

## Bristol Town Administrator

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**From:** Kristen Underwood <southmountain@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Cc:** Matt Witten  
**Subject:** Re: time sensitive grant application  
**Attachments:** Bristol Flats\_FRCF\_FY23 Application Form 2023July21 draft.docx

Hi Valerie,

Attached is a draft version of the Flood Resilient Community Fund application for the Selectboard review on Monday night. We will continue to refine this in coming days, but changes will likely be minor.

Do you have a listing by chance of the ARPA projects already being implemented by Bristol that you could send me? One of the questions on this form asks if this project will overlap with existing ARPA projects.

Matt has heard from ACRPC that they would be willing to administer the grant if Town of Bristol does not want to or does not have capacity (and as long as Matt and I write the grant application).

Note that while the cover sheet of this form has earlier dates, the website <https://vem.vermont.gov/flood-resilient-communities-fund> indicates there is a third round of funds available, with applications due July 31. Now, it's hard to know if they will stick with this plan, or potentially redirect funds to more urgent needs in light of the devastating flooding these past weeks. But our state contacts advised that we still submit the application and at least get this project on the list.

Let me know if you have questions or need more information.

Thanks very much,  
Kristen

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**From:** "Bristol Town Administrator" <townadmin@bristolvt.org>  
**To:** "kristen underwood" <southmountain@gmavt.net>  
**Cc:** "Matt Witten" <mwitten@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:25:55 PM  
**Subject:** RE: time sensitive grant application

Sounds good. Thanks, Kristen.

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator  
Town of Bristol  
1 South Street  
P.O. Box 249  
Bristol, VT 05443

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**From:** Kristen Underwood <[southmountain@gmavt.net](mailto:southmountain@gmavt.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:15 PM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator <[townadmin@bristolvt.org](mailto:townadmin@bristolvt.org)>  
**Cc:** Matt Witten <[mwitten@gmavt.net](mailto:mwitten@gmavt.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: time sensitive grant application

Hi Valerie,  
Thank you. No match is required (nice!). Not sure of budget yet - still calculating, and refining scope of work. I would expect in the tens of thousands.  
i will be able to get a better # for you before Friday.  
Cheers,  
Kristen

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**From:** "Bristol Town Administrator" <[townadmin@bristolvt.org](mailto:townadmin@bristolvt.org)>  
**To:** "kristen underwood" <[southmountain@gmavt.net](mailto:southmountain@gmavt.net)>  
**Cc:** "Matt Witten" <[mwitten@gmavt.net](mailto:mwitten@gmavt.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:58:25 PM  
**Subject:** RE: time sensitive grant application

Hi Kristen,

My apologies for the delay getting back to you. Sure, let's put it on the agenda! You may be interested to know we are on the threshold of hiring a Grant Writer, which will also be discussed at Monday's meeting (in executive session). So there could be help on the way. I did not catch in the materials: is a match required? Do you know how much \$\$ you/we would be applying for?

Thanks,

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator  
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**From:** Kristen Underwood <[southmountain@gmavt.net](mailto:southmountain@gmavt.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 4:24 PM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator <[townadmin@bristolvt.org](mailto:townadmin@bristolvt.org)>  
**Cc:** Matt Witten <[mwitten@gmavt.net](mailto:mwitten@gmavt.net)>  
**Subject:** time sensitive grant application  
**Importance:** High

Hi Valerie,

I am working as a citizen volunteer on behalf of landowners, Jono Chapin and Ken Johnson (A Johnson Co), to put together an application to the Flood Resilient Community Fund **due July 31**. The idea is to ask for funds to support hiring an engineering firm to do a Project Scoping/ Alternatives Analysis for the New Haven River reach that extends downstream from Hewitt Lane bridge to Saunders River Access.

Alternatives would be designed to improve flood resiliency, improve water quality and enhance habitats. And may involve berm removals, floodplain reconnections, floodplain conservation, partial property buyouts, moving infrastructure up out of the river corridor, etc.

River scientist, Shannon Pytlik (DEC) and floodplain manager, Kyle Medash, encouraged Bristol to apply, and Jono and Ken are very willing to participate as the keystone landowners along this reach.

