1 Wilder Study Area

#### 3.4.1.1 Harkdale Farm Campsite

Harkdale Farm boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to the Wilder Project Boundary in Newbury, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. The campsite is managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust, a land conservation and stewardship non-profit organization. The shoreline substrate at this site is sand/silt, and the campsite is easily accessible from the canoe/kayak landing. Campsite signs at this site consist of a “Harkdale Farm Campsite” sign (Figure 3.4-2), five campsite location signs, and boundary signs. Campsite signs are clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy to locate for passing paddlers. Amenities at this site consist of a mailbox (missing a log book), privy, one picnic table with metal fire ring (Figure 3.4-3), and a wooden clothes rack. The site geography at this campsite is bare ground made up of loam/sand with little overgrowth. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite. An estimated five tents (designated by each campsite location sign) could fit at this site. Figure 3.4-4 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-2. Harkdale Farm sign and campsite location sign.



Figure 3.4-3. Harkdale Farm campsite.





Figure 3.4-4. Map of Harkdale Farm campsite.



### 3.4.1.2 Vaughn Meadows Campsite

Vaughn Meadows boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to the Wilder Project Boundary in South Newbury, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. The campsite is managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust. The shoreline substrate at this site is sand/silt, and the campsite is easily accessible from the canoe/kayak landing. Campsite signs at this site consist of an “Upper Valley Land Trust Vaughn Meadows” sign showing nearby campsite and additional information, two campsite location signs, trail to privy directional signs, and boundary signs. A campsite location sign is clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy for passing paddlers to locate. Amenities at this site consist of a mailbox (with log book and brochures), privy (tented), one picnic table with a metal fire ring, clothesline, grill grate for cooking over the fire ring, and a stairway for easy access up the riverbank to the campsite (Figure 3.4-5). The site geography at this campsite is bare ground made up of loam/silt with little overgrowth. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite. This campsite has space for an estimated five to eight tents. Figure 3.4-6 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-5. Vaughn Meadows campsite.



Figure 3.4-6. Map of Vaughn Meadows campsite.



### 3.4.1.3 Bugbee Landing Campsite

Bugbee Landing campsite is a boat-access and land-access primitive campsite located within and adjacent to Wilder Project Boundary in Bradford, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Waits River (a tributary of the Connecticut River). This campsite is located adjacent to Bugbee Landing Access (boat launch see Section 3.1.3), and the campsite is easily accessible by boat using the boat launch and dock. This site has a Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail campsite location sign and a "Camping by Permission of Bradford Elementary School Only" sign (Figure 3.4-7). This campsite has an open grassy area with space for about 10 tents. Figure 3.4-8 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-7. Bugbee Landing campsite.





Figure 3.4-8. Map of Bugbee campsite.

#### 3.4.1.4 Underhill Campsite

Underhill boat-access-only primitive campsite is within and adjacent to the Wilder Project Boundary in Piermont, New Hampshire, on the east shoreline of the Connecticut River. The campsite is managed by the Town of Piermont Conservation Commission. The shoreline substrate at this site is a steep loam/silt riverbank, making canoe and kayak landing difficult for accessing the campsite. Signs at this site consist of one campsite location sign posted at the back of the campsite in the marsh area and boundary signs. For passing paddlers this campsite can be difficult to find because the campsite location sign is visible only from a backwater area off the main part of the Connecticut River. Amenities at this site consist of a mailbox (with log book), privy, one picnic table with a metal fire ring, a grill grate for cooking, and a firewood area with firewood available on a first-come first-served basis (Figure 3.4-9). The site geography at this campsite is bare ground of sand/silt with a surrounding area of grass and overgrowth in the summer months. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite and a rope swing is available from a shoreline tree. This campsite has space for an estimated five tents. Figure 3.4-10 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-9. Underhill campsite.



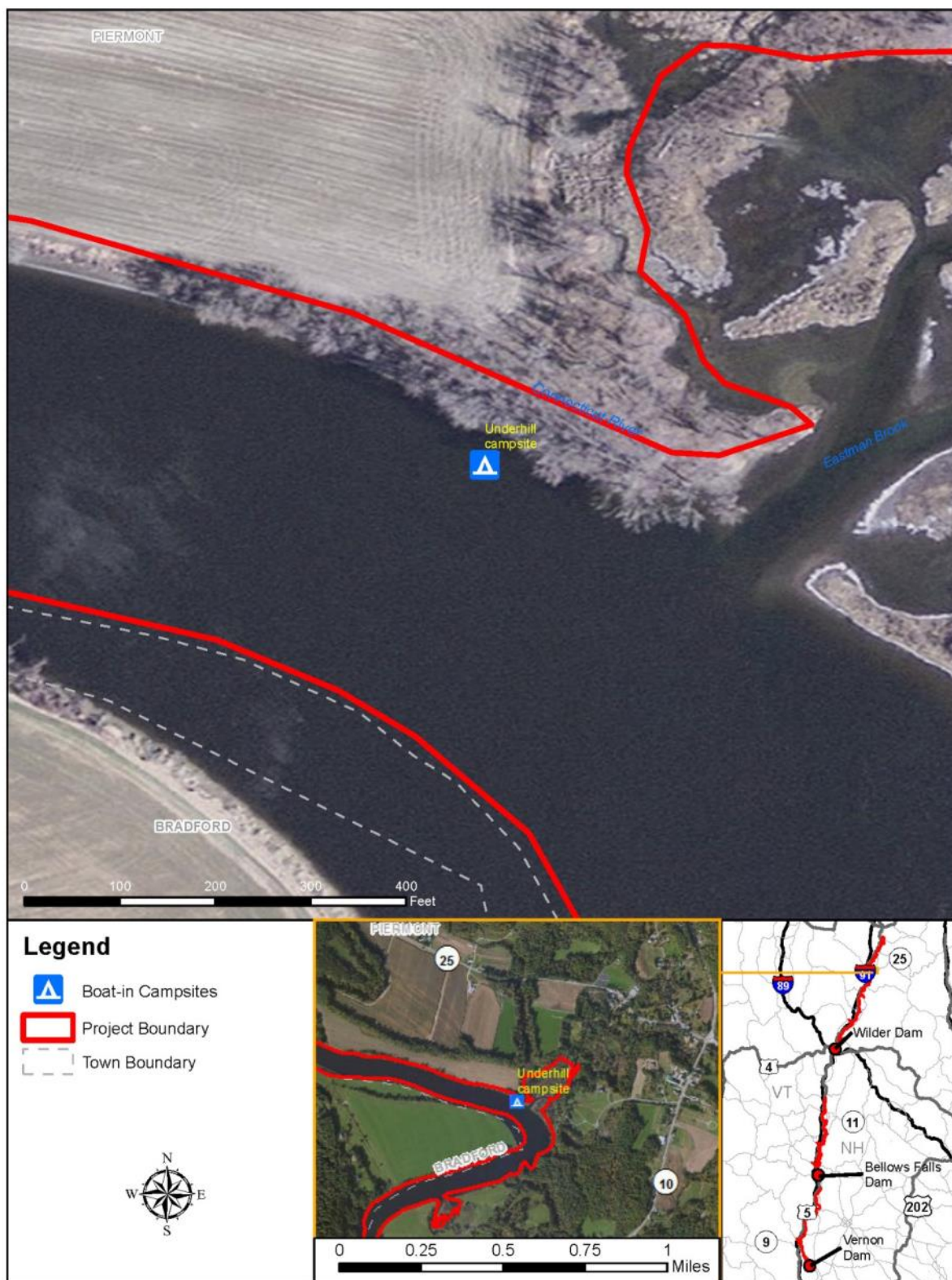


Figure 3.4-10. Map of Underhill campsite.



### 3.4.1.5 Pastures Campground

Pastures Campground is located within and adjacent to the Wilder Project Boundary in Orford, New Hampshire, on the east shoreline of the Connecticut River. Pastures Campground is a New Hampshire Campground Association-approved commercial campground and is open from May 15–October 15. This campground offers recreational vehicle (RV), tent, and group camping, as well as pontoon, canoe, and kayak rentals (Figure 3.4-11). Pastures Campground also provides a playground, swimming pool, recreation center (game room), fish cleaning station, picnic tables and an outdoor (roofed) picnic and event area, and access to the Connecticut River with multiple boat launch areas and docks. Figure 3.4-12 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-11. Pastures Campground.



Figure 3.4-12. Map of Pastures Campground.



#### **3.4.1.6 Birch Meadow Campsite**

Birch Meadow boat-access-only primitive campsite is within and adjacent to the Wilder Project Boundary in Fairlee, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. The site is maintained by the Upper Valley Land Trust. The shoreline substrate at this site is sand/silt, and the campsite is easily accessible from the canoe/kayak landing. Signs at this site consist of boundary signs and a campsite location sign, which is located along the riverbank and is clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy for passing paddlers to locate. Amenities at this site consist of a mailbox (missing log book), two picnic tables, two self-made fire pits (surrounding stones), a grill grate for cooking, and a privy. The site geography at this campsite is a sand/silt/loam ground with heavy overgrowth (Figure 3.4-13). Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite. This campsite has space for an estimated four to five tents. Figure 3.4-14 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-13. Birch Meadow campsite.





Figure 3.4-14. Map of Birch Meadow campsite.

### 3.4.1.7 Roaring Brook Campsite

Roaring Brook boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to Wilder Project Boundary in Thetford, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. The site is maintained by the Upper Valley Land Trust. The shoreline substrate at this site is a sandy riverbank, and the canoe/kayak landing is easily accessible for access to the campsite. Signs at this site consist of a campsite area sign, two directional landing area signs, a "Upper Valley Land Trust - Use Upstream Landing to Prevent Further Erosion" sign, two "Upper Valley Land Trust Roaring Brook Campsite" signs (one with nearby campsite and additional information), a "No Camping Access from Road" sign, and two directional trail to privy signs (Figure 3.4-15). Campsite location and directional landing signs are clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy for passing paddlers to locate. Amenities at this site consist of a mailbox (with log book and brochures), privy, one picnic table with a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), a grill grate for cooking, and a small wooden table. The site geography at this campsite is a flat grassy area with no overgrowth and space for an estimated 8 to 10 tents. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite. Figure 3.4-16 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-15. Roaring Brook campsite.





Figure 3.4-16. Map of Roaring Brook campsite.



### 3.4.1.8 Patchen's Point Campsite

Patchen's Point boat and walk in-access primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to Wilder Project Boundary in Norwich, Vermont. The site is on land owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Friends of Patchen Miller. This campsite is located in a grove of White Pines just north of Hanover, New Hampshire. Amenities at this site include a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones) and a granite slab bench. Signs at this site consist of a 'Patchen's Point' sign, a 'carry in carry out' sign, and a 'Welcome to Patchen's Point - Please help us take care of this special place created and maintained in honor of Patchen Miller – a friend of the earth and all that live here.' sign. The site geography at this campsite is a relatively flat bench overlooking the river. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite as the site has two rope swings from the bank. Figure 3.4-18 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary. The site can accommodate a maximum group size of 12 users at once. Figure 3.4-17 shows the campfire ring under the pine trees overlooking the Connecticut River.



Figure 3.4-17. Patchen's Point campsite.



Figure 3.4-18. Map of Patchen's Point campsite.



### 3.4.1.9 Gilman Island/Titcomb Cabin

Gilman Island boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within the Wilder Project Boundary in Wilder Reservoir in Hanover, New Hampshire, on Gilman Island in the Connecticut River. The shoreline substrate at this site is sand/silt, and the canoe/kayak landing is easily accessible for access to the campsite. The island is owned by TransCanada and leased to the Dartmouth Outing Club. Signs at this site consist of a TransCanada “Warning - Changing Water Level” sign, a Gilman Island emergency contact sign, and trail to privy directional signs. This site has no campsite area locational signs. Finding this campsite from the Connecticut River can be difficult because the campsite is located on the back (downstream) side of Gilman Island. However, The campsite is clearly visible after passing downstream of the island. Amenities at this site consist of one picnic table with a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), a grill grate for cooking, and two privies (one is a privy house and is fenced with a roof) (Figure 3.4-19). One private privy house available at the campsite is kept locked and signed as: for private use only. The site geography at this campsite is bare ground with pine needles acting as a natural mulch. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this campsite, and multiple trails around the island provide for hiking and walking. This campsite has space for an estimated 15 to 30 tents and additional space is available around the island.



Figure 3.4-19. Gilman Island campsite.



Titcomb Cabin is a boat-access-only cabin located in the Wilder Project area in Hanover, New Hampshire, on Gilman Island in the Connecticut River (the same island as Gilman Island Campsite, but on the northern most part of Gilman Island). The cabin (Figure 3.4-20) is run by the Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth College. The College rents this cabin to students, staff, and the public. A small area for boat landing and a stairway/trail leads up the bank to the cabin. Signs at the cabin consist of a TransCanada “Warning - Changing Water Level” sign and a Gilman Island emergency contact sign. In 2014, the cabin was booked 116 nights during the open season (May 1–November 30). Figure 3.4-21 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-20. Titcomb Cabin (boat landing and cabin).

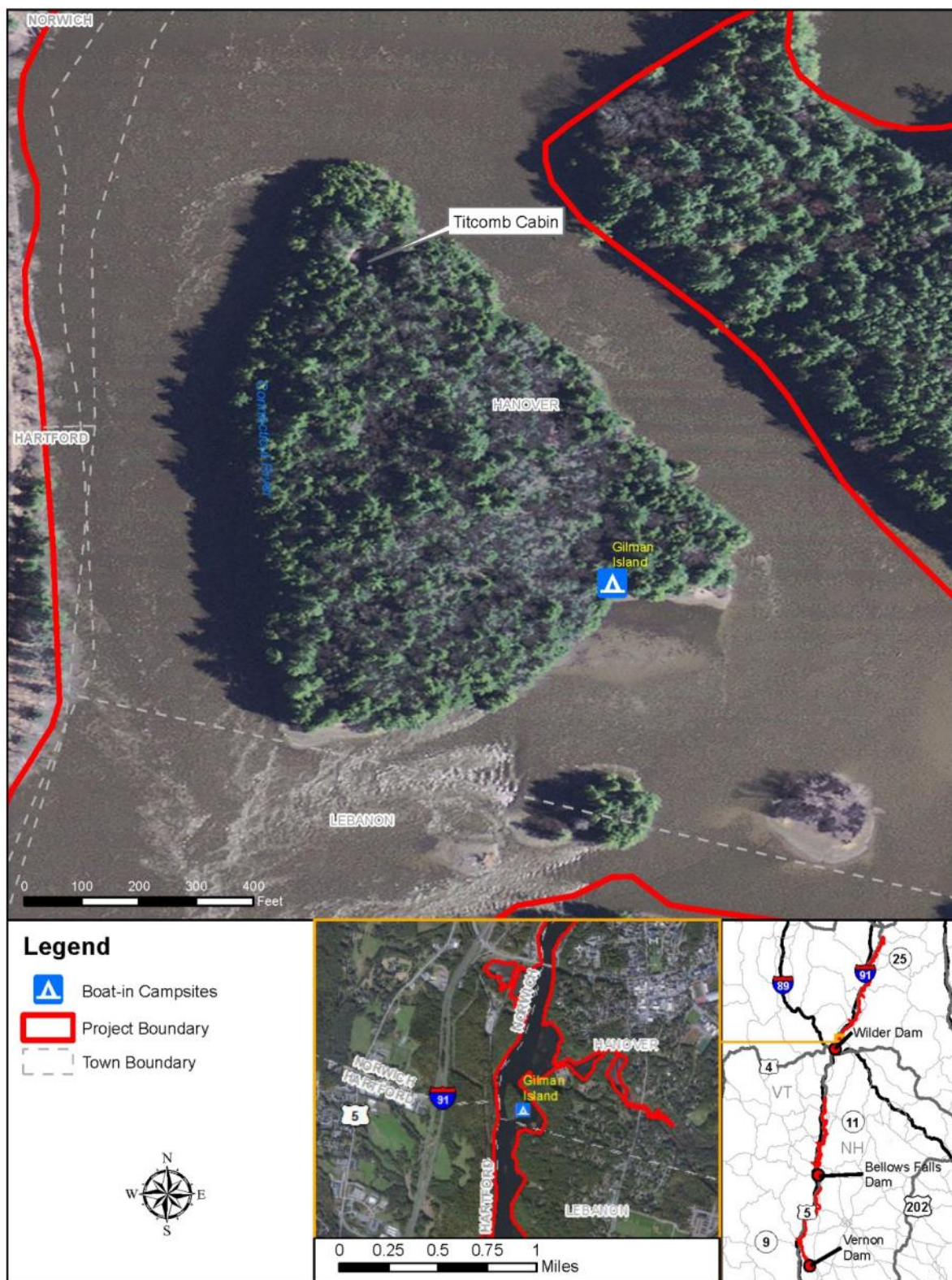


Figure 3.4-21. Map of Gilman Island.



### 3.4.1.10 Burnaps Island Campsite

Burnaps Island boat-access-only primitive campsite is located outside and downstream of the Wilder Project Boundary in Plainfield, New Hampshire, on Burnaps Island in the Connecticut River. The site is managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust. The shoreline substrate at this site is a sandy beach, and the boat landing is easily accessible for access to the campsite. Signs at this site consist of two campsite location signs, trail to privy directional signs, and boundary signs. A campsite location sign is clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy for passing paddlers to locate. Amenities consist of a mailbox (with log book), self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), and a privy. The site geography at this campsite is a sandy beach area with a grassy area on the interior of the island where the tent pitching locations are located (Figure 3.4-22). This campsite has space for an estimated three to five tents due to vegetation overgrowth and small campsite boundary; however, visitors occasionally camp on the sandy beach when no other camping locations are available, but the beach is not a designated camping area. Swimming and angling from shore is possible at this site. Figure 3.4-21 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-22. Burnaps Island campsite.



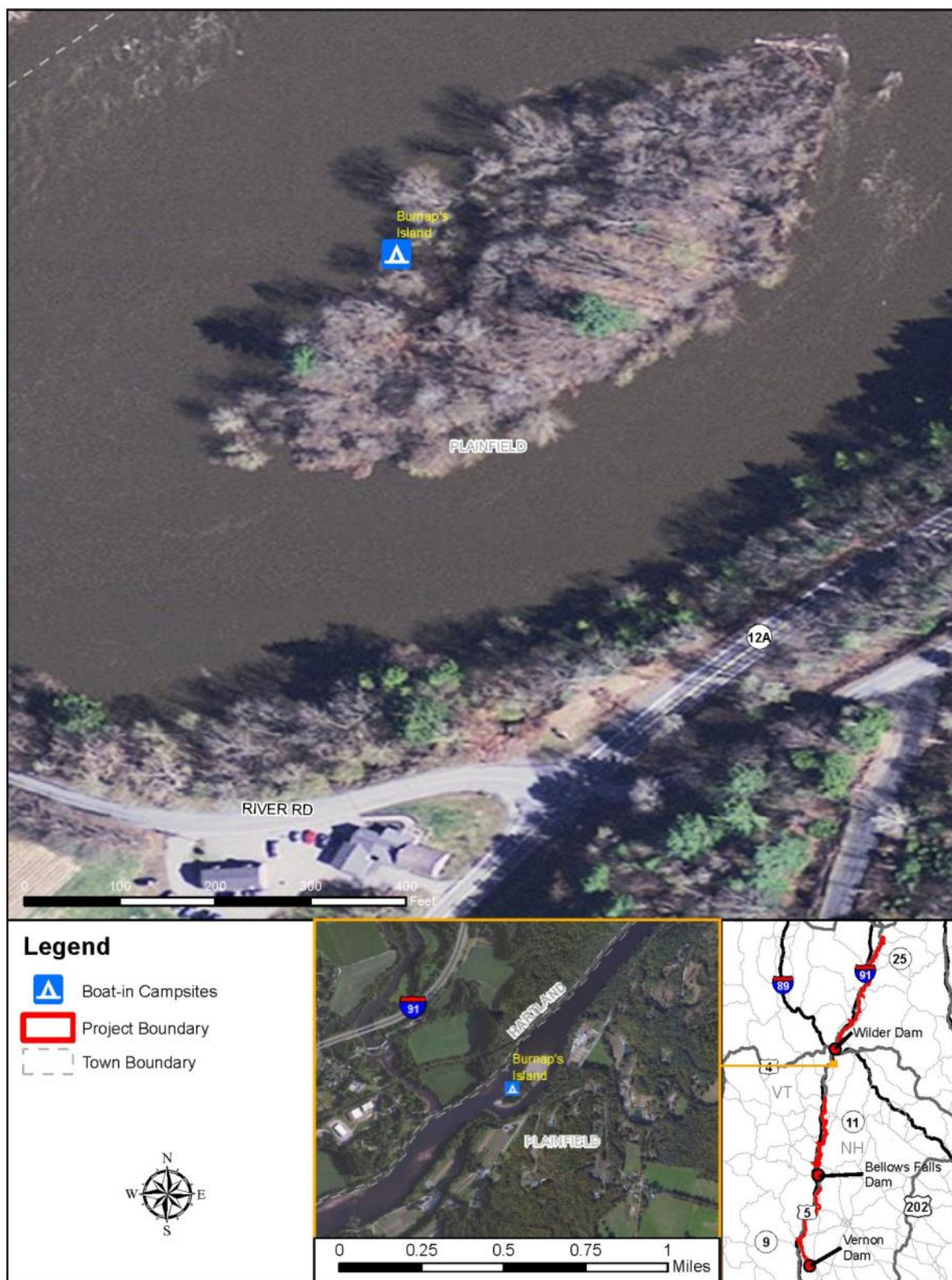


Figure 3.4-23. Map of Burnaps Island campsite.

#### 3.4.1.11 Burnham Meadow Campsite

Burnham Meadow boat-access-only primitive campsite is located outside and downstream of the Wilder Project Boundary in Windsor, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. The campsite is managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust. The shoreline substrate at this site is rocky but the canoe/kayak landing is easily accessible for access to the campsite. Signs at this site consist of a campsite location sign, an "Upper Valley Land Trust - Burnham Meadow Campsite" sign, trail to privy directional sign, and boundary signs. The Upper Valley Land Trust and campsite location signs are perched high in a tree on the shoreline of the river and are clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making this site easy for passing paddlers to locate. Amenities at this site consist of mailbox (with log book, brochures, and Burnham Meadow information sign showing nearby campsites and additional information), one picnic table with a metal fire ring (Figure 3.4-22), a metal chair, and a privy. The site geography at this campsite is grassy with some overgrown vegetation. Swimming and angling are possible at this site. This campsite has space for an estimated five tents. Figure 3.4-23 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-24. Burnham Meadow campsite.



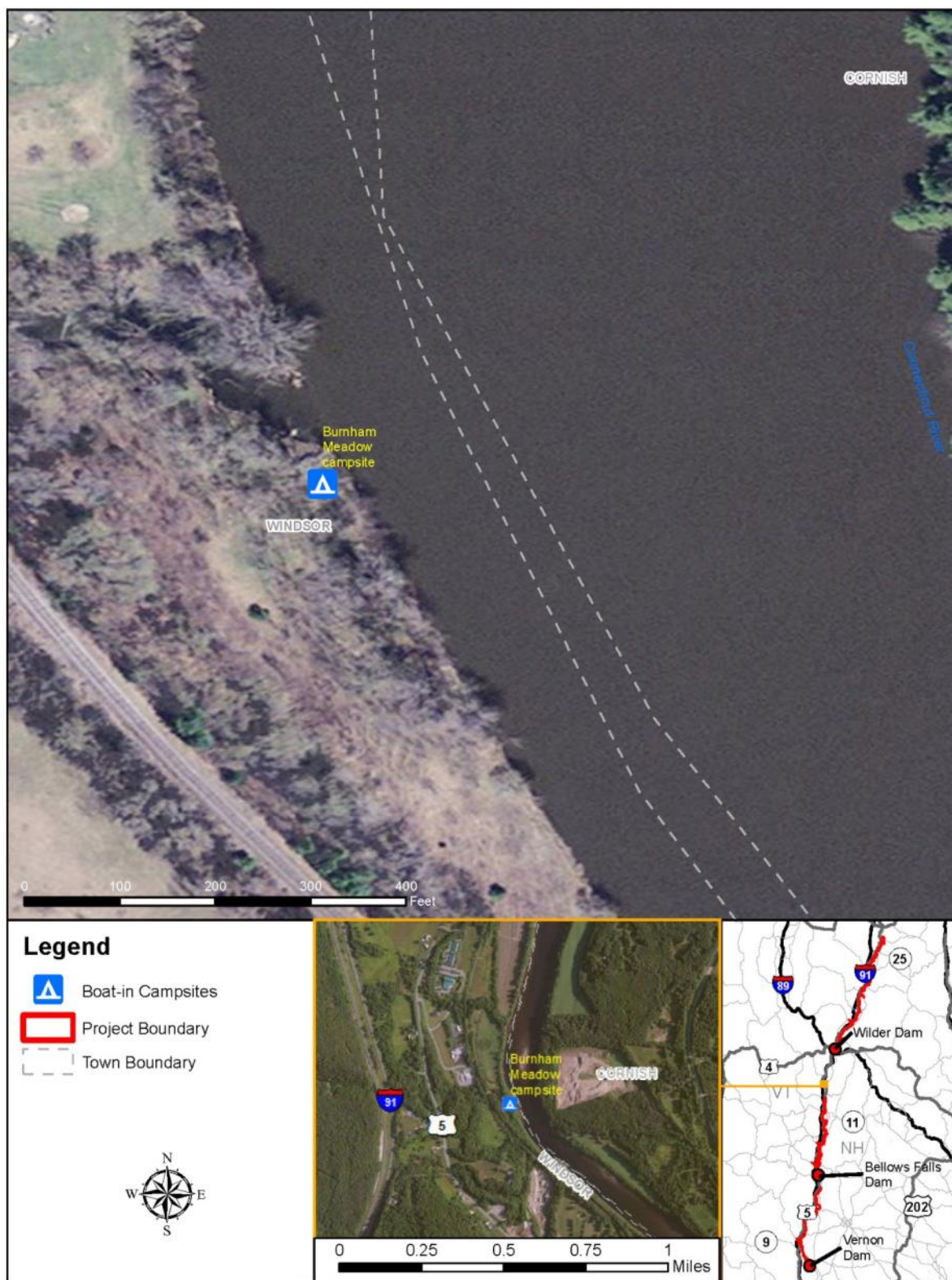


Figure 3.4-25. Map of Burnham Meadow campsite.



### **3.4.2 Bellows Falls Study Area**

#### **3.4.2.1 Wilgus State Park**

Wilgus State Park, owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VDFPR) is a campground located within and adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project Boundary in Ascutney, Vermont, on the west shoreline of the Connecticut River. A motorcycle event is held at the campground during the last weekend in April, then the park is opened to all visitors the following Monday, Columbus Day. The campground is closed for the winter. The campground offers camping in rental cabins, tent/RV sites, and lean-to sites, which are located along the Connecticut River bank (Figure 3.4-24). Other amenities offered by the park/campground include a restroom/shower house, picnic area and picnic shelter, and canoe and kayak rentals. Wilgus State Park provides day-use access to visitors hiking the Pinnacle Trail, a 1 mile loop trail within the park, and access to the Connecticut River via a hand-launch area available for launching canoe and kayaks or a take-out/stop-off point for paddlers coming from upstream waters. Figure 3.4-25 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-26. Wilgus State Park lean-to campground area.



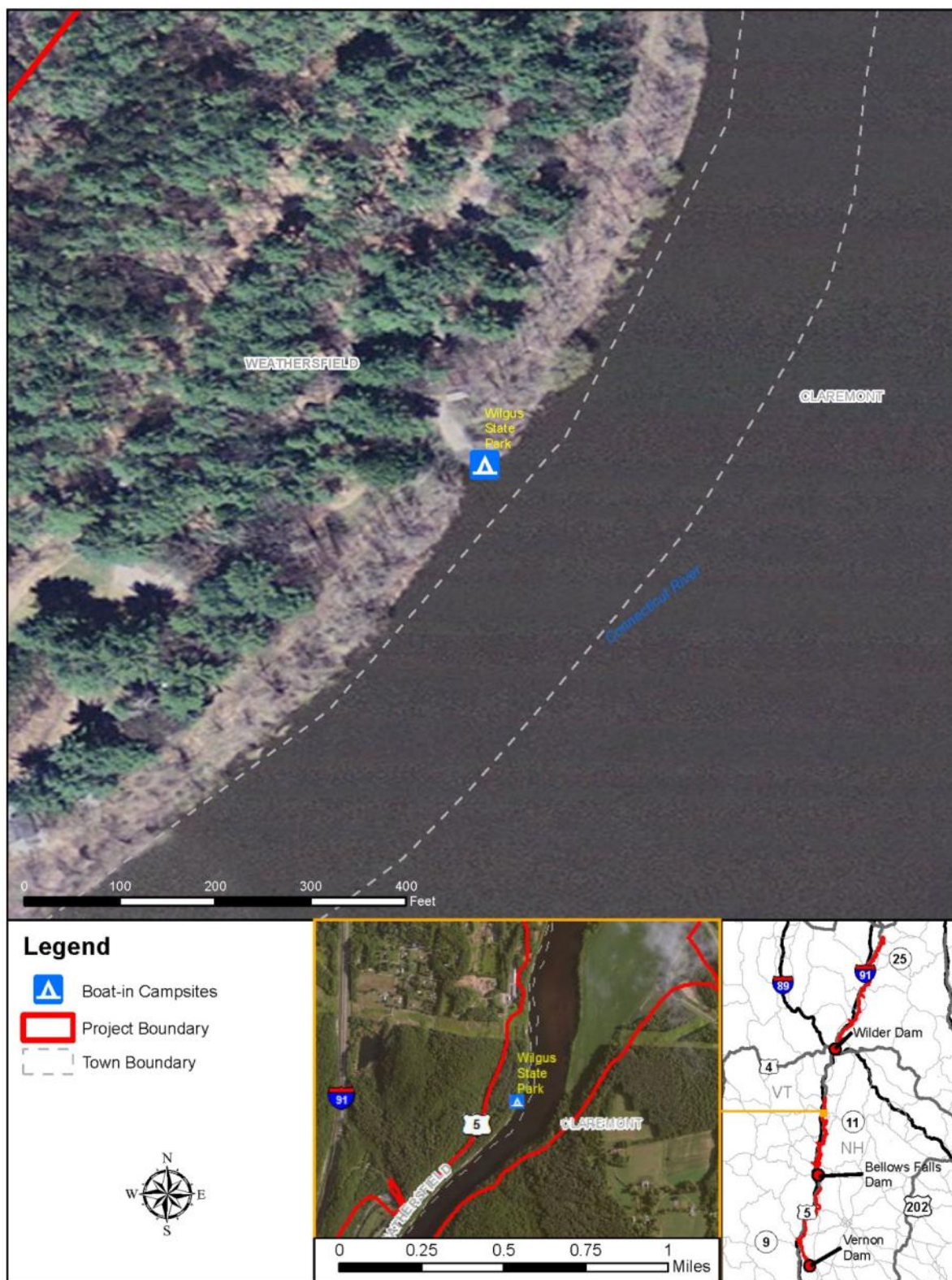


Figure 3.4-27. Map of Wilgus State Park lean-to campground area.

### 3.4.2.2 Student Conservation Association Campsite

The Student Conservation Association boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project Boundary in North Charlestown, New Hampshire, on the east shoreline of the Connecticut River on the Student Conservation Association's property. From the Connecticut River, a campsite location sign is clearly visible, and a wooden staircase is provided as a landing point for canoes and kayaks (Figure 3.4-26). From the riverbank, the staircase leads past a sign board with campsite information and a donation box to the campsite area where two wooden tent platforms are located. A mailbox (containing visitor information) and privy house are provided. Construction of additional tent platforms was underway during the summer of 2014. Figure 3.4-27 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-28. Student Conservation Association trail to campsite.



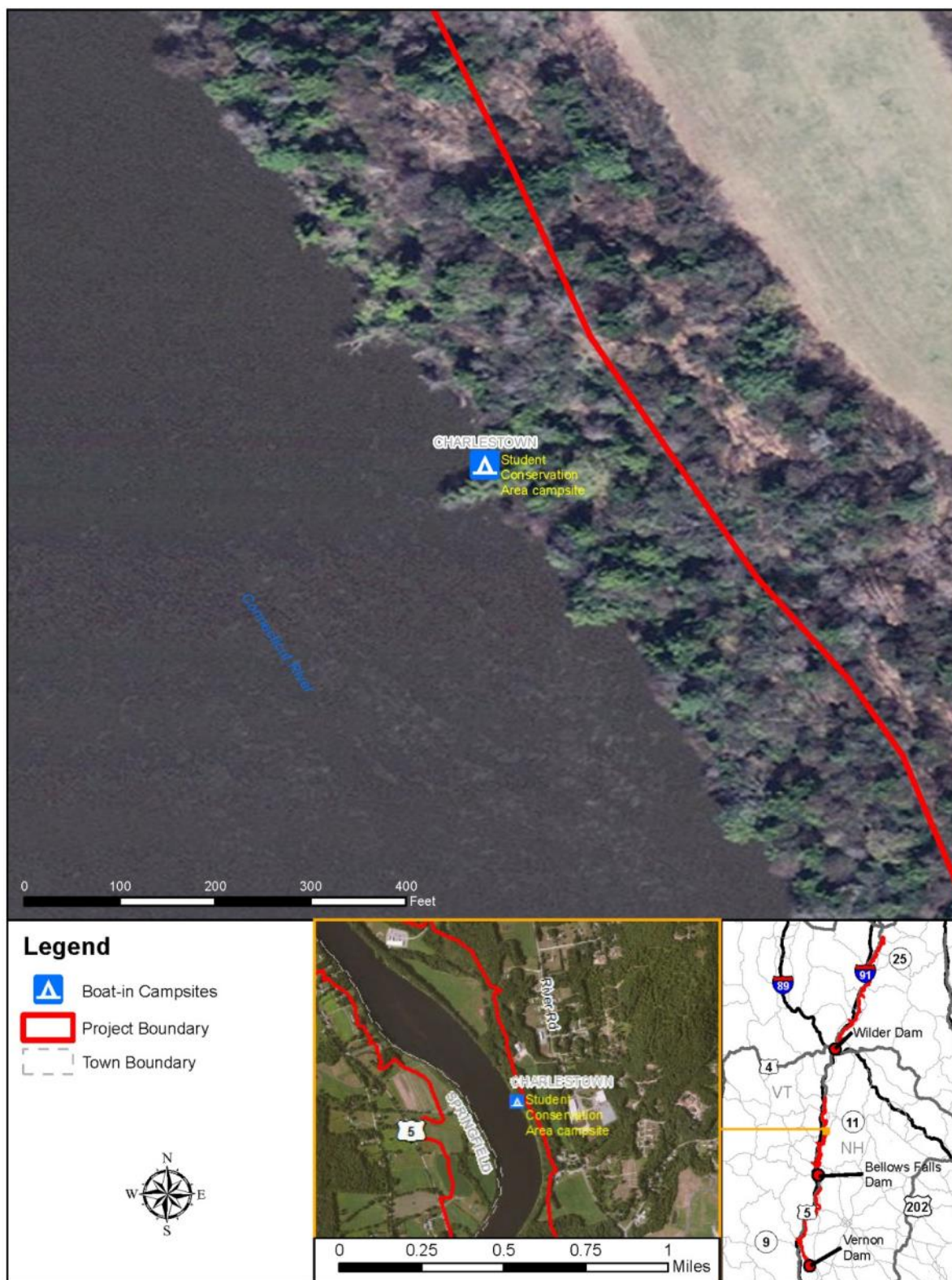


Figure 3.4-29. Map of Student Conservation Association campsite.

### 3.4.2.3 Lower Meadow Campsite

Lower Meadow boat-access-only primitive campsite is located within the Bellows Falls Project Boundary in South Charlestown, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River on lands owned by TransCanada. The shoreline at this site is a steep grassy riverbank, making canoe/kayak landing difficult to access the campsite. A large campsite location sign is clearly visible from the Connecticut River, making the campsite easy for passing paddlers to locate. A “Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail” sign and “Lower Meadow” sign are also present at this campsite. Amenities at this site consist of two wooden tent platforms, a privy house, a self-made fire-pit (surrounding stones), and a grill grate for cooking. A trail leading from the camping area to a downstream location on the Connecticut River can be used for swimming and angling from the shoreline. This campsite has space for an estimated four tents, including the two tent platform spaces (Figure 3.4-28). Figure 3.4-29 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-30. Lower Meadows campsite.



