



VT River Corridor Easement Program: Overview for Gaysville Riverfront Park

River Corridor Easement Program – Quick Facts:

1. The Program goal is to allow the river to flood and move around within a defined “Corridor Easement Area” in exchange for a one-time incentive payment.
2. The land within the Corridor Easement Area remains in **Town** ownership, but would be permanently conserved through an easement held by the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC). VRC would visit the property annually to make sure the easement terms are being followed.
3. Within the Corridor Easement Area, the town will sell their right to build permanent structures and to “manage” the river. River management actions include gravel extraction, streambank stabilization, etc.
4. Within the Corridor Easement Area, the landowner must maintain a 50-foot-strip of vegetation, measured from the top of the streambank. Existing land management activities may continue within the Corridor Easement Area and outside of the 50-foot-vegetation-strip.

Major Questions and Concerns for Park Development:

How much of the Gaysville Park parcel is within the Corridor Easement Area?	The entire Gaysville Riverfront Park parcel is located within the Corridor Easement Area.
How much will the one-time incentive payment be?	The estimated payment for the approximately 20-acre property would be \$25,000 .
Can the proposed pavilion be built on property subject to a River Corridor Easement?	Yes – Vermont River Conservancy has indicated that a pavilion would be allowable provided the foundation is temporary, allowing the structure to be moved if/as needed.
Can there be river access trails if there is a 50-foot buffer requirement?	Yes – A buffer can have river access trails that run through it.
Can there be hiking trails throughout the property?	Yes – There are no restrictions on the development of trails on the property.
Will the River Corridor Easement restrict any other desired park amenities (signage, open mowed area, parking lot)?	No – Vermont River Conservancy has indicated that all the proposed activities would be allowable.

Next Steps:

1. Make determination about pursuing the River Corridor Easement project
2. Share River Corridor Easement project determination with the Selectboard
3. If approved, the White River Partnership (WRP) will pursue funding to implement the project
4. If funds are received, the WRP will work with the town and VRC to convey the easement
5. The town may use the River Corridor Easement funds to finance park improvements and/or to leverage additional grant funding for park development