We are searching for a public entity to be the applicant:

Addison County River Watch Collaborative is a possibility - but they are at max capacity right now (Managing Director, Matt Witten is helping me with the application)

Addison County Regional Planning Commission is also a possibility - but also at max capacity (Matt is asking if they might be willing)

**Would Town of Bristol be willing to be the applicant (via the Selectboard)?** I could come to the SB meeting on 7/24 and represent the project. I would be willing to manage the grant pro bono on behalf of the town.

(Bristol CC is a likely sponsor, but we are on hiatus until September, and this just came up a few weeks ago).

Let me know your thoughts about this and whether you recommend I be added to the 7/24 agenda. We could supply a draft application for SB review by Friday, 7/21.

Thanks very much,  
Kristen

Kristen Underwood  
Bristol, VT  
802-453-3076

Here are links to the program: <https://vem.vermont.gov/flood-resilient-communities-fund>



## FY 2023 Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) Application Form:

Applications will be accepted in two rounds, due **Friday, October 29, 2022**, and **Friday, March 31, 2023**. Applications should be submitted via email to: [DPS.HazardMitigation@vermont.gov](mailto:DPS.HazardMitigation@vermont.gov) with the subject: Application – Flood Resilient Communities Fund. [Click here to review the Program Overview](#), referenced below.

Overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for the State of Vermont: Vermont was awarded \$1.05 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding) as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Governor’s Recovery Plan is focused on transparent investments in key infrastructure needs including housing, broadband, wastewater and sewer systems, climate change prevention and mitigation, and economic development. The explicit objective of this Plan is to provide long term economic recovery opportunities to communities statewide, with a focus on those regions or counties struggling the most with job losses and declines in demographics and income levels.

The explicit objective of the ARPA funding through the Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) is to improve landscape and community resilience and reducing the future public safety and water quality impacts of climate-related flood hazards in Vermont, focusing on buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties and floodplain restoration.

**Applicant:**

*(Entity managing the project and financials)*

TBD

**Primary Contact:**

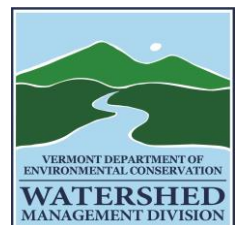
*(Name, Email, Phone)*

TBD

**Project Type:**

*See: (D) Eligible Project Types in Program Overview*

- Developed Property Buyout
- Vacant At-Risk Parcel Buyout
- Vacant Headwater Storage Parcel Buyout
- Floodplain Restoration Project
- Dam Removal and Restoration Project
- Project Scoping
- Planning/Education and Outreach
- Other (explain in detail under “Project Objective” how this project meets the requirements as outlined in the FRCF Program Overview Document)



**Project Address/  
Location:**

The project focuses on a 1.3-mile reach of the New Haven River extending downstream (southwest) from Hewitt Lane bridge crossing in Bristol, Addison County, VT (Figure 1).

**Project  
Description:**

This reach of the New Haven River is very dynamic (Figure 2), and there is a history of river-infrastructure conflicts at this site. Two key landowners (Chapin and the A Johnson Co) have been in discussions about the need for a more holistic, reach-wide analysis to resolve river-infrastructure conflicts and identify restoration and conservation approaches that lead to greater flood resiliency for the multiple landowners along this reach. We are requesting funding to support a reach-scale planning effort and engineering Alternatives Analysis.

**Population or  
Community  
Served:**

Two Vermont towns will benefit from improved flood resiliency along this reach of the New Haven River: Bristol and the next downstream town, New Haven. Bristol's population (2010 census) = 3,894. New Haven's population (2018) = 1,721. Total = 5,615.

**Project Objective:**

*See: (B) Program  
Purpose  
(C) Eligibility  
Requirements in  
Program Overview*

This project will bring together landowners and project partners to consider alternatives for increasing flood resiliency and improving water quality along a 1.3-mile reach of the New Haven River extending downstream from Hewitt Lane crossing. An engineering firm will be hired to perform an Alternatives Analysis that considers a suite of projects to include removing berms, reconnecting floodplains, reconnecting flood chutes, conserving floodplains, buying out properties, moving or re-designing infrastructure, etc. Specific engineering tasks will include: (i) compiling a history of channel management from landowner outreach and review of historic records; (ii) conducting an updated stream geomorphic assessment along the project reach; (iii) developing a hydraulic model of the reach; and (iv) preparing an Alternatives Analysis.

