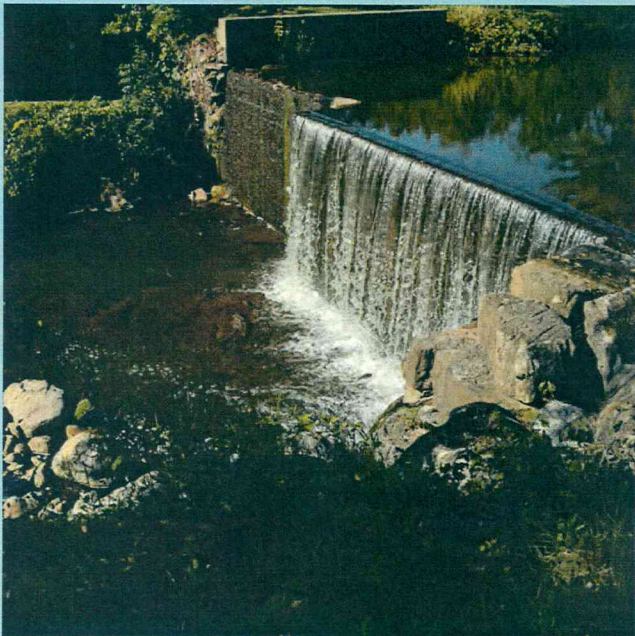


# The Paran Creek Watershed Project

The mission of the Paran Creek Watershed Project is a development project intended to support the Village's long term stewardship of renewable water resources, clean contaminants to improve the aquatic and riverine habitat, establish North Bennington as a model for energy independence and form a sustainable, long-term watershed management plan by revitalizing existing infrastructure. In earlier years, one had to obtain a Privilege in order to access public waterways. That term has since been changed to License which has changed perception and devalued our stewardship to our most precious resource. It is the purpose of the Paran Creek Watershed Project to create a feasibility study as the first step towards achieving this mission. The results of the redevelopment of either of the proposed sites will produce clean energy, reduce costs, and limit the carbon footprint.

## Our Sites



The Firehouse Dam



The Lake Paran Dam

Contact us  
[capa@bennington.edu](mailto:capa@bennington.edu)

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q. What are the benefits of hydropower?

A. Hydropower is fueled by water, so it's a clean fuel source, meaning it won't pollute the air like power plants that burn fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. Hydroelectric power is a domestic source of energy, allowing each state to produce their own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources. The energy generated through hydropower relies on the water cycle, which is driven by the sun, making it a renewable power source, and making it a more reliable and affordable source than fossil fuels that are rapidly being depleted. In addition to a sustainable fuel source, hydropower efforts produce a number of benefits, such as flood control, irrigation, and water supply. ~US Department of Energy

### Q. How much power will each hydropower plant generate?

A. At minimum capacity together the plants will produce enough energy to power about 50 homes. At maximum capacity the plants will produce enough energy to power about 100 homes. These calculations are based on the energy usage of the average American home.

### Q. Who is working on this project?

A. The Paran Creek Watershed Project was developed by Bill Scully and Susan Sgorbati at Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action, in collaboration with the students in the college course: "The Village Privileges of North Bennington." Bill Scully is a leading Vermont expert on hydropower, as well as an entrepreneur, innovator, and owner and developer of several hydroelectric redevelopments. Susan Sgorbati is the director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action.

### Q. How much will it cost to develop each hydropower plant, and who will pay for their development?

A. The project will be self funded and NOT paid for by taxes from North Bennington!

### Q. Will the Lake Paran plant negatively impact the lake and lake recreation?

A. The project will not impact Lake Paran as a swimming and recreation site.

### Q. How will each hydropower plant impact the North Bennington environment and wildlife habitat?

A. Both hydropower plants will be obliged to comply with the federal Clean Water Act of 1972, and therefore will not negatively impact the environment and wildlife habitat, but will improve it.

### Q: Will the proposed plants impact fish populations?

A. We are approaching the issue of improving and expanding fish habitat as a fundamental design challenge and a project goal. The design team involved already has a record of measurably improving fish habitat with their hydropower projects. By taking into account both our moral and legal responsibilities to wildlife, and investigating physical methods beyond the industry standard, we expect to collaborate with stakeholders in developing a plan that will ultimately improve the state of local fish stocks.

### Q. How long will this take?

A. The long-term development timeline is uncertain, but should the Village elect to proceed, the licensing process is likely to take 3-5 years, after which the physical plant will take a few more years to construct.