

Stevens Branch Dam Removal RFP Questions & Answers

1. Do you have more information that goes along with the RFP?
 - a. The City has prepared a map package. It is quite large; we are working to provide access, and a link will be made available as soon as possible.
 - b. Photos are available on the FWR web site:
<https://winooskiriver.org/winooskiriver.org/stevens-branch-dam-removal>
2. Do you have a project budget?
 - a. Friends of the Winooski River has approximately \$28,000 in hand from Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife to investigate the Trow & Holden dam, and an additional \$60,000 from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for the two City-owned dams has been awarded.
 - b. Fundraising for final design is tied to the specific benefits of removal identified in this preliminary phase.
3. Have you talked with Trow & Holden?
 - a. Yes. They are open to the study, and offered to provide access to the river from the back of their building.
4. Are there utility lines that we should be aware of?
 - a. There is a 15" wastewater main running along river left near the Habbep dam. Upstream of the Trow & Holden dam, about 300 feet below the confluence with the Jail Branch, there is a 110-year-old 12" wastewater line running across the channel at a 45 degree angle, currently exposed. The City is aware that that pipe should be set at least two feet below the scour line and armored, and they will need to address it either as part of this work, or sooner.
5. What are the City's plans for the property adjacent to the Jockey Hollow dam?
 - a. The informal parking area where we met for the site visit (<https://goo.gl/maps/u26FCWNzfgvi2un98>) is needed as a snow dump. Work needs to be done to treat melt water on the site (not as part of this project, but perhaps complementary to it).
 - b. There is informal recreational swimming and fishing in the area. Creating thoughtful, formal public access to the river from the nearby City

recreation complex will be part of this project, if dam removal goes forward.

6. If sediment testing shows the material is not hazardous, can it be released to flow downstream?
 - a. The sediments appear to be primarily fine, so this idea could be considered, but any such proposal will be reviewed closely on a case-by-case basis.
7. Has a sediment disposal site been identified?
 - a. The City owns a 4-acre site that could accommodate additional material of approximately 6-8 feet depth across the site. The site is needed for snow disposal, so cannot be mounded.
8. What was the historical purpose of the dams?
 - a. The Jockey Hollow and Habbep dams were constructed and operated by private water supply companies, to divert water for domestic consumption. They were purchased by the City, and have not operated in many decades.
 - b. The Trow & Holden dam provided electricity to a mill at the site.
9. Will Section 106 Historic Preservation work be required?
 - a. That will depend on the removal benefit(s) identified, and ultimate funding sources used for subsequent phases of the project, but it is quite likely to be required.
10. Can we shape the bedrock to create fish passage?
 - a. No
11. Is the Habbep dam built on top of bedrock?
 - a. Unknown
12. How much sediment is stored behind the Trow & Holden dam?
 - a. Unknown: the answer to this question is a deliverable of this phase of the project
13. Are there areas where the City experiences frequent flooding associated with the Stevens or Jail Branches?

- a. At the north end of Barre, near West Second Street, there is a low area that fills with water, and can restrict access to the public safety facilities. The Stevens Branch also can come into the Route 62 intersection.