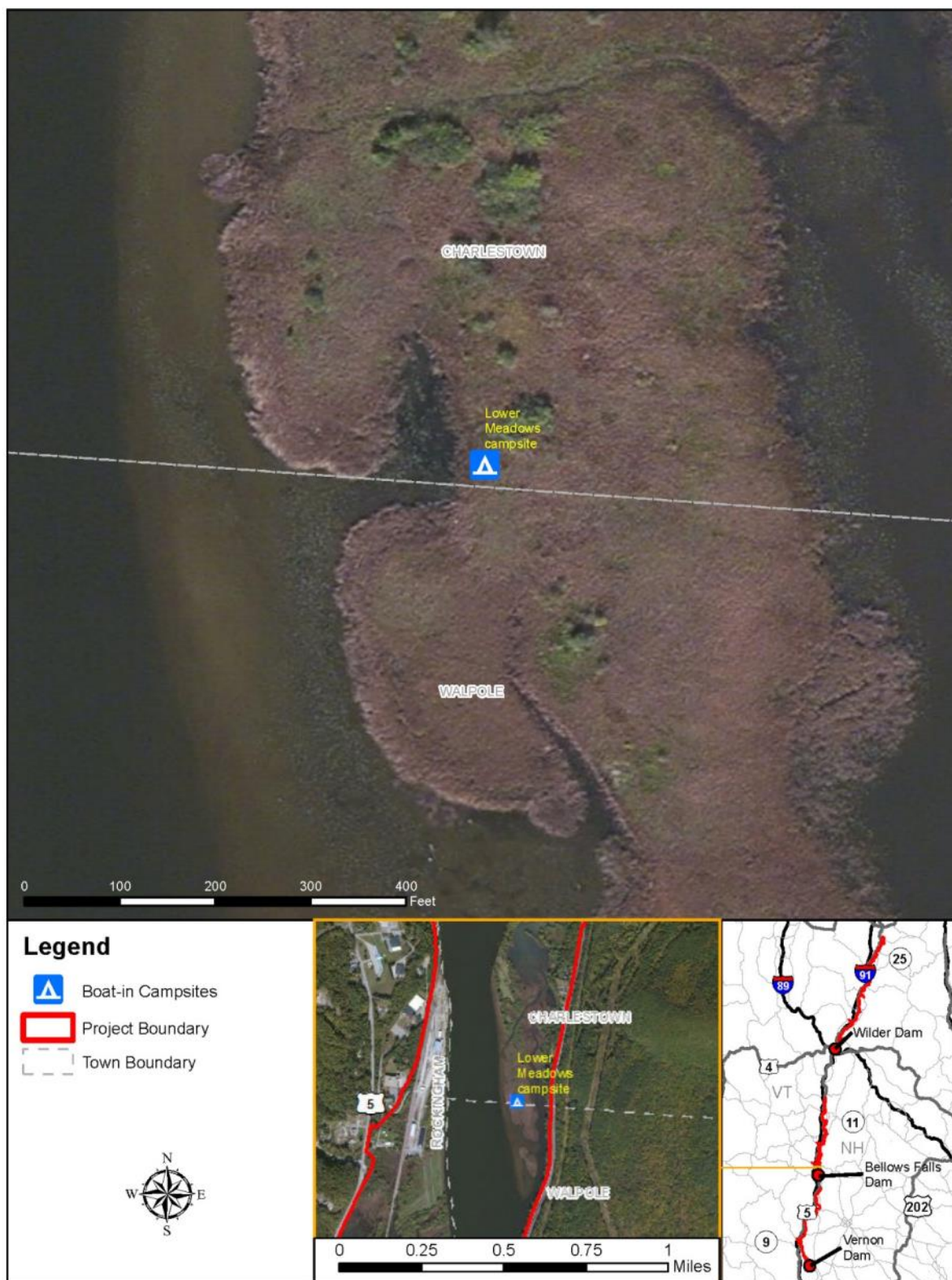


Figure 3.4-31. Map of Lower Meadows campsite.



#### 3.4.2.4 Westminster Campsite

Westminster boat-access only primitive campsite is located downstream of the Bellows Falls Project Boundary in Westminster, Vermont and about 0.7 mile north of the Vernon Project Boundary. This campsite was developed after the field effort and site inventory phase of this study and site specific information is not available. Site descriptions on the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail website indicate the campsite is managed by the Vermont River Conservancy, a non-profit conservation organization. Vermont River Conservancy purchased a conservation easement on the lands in 2014. The campsite is constructed just north of the outlet to Cobb Brook. According to the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail website, there is a nice landing beach at the mouth of the brook during the summer. Figure 3.4-32 shows the new picnic table at the campsite while Figure 3.4-33 shows a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-32. Westminster campsite. (Photo credit: Connecticut River Paddlers Trail website at <http://www.connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org/node/1606>)



Figure 3.4-33. Map of Westminster campsite.



### 3.4.3 Vernon Study Area

#### 3.4.3.1 Windyhurst Campsite

Windyhurst boat-access only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, on the east shoreline of the Connecticut River. This primitive site is managed by the Vermont River Conservancy. The shoreline substrate at this site is a gradual sloping sand/silt shoreline with a trail leading through tall riverbank grass to the campsite. Canoe and kayak landing at this campsite is very easy and safe. A campsite location sign located high in a tree facing the Connecticut River makes locating the campsite easy for passing paddlers. Another campsite location sign is posted in the designated camping (tent pitching) spot. Because of overgrown nettles and thorns, space is available for only an estimated two to three tents (Figure 3.4-34). Other signs at this campsite are trail to privy directional signs and a TransCanada "Warning - Changing Water Level" sign. Amenities at this site include a mailbox (with log book), sign board containing visitor information and donation box, one picnic table, a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), and a privy. Swimming and angling from shore are possible at this site. Figure 3.4-35 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-34. Windyhurst campsite.



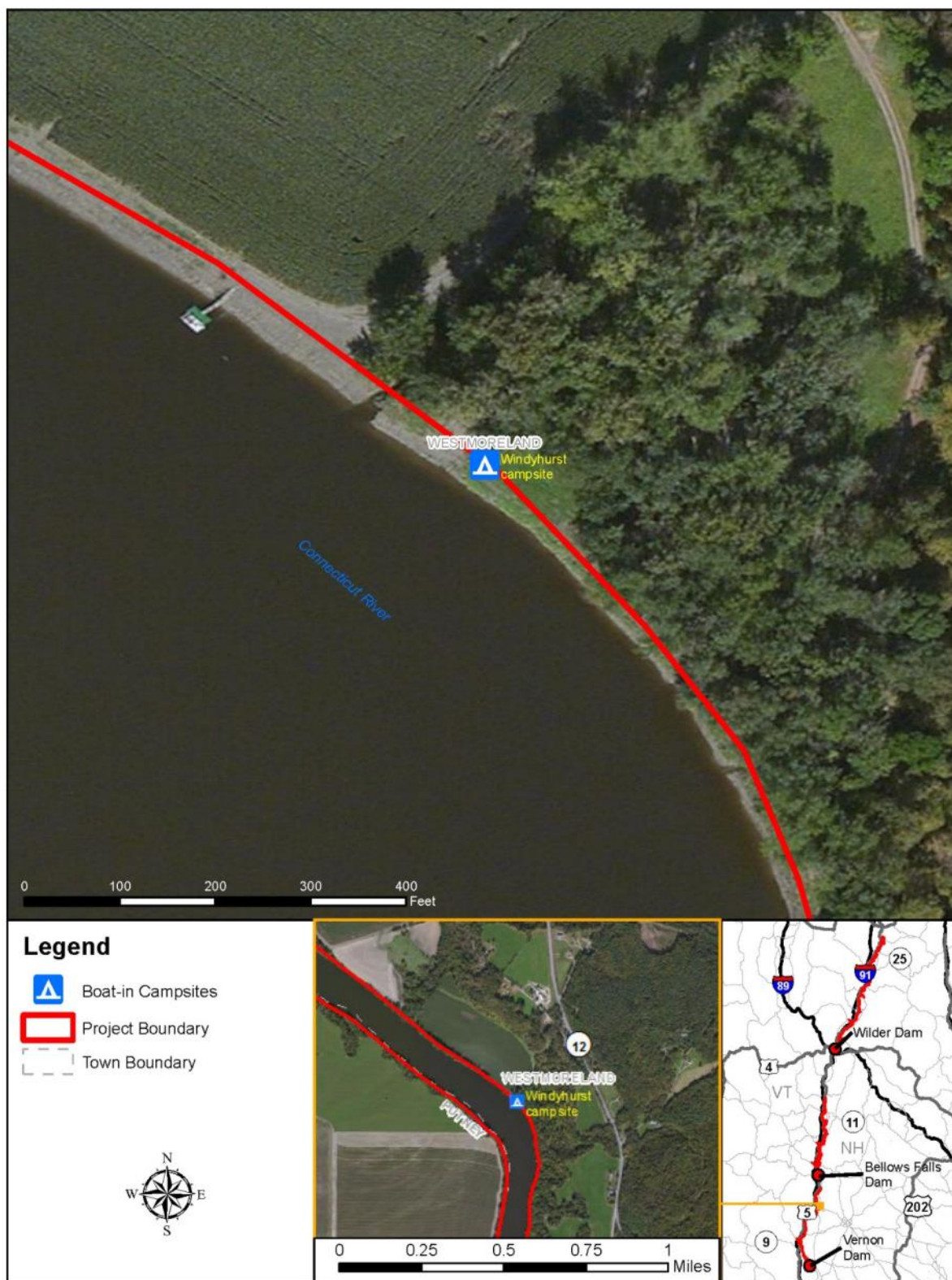


Figure 3.4-35. Map of Windyhurst campsite.

### 3.4.3.2 Wantastiquet-Hinsdale Canoe Rest Area

Wantastiquet boat access only primitive campsite is located within and adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary in North Hinsdale, New Hampshire, on the east side of the Connecticut River. This primitive campsite is owned and managed by TransCanada. The shoreline substrate at this site is muddy debris that covers the shoreline, potentially making canoe and kayak landing more difficult. A campsite location sign high in a tree facing the Connecticut River is clearly visible for passing paddlers to find. The campsite area is open, and pine needles create a natural mulch with no overgrowth (Figure 3.4-36). Amenities at this site include one picnic table, a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), and a privy house. This campsite has space for an estimated five tents to be pitched. Figure 3.4-37 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-36. Wantastiquet canoe rest area (campsite).



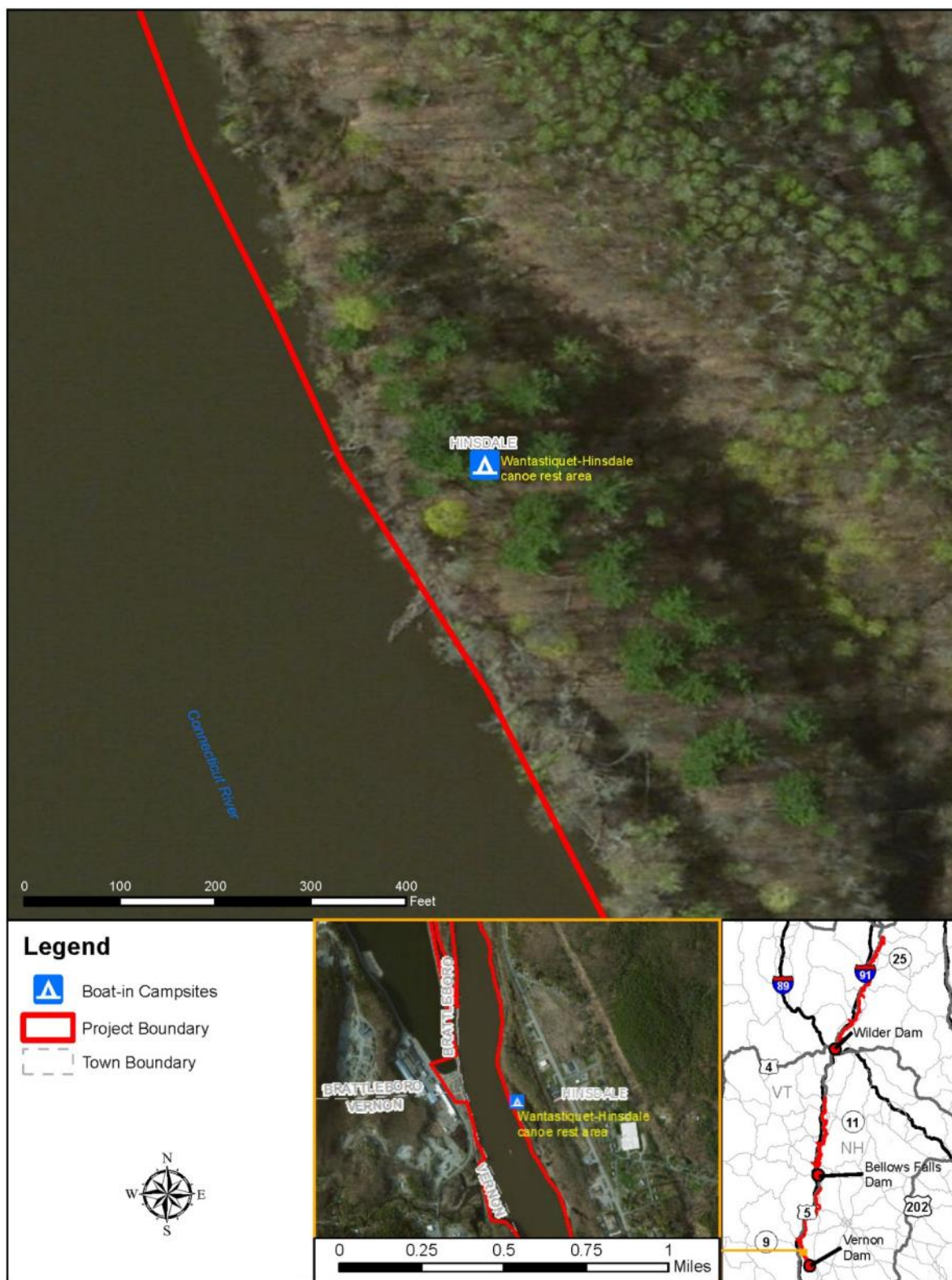


Figure 3.4-37. Map of Wantastiquet canoe rest area (campsite).



### 3.4.3.3 Stebbins Island Canoe Rest Area

Stebbins Island boat-access-only campsite is located within the Vernon Project Boundary in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, on Stebbins Island in the Connecticut River. The island is owned, and the campsite managed by TransCanada. The shoreline substrate at this site is a sandy on a gradual sloping shoreline, making boat landing fairly easy. However, the lack of signage at this site makes finding the campsite area, which is located in the middle of the island, very difficult. From the shoreline landing area (unsigned), a small maintained grass path leads to the middle of the island, where the designated camping area is located. The campsite has some vegetation overgrowth, but the campsite is generally well maintained to prevent the spread of poison ivy and nettles (Figure 3.4-38). Invasive shrubs and brush dominate the understory, making movement around the island difficult outside the user trails. Amenities at this site include one picnic table, a self-made fire pit (surrounding stones), and a privy house. The table and privy exhibit signs of deferred maintenance and could be upgraded. An estimated four tent spaces are available in the designated camping area on Stebbins Island. Figure 3.4-39 provides a map of the site in relationship to the project boundary.



Figure 3.4-38. Stebbins Island canoe rest area.

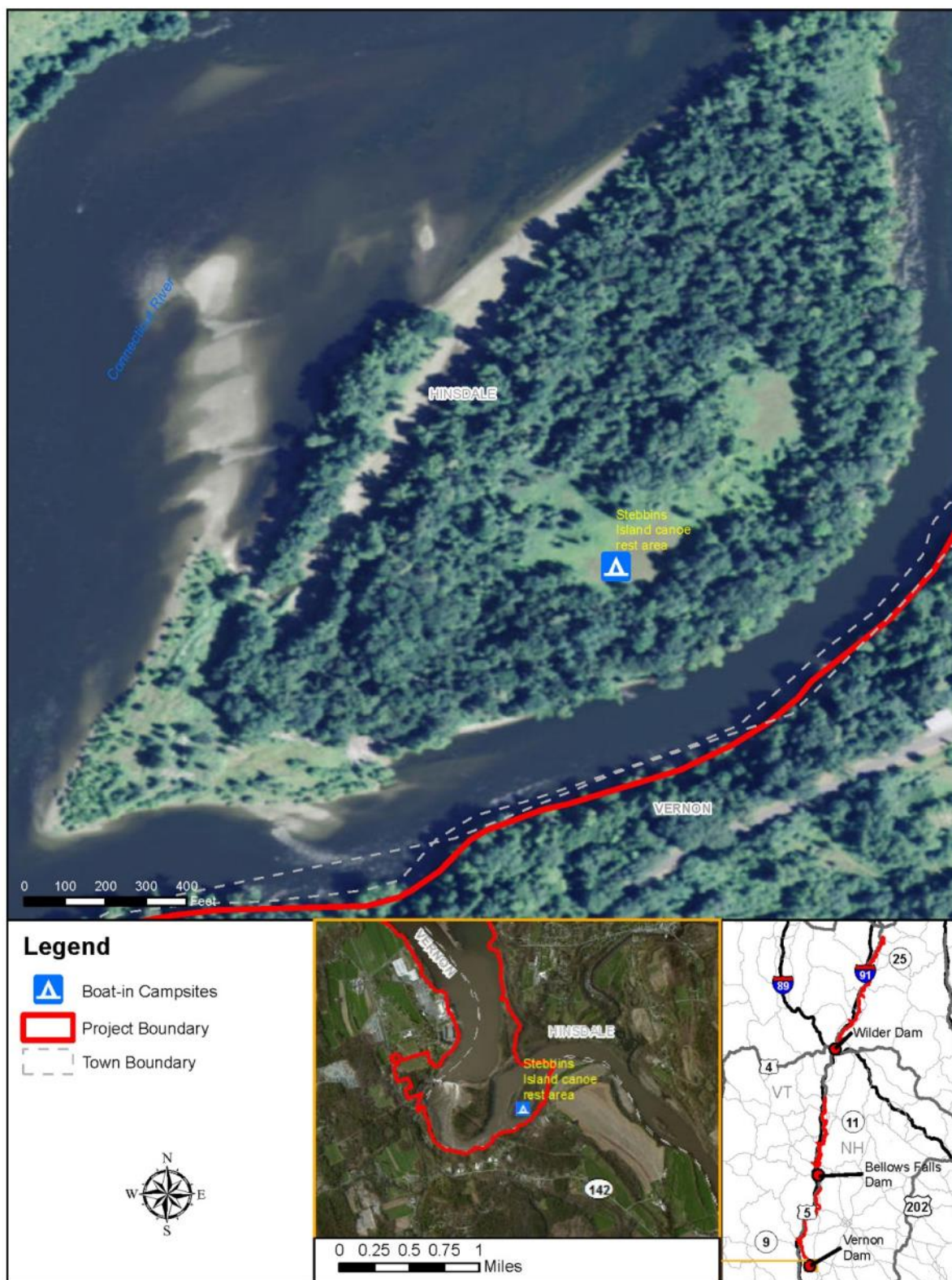


Figure 3.4-39. Map of Stebbins Island canoe rest area.

### **3.5 Portage Trail Options**

Evaluations of potential alternative portage trail routes were conducted using aerial imagery, publically available elevation data, and photography taken to document potential locations. The evaluations took a planning level look at the possibility of shortening the portages around the project dams. The values for elevation gain and loss, as well as percent slope estimates were not field verified as part of this study. Additional field surveys would be needed to refine any trail options for further development.

#### **3.5.1 Wilder Dam**

The existing canoe portage around Wilder dam is located on the New Hampshire side of the river. The take out is located just downstream from the overhead transmission lines at the upstream boat barrier. The portage trail follows a grassy path that runs along the bank, parallel to Highway 10 (Figure 3.5.1-1). The trail then crosses a parking area and follows a gravel road to a gravel foot path with granite stairs to a sand/gravel beach. The total length of the trail is about 0.2 mile long with a total elevation gain of 33 feet and a total elevation loss of 90 feet. The average uphill slope is 4.7 percent and the average downhill slope is -8.2 percent. An evaluation of the potential for a portage trail option on the Vermont side of the river identified a shorter portage route (0.1 mile) with reduced elevation gain and loss. However, safety and security concerns associated with energy infrastructure and operations facilities located on the Vermont side of the dam make pursuing an alternative route at the Wilder dam impractical. Figure 3.5.1-1 shows the existing portage trail and the alternative route evaluated.



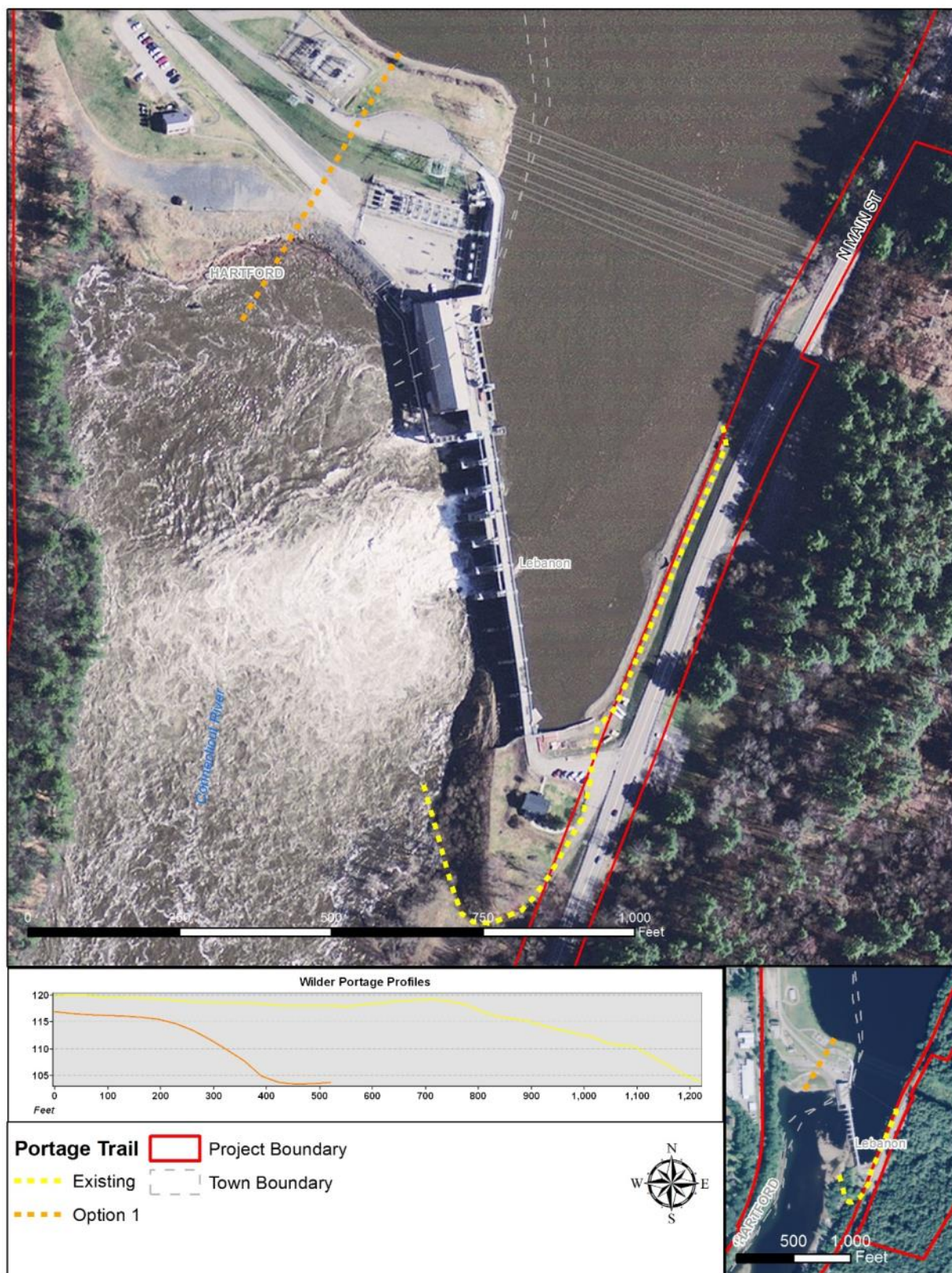


Figure 3.5.1-1. Wilder Dam Portage Trail.

### 3.5.2 Bellows Falls

The existing canoe portage around Bellows Falls dam is located on the New Hampshire side of the river. The portage take-out is at the Pine Street Boat Launch. The trail follows Pine Street, Spruce Street, and Church Street for about 0.4 mile to the Arch Bridge. The trail then continues along Killeen Street and along the shoulder of Main Street (Rt. 12) for 1.1 mile, then turns down a paved access road to the river and the put-in location. The total length of the trail is about 1.5 miles with a total elevation gain of 138 feet and a total elevation loss of 189 feet. The average uphill slope is 3.6 percent and the average downhill slope is -4.2 percent.

Two potential alternatives for shortening the portage trail were identified. Both options include moving the take-out location from Pine Street to just upstream of the Arch Bridge; however, this potential take-out location is not ideal due to its proximity to the spill gates and boat barrier and potential strong currents during spilling at the dam. TransCanada typically installs the boat barrier upstream of the dam and canal entrance across the river essentially under the Arch Bridge after the spring freshet. Early downriver canoe trips looking to portage from the Arch Bridge before the boat barrier is in place would run the risk of missing this take-out which would likely be fatal if the dam were spilling. If the boat barrier were in place, and conditions lent themselves to using a theoretical take-out at the shoreline just upstream from the New Hampshire abutment of the Arch Bridge, boaters would be about 0.3 mile closer to the existing put-in if they followed the existing trail. This option would remove about 40 feet of elevation gain and loss. Figure 3.5.2-1 shows the portage trail and option routes evaluated.

Another alternative would take out on the NH shore as stated above but cross the river via the Arch Bridge to Vermont and navigate through downtown Bellows Falls to Mill Street and the relatively new Heritage Trail between the substation and the wastewater treatment plant. This option would consist of a 0.8 mile hike with a total elevation gain of 115 feet and a total elevation loss of 156 feet. The average uphill slope is 6.0 percent and the average downhill slope is -5.7 percent.

Moving the put-in location to the upper end of the Bellows Falls bypassed reach was dismissed as a viable option due to safety. The only water intentionally released into the bypassed reach is during spills (i.e., spring freshet, heavy precipitation events, or during plant outages) when flows are too high for downriver canoes to navigate the bypassed reach. Furthermore, the presence of the fish barrier dam is a significant obstacle with limited portage options. This feature is extremely dangerous and was excluded from the whitewater boating study (Study 31) which included expert boaters assessing the feasibility of boating in the bypassed reach. Currently, the seals on the dam gates leak about 125 cfs and could provide the impression of boatable water in the bypassed reach shortening the portage trail; however, at this low volume of water it is unlikely the trip would be enjoyable or even possible without numerous hits, stops and drags along the bottom. Carrying a canoe and gear over the rocky shoreline of the bypassed reach for any distance would be a significant challenge and pose risk of injury. For reference, the lowest

flow studied under the whitewater boating study was 1,580 cfs and at all whitewater evaluation flows, boater safety relative to the fish barrier dam was paramount to other concerns associated with the potential for boating in the reach. For these reasons, putting in on the downstream side of the dam (in the bypassed reach) is not a viable portage trail option.

Portage options along the Vermont side of the river are similarly restricted. The railroad operates along the entire Vermont shoreline from the rail station in Bellows Falls north to the Williams River. Access across railroad property is prohibited. Similarly, boating past the TransCanada boat barrier and the log boom which protects the entrance to the power canal is extremely dangerous as there are no viable exit points along the canal.



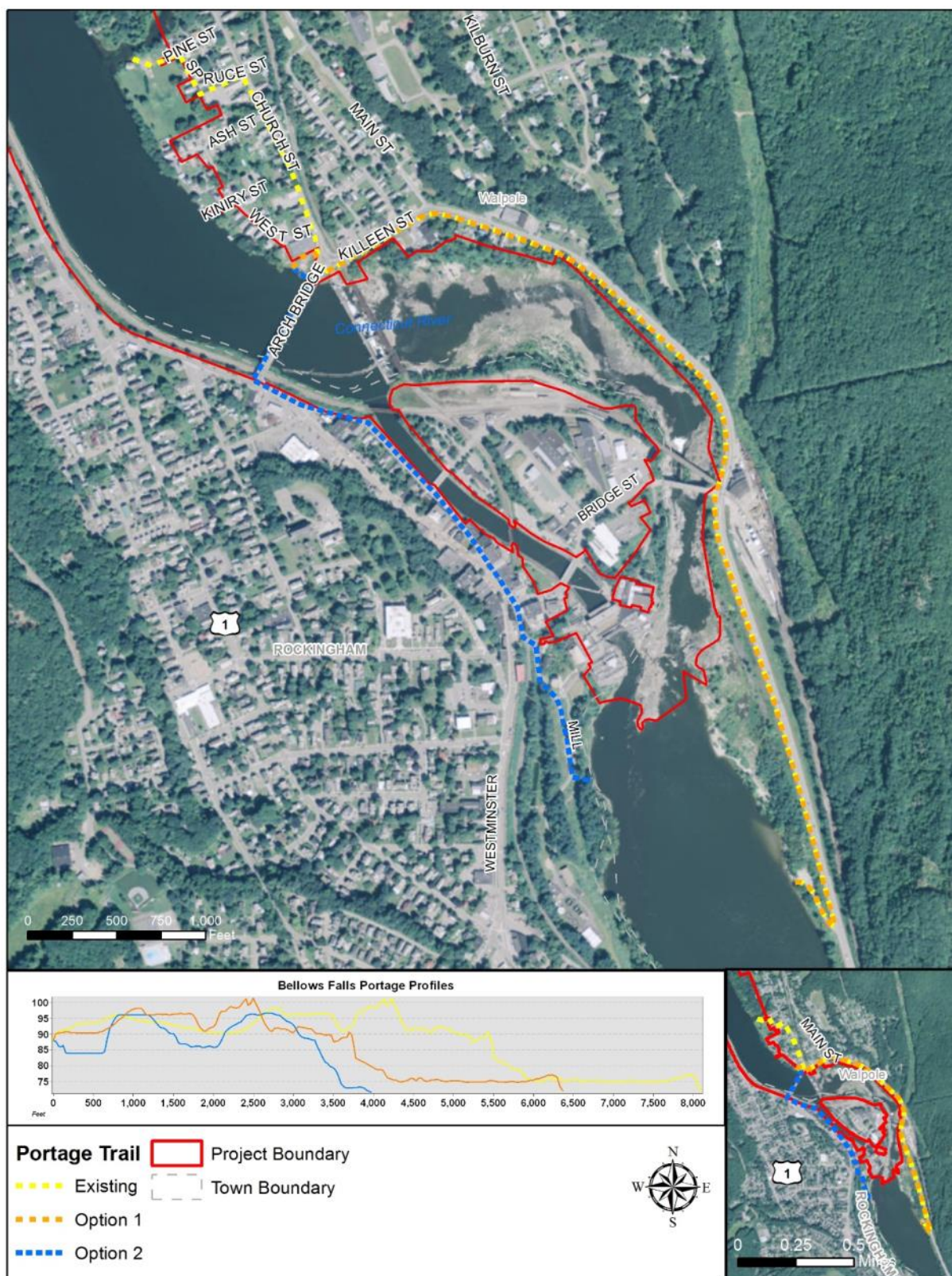


Figure 3.5.2-1. Bellows Falls Dam Portage Trail.

### **3.5.3 Vernon**

The existing canoe portage around Vernon dam is located on the Vermont side of the river. The portage take-out is just upstream up the log boom (debris barrier) located in the station forebay. The portage trail follows Governor Hunt Road, passes the Vernon Glen Picnic Area, and extends about 0.2 mile to the put-in on a sandy beach below Vernon dam at the Governor Hunt recreation area. The existing trail has a total elevation gain of 32 feet and a total elevation loss of 47 feet. The average uphill slope is 9.8 percent and the average downhill slope is -5.5 percent.

An optional portage route was evaluated that would require a set of switchbacks up and over the Vernon Neck peninsula on the New Hampshire side of the dam. A path in this location would reduce the overall portage distance by about 300 feet; however, the banks on the New Hampshire side are very steep and would require switchback trail construction. Negotiating switchbacks with canoes and gear up and down the steep slopes for such a modest reduction in overall portage trail length would provide little improvement over the existing portage trail which provides gentle, flat access and a park with picnic tables for boater conveniences that would be hard to replicate on the opposite side of the river without significant capital expenditure, making pursuit of such an alternative impractical. Figure 3.5.3-1 shows the portage trail and alternative route evaluated.



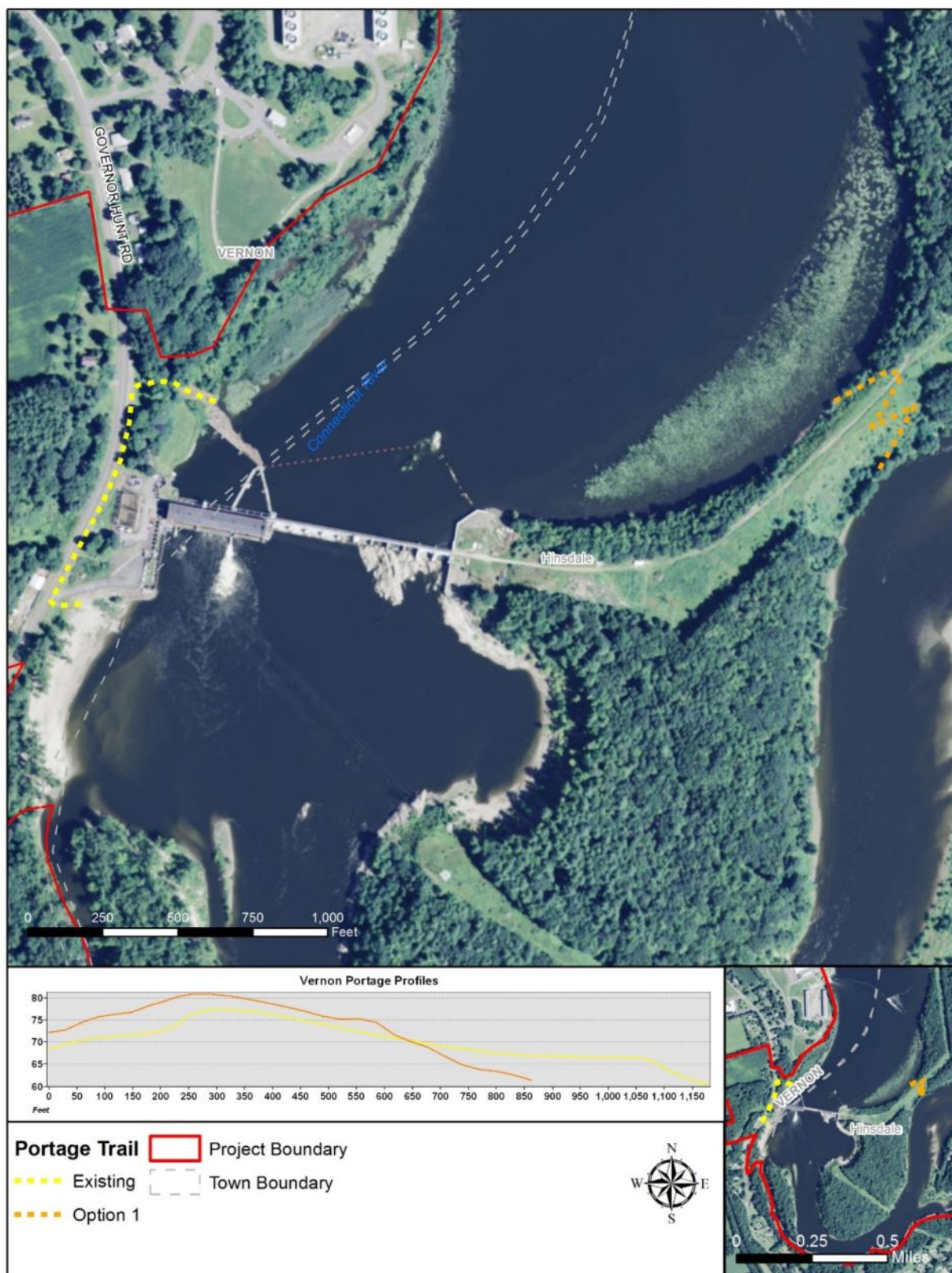


Figure 3.5.3-1. Vernon Dam Portage Trail.



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## 4.0 SUMMARY OF RECREATION USE AND USER CHARACTERISTICS

This section presents general information regarding recreation user characteristics and the type of recreational use occurring within the three project study areas, including data obtained from access site interviews, spot counts, and regional residents' surveys.

### 4.1 Recreation Visitation and Type of Uses

For the purposes of this report and consistent with FERC Form 80 reporting requirements, a recreation visit (measured as a recreation day) is defined as a visit by a person for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period. Table 4.1-1 shows the estimated use of all inventoried sites in the study area. This information is reasonably consistent with broader estimates in TransCanada's FERC Form 80 reports filed in the past. Recent Form 80s for the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Projects are available from the FERC eLibrary website (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>) and cover the years 1997, 2003, 2009, and 2015<sup>1</sup>.

Table 4.1-1. Summary of estimated recreation visitation April 2014–April 2015.

Study Area	Visitation at TransCanada FERC Project Recreation sites	Visitation at Other Public Recreation sites in this Study	Total
Wilder	119,093	115,307	234,400
Bellows Falls	97,102	215,429	312,531
Vernon	30,561	41,827	72,388

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data gathered for this study were used as the basis for the estimates in the 2015 FERC Form 80 report filed with FERC.

#### **4.1.1 Public Recreation Site Use**

Recreation use estimates for study area public recreation sites were based on traffic counts, spot counts, interview data, and facility operator estimates where possible. Study staff deployed traffic counters at 17 access sites for 12 months; however, the counter at Hoyts Landing was discovered missing upon return in March, having disappeared at some point after November 2014.

The RSP only required interviews, spot counts, and traffic counts from April through October 2014; however, because of stakeholder interest in winter use and the convenience of maintaining the traffic counters, survey staff continued to collect data at sites open through the winter to April 2015 to capture a full year of traffic, interview, and spot count data. The VDFPR provided annual use estimates for Wilgus State Park and the park's operating season aligns with the peak season defined for this study. The Nature Museum which operates the Bellows Falls visitor center and fish ladder interpretive displays provided the annual use estimates for that facility. Estimates of use at sites with traffic counters relied on the vehicle count multiplied by an average group size calculated for each Project study area. Table 4.1-2 shows the estimated use at each of the inventoried sites for the period of the study.

To estimate use at sites without traffic counters, several variables were defined, including survey days (discussed in Section 2.0), activity turnover rate, and group size (discussed in Section 5.0). According to exit interviews, the average length of time people spend recreating at these sites varied, based on the type of site, from less than 1 hour to more than 12 days. Because the average trip duration can be influenced by a small number of campers or cabin renters with extended trip lengths, these averages are calculated based on day-users (those visitors whose trips were less than 24 hours). Overall, overnight users accounted for 7.8 percent of those interviewed.

Table 4.1-2 shows the average length of time people recreated at each project, and Table 4.1-3 details the average trip duration by their primary activity based on interview data obtained during the peak season. Throughout the peak season study period, the average length of sunlight during which typical recreation activities occur ranged from 14 hours and 10 minutes on May 1 to 15 hours and 27 minutes around the summer solstice in White River Junction, Vermont. Sample days were scheduled for 8 hours, so each peak season day essentially captured roughly one-half the recreation occurring during daylight hours. Given that the spot count sampling scheme covered either a morning or afternoon period, a turnover of 2.5 is reasonable and accounts for activities occurring during the sample periods as well as the daybreak and evening twilight times.



Table 4.1-2. Estimated use (in recreation days) at study area recreation sites from March 2014 through February 2015.