**Total Timeline for  
Implementation:**

12 Months

**Estimated Total  
Project Budget:**

\$ TBD

**Funding Request:**  
*(Identify other funding  
sources, if applicable)*

\$ TBD

### How will this project reduce flood risk and enhance water quality?

The Alternatives Analysis will identify projects that:

- Reduce inundation and erosion hazards from flooding for existing infrastructure in the river corridor;
- Reduce streambank erosion along the New Haven River, thereby decreasing turbidity and loading of phosphorus to downstream waters including Otter Creek and Lake Champlain;
- Increase riparian and riverbank stability, e.g., through riparian plantings, and floodplain reconnection;
- Reduce downstream peak floods by reconnecting the river channel to its floodplain (e.g., remove berms) in ways that minimize impacts to existing development within the river corridor.

### Are there past damages associated with this site? Explain and list specifics if known.

The subject reach of the New Haven River has been historically straightened, dredged, armored and bermed in response to past flood events of 1938 (Figure 2), 1973, 1998, 2011, and 2019. A steam powered shovel was used to dredge the channel and create berms along the present-day Chapin property following the 1938 flood (Paine movies). Armoring was placed along a section of streambank spanning the Chapin and Johnson parcels following the **1998 flood** (Ken Johnson, personal communication). Mill buildings at the A Johnson Co site were undermined during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, and the mill armored the bank after securing the appropriate permits. Most recently, during high flows of the Halloween flood of 1 November 2020, a channel avulsion destroyed one of the three permitted stormwater ponds at the mill. This same storm breached a berm and streambank armoring at the Chapin property (Jono Chapin, personal communication) (Figure 3).

### List any project partners and their roles:

*E.g., a housing organization to assist with property owner relocation for buyout projects; the organization which will own the property and/or easement if different than the applicant.*

**Ken Johnson, A. Johnson & Co.:** this lumber company has been operating on this 80-acre site since the late 1930s. River frontage of ~2,600 feet.

**Jono Chapin:** private landowner abutting (upstream) the A. Johnson parcel. Chapin owns 39 acres, with ~1,500 feet of river frontage.

**Town of Bristol Conservation Commission:** has engaged in other floodplain restoration and resiliency projects, including the restoration, conservation and town's acquisition of the immediately downstream Saunders and Fuller parcels (Figure 1). Member, Kristen Underwood will represent the Bristol CC.

**Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC):** under a Project Development block grant from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, ACRWC is funded to scope and help facilitate projects such as this proposed project. ACRWC director, Matthew Witten, will engage the partners in discussions regarding: choice of engineering firm; when and how to hold discussions; better understanding the interests of each stakeholder; helping facilitate meetings to review the engineers' Alternative Analysis; and, facilitating discussions regarding how to fund a proposed project implementation.

**Vermont River Conservancy (VRC):** Beginning in 2016, VRC has been in discussions with Jono Chapin about a possible berm removal and river corridor conservation easement on his property. VRC is an easement holder on the downstream Saunders and Fuller parcels and helped to broker their acquisition by the town in 2013 and 2020, respectively.

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Rivers Program:** Kyle Medash (Western Floodplain Manager) and Shannon Pytlik (River Scientist) have participated in initial meetings with Chapin and Johnson in hopes of increasing flood resilience at this key stretch of the New Haven River.

**Addison County Regional Planning Commission:** (TBD if this is so): Will oversee grant administration, including preparation of request for bids, and solicitation of bids from engineering firms.

**How does this project support a community or homeowner with economic need and/or mitigate repetitive loss among low-income and marginalized portions of the population?**

The A Johnson Co. employs 46 people at the mill (Ken Johnson, personal communication) – supporting 46 families in the surrounding communities. The mill itself was valued at \$1.7 Million in the Bristol Hazard Mitigation Plan (p.19).

Improving flood resiliency in the project reach will reduce downstream flood peaks and potentially mitigate repeated flooding damages to two downstream riverside properties identified in Bristol's Hazard Mitigation Plan (p.19). The homes are each valued at \$200,000 (right-bank property in reach M11 just upstream of Rt 116 bridge; left-bank property in reach M10 downstream of Sycamore Park). Flood resiliency projects identified by the Alternatives Analysis would also have the potential to reduce flooding impacts to riverside homes and farms in the downstream town of New Haven.

