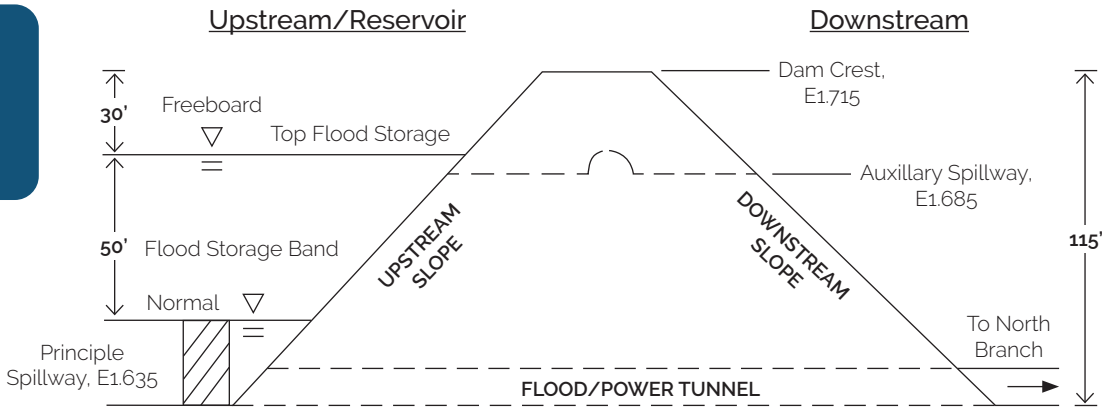
WHO GIVES A DAM?!

Understanding the Difference Between **Flood Control Dams** and **Run-of-River Dams**

As Vermont faces stronger and more frequent flooding events, it's important to understand how different types of dams work. **Not all dams are created equal!** They impact flood risks, infrastructure, and river ecosystems differently.

Wrightsville Flood Control Dam Cross Section

(Not to scale)



Flood Control Dams

DESIGNED FOR STORMS

These dams have **large empty basins** ready to capture floodwaters. Gates and towers help regulate the flow.

DYNAMIC STORAGE

During a flood, the dam **holds back water** and **slowly releases** it later to reduce peak flows downstream.

VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Because they play a key role in protecting communities, flood control dams must **be well-maintained and closely monitored**.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

Upstream of a flood control dam, you'll typically see an **open valley or dry basin** (space intentionally left empty to store floodwaters).

Run-of-River Dams

- **Steady Flow In = Steady Flow Out:** These dams pass water through at the same rate it enters. They do not store large volumes of water.
- **Minimal Flood Protection:** With little or no extra storage space above their normal water level, these dams can actually raise upstream flood levels during storms. Dam removal of obsolete run of river dams is flood mitigation practice.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Many small run-of-river dams in Vermont are decades old and in poor condition. Recent storms have led to several failures, increasing downstream flood damage and harming water quality.
- **Environmental Impact:** These dams often collect sediment and block fish passage, degrading river health. *When obsolete, removal can reduce flood risk and restore habitat.*
- **What You'll See:** From the dam, the river upstream looks like a flat pool of water, often with visible sediment buildup near the dam's crest.

TRORC Two Rivers-Ottauquechee REGIONAL COMMISSION

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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