Site Name	Peak Season Use	Off Season Use	Use from March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015	Source
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1,958	1,257	3,216	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Bedell Bridge State Park	15,194	1,575	16,769	Traffic counter x average group size
Bugbee Landing Access Point	1,478	1,117	2,596	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Orford Boat Landing	12,381	1,685	14,066	Traffic counter x average group size
North Thetford Landing	2,592	1,746	4,338	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch	250	210	459	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1,459	140	1,599	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	25,706	3,247	28,953	Traffic counter x average group size
Ledyard Canoe Club	749	closed	749	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Norwich Landing	768	closed	768	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>a</sup>	32,202	7,258	39,459	Traffic counter x average group size
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South) <sup>a</sup>	56,624	2,173	58,797	Traffic counter x average group size
East Wilder Boat Launch	1,517	closed	1,517	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access <sup>a</sup>	806	closed	806	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Wilder Portage Put-In <sup>a</sup>	326	1,397	1,723	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Lebanon (Wilder dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails <sup>a</sup>	10,262	6,529	16,791	Traffic counter x average group size
Lyman Point Park Launch	1,498	closed	1,498	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	5,910	1,024	6,935	Traffic counter x average group size

Site Name	Peak Season Use	Off Season Use	Use from March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015	Source
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing) (Lebanon Launch)	4,688	499	5,187	Traffic counter x average group size
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	3,728	160	3,888	Traffic counter x average group size
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapids)	20,090	167	20,257	Traffic counter x average group size
Cornish Boat Landing	4,032	closed	4,032	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
<b>Wilder Study Area Total</b>			<b>234,403</b>	
Wilgus State Park	8,800	closed	8,800	Ethan Phelps, Wilgus State Park
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	37,299	17,040	54,339	Traffic counter x average group size
Hoyts Landing	87,178	11,581	98,759	Traffic counter x average group size
Patch Park	1,982	931	2,914	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	31,604	3,648	35,252	Traffic counter x average group size
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	42,969	16,812	59,781	Traffic counter x average group size
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-Out <sup>a</sup>	1,042	279	1,321	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitors Center <sup>a</sup>	1,196	0	1,196	Nature Center at Grafton attendance records
Bellows Falls Portage Put-In	22,341	7,229	29,570	Traffic counter x average group size
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	18,032	1,565	19,597	Traffic counter x average group size
Cold River Hand-Launch Site	504	93	597	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
<b>Bellows Falls Study Area Total</b>			<b>312,126</b>	
Putney Boat Landing	2,035	1,474	3,510	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Dummerston Landing	6,960	1,824	8,784	Traffic counter x average group size

Site Name	Peak Season Use	Off Season Use	Use from March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015	Source
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	1,555	closed	1,555	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Old Ferry Road Access	3,629	closed	3,629	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	2,438	2,212	4,650	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
West River Marina	2,035	closed	2,035	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Norm's Marina	4,320	closed	4,320	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2,803	2,212	5,015	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Hinsdale Access	518	closed	518	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Fisherman Access Area	922	1,327	2,249	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Broad Brook Access	211	closed	211	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Prospect Street Launch	4,762	590	5,351	Average spot count x 2.5 turnover ratio
Vernon Canoe Portage <sup>a</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	
Vernon Glen <sup>a</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	No Counts <sup>b</sup>	
Governor Hunt Recreation Area (including fish ladder) and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	27,274	3,287	30,561	Traffic counter x average group size
<b>Vernon Study Area Total</b>			<b>72,388</b>	

a. TransCanada Project recreation site

b. Spot counts were made but staff did not see anyone at the site during the visits that were made during the study period.



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Table 4.1-2. Average trip duration to study sites.

Study Area	Peak Season (hours)			Off Season (hours)		
	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Wilder	0.5	12	2.9	1	12	4.3
Bellows Falls	1	12	3.3	1	8	2.9
Vernon	1	12	3	2	6	3.8
<b>All sites</b>			<b>3.0</b>			<b>3.6</b>

Table 4.1-3. Average trip duration by activity.

Activity <sup>a</sup>	Wilder Study Area Peak Season Average (hours)	Bellows Falls Study Area Peak Season Average (hours)	Vernon Study Area Peak Season Average (hours)
Bicycling/mountain biking	6.5	3	-
Hunting	5	-	-
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	4.8	4.6	4.9
Tubing	4	-	-
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	3.1	3.4	2.5
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	3	2	-
Motorboating (not fishing)	3	4.4	2.5
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	-	4	-
Other	3	4	1.8
Sculling	3	-	2
Waterskiing/tubing	3	-	3
Fishing from shore	2.8	3.5	2.6
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	2.4	1.7	3
Wildlife viewing; birding	2.3	3	1.7
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	2.1	1.3	3.5
Walking/hiking	2.1	-	1.4
Picnicking/family gathering	2	3.3	4
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	2	-	-

a. Dashed lines indicate activity did not occur at the site

## 4.2 Recreation Use by Activity

Table 4.2-1 shows the total number of interviews and spot counts that occurred during the study. Table 4.2-2 shows the rates of participation in various recreation activities for people who took part in the onsite interviews or regional resident surveys. Participants in the onsite interviews and the regional resident mail survey were asked to indicate what activities they participated in during their visit and select a primary activity. In addition, both groups were asked to identify the activities they participated in during each season (see Section 5.1).

Table 4.2-1. Number of onsite interviews and spot counts collected.

Study Area	Number of Interviews	Number of Spot Counts
Wilder	256	1,232
Bellows Falls	140	627
Vernon	181	843
<b>Total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>2,702</b>

Table 4.2-2. Distribution of recreation activity among onsite interviewees and mail survey respondents.<sup>a</sup>

Activity	Wilder		Bellows Falls		Vernon		Regional Residents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	% <sup>a</sup>
Fishing from shore	48	19	48	34	68	38	50	61
Canoeing/kayaking - flat water	76	30	21	15	40	22	61	74
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	44	17	21	15	42	23	68	83
Picnicking/family gathering	49	19	23	16	26	14	23	28
Walking/hiking	38	15	19	14	16	9	86	105
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	38	15	7	5	26	14	13	16
Wildlife viewing; birding	26	10	12	9	21	12	90	110
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	21	8	11	8	5	3	63	77
Tent/vehicle camping	25	10	2	1	4	2	8	10
Motorboating (not fishing)	10	4	5	4	9	5	18	22
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	13	5	3	2	2	1	19	23
Hunting	14	5	0	0	0	0	15	18
Waterskiing/tubing	4	2	1	1	3	2	3	4
Multiday float trip	3	1	1	1	4	2	6	7



Activity	Wilder		Bellows Falls		Vernon		Regional Residents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	% <sup>a</sup>
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	5	2	1	1	0	0	8	10
Sculling	4	2	0	0	2	1	3	4
Bicycling/mountain biking	3	1	1	1	0	0	21	26
Tubing	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing	0	0	1	1	1	1	11	13
Snowmobiling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>		<b>178</b>		<b>270</b>			

<sup>a</sup> Some respondents reported participating in more than one activity.

Most people participated in more than one activity while visiting the public recreation sites, and on average participated in 1.5 activities. No interviews were collected from visitors who were snowmobiling due to the difficulty in stopping them while recreating. In order of interview respondent participation, the following were the most popular activities:

- Wilder and downstream site users: 1) canoeing/kayaking – flat water, 2) fishing from shore, 3) fishing from boat or ice fishing and walking/hiking (tie), and 4) tent/vehicle camping and wildlife viewing/birding (tie).
- Bellows Falls and downstream site users: 1) fishing from shore, 2) canoeing/kayaking – flat water, 3) fishing from boat or ice fishing, 4) picnicking/family gathering, and 5) walking/hiking.
- Vernon site users: 1) fishing from shore, 2) fishing from boat or ice fishing, 3) canoeing/kayaking – flat water, 4) swimming/sunbathing from shore, and 5) picnicking/family gathering and walking/hiking (tie).
- Regional residents: 1) wildlife viewing/birding, 2) walking/hiking, 3) fishing from boat/ice fishing, 4) sightseeing/driving for pleasure, 5) canoe/kayak-flat water.

Survey results (interviews and mail back surveys) indicate that fishing from a boat was one of the most popular activities reported at each project, while picnicking/family gathering was ranked in the top five activities for both Bellows Falls and Vernon Projects (table 4.3-1). Less popular activities shown near the bottom of Table 4.3-1 (e.g., jet skiing, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing) were not captured in many onsite interviews; however, evidence of the activity (e.g., marks left in snow, vehicles with trailers at access sites) was recorded as part of the spot counts.

Table 4.2-3 provides a ranking of the recreation activities respondents reported as their primary activity. The most common primary activity associated with the Wilder study area sites was canoeing/kayaking – flat water, while the most popular primary activity at the Bellows Falls and Vernon study areas was fishing from shore. Regional residents reported fishing from boat or ice fishing as the most common primary activity, followed by canoeing/kayaking – flat water, and fishing from shore.

Table 4.2-3. Primary activity reported by onsite interviewees and mail survey respondents.

Row Labels	Wilder	Bellows Falls	Vernon	Regional Residents
Fishing from shore	15.2%	32.1%	30.4%	10.6%
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	21.9%	12.9%	19.3%	21.2%
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	11.7%	12.1%	21.0%	30.6%
Walking/hiking	11.7%	9.3%	6.1%	8.2%
Picnicking/family gathering	5.1%	11.4%	6.1%	2.4%
Other	2.3%	4.3%	0.6%	2.4%
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	3.9%	2.9%	7.7%	2.4%
Tent/vehicle camping	7%	0.7%	1.7%	1.2%
Motorboating (not fishing)	2.7%	3.6%	2.2%	2.4%
Hunting	5.5%	0%	0%	3.5%
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	3.1%	3.6%	0.6%	4.7%
Wildlife viewing; birding	2.0%	3.6%	2.8%	9.4%
Sculling	1.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0%
Canoe/kayaking – whitewater	1.6%	0.7%	0%	0%
Waterskiing/tubing	0.8%	0%	0.6%	1.2%
Bicycling/mountain biking	0.8%	0.7%	0%	0%
Multiday float trip	0.8%	0.7%	0%	0%
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	0.8%	0%	0%	0%
Tubing	1.6%	0%	0%	0%
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	0%	0.7%	0%	0%
Cross country skiing/snowshoeing	0%	0%	0.6%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>a</sup> The category of “Other” included working, harvesting plants, meeting friends, etc.

### 4.3 Places of Origin

Multiple data collection tools provide information about the locations from which visitors to the recreation study sites originate. License plate information from the spot counts provides information about the states from which people originate. The majority of visitors to the study sites surveyed by spot counts were from Vermont and New Hampshire (78%) with a smaller number from Massachusetts (11%) and other states including New York and Maine (11%). Table 4.3-1 summarizes the number of license plates recorded during spot counts at the recreation areas over the course of the study.

Post office zip codes of respondents to onsite interviews were used as an additional method of identifying place of origin of visitors to the study area. Zip codes are intended for efficient postal delivery and thus do not always follow municipal or even state boundaries. However, when viewed over city and state map information, the distribution and density of zip codes provides a good impression of where the majority of people originate from when visiting the projects and their estimated distance of travel. Figures 4.3-1 through 4.3-3 show the distribution of places of origin for visitors recreating at the projects as collected in onsite interviews. These figures do not show the full extent of visitor zip codes, which would require zooming out to include Colorado and other distant states; however, the figures do include the large majority of visitors and are at a scale to illustrate the general relationship between project proximity and visitation rates.

Table 4.3-1. Summary of license plate data.

Study Area	NH	VT	MA	NY	CT	ME	Other	Total
Wilder	37%	41%	9%	3%	2%	1%	7%	100%
Bellows Falls	46%	36%	8%	2%	3%	1%	4%	100%
Vernon	31%	43%	15%	2%	4%	0%	4%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>100%</b>



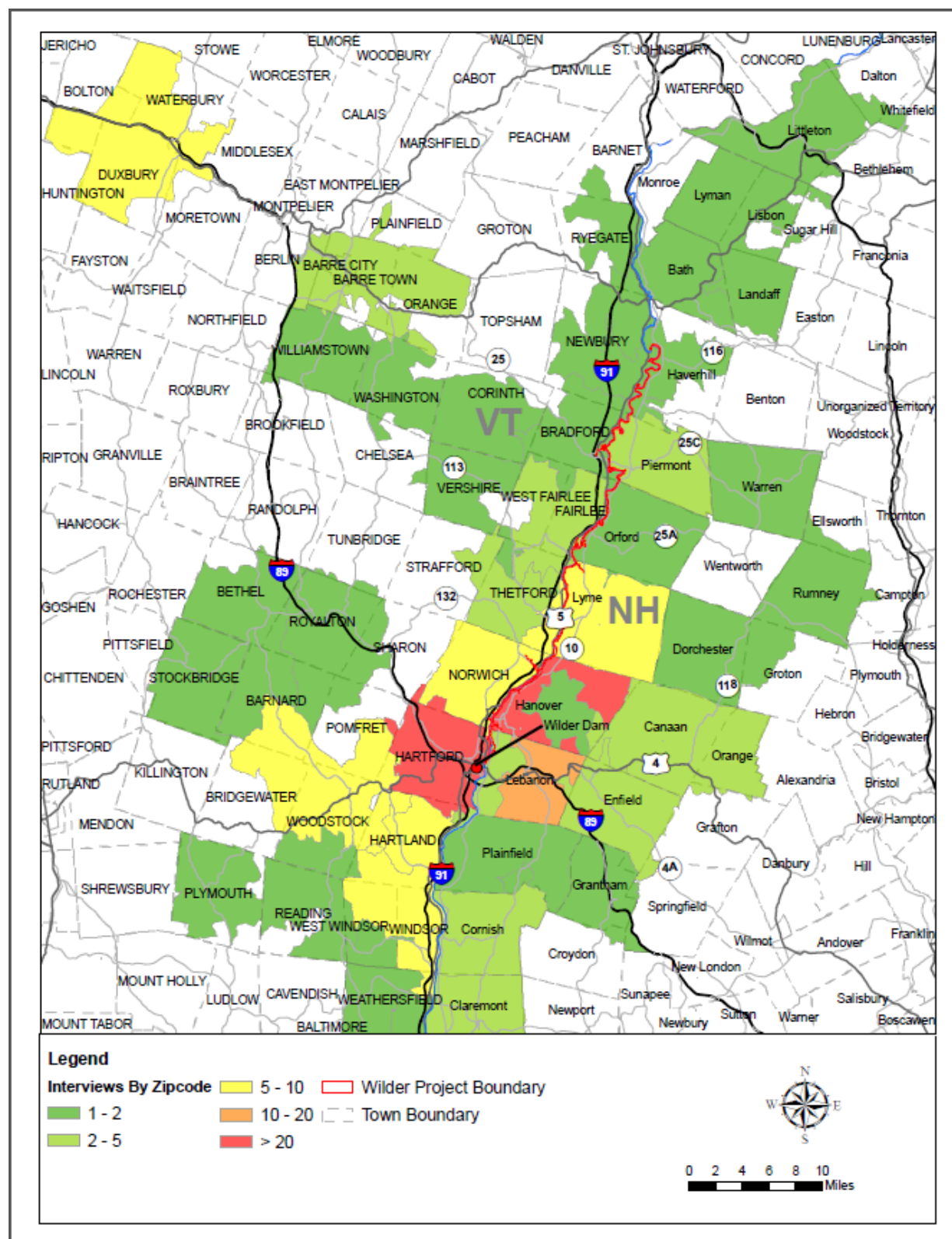


Figure 4.3-1. Zip codes collected from visitors at Wilder study sites.

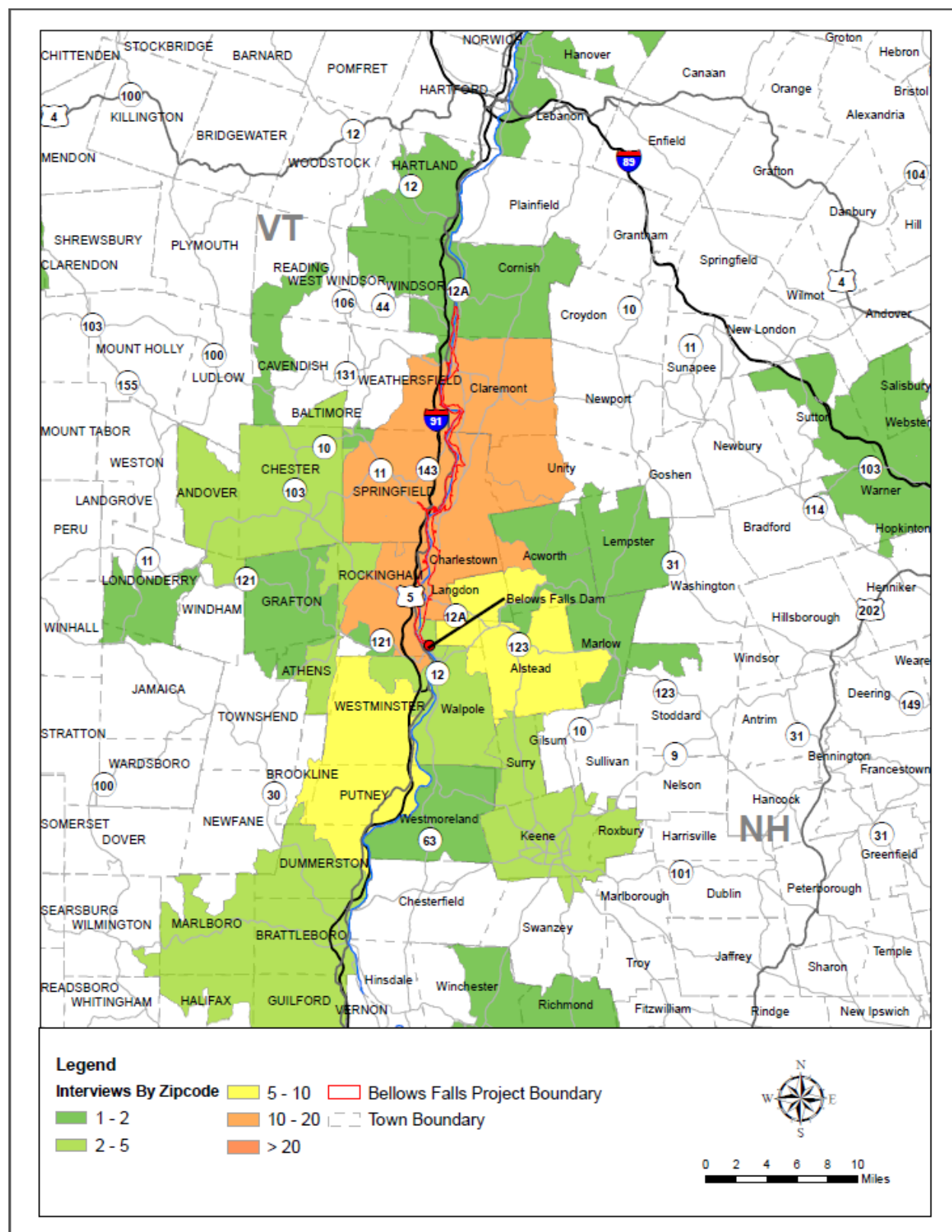


Figure 4.3-2. Zip codes collected from visitors at Bellows Falls study sites.

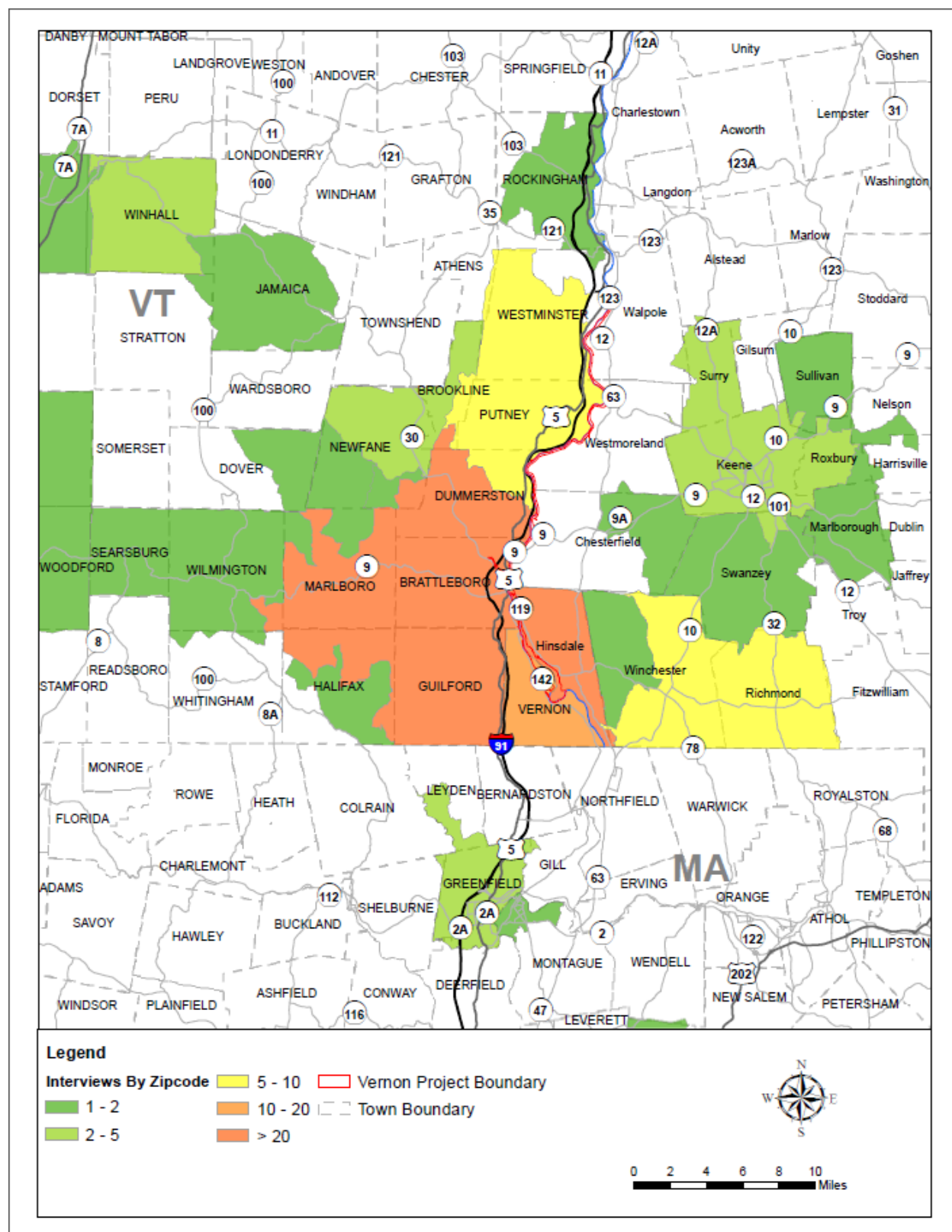


Figure 4.3-3. Zip codes collected from visitors at Vernon study sites.



## 5.0 ACCESS SITE RECREATION USER PERCEPTIONS, USE CHARACTERISTICS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section presents a summary of the data analysis with respect to use by study area recreation site users, user perceptions, issues raised, and recommendations made by recreation site visitors. Additional summaries of the data from the recreation site visitor interviews are provided in [Appendix B](#).

### 5.1 General Characteristics

As part of the onsite interviews, people were asked to provide some general demographic information including race, gender and age. Of the 577 respondents, 91 percent were white, 73 percent were men, and 44 percent were between 35–54 years old.

*Frequency of Visits*—On average, people indicated they recreate at the Wilder study sites 31 times a year (median = 5), Bellows Falls study sites 31 times a year (median=10), and Vernon study sites 36 times a year (median = 10). Overall, 87 percent of respondents indicated they had visited in the past.

*Group Size*—Table 5.1-1 shows the average group size of interview respondents by season and project. Group sizes were relatively similar at all three projects. Largest groups encountered at Wilder were associated with the Sleigh Cup Regatta, while at Bellows Falls there was a school group, and a large group of friends canoeing on Vernon. Respondents indicated the most common group size was two people.

Table 5.1-1. Average group size during peak and off season periods.

Project Study Area	Off Season (Oct 16 – Apr 30)			Peak Season (May 1 – Oct 15)		
	Avg	Max	Standard deviation	Average	Max	Standard deviation
Wilder (n=256)	1.8	2.0	0.5	3.2	130	8.5
Bellows Falls (n=140)	2.4	6.0	1.6	2.8	55	5.0
Vernon (n=181)	1.9	4.0	0.8	3.2	18	3.2

*Duration of Visit*—Of the 577 interviews, 80 percent of people spent 4 hours or less during their visit. The duration of time spent on their trip ranged from less than 1 hour to 12 hours. Table 5.1-2 shows the average peak and off season trip duration for each study area. Of the 577 respondents, 90 percent of people did not stay overnight in the area during their trip. Of the 25 people who indicated they did

stay overnight in the area (not residents), all but two were spending three nights or less.

Table 5.1-2. Average duration of trip at each study area.

Season	Wilder	Bellows Falls	Vernon	Total
Off-season	4.3	2.9	3.8	3.6
Peak season	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.0
Total	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.1

Because stakeholders indicated an interest in knowing about recreation visitor off-season activities, which were not directly captured from the user interviews, respondents were asked to indicate which seasons they participated in which activities. Tables 5.1-3 through 5.1-5 present the percent of users engaging in each activity, by season. This analysis is based on data from users who had reported visiting the study sites in the past.

Table 5.1-3. Visitor activities, by season, at the Wilder study area.

Activity	Wilder (n=213)			
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor boating (not fishing)	14%	9%	0%	9%
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	38%	28%	12%	29%
Waterskiing/tubing	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	0%	0%	0%	0%
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	62%	43%	2%	43%
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	5%	3%	0%	6%
Multi-day float trip	3%	0%	0%	1%
Sculling	3%	3%	0%	3%
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	12%	3%	0%	3%
Tubing	4%	1%	0%	1%
Snowmobiling	0%	0%	1%	0%
Cross-country skiing/snow shoeing	0%	0%	7%	0%
<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore	28%	24%	2%	27%
Wildlife viewing/birding	24%	23%	14%	23%
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	11%	13%	5%	10%
Picnicking/family gathering	31%	20%	2%	19%
Hunting	0%	13%	1%	1%
Tent/vehicle camping	18%	6%	0%	8%
Bicycling/mountain biking	16%	13%	2%	14%
Walking/hiking	24%	24%	14%	23%
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	30%	5%	0%	3%
Other	16%	9%	5%	9%

Table 5.1-4. Visitor activities, by season, at the Bellows Falls study area.

Activity	Bellows Falls (n=129)			
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor boating (not fishing)	9%	6%	0%	3%
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	18%	14%	5%	11%
Waterskiing/tubing	1%	0%	0%	0%
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	1%	0%	0%	0%
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	26%	11%	0%	8%
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	2%	1%	0%	1%
Multi-day float trip	1%	0%	0%	0%
Sculling	0%	0%	0%	0%
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	2%	0%	0%	0%
Tubing	0%	0%	0%	0%
Snowmobiling	0%	0%	1%	0%
Cross-country skiing/snow shoeing	0%	0%	1%	0%
<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore	31%	21%	1%	17%
Wildlife viewing/birding	8%	8%	1%	6%
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	5%	4%	2%	3%
Picnicking/family gathering	16%	8%	0%	7%
Hunting	0%	3%	0%	0%
Tent/vehicle camping	4%	1%	0%	0%
Bicycling/mountain biking	0%	0%	0%	0%
Walking/hiking	11%	10%	1%	8%
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	8%	1%	0%	0%
Other	3%	1%	0%	2%

Table 5.1-5. Visitor activities, by season, at the Vernon study area.

Activity	Vernon (n=163)			
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor boating (not fishing)	24%	14%	2%	15%
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	41%	34%	21%	31%
Waterskiing/tubing	7%	2%	0%	1%
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	3%	1%	0%	0%
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	45%	33%	1%	29%
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	3%	2%	0%	2%
Multi-day float trip	3%	0%	0%	1%



Activity	Vernon (n=163)			
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Sculling	0%	0%	0%	0%
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	21%	4%	0%	5%
Tubing	7%	0%	0%	2%
Snowmobiling	0%	0%	16%	0%
Cross-country skiing/snow shoeing	0%	0%	21%	0%
<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore	55%	46%	4%	49%
Wildlife viewing/birding	20%	15%	4%	14%
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	10%	8%	0%	8%
Picnicking/family gathering	36%	17%	1%	20%
Hunting	6%	20%	4%	7%
Tent/vehicle camping	33%	17%	1%	12%
Bicycling/mountain biking	18%	15%	1%	13%
Walking/hiking	42%	38%	5%	36%
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	31%	10%	0%	8%
Other	5%	3%	0%	3%

## 5.2 Visitor Perceptions of Safety and Aesthetic Attributes

Most respondents indicated the settings at the recreation sites and access points were visually appealing. Of the 577 people who were surveyed, 85 percent reported the scenic quality as “appealing” or “extremely appealing,” while 11 percent reported the scenery as “average.” Table 5.2-1 summarizes the number of responses per each point on the 9-point scenic attractiveness Likert (rating) scale<sup>2</sup>. Figures 5.2-1 through 5.2-3 summarize the distribution of responses. Three locations received the lowest scores reported, i.e., “unappealing.” These locations include Blood’s Brook (Wilder study area) where the respondent did not like the gravel pits across the river, but they did note: “once the trees leaf out it provides a feeling of secluded wilderness.” At Bellows Falls study area, the site that received the low score was Hoyts Landing because of “the trash and all the brush.” At the Vernon study area, the Governor Hunt Recreation Area received the low score because of the “dam and power lines.” It should be noted that the majority of respondents gave these sites the highest scenic quality responses at rates consistent with the overall results. [Appendix B](#) also includes photographs documenting representative areas identified in the interviews and mailed questionnaires.

<sup>2</sup> A psychometric scale commonly used in research that employs questionnaires to scale responses. The scale is named after its inventor psychologist Rensis Likert.

Table 5.2-1. Scenic quality responses from interviews.

Study Area	Extremely Appealing	Appealing		Average		Unappealing		Not at All Appealing	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Wilder	127	29	64	5	25	1	1	0	0
Bellows Falls	72	15	28	0	24	0	1	0	0
Vernon	85	30	36	10	15	2	1	0	0

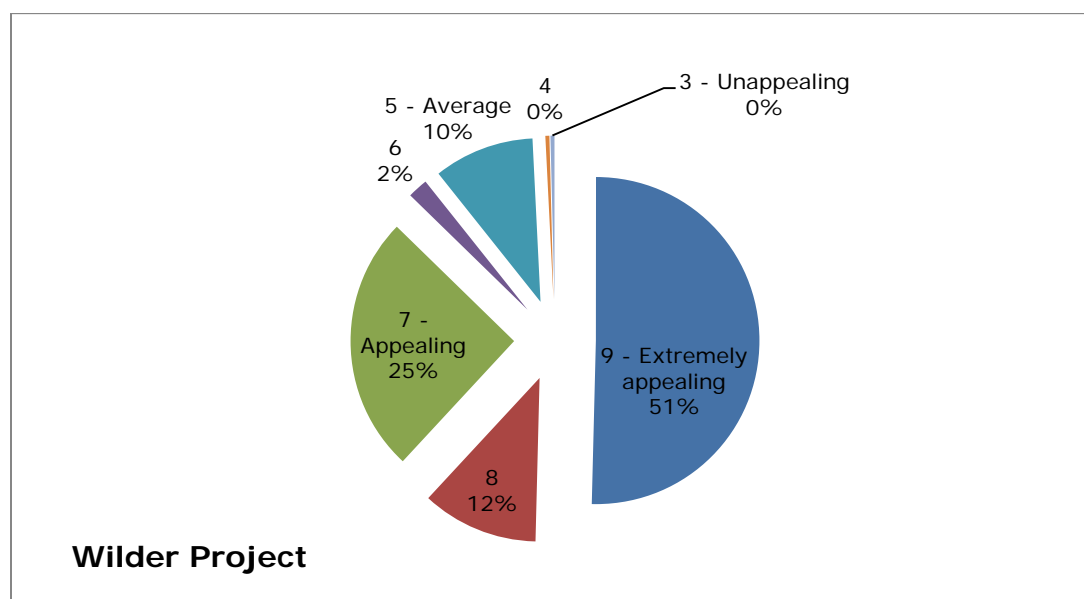


Figure 5.2-1. Wilder study area scenic ratings.

Respondents were also asked about visual resources or qualities that add to the overall aesthetics of the site as well as what resources or qualities detract from the aesthetics. Tables 5.2-2 through 5.2-7 summarize the responses for both positive and negative aesthetic attributes by site. Views of the landscape, natural settings, and wildlife were the most frequently cited positive attributes about the views from the sites. The most frequent negative response were the human built environment, trash, vehicles and loud sounds.

Table 5.2-2. Aesthetic attributes, by site, at Wilder study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes This Site Scenic
Bedell Bridge State Park	5	Wildlife (birds) (rare butterflies) and fish
Bedell Bridge State Park	2	Well-maintained site/clean/lawn mowed often/picnic area
Bedell Bridge State Park	1	Vegetation/trees/foliage

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes This Site Scenic
Bedell Bridge State Park	1	Beautiful scenery on the roadway entrance to site
Bedell Bridge State Park	2	Scenic old bridge remnants
Bedell Bridge State Park	4	The people
Bedell Bridge State Park	2	Seclusion/peacefulness of the site
Bedell Bridge State Park		The marsh
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	4	The brook
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	3	Wildlife
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	2	Seclusion/wilderness feel
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	2	Scenic views of Vermont/hills/woods
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	1	Rocky shoreline
Bugbee Landing	1	Vegetation/trees
Bugbee Landing	1	Bugbee River
Bugbee Landing	1	Wildlife
Burnaps Island (boat-in-campsite)	2	American bald eagles
Burnaps Island (boat-in-campsite)	1	Beautiful scenic island
Cornish Boat Landing	2	Wildlife
Cornish Boat Landing	4	View of Mt. Ascutney
Cornish Boat Landing	4	View of covered bridge
Cornish Boat Landing	2	Fall foliage
Cornish Boat Landing	1	Undeveloped
Cornish Boat Landing	1	Farmland
East Wilder Boat Launch	2	Vegetation/trees/foliage
East Wilder Boat Launch	2	Private/quiet
East Wilder Boat Launch	2	Calm clean water
Kilowatt Park South	1	Well maintained site/clean/lawn mowed often/picnic area
Kilowatt Park South	2	Quiet/serenity
Kilowatt Park South	1	Vegetation/trees
Kilowatt Park South	1	Undeveloped
Kilowatt Park South	1	The dam
Kilowatt Park South	3	Scenic view of water/mountains
Hewes Brook Car-Top Launch	1	Hewes Brook inlet
Hewes Brook Car-Top Launch	1	Wildlife
Ledyard Canoe Club	4	Beautiful/serene scenery of the river and shoreline
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Vegetation/trees/foliage



Location	Count	Comment on What Makes This Site Scenic
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Undeveloped New Hampshire side
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Lack of motorboats
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Uncrowded
Lyman Point Park	1	Wildlife (birds) and fish
Lyman Point Park	5	Scenic view of White River/Connecticut River
Lyman Point Park	2	Well-maintained site/clean/lawn mowed often/picnic area/playground
Lyman Point Park	3	Vegetation/trees
Lyman Point Park	1	Old bridge
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1	Scenic view of the mountains
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1	Quiet
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1	Farm/corn fields/pumpkin fields
North Thetford Landing	6	Scenic view of mountains and river
North Thetford Landing	2	No traffic and noise
North Thetford Landing	2	Lack of development/Vermont feel
North Thetford Landing	2	Wildlife (birds)
North Thetford Landing	1	Railroad track
North Thetford Landing	2	Old bridge abutments remnants
Norwich Landing	1	Scenic view of river/calm water
Norwich Landing	2	Vegetation/trees
Norwich Landing	2	Wildlife (American bald eagle)(birds)
Norwich landing	1	Quiet
Ompompanoosuc Launch	4	Wildlife (birds) (ducks, mink)
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1	Farmhouses
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1	Lack of urban sprawl
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1	Vegetation/trees
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1	Relatively quiet
Orford Boat Landing	2	Cliffs/coves
Orford Boat Landing	2	Rural/Farmland/cornfields
Orford Boat Landing	2	Vegetation/trees
Orford Boat Landing	2	Scenic view of mountains and river
Orford Boat Landing	1	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Orford Boat Landing	3	Lack of development/undeveloped riverbank
Ottacheechee Boat Launch	2	Seclusion of the site
Ottacheechee Boat Launch	2	View of the ENEL dam on the Ottacheechee River
Ottacheechee Boat Launch	1	Scenic views along trail to rope swing
Ottacheechee Boat Launch	2	View of waterfalls
Ottacheechee Boat Launch	1	Double covered bridge over the Ottacheechee River

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes This Site Scenic
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	1	Railroad bridge
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	1	Wildlife (birds)
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	1	Scenic forest at site
Sumner Falls	12	View of the falls/fast moving water/whitewater
Sumner Falls	1	Vegetation/trees/foilage
Sumner Falls	4	Scenic view of mountains and river
Sumner Falls	3	Wildlife
Sumner Falls	2	Geography features of the landscape (rocks/rocky shoreline)
Sumner Falls	1	You can see the hot air balloons (from White River Junction) from this site
Sumner Falls	1	Seclusion
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	2	Seclusion
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	1	View of passing trains on the Vermont shoreline
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	2	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	1	Scenic view of river and mountains (high ridges)
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	1	Scenic view on hiking trails (lake view)
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access	1	The dam
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access	1	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Kilowatt Park North	7	Scenic view of river/woods from the hiking/walking trails
Kilowatt Park North	2	Seclusion
Kilowatt Park North	5	Vegetation/trees/flowers (trillium, blackberries)
Kilowatt Park North	2	Openness
Kilowatt Park North	3	Wildlife
Kilowatt Park North	2	Lake like river feature (calm wide river)
Kilowatt Park North	1	Old bridge abutments
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Lack of development/houses
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Well maintained site
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	5	Vegetation/trees/foilage
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Marshland
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	3	Wildlife
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Seclusion
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	2	River feature (wide and deep) (clean water)
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Dock
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	5	Scenic view of mountains/forest/river
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Railroad

Table 5.2-3. Aesthetic detractors, by site, at Wilder study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Detracts Scenery at this Site
Bedell Bridge State Park	1	Erosion
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	1	Gravel pit on the Vermont shoreline
Bugbee Landing	1	No good scenic views from site, only trees
Burnaps Island (Boat-In-Campsite)	1	You can hear cars/traffic from the campsite
East Wilder Boat Launch	1	No good scenic views from this site-view of dam
Gilman Island (Boat-In-Campsite)	1	Not secluded enough, view of houses from island campsite
Kilowatt Park South	1	Algae in river looks bad
Kilowatt Park South	1	People
Kilowatt Park South	1	Power lines
Kilowatt Park South	1	See less housing
Kilowatt Park South	1	Not enough wildlife
Ledyard Canoe Club	2	Road across river on the Vermont shoreline
Lyman Point Park	1	Parking lot and a lot of people
Lyman Point Park	1	Bridge construction noise
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1	Muddy riverbank
North Thetford Landing	1	A lot of houses, site doesn't offer a lot to look at
Norwich Landing	1	Cars/traffic from road
Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch	1	Dirty water/debris in water
Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch	1	Unwanted wildlife (Canadian geese)
Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch	2	Traffic from Interstate 91
Orford Boat Landing	1	Eroding banks due to high water
Orford Boat Landing	1	Posts that are along roadway and parking lot
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	1	Trash left behind by visitors
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	2	The view of the bridge/traffic and noise from road
Kilowatt Park North	1	Iron rebar and concrete in river
Kilowatt Park North	1	Power lines and power house in the parking area
Kilowatt Park North	1	Vandalism (spray paint)
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	7	Houses and noise from road across river (Vermont shoreline)
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Dock
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	Motorboat noise/traffic



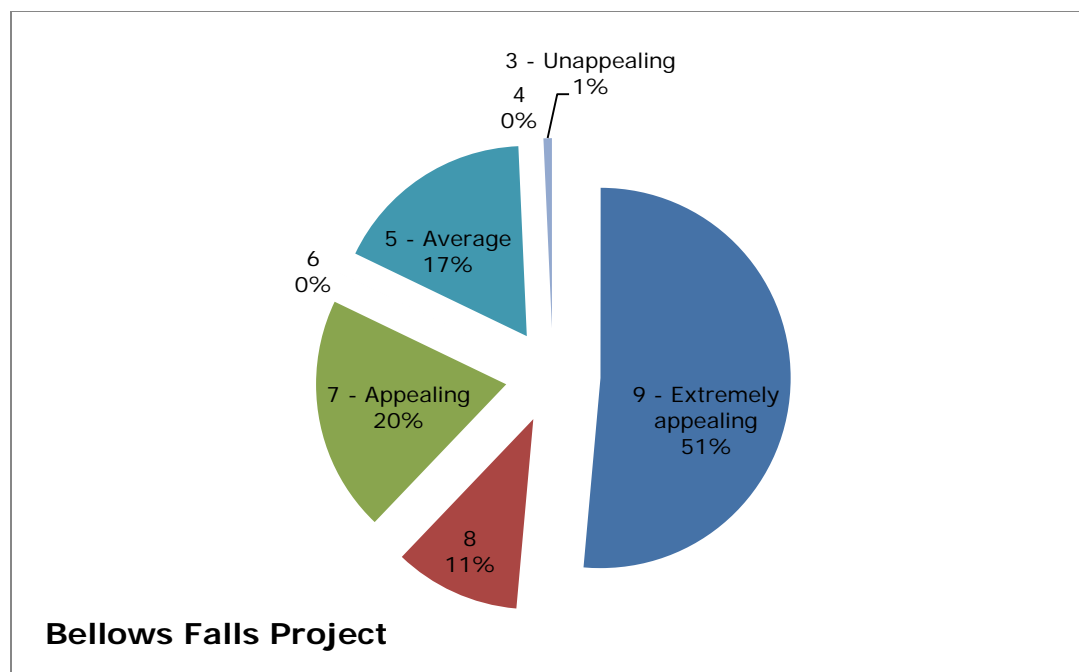


Figure 5.2-2. Bellows Falls study area scenic ratings.