[http://bristolvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Bristol\\_CFR\\_44\\_All-Hazards\\_Mitigation\\_Plan\\_Update\\_Adopted\\_Dec2018.pdf](http://bristolvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Bristol_CFR_44_All-Hazards_Mitigation_Plan_Update_Adopted_Dec2018.pdf)

**Are there other ARPA-funded infrastructure projects currently in development or in implementation within the same jurisdiction that could be coordinated with this effort?**

TBD



**ATTACHMENTS:**

- For all Property Buyout applications, attach:
  - [Statement of Voluntary Participation form](#)
  - Lister card for each property from the town
  - [Budget and Timeline \(Buyout Template\)](#)
  - Photos of the structure and site
  
- For Natural Resource projects, attach:
  - Relevant designs plans and engineering
  - [Detailed Budget and Timeline](#)
  - Narrative Scope of Work
  - Photos and map of the project location

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the identified programmatic requirements.

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Name of Authorized Agent

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Signature

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Date Signed

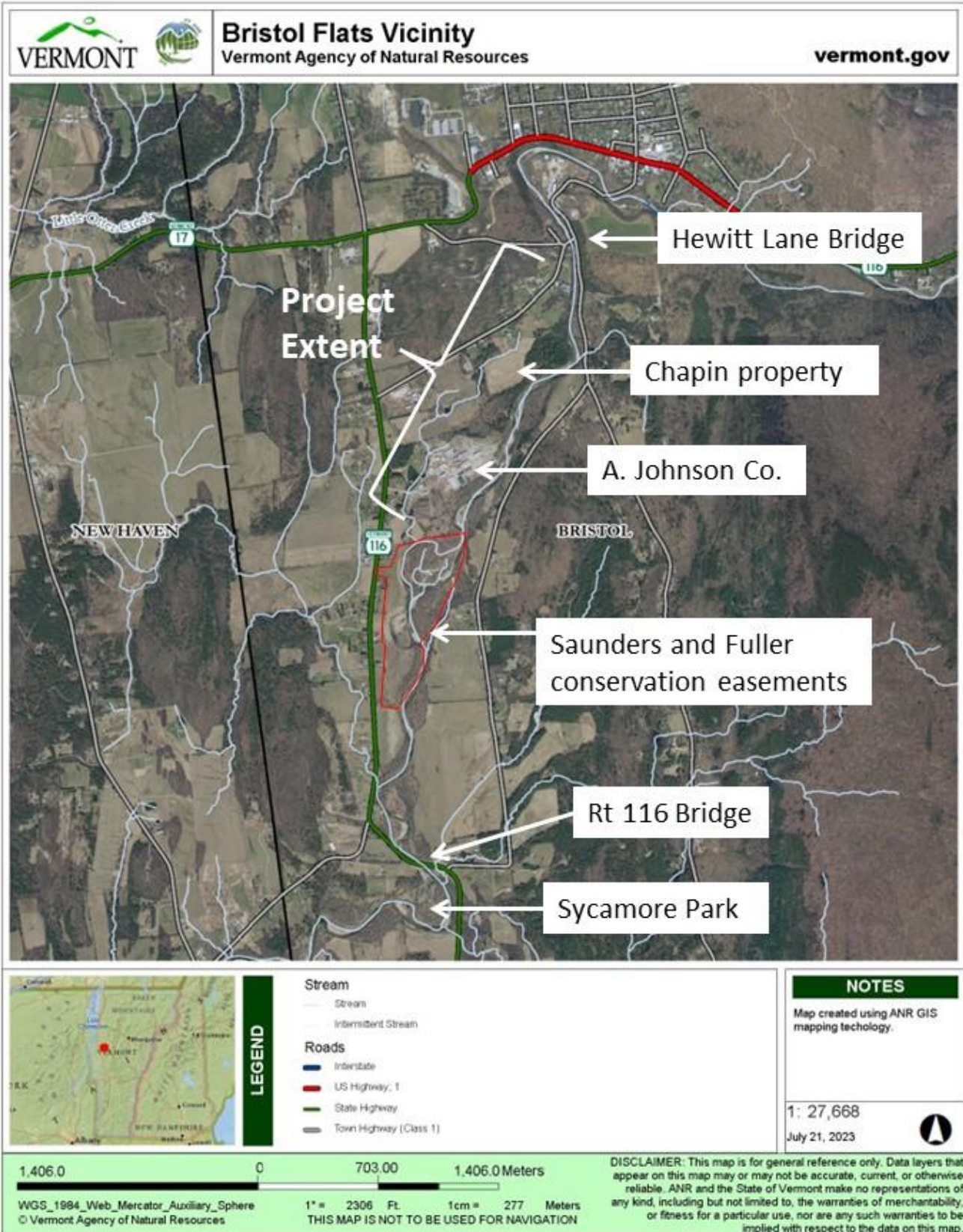


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map along the New Haven River, Bristol, Vermont

