



# Lamoille County Planning Commission

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To: Hyde Park Planning Commission  
From: Seth Jensen, LCPC Principal Planner  
RE: Cambridge/Hyde Park Consortia Municipal Planning Grant  
Date: March 22, 2021

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**Background:** The Towns of Hyde Park and Cambridge received a consortia municipal planning grant to explore access issues related to two important public natural areas – the Krusch Nature Preserve in Cambridge and the Green River Reservoir State Park in Hyde Park. This memo will focus on issues related to the Green River Reservoir State Park.

**Understanding of Issues:** Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) is an extremely popular natural resource and recreational destination. GRRSP has grown in popularity over the last decade. Like many outdoor recreational areas, it experienced a surge of use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town of Hyde Park (Town) has expressed concern about traffic on Town roads used to access the park, such as Garfield Road and Green River Dam Road. The Town has also expressed that overflow parking is occurring on the shoulder of Town Roads.

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (VTFR) and Friends of Green River Reservoir (Friends) have expressed concern that overuse of the GRRSP could harm the area's unique natural resources. When State Park facilities were constructed at GRRSP, on-site parking was intentionally designed as the limiting factor to prevent overuse of the Park.

**Phase I --Data Collection:** The degree and frequency of visitor demand exceeding parking capacity at GRRSP has not been formally documented. In order to understand the nature and extent of the problem and to identify potential solutions, the following data will be collected during Summer 2021

- **Traffic counts on Garfield Road and Green River Dam Road** -- LCPC will need input from the Town regarding when counts should be conducted. The purpose of these counts is to better understand traffic volumes on these roads and when peak travel to and from the park occurs.
- **Parking counts at overflow areas along public roads** -- The Town will need to assist LCPC to identify the locations of overflow parking areas of concern. This data will help project partners understand how often overflow parking onto Town roads is occurring.
- **Targeted user surveys at the GRRSP** – Coordination and permission from the State Park will be needed to complete this task. Assuming COVID-19 restrictions are lifted by summer, this may involve an LCPC staffer visiting the Park during peak use hours and asking visitors questions such as where they are arriving from, what route they took to the Park, and what activities they plan at the Park.

**Phase II -- Alternative investigation:** Once the extent of the issue is better informed by data, LCPC will work with the Town, VTFR, and Friends to evaluate potential alternatives. Alternatives could include efforts to disperse visitors to other local and regional outdoor recreational areas during peak use times, “transportation demand management” strategies to reduce the number of cars utilizing local roads, upgrades to shoulder areas to serve as official “waiting” areas, advanced notice of park/road crowding, and other strategies that may be identified by the project partners.