Table 5.2-4. Aesthetic attributes, by site, at Bellows Falls study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	3	Wildlife (birds)
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	1	Peaceful/calm water
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	1	Vegetation/trees
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	5	Scenic view of mountains/hills/river
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	5	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	1	Relaxing environment
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	3	Vegetation/trees/foliage
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	3	View of Bellows Falls, Vermont, old mills
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	1	Site geology (rocks and sandy beach)
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park And Trail System	1	Wildlife
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park And Trail System	1	Scenic view of mountains on New Hampshire side, river/water (small pond at site)
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park And Trail System	1	Vegetation/trees
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Serenity/peaceful and quiet
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Lack of development

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Natural park setting
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3	Wildlife (birds)
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2	Vegetation/trees/foliage
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Well maintained site/clean/lawn mowed often/picnic area/
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2	Open areas
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Scenic view of river
Cold River Hand-Launch Site	1	Wildlife
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	1	Scenic view of the river
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	3	Wildlife (American bald eagle)
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	2	Serenity/peaceful/not a lot of traffic
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	3	Vegetation/tree (canopy provides both sun and shade at site)
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	1	Farmland/smell of manure
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3	Secluded/peaceful/relaxing
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	12	Wildlife (birds)
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2	Water privacy (multiple private river access spots at site)
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	6	Marshland/wetland/variety of habitat
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	5	Vegetation/trees (wide variety of trees)/foliage
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2	Scenic trails with views of forest/river
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3	Inlets and coves
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Open space
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Maintained site/clean/lawn mowed often/picnic area/
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Scenic boat launch
Hoyts Landing	2	Privacy/quiet/away from traffic
Hoyts Landing	1	Location
Hoyts Landing	7	Vegetation/trees/foliage
Hoyts Landing	7	Wildlife (American bald eagle) and fish
Hoyts Landing	1	Natural setting

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
Hoyts Landing	1	Open areas
Hoyts Landing	4	Scenic view of the river and landscape/mountains
Hoyts Landing	1	Bridge
Patch Park	1	Nice quiet place away from the roads
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-Out	2	Privacy
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-Out	1	Wildlife
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-Out	1	Foliage
Wilgus State Park	2	Wildlife
Wilgus State Park	1	No buildings
Wilgus State Park	1	Flowers
Wilgus State Park	1	Covered bridge (upstream)

Table 5.2-5. Aesthetic detractors, by site, at Bellows Falls study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Detracts Scenery at this Site
Bellows Falls Portage Put-In	2	Trash left behind by visitors
Bellows Falls Portage Put-In	1	Sewer treatment plant across the river (Vermont shoreline)
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System	1	Trash at site
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System	1	Too much brush (clean woods and brush)
Charlestown Boat Launch	1	Trees are blocking views of up and down the Connecticut River Valley
Cold River Hand-Launch Site	1	Trash and fishing line
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish And Game)	4	Trash at site
Hoyts Landing	1	Boat traffic
Hoyts Landing	2	Debris/trash in river
Hoyts Landing	1	People
Hoyts Landing	1	A lot of brush that needs clearing
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1	Stumps
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2	Trash along/in river



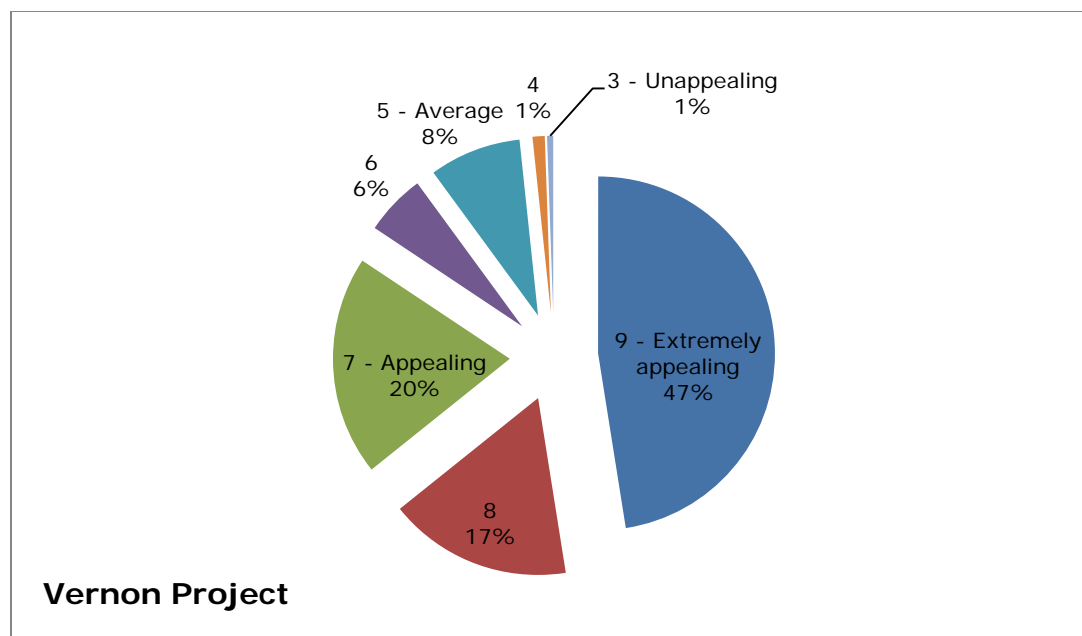


Figure 5.2-3. Vernon recreation study sites scenic ratings.

Table 5.2-6. Aesthetic attributes, by site, at Vernon study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	2	Lack of development
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	1	Air quality
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	1	Vegetation/trees
Broad Brook Access	1	Natural Setting
Dummerston Landing	2	The feel of being in nature/outdoors
Dummerston Landing	1	Scenic view of mountains
Dummerston Landing	1	Lack of development
Dummerston Landing	2	Vegetation/trees/shady trees (conifer trees)
Fisherman Access Area	5	Scenic view of mountains
Fisherman Access Area	1	Watching passing trains
Fisherman Access Area	1	Quiet
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	River setbacks
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2	Openness of area
Fort Hill Rail Trail	5	Peacefulness/quiet/solitude
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	River features (lily pads and weeds)
Fort Hill Rail Trail	8	Scenic view of river/water and mountains
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4	Vegetation/trees/foliage
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2	Scenic trail

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
Fort Hill Rail Trail	10	Wildlife (birds)
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	The scope of scenery (a lot of different views and habitat such as ponds/river/forest)
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	Marshland
Norm's Marina	1	Vegetation/trees
Norm's Marina	1	Wildlife
Norm's Marina	1	Scenic views of river
Old Ferry Road Access	3	Quiet
Old Ferry Road Access	3	Remoteness of area/lack of development
Prospect Street Boat Launch	4	Remoteness/seclusion/undisturbed by man
Prospect Street Boat Launch	3	Vegetation/trees
Prospect Street Boat Launch	1	Scenic views from Vernon Neck open space
Prospect Street Boat Launch	1	Inlets and coves
Prospect Street Boat Launch	5	Wildlife
Prospect Street Boat Launch	5	Scenic view of the river/water/lily pads/ponds/marshland
Prospect Street Boat Launch	1	Geology of the site
Putney Boat Landing	5	Scenic views of the river/water and mountains
Putney Boat Landing	1	Vegetation/trees
Putney Boat Landing	2	Wildlife
Putney Boat Landing	1	Secluded/lack of people/development
Putney Boat Landing	1	The openness of the site
Putney Boat Landing	1	Clean water
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1	Country setting
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	5	Peaceful/quiet
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	7	Scenic view of mountains/water
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	5	Wildlife (birds)
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1	Islands along the West River
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1	Marshland
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	9	Seclusion/lack of development/peaceful
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	11	Scenic views of river/water
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	4	Sandy beach
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	3	Vegetation/trees
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	2	Island

Location	Count	Comment on What Makes this Site Scenic
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	1	Fish ladder
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	1	Vernon dam
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	2	Wildlife and fish
West River Marina	2	Lack of development
West River Marina	7	Scenic view of river/mountains/hills
West River Marina	1	Wildlife
West River Marina	2	Wetlands
West River Marina	2	Islands
West River Marina	1	Vegetation/trees
West River Marina	1	Natural setting

Table 5.2-7. Aesthetic detractors, by site, at Vernon study sites.

Location	Count	Comment on What Detracts Scenery at this Site
(Chesterfield) River Road access	1	No beach at site
Dummerston Landing	2	Clear out the overgrowth
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	No curb appeal
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	People
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2	Power lines
Fort Hill Rail Trail	8	Vermont Yankee (nuclear station – no longer in use)
Old Ferry Road Boat Launch	1	Civilization
Old Ferry Road Boat Launch	1	No beach at site
Prospect Street Boat Launch	1	Bad condition of the boat launch (potholes in pavement)
Prospect Street Boat Launch	2	Trash at site
Prospect Street Boat Launch	1	Power lines
Prospect Street Boat Launch	2	Vermont Yankee (nuclear station – no longer in use)
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1	Civilization
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1	Proximity to the highway (Interstate 91 and Route 30)
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	6	The Vernon dam (noise)
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	2	Power lines
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	5	Trash at site
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	2	Erosion/washed out banks



Location	Count	Comment on What Detracts Scenery at this Site
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	1	Fish ladder
West River Marina	2	Construction (road)
West River Marina	2	Trash at site and in the river

Respondents were also asked to indicate their perception of safety at the study area recreation sites. Table 5.2-8 summarizes the responses of study area site users with respect to their perception of safety for each project study area and the subset of TransCanada recreation sites. Overall, the majority (almost 97 percent) reported they felt “extremely safe” or “safe.” Figures 5.2-4 through 5.2-6 summarize visitors’ responses regarding safety at each study area site. A single respondent indicated Wilson’s (Fullington) Landing was unsafe, citing concerns “about how far dock is out to avoid silt, someone could hit it.”

Table 5.2-8. Number of safety ratings from interview respondents.

Location	Extremely Safe		Safe		Neither Safe or Unsafe		Unsafe		Not Safe at All	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Wilder study area	182	12	28	1	5	0	1	0	0	
Wilder Project <sup>a</sup>	17	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	
Bellows Falls study area	66	3	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Bellows Falls Project <sup>b</sup>	39	3	12	0	2	0	1	0	0	
Vernon study area	103	16	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	
Vernon Project <sup>c</sup>	29	11	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	

a. Gilman Island, Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access, Kilowatt Park North and South, Wilder Dam Portage Put-In.

b. Herrick’s Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-Out, Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitors Center.

c. Fisherman Access Area, Vernon Canoe Portage Take-Out, Vernon Glen, Governor Hunt Recreation Area (including fish ladder) and Boat Launch.

Although two respondents reported feeling “unsafe” at TransCanada project recreation sites (one each at Wilder and Bellows Falls project recreation sites), the majority reported feeling safe. One respondent indicated Wilder picnic area (Kilowatt Park North) was unsafe because of “lots of vandalism and security concerns, but the closing of the gate helps.” A person at Herrick’s Cove boat launch and picnic area reported unsafe conditions and recommended: “this site

should be patrolled by police.” The findings from the site condition inventory relative to interview responses are discussed in Section 8.

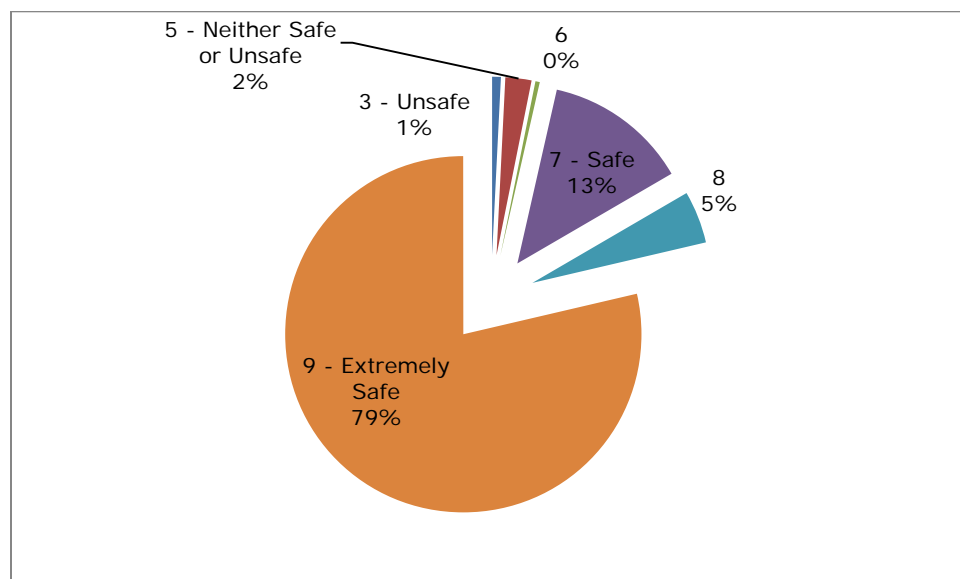


Figure 5.2-4. Wilder study sites safety ratings.

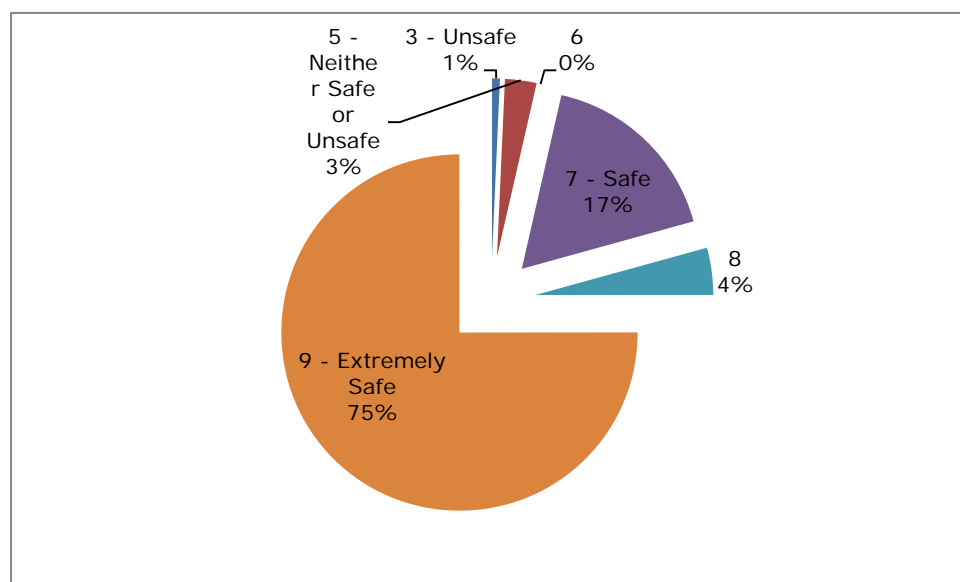


Figure 5.2-5. Bellows Falls study sites safety ratings.

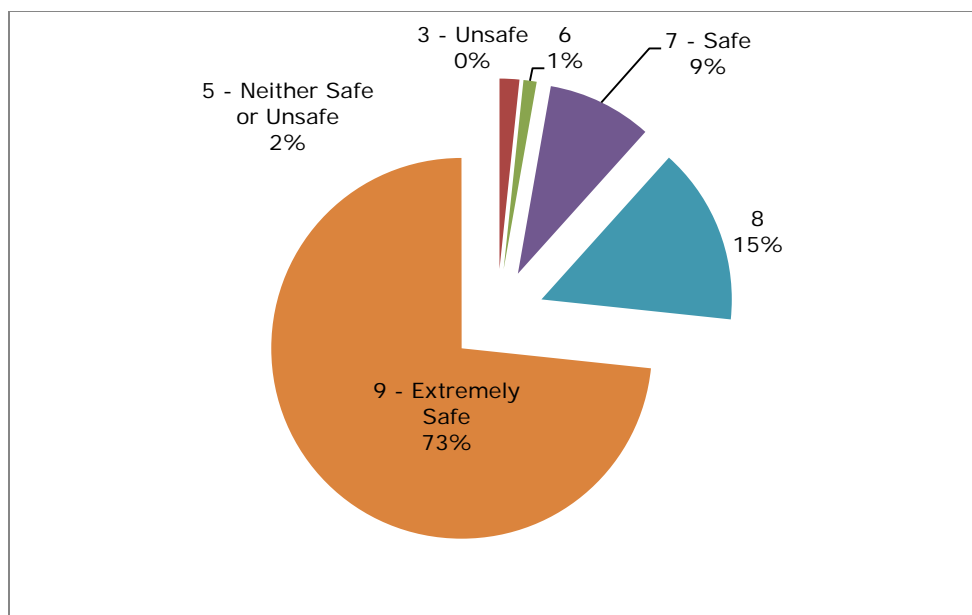


Figure 5.2-6. Vernon study sites safety ratings.

Respondents were vocal in providing comments about safety, even if they reported feeling safe in the overall score, suggesting improvements to public safety could be made. These comments are summarized in Tables 5.2-9 through 5.2-11 for each study area and location. Sites downstream of the dams received comments related to releases and flows from the dams; however, some respondents recognized the potential risk and acknowledge their responsibility for their own safety, as supported by the generally high safety scores regardless of the comment.

Table 5.2-9. Public safety concerns at Wilder study area sites.

Location	Safety Score	Concern Regardless of Score
Bedell Bridge State Park	3 - Unsafe	Boat traffic
Bedell Bridge State Park	8 -	Culvert caused freak accident in which a dog broke his back a few years ago.
Blood's Brook launch (a.k.a. True's Landing)	7 - Safe	I waded out into the water on the rocks and when the river rises it makes me a little nervous. The current picks up and I'm walking over slippery rocks, but it's my own risk and I feel safe otherwise I always check public flow and as long as the website is accurate I feel safe.
East Wilder Boat Launch	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Broken glass, more hazards for boating.
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South) <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	Worrisome boat launch along a retaining wall
Ledyard Canoe Club	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Depending on the current feel mainly safe.
Lyman Point Park Launch	7 - Safe	I don't go in the water down here without friends. You can slip fall and the water/current can change quickly.



Location	Safety Score	Concern Regardless of Score
North Thetford Landing	7 - Safe	Speed of boats near shore
North Thetford Landing	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Worried about tipping (sailboat) with dog
Norwich Landing	7 - Safe	Can be dangerous, example sandbars
Ompompanoosuc Launch	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	A bit hard to leave boat unmatched
Orford Boat Landing	8 -	Would be nice to have state trooper boats patrol
Orford Boat Landing	7 - Safe	Lack of dock
Orford Boat Landing	7 - Safe	Boaters not following rules
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	9 - Extremely Safe	You need to be careful walking out on the falls at low water levels because you can get caught in the whitewater when they release at the dam
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	7 - Safe	You never know who you're going to run into down here.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>A</sup>	9 - Extremely Safe	Sometimes drug baggies littered, once a drug bust.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>A</sup>	3 - Unsafe	There is a lot of vandalism and security concerns. The closing of the gate helps.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>A</sup>	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Drug paraphernalia / busts. Water quality
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>A</sup>	7 - Safe	Always risk of the dam letting go.
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	7 - Safe	Rowing/rivers are always dangerous
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	7 - Safe	A lot of motorboats not all slowed down
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	3 - Unsafe	Worried about how far dock is out to avoid silt, someone could hit it.

a. TransCanada project recreation sites

Table 5.2-10. Public safety concerns at Bellows Falls study sites.

Location	Safety Score	Concern Regardless of Score
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	7 - Safe	Steep banks can be dangerous when walking along river
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	7 - Safe	Don't let young kids take off their shoes cause broken glass
Cold River Hand-Launch Site	7 - Safe	Steep banks, wouldn't bring a child here it can be dangerous.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	A lot of bad people hang out here. Harassment when they follow you.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	Been spooked by people and there are weird people here
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	3 - Unsafe	This site should be patrolled by police.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Isolated

a. TransCanada project recreation sites

Table 5.2-11. Public safety concerns at Vernon study sites.

Location	Safety Score	Concern Regardless of Score
Dummerston Landing	7 - Safe	Broken glass
Fort Hill Rail Trail	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	Water; no lifeguards for kids
Fort Hill Rail Trail	8 -	Vermont Yankee
Fort Hill Rail Trail	6 -	Railing along Rail Trail for kids
Fort Hill Rail Trail	6 -	Woman by herself
Old Ferry Road access	7 - Safe	Traction on boat ramp
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	Strong current
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	Strong current
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	Strong current
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	7 - Safe	I feel safe but there is glass sometimes and my daughters could get hurt being barefoot on beach.
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	No lifeguards
West River Marina	5 - Neither Safe or unsafe	I feel safe but it can be unsafe the dock and bank are unsafe.

a. TransCanada project recreation sites

### 5.3 Site User Issues and Recommendations

Study site respondents were very positive overall in their level of satisfaction with the condition of the existing facilities. Eighty percent of the visitors interviewed at all study area sites were either “moderately satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” (scores of 1, 2 or 3) with the condition of the site (Table 5.3-1). Of those who reported dissatisfaction with the condition of the existing facilities, the primary reasons cited included: trash, lack of toilets, poor road/ramp surface conditions. Dissatisfaction with the condition of TransCanada project recreation sites, (considered scores of 6, 7, 8, or 9, “slightly satisfied” to “not at all satisfied”) were recorded at Wilder dam picnic area (Kilowatt Park North and South [2 respondents]), Charlestown Boat Launch and picnic area (2 respondents), Pine Street Boat Launch and portage trail take-out (1 respondent), and Governor Hunt Recreation Area (including the fish ladder) and Boat Launch (6 respondents). Table 5.3-2 lists the specific complaint and the location where the improvements were desired by those reporting dissatisfaction with the conditions of the recreation site. The majority of respondents provided suggestions to improve site conditions even when they reported satisfaction scores of 5 (“neutral”) or lower. The detailed comments received during the interviews are provided in [Appendix B](#).

Table 5.3-1. Satisfaction with the condition of the sites.

Location	Extremely Satisfied		Moderately Satisfied		Neutral		Slightly Satisfied	Not at All Satisfied	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Wilder study area	45.3%	13.7%	18.8%	2.7%	5.5%	1.2%	2.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Wilder project recreation site	4.7%	0.8%	2.7%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.4	0.0%	0.0%
Bellows Falls study area	20.1%	11.9%	14.2%	0.7%	6.0%	1.5%	3.7%	0.7%	3.0%
Bellows Falls project recreation site	22.4%	6.7%	4.5%	1.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
Vernon study area	24.3%	10.5%	17.7%	7.2%	5.0%	1.1%	4.4%	2.8%	0.6%
Vernon project recreation site	4.4%	5.5%	9.9%	1.1%	1.7%	1.7%	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%
Total	41.2%	15.9%	22.7%	4.3%	6.9%	1.7%	3.6%	1.6%	1.9%

Tables 5.3-2, 5.3-3, and 5.3-4 list the responses about changes or improvements that may make the user more satisfied with the condition of all recreation facilities included in the study. Two common responses were 1) removing trash and maintaining overall cleanliness, and 2) adding additional boat ramps. Adding bathrooms and improving road conditions also received high comment counts.

Table 5.3-2. Changes or improvements that would make the user more satisfied with the condition of recreation facilities at the Wilder study area sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
Trash/cleaner	11	Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch; Wilson's (Fullington) Landing; Bedell Bridge State Park; Kilowatt Park South; Kilowatt Park North; Two Rivers Park and Lebanon public boat launch; Newbury-Haverhill Bridge; Bugbee Landing
Add trash cans	4	Kilowatt Park North; East Wilder Boat Launch; North Thetford Landing
Debris and overgrowth	1	Wilder dam canoe portage put-in
Add bathroom	10	Kilowatt Park South; Orford Boat Landing; Bedell Bridge State Park; Cornish Boat Landing; North Thetford Landing



Comment	Count	Locations
Add dock	5	Kilowatt Park North; Orford Boat Landing; Wilson's (Fullington) Landing
Access for swimming	1	Hewes Brook
Access for hiking	1	Hewes Brook
Improve/fix boat launch	14	Hewes Brook; Kilowatt Park South; Two Rivers Park and Lebanon public boat launch; Norwich Landing; Cornish Boat Launch
Better maintain boat launch (clear debris, spring silt/mud)	3	Kilowatt Park South; Bugbee Landing; North Thetford Landing
Site needs better maintenance	1	Kilowatt Park North
Better ramp at portage take-out area to launch a kayak for whitewater	1	Sumner Falls
Concerned about crime/vandalism	4	Kilowatt Park North
Could be less developed (fewer do not enter signs)	1	Bedell Bridge State Park
More facilities	1	Norwich Landing
Bad road conditions into site	9	Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch; Blood's Brook Launch (A.K.A. True's Landing); Ottaquechee Boat Launch
Dock is occasionally submerged	1	Bugbee Landing
Lots of weeds in river	1	Kilowatt Park North
Add picnic tables/benches	4	Wilson's (Fullington) Landing; North Thetford Landing; East Wilder boat launch; Cornish Boat Launch
Lack of information, signs, trail maps	2	Bedell Bridge State Park; Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch
Outdated building	1	Ledyard Canoe Club
Wheelchair access is difficult	1	Wilson's (Fullington) Landing
Improve access to river; trails along river	1	Lyman Point Park
Add boat cleaning stations/power washers	1	Orford Boat Landing

Table 5.3-3. Changes or improvements that would make the user more satisfied with the condition of recreation facilities at Bellows Falls study area sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
Bad road conditions to site	10	Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game); Cold River hand-launch site; Bellows Falls dam portage put-in; Herrick's Cove; Pine Street Boat Launch
Trash/cleaner	16	Bellows Falls historic riverfront park and trail system; Bellows Falls dam portage put-in; Charlestown Boat Launch; Hoyts Landing; Herrick's Cove
Improve/fix boat launch	7	Bellows Falls dam portage put-in; Charlestown Boat Launch; Pine Street Boat Launch
Add dock	2	Hoyts Landing
Better maintain boat launch (clear debris, spring silt/mud)	7	Pine Street Boat Launch; Ashley Ferry Boat Landing
Add bathroom	3	Ashley Ferry Boat Landing; Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)
Site needs better maintenance	3	Ashley Ferry Boat Landing; Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)
Boat launch is too steep	1	Herrick's Cove
Grade boat launch and dredge out the low water	1	Pine Street Boat Launch
Add campsites	1	Hoyts Landing
Add picnic tables/grills	3	Hoyts Landing; Bellows Falls historic riverfront park and trail system
Clean bathroom	1	Hoyts Landing
Add trash cans	8	Herrick's Cove; Hoyts Landing; Bellows Falls portage put-in; Charlestown Boat Launch; Ashley Ferry Boat Landing
Lack of information, signs, trail maps	1	Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)
Hard to find site	1	Connecticut River car-top access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)

Table 5.3-4. Changes or improvements that would make the user more satisfied with the condition of recreation facilities at Vernon study area sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
Improve/fix boat launch	24	(Chesterfield) River Road access; Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Prospect Street Boat Launch; Putney Boat Landing; Retreat Meadows Boat Launch; Old Ferry Road Boat Launch
Trash/cleaner	20	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Fort Hill Rail Trail; fisherman access area; Dummerston Landing
Add trash cans/more trash cans needed	12	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Fort Hill Rail Trail; Dummerston Landing; Putney Boat Landing; Prospect Street Boat Launch; fisherman access area
Add picnic tables/grills	6	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Fort Hill Rail Trail; fisherman access area; Dummerston Landing
Bad road conditions to site/improve road	7	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Retreat Meadows; Prospect Street Boat Launch; Dummerston Landing
Pave roadway/parking area	1	Fort Hill Rail Trail
Improve dock	2	West River Marina
Add dock		Old Ferry Road Boat Launch
Add bathroom	8	Retreat Meadows Boat Launch; Prospect Street Boat Launch; Putney Landing; Old Ferry Road Boat Launch; Dummerston Landing; fisherman access area
Clean/maintain bathrooms	1	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch
Add sand to site/beach	1	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch
Increase Department of Fish and Game warden presence at site	2	Fort Hill Rail Trail; Prospect Street Boat Launch
Boat launch needs to be dredged	1	Retreat Meadows Boat Launch
Better maintain site	11	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Fort Hill Rail Trail; Hinsdale Island access; Prospect Street Boat Launch; fisherman access area
Don't allow vehicles to drive on the Rail Trail	1	Fort Hill Rail Trail
Clean lily pads/more fishing access	1	Fort Hill Rail Trail
Better hours for viewing fish ladder	2	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch
Put docks out earlier in the season/later in the season	2	West River Marina



Comment	Count	Locations
Better maintain boat launch (clear debris, spring silt/mud)	4	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch; Old Ferry Road Boat Launch
Poison ivy and nettles (thorn bush) present	1	Windyhurst Campsite (boat-in campsite); Prospect Street Boat Launch
Broken glass clean-up	6	Dummerston Landing; Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch
Human/animal waste present at site	1	Dummerston Landing
More parking needed	3	(Chesterfield) River Road access; Broad Brook access; Retreat Meadows Boat Launch
Lack of information, signs, trail maps	1	(Chesterfield) River Road access
Better erosion control	1	(Chesterfield) River Road access

Table 5.3-5 summarizes the specific comments from respondents related to TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites.

Table 5.3-5. Locations of dissatisfaction with the condition of the existing TransCanada FERC Project recreation facilities.

Site	Comment <sup>a</sup>
<b>Wilder Project Sites</b>	
Wilder picnic area (Kilowatt Park North)	Concerned about drugs/trash/syringes.
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	The boat launch is too flat; they should fill it back in so the boat launch can drop quickly. This way I don't have to pull my truck all the way into the water, so I don't have to get wet to tie my boat onto and off of the trailer.
<b>Bellows Falls Project Sites</b>	
Charlestown Boat Launch and picnic area	Boat launch is unusable and trash occasionally.
Charlestown Boat Launch and picnic area	Trash cans, fix the lawn, and definitely need to fix boat launch, it is UNUSABLE.
Pine Street Boat Launch and portage take-out	The boat launch (bad condition); the gravel is too loose at the launch area. There is no launch pad (for example concrete launch pads or pavement) and when I take my boat out I get stuck without traction and have to use my friend's bigger truck to pull out the boat. Also I have a hard time getting out of the channel from the boat launch to the main river (Connecticut River). Also I wish the dock had cleats (to tie off your boat to the dock you need tie off cleat).
<b>Vernon Project Sites</b>	
Fisherman access area	Not very well maintained—garbage, hard to reach water's edge, brush needs clearing, stock the water with fish (salmon).
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Boat launch needs fixing

Site	Comment <sup>a</sup>
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Boat ramp needs repair, beach needs cleaning, and entry road needs repair.
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Boat ramp needs repair, log removal, more trash removal
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Garbage left around site, underage drinking, fishing tackle left behind, and diapers.
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Grading of road.
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch	Upgraded.

<sup>a</sup> Responses selected from interviews reporting satisfaction scores of 6, 7, 8 or 9, corresponding to the range from slightly less than neutral through "slightly satisfied" to "not at all satisfied" response categories.

Tables 5.3-6 through 5.3-8 present the comments about dissatisfaction with recreational opportunities by location at all study sites. More opportunities and access, as well as more boat launches, were the consistent themes of the comments.

Table 5.3-6. User suggestions for improvements and opportunities at Wilder study sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
More opportunity and access/access every few miles	20	Between Cornish, New Hampshire, and Claremont, New Hampshire; everywhere; every 3-4 miles; around Lebanon, New Hampshire; above Wilder dam; Windsor, Vermont; Hartland, Vermont; Plainfield, New Hampshire
More boat launches	13	Below Wilder dam, Vermont; between Sumner falls and Wilder dam; between North Thetford and the Ompompanoosuc River; everywhere
More campsites	6	Between Gilman Island and Bradford, Vermont; all along the river; Hanover New Hampshire
Public information available; signs; internet information on public access	5	Not specified
More picnic tables	3	Kilowatt Park North; Hanover, New Hampshire
Add docks	3	Not specified
More swimming access	3	Not specified
Improved boat launches	2	Lyme, New Hampshire
Biking and hiking trails	2	Not specified
More whitewater kayaking	2	Bellows Falls
Less dog walking restrictions	2	Kilowatt Park North and South
Canoe access	1	Not specified
Parking for camping	1	Not specified
More dog walking sites	1	Not specified
More fishing access	1	Not specified

Comment	Count	Locations
More signs about wake speed	1	Not specified
Open gate at Sumner Falls all year	1	Sumner Falls, North Hartland, Vermont
Provide a snack spot	1	Cornish, New Hampshire
Better access to river	1	Two Rivers Park and Lebanon public boat launch
More parks	1	West Lebanon, New Hampshire
Trash cans needed	1	Not specified
Store along the river	1	Wilder impoundment

Table 5.3-7. User suggestions for improvements and opportunities at Bellows Falls study sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
Improved boat launches	7	Charlestown, New Hampshire; Bellows Falls impoundment and below dam; Bellows Falls portage put-in; Ashley Ferry Boat Landing; Cold River hand-launch site
Swimming area/beach	4	Not specified
More boat launches	3	Wilder; below Bellows Falls dam; Westminster, New Hampshire
More locations with boat access	2	Not specified
Swimming docks / add docks	2	Not specified
More picnicking opportunities	2	Not specified
More opportunity/access	2	Not specified
Rest stops along the river	2	Not specified
Unwanted people kept out / police patrol for vandalism	2	Not specified
More hiking trails	2	Bellows Falls area
More fishing access/improved fishing access	2	Between Hoyts Landing (Springfield, Vermont) and Claremont, New Hampshire
Better access to river	1	Not specified
More cookout/grill areas	1	Not specified
Fishing access to the deeper parts of the river	1	Deep river channels
More campsites with fire pit and grills / canoe-pull offs where you can spend the day	1	New Hampshire shoreline (Charlestown, New Hampshire, North Walpole New Hampshire, Walpole, New Hampshire, Westmoreland, New Hampshire)
Better road access	1	Bellows Falls portage put-in
No littering signs / signs to keep sites clean	1	Not specified
Handicapped accessible sites	1	Herrick's Cove



Table 5.3-8. User suggestions for improvements and opportunities at Vernon study sites.

Comment	Count	Locations
More opportunities/access	20	Brattleboro, Vermont; downstream of Vernon dam on the New Hampshire shoreline; Vernon impoundment both Vermont and New Hampshire shoreline; off Route 142; River Road
Public information available; signs; internet information on public access	4	West River Marina
More boat launches	4	Vernon impoundment; Brattleboro, Vermont, and north of Putney, Vermont
Improved access to river	3	Brattleboro, Vermont; Hinsdale Island
Improved boat launches	2	Not specified
More fishing access	2	Below Vernon dam
More hiking trails	2	Not specified
More handicapped access	2	Not specified
Improved swimming areas	1	Not specified
More swimming areas	1	Not specified
Add dock	1	Old Ferry Road Boat Launch
Keep boat launches clear of mud/silt early and often to keep ramps accessible throughout the seasons	1	Not specified
More conservancy areas	1	Not specified
More fish in the water	1	Not specified
More sites you can access via car	1	Vernon on the New Hampshire side
ATV trails	1	Not specified
More picnic areas	1	Not specified
Upgraded road access	1	Not specified

Approximately 32 percent of respondents reported being extremely satisfied with the number and type of recreation opportunities at Wilder and Bellows Falls study sites, while roughly 24 percent reported extreme satisfaction for the Vernon Project study area sites. Table 5.3-9 presents satisfaction with number and type of recreation opportunities.