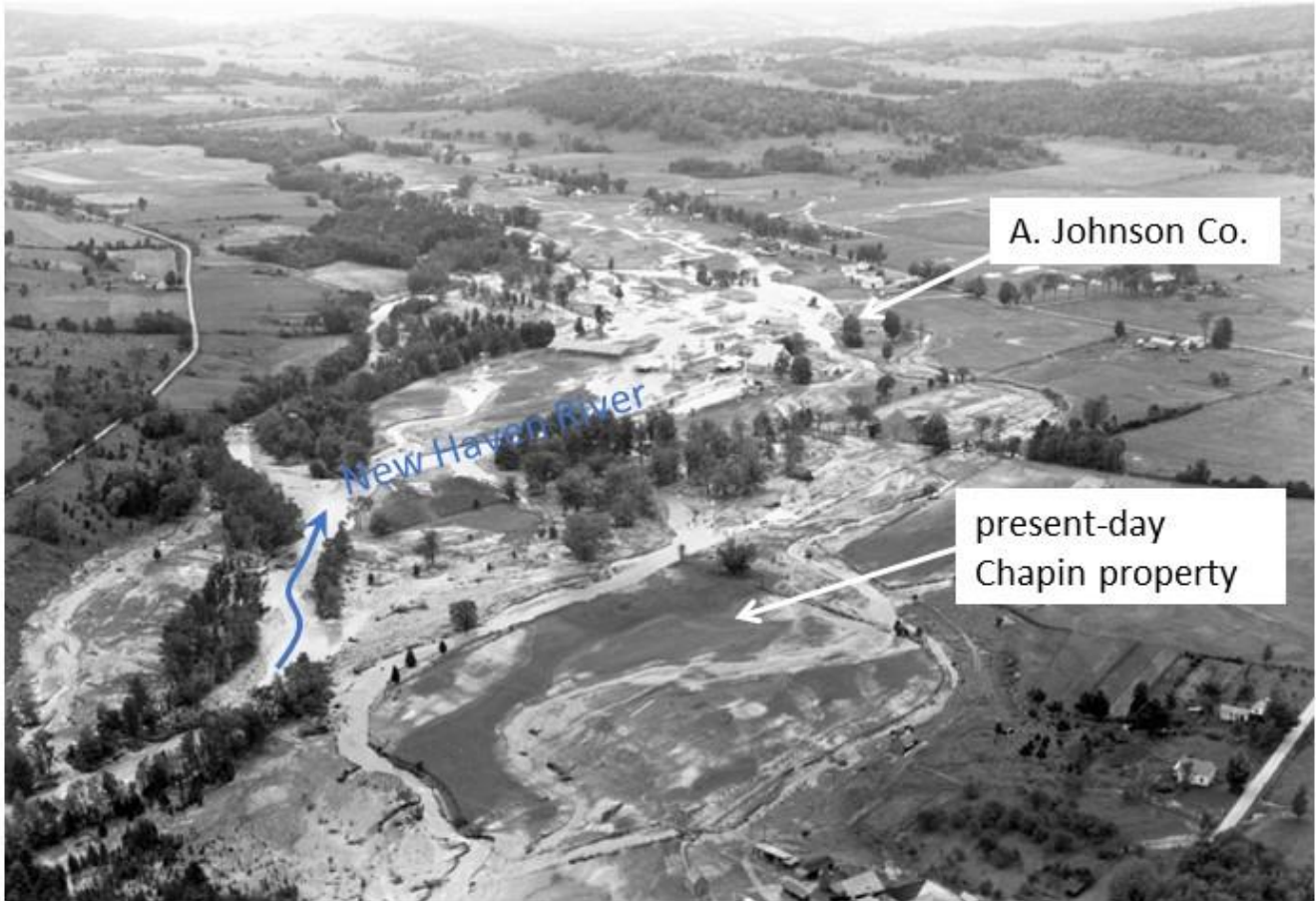


Figure 2. Bristol Flats, following the 1938 flood

(view to the southwest from above Hewitt Lane bridge; George Lathrop, photographer)

