

# Hardwick Flood Resiliency Projects – 2023 and 2024

Inn by the River location – the parcel was purchased by the Town of Hardwick in the spring of 2023. The remaining structure was demolished and removed prior to the July 2024 flooding. In July 2024, Hays Service Station/Jiffy Mart and the Town of Hardwick lost 100 feet of property, three vehicles were swept downstream, and three in-ground fuel tanks were precariously close to the Lamoille River. The continued erosion at this location is a threat to both the Hays Service Station but also the Hardwick downtown and the correlating Routes 14/15/16. Temporary Bank Stabilization was done in July 2024 by the State of Vermont at the request of the Town. A Hazard Mitigation grant is in process for bank stabilization and floodplain restoration. RIVER program is working on the preliminary engineering.



A study of a comprehensive approach to the riverbanks in the center of town from above the North Main Street Bridge to the Cottage Street Bridge is being reviewed by RIVER. NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program will be funding the stabilization of Brush Street and Buffalo Mountain Coop and the Hays Service/Town of Hardwick area. 65 Brush Street lost a corner of the building in the aftermath of Debby on August 10, 2024. The 41 Brush Street property (FEMA buyout in process) is also threatening to collapse. The retaining wall near the pedestrian bridge has received funding from FEMA to be replaced and repaired.

The Town-owned property below the Cottage Street Bridge has been identified as a location for a floodplain restoration/flood mitigation project. The Lamoille River is one component of the flooding issue. Flood Benches and floodplain restoration etc. on the property below the intersection of Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River may alleviate some of the pressure at that junction. This project was identified in several Lamoille River studies. RIVER grant through NVDA is being utilized for a Benefit Cost Analysis and early engineering.



Wastewater Treatment Facility Plant– Substantially damaged by flooding in July 2023 and July 2024. The facility and its components will need to be elevated and/or removed from the floodplain. The Feasibility Study, Benefit Cost Analysis and Alternatives study are done and have been forwarded to FEMA for funding discussions. Area could be used for future flood storage if the structures are removed from the site.

Fire Station – Substantially damaged by flooding in July 2023 and July 2024. The facility will need to be elevated and/or removed from the floodplain. Standard Operating Procedure is now to remove fire equipment and trucks in weather events. MTAP grant through NVDA was obtained to complete a scoping study and feasibility study for removing the Station from the floodplain. Vermont Integrated Architects have been retained to complete the work by spring of 2025. Area could be used for future floodplain restoration after removal.

Storm water/flood mitigation assistance in the Granite Street Historic District – possible Municipal Planning Grant 2025. At the intersection of Cooper and Lamoille – this section is more likely to be flooded. This area of Hardwick received higher amounts of flooding in July 2024. Neighborhood focused response – Sump pump was purchased by one resident and utilized by several homes– seeking funding for 10+ structures to be floodproofed, elevated land removed from Atkins Field, restoration of the storm water garden on Cottage Street, future removal of debris near Brook Street Bridge.



In October 2024, extensive debris clean-up occurred on Haynesville Brook on VT Route 15 East – near Fisher’s Folly Bridge – and along the Lamoille River after the Jackson Dam.

Eleven Damaged Roads/Culverts were repaired, graded and top-dressed and re-opened to travel after July 2024. Mitigation funds from FEMA helped with fortifying culverts with headers and wing walls: 1. Kate Brook Road (several new culverts installed); 2. Belfry Road; 3. Bunker Hill Road; 4. Smith Farm Road (Fixed shoulder – 8/24); 5. Dutton Road (culvert upsized) (9/24); 6. Nichols Pond Road (culvert upsized) (9/24); 7. Stage House Road (2 culverts upsized) (9/24); 8. Sawmill Lane; 9. Wright Farm Road/Yellow Barn parking; 10. Stannard Mtn Road is partially owned by Hardwick – road & river edge (Repaired – 7/24); 11. Tucker Brook (3 culverts added – 9/24).

Six bridges were damaged in July 2023 and July 2024.

1. Tucker Brook (From 2023 – Temporary held in 2024) *Needs to be upgraded.*
2. Carey Road box culvert/bridge - Damaged – Temporary Fix (2024) *Needs to be upgraded.*
3. Riverside Farms Bridge was destroyed. Permanent Bridge in place – September 23, 2024
4. Fisher’s Folly Bridge was damaged. Temporary done. *Needs to be upgraded.*
5. Hardwick Farm Road Bridge - damaged (incl. temporary bridge) Engineering proposals received for permanent – Temporary done. *Needs to be upgraded.*
6. E. Main Street, East Hardwick Bridge was removed in the spring (Damaged in 2023) – RFP for engineering proposals being generated. *Needs to be upgraded.*



Ten buyouts were arranged after the July 2023 flooding. Four Substantially Damaged properties were purchased by the town of Hardwick. The houses were demolished in 2024: 223 Mill Street, 2832 Craftsbury Road, 387 Carey Road, and School Street in East Hardwick.

Six additional properties returned from FEMA in 2024 with funding to purchase them in the Spring of 2025 - 161 VT Route 14 South, 115 VT Route 14 South, 24 Sawmill Lane, 444 Wolcott Street, 41 Brush Street, and 5 Sawmill Lane.

After the July 2024 flooding, the Select Board voted to re-open the buyout requests – ten requests have been sent to the State of Vermont. Two are on the Haynesville Brook, two are on the Lamoille River in East Hardwick, two are in downtown Hardwick on the Lamoille River, and four are on the lower Wolcott Street area. All have flooded on multiple occasions.

Six properties have requested elevation assistance after the flooding in July 2023 and July 2024 – two are on the Lamoille River and four are on Cooper Brook. The State of Vermont provided funding for elevations. A priority list was generated and an engineering firm will be contracted in early 2025.

Neighbor to Neighbor and the Town are working with consultants to create a local partner’s version to the Local Emergency Management Plan. Four categories are under consideration. A draft version will be available in early 2025.

Neighbor to Neighbor created a supply and support center to respond to the flooding in July 2024. Cleaning kits, dehumidifiers, sump pumps, fans, safety suits, masks, protective glasses and more were made available for the public. The July 2024 supply center was utilized by Walden, Wolcott, Stannard, Greensboro, and Woodbury. Plans are in place to make this a sustainable and ready-to-go element of emergency response.

EDA grant for Flood Modeling and Economic Development. Money has been received and a completed project will be available by the end of 2025. The Lamoille River and the Cooper Brook will have current flood models complete in 2025.

Jackson Dam – A feasibility study will be conducted on the Hardwick Lake and Jackson Dam area. The study will focus on the flood resilience aspects for upstream and downstream on the Lamoille River.