Table 5.3-9. Satisfaction with the number and type of recreational opportunities at study sites.

Study Area	Extremely Satisfied		Moderately Satisfied		Neutral		Slightly Satisfied		Not at All Satisfied	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Wilder	32%	13.7%	35.5%	5.1%	10.5%	0.4%	1.6%	0.8%	0.4%	
Bellows Falls	32.1%	14.3%	25%	2.9%	17.1%	0.7%	2.9%	2.1%	2.9%	
Vernon	23.8%	22.7%	24.9%	6.1%	9.9%	5.5%	2.8%	3.3%	1.1%	

## 6.0 REGIONAL RESIDENT RECREATION USE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The regional residents' survey was designed to obtain recreation use and preference information from residents in the counties directly adjacent to the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Projects. Because survey recipients were selected randomly, the recipients could include people who own shoreline property in the project area and those who do not. Of the 263 persons who responded to the regional survey, 259 (98 percent) do not own or have access to shoreline property in the project area. Four respondents (2 percent) indicated that they own land adjacent to one of the projects. Further examination of the survey results from these respondents revealed that one of them does not recreate at all because of health concerns, one lives just upstream of the Wilder Project, and the other two own vacation properties at nearby (non-project) lakes. These results do not suggest that their efforts to recreate would be any different than the other respondents even though they indicated they have properties closer than most. For this reason, their survey results are included with the 263 other regional respondents. Respondents overwhelmingly identified themselves as white (85 percent). Seventy-five percent of them were 55 years old or older.

### 6.1 General Recreation Patterns and Trends

Almost half (45 percent) of the respondents indicated they are members of a club or group related to the natural resources in the region with a few respondents citing membership in multiple groups. Table 6.1-1 summarizes the regional residents affiliation with environment based clubs and organizations.

Table 6.1-1. Regional resident affiliation with area groups or clubs.

Clubs	Responses
The Nature Conservancy	26
Appalachian Mountain Club	18
Trout Unlimited	11
Audubon Society	10
Ducks Unlimited	9
Upper Valley Land Trust	8
Upper Valley Trails Alliance	5
Adjacent landowner	4
Bass Fishing Club	3
Connecticut River Watershed Council	2
American Whitewater	1
Vermont Rivers Conservancy	1
Connecticut River Joint Commissions	1
National Rifle Association	2
Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests	2
Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country New Hampshire	1

Clubs	Responses
Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club	1
Green Mountain Club and Newfare Conservation Commission	1
Green Mountain Club, Catamount Trail Association	1
Hanover Conservancy	1
Herrick's Cover Wildlife Festival Founder and Co-chair, Bellows Falls Rotary Club	1
Mascoma Lake Association	1
Loon Lake Alliance	1
Loon Preservation Committee	1
Monadnock Conservancy	1
Monadnock Conservancy, Chesterfield Conservation Commission, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests	1
New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission	1
North American Fishing Club	1
Plymouth Energy Commission	1
Upper Valley Rowing	1
VAST	1
Vermont Land Trust	1
Vermont Woodlands	1
Weeks State Park member	1

In general, regional responses are similar to national and state recreation patterns. As described above, the top seven activities by regional residents at the projects were wildlife viewing, walking and hiking, fishing from a boat and ice fishing, sightseeing and driving for pleasure, canoe/kayak – flatwater, fishing from shore, and picnicking and family gathering. The Outdoor Foundation (2015) identified the top 5 most popular outdoor activities in the nation by participation rate as: 1) running, jogging and trail running; 2) fishing (fresh, salt, and fly); 3) bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX); 4) hiking; and 5) camping (car, backyard, and RV). Hiking, walking, hunting, fishing, and swimming were identified as the five most popular recreational activities in Vermont in the 2014 Vermont Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014–2018), while bicycling, camping, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing rounded out the top 10 (Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 2013). When fishing and fly-fishing are combined, fishing becomes the second most popular activity in Vermont. Wildlife observation, driving for pleasure, sightseeing, jogging/running/walking and day hiking were identified as the five most popular activities in New Hampshire in the New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013–2018) (New Hampshire Office of Energy Planning, 2012). The state findings are consistent with the findings from the regional mail survey in this study supporting the findings from the regional mail survey as being representative of the potential visitors to the projects.



In this study, 31 percent of regional respondents (the population) made a visit to one of the study sites last year. The population of regional residents that made a trip to visit one of the study sites was captured during on-site interviews. Regional respondents reported spending 33.1 days during the previous year recreating but at sites not associated with the study. Table 6.1-2 compares some common recreation parameters measured in the regional survey for people who recreated at the project and those who did not. Water-related recreation trip parameters (days per year, typical group sizes, and popularity of season) associated with trips to the projects by regional, non-shoreline property owners are similar to trips taken to other water bodies.

Table 6.1-2. Summary of regional survey responses for people visiting the study sites and for visits to other non-study area waters.

Category	Recreation Visits to the study area	Recreation Visits NOT to the study area
Average number of adults/party	2.5	3.3
Average number of children/party	1.1	2.6
What is the most popular season to recreate at the project	Summer	Summer

- a. Regional respondents were not asked how many days they recreated at the study sites as their use would be consistent with the results from the onsite interviews.

Participation rates for activities by regional residents who visited the study area and by residents visiting non-study area locations are shown in Figure 6.1-1. Table 6.1-3 shows the primary activity of regional residents when visiting one of the study area sites. Popular activities, such as fishing from a boat and ice fishing, canoeing and kayaking on flat water, and fishing from shore, were captured during interviews at the public recreation sites at similar popularity levels. Table 6.1-4 shows the season of activities participated in by regional residents when visiting study area recreation sites. Because the opportunities at non-study sites depend on the alternative location, respondents indicated recreating in winter and fall seasons more outside of the study area suggesting the alternative sites provide more diverse opportunities. In general, respondents who participated in recreation activities at the study area recreation sites also participated in those activities elsewhere, in similar activity patterns.

Because the people who visited the study area sites are primarily the people who live in the area (confirmed by zip code comparison), their visitation was captured in the onsite interviews. Comparison of the primary activity responses from the onsite interviews and the regional residents confirms this fact. Investigation into alternative recreation areas and reasons for not visiting study area recreation sites indicates that numerous water-based recreation opportunities are available within a 60 mile radius of the projects.

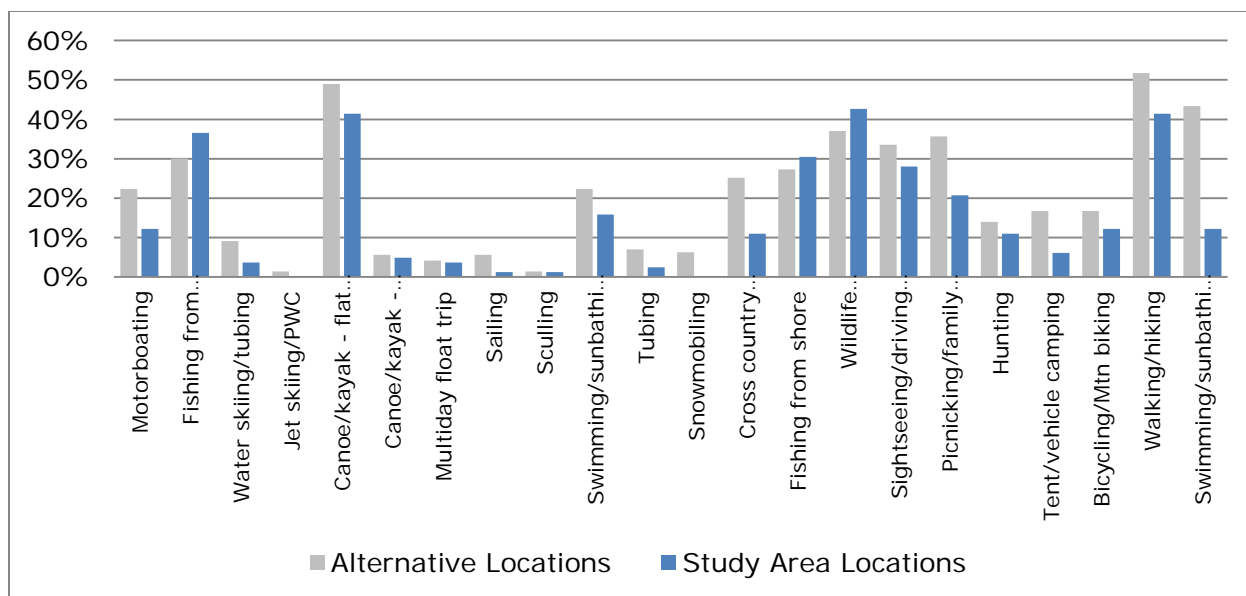


Figure 6.1-1. Participation rates of regional residents at study area recreation sites and non-study area recreation sites locations.

Table 6.1-3. Regional resident primary activity at study area recreation sites.

Activity	Count	Percent
Fishing from boat/ice fishing	26	30.6
Canoe/kayak - flat water	18	21.2
Fishing from shore	9	10.6
Wildlife viewing/birding	8	9.4
Walking/hiking	7	8.2
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	4	4.7
Hunting	3	3.5
Motorboating (not fishing)	2	2.4
Picnicking/family gathering	2	2.4
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	2	2.4
Other (canoe/kayak [1], sailing [1])	2	2.4
Water skiing/tubing	1	1.2
Tent/vehicle camping	1	1.2

Table 6.1-4. Primary season regional residents participating in recreation activities at study area recreation sites.

Study Area	Winter (December –March)	Spring (April-May)	Summer (June- September)	Fall (October– November)	Responses
Wilder	0.0% 0	14.0% 6	79.1% 34	7.0% 3	43
Bellows Falls	0.0% 0	20.0% 9	66.7% 30	13.3% 6	45
Vernon	0.0% 0	16.7% 5	73.3% 22	10.0% 3	30
Non-study areas	27.2% 37	44.9% 61	92.7% 126	49.3% 67	127

As described in Table 6.1-5, whether or not respondents visited other recreation areas within a day's drive of the projects is fairly evenly split among the 262 total respondents.

Table 6.1-5. Did you visit other recreation areas within a day's drive of the study area recreation sites?

Value	Count	Percent
Yes	128	48.9%
No	134	51.2%

Regional residents responded with more than 339 alternative locations of where they recreated during the previous year. The most popular alternative locations were to nearby sites such as Moore Reservoir, Lake Sunapee, White Mountains, Comerford dam, Grafton Pond, and Mascoma Lake. Table 6.1-6 lists the most popular locations identified by regional respondents. Numerous other lakes, ponds, rivers, mountains, state parks, and the sea coasts were also listed. See [Appendix C](#) for a complete listing of the alternative locations regional residents visited for recreation opportunities during the previous year.

Table 6.1-6. Most popular responses where regional residents recreate at waterbodies outside of the study area.

Alternative Locations	Count of Responses
Moore Reservoir	12
Lake Sunapee	9
White Mountains	6
Comerford Dam	6
Grafton Pond	6



Alternative Locations	Count of Responses
Mascoma Lake	6
Townsend Dam	5
Harriman Reservoir	4
Lake Fairlee	3
Caspian Lake	3
Storrs Pond	3
Pittsburg State Park	3
Green River Reservoir	3
South Pond	3
Spofford Lake	3
Hartland Dam	3
Squam Lake	3

## 6.2 Issues Raised by Regional Residents

To determine whether certain issues affect people's decision to recreate at the study area recreation sites, respondents were asked why they do not recreate at those sites. A total of 181 respondents indicated they did not visit one of the study area sites and 161 provided a reason. Of the responses received, preference for a different location, lack of familiarity with the study sites, and the distance from their homes were the most cited reasons. Disinterest in activities was expressed in several different ways, including: not interested in boating, do not own a boat, do not hike, and not interested in water sports or fishing. The major response groupings are detailed in Table 6.2-1.

Table 6.2-1. Reasons for not visiting study area recreation sites.

Reason	Count	Percent
Prefer other locations/not familiar with projects/too far	116	56.9
Not interested	34	16.7
Too old/health	17	8.3
Other <sup>a</sup>	14	6.9
Too busy	12	5.9
High/low water	6	2.9
Put-ins too far apart	3	1.5
Messy due to high flows (spring, hurricane)	2	1.0

<sup>a</sup> Other includes young children, sold boat, do not have a reason.

Those respondents who indicated that they had visited one of the study area sites were asked about their satisfaction with the number, type, and location of public recreation areas and facilities. Responses were scored using a 9-point Likert score with 9 being extremely satisfied and 1 being not at all satisfied. Tables 6.2-2 through 6.2-4 summarize the results from these scores. In general, the majority of people were positive in their responses as to the number, type, and location of recreation facilities within, adjacent to and downstream of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon FERC project boundaries. Interestingly, the downstream reaches received more responses at the lower end of the Likert scale for all three of these attributes.

Tables 6.2-5 through 6.2-7 summarize the recommendations for additional facilities made by the regional residents. Recommendations focused on more access and improved access to the river and more amenities at the existing sites (e.g., toilets and campsites). Six mail survey respondents wrote their recommended facility should be made available at all sites. Recommended improvements included: boat landings and toilets, better boat ramps, another boat ramp, camping, more parking areas, and better shoreline fishing access for the disabled. Recommendations were not always specific in the location of the recommended facility and are presented exactly how they were received on the survey forms. For example, if a comment recommended an improvement at a location such as 'Wilder' there was no way of knowing the commenter's intent as to whether this meant the entire Wilder reservoir, near the Wilder dam, TransCanada facilities, or other facilities.

Table 6.2-2. Satisfaction with the number of public recreation areas.

Satisfaction Number	Not at All Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied		Neutral		Moderately Satisfied		Extremely Satisfied	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Wilder impoundment	16%	14%	27%	20%	16%	6%	2%	0%	0%
Wilder downstream	16%	16%	21%	16%	16%	9%	2%	0%	2%
Bellows Falls impoundment	17%	19%	17%	17%	17%	7%	7%	0%	0%
Bellows Falls downstream	11%	14%	14%	11%	29%	6%	9%	0%	6%
Vernon impoundment	9%	14%	20%	14%	23%	9%	9%	0%	3%
Vernon downstream	17%	13%	13%	10%	20%	13%	3%	0%	10%

Table 6.2-3. Satisfaction with the type of public recreation areas.

Satisfaction Type	Not at All Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied		Neutral		Moderately Satisfied		Extremely Satisfied	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Wilder impoundment	14%	18%	28%	12%	20%	4%	4%	0%	0%
Wilder downstream	9%	16%	30%	9%	16%	9%	5%	2%	2%
Bellows Falls impoundment	20%	17%	20%	11%	22%	0%	9%	0%	2%
Bellows Falls downstream	8%	14%	22%	11%	28%	0%	11%	0%	6%
Vernon impoundment	8%	14%	22%	14%	27%	8%	5%	0%	3%
Vernon downstream	13%	16%	19%	9%	28%	6%	3%	0%	6%



Table 6.2-4. Satisfaction with the location of public recreation areas.

Satisfaction Type	Not at All Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied		Neutral		Moderately Satisfied		Extremely Satisfied	
	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Wilder impoundment	16%	16%	24%	16%	20%	2%	4%	2%	0%
Wilder downstream	13%	21%	15%	13%	26%	5%	5%	0%	3%
Bellows Falls impoundment	26%	15%	13%	7%	28%	2%	9%	0%	0%
Bellows Falls downstream	15%	12%	12%	3%	42%	0%	12%	0%	3%
Vernon impoundment	17%	6%	19%	17%	31%	6%	3%	0%	3%
Vernon downstream	19%	6%	13%	16%	29%	6%	6%	0%	3%

Table 6.2-5. Recommendations from regional residents on specific facilities needed at Wilder study area sites.

<b>Suggested Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Location<sup>a</sup></b>
Better boat access	Below Wilder dam
Better ramps and restroom facilities	Wilder
Boat access parking	Wilder
Boat dock	(blank)
Boat launch	Wilder
Boat ramp, dock	Wilder
Designated boat launch area	Sumner Falls, Hartland, Vermont
Maintained river access	Downstream of Wilder dam
More campsites	Haverhill, New Hampshire—downstream
More designated camping locations	Wilder (upstream) Woodsville—Wilder
Picnic areas	Wilder
Swimming/wading access	Vermont or New Hampshire side of river
Toilet	Wilder
Trash cans	Wilder
Walking trails	Wilder
Better boat launch	Wilder (Bradford, Vermont)

<sup>a</sup> Information presented exactly as received from the interview.

Table 6.2-6. Recommendations from regional residents on specific facilities needed at Bellows Falls study area sites.

<b>Suggested Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Location<sup>a</sup></b>
Access to Connecticut River below dam	Bellows Falls dam
Better boat access	Below Bellows Falls dam
Better boat ramp	Bellows Falls
Big picnic tables - lights	N.H. Route 12 Walpole, New Hampshire, Westminster, Vermont, bridge parking area ("everyone uses that area for waiting/car transfers/fishing/selling fresh veggies/roadside sales")
Boat access	Westmoreland, New Hampshire
Boat dock	(blank)
Boat launch	Bellows Falls
Boat launch	Below Bellows Falls dam
It would be nice to have a pavilion	Bellows Falls
Landing and picnic area	Bellows Falls
Larger picnic areas	Bellows Falls

<b>Suggested Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Location<sup>a</sup></b>
Pole barn and deck for bird watching	Herrick's Cove, Bellows Falls
Speed bumps (cars go way to fast)	Bellows Falls
Trash cans	Bellows Falls
Walking paths, better access to water	Bellows Falls
Parking at the impoundment	Bellows Falls impoundment

<sup>a</sup> Information presented exactly as received from the interview.

Table 6.2-7. Recommendations from regional residents on specific facilities needed at Vernon study area sites.

<b>Suggested Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Location<sup>a</sup></b>
Boat dock	(blank)
Boat launch	Vernon impoundment
Boat launch needs improvements to something like Hoyts Landing (Bellows Falls, Springfield, Vermont)	Putney Boat Landing
Boat launch: add parking	Westmoreland, New Hampshire
Boat ramp, dock	Vernon
Boat ramp, trash containers, spring cleaning	Vernon
Trash cans	Vernon
Picnicking	Route 142 Vernon

<sup>a</sup> Information presented exactly as received from the interview.

### 6.3 Fluctuating Water Levels

Stakeholder discussions during study plan development resulted in the inclusion of questions about TransCanada's hydro operations and the resulting fluctuating impoundment and/or downstream riverine water levels. To investigate the relationship between project operations and the recreation experience, respondents were asked about their experiences with changes in water levels during their trips to study recreation sites. Almost two-thirds of respondents indicated they were not affected by changing water levels during their visits (Table 6.3-1). Of those that did experience a change in water level during their visit, roughly half experienced both rising and falling impoundment or downstream riverine water levels. Because the regional survey did not ask about a specific day or trip, a response could include single or multiple trips people took to the study area sites. Table 6.3-2 shows the number of respondents that indicated the type of water level fluctuation, while Table 6.3-3 summarizes how the fluctuating water levels affected their experience.



Table 6.3-1. Number of regional resident responses that indicated they experienced and were affected by changing water levels.

Value	Count	Percent
Yes	32	37.7%
No	53	62.4%

Table 6.3-2. Type of water level fluctuation reported by regional residents.

Value	Count	Percent
Rising	8	27.6%
Falling	7	24.1%
Both	14	48.3%

Table 6.3-3. Explanation of how water levels affected the recreation experience.

Boating Levels
Difficult to launch boat.
Dropping the water level too low means you cannot get your boat in some areas.
I think the fishing is affected negatively, have not caught fish like I have in years past.
Inconvenient.
Lost canoe, more erosion.
Below Bellows Falls current became very strong; had to work hard to paddle the canoe.
Effects on Fishing
Rising water improves fishing. Lowering water makes boat launching more difficult.
Rising: lost shore areas for boat dock, swimming. Falling: some areas too shallow for canoe.
Water levels too high/fast for safe fishing.
Water levels too high/fast for safe fishing.
Water was getting too high.
When the river is high after a heavy rain, it gets muddy and has a lot of runoff debris.
It makes life on the river a little more interesting.
Less shoreline available with rising water levels—a negative effect.
Limited areas; safety issues.
Low levels negatively affects birding.
Made water go up and down.
Negatively affects fishing and/or launching boats.

<b>Water Levels</b>
The rising water level never affected my recreation experience but since I live next to the river it affects me because I am unable to cross the river to work/shop. Trust me, I am not putting myself in danger.
Our doctor's brother drowned below Wilder dam. I've heard others, especially fisherman say they are concerned that maybe a siren or sound would alert people who use these facilities.
High - stay off the water kayaking with women + children under 16 years old. Low - have to carry kayaks around low and/or dry areas. Cannot carry all kayaks with women and children under 16 years old.
Fluctuations always affect fishing; changes river motion, erodes shorelines, silts up deltas. Less frequent fluctuations are best.
Went to Bellows Falls (Walpole, New Hampshire, side) to fish from shore and they stopped generating and the water dropped 3 feet and ruined fishing for the day. Also, walleye and yellow perch spawn left high and dry.
Lowering water levels drives fish to deeper levels for better feeding and oxygenation levels improve.
The fish usually to biting or slow during a drop of the water, and while rising too, though dropping is much worse. In the spring lowering the levels leaves perch eggs hanging in the brush to dry, and shallow walleye spawning areas are left dry too. Other types of fish must be affected too. No fluctuations or slight would be best during spring spawning. I realize it is more impossible to make power without fluctuations. Do not know what can be done to help.
Had to negotiate mud flats to reach primitive camping sites. Deeper water access to the campsites.

Table 6.3-4 presents regional residents' preferences for water level. Approximately 43 percent of respondents had a preference for the water level remaining about the same.

Table 6.3-4. Regional resident's preference for rising, stable, lowering water levels.

<b>Type of fluctuation (water level increase or decrease)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Much lower fluctuations	6	17.1%
Slightly lower fluctuations	9	25.7%
About the same; current situation is appropriate for my uses	15	42.9%
Slightly higher fluctuations	5	14.3%
Much higher fluctuations	0	0.0%

The survey also asked about residents' knowledge of flow level (velocity) information (e.g., from TransCanada's Waterline website or flow phone, USGS web site, etc.) and whether or not they check it before recreating at project recreation study sites. As shown in Table 6.3-5, only 13 percent responded that they check flow levels before visiting.

Table 6.3-5. Percent of regional residents that check the river level prior to visiting.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	5	13.2%
No	16	42.1%
Didn't know it existed	17	44.7%

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## 7.0 FUTURE RECREATION USE ESTIMATE

As specified in the RSP, future use levels were estimated for TransCanada's FERC Project recreation sites only, out to the year 2060. These future use estimates are based on current use levels, consideration of population growth estimates for the counties surrounding the projects, and a recreation activity growth model developed by Bowker et al. (2012). Table 7-1 provides the population projections for the six counties surrounding the projects. The recreation activity model includes population and demographic predictions with expected changes in recreation related activities and behaviors (e.g., participation rates in certain activities, the number of recreation days for each activity). The recreation projection model relates recreation participation to factors known to influence participation behavior. The model utilizes a two-step process whereby the first step was to develop national-level statistical models of per capita participation and days of participation for recreation activities. The second step combines the information from step-one with external projections of relevant explanatory variables to generate estimated per capita participation probabilities and conditional expected days of participation for each activity at 10-year intervals from 2010 to 2060. These per capita estimates are then combined with population projections to derive larger population estimates.

The model indices were also explored in the context of alternative future scenarios that account for population growth, economic growth, bioenergy, and climate. The three main future scenarios incorporated into Bowker's future use model are a subset of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third and Fourth Assessments which were selected for their relevance to the United States (Bowker et al., 2012). Comparison of the population projections presented in Table 7-1 and the future scenario descriptors resulted in selection of the model indices associated with the low population growth future scenario as that most closely resembles the population growth in the region. To estimate recreation use levels, the activity growth index values in the model for each 10-year period were multiplied by the current activity use estimates to calculate future use levels. The index values for each activity were obtained from *Outdoor Recreation Participation in the United States – Projections to 2060* (Bowker et al., 2012) as discussed in Section 2.0. Full model parameters and estimates can be provided upon request.

Tables 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4 provide the estimated recreation use (recreation days) for each of the TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites at each project through the year 2060. Current use estimates are based on data collected at these sites during the period March 2014 through February 2015. As such, future use levels are based on the existing activities at those locations which is not the same as all the activities recorded within the entire study area.

Table 7-1. Population projections for counties adjacent to the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Projects.

County	2014	2020	2030	2040 <sup>a</sup>	2050 <sup>a</sup>	2060 <sup>a</sup>	Average Annual Growth Rate
<b>Vermont Counties</b>							
Caledonia	30,981	32,199	32,534	35,035	36,733	38,512	0.0047
Orange	28,859	28,946	28,443	28,707	28,648	28,590	-0.0002
Windham	43,714	44,427	43,609	45,184	45,762	46,348	0.0013
Windsor	56,014	55,788	54,395	54,216	53,541	52,873	-0.0013
Total	159,568	161,360	158,981	163,142	164,684	166,323	
<b>New Hampshire Counties</b>							
Cheshire	76,115	78,052	79,861	80,471	85,118	87,803	0.0031
Grafton	89,658	91,614	94,359	95,275	100,020	103,105	0.0030
Sullivan	43,103	45,492	47,840	49,249	55,166	59,080	0.0069
Total	208,876	215,158	222,060	224,995	240,304	249,988	

Source: State of New Hampshire (2013), State of Vermont (2013), U.S. Census Bureau (2015)

<sup>a</sup> Shaded cells are estimated in this study (see Section 2.5.2, *Future Estimated Use*).

Table 7-2. Future recreation activity day-use estimates from 2015 to 2060 at TransCanada's Wilder FERC Project recreation sites.

Activity	Current	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Motor boating (not fishing)	3,216	3,718	3,925	4,109	4,353	4,527
Canoeing/kayaking - flat water	12,147	13,564	14,014	14,514	15,254	15,793
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	2,382	2,675	2,817	2,893	2,979	3,042
Multiday float trip	2,382	2,660	2,748	2,846	2,991	3,097
Fishing from shore	29,178	32,766	34,511	35,438	36,491	37,266
Wildlife viewing; birding	7,265	8,309	9,009	9,440	9,871	10,295
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	4,764	5,435	5,897	6,184	6,469	6,759
Picnicking/family gathering	9,766	11,141	12,089	12,678	13,262	13,855
Walking/hiking	43,707	50,472	55,230	58,581	62,065	65,621
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	4,883	5,657	6,128	6,468	6,842	7,190
Total	119,688	136,395	146,367	153,151	160,576	167,443

Note: Jet skiing and cross country skiing/snowshoeing were not recorded as a primary activity at the Wilder Project recreation sites.

Table 7-3. Future recreation activity day-use estimates from 2015 to 2060 at TransCanada's Bellows Falls FERC Project recreation sites.

Activity	Current	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Motor boating (not fishing)	3,496	4,042	4,267	4,467	4,732	4,921
Canoeing/kayaking - flat water	15,245	17,022	17,587	18,215	19,143	19,820
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	1,942	2,181	2,297	2,359	2,429	2,480
Multiday float trip	1,942	2,168	2,240	2,320	2,439	2,525
Fishing from shore	19,032	21,372	22,511	23,115	23,802	24,308
Wildlife viewing; birding	5,729	6,552	7,104	7,445	7,784	8,119
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	3,787	4,320	4,688	4,916	5,143	5,373
Picnicking/family gathering	15,245	17,392	18,871	19,791	20,702	21,629
Walking/hiking	15,245	17,604	19,264	20,433	21,648	22,888
Other <sup>a</sup>	1,942	2,208	2,342	2,441	2,562	2,661
Total	83,605	94,864	101,172	105,504	110,384	114,723

Note: Tubing, waterskiing/tubing, hunting, swimming/sunbathing from a boat, cross country skiing/snowshoeing were not recorded as primary activities at the Bellows Falls Project recreation sites.

<sup>a</sup> "Other" represents such a diverse group of activities (e.g., working, harvesting, meeting people) that the average index value for all the activities was used to estimate future use levels for this category.

Table 7-4. Future recreation activity day-use estimates from 2015 to 2060 at TransCanada's Vernon FERC Project recreation sites.

Activity	Current	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Motor boating (not fishing)	672	777	821	859	910	947
Canoeing/kayaking - flat water	733	819	846	876	921	954
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	733	824	868	891	917	937
Multiday float trip	1,467	1,638	1,692	1,753	1,842	1,907
Fishing from shore	10,910	12,252	12,904	13,251	13,645	13,935
Wildlife viewing; birding	733	839	910	953	997	1,039
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	7,274	8,298	9,004	9,443	9,877	10,319
Picnicking/family gathering	1,467	1,674	1,816	1,904	1,992	2,081
Walking/hiking	733	847	927	983	1,042	1,101
Swimming/sunbathing from shore	6,540	7,577	8,207	8,663	9,164	9,630
Total	31,264	35,544	37,995	39,576	41,307	42,849

Note: Jet skiing/personal watercraft use, tubing, multiday float trip, hunting, swimming/sunbathing from a boat, bicycling/mountain biking, and 'other' were not recorded as primary activities at the Vernon Project recreation sites.



Based on the data presented above, recreation visitation growth (or the number of recreation days expected) is predicted to exceed population growth to the year 2060. This is interesting because the per capita participation rate will decline for a number of activities, but under all growth scenarios, population growth will be large enough to ensure that all activities will see growth in the number of adult participants (Bowker et al., 2012) and in large enough numbers under the model scenarios to outpace population growth. This is also interesting in relation to the modest population growth expected for the specific region, which is not representative of the larger geographic areas Bowker et al. (2012) incorporated into the model. Overall, the indices incorporate many variables that lead the growth indices to outpace population growth. Activities that typically occur at the projects with the highest predicted growth in per capita rates include challenge activities (e.g., whitewater rafting), swimming, day hiking, and visiting interpretive sites. Bowker et al. (2012) states that depending on which future condition scenario is being used in the model, motorized boating could show a participation rate increase up to 15 percent, or a decrease up to 10 percent.

There are special restrictions that affect the overall capacity for some activities, for example, the configuration of the Project impoundments as long and narrow affects the capacity for power boating. As described in the Wilder PAD (TransCanada, 2012c), New Hampshire boating law, which applies to the Connecticut River, specifies boats may not exceed headway speed (no-wake, or 6 mph) within 150 feet (300 feet for ski craft) from shore, islands, bridges, other boats, swimmers, or floats. The legal speed of travel on the river therefore depends upon the river's width. Between Bradford, Vermont, and Piermont, New Hampshire, downstream to Sawyer's Ledge in Fairlee, Vermont, the river is usually too narrow for legal travel over headway speed. From Sawyer's ledge to just below the outlet from Storrs Pond near the Chieftain Motor Inn in Hanover, New Hampshire, the river can accommodate power boating. Downstream from the Storrs Pond outlet, the river is often too narrow for travel over headway speed. Between the Ledyard Bridge, at the downstream end of the no-wake section, and Wilder dam, the river is once again wide enough for power boating with TransCanada's Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South) providing direct access to the area.

## **8.0 RECREATION SITE CONDITION ASSESSMENT, USE AND ISSUES**

This section discusses the facility use (physical capacity) at all study sites within, adjacent to and downstream of the projects during the peak recreation season from May 1 to October 15 as well as site conditions visitors experience during the peak season. Use, or the physical capacity of a site to accommodate visitors, is limited by the space available for people to recreate. In the majority of cases, the limiting factor is the number of parking spaces. The one exception is the boat-in campsites of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail where the actual number of designated camping spaces (i.e., tent pads/platforms and picnic tables) is the limiting factor.

Many of the study area sites provide designated parking but in an informal way. For example, a common construction technique at many sites is to provide a gravel parking area with a limited number of concrete or timber parking blocks at the

perimeter of the parking area, which is surrounded by mowed grass serving as additional informal parking. Sites can be shared with other facilities or recreation opportunities blurring the line between designated parking for recreation at the study sites and adjacent lands used for activities such as multipurpose sports fields. From a land use planning perspective, this is a sound use of land in a floodway; however, characterizing project-related recreation use is more complex as the majority of the study area recreation sites are adjacent to or downstream of the project boundaries.

This section presents a context for evaluating site use by comparing the dedicated or estimated amount of parking with spot count data collected by recording the actual number of vehicles present at one time during the study period. The analysis focuses on the peak season, the period of greatest demand for the sites, and the period during which visitors may encounter capacity limitations.

## **8.1 Utilization**

Tables 8.1-1, 8.1-2, and 8.1-3 summarize the amount of formal and estimated informal parking spaces at each of the study sites and the average and maximum number of vehicles observed during weekend spot counts between May 1 and October 15, 2014. Formal parking is defined as a hardened surface (either asphalt or concrete) with designated parking spaces (striping and/or concrete parking blocks). The tables show which sites could be at or near overcapacity; however, because some sites provide suggestions for other parking opportunities, maintained grassy areas exist that can accommodate vehicles, and parking along the shoulders of local roads, on beaches, or in the woods, it is not always clear exactly when a site reaches, or exceeds its design capacity.

Table 8.1-1. Wilder study area recreation sites parking lot use.

Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	1	No		10	1.8	13	9/7	Additional parking available on mowed grass; 13 likely capacity
Bedell Bridge State Park	2	Yes	16	>80	4.2	25	5/18	Lots of additional parking available on site; capacity between 80 and 100
Bugbee Landing Access Point	1	No		>100	1.6	12	7/12	Site has no designated spaces
Orford Boat Landing	2	Yes	24	n/a	4.7	20	6/21	Well-designed site completed in 2012–2013
North Thetford Landing	1	No		15+	2.5	9	6/28	Large, gravel parking area
Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch	1	No		5	0.3	2	5/11, 9/24	Lightly used site
Ompompanoosuc Launch	1	No		9	1.5	9	9/21	Parking can be limited by parking in turnaround and by any vehicles with trailers
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	No		15-20	5.2	18	7/20	Square, large gravel lot without designated spots
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	Yes	25+		0.9	6	5/17, 6/15, 6/21	Multi-use lot for Dartmouth College
Norwich Landing	1	No		5	1.1	7	6/7	Not designed for trailers
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North) <sup>b</sup>	3	No		10+	3.1	13	9/21	Multi-use
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South) <sup>b</sup>	3	No		100+	6.2	104	5/14	Multi-use



Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
East Wilder Boat Launch	1	No		5+	1.7	9	6/22	Parking occurs along East Wilder Road shoulder on busiest days
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access <sup>b</sup>	1	No		20+	0.8	4	6/8	Large area for a lightly used site
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In <sup>b</sup>	1	No		5+	0.5	8	9/7	Parking area compromised by debris pile storage
Lebanon Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trail <sup>b</sup>	1	No		20+	10.1	25	6/22	Gravel parking areas
Lyman Point Park launch	2	Yes	25		1.8	51	8/9	Parking shared with local office buildings on east and west side of railroad tracks; maximum number recorded during Native American festival not related to river access
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	2	No		20+	0.9	4	7/3, 7/12, 8/10	Large informal site with multiple parking areas
Blood's Brook Launch (a.k.a. True's Landing) (Lebanon Launch)	1	No		5	0.6	4	7/19	Dirt road with small openings alongside for parking
Ottaquechee Boat Launch	1	No		5	0.9	5	6/21, 6/22, 7/26	Dirt road with small opening for two to three vehicles; some users park along riverbank/woods during low flow periods

Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapids)	3	No		20	6.2	23	7/26	Various informal, multiple parking areas of different sizes; main parking area could accommodate 10 vehicles
Cornish Boat Landing	1	No		15+	4.4	35	7/19	Site hosts canoe events with overflow parking along N.H. Route 12

<sup>a</sup> Estimated numbers of informal parking spaces are based on gravel parking area; typically these areas are surrounded by lawn by design providing additional parking and much higher capacity while balancing maintenance costs.

<sup>b</sup> TransCanada FERC Project recreation site.

Table 8.1-2. Bellows Falls study sites parking lot use.

Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	No	1		20-30	4.9	25	7/19	Popular for lunch crowd and drive in/outs
Hoyts Landing	Yes	3	28	20+	21.0	51	8/24	Popular for fishing tournaments, ice access
Patch Park	No	3		50+	2.6	32	5/17	Multi-use park; lower parking area on large lawn
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	No	1		15+	2.5	4	7/12	Poorly designed for parking with trailers, poor ramp conditions deterred launching a boat
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area <sup>a</sup>	No	2		200+	7.3 boat launch 7.6 picnic area	41	6/21	Hosts festivals with overflow parking on grass fields
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-Out <sup>a</sup>	No	1		30+	1.5	9	6/22	Host fishing tournaments with overflow parking on grass field
Bellows Falls Visitor Center <sup>a</sup>	Yes	1	6		1.9	6	7/13	Parking is also available on the street and in front of the post office
Bellows Falls Historic Park and Trail System	Yes	1	15		0.6	3	5/4, 8/17, 9/28	Grass parking areas
Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In	No	2		20+	1.9	6	6/21, 7/31	Various sized multiple parking areas along river



Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Cold River Hand-Launch Site	No	1		5+	2.0	3	8/6	Poor road condition, highway pull-off area used more frequently and has larger capacity
Connecticut River Car-Top Access (New Hampshire Fish and Game)	No	1		10	0.4	6	5/23, 6/22, 7/13, 9/10	Where people park depends on road condition; when road is in poor condition, people park along roadway entrance pull-offs

<sup>a</sup> TransCanada FERC Project recreation site.

Table 8.1-3. Vernon study site parking lot use.

Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Putney Boat Landing	No	1		5	2.0	9	7/5	Small parking area, limited to two trailers at time
Dummerston Landing	No	1		10	0.8	4	5/10	During low flows unable to launch; when Putney Boat Landing is full, this site serves as overflow parking area
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	No	1		10	2.1	12	8/10	Rarely used site; informal gravel lot with shoulder parking on River Road
Old Ferry Road Access	No	2		35	3.3	21	6/28	Two large informal parking areas
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	No	1		5	2.8	11	6/8	Parking predominantly on shoulder of Route 30; ice access
West River Marina	Yes	2	25		2.3	8	8/24	Mixed parking with restaurant and businesses; two informal spaces by hand-launch

Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Hinsdale Access	No	2		15	0.5	20	6/7	Island with two parking areas; rarely used however on the day of the Brattleboro Parade, the site received 20 vehicles; all passengers at parade not the recreation site
Norm's Marina	No	1		100	5.1	33	8/23	Large parking area and grass overflow areas
Fisherman Access Area	No	1		25+	0.8	10	5/10	Large parking area and grass overflow areas; popular with fishing, ice access
Broad Brook Access	No	1		3	0.2	2	7/12, 7/13	Concrete blocks restrict access and limit parking to three vehicles
Fort Hill Rail Trail	No	1		10	2.8	9	7/26	Gravel parking area popular with trail users and hand-launch
Prospect Street Launch	No	2		15+	4.6	15	9/7	Popular site with good parking and used by downriver canoe groups as main take out
Vernon Canoe Portage <sup>a</sup>	No	1		4+	0	0		Shoulder parking along access road



Site Name	# of Parking Areas	Has Formal Parking Spaces	# of Designated Parking Spaces	Estimated # of Informal Parking Spaces <sup>a</sup>	Average # of Peak Season Weekend Vehicles	Max. Peak Season Vehicles	Date(s) of Maximum	Notes
Vernon Glen <sup>a</sup>	No	1		4+	0	0		Additional parking on grass field; did not spot any users during study
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch <sup>a</sup>	No	3		30+	4.7	24	6/7	New formal parking area and consistent, historic use of parking on beach

<sup>a</sup> TransCanada FERC Project recreation site.

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## 8.2 Recreation Issues Specific to Select Wilder Study Area Sites

*Newbury-Haverhill Bridge, Bedell Bridge State Park, Bugbee Landing, Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North), and Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)* — These sites offer limited designated parking spaces; however, they also provide large amounts of maintained grassy area for additional parking, which at times receives use as noted in Table 8.1-1. These sites receive regular use during peak season weekends, and the mowed grassy areas adjacent to the gravel parking lots provide more than sufficient space to accommodate visitor parking during peak demand periods.

*Ledyard Canoe Club*—This Dartmouth College parking area provides adequate parking for recreation uses associated with student canoe/kayak/crew clubs and public rentals, in addition to student parking for on-campus classes and activities. Demand for parking during the week is dominated by students attending nearby classes.

*Ompompanoosuc Launch and Wilson's (Fullington) Landing*— Each of these sites provides space for about 10 vehicles at a time; however, their layout is not designed to maximize parking. Poorly parked vehicles with trailers can cut overall parking in half by restricting space for other users.

*Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South)*—This TransCanada site provides multi-sport ball fields that receive high amounts of use during the spring and fall soccer and lacrosse seasons. Traffic counts captured the high concentrations of activity related to the sport practices and game use at this site; however, spot counts confirmed that parking is adequate but could be limiting to trailer parking at the boat ramp during these times.

*Wilder Dam Fish Ladder*—The TransCanada fish ladder and angler parking area appears to be more than sufficient to accommodate the low amount of use occurring on the Vermont side downstream of the dam. However, the fish ladder was not operating during site visits and the gate to the viewing window was closed thus restricting public access.

*Lebanon Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trail*—This TransCanada parking lot and picnic area are popular with hikers visiting the non-project Boston Lot Lake and day-users having lunch (often in their vehicles) while looking at the dam and impoundment. TransCanada staff use the adjacent parking lot for parking and storage of large equipment, which informally discourages public use.

*Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In*—This TransCanada site provides anglers use of the gravel access road and parking area just downstream of the dam and is most popular in the spring. The parking area is also used as a staging area for river debris from the dam, which reduces the overall amount of parking available. The size of the debris pile varies throughout the year because TransCanada removes debris from the powerhouse intakes and stores it in this location prior to final treatment and removal.



*Lyman Point Park Launch*— Parking for this site, which is located at the confluence of the White and Connecticut rivers, is provided by two nearby office building parking areas and the playground portion of the park. The park playground is a popular location, especially for festivals throughout the peak season; however use of the river from this site is modest.

*Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch*— This site along the Mascoma River ends with a dirt boat ramp into the Connecticut River. The dirt road does not hold up well under wet conditions and the early seasonal use, creating a rough and pothole-filled access road by late spring. Once at the launch area, no formal parking exists, so visitors park between the trees or wherever they feel comfortable. This informal site receives more nonriver-based visitation than most of the sites in the study.

*Bloods Brook (a.k.a. True's Landing)*— This site along True's Brook ends with a fairly steep bank used as a car-top boat launch. The looped dirt access road has drainage/erosion problems with occasional roadway washouts but no formal parking area; consequently, visitors are forced to park along the side of the road wherever they can fit. Bank angling is very popular at this site due to its attractive shoreline features and the big rocky sandbars that attract trout species during low water flows.

*Ottaquechee Boat Launch*—The dirt access road, which travels down a steep hill, gets seasonal use from locals and the adjacent farmer and can become very narrow and pothole filled. The parking area fits two to three vehicles, and additional parking is available along the beach area or in openings between trees. A walking path leads from the parking area through a scenic forest, ending at a popular rope swing.

*Sumner Falls*— This river access area is popular with anglers, whitewater boaters (park and play) and canoe livery companies in the area. The rocky complex of falls across the river provide fishing access to the middle of the river for those anglers who are willing to walk across the rocks at lower flows. The same rocky formations also create waves for play boating. Depending on the water level, different areas within the Sumner Falls complex become boatable. Often, Sumner Falls is the only reliable boating opportunity during the summer when the water levels of other streams and rivers in the area are too low. Study Report 31, *Whitewater Boating*, addresses the specific boating resources of Sumner Falls. In April 2015, the Plainfield Fire Department started permitting two emergency access points on the New Hampshire side of the falls—one upstream and one downstream for rescue operations.

*Cornish Boat Landing*— The site provides convenient access off of N.H. Route 12 with a simple gravel parking area. Canoe events at the site result in overflow parking along N.H. Route 12. The boat ramp descends steeply into the river and is virtually unusable for motorboat launching because of its lack of maintenance and broken concrete.

### 8.3 Recreation Issues Specific to Select Bellows Falls Study Area Sites

*Ashley Ferry Boat Landing*— This site is located about 2 miles from the Town of Claremont, New Hampshire, one of the highest population areas along this stretch of the river. The closest river access points are Wilgus State Park on the Vermont side of the river about a 5-mile drive upstream and Hoyts Landing about an 8-mile drive downstream, also on the Vermont side. The proximity to Claremont and isolation from other river access sites draws a relatively high amount of traffic to the site, as evidenced by the traffic count data; however, survey clerks recorded very little recreation occurring at the site. Most people were either driving through the area or sitting in their vehicles while looking at the river or eating lunch. The site has a single access road, limited parking, and a boat ramp that was covered in silt during the entire study period. Boaters who are not familiar with the condition of the ramp are forced to turn around in search of alternative locations to launch. As noted above, this site was popular during lunch periods; three to five vehicles with people eating their lunch while viewing the river were observed. This site is also used as an informal rideshare parking lot where users leave their vehicles at the site and carpool to other locations. Once this involved a bus picking up many users, resulting in the highest number of vehicles observed during the study (i.e., 25 vehicles). No other amenities are located at this site.

*Hoyts Landing*— This site's location, which is at the confluence of the Black and Connecticut rivers and adjacent to the Route 11–Charlestown Road Bridge, makes it extremely popular year-round. In the summer, the boat ramp is well used as are the picnic tables and benches along the river. In the winter, the public access stays open and provides convenient access onto the ice for ice fishing or snowmobiling. The site is popular for fishing tournaments and parking reaches near capacity on those occasions. The study traffic counter turned up missing at some point during the winter after the download of data on November 23, 2014. Spot counts in December, January, and February consistently recorded 5 to 10 vehicles on weekends. These levels do not pose a limitation to parking or access during the winter months due to open conditions and for vehicles interested in going onto the ice, which provides unlimited, albeit risky parking. During the summer, up to 50 vehicles were recorded using the lot.

*Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area*—This TransCanada site was well below the site capacity. Staff observed potential launch users arrive and assess the condition of the boat ramp and then leave without launching their boats. The concrete blocks that comprise the boat ramp were broken and the excessively large potholes could damage trailers. This condition likely led to underuse throughout the study period. [Note: Currently, the boat launch is currently closed for repairs.]

*Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area*—Similar to Hoyts Landing, Herrick's Cove is a popular recreation destination due, in part, to its location at the confluence of the Williams River with the Connecticut River and the amenities, which include the launch ramp, picnic areas, and ample space for relaxing along the river for birding and walking. This large TransCanada site is popular throughout the year and is host to a number of events, the largest of which is the TransCanada-

sponsored Wildlife Festival. This site is also a popular male pick-up location. Males frequent the site year-round, sitting in their vehicles and approaching other males in the parking lot. Interview respondents indicated that more public safety patrols are needed at this site because of this activity, which also inflated the recreation use estimates for the site. Parking capacity is not an issue because the large expanses of grass adjacent to the gravel parking areas can accommodate additional parking. The boat launch will be dredged in 2016 as soon as permits are received and weather permits.

*Pine Street Boat Launch*—This TransCanada site is popular for launching boats into Bellows Falls impoundment. Informal parking is provided on the grass of the multi-use field overlooking the Connecticut River, no formal parking exists. The boat ramp is located about 100 ft from the Connecticut River in a small side cove. Like many boat launches associated with rivers, siltation can reduce capacity and functionality due to shallow depths and boats hitting bottom. In 2015, this launch was dredged and significantly improved access to the river from this relatively small launch area.

*Bellows Falls Portage Put-In*— This portage put-in site is popular for bank angling and beach use. The roadway leading to the site has broken pavement, and the dirt parking area has poor drainage, causing channels to develop across the access road. The road continues upstream from the parking area and provides additional parking along the beach. Motorboat launching is attempted on occasion, based on the easy access off the highway but it is not an official launch. In its present state, boat launching trailered boats is difficult because of the steep riverbank and loose material. The site is popular with local area residents fishing and swimming along the sandy shoreline.

*Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System*—This area, owned by the Bellows Falls Historical Society, site provides a walking trail and access to the water by staircase for car-top boat launching. Access along the tailrace shoreline makes this spot popular for bank angling. Site parking is available along the side of the road with additional parking available on the grass field.

*Cold River Hand-launch and Connecticut River Car-top Access* — These sites downstream of the Bellows Falls Project provide modest access to the river. Road conditions are typically poor and influence where people park when visiting the sites. When the road conditions are poor (e.g., spring when potholes have formed and the dirt road has not been graded), most people park close to N.H. Route 12 at more established turnouts.

#### **8.4 Recreation Issues Specific to Select Vernon Study Area Sites**

*West River Marina*— This business on the West River provides a restaurant of the same name and boat slips for rent. A free hand-launch site with two courtesy docks is located on the north end of the parking area. Parking is shared with the restaurant parking lot. People who hand-launch boats, park close to the launch site and parallel with the concrete safety blocks that prevent vehicles from getting too close to the edge of the water. The restaurant's prime location makes it an



attractive destination. The shared parking makes it difficult to differentiate between restaurant patrons and hand-launch boaters, potentially inflating use estimates as well as frustrating patrons of the restaurant.

*Hinsdale Access*—This island is a popular stopping place for downriver canoers who are exploring camping locations or taking the short walk into Brattleboro. Although informal parking areas exist, the site receives modest amounts of use from vehicle parking. The highest vehicle count, exceeding the estimated capacity, occurred during a holiday parade in Brattleboro where people also parked along Bridge Street. Road conditions are typically poor resulting from use during wet conditions creating long lasting potholes and ruts large enough to deter vehicle access.

*Prospect Street Launch and Fort Hill Rail Trail*— These sites are connected by the Fort Hill Rail Trail and are popular with trail users and hand-launch boaters. The Prospect Street launch is also a popular take-out for downriver canoe trips because of its large parking area and easy access to the road network. Large groups use this take-out spot to mobilize their trips back to their start. A small number of visitors drive their vehicles along the popular walking and biking trail.

*Vernon Canoe Portage and Vernon Glen*—These TransCanada sites were part of the regular spot count and interview efforts where the sites were sampled on 50 different dates. Unfortunately, users of these sites were never observed. This may be due to the popularity of the Prospect Street launch as the primary take-out by large groups that organize downriver trips (e.g., summer camps). However, this site does serve as the portage around the dam for downriver canoe trips. Debris build up at the take-out requires annual maintenance. Vernon Glen lies on the opposite side of the road from the river and is somewhat removed from the river. It is generally underutilized. The proximity of Vernon Glen to the Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch also likely explains the lack of use observed during the study. Visitors are more likely to visit a site with views and access to the water a few hundred feet downstream than picnic at this very shady site.

*Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch*—This TransCanada site is home to one of the largest beaches along the Connecticut River and is a popular destination for families who wish to swim. During the study, TransCanada performed a number of improvements, including cutting down several dead trees, using the trunks to designate the limits of the parking area, and re-grading the parking area. Parking along the beach was popular before TransCanada made these improvements, and it continues to be popular with visitors picnicking near their vehicles on the beach. Between the designated parking and the traditional use of parking on the beach, crowding to the point of reaching capacity was not observed. Use of the fish ladder parking area was well below capacity and in fact vehicles were very rarely observed to be parked in the lot. One instance was a vehicle belonging to an angler fishing from the shore in the Project tailwaters.

*Stebbins Island and Vernon Neck Openspace*—This TransCanada-owned and maintained island immediately downstream of Vernon dam is part of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail. Overall, the campsite is in fair condition. While

the picnic table and outhouse are intact, the island is overrun with Japanese barberry and other invasive plant species. Regular use by campers maintains access to the picnic table and the outhouse through the brush. The outhouse is functioning but shows evidence of being near the end of its functional life. Most people appear to access the site from the backwater on the north side. Signage is missing at the principal landing to identify the area, so boaters could have difficulty locating the camping area. Across the river on TransCanada property on the peninsula (Vernon Neck Openspace), an informal primitive campsite on a bench overlooks the river. This site exhibits moderate use from illegal ATV trail users. Because this area is accessible by vehicle, conversion of this area to the formal camp site could facilitate more frequent maintenance, as access seems to be a limiting factor in maintaining the Stebbins Island amenities.

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## 9.0 CONCLUSIONS

The RSP lists the following objectives, all of which were accomplished:

1. Identify, inventory, and assess the condition of existing recreation sites and opportunities.
2. Collect information regarding recreation use at existing formal and informal sites inside the project boundaries and downstream of the projects in the riverine reaches.
3. Collect information regarding recreation users and potential users of the project areas and identify why potential visitors do not come to the Connecticut River in the area of these projects.
4. Summarize recreation use/demand from the information collected and from the recreation use and needs assessment and propose enhancements and facilities to address any identified needs.

These objectives were accomplished through the following methods:

1. Sixteen sites were inventoried within or adjacent to the Wilder Project boundary, and six sites were inventoried immediately downstream of the Wilder Project boundary.
2. Nine sites were inventoried within or adjacent to the Bellows Falls Project boundary, and two sites were inventoried immediately downstream of the Bellows Falls Project.
3. Fifteen sites were inventoried within or adjacent to the Vernon Project Boundary.
4. Nine Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail campsites were inventoried within the Wilder Project boundary, three were inventoried in the Bellows Falls Project boundary, and three were inventoried within the Vernon Project boundary. Three additional campsites located downstream of the Wilder and Bellows Falls Project boundaries were also inventoried.
5. A total of 577 users, at study sites both inside and outside the project boundaries, were interviewed.
6. A total of 2,702 spot counts were taken at 48 study sites.
7. Regional residents returned 263 of 2,400 mail surveys sent.
8. A total of 4,195 days of traffic count data were recorded at 18 study sites.

Based on the data, it's clear that the region is rich with water-based recreation opportunities and the Connecticut River is a significant feature in Vermont and New

Hampshire. The three reservoirs provide a wide range of recreation opportunities with access provided by a variety of managing entities including state, municipal, non-governmental agencies, private landowners, and TransCanada. TransCanada's three reservoirs provide water based recreation opportunities while neighboring partners provide the majority of land based opportunities. In fact, TransCanada owns very little of the lands surrounding the reservoirs, with the largest holdings located around the powerhouses themselves. As such, TransCanada's role in providing recreation opportunities is limited compared to the length of the reservoirs, the number of communities surrounding the reservoirs, and some of the comments received during interviews calling for more land based opportunities (e.g., trails, boat launches). Regardless, the river is the primary draw in the neighboring communities with the overwhelming majority of visitors originating their trips from the towns immediately adjacent to the Projects. Completed regional surveys suggest regional residents who do not currently recreate at the study sites stay away primarily because they are either not interested in the opportunities provided, are not able to participate in such activities, or are seeking similar opportunities at other locations. Popular activities at all three reservoirs included fishing, boating (flat water canoe/kayaking and motorboating), picnicking/family gathering, walking/hiking, and swimming/sunbathing from shore. TransCanada provides recreation access at five sites at the Wilder Project, five sites at Bellows Falls Project, and three sites at the Vernon Project. The size of the site, the number and type of amenities, and the conditions of the facilities are quite varied within these 14 recreation sites which we discuss in more detail below.

Overall, more than 617,000 recreation days were recorded at the study area recreation sites during the study period, TransCanada sites contributed 245,687 (nearly 40 percent) of those recreation days (Wilder = 117, 576, Bellows Falls = 97,550, and Vernon = 30,561). Kilowatt Park (North and South) accounted for nearly a quarter of all recreational use in the Wilder Project study area, the majority of this is associated with the multi-use sports fields. Similarly, Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area supported about 17 percent of the Bellows Falls Project study site use; most which can be partly attributed to non-project uses. TransCanada's Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch was the most visited site in the Vernon Project study area accounting for just under 38 percent of the estimated use.

In general, public study area site users were satisfied with the type and number of recreation facilities throughout the study area; however, these users continued to make recommendations such as a need for more boat ramps and launches, river access for shoreline fishing, parks (picnic tables and benches), and walking trails. Popular recommendations included creating more bank angling opportunities within existing sites, adding walking and hiking trails along the riverbank wherever possible, and adding more motorboat launch facilities. New motor boat launch facilities were specifically recommended below Wilder dam and Bellows Falls dam due to the combination of limited number of access sites in these reaches and the demand for fishing. Additional primitive camping locations for users along the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail downstream of Wilder dam were also recommended.



Interview respondents identified roadways, noise, and traffic; trash and debris; and development as the top detractors from the scenery. Trees (foliage), wildlife, and seclusion were the top scenic attributes. Other attributes, such as old bridges and historic landmarks and views of the mountains and river, made particular sites extremely scenic. As for personal safety at study area sites, only 1 to 2 percent of visitors responded that they felt unsafe. Mainly, these visitors felt unsafe due to vandalism, scarce police patrol, broken glass, and dock stability problems.

Respondents provided mixed opinions about what types of water levels (e.g., steady, rising, lowering) they preferred based on their activities. Anglers preferred water levels that were stable or on the high end of normal fluctuation for better fishing conditions, compared with low water levels when the river becomes too shallow to fish from shore. Motor boaters mostly did not have any issue with the water levels except when low water levels make launching a boat difficult at some locations. In some cases, high flows gave canoers and kayakers a fast ride downstream, whereas low flows made for a longer trip. New Hampshire law limits the legal speed of motor boating along the Connecticut River reducing the types of activities along much of each reservoir.

Signature characteristics related to recreation access and use of Project waters and TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites are discussed in more detail below.

## **9.1 Wilder**

### *TransCanada Recreation Sites*

TransCanada provides recreation access to the Project at five sites: Hartford (Wilder) Picnic Area at Kilowatt Park (North), Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South), Wilder Dam Fish Ladder and Angler Parking, Lebanon (Wilder dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails, and the Wilder Dam Portage and Picnic Area. The majority of these sites are modest with basic amenities to access Wilder FERC Project lands and waters. The largest of these sites is Kilowatt Park in Hartford, Vermont near the Wilder dam.

*Hartford (Wilder) Picnic Area at Kilowatt Park (North) and Wilder Dam (Olcott Falls) Boat Launch at Kilowatt Park (South)* - The Town of Hartford manages the TransCanada Kilowatt Park (North and South) facilities, which given their location in town receives a diverse mix of users and activities throughout the year from river based fishing, swimming, and boat launching to traditional park activities like walking a dog, turf sports such as soccer or lacrosse, or picnicking. These two parks are well maintained and over 83 percent of interview respondents reported scores of being 'moderately satisfied' or higher with the condition of the facilities. Per onsite interviews and site condition assessments, improvement to the recreation area boat launches at Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South) were recommended, citing the ramp is too flat, and bumpy and not sufficient to launch a large motorboat. Both sites have multiple parking areas and parking utilization was observed to be typically well below site capacities. The only observation where utilization approached the sites capacity was recorded during a weekday evening lacrosse game in late May. Site Condition and Visible Impact Scores from the

Inventory Assessment (Appendix A) were 'Excellent' for both conditions at both parks.

The other TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites received much lighter use levels and corresponding number of interviews. Respondents at the Wilder Dam Portage and Picnic Area and the Lebanon (Wilder Dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails were extremely satisfied with the condition of the facility and did not offer any suggestions to improve the number and types of facilities or the condition of the facilities. The Lebanon (Wilder Dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails provide a trailhead inside the current FERC project boundary (although entirely separated from Project waters by State Route 10) to trails outside the project boundary. Users commented that the trails were very well maintained. The parking for the Lebanon (Wilder Dam) Picnic Area Vista and Hiking Trails averaged 10.1 vehicles (less than half the parking spaces) during peak season weekends. The Portage Trail receives modest demand for parking as vehicles were only observed on six of the 31 spot count visits. Visible Impact Scores from the Inventory Assessment were 'Excellent' for both sites; however the Site Condition Score at the Wilder Dam Portage Trail received a 'Good' score, losing points for roads and parking which can become congested during periods when TransCanada clears the reservoir of floating woody debris and temporarily stores it in the vicinity until it can be removed. The Visible Impact Score for the same area was recorded as 'Excellent'. The Wilder Dam Fish Ladder and Angler Parking recreation site receives the majority of its visitation during the spring as anglers come to fish the Wilder dam tailwaters. The site received very light use throughout the study period and received 'Excellent' scores for both Visible Impact and Site Conditions as part of the Inventory Assessment.

#### *General Study Area Boating and Access*

The through paddle trail is popular amongst boaters during summer months as is use of the nine primitive paddler trail campsites in this study area. According to CRJC (2008), adequate public access to the Connecticut River in the study area of the Wilder Project for motor boats already exists. There are major public boat ramps in nearly every town (other than Fairlee, Vermont, and Lyme, New Hampshire) where the river is wide enough to accommodate power boat traffic (Orford, Thetford, Norwich, Hanover, Lebanon, and Hartford, Vermont). These access points are spaced no more than 7 miles apart. The Upper Connecticut River Water Trail Strategic Assessment (Pollock, 2009) reported that Wilder is situated within the most populated section of the Upper Connecticut River Valley; however, access appears to be sufficient in this reach. These findings are consistent with this study's findings that public boat launch facilities at Newbury-Haverhill Bridge, Bedell Bridge State Park, Bugbee Landing, North Thetford Landing, Ompompanoosuc Boat Launch, Norwich Landing, East Wilder Boat Launch, Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch, and Ottaquechee Boat Launch were well below capacity on average during the peak season. Study results also confirmed that the popularity of canoeing, rowing, sculling and hand launching of boats will likely remain strong within this study area.

### *General Study Area Fishing*

Wilder study area recreation site users reported fishing from shore and fishing from boats as some of the top activities after canoe/kayaking. Fishing is popular year round with increased use during the spring, summer, and fall months. Twenty-two percent of the respondents indicated they were fishing. Four of the most popular study areas reported that fishing was observed during spot counts at riverine sections downstream of Wilder dam (Ompompanoosuc Launch, Sumner Falls, Orford Boat Landing, and Lyman Point Park Launch). The highest average reported sightings of anglers at the reservoir was at Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South) followed by Bedell Bridge State Park. Fishing immediately downstream of Wilder dam is popular in the early spring when walleye is present.

### *General Study Area Safety and Aesthetics*

Visitors felt very safe with about 80 percent of survey respondents reporting the highest safety scores. Similarly, respondents gave Wilder recreation sites and views of the Wilder Project area high scores for visual aesthetics, with 87 percent reporting it as appealing or higher.

### *General Study Area Special Events*

The presence of Wilder dam near large population centers allows the Project to provide spaces and opportunities for large special events. Dartmouth College (e.g., Ledyard Canoe Club), local high schools, and special interest groups host a number of events including regattas, sculling races, downriver canoe races, and summer camps throughout the Project area. In addition to these watercraft focused events, large crowds are drawn to the river on 4<sup>th</sup> of July and various fishing tournaments held throughout the year. TransCanada's Kilowatt Park provides a boat ramp, picnic tables and a short walking trail between the two parks; however the most popular use of the site is associated with the sports fields which are heavily used during soccer and lacrosse seasons by area teams.

### *Downstream of Wilder*

The reach downstream of Wilder dam exhibits a riverine nature with quick flowing water, making for easy paddling until the headwaters of Bellows Falls Reservoir. Due to the narrower channel, shallower depths and presence of islands and gravel bars, this reach is not ideal for motor boating. Downstream paddlers must navigate the popular whitewater park-and-play feature, Sumner Falls. Sumner Falls is very popular with whitewater boaters as well as anglers. The Sumner Falls whitewater boating resources are reported in Study 31. As popular as downriver canoe trips are, interviews throughout the study area identified this reach as lacking river access and primitive camping facilities.

The Wilder study area boat-in primitive campsites (Harkdale Farm, Vaughan Meadows, Bugbee Landing, Underhill campsite, Roaring Brook, Patchen's Point, Gilman Island, Burnaps Island, Burnham Meadow) are well maintained and provide amenities (e.g., picnic table, and privy) that are in good condition and available on

a first come, first serve basis. Log books at boat-in campsites (Vaughan Meadows, Underhill campsite, Roaring Brook, Patchen's Point, Burnaps Island, and Burnham Meadow) showed that most visitors were satisfied with the condition of amenities provided.

Campsite signs are easily viewable from the water at all of the primitive campsites, except Underhill campsite, where a campsite sign is posted but faces the marshland rather than the main channel of the river.

Birch Meadows campsite, which has a large amount of vegetation encroaching on the camping area, is in need of maintenance.

Burnaps Island only has two designated tent spaces. Onsite interviews and log book entries suggested that additional campsites are needed on Burnaps Island or at a nearby location. Without additional space, paddlers arriving after the campsites are occupied are left with the decision to: a) camp illegally at the nearby Ottaquechee Boat Launch; b) continue downstream for nearly 7 river miles to the next site, Burnham Meadow, which requires portage of Sumner Falls; or c) camp on a beach. Given the lack of campsites within this reach of river, the Burnaps Island sites are full on most peak season weekends.

## **9.2 Bellows Falls**

### *TransCanada Recreation Sites*

TransCanada provides recreation access to the Project at four sites: Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area, Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-out, and Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center. Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area is a large, diverse recreation site that provides motorboat launching and large grassy areas along the shoreline for bank fishing, picnicking, walking and wildlife viewing. The Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area and Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-out sites are much more modest with basic amenities to access Bellows Falls FERC Project lands and waters. Public boat launch facilities within these two sites were well below capacity for most of the year while spot counts of the Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area during the peak season weekends counted an average of 15 vehicles, well below the sites capacity. Survey respondents felt that the recreational sites were generally not very well maintained. Suggested improvements included improving road conditions, maintaining trash facilities, and repairing the boat launch at Bellows Falls Dam Portage Put-In, Charlestown Boat Launch, and Pine Street Boat Launch. It is important to note that the Bellows Falls Portage Put-In is not an official boat launch but a hand launch; although some visitors attempt to launch motorboats here.

Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area provides a single lane, concrete boat ramp, five picnic tables with grills, three port-a-potties, and a maintained grass walking trail. Picnicking, grilling, and both motorized and non-motorized boating access are available here. Interview respondents reported a wide range of activities during their visit including picnicking, fishing, walking, sightseeing and



motor boating. Eighty-four percent of the respondents at this location said they were moderately satisfied or higher when asked about the number and type of recreation facilities at this location. Suggestions for new facilities included a new dock, more grills and a beach or river access near the site. Conversely, twenty three percent of respondents scored the site condition as 'not at all satisfied' with the majority of the complaints directed toward the condition of the boat launch. Overall, Site Condition and Visible Impact Scores from the Inventory Assessment (Appendix A) were 'Good' for both conditions with the condition of the boat ramp keeping the scores from reaching 'Excellent'. Currently, this site is closed for repairs with the intent to improve the functionality of the site in the short-term and re-assess the overall design and plan in a new license term.

Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area provides a gravel roadway leading to a boat launch, picnic area with six picnic tables and six grills, three port-a-potties, a large grassy area, and walking trails. Within the park area there are an additional 20 picnic tables and 18 grills provided for recreational use. The most common recreation activities include birding, picnicking, walking/hiking, boating, and shoreline and offshore-boating fishing. The site also hosts the annual Wildlife Festival which draws hundreds of visitors to the park. This site receives a high number of drive-throughs and male pick up type behavior, adding an element inconsistent with the public's enjoyment of the amenities at the site. This activity is limited to only a portion of the park and doesn't affect users of the entire park area. An overwhelming majority of visitors reported 'moderately satisfied' (97 percent) with the condition of the site; however there were a notable number of interviews that mentioned a need for trash clean up and stronger police presence to dissuade male pick up behavior. Because the site is large and draws a wide range of users, most were satisfied with the types of opportunities available at the site. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions an 'Excellent' score; however the boat launch would benefit from more frequent maintenance and early season ramp clearing (to prevent spring silt from rendering boat launches unusable into the summer).

Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Trail Take-out offers a gravel roadway and boat launch, large field parking, and a small picnic area with one picnic table and two benches. This site is used primarily as the portage take-out for paddlers and for boat launching. Two-thirds of survey respondents scored the condition of the facilities here as 'moderately satisfied' or higher. Better maintenance of the boat ramp and approach road was the number one cited drawback reported in 4 of the 6 interviews. TransCanada dredged the boat ramp in 2015 in preparation for the 2016 boating season. In addition, two visitors suggested more boat ramps are necessary in the area. It is not clear if this was directed to just this recreation site or the general vicinity, noting the previously described condition at the Charlestown Boat Launch. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions an 'Excellent' score.

Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center is primarily an educational center and nature museum and is run by the Nature Museum of Grafton, Vermont under an agreement with TransCanada. It is only open during the summer season and is

more popular with groups involved in environmental education than with drop in visitors. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions an 'Excellent' score for this site.

#### *General Study Area Boating and Access*

The Bellows Falls study area sites are popular with motor boaters along the lower third of the impoundment. According to CRJC (2008), adequate public access to the Connecticut River in the area of the Bellow Falls Project for motor boats already exists. All sites provide either hand launching, car-top boat launching, or motor boat access (except for the Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitors Center which does not have boating access). The most common area for motor boating is in the Bellows Falls impoundment between the Pine Street Boat Launch and Ashley Ferry Boat Landing. The two most popular sites—State of Vermont's Hoyts Landing and TransCanada's Herrick's Cove Boat Launch—are popular destinations for launching motorboats and conducting a wide range of other recreation opportunities, including picnicking, fishing, swimming, birding, and walking/hiking. Hoyts Landing is also a favored winter access point for ice fishing and snowmobiling. Hoyts Landing received an average of 21 vehicles at one time on peak season weekends; however this number is less than half the estimated number of parking spaces available at the site.

#### *General Study Area Fishing*

Bellows Falls study area recreation site users reported fishing from shore and fishing from boats as the most popular recreational activity. Fishing represents 49 percent of all recreational activity within the study area and 53.2 percent of respondents reported it as their primary activity, with highest popularity in the summer months.

#### *General Study Area Safety and Aesthetics*

The majority of survey respondents felt safe within the Project area; 75 percent of participants rated sites extremely safe. Respondents, however, suggested that additional improvements to public safety could be made by cleaning up broken glass and by providing police patrol at Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area, since the site is very isolated. Respondents gave Bellows Falls recreation sites and views of the Bellows Falls Project area good scores for visual aesthetics with 71 percent reporting the scenic quality as appealing or higher. Respondents recommended that the scenic value of undeveloped lands, when developing any future shoreline properties, be considered and that measures to protect areas of significant scenic value are incorporated. Respondents also recommended that restrooms/toilets at Pine Street Boat Launch are installed and that trash cans are installed if the site receives daily maintenance, so as to deter public dumping and unattractive nuisances.

### *General Study Area Special Events*

The Bellows Falls dam is located in a populated center that provides many spaces and opportunities for hosting larger special events. Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area is popular for big parties and large events, such as TransCanada's Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Patch Park also has the capacity to host large events due to its playground and gazebo, though many of its special events are related to the four baseball and soccer fields, which are largely used by local teams during the baseball and soccer seasons. The Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitors Center hosts special programs and events through the Nature Museum at Grafton which are related to the history of the historic mill, hydroelectric power, the fish ladder and aquatic ecology. Wilgus State Park is popular with river oriented recreation as they provide a handful of dedicated primitive campsites for downriver canoe trips. The state park hosts a yearly motorcycle event at the campground during the last weekend in April.

Bellows Falls Dam Portage Trail Put-In consists of a sand/gravel parking area that accommodates about 10 vehicles with additional parking available along the shoreline. Common recreation activities at this site are bank fishing, swimming, walking/hiking, and car-top boat launching. The site also provides informal walking trail leading to the fish barrier dam. The Inventory Assessment gave both Site Conditions and Visible Impact Conditions a 'Fair' score, losing points for the condition of site amenities, or lack thereof, along with the presence of dumping, visible nearby traffic, compacted soils, and presence of fire pits to close to shore.

The Bellows Falls study area boat-in campsites include three primitive campsites (Student Conservation Association, Lower Meadow, and Westminster) and one formal campground (Wilgus State Park) that are well maintained and provide amenities (e.g., tent platforms, privy) that are in good condition and available on a first come, first serve basis.

Campsite signs are easily viewable from the river at each location.

The Student Conservation Association offers two wooden platforms with capacity for two tents and Lower Meadow also has two wooden tent platforms and can accommodate four tents. Wilgus State Park is managed by the VDFPR and offers camping in rental cabins, tent/RV sites, and lean-to sites overlooking the Connecticut River.

The shoreline for the canoe/kayak landing at Lower Meadows campsite is very steep and onsite interviews suggest some users would rather pass by than attempt to land their boats at this site.

## **9.3 Vernon**

### *TransCanada Recreation Sites*

TransCanada provides recreation access to the Project at three sites: Vernon Portage take-out, Vernon Glen, and the Governor Hunt Recreation Area (including

the fish ladder) and Boat Launch. These sites are all located in very close proximity to the dam and are very modest with basic amenities.

*Governor Hunt Recreation Area and Boat Launch-* TransCanada owns and manages the site as a formal Project recreation facility and offers a gravel roadway, parking, picnicking and grilling facilities, and beach access. Recreation at this site ranges from swimming from shore, sunbathing along the sandy beach, fishing from shore, picnicking, fish ladder viewing, and boat launching. During summer weekends the parking (except at the fish ladder) can reach capacity which causes visitors to park along the beach. Per onsite interviews and site condition assessments, improvement to the recreation area boat launch is recommended.

While 73 percent of respondents at this site were 'moderately satisfied' with the conditions only 62 percent reported they were 'moderately satisfied' or higher with the types of recreation facilities provided. Respondents indicated a need for repairing the boat launch, improving road conditions, adding trash facilities, cleaning up broken glass around the site, better hours for fish ladder viewing, and maintaining cleaner bathrooms. As for comments related to the types of opportunities, popular responses included a desire for more boat ramps closer to town (Brattleboro) and better swimming areas. The Site Condition Score from the Inventory Assessment gave an 'Excellent' score, however the Visible Condition Score gave a 'Good' score, losing points for the presence of trash, compacted soils, dumping, and damage to surrounding vegetation.

The other TransCanada FERC Project recreation sites, Vernon Portage and Vernon Glen, were not observed to have any users during the study period and therefore received zero corresponding interviews. Visible Impact Scores from the Inventory Assessment were 'Excellent' for both sites as was the Site Condition Score at Vernon Portage; however the Site Condition Score at Vernon Glen received a 'Good' score, losing points for the condition of existing signage. Downriver boaters portaging Vernon dam can stop at Vernon Glen to rest and use the picnic tables; however the site has no access to the Connecticut River and is in an extremely shaded grove of trees. It is anticipated that most visits here are very brief as the Governor Hunt Recreation Area is less than a quarter mile down the hill from here and provides a wide expansive beach, shade trees, and riverside setting immediately downstream of the powerhouse.

*General Study Area Boating and Access-* As described in the PAD, Vernon reservoir provides ample deep water for power boating. Power boating generally occurs within the section from Windyhurst Farm in Westmoreland, New Hampshire to the dam and power boat access is provided every few miles in the Project boundary. The Vernon impoundment is home to a commercial marina, numerous water oriented businesses (e.g., canoe/kayak rentals, outfitters), and is a popular take-out area for downriver canoe trips. Norms Marina, just across the river from Brattleboro, Vermont is one of the largest commercial providers of boat slips, storage and marine services along the entire three Project region of the Connecticut River. In addition to Norm's Marina, Old Ferry Road and Putney Boat Landing are also very popular boating access points and have high boat traffic during summer



weekends. Public boat launch facilities within the Vernon study area (Dummerston Landing, (Chesterfield) River Road access, Old Ferry Road Boat Launch, Retreat Meadows, and Norm's Marina) are well below capacity for most of the year. Putney Boat Landing and Prospect Street Launch fill near capacity during summer weekends; however, when Putney Boat Landing is at full capacity, visitors use the nearby Dummerston Landing Boat Launch. The West River Marina is more restaurant than marina and although they do provide boat docks for restaurant patrons the majority of use at this site is associated with dining.

### *General Study Area Fishing*

Survey results indicate that fishing from either a boat or from shore were the most popular activities reported within the Vernon study area, with use increasing drastically during the summer and fall months. Fishing represents 49 percent of all recreational activity within the study area and 51.4 percent of respondents report it as their primary activity. Angler comments related to access were generally voiced by those with motorboats.