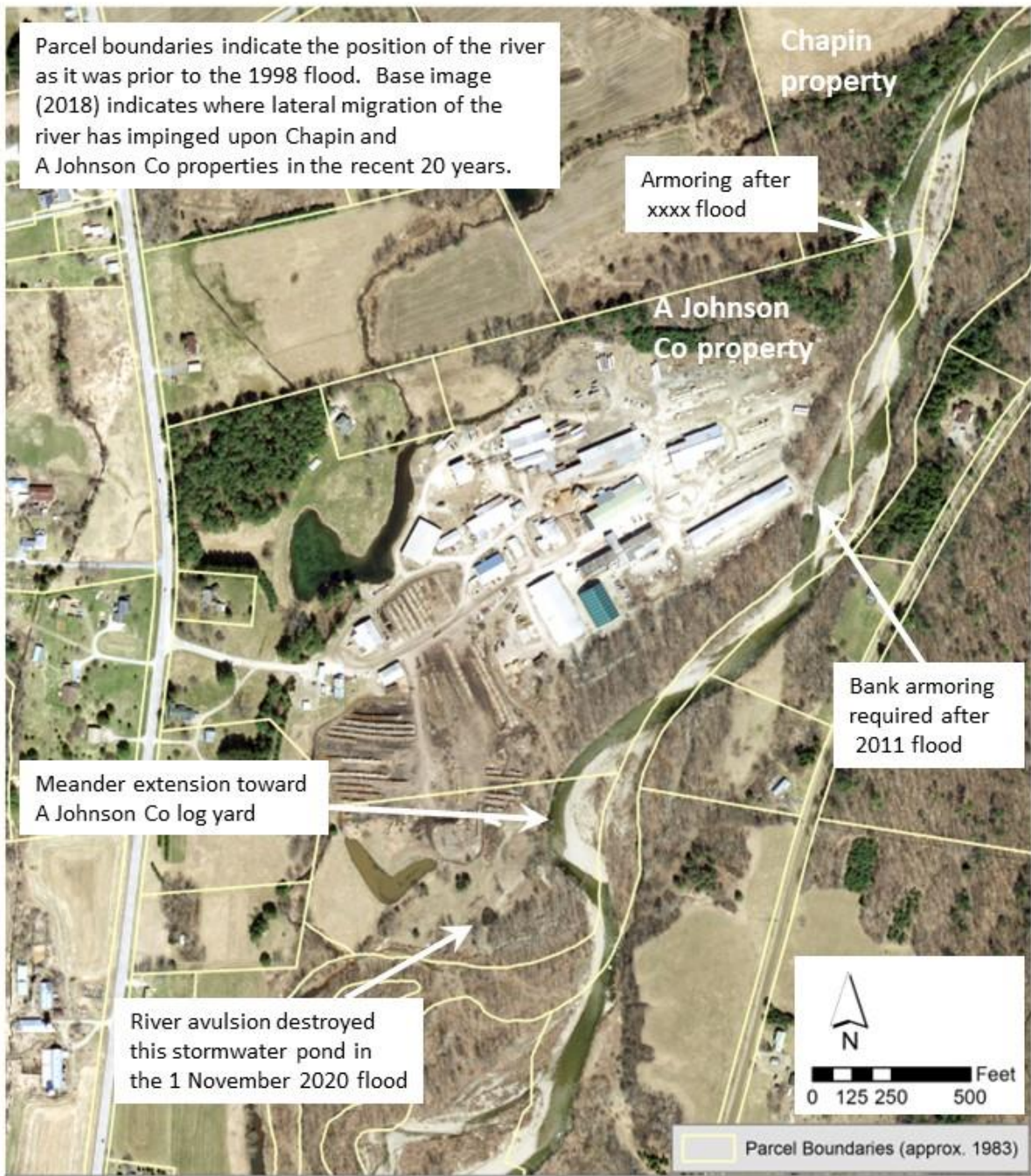


Figure 3. River and infrastructure conflicts and channel management history