### *General Study Area Safety and Aesthetics*

Survey respondents felt very safe with about 73 percent providing the highest safety scores. Respondents, however, suggested that additional improvements to public safety could be made, particularly to the presence of broken glass at the study area sites. Similarly, respondents gave Vernon recreation sites and views of the Vernon Project area good scores for visual aesthetics, with 54 percent reporting the scenic quality as appealing or higher.

### *General Study Area Special Events*

Most of the Vernon Project sites are located in less populated areas with limited facilities not amenable to large special events. Brattleboro, Vermont is the largest town in the area of the Project and hosts a large 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and fireworks show which draws large crowds and forces visitors to park along the shoulder of the bridge and in some of the recreation access areas. This one-day event does not impact visitation or use the rest of the year.

The Vernon study area boat-in primitive campsites (Windyhurst, Wantastiquet-Hinsdale Canoe Rest Area, Stebbins Island) provide amenities (e.g., privy) that are in decent condition. Windyhurst offers space for two to three tents, Wantastiquet-Hinsdale Canoe Rest Area provides space for five tents, and Stebbins Island can accommodate four tent spaces.

Campsite signs at Windyhurst and Wantastiquet are easily viewable from the river; however, at Stebbins Island, the typical camping designation area signs are difficult to find as is the boat landing area, so users may have difficulty finding the campsite in the middle of Stebbins Island amidst the invasive understory vegetation.

Observations from the field indicate there is a need for a new privy, table and fire ring at Stebbins Island as well as to control the understory vegetation which has

choked out the path. It is not readily apparent if there are alternative locations that would be easier to maintain.

## 10.0 LITERATURE CITED

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## **Appendix A: Recreation Facility Inventory and Site Condition Assessment**

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	1
Site Nam	Newbury-Haverhill Bridge access		
Address	Newbury Crossing Road, Newbury, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-lauch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	8250
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	3
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	2
Site Nam	Bedell Bridge State Park		
Address	Meadow Lane, Haverhill, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch/Picnic/walking trail		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Department of Resources and Economic Development Parks and Recreations Division and t		
Manager	NHFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	24 hours a day w/limited activities at night
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	2
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-lauch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	16		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	3
Site Nam	Bugbee Landing access point		
Address	Memorial Field Road, Bradford, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Primitive campsite		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	Yes	Camping/overnight allowed	Yes
# of Docks	1	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	Yes	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	1	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-lauch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	1	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Wilder	Site Number	4
Site Nam	Orford boat landing		
Address	Boat Landing Road, Orford, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	NHFG (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)		
Manager	NHFG		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	24 hours a day w/limited activities at night
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-lauch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	24		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	5
Site Nam	North Thetford Landing		
Address	Bridge Road, East Thetford, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-launch from boat launch or grass/gravel shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	15+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	15000
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	6
Site Nam	Hewes Brook Car-Top Boat Launch		
Address	117 River Road, Lyme, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Lyme Conservation Commission		
Manager	N/A		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	No Parking or Mooring 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Grass Bank (hand-launch into brook)

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	7
Site Nam	Ompompanoosuc Launch		
Address	Old Bridge Rd, Norwich, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	24 hours a day
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	No
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-launch from boat launch or grass/gravel shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	6
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	5950
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Wilder	Site Number	8
Site Nam	Wilson's (Fullington) Landing		
Address	Fullington Boat Access, Hanover, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Hanover Lions Club		
Manager	Town of Hanover, NH		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	Yes	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	2	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from gravel boat launch or docks

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	11900
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	9
Site Nam	Ledyard Canoe Club		
Address	Ledyard Canoe Clb, Hanover, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch/Picnic/Canoe-Kayak Rental		
Staffed	Yes		
Owner	Dartmouth College		
Manager	Dartmouth College		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	No	Hours open to public	Canoe Club hours vary by season
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	2	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	2
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-launch from docks

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	red pur		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	10
Site Nam	Norwich Landing		
Address	138 River Road, Norwich, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	N/A		
Manager	N/A		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	Yes	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-launch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	2975
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	0	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	7	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	11
Site Nam	Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)		
Address	Gillette St, White River Junction, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch/Picnic/walking trails		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	Town of Hartford, VPRD		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	April
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	October
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	Dawn to 9:00 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	7
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	1/4 mile	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	3	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	3	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Loam/wood log constucted hand launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Wilder	Site Number	12
Site Nam	Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)		
Address	351 Wilder Dam Rd, White River Junction, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch/playing field		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	Hartford Parks and Recreation Dept.		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	Dawn to 9:00 PM
Fishing Pier	Yes	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	1	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	3
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	1/4 mile	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	2	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-launch from Boat Launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	30+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	13
Site Nam	East Wilder Boat Launch		
Address	E Wilder Rd, West Lebanon, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch/canoe/kayak access		
Staffed	No		
Owner	City of Lebanon, NH		
Manager	City of Lebanon, NH		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Gravel/grass shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	5000
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	14
Site Nam	Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access		
Address	Wilder Dam Rd, White River Junction, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Picnic/Fishing access		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	1
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	No
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	N/A

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	20+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	28050
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Wilder	Site Number	15
Site Nam	Wilder Dam Canoe Portage put-in and picnic area vista		
Address	249 N Main St West Lebanon, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-launch/Portage Trail/Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	4
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Sandy/Rocky shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	20+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	20250
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	7	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	16
Site Name	Lyman Point Park Launch		
Address	44 Hartford Main St, White River Junction, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-launch/Picnic Area/Playground/ Park		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Town of Hartford, VT Parks & Recreation Department		
Manager	Town of Hartford, VPRD		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	Dawn to Dusk
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	2
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	Yes
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	7	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Loam /silt shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	red pur		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	17
Site Name	Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch		
Address	Treatment Plant Rd, West Lebanon, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	City of Lebanon, NH		
Manager	City of Lebanon, NH		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Loam/Silt/Rocky	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Loam/silt/rocky shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	0	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	2
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	0	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	1	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	0	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	2
Total Site Condition Score	1	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Poor	Human waste, toilet paper	1
		Total Visible Impact Score	8
		Visible Impact Condition	Fair

Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	18
Site Name	Bloods Brook Launch (aka True's Brook Landing)		
Address	Plainfield Rd, West Lebanon, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	NHFG (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)		
Manager	NHFG		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Silt/Rocky shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	19
Site Name	Ottaquechee Boat Launch		
Address	Mill Street North Hartland, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Town of Hartland, VT		
Manager	Town of Hartland, VT		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	sand/gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	No
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	sand/gravel shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	1455
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	1	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	5	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Fair	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	20
Site Name	Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)		
Address	Rt. 5, Hartland, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch/Portage Trail/Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Town of Hartland, VT		
Manager	Town of Hartland, VT		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	Early May
Boat Ramp Lane material	Sand/Silt/Stone	Date Gate closes	End of October
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	4
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	1	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	sand/silt/stone shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	20
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	8750
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	2	Dumping	2
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	3
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Project	Downstream of Wilder Project Boundary	Site Number	21
Site Name	Cornish Boat Landing		
Address	Rt.12 A, Cornish, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	NHFG (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)		
Manager	NHFG		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Sand/loam/silt	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Sand/loam/silt shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	9400
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	0	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	22
Site Nam	Wilgus State Park		
Address	3985 Route 5, Weathersfield, VT		
Facility type	State Park Campground/Handlauch/Picnicing/Canoe Rental		
Staffed	Yes		
Owner	Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation		
Manager	VVDFPR		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	April 28th
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	Columbus Day Weekend
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	10:00 AM - Official Sunset
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	Yes
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	Yes	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	1	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	Yes	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Pavement

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	23
Site Nam	Ashley Ferry boat landing		
Address	Ferry Road, Claremont, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	NHFG (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)		
Manager	NHFG		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	2	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement/Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	24 hours a day w/limited activities at night
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from boat Launch; Pavement/Concrete

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	8550
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	24
Site Nam	Hoyts Landing		
Address	Charlestown Road, Springfield, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes (2)	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	Yes	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	1	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch; Concrete

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	20+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	20000
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	28		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	25
Site Nam	Patch Park		
Address	Douglas Street, Charlestown, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Playground/Picnicing/Playing Fields		
Staffed	No		
Owner	New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation; State of New Hampshire Department of		
Manager	NHPRD		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	2	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	5
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	3	Informal hand launch	No
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	N/A

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	30+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	7200
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	26
Site Nam	Charlestown boat launch and picnic area		
Address	Lower Landing Road, Charlestown, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	1	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	3	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	6
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	5	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from boat launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	15+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	2
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	7	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	3
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	27
Site Nam	Herrick's Cove boat launch and picnic area		
Address	Herricks Cove Road, Bellows Falls, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes	2	Date Gate Opens	June
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete/Gravel	Date Gate closes	Beginning of November
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - Sunset
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	2	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	5	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	26
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	24	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat launch or grass/loam shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	100+
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	2
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	28
Site Nam	Pine Street boat launch and portage trail take-out		
Address	Pine Street, North Walpole, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Portage Trail		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	1	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	1
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	2	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch / Gravel

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	30+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	1
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	29
Site Nam	Bellows Falls fish ladder and visitors center		
Address	Bridge Street, Bellows Falls, VT		
Facility type	Visitor Center		
Staffed	No		
Owner			
Manager			

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	No	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	No
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	N/A

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	N/A		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	30
Site Nam	Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System		
Address	Mill Street, Bellows Falls, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Park and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner			
Manager			

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	Yes	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	2	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Rocky Shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	1
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	4
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Projec	Bellows Falls	Site Number	31
Site Nam	Bellows Falls dam portage put-in		
Address	Rt.12 North Walpole, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch/Portage and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Sand/Silt Beach	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	No
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Sand/Silt shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10+
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	2
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	0	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	1	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	1
Total Site Condition Score	3	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Fair	Human waste, toilet paper	1
		Total Visible Impact Score	6
		Visible Impact Condition	Fair



Project	Downstream of Bellows Falls Project Boundary	Site Number	32
Site Name	CT River car-top access		
Address	Rt.12 North Walpole, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	NHFG (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)		
Manager	NHFG		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	24 hours a day
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Sand/Silt Shoreline Bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	6300
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	2
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	3
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Project	Downstream of Bellows Falls Project Boundary	Site Number	33
Site Name	Cold River hand launch		
Address	Rt.12 North Walpole, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner			
Manager			

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Rocky/Sand/Silt/Loam Shoreline Bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	1600
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	0	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	1	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
<b>Total Site Condition Score</b>	4	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
<b>Site Condition Score</b>	Fair	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		<b>Total Visible Impact Score</b>	3
		<b>Visible Impact Condition</b>	Good

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	34
Site Nam	Putney boat landing		
Address	Putney Landing Road, Putney, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch; Pavement or use stone steps down grass bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	7000
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	35
Site Nam	Dummerston landing		
Address	Putney Landing Road, Putney, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	No
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch; Pavement or use wooden steps down grass

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	9075
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Vernon	Site Number	36
Site Nam	(Chesterfield) River Road access		
Address	River Road, West Chesterfield, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Town of Chesterfield		
Manager	Town of Chesterfield		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch; Pavement or from Gravel/Grass bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	5200
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	7	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	37
Site Nam	Old Ferry Road access		
Address	Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	VFWD (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department)		
Manager	VFWD		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Concrete	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	20+
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	20000
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	1	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	1	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	1
		Total Visible Impact Score	5
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	38
Site Nam	Retreat Meadows boat launch		
Address	Linden Street, Brattleboro, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Windham Foundation & Brattleboro Retreat		
Manager	Brattleboro Retreat		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	Dawn to Dusk
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	>9	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Gravel

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	39
Site Nam	West River Marina		
Address	Spring Tree Rd, Brattleboro, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Private Marina		
Manager	Private Marina		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	3	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	3.5	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Docks or Grass Bank

Has formal parking spaces	Yes	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	red pur		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Vernon	Site Number	40
Site Nam	Norm's Marina		
Address	Rt 119. Brattleboro Rd, Hinsdale, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch		
Staffed	Yes		
Owner	Private Marina		
Manager	Private Marina		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes	2	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Pavement	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	No	Hours open to public	Dawn to Dusk
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	2	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	6
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	Yes
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hand-Launch from Boat Launch; Pavement

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	25+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	31500
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	41
Site Nam	Hinsdale Access		
Address	Rt 119. Brattleboro Rd, Hinsdale, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	State of New Hapshire		
Manager	NHDOT		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Grass Shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	5+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	4800
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	2
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	1
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	1
Environmental Condition	1	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	0	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	1
Total Site Condition Score	5	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	1
Site Condition Score	Fair	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	6
		Visible Impact Condition	Fairr

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	42
Site Nam	Fisherman Access Area		
Address	Rt. 142. Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner			
Manager			

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Loam/Silt Bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	25+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	47150
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	7	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	1
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	42
Site Nam	Fort Hill Rail Trail		
Address	Rt 119. Brattleboro Rd, Hinsdale, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner	State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development; Division of		
Manager	New Hampshire Bureau of Trails		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Grass/Gravel/Rocky Shoreline/Bank

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	10
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	9	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Vernon	Site Number	43
Site Nam	Broad Brook Access		
Address	Rt. 142. Fort Bridgman Rd, Brattleboro, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch		
Staffed	No		
Owner	State of Vermont		
Manager	VDOT		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	No
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Grass Bank (hand-launch into brook)

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	3
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	726
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition		Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	0	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	6	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	45
Site Nam	Prospect Street Launch		
Address	Prospect Street, Hinsdale, NH		
Facility type	Recreation Boat-Launch and Trail System		
Staffed	No		
Owner	Town of Hinsdale, NH		
Manager	Town of Hinsdale, NH		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	No
Number of lanes	1	Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Broken Pavement; Gravel	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	Yes	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Hans-Launch from Boat Launch; Gravel Shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	15+
Number of parking areas	2	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	13050
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	1	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Condition	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	0	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	1	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	6	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	46
Site Nam	Vernon canoe portage		
Address	Governor Hunt Rd, Vernon, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Hand-Launch and Portage Trail		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	No	Picnic Tables	No
# of Restrooms	0	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	0
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	0	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Grass Shoreline

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	4+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent

Projec	Vernon	Site Number	47
Site Nam	Vernon Glen		
Address	Governor Hunt Rd, Vernon, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	No	Gated	No
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	N/A	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	No	Hours open to public	N/A
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	1	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	5
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	No
# of Grills	4	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	N/A
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	No
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	N/A

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	4+
Number of parking areas	1	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	0
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	0	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	0
Total Site Condition Score	8	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Good	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	0
		Visible Impact Condition	Excellent



Projec	Vernon	Site Number	48
Site Nam	Governor Hunt Recreation Area and boat launch		
Address	Governor Hunt Rd, Vernon, VT		
Facility type	Recreation Boat Launch and Picnic Area		
Staffed	No		
Owner	TransCanada		
Manager	TransCanada		

Boat Ramp	Yes	Gated	Yes
Number of lanes		Date Gate Opens	N/A
Boat Ramp Lane material	Sand/Stone Beach	Date Gate closes	N/A
Bank fishing	Yes	Hours open to public	6:00 AM - 9:30PM
Fishing Pier	No	Camping/overnight allowed	No
# of Docks	0	Day Use	Yes
Restrooms	Yes	Picnic Tables	Yes
# of Restrooms	3	Picnic Area Acreage	N/A
Campsites	No	# of Picnic Tables	5
Camping Area Acreage	N/A	ADA Picnic Tables	No
Trail miles	N/A	Swimming Allowed	Yes
# of Grills	5	Swimming shoreline length	N/A
Fire pits	No	Courtesy dock	No
Benches	No	Launch at all water levels	Yes
# of Benches	0	Informal hand launch	Yes
Garbage cans	No	Shoreline substrate along hand launch	Sand/stone Beach

Has formal parking spaces	No	Estimated number of informal parking spaces	15+
Number of parking areas	3	Measured informal parking area (sq ft)	
Total Number of Designated Parking Spaces	0		

Roads & Parking condition	2	Presence of litter, broken glass, etc	1
Recreation Site Amenities Conditio	2	Dumping	0
Recreation Site Bldgs condition	2	Damage to vegetation	0
Environmental Condition	2	Inadequate clearance around fire pits/rings	0
Sign Condition	2	Visible off-highway vehicle use/tracks	2
Total Site Condition Score	10	Trampled veg, bare ground, compacted soils	0
Site Condition Score	Excellent	Human waste, toilet paper	0
		Total Visible Impact Score	3
		Visible Impact Condition	Good

## Appendix B - Onsite Interviews

### On-Site Intercept Survey

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Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am conducting a survey with visitors to the Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon Project areas and the riverine sections between the reservoirs on behalf of TransCanada. This information will be used as an aid in understanding more about land- and water-based recreation in the area. The survey will take about 10 minutes, and your responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your time and input.

---

1. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Current Weather: Sunny/ Partly Cloudy/Cloudy/Foggy/Drizzle/Rain

4. Today's Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Have you previously been interviewed as part of this study?

Yes – thank you for your time. We are only interviewing each person once in this study.

No – CONTINUE

8. How many people are in your group today (including yourself)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many vehicles did your group come with? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you ever visited PROJECT before? Yes      No

11. If yes, in a typical year how many times do you visit PROJECT for recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_ (times/year)

12. What is your primary motivation for coming to this site  
today? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

14. On this trip, are you staying overnight in the area?

Yes – How many days is your trip? \_\_\_\_\_

No – How many hours will you be spending in the area recreating today? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Which of the following activities did you participate in on this trip? (mark all that apply)

ON THE WATER	ON SHORE
Motor boating (not fishing)	Fishing from shore
Fishing from boat or ice fishing	Wildlife viewing; birding
Waterskiing/tubing	Sightseeing/driving for pleasure
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use	Picnicking/family gathering
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water	Hunting

ON THE WATER	ON SHORE
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater	Tent/vehicle camping
Multi-day float trip	Bicycling/mountain biking
	Walking/hiking
Sculling	Swimming/sunbathing from shore
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	
Tubing	
Snowmobiling	
Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing	
Other:	

16. Of the activities listed above, what was your primary activity on this trip?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. We are also interested in what activities you participate in during other visits throughout the year. Please mark all the activities by season that you participate in while visiting Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or the areas downstream (mark all that apply)

ACTIVITY	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)	Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)	Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor boating (not fishing)				
Fishing from boat or ice fishing				
Waterskiing/tubing				
Jet skiing/personal watercraft use				
Canoeing/kayaking – flat water				
Canoeing/kayaking - whitewater				
Multi-day float trip				
Sculling				
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat				
Tubing				
Snowmobiling				
Cross-country skiing/snow shoeing				
<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore				
Wildlife viewing/birding				
Sightseeing/driving for pleasure				
Picnicking/family gathering				
Hunting				

ACTIVITY	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)	Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)	Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)
Tent/vehicle camping				
Bicycling/mountain biking				
Walking/hiking				
Swimming/sunbathing from shore				
Other:				

18. Overall, how satisfied are you with the **number of** recreation facilities and opportunities (please circle one number)?

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

19. If not extremely satisfied, what additions, changes, or improvements would make you more satisfied? \_\_\_\_\_

20. At what location(s) are these recreation facilities needed? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the **condition of the facilities** that you used (please circle one number).

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

22. If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you more satisfied? \_\_\_\_\_

23. Overall how satisfied were you with the **reservoir water level (or flow if downstream)** during this visit (please circle one number)?

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

24. Did fluctuating water levels (either at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs, or immediately downstream) affect your recreation experience today?



YES     *CONTINUE WITH FOLLOW UP*

NO     *SKIP TO QUESTION 28*

25.     What type of fluctuation did you experience? (check one)

Rising

Lowering

Both

26. Briefly explain how the fluctuation you are thinking of positively or negatively affected your recreation experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

27. In general, would you prefer fluctuations that were higher, lower, or about the same (check one)?

a. much lower fluctuations

b. slightly lower fluctuations

c. about the same; current situation is appropriate for my uses

d. slightly higher fluctuations

e. much higher fluctuations

28. Did you check public flow information (e.g., USGS website, American Whitewater website, or other sources) or the TransCanada flow phone prior to visiting today?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Didn't know it existed

29. Please choose the response that best describes how **safe** you felt **at this site** today?

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Extremely Safe		Safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Unsafe		Not at all safe

30. If you answered unsafe or not at all safe (7, 8, or 9), why did you not feel safe?

\_\_\_\_\_

31. How would you rate the scenery at this location?

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Extremely appealing		Appealing		Average		Unappealing		Not at all appealing

32. If you answered less than extremely appealing, what detracts from the scenic/aesthetic quality of this location? \_\_\_\_\_

33. What adds to the scenic/aesthetic quality of this location?

\_\_\_\_\_

34. Now think of scenic areas around THE PROJECT. What are the top three attributes of those areas that make them scenic? (e.g., natural setting, shoreline features, striking or rare natural features, etc.)

Location	Attribute
a.	
b.	
c.	

35.      Male                  Female

36. (check one)

Age	Race
16 – 24	White
25 – 34	African American
35 – 44	Hispanic or Latino
45 – 54	Asian
55 – 59	American Indian or Alaskan Native
60 – 64	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
65 – 74	Other:
75 – 84	Decline to answer
85 and over	
Decline to answer	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

### Interview collection by Month

Project	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Bellows Falls		1	39	15	19	25	33	5	2			1	140
Vernon	6		53	45	23	25	17	7		1	1	3	181
Wilder		2	48	44	54	41	35	30	1		1		256
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>577</b>

### Interview collection by month and site - Wilder

Wilder	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Total
Bedell Bridge SP		3	4	2	2	2	6	1		20
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)		3	3	1	2		1			10
Bugbee Landing Access Point		1	1	1		1				4
Burnap Island (boat-in campsite)			2							2
Cornish Boat Landing		1		5	2	2	1			11
East Wilder Boat Launch		2	1	1	1	1				6
Gilman Island (boat-in campsite)					1					1
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)		4	5	6	1	3	5			24
Hewes Brook Boat Launch		2								2
Ledyard canoe club		3	2	2	2					9
Lyman Point Park Launch		3	2		4	2	1			12
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge				5	1	1				7
North Thetford Landing	1	2	5	4			1			13
Norwich Landing		2	1	2	1					6
Ompompanoosuc Launch		1	1	2	5	1	1			11
Orford Boat Landing		2	1	1	11	3	9			27
Ottawaquechee Launch		1	1	1	1	1				5
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)		4	5	5	4	7	2			27
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon		1	3	2	1	1				8

<b>Wilder</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public Boat Launch										
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	1	2				2				5
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access		1								1
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)		6	3	3	1	3	1		1	18
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing		4	4	11	1	5	2			27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>256</b>

**Interview collection by month and site – Bellows Falls**

<b>Bellows Falls</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing		3	1	1	3					8
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	1	6	2	3	2	6	3			23
Bellows Falls Fish Ladder & Visitors Center		4			1	1				6
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area		4	1	1	1	6				13
Cold River Hand Launch		1								1
CT River Car top Access NHFG		4		1	1					6
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area		6	4	3	7	10	1	1		32
Hoyts Landing		7	4	7	10	7		1	1	37
Patch Park		1				1				2
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-out		2	1	1		1	1			6
Wilgus State Park		1	2	2		1				6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>140</b>



**Interview collection by month and site - Vernon**

<b>Vernon</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Total</b>
(Chesterfield) River Road Access		2	3		1	1					7
Broad Brook Access			1		1						2
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)		3	4	1							8
Fisherman Access Area		2	2	1			1				6
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1	15	4	4	5		3	1	1	1	35
Norm's Marina		1		1	1	2					5
Old Ferry Road Access		2	1		2	2					7
Prospect Street Launch		7	3	1	3	1	1			1	17
Putney Boat Landing		3	1	3	1	4					12
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	4	4	4	3	4					1	20
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	1	10	15	6	4	5	1				42
West River Marina		4	6	3	3	2	1				19
Windyhurst campsite (boat-in campsite)			1								1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>181</b>

**Wilder Study Area Site Condition Results**

<b>Locations Wilder</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Bedell Bridge SP	3 - Moderately satisfied	Always beautiful sometimes trash
Bedell Bridge SP	4 -	Banks have deteriorated some
Bedell Bridge SP	4 -	Banks have deteriorated some
Bedell Bridge SP	4 -	Banks have deteriorated some
Bedell Bridge SP	2 -	Could be less developed (fewer do not enter signs)
Bedell Bridge SP	2 -	Could be less developed (fewer do not enter signs)
Bedell Bridge SP	3 - Moderately satisfied	Grass is kept mowed and now that they have a walking path the site is more interesting. People that picnic though have no table and toilet. But that doesn't concern me for walking.
Bedell Bridge SP	3 - Moderately satisfied	I wish there were facilities here (meaning restroom) the church meeting could use it and when we spend the day here we would like it; passing kayakers could stop here have lunch and use the restroom.
Bedell Bridge SP	1 - Extremely satisfied	Lack of information, trails
Bedell Bridge SP	5 - Neutral	Not sure if large enough boat ramp (or river) for my boat
Bedell Bridge SP	3 - Moderately satisfied	This site is in excellent condition. The boat launch is easily accessible and the site has plenty of parking.
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	3 - Moderately satisfied	It's always navigable for him
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	1 - Extremely satisfied	Other than the road this site is in good condition
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	5 - Neutral	The road isn't in good condition because of the washout (road is caved in)
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	7 - Slightly satisfied	They need to fix the road.
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	3 - Moderately satisfied	They've made improvements from the last twenty years and they've cleaned the river a lot.
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	5 - Neutral	This site could be better maintained the road is in bad condition and there's aren't many spot to park.
Blood's Brook Launch (aka True's Landing)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is kept up well we're happy with the upkeep they do to keep the site in good condition.
Bugbee Landing Access Point	3 - Moderately satisfied	Clean off the mud on the boat launch
Bugbee Landing Access Point	5 - Neutral	Dock being above water (sometimes it's submerged)
Bugbee Landing Access Point	2 -	Trash along river
Burnap Island (boat-in campsite)	3 - Moderately satisfied	The site is cleaner than last year.

<b>Locations Wilder</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Burnap Island (boat-in campsite)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is in great condition this year. It's on level ground there is no trash.
Cornish Boat Landing	4 -	No bathroom
Cornish Boat Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	The boat ramp is bad condition the banks are eroding and condition has gone down since last year.
Cornish Boat Landing	5 - Neutral	The boat ramp is washed out (bad condition)
Cornish Boat Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	The launch was fine at summers were we started and we had no problems taking out the kayaks here at Cornish but the launch here at Cornish is washed out a bit and could be better condition wise.
Cornish Boat Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	This site could use porter potty and maybe a few picnic tables also the launch site could use some work it's very steep.
Cornish Boat Landing	5 - Neutral	This site is poorly maintained the kayak launch into the river is rally washed out.
Cornish Boat Landing	6 -	This sites ramp to take out kayaks is in pretty bad condition/steep washed out area. Also hard to see no sign visible from the river.
Cornish Boat Landing	7 - Slightly satisfied	We ended our kayak trip here and taking out the kayaks the path wasn't very good condition wise. We almost went by the site because we didn't notice it and then there was no actual boat ramp to pull out which we thought there would be.
East Wilder Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Good place to sunbathe but some trash
East Wilder Boat Launch	6 -	No places where amenities are available (food). Why are there so many lights around Wilder Dam area at night? Why is the rusted metal barn not painted?
East Wilder Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	No trash bags available at site
East Wilder Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	There's a lot of broken glass. Return trash cans. Add picnic tables
Gilman Island (boat-in campsite)	1 - Extremely satisfied	We're very satisfied with the condition. Being close to the college there sometimes will be trash left but the maintenance of the site is great.
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	3 - Moderately satisfied	A nice bathroom would be nice
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Boat launch is bumpy
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	4 -	Boat ramp is bumpy, doggie scoop bags
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Could be cleaner (launch area)
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Could fix boat ramp

Locations Wilder	Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?	If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	7 - Slightly satisfied	The boat launch is to flat they should fill it in back so they boat launch can drop quick this way I don't have to pull my truck all they way into the water so I don't have to get wet to tie my boat onto and off of the trailer.
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	1 - Extremely satisfied	They have waste barrels for walking dogs. Site is maintained
Hartford Park (Kilowatt Park South)	5 - Neutral	This site is hard launching for large boats / tips the boat
Hewes Brook Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Access for swimming, hiking, more parking areas, better kayak launch (here), later hours at Hewes Brook
Ledyard canoe club	5 - Neutral	More fish ladders, especially further north
Ledyard canoe club	3 - Moderately satisfied	Outdated building (ledyard canoe club)
Ledyard canoe club	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is great you can hangout and rent kayaks and canoes. Also swimming and the dock are great. The site is supervised therefor kept in good condition.
Ledyard canoe club	1 - Extremely satisfied	We use the picnic tables to hangout and swim off the dock.
Lyman Point Park Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Easy access and is well maintained sight overall.
Lyman Point Park Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	The condition is good
Lyman Point Park Launch	2 -	They could make the trails along the river better.
Lyman Point Park Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	This is a good recreation site to bring my kids because they enjoy the playground and the playground is fenced off from the road which is safe and there are plenty of benches and picnic tables to use. The only thing I would suggest is there is a dog waste box but no trash barrel for trash.
Lyman Point Park Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is maintained and always a nice quiet place for a picnic
Lyman Point Park Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	Very well maintained lawn and always fairly clean.
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	2 -	At the campsites there weren't many spots to sit for example my group of four people couldn't all sit around the fire.
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	2 -	At the campsites there weren't many spots to sit for example my group of four people couldn't all sit around the fire.
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge	3 - Moderately satisfied	Trash at this site
North Thetford Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	This site is Clean and in good shape for the amount of use it gets. Very limited trash and the ramp is very accessible, I see motor boat launches here.
North Thetford Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Condition with spring mud made camping difficult
North Thetford Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	No where to sit and no trash cans but it's in



Locations Wilder	Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?	If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?
		good condition.
North Thetford Landing	2 -	Porter potty would be nice
North Thetford Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	There is some trash I pick up at the site but overall I'm satisfied.
Norwich Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Could use more facilities
Norwich Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Improve Norwich launch - redo it - shallow angle, dock for pick up drop off plus steps to get to.
Norwich Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Most people clean
Norwich Landing	5 - Neutral	There's not much two this spot but I like the little dock available for us to sit on and swim off of.
Ompompanoosuc Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	A little bit of trash
Ompompanoosuc Launch	2 -	Needs a map here of other landings
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Could use a restroom here
Orford Boat Landing	6 -	Docks, toilets have been trashed and removed
Orford Boat Landing	8 -	Miserable to get in and out with a large boat - posts are in the way. No bathroom
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Need porter potty
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	Porter potty here
Orford Boat Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Power washers / boat cleaning stations would be very usefull.
Orford Boat Landing	2 -	This site could use a dock
Orford Boat Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	Toilet would be usefull
Orford Boat Landing	4 -	Wish there was a dock - need two people too launch without
Ottauquechee Launch	5 - Neutral	Some trash and road is not the best condition.
Ottauquechee Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is in good condition other that the roadway in which could be improved. Other sites such as burnap island campsite and other campsites such as the one in Thetford are in really good condition we really appreciate the bathrooms.
Ottauquechee Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	We like this site because the fishing is good here and not many people use the site because it's hard to find. The condition could be better but we like it how it is. People clear spots in the woods to park so if the area is full you can still find a place to park.

<b>Locations Wilder</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Ottawaquechee Launch	5 - Neutral	We park at the top of the site because our car can't get down the steep road and it's very bumpy and in bad condition.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Better ramp at portage area to launch your kayak about the falls.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	It is very easy to just pull your car on the beach and launch you boat and go move your car up to the parking.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	3 - Moderately satisfied	It's been improved they put the garbage and fixed the picnic table also they've improved the drainage on the road and cleared the driftwood. So the condition has really improved.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Some trash but we have no problem coming in and turning around with the trailers.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	5 - Neutral	Sometimes the road can be bad for trailering but this is one of the best accessible spots to come the condition is good for trailering
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	2 -	The condition here is great they have everything you need here (toilet, trash barrel, picnic table)
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	The portage is a short distance and facilities (restrooms) are available.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	The portage was good there was a restroom available overall we're happy
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	The town of Hartland does a good job of maintaining the site.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	There are now restroom trash barrels and picnic tables here which had come a long way over the years the condition is very good
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	There is a nice rocky shoreline and beach area here that we like to walk and look for stuff washed up.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	They've done a lot this year to improve the site new picnic table and improved road.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site has come a long way in the last few years.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site has plenty of parking and room for family to picnic and spend the day on the river.
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is has good/easy portage for paddlers and has a bathroom and picnic area.
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	Difficult roadway in and boat launch
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Good open area. Fairly clean. The road is in rough condition.
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Other than the trash this is a nice site with potential for a good boat launch.

Locations Wilder	Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?	If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	5 - Neutral	The road is in bad condition but we're happy we could launch are canoe here easily and plenty of parking.
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	8 -	They need to fix the boat launch. Just even adds me stone to the boat launch and grade it out.
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon Public Boat Launch	8 -	Trash
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	3 - Moderately satisfied	A lot of debris and overgrowth and trash along the shoreline
Wilder Dam Canoe Portage Put-In	1 - Extremely satisfied	The trails are very well maintained
Wilder Dam Fish Ladder/Fishing Access	3 - Moderately satisfied	It's good for fishing the condition is fair
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	5 - Neutral	Better maintained when TransCanada did it rather than the town. It had an old feel to it with TransCanada wooden dock and building which is now a metal building in the parking lot.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	7 - Slightly satisfied	Concerned about drugs/ trash / syringes
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Dock, trash cans, lots of weeds in the river
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	2 -	Don't like the leash law here. Glass is a real problem. We are the ones removing trash at this site.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Minimal trash but park is in good condition. They pick up glass on the beach every few days.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	3 - Moderately satisfied	More upkeep on trash and vandalism but overall the park is well maintained
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	3 - Moderately satisfied	People's spray paint and vandalize.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	5 - Neutral	There is some vandalism that occurs here; shady people hanging out sometimes
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is very clean and maintained well.
Wilder Picnic Area (Kilowatt Park North)	1 - Extremely satisfied	Very well maintained and very beautiful park
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	A lot of trash
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Docks, bathrooms
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	7 - Slightly satisfied	I feel that the dock is out to far. Wood beams around parking area. Loss of picnic tables
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	4 -	More docks
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	People throw garbage all over - garbage / recycling containers
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	2 -	Sometimes wheelchair access is hard

Locations Wilder	Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?	If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is very well maintained and the docks are great for my family to swim on.



**Bellows Falls Study Area Site Condition Results**

<b>Locations Bellows Falls</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
CT River Car top Access NHFG	7 - Slightly satisfied	A lot of people take their four-wheelers out and rip up the land at this site. Also the roadway in is in terrible condition, almost unacceptable with a car.
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System	9 - Not at all satisfied	A lot of people trash this site. But if you put trash barrels down here people will bring their household trash.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	7 - Slightly satisfied	A lot of trash and beer bottles. Boat launch is in bad condition
Hoyts Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	Another dock
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-out	3 - Moderately satisfied	Better maintenance on boat launches
Cold River Hand Launch	6 -	Better road conditions
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	4 -	Boat launch ; porter potty
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	9 - Not at all satisfied	Boat launch is horrible condition and this site needs to be better maintained
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	Boat launch is too steep
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	9 - Not at all satisfied	Boat launch is unusable and trash occasionally
Hoyts Landing	5 - Neutral	Campsites, cooking grills, a dock.
Hoyts Landing	2 -	Clean porter potty
Hoyts Landing	2 -	Clean the outhouse
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	Clean up trash at site. Maintain the beach/roads. Roadway entrance (pavement) has a big drop off.
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System	5 - Neutral	Could be cleaned better and better access to river (pathways).
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	5 - Neutral	Don't want facilities because it attracts to many people with already limited space.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	Fix Charlestown launch.
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	6 -	Fix the boat launch maintain it better, tree blocking one road
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	Good condition people are respectful and clean
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-out	2 -	Grade road better to boat launch
Hoyts Landing	9 - Not at all satisfied	I have to pick up trash every time I'm here sometimes bags full.
CT River Car top Access NHFG	2 -	I like this site because it's well maintained and it's usually clean and the people here are mostly respectful to the site. Now they have signs posting drivers not to drive onto the site to rip up the ground along the riverbank.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	I'm very happy with the boat launch quality and having two docks. Also there is a marsh entrance onto the Saxons river on the other

<b>Locations Bellows Falls</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
		side of the site which makes easy access as well
Wilgus State Park	1 - Extremely satisfied	Launch wilder
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Lawn needs to be mowed more often
CT River Car top Access NHFG	1 - Extremely satisfied	Likes the road even though it's bad condition the way it because not as many people come here
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	2 -	Littering is an issue
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	Maintain road
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	4 -	More trash cans
CT River Car top Access NHFG	9 - Not at all satisfied	Not maintained well, hard to find, no restroom, more information.
Hoyts Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	On weekends it can get close to full but I always find parking for my trailer here and the boat launch and dock are in excellent condition.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	Osprey platform they work TransCanada to put a deck and plant shrubs.
Wilgus State Park	1 - Extremely satisfied	Parking
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	People leave trash and fishing line but now they have fishing line waste barrel but no one can throw trash anywhere
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	People leave trash and fishing line. But I see now they have a disposal for fishing line which is a good thing.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2 -	Pick up trash - beer bottles
Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System	5 - Neutral	Picnic tables
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	Plenty of parking and the dock is helpful for launching.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	1 - Extremely satisfied	Porter potties
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	2 -	Porter potty
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	Put some gravel or crushed stone at the end of the black tar entrance onto the beach ( there's are drop off).
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	9 - Not at all satisfied	Still unable to launch a boat from this site. Two feet if mud/silt
Hoyts Landing	7 - Slightly satisfied	Supply store, restaurant nearby

<b>Locations Bellows Falls</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-out	9 - Not at all satisfied	The boat launch (bad condition) the gravel is too loose at the launch area. There is no launch pad (for example concrete launch pads or pavement) and when I take my boat out I get stuck without traction and have to use my friends bigger truck to pull out the boat. Also I have a hard time getting out of the channel from the boat launch to the main river (Connecticut river) Also I wish the dock had cleat's (to tie off your boat to the dock you need tie off cleat)
Hoyts Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	The boat launch and dock are easy to use and there are designated trailer spots so I don't get blocked in.
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2 -	The boat launch needs to be fixed the kids leaves all their trash they used to have a porter potty they tipped it over they leave trash in the grills.
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	The condition here is good. But no sign that says parking for trailers only by the boat launch so people don't take the spaces I need that rant trailering boats. Also why are there three handicap spots by trailer spots.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	8 -	The condition is poor for launching boats.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	The condition of the facility is good we'll maintained
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	The docks right now are out of the water.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	5 - Neutral	The road needs improvement and the site in General could use a good cleaning.
Pine Street Boat Launch and Portage Take-out	5 - Neutral	The roadway could be better improved (ruts and holes).
CT River Car top Access NHFG	7 - Slightly satisfied	The roadway in needs work but the condition and potential of this site is huge.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	7 - Slightly satisfied	The roadway is in bad condition
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	The roadway is rough for my car. (Bad road condition)
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	5 - Neutral	There a lot of trash people litter here
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	There is a lot of debris along the walking paths but I enjoy looking through the debris.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	There is some trash along the beach
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	There is trash left behind but we realize there's nothing you can do to stop that.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2 -	There is trash left behind sometimes but we always clean up after ourselves.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	3 - Moderately satisfied	There's a lot of trash and dog waste along walking trail.

<b>Locations Bellows Falls</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	They have a nice well kept bathroom. I would like to see picnic tables here I see a lot of family's but no where to picnic.
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	They've taken rubbish barrels away but maybe they should give them another shot.
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	5 - Neutral	This is our first time launching from this site because the boat launch wasn't accessible until recently. The condition of the boat launch now is good though and there is plenty of parking available.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site has a easy access boat ramp/dock and bonus with restroom facilities and picnic areas you can just pull up the boat and have a private picnic area in the park.
Hoyts Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site has a great boat launch and dock and restrooms are a relief.
Hoyts Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	This site has one of the best boat launches in the area. Sometimes there's trash around the site. It could use trash barrels in the parking lots so at least If I picked up trash I wouldn't have to take it with me.
Herrick's Cove Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2 -	This site has plenty of space for our kids to play and the park is maintained which is nice. We can find a spot and have our own area to hangout all day.
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	This site is maintained and I use the picnic tables and like how there's a restroom.
Bellows Falls dam portage put-in	5 - Neutral	Trash cans
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	2 -	Trash cans
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	4 -	Trash cans ; better maintenance with picking up trash
Charlestown Boat Launch and Picnic Area	9 - Not at all satisfied	Trash cans fix the lawn and defiantly need to fix boat launch it is UNUSABLE
Ashley Ferry Boat Landing	2 -	Trash cans needed; ramp needs to be fixed
Hoyts Landing	2 -	Trash left behind
Hoyts Landing	5 - Neutral	Trash. Trash in the grills at Herricks cove site.



**Vernon Study Area Site Condition Results**

<b>Locations Vernon</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	a bathroom in the summer and winter
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	A boat landing is supposed to be maintained below the Vernon Dam
Windyhurst campsite (boat-in campsite)	3 - Moderately satisfied	A lot of poison ivy and sharp plants. Other camp sites like lower meadow could use better landing that don't have steep banks.
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	1 - Extremely satisfied	Additional gravel Broken glass clean-up
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	7 - Slightly satisfied	Better erosion control Better signage
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	4 -	Boat launch
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	9 - Not at all satisfied	Boat launch needs fixing
Prospect Street Launch	8 -	Boat launch needs fixing + put in port-a-potty
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Boat launch needs repair
Prospect Street Launch	6 -	Boat launch needs repair
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	2 -	Boat launch needs repair
Putney Boat Landing	4 -	Boat launch needs repair
Putney Boat Landing	3 - Moderately satisfied	Boat launch needs repairs
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Boat launch repair
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	8 -	Boat launch too steep, rough + Need porter potty
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	8 -	Boat ramp needs a lot of repair. More parking
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	8 -	Boat ramp needs a lot of repair. More parking
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	8 -	Boat ramp needs a lot of repair. More parking
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	6 -	Boat ramp needs repair, beach needs cleaning, entry road needs repair.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	Boat ramp needs repair, log removal, more trash removal
Prospect Street Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	Boat ramp needs work
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	3 - Moderately satisfied	Broken glass and human and animal waste
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Broken glass, garbage, need more receptacles
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	4 -	Clean bathrooms

<b>Locations Vernon</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Clean up rocks and debris
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	2 -	Clear debris
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4 -	Clear lily pads ; stock more fish
Old Ferry Road Access	2 -	Clear the log jam just off-shore
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	5 - Neutral	Concrete boat launch needs work (repairs)
West River Marina	3 - Moderately satisfied	Docks put in earlier
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	2 -	Dogs on leash
West River Marina	1 - Extremely satisfied	Easy access down to the river and the docks.
West River Marina	1 - Extremely satisfied	Easy access to the river, I can park right next to the hand-launch and don't have to pull my kayak far. The docks are helpful as well.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	5 - Neutral	Fix boat landing, remove trash, open fish ladder
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Fix up boat launch
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Garbage and broken glass
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Garbage cans
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Garbage cans needed
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	9 - Not at all satisfied	Garbage left around site, underage drinking, fishing tackle left behind, diapers.
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	Good condition here there is a wide area to launch my kayaks and enough room to park even though here's nobody her but if there was many people here it might be difficult to find room to park.
Prospect Street Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	Good spot to launch boat never had any problems.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	Grading of road
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Happy with the condition
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	4 -	Hard to get in and out of, very steep, tough on vehicle.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	5 - Neutral	High water; trash thrown throughout

<b>Locations Vernon</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	I can launch the boat here no problem but I wish they could get all the ruts out of the road.
West River Marina	3 - Moderately satisfied	I don't have any problems with the condition and I think the ramp is well maintained.
Fort Hill Rail Trail	3 - Moderately satisfied	I enjoy this site because the trail is maintained well and you can access it with your vehicle and there are plenty of trash barrels so the site doesn't become littered as badly.
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	It would be nice to have a restroom facility.
Fort Hill Rail Trail	3 - Moderately satisfied	Keep brush trimmed
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Keep cleaner
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4 -	Keep cleaner, not allowing cars to drive on rail trail
Fort Hill Rail Trail	7 - Slightly satisfied	Litter
Old Ferry Road Access	3 - Moderately satisfied	Logs were blocking boat ramp, boat ramp needs repair, need waste disposal and porter potty
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	More clean-up / poison ivy removal
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4 -	More clean-up along the rail trail
Fort Hill Rail Trail	3 - Moderately satisfied	More garbage cans, increased fish and game warden presence.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	More garbage cans/barrels
Broad Brook Access	4 -	More parking
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	2 -	more porter potties (here, Putney landing, old ferry rd. boat launch)
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	2 -	More sand and picnic tables
West River Marina	3 - Moderately satisfied	More solid dock
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	4 -	More trash cans, better maintain
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	2 -	More trash disposal, access road, porter potty
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	More trash pick up
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4 -	More trash pick up
Fort Hill Rail Trail	5 - Neutral	More trash pick up
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	More trash pick up beach area clean up (bottles, fish hooks, etc)
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2 -	More variety of fish

<b>Locations Vernon</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Old Ferry Road Access	2 -	Needs a porter potty
Fort Hill Rail Trail	5 - Neutral	Needs post winter clean up
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	6 -	Needs to be dredged
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	Nice sandy beach with accessibility to drive on shoreline
Fisherman Access Area	6 -	Not very well maintained Garbage, hard to reach waters edge, brush needs clearing, stock the water with fish (salmon)
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Overall it is a good place to come and the condition is good they have trash barrels on site.
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	5 - Neutral	Parking area could be better, you have to park along the side of the road.
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2 -	Paving
Fort Hill Rail Trail	3 - Moderately satisfied	Picnic tables
Fisherman Access Area	2 -	Picnic tables ; porter potty
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	5 - Neutral	Picnic tables added to site
Old Ferry Road Access	4 -	Place to keep boat while you park your vehicle. Add a dock
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Porter potty at beach level; grills too
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Porter potty at beach level; grills too
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Porter potty at beach level; grills too
Fort Hill Rail Trail	4 -	Porter potty needed at site. More fish stocking
Putney Boat Landing	2 -	Porter potty, road improving via Dummerston, Garbage cans
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Put in trash barrels; repair boat launch; reopen fish ladder.
West River Marina	2 -	Put the docks in earlier
(Chesterfield) River Road Access	7 - Slightly satisfied	Re-pave boat launch
Prospect Street Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	Re-pave, re-culvert, pave further Into water. More game warden presence
Putney Boat Landing	5 - Neutral	Road needs improvement, better maintenance
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	4 -	Roadway in needs repair
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	4 -	Roadway in needs repair
Dummerston Landing (VTDFG)	2 -	Stock river with walleye, litter clean-up



<b>Locations Vernon</b>	<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the condition of the facilities that you used (check one)?</b>	<b>If you were not extremely satisfied, what changes or improvements would make you satisfied?</b>
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	The beach at this site could use some maintenance to remove all the overturned roots and any glass or objects that could be a problem for driving my vehicle on the beach.
West River Marina	1 - Extremely satisfied	The parking is good and the kayak launch is good.
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	There is a lot of trash and safety issues with my kids walking barefoot on beach because of glass
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	There's a bump at the bottom end of the boat launch that needs removal
Fort Hill Rail Trail	1 - Extremely satisfied	They could clean out the river.
Prospect Street Launch	5 - Neutral	They could more trash barrels (secure)
West River Marina	9 - Not at all satisfied	This dock is dangerous and liable. There is no proper padding and the docks are two voles together you can get trapped in between and there are no cleats to tie off.
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	7 - Slightly satisfied	This site has a steep launching area and there's a rock in the middle of the launch but we didn't have any real problem launching our kayaks.
Prospect Street Launch	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site has barrels for trash along the rail-trail and is well kept.
Putney Boat Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is always in good condition and watched. The surveillance sign keeps vandalism away. Public use is good on picking up their trash and staying out of the rowers.
Putney Boat Landing	1 - Extremely satisfied	This site is clean
Old Ferry Road Access	5 - Neutral	To muddy
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Trash
Fisherman Access Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	Trash barrels
Fisherman Access Area	3 - Moderately satisfied	Trash cans
Fort Hill Rail Trail	2 -	trash cans
Fort Hill Rail Trail	3 - Moderately satisfied	Trash pick up
Vernon (Governor Hunt) Recreation Area & Boat Launch	6 -	upgraded
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	We pick up trash but overall the condition is good there are trash barrels here.
Prospect Street Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	We really like this site, the rail trail access is great!
Retreat Meadows Boat Launch	3 - Moderately satisfied	Weeds in water and rocks in the boat launch
Old Ferry Road Access	3 - Moderately satisfied	When you launch your boat it drops off and become hard to launch. People get stuck pulling their boats put. The site could also use a porter potty.



## Appendix C Spot Count Data Collection

Date &amp; Time\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Location\_\_\_\_\_

Temperature\_\_\_\_\_

Weather: Sunny/Humid/Partly Cloudy/Cloudy/Fog/Drizzle/Rain

How many people are:

Picnicking		Bank/dock Fishing	
Visiting Beach (swim/sunbathing)		Hiking	
Using Playground		Viewing Wildlife	
Sightseeing		Hunting	
Walking			
Other:			

Vehicle Information:

License Plate (State)	Number
VT	
NH	
MA	
ME	
NY	
Other:	

How many campsites are occupied?\_\_\_\_\_

No. of interview requests denied\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Launches Observed:

Motorboat	
Sailboat	
Kayak	
Jet Ski	
Canoe	
Raft	
Scull	
Other:	

Number of drive-throughs (people who didn't get out of  
vehicle at access area)\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Parking Area	Vehicles w/out Trailers	Vehicles w/Boat Trailers	Vehicles w/Jet ski trailers	Vehicles w/car-top gear	Empty Trailers (no vehicle)	Number of vehicles double parked and/or not in designated space(s)	Total parking spaces filled
1							
2							
3							
4							

Wilder Recreation Facility	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014	Jun 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Total
Newbury-Haverhill Bridge access	1	1	9	9	11	9	9	6	1	1	1	1	59
Bedell Bridge State Park	1	-	10	9	12	9	9	6	1	1	1	1	60
Bugbee Landing access point	1	-	9	9	10	9	8	5	1	1	1	1	55
Orford boat landing	1	1	9	9	12	9	9	5	1	1	1	1	59
North Thetford Landing	1	1	9	9	10	9	9	5	1	1	1	1	57
Hewes Brook car-top boat launch	1	-	9	10	11	7	10	3	1	1	1	1	55
Ompompanoosuc launch	1	-	9	9	10	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	57
Wilson's (Fullington) Landing	1	1	9	9	12	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	60
Ledyard Canoe Club	1	-	9	9	10	9	9	5	1	1	1	1	56
Norwich Landing	1	-	9	9	10	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	57
East Wilder boat launch	1	-	11	10	10	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	60
Hartford (Wilder) picnic area at Kilowatt Park	1	-	12	9	12	10	9	4	1	1	1	1	61
Wilder dam (Olcott Falls) boat launch	1	1	11	9	12	10	11	4	1	1	1	1	63
Wilder Dam Fishladder and angler parking	1	-	5	4	4	10	9	4	1	1	1	1	41
Lebanon (Wilder dam) picnic area vista and hiking trails	1	1	11	10	10	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	61
Wilder dam portage and downstream natural areas	1	1	11	10	10	10	9	5	1	1	1	1	61
Lyman Point Park Launch	-	-	8	10	10	14	12	5	1	1	1	1	63
Two Rivers Park and Lebanon public boat launch	-	-	8	8	10	14	12	5	1	-	1	1	60
Bloods Brook launch (aka Tru's Brook Landing)	-	-	8	9	9	14	12	5	1	1	1	1	61
Ottaquechee boat launch	-	-	8	7	10	14	12	5	1	1	1	1	60
Sumner Falls (Hartland Rapid)	-	-	9	8	10	15	12	5	-	-	-	-	59

<b>Wilder Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014</b>	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>Jun 2014</b>	<b>July 2014</b>	<b>Aug 2014</b>	<b>Sep 2014</b>	<b>Oct 2014</b>	<b>Nov 2014</b>	<b>Dec 2014</b>	<b>Jan 2015</b>	<b>Feb 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cornish boat landing	-	-	8	9	12	16	14	5	1	1	1	1	68
Totals	16	7	201	194	227	238	220	107	21	20	21	21	1,293

<b>Bellows Falls Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014</b>	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>Jun 2014</b>	<b>July 2014</b>	<b>Aug 2014</b>	<b>Sep 2014</b>	<b>Oct 2014</b>	<b>Nov 2014</b>	<b>Dec 2014</b>	<b>Jan 2015</b>	<b>Feb 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wilgus State Park	1	-	8	7	10	5	6	3	1	1	1	1	44
Ashley Ferry boat landing	1	-	12	9	10	8	9	4	1	1	1	1	57
Hoyts Landing	1	-	11	9	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	59
Patch Park	1	-	10	9	11	8	9	5	1	1	1	1	57
Charlestown boat launch and picnic area	1	-	11	9	11	8	9	5	1	1	1	1	58
Herrick's Cove boat launch and picnic area	1	1	11	9	11	8	9	5	1	1	1	1	59
Pine Street boat launch and portage trail take-out	1	-	11	9	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	59
Bellows Falls Historic Parkway and Trail System	1	-	11	8	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	58
Bellows Falls dam portage Put-in	1	-	11	8	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	60
Connecticut River car-top access (Westminster Bridge/Cold River hand-launch site)	1	-	8	9	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	56
Connecticut River Car Top Access NHFG	1	1	11	9	11	8	10	5	1	1	1	1	60
Totals	11	3	115	96	119	85	102	52	11	11	11	11	627



Vernon Recreation Facility	Mar 2014	May 2014	Jun 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Total
Putney boat landing	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Dummerston landing	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
(Chesterfield) River Road access	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
Old Ferry Road access	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Retreat Meadows boat launch	1	13	8	10	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
West River Marina	1	13	8	8	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	55
Norm's Marina	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Hinsdale access	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Fisherman access area	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
Broad Brook access	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
Fort-Hill Rail Trail	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
Prospect Street launch	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Vernon canoe portage	1	13	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	56
Vernon Glen	1	13	8	8	8	8	4	1	1	1	1	54
Governor Hunt Recreation Area and boat launch	1	14	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1	1	57
Totals	15	201	120	134	134	120	60	15	15	15	15	844

## Appendix D: Regional Residents Mail Survey

### Potential Visitor Questionnaire (mail/internet survey)

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*TransCanada is interested in learning the opinions of potential recreation visitors to the Connecticut River around Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon reservoirs and the areas immediately downstream of them. TransCanada is conducting on-site interviews at public recreation areas; however these visits may not capture all the potential users visiting these sections of the river. To the best of your ability, please respond to the questions below. This information will be used as an aid in understanding more about land and water based recreation in the area. The survey will take about 10 minutes and your responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your time and input.*

---

1. Home zip code \_\_\_\_\_

2. During the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014) did you or members of your household participate in outdoor recreation activities at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream? *CHECK ONE*

a     Yes ☐ *SKIP TO SECTION 1*

b     No ☐

3. Why did you or members of your household **not** participate in recreation activities at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream? *FILL IN THE BLANK*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ *SKIP TO SECTION 2*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 1

### Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream

*This section contains questions about how you or members of your household typically used Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream for recreation during the past year, from Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014. If you don't recall an answer exactly, please give us your best estimate.*

4. What was the primary motivation for choosing to recreate in these reservoirs or immediately downstream during the past year?

5. What was the **PRIMARY** outdoor recreation activity that you or members of your household participated in at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream during the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014)? **PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE BOX FROM THE LIST BELOW.**

Motor Boating (not fishing)	Fishing from shore
Fishing from boat/ice fishing	Wildlife Viewing/birding
Water skiing/tubing	Sightseeing/Driving for pleasure
Jet Skiing/PWC	Picnicking/Family Gathering
Canoe/Kayak – flat water	Hunting
Canoe/Kayak - whitewater	Tent/Vehicle Camping
Multi Day Float Trip	Bicycling/Mt. Biking
	Walking/Hiking
Sculling	Swimming/Sunbathing from shore
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat	Snowmobiling
Tubing	Cross country skiing/snow shoeing
	Other:

6. Typically, what was the primary season in which you or members of your household participated in outdoor recreation activities the most at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream during the past year?

**CHECK ONE FOR EACH OF THE THREE PROJECT VICINITIES YOU HAVE VISITED**

Wilder	Bellows Falls	Vernon
Winter (Dec-Mar)	Winter (Dec-Mar)	Winter (Dec-Mar)
Spring (Apr-May)	Spring (Apr-May)	Spring (Apr-May)
Summer (Jun-Sept)	Summer (Jun-Sept)	Summer (Jun-Sept)
Fall (Oct-Nov)	Fall (Oct-Nov)	Fall (Oct-Nov)

7. Typically, what was the average number of people in the group that participated in outdoor recreation activities at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream with you or members of your household during the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014)? *FILL IN THE BLANK*

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 16 years)

8. Select **ALL** outdoor activities, for each season, that you or members of your household participated in at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream during the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014)?

*CHECK ALL APPLICABLE BOXES FOR THE LISTS BELOW*

ACTIVITY	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)	Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)	Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor Boating (not fishing)				
Fishing from boat/ ice fishing				
Water skiing/tubing				
Jet Skiing/PWC				
Canoe/Kayak – flat water				
Canoe/Kayak - whitewater				
Multi Day Float Trip				
Sailing				
Sculling				
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat				
Tubing				
snowmobiling				
cross country skiing/snow shoeing				
<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore				
Wildlife Viewing/birding				
Sightseeing/Driving for pleasure				
Picnicking/Family Gathering				
Hunting				
Tent/Vehicle Camping				
Bicycling/Mt. Biking				
Walking/Hiking				
Swimming/Sunbathing from shore				

Other:				

9. Is the number of access points at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream adequate to meet your needs?

*CHECK ONE FOR EACH RESERVOIR*

Wilder	Yes	No
Bellows Falls	Yes	No
Vernon	Yes	No

10. Is the location of access points at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream adequate to meet your needs?

*CHECK ONE FOR EACH RESERVOIR*

Wilder	Yes	No
Bellows Falls	Yes	No
Vernon	Yes	No

11. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the number of Public Recreation Areas at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream that you or members of your household used over the past year.

*CHECK ONE NUMBER FOR EACH RESERVOIR*

Wilder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied	Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied	

Bellows Falls

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied	Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied	

Vernon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied	Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied	



12. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the type of Public Recreation Areas at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream that you or members of your household, used over the past year.

*CHECK ONE NUMBER FOR EACH RESERVOIR*

Wilder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

Bellows Falls

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

Vernon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

13. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the location of Public Recreation Areas at Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream you or members of your household used over the past year.

*CHECK ONE NUMBER FOR EACH RESERVOIR*

Wilder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

Bellows Falls

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

Vernon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely satisfied		Moderately satisfied		Neutral		Slightly satisfied		Not at all satisfied

14. Please tell us what types of recreation facilities you think are needed and at what specific location(s)? *FILL IN THE BLANKS*

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

15. Have fluctuating water levels either at Wilder, Bellows Falls or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream ever affected your recreation experience?

YES *CONTINUE*

NO *SKIP TO SECTION 2*

16. What type of fluctuation affected your experience? (check one)

Rising

Lowering

Both

17. Briefly explain how the fluctuation you are thinking of positively or negatively affected your recreation experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. In general, would you prefer fluctuations that were: higher, lower, or about the same (check one)?

a. much lower fluctuations

b. slightly lower fluctuations

c. about the same; current situation is appropriate for my uses

- d. slightly higher fluctuations
- e. much higher fluctuations

19. Prior to visiting the Connecticut River do you check public flow information (e.g., USGS website, American Whitewater website, or other sources) or the TransCanada flow phone?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Didn't know it existed

---

## SECTION 2 Recreation Use Outside of Connecticut River Hydro Projects a.k.a ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS

*This section contains questions about how you or members of your household typically recreated at **ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS** NOT at Wilder, Bellows Falls or Vernon Reservoirs or immediately downstream during the past year, from Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014. If you don't recall an answer exactly, please give us your best estimate.*

20. Did you or members of your household visit **ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS** within a day's drive from the Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream to recreate during the past year?

*CHECK ONE*

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    b. \_\_\_\_\_ No *SKIP TO SECTION 3*

21. Please list **ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS** within a day's drive from the Wilder, Bellows Falls, or Vernon reservoirs or immediately downstream where you or members of your household traveled to recreate during the past year? *FILL IN THE BLANKS*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

22. What was the average number of people in the group that participated in recreation activities during the past year at ***ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS*** (***NOT WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, OR VERNON RESERVOIRS OR IMMEDIATELY DOWNSTREAM***)?

*FILL IN THE BLANK*

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 18 years)

23. During which season(s) did you or members of your household recreate the most at ***ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS*** (***NOT WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, OR VERNON RESERVOIRS OR IMMEDIATELY DOWNSTREAM***) during the past year?

*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Winter (Dec-Mar)      b. \_\_\_\_\_ Spring (Apr-May)  
c. \_\_\_\_\_ Summer (Jun-Sept)      d. \_\_\_\_\_ Fall (Oct-Nov)

24. What outdoor activities did you or members of your household participate in at ***ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS*** (***NOT at WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, OR VERNON RESERVOIRS OR IMMEDIATELY DOWNSTREAM***) during the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014)?

PLEASE CHECK **ALL** APPLICABLE BOXES FOR THE LISTS BELOW.

ACTIVITY	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)	Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)	Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)
<b>ON THE WATER</b>				
Motor Boating (not fishing)				
Fishing from boat/ice fishing				
Water skiing/tubing				
Jet Skiing/PWC				
Canoe/Kayak – flat water				
Canoe/Kayak - whitewater				
Multi Day Float Trip				
Sailing				
Sculling				
Swimming/sunbathing from a boat				
Tubing				
snowmobiling				
cross country skiing/snow shoeing				

<b>ON SHORE</b>				
Fishing from shore				
Wildlife Viewing/birding				
Sightseeing/Driving for pleasure				
Picnicking/Family Gathering				
Hunting				
Tent/Vehicle Camping				
Bicycling/Mt. Biking				
Walking/Hiking				
Swimming/Sunbathing from shore				
Other:				

25. How many calendar days during the past year (Labor Day 2013 through Labor Day 2014) did you or members of your household participate in outdoor recreation activities at ***ALTERNATIVE RECREATION AREAS*** (NOT at WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, OR VERNON RESERVOIRS OR IMMEDIATELY DOWNSTREAM)?

NUMBER OF CALENDAR DAYS \_\_\_\_\_ (Estimate if needed)

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### SECTION 3 – ALL RESPONDENTS

*This section contains questions about your background that will help us compare your responses to those of other people. All of your answers are strictly confidential.*

26. Are you a member of any of the following organizations? ***CHECK ALL THAT APPLY***

- 1 Adjacent landowner
- 2 Appalachian Mountain Club
- 3 Ledyard Canoe Club
- 4 American Whitewater
- 5 New England FLOW
- 6 The Nature Conservancy
- 7 Trout Unlimited
- 8 Ducks Unlimited
- 9 Vermont Rivers Conservancy
- 10 Connecticut River Joint Commissions
- 11 Connecticut River Watershed Council
- 12 Upper Valley Trails Alliance



- 13 Upper Valley Land Trust  
 14 Audubon Society  
 15 Bass Fishing Club  
 16 Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 X No, I am not a member of any of the above categories or organizations

27. Please select your gender, age and race.

a. Male

b. Female

Age	Race
18 – 24	White
25 - 34	African American
35 – 44	Hispanic or Latino
45 – 54	Asian
55 – 59	American Indian or Alaskan
60 – 64	Native Hawaiian and Pacific
65 – 74	Other:
75 – 84	Decline to answer
85 and over	
Decline to answer	

## Responses

### Q1. Zip Codes

- 102 Different Zip codes returned

### Q2. Did you participate in recreation activities at project reservoirs or downstream?

- Section 6.1 and Table 6.1-2 summarizes this information

### Q3. Primary motivation for choosing the projects or downstream (open ended responses)?

- 75 responses
- Top reasons were fishing, canoe/kayaking, motor boating, wildlife viewing, and hiking

### Q4. Primary recreation activity (check one)?

- Table 6.1-3 summarizes these responses

### Q5. Primary season?

- Table 6.1-4 summarizes these responses

### Q6. Average number of people?

- Table 6.1-2 summarizes these responses

### Q7. All outdoor activities?

- Figure 6.1-1 summarizes these responses

### Q8. Satisfaction with the number of recreational areas?

Location	Average <sup>a</sup>	Min	Max	StdDev	Responses
Wilder Reservoir	6.6	1	9	1.70	52
Wilder Downstream	6.36	1	9	2.00	44
Bellows Falls Reservoir	6.4	1	9	1.97	43
Bellows Falls Downstream	5.69	1	9	2.22	36
Vernon Reservoir	5.81	1	9	2.04	36
Vernon	5.68	1	9	2.49	31

Location	Average <sup>a</sup>	Min	Max	StdDev	Responses
Downstream					

<sup>a</sup> 1=extremely satisfied, 9=not at all satisfied

**Q9. Satisfaction with the type of recreational areas?**

Location	Average <sup>a</sup>	Min	Max	StdDev	Responses
Wilder Reservoir	6.57	2	9	1.71	51
Wilder Downstream	6.11	1	9	1.99	44
Bellows Falls Reservoir	6.47	2	9	2.01	47
Bellows Falls Downstream	5.76	1	9	2.11	37
Vernon Reservoir	5.89	1	9	1.89	38
Vernon Downstream	5.94	1	9	2.16	33

<sup>a</sup> 1=extremely satisfied, 9=not at all satisfied

**Q10. Satisfaction with the location of recreational areas?**

Location	Average <sup>a</sup>	Min	Max	StdDev	Responses
Wilder Reservoir	6.48	2	9	1.79	46
Wilder Downstream	6.23	1	9	1.94	40
Bellows Falls Reservoir	6.55	3	9	2.01	47
Bellows Falls Downstream	5.79	1	9	2.08	34
Vernon Reservoir	6.11	2	9	1.81	37
Vernon Downstream	6.00	2	9	1.98	32

<sup>a</sup> 1=extremely satisfied, 9=not at all satisfied

**Q11. What types of recreation facilities and at what specific locations?**

- Table 6.2-5 summarizes these responses

**Q12. Have fluctuating water levels affected your recreation experience****Q13. What type of fluctuation?****Q14. Explain how?****Q15. Would you prefer.....?****Q16. Do you check public flow information....?**

- Section 6.3 summarizes these responses

**Q17. Why not participate in recreation at Projects (open ended question)?**

- 216 responses

Too far	3
Too far away	3
No Interest	3
Too far from home	2
We live to far away	2
Fishing	2
No interest	2
There are other area closer	1
not familiar with fishing spots	1
We do not live near any of these areas.	1
Better cleaner places to fish. Hangout with family.	1
own property on Mascoma Lake	1
Better fishing elsewhere	1
unfamiliar with the area, plus I have no family.	1
Better fishing, cleaner water.	1
We usually visit more local lakes and rivers for fishing, canoeing, and swimming.	1
Chose to recreate at flat water locations	1
nothing going on to attract my attention. I have no recreational equipment to take advantage.	1
Closer proximity to Household	1
Recreating elsewhere	1
Companions home is adjacent to Whites Cove area	1

VT and old toll bridge NH in Charlestown, NH. VT side of river recreation area is very nice for picnics and relaxing.	
Too far downstream	1
Crowds on weekends + parking	1
We are retired in our late sixties	1
Did not participate at recreation areas except for Echo Lake State Park and locally at Remich park. Not much time for recreation.	1
We have plenty other water sources nearby	1
Did not use Wilder, BF or Vernon area.	1
2 have used bellows falls and Vernon for fishing and canoeing but not in the past year, we are 87 years old.	1
Didn't go down that far.	1
not interested in doing that	1
Didn't have a reason to do so	1
Other, nicer options	1
Didn't hear about them	1
Pretty much stay in Sunapee area. Or visit family in Burlington.	1
Didn't know where Wilder or Vernon areas are.	1
Springfield access (boat launch)	1
Didn't participate in any recreation activities along the Connecticut River.	1

Afraid of water - too far away	1
Didn't use the area for recreation. We use our own small pond.	1
Too old	1
Distance	1
Wanted a longer experience	1
do not boat or fish	1
We didn't.	1
Do other activities	1
We go to Dodge Falls + More	1
doing other recreation	1
Because we camp all summer	1
Don't fish anymore	1
Went to families home on Merry Meeting Lake to swim, fish, and boat.	1
Don't have a boat	1
Not enough time	1
Don't know	1
Not familiar with those areas	1
Don't know about these areas.	1
Not water people	1
don't live nearby	1
other activity choices	1
Don't own kayaks/canoes/boats, easier places to swim or picnic	1

Our plans did not include the dam areas	1
During the high spring runoff, we avoid the Connecticut River and paddle In ponds and lakes.	1
Poor water quality, objects in the water (tires, sharp objects, etc.) - probably mostly due to hurricane Irene - (floods) and worry about pollution (sewage outfalls, etc.).	1
Ease of access	1
Proximity to our home	1
Ebola	1
sold our boat last year	1
Far away	1
The place (Vernon) was a mess after the spring run-off : log, trash etc. There is no boat ramp to speak of (down river) there is no ramp except NH	1
As a family, we don't go camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, XC ski or snowmobile so there would be little reason for us to use these recreational areas.	1
Time constraints	1
fishing and picnicking	1
Too far away + not aware of anything going on at these sites	1
fishing trips to Groton State Park	1
Too far to go often	1
Generally too far from Burke, VT. Have done so in past many years ago.	1
Travel distance from Lisbon, NH is approx. 60-120 min. south - to far to travel.	1
Go elsewhere	1
Usually don't do much recreational activities. I have arthritis.	1
Health reasons	1
Water too variable, not enough public access.	1
Hectic work schedule	1
We did participate in activities	1
High water = no boating or swimming	1
We do not live close by	1
Hikes cant always be in the	1

same area.	
we don't live close enough	1
Hunting is better on Great Bay at times, better boat ramps	1
We have a seasonal home on Eastman Lake in NH	1
I always wondered why the Connecticut River area was not better utilized. tremendous potential for economic development and yet poor access to or non exist for recreation along the river	1
We limit most of our activities to below the Wilder Dam with occasional boating above the Dam. There are countless other things to do in the Upper Valley, just for variety's sake.	1
I am 68 years old, live by myself in a senior housing unit and do not have a vehicle.	1
We use the area at Littleton Dam	1
I am 83, live alone 70 miles north of Wilder.	1
We were away for much of the summer, it never occurred to me to go to these places for vacation.	1
I am 89 years old, I can't drive! No family members near.	1
Wilder is 70 miles south of us Bellows Falls and Vernon are further south.	1
I did not participate in these recreation activities	1
not convenient for our location	1
I did, other members of my family stayed inside.	1
not familiar with and to far from home.	1
I didn't do any recreation along the Connecticut River. I have been going to Maine for my recreation.	1
Not familiar with these areas	1
I didn't know about them	1
Not interested	1
I do not live in the Wilder area.	1
Not outdoor people	1
I don't do any recreation activities you are asking about and the area this is asking is 100 miles away.	1

Not water people.	1
I don't do outdoor recreation beyond my yard	1
observing only	1
I don't even know where they are	1
Other opportunities. Varied Scenery.	1
I don't fish anymore, I don't own a boat, I don't swim.	1
Our Connecticut River participation is the Pittsburg, NH - Littleton Moore Dam impoundment sections.	1
I don't have a vehicle to get there	1
Out of our area	1
I don't know much about these areas.	1
Physical Disabilities of spouse	1
I don't own a canoe. I mostly go hiking on mountains.	1
Prefer other recreation	1
I fell on the ice in 2008	1
Probably live 30 minutes away on a lake in NH, simply have not had a chance to get over there though I would like too.	1
I live on the Connecticut River just north of the McIndoe Falls Dam and spend most of my time on the water north of the Dam	1
recreate nearer home	1
I live upstrem	1
Relatives moved from Essex jnt. VT to Kentucky	1
I only used rec areas I could fish from	1
Some places are closer to our home	1
I reside in the White Mountain area of NH. I have / we have done a lot of Hikes - walks - bicycling on some of this area. Moore Dam area Littleton is where I / we canoe a little. I ski Cannon Mt. NH + Loon Mt. NH.	1
Taking care of a sick mother	1
I stay locally in and around Keene. I used to camp, fish, hike, but I'm to old now to do that. I take short walks instead now.	1
The White River is my back yard, we use it	1



I was completely unaware of these places as recreation areas.	1
There are other waterways closer to our home	1
I was out of the country. My wife was working full-time.	1
To far to travel too	1
Inaccessible	1
Age: home bound	1
Infirm	1
Too far away, don't know the area.	1
Injury/ no kayaking temporarily. Also we recreate further north (upstream) on the Connecticut River.	1
Because we usually go to Moore Dam in NH to camp and fish	1
just did not	1
Too far to travel, I use Comerford and Moore	1
just moved into area	1
Too old to lift a canoe	1
Just not a location that I have used in more than 15 years.	1
traveled to other states	1
Kayak put-ins (access areas) not close enough.	1
Use Sumner Falls probably 30 times per year	1
Kayaking upstream on the Connecticut River	1
Variety is a good thing.	1
Like other areas better	1
Water conditions and weather conditions	1
Like to experience other areas lakes, ponds to kayak. Have ages from 72-7, 7 year ride with mom	1
We are not "energetically outdoorsy!" but we do walk every day. So our level of participation at your reservoirs is the same as it is everywhere for us.	1

Limited places to put in Kayak/canoes in the river.	1
We camp in Strafford Hollow NH	1
Limited recreational opportunities	1
We didn't	1
Moore Dam is just minutes away	1
We do not have much interest in recreation activities.	1
70 years old, do not recreate anywhere else.	1
We do not live close enough.	1
New to the area and unfamiliar with these recreation places	1
We don't have time for recreational activities.	1
No Boat	1
We focus on North Connecticut River (Pittsburg, NH)	1
No boat didn't fish	1
We have a house on Perrins pond in Sunapee, NH and have a home on cape cod where we spend most of the summer and whenever we can	1
No good / safe / clean swimming / wading access along the river in the Wilder / Lebanon area.	1
We have closer recreation areas.	1
We live (May-October) on Lake Mascoma	1
We just don't go there	1
We live in a top scenic recreation area on the Gale River	1
Because you never actually know for sure what the water levels will be. I've called TransCanada flow phone and found conditions opposite what was forecasted.	1
We live in Littleton, NH therefore Moore Reservoir is 7 miles away and we got all the fishing and canoe work we	1

like at 80 years old	
We never think of going to the Connecticut River for recreation. We usually stay closer to home.	1
We live in the Pemigewasset River basin and use the Pemi river extensively	1
We only use the Wilder because we are seasonal campers upstream	1
All our recreation is done on our own farm.	1
We seldom participate in water related activities on the Connecticut River.	1
We prefer to stay closer to home	1
No interest, partially age related.	1
We use a smaller boat on Spofford Lake. It is only ten minutes from our house to the boat launch. It takes 35 minutes to get to our boat on the Connecticut River.	1
No need to - do not fish and don't own a boat.	1
we use the Connecticut River above Ledyard bridge and Thetford	1
No need, no interest, other interests	1
We wanted to but didn't get a chance.	1
No opportunity	1
We work, we have a swimming pool in the back yard and don't drive as much as we used to.	1
No passports	1
Were not aware of them	1
No reason just didn't recreate. My sister owns property on Connecticut River in NH so any recreation we do is just there.	1
Young fairly not safe around water	1
no time	1
Not close to where we live	1

#### Q18. Alternate recreation areas Yes/no?

- Table 6.1-5 summarizes these responses

#### Q19. Alternate recreation areas locations?

- Table 6.1-6 summarizes these responses

**Q20. Avg group size not at project waters?**

- Table 6.1-2 summarizes these responses

**Q21. Seasons for non-project waters recreation?**

**Q22. What outdoor activities did you participate in not at project waters?**

- Figure 6.1-1 summarizes these responses

**Q23. How many calendar days did you recreate at non-project waters?**

- Table 6.1-2 summarizes these responses

**Q24. Are you a member of any of the following clubs?**

- Table 6.1-1 summarizes these responses

**Q25. Gender, age, race?**

- Section 6 summarizes these responses